

# CROSS-TALK

THE TRANSGENDERED COMMUNITY'S NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1991

(ISSUE #25)



## POST OFFICE TAKES ACTION AGAINST PHILIP SALEM AFFILIATE

(Van Nuys, CA) -- Postmaster William Jackson, acting on a complaint by "Cross-Talk", has issued a formal Prohibitory Order against Real Swingers Connections of Las Vegas, publishers of "TV Guy" magazine.

As previously reported in "Cross-Talk" (November 1990 and January 1991), the magazine in question is the latest home for "Dr. Philip Salem", who is notorious for deceiving unsuspecting members of the gender community. Salem has on numerous occasions -- including a column in "TV Guy" -- claimed to be a psychologist trained in gender issues, although he is not a doctor. His ads in "TV Guy" feature his "North American Transvestite/Transsexual Contact Service" address. He has also published photographs of several people without their permission, including "Crossdressers Quarterly" publisher Danielle Moran.

In the Prohibitory Order dated April 19, 1991, Real Swingers Connections was advised that their mailing was considered to be "a pandering advertisement offering for sale erotically arousing or sexually provocative matter", and ordered them to cease all mailings to "Cross-Talk's" post office box. Continued mailings in the face of this order violate Title 39, U.S. Code, Section 3008.

Real Swingers Connections was also ordered to remove "Cross-Talk" from its mailing lists and to cease the sale, rental, exchange, or other transaction involving any lists bearing it. [Kymberleigh Richards]

## RENAISSANCE BOARD REVOKES READING CHAPTER CHARTER

(Philadelphia, PA) -- At its January meeting, the national board of the Renaissance Education Association voted unanimously to revoke the charter of its chapter in Reading, PA. The board also voted to take steps to ensure that members who had paid dues to the Reading chapter receive the full value of their membership.

The group in Reading had not met for several months, and the board made numerous unsuccessful attempts to contact Susan [redacted], the leader of the chapter, to determine the status of the group. The vote to disband the chapter came after those numerous attempts went unanswered.

"Although we are disappointed that the Reading chapter had to be disbanded, we acted so that the former members continue in a state of limbo," said Paula Jordan [redacted], national managing director of Renaissance. "The decision to disestablish the chapter also contained our pledge to continue to provide the service those members paid for. They will continue to receive the 'Renaissance News' and the

(CONTINUED, PG. 3)

## 'WAR BETWEEN THE ALPHAS' ENDS WITH CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP

(Los Angeles) -- Recent developments have all but ended the dispute between the two Tri-Ess chapters serving the Southern California region.

Tri-Ess national board member Kymberleigh Richards has agreed to assume the presidency of Alpha chapter, allowing Tri-Ess founder Virginia Prince to move into a non-leadership role in that chapter. Prince had been the only remaining officer in Alpha after the bulk of its membership opted to form the new chapter in August.

In light of Richards' actions, the new chapter voted at its March 2 meeting to change its name from Lambda Alpha to Sigma Chi. The question of confusing names had created the impression that there were two "Alpha" chapters, and had been a major point of disagreement between the two factions.

In announcing the leadership change in Alpha, Richards indicated a need for the dispute to be settled by a consensus of the Tri-Ess members in the region, and hoped that her "taking the reins" would alleviate the personal differences between the Sigma Chi membership and Prince that had caused the split.

Responding to her call for unity, the Sigma Chi membership voted to change their meeting night, effective in May, so as not to conflict with Alpha meetings.

Prince, citing the fact that Alpha was the first TV group in the country, as well as the flagship chapter of Tri-Ess, applauded the diplomatic efforts on the part of all those involved. She further expressed her hope that the combined membership of both chapters would now be able to create a stronger presence for Tri-Ess in the region. Richards added that Sigma Chi's recent actions would allow for each member to individually decide which chapter or chapters to support.

Acting Sigma Chi president Janyne Cresap said she was happy to "have this all behind us". [Christine [redacted]]

THIS ISSUE OF "CROSS-TALK" (#25) IS THE CORRECT ISSUE TO FOLLOW THE FEBRUARY 1991 ISSUE (#24).

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## TRANSSEXUAL WINS LAWSUIT AGAINST BOEING

(Seattle, WA) -- A male-to-female transsexual has won a ruling in Superior Court here that gender dysphoria is a disability requiring accommodation by employers. The TS, identified only as "Jane Doe", was fired by Boeing from her job as a computer software engineer when she wore a string of pink beads to work.

Doe began the sex-change process with hormone treatments in the spring of 1984. She testified that her supervisor at Boeing had shown "understanding" when she informed him of her condition in 1985, and that her co-workers had also accepted and supported her. The company gave her a new identification badge bearing the new name she had legally adopted, and the U.S. Department of Defense renewed her security clearance. By this time, Doe had worked at Boeing for seven years, receiving numerous certificates for "her personal initiative, ingenuity, dependability, professional ability and dedication".

When Doe began the pre-operative phase of her sexual transition, her physician instructed her to live as a female for one year. Although she was not specifically told to wear female clothing, she felt "it would have been impossible for me to meet minimum medical standards if I did not dress as a female while I was at work".

Doe notified her supervisor and co-workers in advance of changing her attire and explained the reasons. The supervisor testified that in response to the news Boeing imposed certain restrictions on her, mainly "no skirts or dresses" and no using the women's restrooms. He said that no disruption or complaints from co-workers resulted, although others testified that some employees were uncomfortable with Doe's transformation.

Doe complied with the restroom ban at first, driving a half-mile to a public restroom when necessary. But as her employer's and co-workers' acceptance of her situation appeared to solidify, she would use the women's room "in emergencies". Her supervisor testified that he did not notice which restroom she was using, but a male employee complained when he saw Doe leaving the women's room last September. Boeing, which has no official dress code for its engineers, then told Doe she could no longer wear feminine attire but told her supervisor to base his judgment of the appropriateness of her dress on her total appearance, not on any particular item of apparel. Boeing reiterated the women's restroom ban and told Doe that the various restrictions imposed on her would be lifted only after the sex-change surgery.

Fifteen Boeing workers sent a letter to management declaring that Doe's dismissal would be "an unfortunate and inappropriate action". They stated further that her changes in lifestyle and appearance were "her personal attempts to cope with an uncommon, but genuine, inner conflict, something the rest of us have not had to face", and that "whether we individually approve of these changes is irrelevant in the workplace. Her professional conduct and competence have not changed ... (we) believe that those who disagree misunderstand the situation and would change their opinions if they knew (her) as we do." Nonetheless, management fired Doe.

