



## First annual **MONAs**

Acronym; Meaningless, Obelized (look it up), Nonsense Awards. It is only fitting that these appear in the April issue.

+“I’ll show you mine if you show me yours” Award: Veronica Brown (The XX Club) for challenging Janice VanCleve (Emerald City) to strip and see who gets into the Ladies Room.

+“Beautiful Dreamer” Award: Barbara D. (Chi Chapter) for her fantasy piece in which Tri-Ess merges with an “open” group.

+“Better late than never” Award: IFGE for sending out the 1989 convention brochures *after* the first date for a discount.

+“If you want my opinion” Award: everyone in this community who thought it was a mistake to do the Morton Downey, Jr. show.

+“Fashion Plate” Award: Phil Donahue for appearing on television in a bow blouse and skirt.

+“Emily Latilla” Award: The two pseudo-transsexuals on *Geraldo* who changed their minds about their “sex-change.”

+“TV/TS Tapestry Punctuality”

Award: LadyLike magazine.

+“If MacDonalds can franchise, why can’t we” Award: the Tiffany Club member who asked why *Gender Expressions* didn’t get *permission* to publish their magazine in Boston.

+“Sex Education” Award: The SNR Tri-Ess member who stated on the radio that we are transvestites because, “... the sperm doesn’t fully penetrate the egg.”

+“Turn the other cheek” Award: Sister Mary Elizabeth who says that the majority of reassignment surgeries are undeserved.

+“Silliest new name” Award: Tania Volen, Inc., for their new monthly *Femanine*.

+“Best new vaporware” Award: Creative Design Services for not publishing *Speaking As A Woman* in the first quarter of ’89.

+“Reach out and touch someone” Award: IFGE for changing their phone to an unlisted number.

## Help save the whales, lassie

In a spirit of international cooperation, we join with the Scottish TVTS support group in bringing you this important public service message.

### Save The Whales

“Collect 10 small whales or 5 large whales and send them, with S.S.A.E., to the address shown below. In return, we will send you a voucher, redeemable in most shops and supermarkets, for a 12 oz. (340 g) jar of *Tartley’s Whale Jam*. Look for the Whale Jam sticker in the store window.

“Whales sent in will be auctioned at Sotheby’s Whale Sale and the proceeds will be donated to the R.S.P.C.W. Hostel for Homeless Whales at Whaleville, near Exeter.

Send your whales to:

Whale Jam Voucher Offer  
Dept. W1

Tartley’s (Jam Makers) PLC  
Gloucester, UK GL2-9BZ

“This offer is limited to one voucher per family. Whales may be individually wrapped, if so desired. We recommend Extra Large Jiffy Bags. All packages should be clearly marked as follows: **Whales: Handle With Care**, to avoid damage in transit.

“Use a reputable carrier; do not send whales through the mail.”

In addition to the offer made by the thrifty Scots, Renaissance will throw in a jar of *Tartley’s Whale Jam Remover with patented tongue brush*. This additional product is necessary to remove the stubborn tongue stains left by the vermillion whale jam.

## Outreach Institute holds seminar

The Outreach Institute will conduct an all day seminar in San Francisco on April 8. The program, *Gender Issues for the ’90s*, will be conducted in two parts.

A symposium in the morning will feature a panel of presenters with the purpose of developing a better understanding of the complexities of gender issues.

In the afternoon, a workshop, for professionals only, will focus on tools and strategies for counseling people with gender issues.

The fee is \$75 for the complete program with a \$10 discount for registration before March 15.

For more detailed information write: The Outreach Institute, Box 368W, Boston, MA 02215

## Chapter news & notes

If no address is given for an organizer, write or call the office.

### New Jersey

**South Jersey; Tina Louise, chapter leader:** Box 2, Glassboro, NJ 08028. Meets first Saturday of the month. Next meeting is April 1.

Tina is working with the Unitarian church in Cherry Hill which will provide the meeting space for the group.

Tina also has a number of commercial resources available for members.