The American Civil Liberties Union sued for Doe's reinstatement, claiming that her condition constituted a disability under Washington's anti-discrimination law, and that Boeing had violated the requirement that employers reasonably accommodate the sensory, mental or physical limitations of employees unless they can show that such accommodation would adversely affect the conduct of business.

In his ruling, Judge Frederick Rasmussen stated that the case -- the first of its kind in the state of Washington -- was "about a unique human condition and a case about human dignity and the need to be respectful of that". However, while holding that Doe's condition is a disability under Washington law, the judge also ruled that Boeing has reasonably accommodated Doe. ["ACLU News"]

## 'QUANTUM LEAP' ACTOR NAMED MAN & WOMAN OF THE YEAR

(Beverly Hills, CA) -- Actor Scott Bakula, who has played both men and women on the "Quantum Leap" television series, was named international man/woman of the year in broadcasting by the Hollywood Radio and Television Society.

Bakula picked up the honor at the group's annual International Broadcasting Awards dinner March 21 at the Beverly Hilton. Among the female characters he has played in the creative NBC series are: a secretary, a mother, a beauty contestant and an unwed pregnant teenager. ["Times"]

## GENDER ALTERNATIVES LEAGUE OFFERS SUPPORT TO CONGRESSMEN

(Napa, CA) -- The Gender Alternatives League (GAL) has urged President Bush to honor a request by 40 members of Congress who have asked him to sign an executive order rescinding the military's policy of banning gays from serving in the armed forces.

While applauding the actions of Rep. Gerry Studds (D-MA), an open ██████████ Congressman, GAL's National Executive Director Cynthia ██████████ said in her letter to the President that such a reversal would be discriminatory and objectionable to other minorities who serve in the military although their lifestyles are also banned. Howard pointed out that at least 3% of all military personnel are transgendered, and that at least 90% of those are heterosexual.

In calling for a similar action by the President, Howard has asked gender community organizations to begin a letter-writing campaign in support of lifting the ban in the military against transsexuals and crossdressers.

Among those signing the request for Bush to eliminate the 1943 Pentagon policy were Los Angeles Democrat Henry Waxman and Pat Schroeder (D-CO), a ranking member of the Armed Services Committee. [Kymberleigh Richards]



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## TRANSSEXUAL INMATE SETTLES LAWSUIT WITH NEW YORK STATE

(Albany, NY) -- New York State has agreed to pay a transgendered inmate \$25,000 to settle a lawsuit that charged she was harassed and sexual assaulted by guards in the men's prison where she was incarcerated. In addition, she has been transferred to [redacted]'s prison.

A repeat offender, Jackie [redacted], 35, has been in and out of several New York prisons. [redacted]ing to a corrections department spokesman, some of those sentences were served in men's prisons and at least one was served in a women's prison -- Bedford Hills, near New York City. Spokesman Jim Flateau said that the assignments to different gender prisons came because Farrell's arrest reports, furnished by the New York City police, sometimes listed her as a man and sometimes as a woman. She claims to have had a sex change when she was [redacted] years old.

In 1985, [redacted] was sentenced to three and a half to seven years [redacted]son for robbery, her most recent offense. At that time, corrections department officials sought an independent determination of [redacted]'s gender, and had her examined by a panel of university medical and psychological professionals. Although she presents the appearance of a female, Flateau said, the experts determined that Farrell was most suited for a male prison. She was incarcerated at the Clinton Correctional Facility. That was where [redacted] charged guards molested and harassed her and forced her to have sex with them. This formed the basis for her lawsuit.

Flateau said that transgendered inmates such as [redacted] who have medical authorization can receive female [redacted] at state expense. He also said that if officials determine transgendered inmates are "victim-prone", they can be placed in voluntary or involuntary segregation to protect them from other inmates. ["Renaissance News"]

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## TS FOUND MURDERED AT PHILLY CONSTRUCTION SITE

(Philadelphia, PA) -- Three days before Christmas, the body of a 26-year-old male-to-female transsexual was discovered in Center City Philadelphia. She had been stabbed several times in the chest and stomach.

A security guard working for Thomas Jefferson University Hospital discovered the body of Anna Francisco on the morning of December 22 on a hospital construction site near 11th and Walnut Streets.

Police say that Francisco was killed at or near the site. They had no motive for the brutal murder nor suspects.

According to her friend Joanna Sylvester, Francisco worked in the home health care field and was studying to become a nurse. She had planned to undergo sex reassignment surgery within six months, Sylvester said. She lived with her family in the Feltonville section of Philadelphia.

"She was a sweetheart -- gentle," Sylvester said. "She never hurt anyone. Her only mistake was being a pre-operative transsexual. Why was she murdered? I am sure it was a crime of hate because of her true gender."

A \$1,500 reward has been offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for Francisco's murder. ["Renaissance News"]

### RENAISSANCE CHAPTER ...

national board has officially asked the chapters in South Jersey, Lower Susquehanna Valley and Greater Philadelphia to 'adopt' the former Reading members for the unexpired portion of their paid membership.

The South Jersey chapter has agreed to [redacted]'s request; the other chapters have yet to act as of [redacted]ting.

One of the problems associated with the disestablishment is that there are no membership records that would show who had paid dues to Reading and when. This situation is not likely to occur again thanks to [redacted] four-part membership form used by all the chapters, [redacted] said. But the lack of information about former Reading members makes it difficult to provide services to them. She asked Reading members to send whatever information they have about their dues payment to the national office, and promised that every effort will be made to treat those members fairly.

The board estimated that the Reading chapter numbered about a dozen members. ["Renaissance News"]



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## TRANSSEXUAL ACTIVIST DIES OF AIDS

(San Francisco) -- Louis Graydon Sullivan, an author and female-to-male transsexual, died March 2 at his home here from the complications of AIDS. He was 39.

Sullivan gained widespread notice last year for his book "From Female to Male: The Life of Jack Bee Garland", the story of a turn-of-the-century female crossdresser who worked as a woman journalist in Stockton and San Francisco and later served as a male in the Spanish-American War.

He was the founder and director of FTM, the first and only international support group for female-to-male transsexuals. Researchers have estimated that about one in 50,000 females is a transsexual, compared with about one in 20,000 men who made the switch.

Sullivan was a regular speaker at the Institute for the Advanced Study of Human Sexuality in San Francisco and a frequent contributor to the national gay publication "The Advocate". He was active in the San Francisco Gay Historical Society and was also closely involved with ETVC, a 400-plus member transsexual and transvestite support group in San Francisco.