### Ohio

**Columbus; Mikki:** Interest is picking up here. A new member has offered to help Mikki get started. Anyone else?

### Pennsylvania

**King of Prussia; Teri Kay, chapter leader:** Greater Philadelphia Chapter, Box AD, Bensalem, PA 19020. Meets third Saturday of the month at the original King of Prussia location. Doors open - 8:00 p.m.; New Member Orientation - 8:30 p.m., Main Program - 9:30 p.m. **No smoking permitted in the meeting rooms.**

The April 15 meeting will feature Roger Armstrong, Director of Education for the Philadelphia Community Health Alternative, as the speaker. The topic will be AIDS awareness.

**Reading; Susan Marshall, chapter leader:** Box 14421, Reading, PA 19607. Meets second

Saturday of the month. Next meeting is April 8.

Susan, and GG sister Dee, are working with the city of Reading and gay/lesbian community leaders to help establish a Renaissance meeting location. A variety of support services will be available.

Susan has identified some commercial and professional resources in the area, as well.

**Harrisburg/York:** Elsa Larsen has expressed a willingness to start a Lower Susquehanna Valley chapter. Interested parties should contact her at P.O.Box 7412, York, PA 17404. See her letter in this issue. Also make a note of the drag show at Altland's Ranch, page 8.

### Vermont

**Burlington:** We are slowly hearing from the people contacted by Michelle Michaels. Several of these people have expressed an interest in pulling the group together, but a meeting place still eludes them. We will keep trying to get it together here.

### General Information

The Chapter Handbook should be distributed by the time this goes to press. It is a guide for building a successful Renaissance group.

For those who want to start a group but do not wish to affiliate with us, we have Community Outreach Bulletin #1, *Creating An Organization*, available for \$1.25.

## And, don't forget about...

• The PCHA Food Bank: Please bring canned and dried food to the next KofP meeting.

• Background Papers are available for \$1 each plus \$.25 postage for each pair ordered. Eight papers are available.

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

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

## Renaissance News

© 1989 Renaissance Education Association, Inc., Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406  
Subscription: \$12 per year.

Senior Editor:

**JoAnn Roberts**

Contributing Editors:

**Paula Jordan Sinclair**

**Trudi Henry**

Administrative Assistants:

**Susan Crane, Beth & Rachel**

Copy & Layout:

**Creative Design Services**

**For the latest information about events call: 215-640-9449, 24 hours a day.**

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

## Business Report Thru February

**Membership Count: 273**

**Starting Balance: \$1941.51**

### Income:

Dues & Donations \$276.00

Publications 269.00

Advertising 210.00

**Subtotal \$755.00**

### Expenses:

Admin. \$30.00

Newsletter 155.00

Office 124.21

Postage 82.25

**Subtotal: \$391.46**

**Ending Balance: \$2305.05**

### Renaissance Meeting Calendar

#### April

1st So. Jersey Chapter

8th Reading Chapter

15th Greater Phila. Chapter  
PCHA Representative

#### May

7th So. Jersey Chapter

14th Reading Chapter

21st Greater Phila. Chapter

## Opinion - Forum - Information

### Core myths...JoAnn Roberts, adapted from a column in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*

I've heard them so many times now it's like a litany. People keep telling me why they "can't" do a particular thing. It's their "core myth" that is the barrier to action, nothing else. A "core myth" is a personal belief we hold to be true for ourselves that makes life more difficult for us.

The most common core myths are those of failure; "I'll never be able to..., I can't do anything about..., I can't...anything." These myths may or may not have a basis in fact, but we act like they do, so they become self-fulfilling.

Everyone has a core myth and we invent our own antidotes from a neurotic need for specialness. If the core myth is "Everybody lets me down," the neurotic need for

specialness is probably, "I'm an especially good people manager." If the myth is "I can't control my life," the antidote is "I am especially good at controlling things."

This need for specialness works as long as we get others to support it. We depend on other people's reactions. They have to treat us in our "special" way or else we can't feel "special". For many TVs and TSs, seeking this validation is what drives them to find peer support. But what happens, as it often does, when they don't get the "special" treatment they think they need? The absence of this validation can cause an emotional crash. I've seen it happen in our group already.

Instead of feeling special, we

should work toward feeling unique. You don't need an outside validation source to feel unique. You can acknowledge that you are unique and if others don't see that, then it's their problem, not yours. You are not limited by the recognition of your peers.