Sullivan is survived by his grandmother, mother, a brother, two sisters, and six nieces and nephews. A memorial service was held March 15 at the Neptune Society Columbarium. Interment was private. ["Chronicle"]

## MAN WEARING DRESS FOUND SHOT IN HOLLYWOOD

(Hollywood, CA) -- A man wearing a dress was found shot to death on a street near Paramount Studios and detectives believe he was killed elsewhere and then dumped in the roadway, authorities said.

The victim was found on the pavement in the 400 block of North Windsor Boulevard about 9:30pm February 18, Detective Ernie Basset said. The man, about 30, was dead at the scene from multiple gunshot wounds, Basset said.

The victim carried no identification. He was later identified through fingerprints, but his name was withheld until relatives could be notified. ["Times"]

## WELL-KNOWN TS ENTERTAINER FOUND MURDERED NEAR NIGHTCLUB

(Memphis, TN) -- Police have no motive for the November murder of a well-known transsexual entertainer. The body of Michelle Maree was found not far from the Club Tiffany, where she worked as a waitress.

While robbery is a possibility -- her purse was missing when her body was discovered -- some members of the city's gay community speculate that since she was working in a straight club, a patron may have gone off on a murderous rage when he discovered her true gender.

Maree was 40 years old and had lived as a woman for many years. She won the Miss Gay Memphis crown in 1973, and for the past two decades had performed in most of the gay clubs in the area and organized many benefits shows. A tribute and benefit show was held after her death to raise money for funeral expenses and to purchase a headstone. ["Renaissance News"]

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DETAILS ON PAGE 17

## I.F.G.E. WINS AUSTRALIAN "FREEDOM" AWARD

(Altona, Victoria, Australia) -- The International Foundation for Gender Education has received the Elaine Barrie Project's "Freedom Award" and certificate of appreciation.

In a letter received November 20, Elaine Barrie informed IFGE of their selection as recipient of the annual award for 1990. The presentation was made in absentia at EBP's annual awards presentation night October 27.

In the letter, Elaine Barrie cited IFGE's "most commendable efforts on behalf of all transpersons wherever they may be". [IFGE "Update"]

## NEWS BRIEFS

"General Hospital's" Tiffany, actress Sharon Wyatt, was the life of the party in a gender-bending way. Attending a party to celebrate the premiere of the late Andy Warhol's movie biography, she abandoned her date in order to dance with the numerous TVs who were also on the guest list.

At a party for the release of "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II", there was one ugly moment outside the tent when a Turtle pulled off his foam rubber head to reveal a rather sweaty woman. But in Hollywood, where Lassie can be a boy, a Ninja Turtle can be a girl ...

Brigham Young University's board of trustees have updated the school's dress code -- to the 1960's. Now students can wear knee-length shorts, male students can wear mustaches (but not beards), and female students can wear slacks. But men's earrings have been given a "no" vote. Maybe in another 30 years?

University of Illinois law professor Victor Stone has come up with a gender-free system for referring to a person whose gender is "unknown or irrelevant": For he and she, substitute "e"; for his and her, "e's"; for him and her, "em", and for himself and herself, "emself". The main drawback is that use of these substitutes make the user sound a little like Eliza Doolittle ...

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## THE HIGH COST OF DOING BUSINESS

by Kimberleigh Richards  
Editor & Publisher, "Cross-Talk"

I'm writing this on the last day of the IFGE convention. Only trouble is, I'm in my office in Van Nuys, not in my hotel room in Denver.

I don't want to sound egotistical in saying this, but the fact is that I am considered to be one of the national "leaders" in the gender community, due mainly to my membership on the Tri-Ess board of directors and my being the publisher of this newsletter. Yet I was absent from what is generally considered to be the "working convention" of the community -- the week in which the majority of our business gets done.

And that upsets me, because I should have been there -- I would have been there -- except for the expense.

I'm not going to restate the economic problems we've had here of late. Those are obvious to anyone who has seen how our publication dates don't match the month on page 1. But that's not even the major issue here.

The cost of attending just one of the many conventions that take place each year is approximately equal to what the cost of publishing "Cross-Talk" would be if it had five times the subscribers it does. By the time you add airfare, hotel room, registration and meals together, you're in the four-digit range. And that's a prohibitive cost, even if you're fortunate enough to have a decent income.

There are a number of people who, like myself, are considered to be the "movers and shakers" in the community. The ones that instantly come to mind are Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Virginia Prince, Ellen Fairfax, JoAnn Roberts,

Kirk, J. [redacted], Wendy Park, [redacted] Danielle [redacted], Karen [redacted], Janic [redacted], Lee [redacted], Renee [redacted], Naomi [redacted], Eve [redacted], Yvonne [redacted], [redacted] well, [redacted] get the [redacted] how many

people [redacted] were unable to attend IFGE, or if they did attend did so at significant financial hardship? I'd bet over 75% fit into one category or the other.

It has often been said that as a community we seem to be disjointed -- that the disparate points of view expressed by our national leaders seem to contradict each other, or at the very least have significant differences between similar statements. I have also heard it said that we never seem to have enough cohesion to move forward on the important issues of our community, such as civil rights, uniformity of terms in presenting our case to the public, and the conflicting agendas between the different "neighborhoods" (TV, TS, TG, etc.) within the community.

I don't believe we'll ever resolve these issues and create a unified gender community so long as we are unable to have a real consensus among the people we look to for leadership. If the "Coming Together/Working Together" conventions are to really be our annual opportunity to get the community's business accomplished, then the community must take steps to ensure that the decision-makers can all be present.

I propose that there be a fund set up at IFGE, that any group or individual within the gender community can contribute to, that would be specifically earmarked to cover the expenses of our national leaders' attendance at the IFGE convention. If a leader feels he or she can attend without personal financial hardship, then I know that leader will take it upon himself or herself to leave the fund untouched. Our national leaders, by necessity, have a high degree of moral responsibility to the community, and I believe we could rely upon that. But if part (or all) of a leader's

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## ALL RIGHT, OUT OF THE CLOSET ...

by Anne [redacted]

The phrase "mainstreaming transvestism" has been ricocheting around the inside of my head lately. I'm not quite sure what I mean by it, but it sounds good. I'll tell you what it doesn't mean, it doesn't mean getting every guy and his brother dressed up in crinolines and lace. I think what it means is what I've been advocating all along, taking transvestism out of the dark recesses of the closet and exposing it to the bright light of day. It means doing what is necessary to bring acceptance and understanding to what we are and do.