You can discover your own core myth by asking yourself, "What is it that I am not getting from the most important people in my life?" Whatever you come up with is your myth. Then ask yourself, "What am I doing to to create that?" You must recognize that you create your own sense of success and failure and you must take responsibility for it. You have the capacity to get your emotional needs met, so do it. And, stop that whining!

### Re: The washroom problem...Elsa Larson, York, Pa.

Ms. Matheson's good intentions are obvious but she seems to have hangups about bodily functions and bathrooms that have clouded her judgment. She starts out with an inaccuracy that is obvious to most males who have seen snow. Competitive urinating is not unknown among males when a semi-permanent record of distance and accuracy can remain visible in the snow for weeks. (Don't eat yellow snow!) And urinating into a trench or common urinal certainly has absolutely no privacy and could be considered communal.

Her suggestion to limit intake of fluids and to delay urinating/defecating until returning to the safety of home or hotel is fine as long as one is close to home or hotel. Does this mean that Ms. Matheson never goes far from such safety? If she goes shopping more than an hour from home, does she rent a room? This seems an unreasonable expense.

While I agree that most of us

should avoid unnecessary trips to the lady's room, it is naive to believe that one will never require a WC while away from safety and even though we may not be planning to use any restroom, we all need to consider how we would deal with emergencies. It's the same kind of thought that goes into defensive driving.

How about being able to deal with emergency situations such as:

- A fast-acting virus or food poisoning threatens imminent diarrhea or vomiting?
- Your hands get badly soiled?
- Salad dressing runs down your chin and dissolves your makeup?
- Your stockinged legs get splashed with gritty water?
- You must rinse out a stain immediately?

Until you consider how to deal with these situations, you need to stay very close to home or hotel.

Although actors do not neces-

sarily study how they will deal with disasters like falling scenery, missing props or dropped lines, a well prepared actor will stay cool and stay in character. When we go out onto the stage of real life, we need to know our part well enough to muddle through common disasters. And we must remember that often, the worst that will happen is embarrassment.

Do remember that women have been spied on, robbed, assaulted, raped and worse in lady's rooms by women and by men. It's no wonder that some will misinterpret the intentions of a TV. But if you mind your manners, keep to your own business and are wearing your pantyhose on your legs instead of over your head, you should be safe.

Here are some considerations for reducing risks:

- Reduce intake of water and bulky foods prior to the trip.
- Be aware of the locations of

*continued on page 8*

# An open letter to folks in the Susquehanna Valley

**Re:** Lower Susquehanna Valley Renaissance Chapter (proposed)

**To:** Renaissance Members & Friends in South Central Pa. & Baltimore area

**From:** Elsa Larson, P O Box 7412, York, PA 17404

It looks like we're being challenged to start a chapter in the Harrisburg-York area. I have already spoken to some of you at meetings in King of Prussia and the sentiment seems to be that we would not do much more than carpool to K of P meetings. Maybe that's just my feeling having been to meetings of the Baltimore-Washington (Adelphi) Chapter of GGA. That drive took two hours and the meetings seemed mostly to be men in dresses talking about cars, sports and politics. My drive to K of P takes less than two hours and has always been worth it.

But, on the other hand, maybe it's time to get out and DO SOME-

THING for those who can't get to K of P or who have never heard of Renaissance. Maybe it's time that we make ourselves known.

What geographic area should we target? If we consider those who could drive to Harrisburg or York in an hour or less, we also need to include Baltimore. Rather than calling ourselves "South Central Pa. Chapter," how about "Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter."

I hate to think I am the only one who would consider organizing a local chapter. I'm much more comfortable as an advisor than as a leader but as it happens I have the time to devote to this and I am more open about my crossdressing than many of you. Plus, I felt so bad about crossdressing for so long that I feel I owe my support to Renaissance in its outreach and education efforts.

The first one to find out about

my crossdressing was my former wife, after two years of courtship and one year into the marriage. Eventually, I learned to tell my closest friends about my crossdressing. When I began a new dating relationship, it sometimes took weeks to get up the nerve to "confess my perversion". Now, I have learned to "share my individuality" with anyone who seems to like me. I am continually amazed at how well most people accept me and my crossdressing. I have been to two Pocono weekends and have made three public appearances for Renaissance. I can take time from work and I have a PC for newsletter and mailing list.

(Note from JoAnn Roberts: There are a lot of members in this area and it seems ripe for a chapter. There is an MC Church in Harrisburg that may be willing to host meetings. Write to Elsa if you are interested.)

## The Psychological Resource Center

Clinical and Consulting Psychology

**Richard A. Friend, Ph.D.**

Director of Human Sexuality Services  
215-925-5260

Benjamin Franklin Business Center  
834 Chestnut Street, Suite 311  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

## William R. Stayton, Th.D.

licensed psychologist  
experienced gender counselor

by appointment  
987 Old Eagle School Rd., Suite 719  
Wayne, PA 19087

215-971-0700

OFFICE (215) 971-0700      RESIDENCE (215) 334-0104

JEFFREY H. VAN SYCKLE, M.S.ED., C.A.C.  
ADDICTION COUNSELOR

987 OLD EAGLE SCHOOL RD. - SUITE 719  
WAYNE, PA 19087

## TRANSGENDER COUNSELING

*Jo A. Roberts, Ph.D.*

PERSONAL AND FAMILY ISSUES  
COUPLES OF SPECIAL INTEREST

BY APPOINTMENT  
215-971-0700

987 OLD EAGLE SCHOOL RD., SUITE 719  
WAYNE, PA 19087

## Paula Jordan Sinclair... **The NewsQueen**

Here I sit, broken hearted; tried to write but...

Some days even the NewsQueen suffers from writers block. Fortunately, those days occur when the news itself is mercifully light.

Those politicians in Chicago are at it again. You'll recall that last year a student exhibition at the Art Institute was thrown into an uproar over a painting of late Mayor Harold Washington decked out in a bra, panties, garter belt and stockings. There must be something about the early spring in the Windy City that makes artists turn to thoughts of crossdressing politicians. The latest target is Alderman Luis Gutierrez. He was pictured in a political cartoon wearing lingerie and high-heeled boots published in an Hispanic community newspaper. The newspaper belongs to Leticia Soliz, wife of Alderman Juan Soliz, the chair of the City Council Human Rights Committee and a political opponent of Gutierrez.

Gutierrez claims that the cartoon figure (whose name is "Luisito") not only mocks him, but invites violence against "those men who may have feminine attributes, and it also clearly attempts to gay bash."

Publisher Soliz denied that the figure in the cartoon represents Gutierrez, but she was unable to say whom or what the cartoon represented. The crossdressed man is shown first saying in Spanish, "A bird in the hand is worth more than seeing a hundred of them flying." Then he adds in English, "Read my lips."



Last year's brouhaha over a painting of Mayor Washington involved fashionable white lingerie. We hope that the figure of Luisito was clothed in black lingerie to reflect the change in fashion that has occurred over the past

twelve months.

According to December sales figures reported recently by Fredericks of Hollywood, black has finally edged out red as the color of choice among the customers of the famed purveyor of exotic underwear. Thirty percent of the garter belts, teddies, camisoles, bustiers and g-strings Fredericks sold in December were in black; 25 percent were red and the remainder were in white, off-white or pastels.

Black lingerie "is seductive somehow. It's the dark side of white—very luring and dangerous," said Jeff Land, a sales clerk at Noir Leather in Royal Oak, Mich.

David Brown, owner of Brown Bag-it Lingerie in Clawson, Mich., notes that the color change is a sign of good taste. "Red is sometimes too florescent," he said, "but black makes any body look good"—even those bodies who wait until the anonymity of the Christmas rush to add to their lingerie collection.

Industry observers (don't you just love that term?) say that the new popularity of black lingerie can be traced to movie stars who recently wowed audiences by wearing sexy, black unmentionables on the screen, stars like Melanie Griffith in *Working Girl* and Susan Sarandon and Tim Robbins in *Bull Durham*.



But for some people, it's not the color of their lingerie that matters, but the fact that they can wear it at all.