Sounds all well and good, doesn't it? So, where's the problem? The problem is that transvestism is a term that describes a behavior without differentiating cause. It used to be that anyone who had a tonic-clonic seizure was termed epileptic. Now we say they have a seizure disorder, leaving the cause open for exploration. I can think of three causes of tonic-clonic seizures right off the bat. So, how do we differentiate the causes of transvestism, and does it really matter?

Well, yes, it does matter. Because if we say X is the cause and J.Q. Public meets a TV who tells J.Q. that Y is the cause ... well, J.Q. becomes more confused instead of less confused and that doesn't help our cause. So, let's be honest, even the experts admit that there are several types of transvestite. Look through the literature if you don't believe me. Pseudo-, true, fetishistic to name three. Experimental, four. So if we are going to try to "mainstream transvestism" we're going to have to make it clear that there are indeed several types. How do we differentiate? Well, I think most of us know what category of TV we are. Does it matter? Yes. Rightly or wrongly, fair or not, some forms of transvestism will have a much harder time gaining acceptance than others; however, once one form is accepted it will be easier for the others to follow.

To put it bluntly, and this is my opinion, society will have an easier time accepting those of us who have gender focused need to crossdress than it will accepting those who have a sex focused need to crossdress. In other words, those of us who have a need to change gender roles from time to time will meet less resistance than those who crossdress to achieve sexual gratification. Blame the Puritans, not me. Americans have a lot of sexual hang-ups and if your sexual practices are out side of "normal" limits ... well, gay bashing is a pretty popular sport these days. See what I mean?

So, what has all this to do with "mainstreaming transvestism"? The old military axiom is, "Pick your fights." Decide where you have the best chance of winning and focus your energies there. The more limited your resources, the more this holds true. And if you think about it, if J.Q. is walking down the street and sees a couple of TVs how is J.Q. going to know which type they are (assuming, of course, that both are dressed for the time and place)? Well, there are other ways of telling, but not necessarily by how they're dressed.

The studies also seem to indicate that the fetishists are a very small segment of the TV community (I read it somewhere), and that too makes a difference. Anyway, let me get back to the idea of "mainstreaming transvestism".

What are the issues likely to be in our quest? Obviously people are going to ask, "Why do you do that?" or "Why would anyone want to do that?" "Are you gay?" "Do you want to become a woman?" You know the drill. "No, I'm not gay (unless you happen to be that too)." "No, you're thinking of a transsexual, I'm a transvestite. There's a big difference. I just play at being a woman sometimes." "Why do I do it? If I knew that I'd be a millionaire." Oh, I'd just use the "We all start out as female ... but in my case, I think, the masculinization process wasn't as ... thorough as it might have been" explanation. As I've said before ... or perhaps I only implied it, scientific explanations carry more weight

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## DO WE HURT?

by Phaedra Kelly

I found the recent ad for the Gender Alternatives League hopeful. The observation on those "minorities" to have achieved rights ahead of ours is true. I should add that the women's and gay movements borrowed heavily and directly from the true mythic, cultural and natural histories of androgyny, while even then denying them to men and non-gays -- who, if those histories are properly inspected, should be the natural first inheritors. It belongs to Transgender. The black and other colored movements are now showing signs of very slowly getting around to the fact that native Shamanism was/is founded in the dualism of gender in its priesthood, which modern "civilized" people of color had rejected.

In that last trend lives one of our hopes for salvation, because the rejection by those people of color was due directly to their own (and our) persecutors' alienation of us from our inherent ancestral roots (albeit that for some born white those roots are more spiritual than physical). That alienation changed us! Our world community in this "safe and civilized" world has taken the shape of not what we are but what others would have us be and say we are, even within organized groups that seem to turn commercial or become mothers' knitting meeting very quickly.

The wrong kind of socialization has happened. Instead of having the independent courage of our convictions as a third gender, our majority has weakly run to whatever high-profile option it saw as offering sanctuary, chopping and changing as each proved a weak straw to grab.

It was natural the majority should identify with the gay and women's movements, since both were unashamedly impersonating us. Whereas most fail to see this fact, having grown up schooled in the histories of our way of life, I can't miss it, and find these born female or homosexual impersonators of our way to be sinister and sick, for their exploitation of our virtue while denying us our part in its making.

Thus GAL looked hopeful -- until I read those four overused words "I hurt no one". Hogfeathers!!

I see too much of "we don't hurt anyone" coming from people who, observing how they are persecuted and abused, form "self-help groups" and counseling organizations. For what? Is it not as much to hide away from the chance of "hurting" others by our existence as to hide from the hurt itself? Forget who began the hurt first. We DO hurt others because we ARE human -- and because other humans cannot handle hurt and pain well either, they hurt us. For the most part, it is the psychic/mental pain felt by those too weak to think for themselves, causing them to harm us physically, but it's just as real.

Have you ever observed the ponderous progress of a zealous saffron-robed Zen Buddhist monk? Trying to walk carefully, and filtering his food not against impurity but to avoid killing macrobiotic life? Such meek atonement is admirable -- but that's all it is, atonement, because to exist at all he had first, when his father drained seventy glands of fluid to fertilize and egg and initiate his conception, to rob his own father of some days of life; then for the next nine months to rob his mother of some more time alive; and finally, upon fracturing the air with his first cry, murder a million or more little unseen lives. We cannot move without killing -- indeed, mass murdering -- because all organic carbon-based life kills species of all other organic carbon-base life simply by the act of living.

A denial of this is as foolish as to retreat into immobility, but the human thing to do is to realize that life and death are not as we have been led to believe -- dividers, twinned only as destroyers, causes of pain, two different and apart world -- but are the duality of the monist continuum of existence as a whole. Life and death are the one thing, and only human conscience has the power to

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## REALIZING DREAMS WITH DIFFICULTY

by Eileen [REDACTED]

Happily, it would seem that the dream of Merissa Sherrill Lynn is in serious danger of coming to fruition. After three "Coming Together" conventions -- but not much more togetherness than before -- there are signs that her message is getting through. Yet, it amazes me how widely the message is misread -- or is it I who doesn't understand?

At the risk of being branded as a "nay-sayer", I must admit that, contrary to many of the official pronouncements from the Tri-Ess leadership, I'm not quite ready to throw myself into the arms of our "gay/lesbian" associates. Sorry folks, but I still think that we ARE different, with divergent outlooks and goals.