For the past 10 years, Angela Williamson has been undergoing surgical and hormone treatments for gender reassignment, and according to her, the process was 95 percent complete although she still has part of her male sex organs. In September of last year she was convicted of theft, and was sent to a men's prison. But within three days, officials noted the sex-

ual ambiguity and she was transferred to a woman's prison after an examination at the University of Kentucky Medical Center.

At first she blended into the prison population, but eventually rumors began to circulate that she was having sex with the inmates. Williamson also complained of complications from her previous surgery. Until the rumors of sexual activity can be investigated and until her medical condition can be reevaluated, Williamson is being held in isolation.

Thanks to Kim in El Paso for sending this clipping.



Complications with sex changes are also in the news from China.

The New China News Agency reports that black market baby merchants have been gluing false male genitals on girl babies to take advantage of the higher prices fetched by infant boys in a male-dominated society.

According to the report, one childless couple paid the equivalent of \$450 for a male baby, only to see "his" genitals fall off a week later.

Come to think of it, if it took that couple a week to discover that the baby was not male, perhaps that is why they haven't had children of their own yet.



This just in from an anonymous source. Dutch soldiers will be allowed to wear earrings and grow their hair to any length. When they allow skirts and heels we'll let you know where to enlist.



Normally, Miss Sinclair reads several newspapers each day. But recently she has been shopping for a new hot glue gun, and may not see an article or two relating to transgender issues. If you do, clip it, make a note of the date and publication, and send it to her at the Renaissance office.

## Establishing a new identity...by Jackie K., a pre-op TS in the Real Life Test

### I - Getting a driver's license.

Are you a full time TS or TG? are you tired of worrying about getting stopped by the local "finest" and getting weird looks because of your MALE driver's license? If you live in Pennsylvania, read on.

Wait until your license expires and the state sends you the pink form for your photo license. Fill out this form in your FEMALE name. Go to a notary and obtain state form DL80. Fill out the form at the top section in your MALE name and in the Change of Name section put your FEMALE name.

Go to your attending physician (you know the guy who gives you the pills) or your pyschiatrist, or your psychologist, and have him/her write a letter, preferably on impressive stationery, attesting to the fact that you are known as this female person, that you live exclusively as this female person, and

that you should be afforded the PRIVILEGE of a driver's license in a female name.

Send this letter with your check, the duplicate license form, and the DL80 form to the address shown on the DL80 form. (Do not send it in the pink envelope.) Then pray to the Goddess.

I used this method to obtain my license even though I have not had SRS, or legally changed my name. When I went to obtain my photo license, I used my Employee Photo ID instead of my old driver's license. You can also use a voter registration card, obtainable by mail.

### II - Getting a passport.

Dr. Harry Benjamin, the late Right Hand of God (to a TS), used this method to obtain a passport for a patient of his who wanted to travel outside the country exclusively as a female. Since I have not


had SRS or changed my name, legally, I used a variation of his method to obtain a passport in my female name.

I had to appear at the Passport Office (usually in the county courthouse) in person to execute form DSP-11, Application for Passport. It cannot be done by mail; I tried!

I submitted my old passport, two photographs of me as a female, and personal identification in my female name (in this case my new driver's license.)

In addition, I submitted, on the aforementioned impressive stationery, a statement from my attending physician that I am a pre-operative transsexual in the final stages of treatment prior to surgery. I also submitted form 11-75 (DSP-60) Affidavit Regarding Change of Name, signed by a blood relative (in this case my sister.) I

*continued on page 8*




**Up to 75% savings  
on all your favorites...**

*What could be  
better than Best!*

<b>Fragrances</b>	● Chanel
● Jean Patou	● Gucci
● Christian Dior	● Lagerfeld
● Giorgio Armani	● Givenchy
● Yves St. Laurent	● Halston
● Ralph Lauren	
<b>Cosmetics</b>	● Celli
● Ultima	● Inverness
● Lancome	● Almay
● Elizabeth Arden	● Revlon
● Rachel Perry	● Prestige
● Flori Roberts	
<b>Beauty Supplies</b>	● Pantene
● Clariol	● Redken
● Fermodyl	● Zotos
● Oggi	● LaCoupe
● Paul Mitchell	● Hayashi
● KMS Research	

... AND MANY, MANY MORE!

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



1734 Chestnut St., Phila. • 215-665-1188 • 800-332-1734

## LEE'S MARDI GRAS BOUTIQUE


LEE G. BREWSTER, PRESIDENT

3rd Floor  
400 W. 14th St. (9th Ave.)  
New York, NY 10014

(212) 645-1888

N A S C A T I

Portrait,  
Portfolio and  
Commercial  
Photography  
by  
Mario Nascati Jr.



STUDIO

915 Spring  
Garden Street  
Philadelphia, PA  
19123

215/763/8842



Mary Della-Massing, L.E.

**Helping you to become the perfect you!**

**Special rates for the TV/TS community.**

## **Water Street Electrolysis**

111 WATER ST, SUITE 405, BALTO. MD

(2 blocks north of Harbor Place)

by appointment only.  
please ask for Mary.  
(301)-752-1855 (W)  
(301)-576-9771 (H)

*JoAnn Roberts Presents*

# *Paradise In The Poconos*

TV/TS Weekend  
May 18th-21st, 1989



- Pro DJ •
- Dance Party •
- Mardi Gras Nite •
- Talent Show •
- Prizes •

- Tag Sale •
- Hair Stylist •
- Princess Contest •
- Makeup Demo •
- Receptions •

Thursday through Sunday, 4 days/3 nights of fun and festivities. Complete package includes receptions, parties, meals, lodging, workshops, tax and gratuity. Cost per person, double occupancy is \$250. A \$50 deposit (refundable) will hold your reservation. Total amount due by 4/15/89. Make checks & M.O.s payable to CDS.

For further details call or write Creative Design Services, Box 1263,  
King of Prussia, PA 19406, (215)-640-9449

## More contributions from Elsa Larson

### Stores to consider:

☛ Bubbles & Friends, 15 S. Beaver St., York, PA 17401, (717) 845-8908. This is a toy store for the kid in all of us. There are a few greeting cards and campy items that will appeal to "adult" tastes. Hank stocks several lines of greeting cards that feature crossdressers and they seem to move very well.

☛ Bride 'n Belle Unique Boutique, 4225 W. Market St, York, PA 17404, (717) 792-2822. Guess what happened to your ex-wife's bridal gown. It's for sale on consignment at Bride 'n Belle. They specialize in worn-once bridal, bridesmaid, mother-of-the-bride formals and prom gowns. Open evenings.

☛ Rags to Riches Boutique, 115 Leader's Heights Rd, York, PA 17404, (717) 741-9140. Louise Smeltzer decided to clean out her closets and try to make some money, too. She wears a size 18 dress and 11 shoe. She has other things on consignment. Open Wed., Thurs. and Fri. evenings as well as Sat. mornings.

☛ Lane Bryant, Harrisburg East Mall. I've been in this store many times as a male and maybe six times crossdressed. Everyone was quite helpful and polite each time. There was no hesitation anytime I asked to try things on, no matter how I was dressed. I've found the assistant manager, Joni Robertson, particularly helpful.

☛ Fashion Bug Plus, Harrisburg East Mall. This is almost directly opposite Lane Bryant and every time I stop in one, I also visit the other. Staff here has been equally polite and helpful, regardless of how I was dressed.

### Places/Events:

☛ Altland's Ranch, RD4, Spring Grove, PA 17362, (717) 225-4479. (About 2 miles south of US 30, 12 miles west of York or 4 miles east of Abbottstown.) Open Fri. & Sat. only 8:00 p.m. to 2:00

a.m. A gay bar in the middle of nowhere with occasional drag shows. I went in November and was the only transvestite in the place. The entertainers, being drag queens, use the men's room. I got no hassle in the ladies' room. Shows coming up: April 29, 1989 Annual AAA *OK Show*. There should be 30+ entertainers. Reserved seats: \$10 for inner circle, \$9 for outer circle, \$8 for standees Benefits GUSH (Give US Hope): an HIV support/patient services organization.

NOTE: They are ALSO looking for ENTERTAINERS.

## Re: Washroom

"safe" restrooms.