Yes, it was this very writer who spoke up in Merissa's seminar at the Houston Holiday En-Femme, supporting the notion of working together with other elements of the TV/TS Communities through focusing on the similarities. Nevertheless, I am not now, nor ever will be, content to be associated, in the public mind, with the g/l community.

The main problem I have with much of the recent conciliatory rhetoric is that it is based on deliberately ignoring some very obvious differences in lifestyle, ambitions, and responsibilities. In short, we may be on the same train, but we're not ticketed for the same stops.

None of the above should be interpreted to mean that I do not support the just aspirations of those who do not fit the "specs" of the heterosexual transgendered. As a libertarian, I am committed to the notion that while anyone's human rights are subject to abrogation, the rights of the everyone else remain at risk.

Finally, I feel there is danger all around in glossing over the differences and pretending that "they're just like us" or vice-versa. Such an approach leaves the potential for friction still in place. We truly need to get beyond the concept of "DIFFERENT equals BAD". Until we stop working so hard at trying to conjure up "points-in-common" and start VALUING our differences, we will not make much progress toward enforcing the human rights of either community.

## KYMBERLEIGH'S CLIPBOARD ...

expenses need to be covered in order for that individual to attend, then we as a community need to ensure that the coverage is available.

I am not endorsing the use of such a fund for the attendance of the more "fun" conventions (Be All, Texas "T", California Dreamin', Fantasia Fair), nor do I feel such a fund should be used to cover Tri-Ess board members' costs of attending the "Holiday En Femme", where that board's annual meeting takes place (although I feel Tri-Ess should set up a similar fund for that purpose). But I do believe such a fund is necessary, so that the community's business can be effectively handled by the people we trust most to handle it.

## TAG, YOU'RE IT ...

than emotional outbursts. At least they validate our position and are harder to dismiss or ignore.

But what do we have to do to "mainstream transvestism"? Oh, must I beat a dead horse? (There's an inside joke there.) Go back and reread the previous fifteen columns. Take a cue for GLAAD. Take a cue from B'nai Brith. It's all there. Now get off your butts and act.

[Comments and criticisms may be sent to: Anne [REDACTED], P.O. Box 1251, Beverly Hills, CA 90213-1251.]

"CROSS-TALK"  
THE TRANSGENDERED COMMUNITY'S  
FASTEST GROWING NEWSLETTER



## STOP BEATING UP ON US

by Divinity

Reading "The Apathy of the Community" (Kymberleigh's Clipboard, January 1991), I can understand the frustration and resentment that motivated the comments. As a very new member to the "out" crossdressing community, I sincerely believe that much of the answer lies elsewhere in the same issue.

For example, "Toward Open and Boon Companions" very clearly addresses one, if not the single most important, negative about being a crossdresser: fear. Are we going to lose the love of a parent, spouse, friend, employer, fellow employees, et al? Many of us are concerned about the mainstream's reaction to our going public -- not without foundation, as we all know.

I've only told one person who is a close friend that I crossdress. She is supportive to the degree that a casual friend can be. I yearn to reveal this side of me to my closest and dearest friend, but I hesitate. How will he react? Will we no longer be able to do our "male bonding" rituals that have been such an integral part of our friendship for so many years? I honestly do not know, and cannot guess-timate his response.

In the same issue we have articles about the correct labels. Police apathy. Crimes against TVs. Confusion about what a particularly confused individual's "true" sex is or isn't. A nun hiding from the law in the U.S. Army as a male. Rosanna Arquette's brother might be hurting his acting career because of his drag queen routines. The incredible high cost of being two different people with two separate wardrobes. Wendy Parker's continuing examination of what is

wrong with the entire gender community. Cynthia telling us we are silly teenage girls playing at being trans. An angry commentary about the demeaning of the community by male TV strip "Unsolved Mysteries". Phaedra Kelly vs. Germain in a non-title bout. "How To" articles.

No wonder there are so many thousands of confused TVs/TGs/CDs/whatevers out there who refuse to come out of the closet, let alone out on the town with a bunch of other people they may have reason to fear! Even those of us who are out don't seem to be able to agree on why we are out or what to call ourselves.

And there is AIDS. While I am not at all gay or bi, I most assuredly am a crossdresser. And damn glad I am. However, there are those in our community who are gay or bi, and AIDS is a very real concern. I don't recall who said it, but I did hear an opinion that ventured the odds of getting AIDS are better than winning the lottery. Any?

My comment to you, Ms. [redacted] and Mr. [redacted], is not to be so angry with us. I myself was unable to come to the Queen Mary from mid-December through the second week of January, because I was in Arizona for the holidays. However, what with family functions, shopping, office parties, and the fact that late December is a time of year when people are immersed in a million-and-one projects, it is entirely

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probable that a Christmas party would fail in our community. Additionally, the holiday season is a time of pain and depression for TVs, gays, and even "normies". A great deal of pain and depression.

To those of you who have difficulty labelling yourselves, my suggestion is to label yourself "happy"! Be glad that you are out, even if only at home, or in small intimate groups, or at the QM. If we can be supportive, we will. If you can let us know your confusions and frustrations, do so. But when you come out, have fun. If it can't be fun, why bother?

To Kym and Richard, lighten up. I'm sorry that your parties didn't do as well as you had expected, but like all woman, we girls are fickle. That the QM and "Cross-Talk" are there for us is greatly appreciated by all of us... regardless of whether or not we spend any money with you. Indeed, the QM seems to be doing a fairly good amount of business on the nights I am there, and "Cross-Talk" is apparently doing better than ever. So things must be looking up.

I hope so, because I sure as hell do not want to read another editorial admonishing me or my new friends to get off our asses. Let's instead address the issue of how to bring more TVs out of the closet, instead of beating up on the ones who are already doing all that we can.

THE OMBUDSTRAN ...

see them apart.

This may be a blessing or a curse, but other species, whom humanity with all its testing is arrogant enough to assume have little or no comparable mind to ours, seem to have one advantage; an instinctual acceptance, even knowledge of the law of physics that matter cannot be created or destroyed, only changed. This, short of conclusive evidence to the contrary, ought to follow for psychic matter; i.e., the mind, the soul, and the inner polarity of gender identity that is the construct of our being as transgendered. This was all deliberated first by Shamans some many centuries ago, who saw what we are as living evidence of it, as a sign that through true dualism comes forth true monism. And so you see the virtue first seen not by our minorities'

majority, but by women and gays and soon by racial minorities.