- Keep a jar or bottle in the car in case you need to urinate.
- Carry "Wash & Dry" towels in the car and in your purse.
- Keep out of crowded or busy restrooms.
- Be cautious in isolated restrooms.
- When in the stall, put your purse where it cannot be grabbed from over/under the door or partition. Even GGs lose purses this way.
- If you are read, some people may think you are a cop.
- Do not go crossdressed into areas where you are in danger of assault.
- Take a friend. Going into the ladies room with a GG friend/wife who will speak up for you will help a lot.
- If you are easily read, consider using the men's room.
- Security guards and police are there to protect you, too. Don't be too embarrassed to ask their help or advice. If you are directed to the men's room, your chances of being assaulted are a lot lower with a cop outside the door.
- In the ladies' room, sit down to urinate.
- Relax and smile.

## Locals produce GALA event

The Greater Philadelphia chapter has been asked to produce an impersonator show for GALA, the Philadelphia Gay And Lesbian Arts Festival, during June.

Tommy Avicoli, one of the GALA event coordinators and managing editor of the *Philadelphia Gay News*, asked the organization to produce the show based on its experience with two similar events. Renaissance member Angela Gardner, who produced both the *Travelling Trash & Talent Tuesday AIDS Benefit* and the *AIDS Benefit Fashion Show*, will be the producer of the GALA event.

The show, *A Night of Illusion*, is scheduled for June 10, and will feature local female impersonators

The entire month of June is GALA month in Philadelphia with a great variety of art shows, performances and events sponsored by gay and lesbian organizations.

Complete details about *A Night of Illusion* will be included in the next issue of the news.

## Have you paid your '89 dues?

### New identity

used the appropriate space to explain the variance in my name as shown on my birth certificate. I stated that, "Applicant is currently in program for sex reassignment (transsexualism) and lives full time as a female and uses the name Jacqueline exclusively for all public purposes." The affidavit must be notarized.

That's all there was to it. As far as the U.S. State Department is concerned, I am a woman! Now I can travel anywhere in the world as a female with the blessings of good old Uncle Sam.



# National Gender News

from around the TV/TS community

Elsa Larson gets the "most prolific contributor of the month" award. She gave us an MS-DOS floppy full of files for use in the newsletter. If every contributor gave us copy that way we'd have more time to party. Thanks Elsa.

## NGN

Elaine Edwards (IXE, Indiana) has some interesting "gray" thoughts about the "black & white" way we tend to deal with TVs and TSs. She has a difficult time finding the "fundamental difference" between the two groups. The differences, she feels, are those of "degree, not kind." She makes provocative, but insightful statements like; "The greater challenge may be in accepting not that some of us have been born into the wrong body, but that for some the 'right' body does not exist", and, "It seems unlikely that black & white, either/or thinking will easily give way to more creative, option oriented thinking." Well said, Elaine. We agree that shades of gray are preferable to black and white.

## NGN

Heather Peerson reports in the Feb. *Crossport InnerView* (Cincinnati, Ohio) that a TS member had a run-in with a Thriftway pharmacist who refused to fill her hormone prescription on "moral" grounds. This intrepid lady, not to be deterred by such ignorance, contacted the Thriftway main office to complain. She not only received an apology from the pharmacist, but will now receive a discount on her prescription. Heather comments that Thriftway handled the situation very well, but wonders how they would have reacted had they been paying the TS's salary rather than taking it.

## NGN

City of Lakes Crossdresser's Club (Minneapolis, Minn.) has a new club phone connected to an answering machine. The number is

612-933-5288. If you are going to be in the area, give them a call and say "Hello" from Renaissance.

## NGN

Some people are easily confused, like Phyllis who writes in the Feb. *CLCC* newsletter that she doesn't like any references to sexuality in the search for a new club name, such as "crossgender" or "transgender", and wants to know why some people don't like "crossdresser". Someone, like a TS maybe, should sit Phyllis down and have a LONG talk with her about sex, gender and the fact that most TSs don't consider themselves crossdressers. We feel that a prime purpose of support groups should be education and it looks like CLCC might explore that as a need for their group.