Each before us has fashioned its little clique on this, and each before us has come to believe of itself that they have finished with duality and that it is time to look forward to their monist gender/life continuum. Each now continues to deny that he had or have any part of that, and their expulsion of us, its core, ought alone to be enough sign that they are deluding themselves. The monist gender/life continuum is a million years out of their reach, because the mess the world has gotten into through human behavior has gotten worse, not better, since they began their high minded plans for their personal liberty and

(CONTINUED, PG. 23)



## MAKEUP: A FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

by Valerie

Would you like to look ten to twenty years younger? Well, first of all you need to be at least 20 years old (!!!) ... but over 50 is a more ideal age to try for a look twenty years younger.

When applying eye makeup and rouge or blush, think of the word UP. Dark eyeshadow that extends beyond the eye, if not applied in an upward direction, will drag the eyes down and make them look tired and saggy. Blush should start halfway to the middle of your face and extend upward into the hairline above the ear. And just by arching the outer three-fourths of your eyebrows, you can create a perky, more youthful look.

But what if your skin is saggy and everything kind of droops? The old solution was by using surgical tape to create a kind of temporary "face lift". Now there's a quicker, easier to use version which accomplishes the same result. It's a band that pulls your skin up and back, fitting neatly underneath your wig. The band only takes seconds to put on, although you can still use surgical tape and then use the band to lift the eyebrows and skin even more. These "face lift bands" come in five sizes; if you have trouble finding them where you live, contact me for more information.

Also, if your skin is droopy, chances are your lips are too. To change the downturned lines these lips create, simply line your upper lip a little fuller than usual and DON'T go all the way to the corners. Leave a fraction of an inch on both sides and drop the color sharply into the inside lip, rather than tapering thinner at the ends. Make sure the thickest part of the lower lip is in the center, and connect to the corners where the upper lip color ends. Fill in the "faked" lipline rather than the natural one.

Starting next month, "The Makeup Mirror" will answer readers' questions about makeup. Send them to me at the address below, or if you live in Southern California, give me a call at the shop.

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## WHAT COLORS ARE RIGHT FOR YOU?

by Rebecca

(from Rainbow Association newsletter)  
(Part 1 of 2)

In selecting fashions a woman must consider styling, size, fit and color. Of these, color coordination may be the most important.

We all have our favorite colors and conception of what constitutes feminine colors, so we tend to select clothing in these colors. Not too infrequently, when trying something on we wonder why it just doesn't seem to be right.

It is a fallacy that only certain colors are feminine. All colors can be feminine. What is important is to coordinate the color of our clothes to the color of our skin, hair and eyes.

Coordination success also depends on the color of the light of the environment in which we make our observation. Some of these factors we cannot control, but happily, nature has coordinated our body features so that all that is left to do is determine what colors best suit us and surround ourselves with color coordinated clothing and the proper lighting.

How does one color code clothing to skin, hair and eye color? Well, as you might guess, there are many more "experts" in the field of color coding with different opinions than there are colors in the rainbow. But many agree that everyone can be categorized into four color groups. And since nature was responsible for the distribution, it is only natural to assign each group to each of the four seasons: Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring.

In discussing color coding it is my intention to present a simplified composite of the experts with whom I have had some contact. The first step we can take in simplifying color coding is to eliminate the Spring group. In my experience very few women (and no men) may be classified as Springs. It seems that if someone looks horrible in the colors of Summer, Autumn and Winter, then they must be a Spring. (They generally look bad in Spring colors, too.) The

(CONTINUED, PG. 24)

## CHARTING THE LEGAL JUNGLE

What are the legal risks of crossdressing? When is it advisable to obtain a court-ordered name change? Can you get veterans' benefits toward sex reassignment? What about Medicaid and Medicare? How do you go about having your Social Security card and your driver's license altered? These and scores of other puzzlers that plague the transsexual in transition are answered with brevity and lucidity in an amazingly useful little paperback by Sr. Mary Elizabeth, SSE.

LEGAL ASPECTS OF TRANSEXUALISM is an updated and expanded version of an earlier edition. The 1990 edition is neatly printed in pamphlet form. Within the space of its 108 pages, author Sr. Mary Elizabeth, of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, manages to tackle most of the legal questions you're likely to ask, and the answers she gives are based on thorough, documented research.

I recommend this booklet without hesitation to every person who starts out on the transsexual route, as well as to all crossdressers who go public or plan to. It is available from J2CP Information Services • P.O. Box 184 • San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693-0184 for \$11.00, (\$10.00 + \$1.00 postage and handling).

You'll be pleased to have it with you all the way to the operating table.



# THE GENDER COMMUNITY: A POLITICAL AND SOCIAL DISCUSSION

by Wendy Parker  
(Part 9 of 10)

## SPECIFIC GOALS IN THE 1990'S

Where we are going in the Nineties encompasses involvement, increased commitment, and an understanding kind of network that can bring us together to discuss important issues. General issues such as political and Gender community involvement; specific issues like peer group pressure from within the community that push people into hormones or reassignment surgery before they are ready.

It is also important to be mindful that we create a new kind of closet in which people hide in social groups rather than relate to the rest of society. We need to address the topic of the tension that exists from disparate goals among TV, TG, TS, and Gay communities. A kind of healing and understanding can be worked out by getting in touch with our nurturing and loving feminine side. We should work toward a realization that no matter how you think people perceive you, or how well you look that looks are not everything. We need to fight against the male oriented thinking of Madison Avenue's version of what women should look like. We should understand that 99% of passing is attitude and, in the Nineties, we should have a more relaxed and confident attitude. Let's not get sidetracked by the intoxicating atmosphere of living in a false alternative existence in which there is a real world and a fantasy femme world. One of the goals that I feel we should address in the Nineties is a "coming together" of the best of both sides of your personality in a unified and successfully integrated, relaxed portrayal to society.

Stepping through the looking glass, you often see the reverse image of yourself. As Alice, don't become a lost soul floating in Wonderland, but embrace the flip side of your personality without denying your previous history and its impact on your future plans. For those who make a life commitment by transitioning, it's not enough to purge your previous life by destroying photos and facts concerning you as a human being prior to transition. Instead, learn to love who you are as a person, which means coming to grips with who you were as a person. The notion of creating "new people" in some God-like manner has been written about from Pygmalion to Dr. Frankenstein. None of us have the omnipotent power of a deity to create new life. We do have the option to alter it in an acceptably comfortable form.

There is a tendency in our community to take ourselves too seriously with a guarded ability to laugh at ourselves in life situations. With blinders on, we sometimes wallow in self-effacing pity as to how things might have been if we had been born into the right circumstance. When life hands

you lemons, don't just make lemonade, make pink lemonade. In the Nineties, we want to put the buck passing, finger pointing, shifting of responsibility past us and as "adult children" move on to accepting responsibility about where we are in life. We can go ahead with a sense of pride and doing the best we can to educate the public about who we are in a non-judgemental fashion.

I'm not suggesting that this will be easy, crossing the gender line. Reaction of the general public to crossing the gender line seems to go against the very grain of original birthright and, to some, contradicts the basic division of nature. It is therefore understandable that to the unenlightened, uneducated, and non-expansive thinkers on the planet that this phenomenon brings about a knee-jerk response that can range from quiet disgust to outright violent reactions. It's up to us to change those attitudes about gender choice for all of our sake.

It seems that anytime a celebrity has ever briefly touched on the subject of gender, it is radical enough for them to be branded for life. It's funny that after thousands of television shows, Phil Donahue is best remembered as the guy who wore the "dress". Film director Sidney Pollock has a long and distinguished film career, but the press refers to him as "Tootsie's" Sidney Pollock. Milton Berle has been doing comedy burlesque for half a century, but for most, his campy drag come instantly to mind. Pushing the gender envelope to the limits seems to call for more patient understanding from friends and relatives than revealing to loved ones that you are Gay or perhaps a convicted ax-murderer.

Instead of making hand-wringing apologies to friends and loved ones, who should be pleased for our happiness, we should be proud of who we are without apology. I'm not suggesting jeopardizing jobs, careers, and relationships, but enlightened, loving people are not threatened by those who are different from themselves. On the contrary, for the most part, they welcome variety as the spice of life. I've wondered about people of the "Morton Downey Audience" variety who turn violently hostile at the mere notion that there are folks who are different from themselves. How arrogant they must be to assume everyone should be like themselves. As the Bible points out, who among us is so perfect that they have the right to judge anyone, let alone in a sarcastic or deprecating manner? By what right does

(CONTINUED, PG. 23)

## Coping with Crossdressing

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## TALK SHOWS: HELP OR HYPE?

by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

I recently was asked to appear on a television talk show. The topic was crossdressers and their wives/partners. Since I want to support women who are in a relationship with a crossdresser, I thought this would be a good opportunity to tell the public about the issues that face many of these women. I could not have been more wrong. If it had not been for my wife (who was in the audience) the viewers would have been left with a very unreal picture of such relationships.

The focus of the show was a real wedding where both the bride and groom wore (identical) wedding dresses. This is a fantasy for many crossdressers. There have been other variations on this marriage scene. For example, the bride wore the tuxedo and the groom wore the wedding gown. In addition to the couple who were to be married, there were two other couples. One couple had been married for many years and the other couple has been dating for about six months. All three of the women on the show were (or said they were) wholeheartedly in favor of their partner's crossdressing. Most of the audience questions were either about the reasons why a man would crossdress or asking why these women would want to be in a relationship with a man who wears women's clothes.

There were virtually no negative questions. None of the women voiced any problems or difficulties they had about the crossdressing. In sum, a very positive image was presented. When my wife saw the direction of the program, she addressed a question to me. "Are these typical relationships?" she wanted to know. This gave me a brief opportunity to explain that the majority of such relationships had problems. Unfortunately, this was lost in the excitement of the wedding.

Later I reflected on this show, and others like it. I wondered if they helped or hurt the image of the gender community. Many crossdressers (and their partners) who go on such shows are in unusual situations. Often they are "out of the closet" with little to lose if their friends, coworkers and neighbors discover the man's desire to wear women's clothing.

I suggest that perhaps the only positive thing about such shows is the contact number that usually appears at the end of the show. Otherwise, the image that is presented is one that misleads more than it helps. Can you imagine the feelings of some woman who is struggling with the issues raised by her partner's crossdressing when she sees this show? She will most certainly wonder why she is not as accepting as those women on that stage. She may see herself as somehow flawed because her feelings are so different. The crossdresser who views the show may use it as a way of trying to gain acceptance by saying, "If that woman can accept this, why can't you?"

So the show gets the fanfare but the people I am concerned about may be hurt in the process. This is not to argue that we shouldn't continue appearing on such shows. This wedding was unusual. While it was very meaningful for the couple involved it did little to educate the public about the critical relationship issues that crossdressing often creates.

[If you have something you would like Dr. Peo to write about or have a rebuttal send [redacted] P.O. Box 4887, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602 or call (914) [redacted]. All communications are confidential. This column is reprinted in any non-profit organization's newsletter so long as Dr. Peo's name and address appear in the reprinted version. All others must obtain written approval.]

**QUICK QUOTE:** Michael York, who impersonated Marlene Dietrich in the television mini-series "Night of the Fox", spent days trying on wigs and clothes, and walking up and down in the wardrobe trailer to get used to high heels. His first comment upon seeing himself in drag? "Oh, my God!"

## REACHING THOSE WHO NEED SUPPORT

by Linda [redacted]

(from "The Dixie Belle", Sigma Epsilon Chapter Tri-Ess)

I feel that we have made great strides in helping many CDs to come out of the closet and fulfill their feminine needs. We offer love and friendship and support, as well as great fellowship. We are continuing to reach outside of the crossgender community to educate and bring more understanding to the world about our members and in doing so, alleviate the fear that lack of knowledge brings.

However, I am concerned by our apparent inability to reach out to more wives. Those of you who regularly attend meeting know that usually there are only three or four wives in attendance, and it is always the same wives. This does not mean that we are the only supportive wives, because I personally know of many who support, but cannot or will not, for whatever reason, come to the meetings. And there are many wives who are not supportive, or who would like to be but are frightened.

How can we reach them? It is a very difficult thing to do because we cannot force them to accept their husband's needs, nor to understand why. The only course of action that I can think of is twofold:

1. We must offer their husbands a safe, supportive atmosphere in which to express their inner feminine selves. By doing this it is likely that their inner pressures will be reduced, and perhaps their resulting calmness and serenity will become apparent to their wives as a positive change.
2. We must try by gentle means to educate wives. Many wives are willing to participate from afar by reading our newsletter, or reading letters their husbands receive from other crossdressers. Therefore we need to make sure that the material provided in newsletters and correspondence and other chapter material is appropriate and useful for helping significant others learn.