## NGN

In the January issue of the Gender Identity Center newsletter (Denver) is a cute article warning us about the "Danger" signs of Inner Peace, with such symptoms as; a loss of interest in destructive conflict, frequent attacks of smiling, a loss of interest in judging others, and overwhelming episodes of appreciation. We'll be very careful to observe Renaissance members who exhibit these symptoms and isolate them for possible election to the board of directors.

## NGN

We were very heartened to read in the *Crossroads Chatter* (Royal Oak, Mich.) remarks made by their founder at their recent anniversary dinner. Renaissance is not the only group with a highly developed sense of social conscience. For example, she says, "We have the obligation to provide an educational opportunity ...", "We have the responsibility to provide these opportunities at reasonable costs to avoid economic discrimination ...", "We have the obligation to provide an open forum of opinion

for the free exchange of ideas", "We have the responsibility to provide services for all segments of our community", "We have the responsibility to be a vehicle for activism. We will not tolerate discrimination." The only problem is, they did not identify the person who made these profound remarks. Whoever she is, she can come work with us anytime.

## NGN

The *Emerald City News* (Seattle, Wash.) reports a reorganization of officers. Seems Ginger Goebel is no longer secretary for reasons left unexplained to non-members. Now come on ladies! We're all dying to hear the gossip. Actually, we feel they should not have mentioned it as it raises more questions than it answers. The new editor, however, lays out her plans for newsletter content in the future: stories about people's experiences, helpful hints column and an advise(sic) column. Another good newsletter turns to fluff, making it more difficult to write this column. We hope that this group that pioneered the TV/TS Equal Rights movement doesn't turn to fluff as well.

## NGN

We received a letter from Vern Bullough, SUNY Distinguished Professor and Dean of Natural and Social Sciences at the State University College at Buffalo. Dr. Bullough and his wife are researching TV fantasy literature and would like to obtain copies of such from our community. Can we help? You betcha' Red Rider! The materials will be deposited at Cal State, Northridge, with Dr. Richard Docter, after the study. If you would like to make a gratis contribution to this project, contact the Bulloughs through the university at 1300 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo, NY 14222.

## NGN

**Please Patronize These Advertisers**

*Art & Illusion: A Guide  
To Crossdressing*

*by JoAnn Roberts*

An illustrated guide to help you create that total image. Chapters on Makeup, Lingerie and Outerwear. \$10 postpaid. Creative Design Services, Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406.

**ANDROGYNY  
UNLIMITED**

-COUNSELING-  
-EDUCATION-

**Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.**

BOARD CERTIFIED SEXOLOGIST

P.O.Box 4887

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY 12602

(914) 462-7455

*Marilyn's Wigs*

212 N. Lynn Blvd. Upper Darby, PA  
(215)-446-0799

*Private & Personal Consultations*  
Wigs by Eva Gabor, Joseph of Rome, Estetica,  
and Henry Margeaux. Call for appointment.



HAVE YOU BEEN READING

*En Femme ?*

The classy, tasteful, informative magazine for today's TV/TS/CD. Fiction, articles, photos, artwork, interviews. Send \$6.50 for sample issue, or \$30 for 6 issues to: *En Femme*, Box 7854, West Trenton, NJ

*Now Available Again*  
**The Transsexual Phenomenon**  
by Harry Benjamin, M.D.

Orders being accepted now through the Outreach Institute, Kenmore Station, Suite 368, Boston, MA 02215. Deluxe Edition- \$39.95, Regular Edition- \$34.95. Please add \$3.50 postage & handling. *Renaissance* members: order thru the *Renaissance* office.

11:30-1:30 Tu. 9-5. W/Th/F 9-8; Sa 8-4

**DONNA'S HAIR STUDIO 1 AND BOUTIQUE**

JEWELRY - HANDBAGS - MAKEUP

181 SCOTCH RD. TRENTON, NJ 08628 883-0002

**Daniel B. Estes, Ed.D.**

Board Certified Mental Health Counselor

Psychotherapy Options  
2004 Chestnut Stree  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

By Appointment  
(215) 567-2260

A Multispeciality Comprehensive Mental  
Health Parctice

*Theseus Counseling  
Services*

**Ari Kane, M.Ed.**

Gender Specialist

Kenmore Station, Box 368, Boston, MA 02215

(617) 277-3454