We need to stress the positives of crossdressing, the sharing and friendships that develop. We need to try to clam the understandable fears they may have and concentrate on showing the beauty of the person within. The person within is always the same, whether dressed en femme or non-femme -- the inner self does not change. The clothes simply help to focus and project an aspect of that self that is not often shared. A crossdresser is simply expressing a need within himself to get in touch with a more feminine part of himself and the very real feelings and emotions associated with those traits which have often been deeply suppressed. Although these needs may seem different from other men's needs, and the outward manifestation of those needs may appear very different from standard male behavior, I cannot believe it is wrong. If we listen to many modern psychiatrists and psychologists they suggest that most men need to get in closer touch with the emotions that it is not considered manly to express.

If a woman loves the inner man, then she is loving the whole person, whether she realizes it or not. To be able to share the entire person is, in my mind, a privilege which I do not take lightly.

[Editor's Note: Linda [redacted] is the President of the Sigma Epsilon Chapter, one of only two wives to share that distinction.]

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# "GENX" PUBLISHES PARODY ISSUE

After over six months of apparent inactivity, "Gender Expressions" has resurfaced ... sort of. "Lamé Expressions" appears to be a parody, with faked ads for the community's well-known national events, Sandy Thomas, Creative Design Services, and Vernon's Specialties, a review column similar to our own (in which we are playfully referred to as "Crotch-Talk"), and various articles poking fun at such things as the "Be All You Can Stand Weekend", "The One Minute Support Group", and the "Harvey Bendamind Double Standards of Care".

However, not only is it possible to read some truth between the lines (as with all good satire), there is one piece that especially reads more like fact than fiction; "Joe N. Robots" commentary on the lack of activism by the TV community regarding civil rights (which was also reprinted under her real byline of JoAnn Roberts in the March "Renaissance News").

I'm not actually certain if GenX is planning [redacted] its normal format in the future, or if Janet Lynn [redacted] has other plans in mind. The back cover contained "Human Expressions" magazine, and that ad definitely did not read like satire.

Stay tuned for further details.

**NEW TITLES FROM SANDY THOMAS:** A "prequel" to the books "Exchanging Vows" and "Changing Vows Too" has been published by Sandy Thomas. "Virgin Vows" takes Randy back to when he was 16 years old and his twin sister conspires to have their annual picture taken wearing identical prom gowns. Does she succeed? Maybe even convince Randy to attend a prom while appropriately dressed? You'll have to read for yourself.

Sandy's other new title is "Woman's Work", which is the story of how a boy living on a farm is forced to live as a girl as a condition of his parole. The story is told mainly from the perspective of his best friend, back home from college -- who finds himself unavoidably in the middle of the situation.

As we have told you in previous columns, Sandy acquired the rights several months ago to republish the Chevalier fiction line, as well as the fiction from "Transvestia" magazine. I have had the opportunity to see three of the books in this new "Transvestia Revisited" series, and I'm impressed. "It's All In The Family" and "He ... Crossed The Line" have been out of print for many years. "Family" is the story of how one boy's dressing in skirts to show the girls at school how to dress results in his parents' keeping him that way all summer, and "Crossed" is the tale of a young couple who can only find an apartment that rents to women. Another title in this series, "Chris to Chrissie", originally appeared in two parts ("Transvestia" #89 & 90), and is the story of one boy's freshman initiation and his mother's insistence on keeping him in skirts.

Sandy has also reprinted "Unique Concept", originally released in large-format two years ago, pairing it with the short story "From Flood To Skirts". The new story tells how one man's masquerade to fool his girlfriend's parents, coupled with a flood in his apartment, results in his having to return to his job as a woman.

**LADYLIKE #9 HOT OFF THE PRESS:** The latest edition of Creative Design Services' flagship publication features a pair of profiles; one of veteran FI Bridget Nickels, and one of Florida TV Stella [redacted]. "Ladylike" also contains an article on the history of wig and the story of how one teenager discovered female impersonation at a small Mexican bookstore (complete with classic photos from the magazine he purchased there in the early '60s). As always, there are also numerous photographs in both black and white and color of "Ladylike's" readers. I recognized at least a half-dozen of my personal correspondents!

**"EN FEMME" #23 ARRIVES ... AND ARRIVES ... AND ARRIVES:** We inexplicably received three copies of the newest issue,

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which included an article on how to make shopping for your femme self a lot less nerve-racking, a report on Sarah Luiz's informal study of what men really think about TVs and TSs, great advice on how to make it on your first job as a woman, and -- as promised -- the return of the En Femme personals section!

"En Femme" Fiction Magazine #5 is also out, with two stories: "Crossdresser 2020 A.D.", the accounting of how advanced medical science makes life easier for crossdressers who are going to live full time; and "Gender Blend Rock 'N' Roll", how the mother of a twenty-year-old groupie changes the life of her rock star boyfriend, for keeps.

**I.F.G.E. OFFERS NEW PUBLICATION ON HORMONES:** Responding to worldwide demand for hormonal information, "Hormones" by Sheila Kirk, M.D. has been published by I.F.G.E. This comprehensive publication provides an understanding of hormonal therapy used by gender-conflicted persons, and is designed both for those either receiving or contemplating therapy as well as medical and mental health professionals or those simply looking for basic knowledge. It is priced at \$8.00 per copy; order #017 through the "Tapestry" P.O. box.



## DEAR BOBBIE SUE

(from Indiana Crossdressers Society newsletter)

Dear Bobbie Sue:

I look just fine when I am out in public, but as soon as I open my mouth, everyone knows that I am a boy. What do you suggest?

Sincerely, Deep Throat

Dear Deep Throat:

With a stupid name like Deep Throat, how do you expect people to take you seriously? The first thing that you need to do is to use a different name, something more appropriate. Here are some ideas: Billie Sue, Bobbie Jo, Scarlet, Lady Bird or Bessie (depending on your complexion).

Dear Bobbie Sue:

I have always wanted to be a girl, but I am just too big! In four inch heels, I stand well over seven feet, and everyone looks at me! I weigh over 240 pounds, and when dressed, my measurements are 50, 42, 42. What can I do?

Bear Hugs, Magilla

Dear Magilla:

Your proportions are way out of line. No wonder that everyone stares! You need to send off for a Frederick's catalogue, then order a padded girdle so that your hips match your bust. After putting on the girdle and a skirt, around five inches above your knees, don your favorite angora sweater and heels and look in the mirror at the marvelous transformation. One piece of advice: Be sure to wear a slip over your girdle so that no one will notice the lines!

Dear Bobbie Sue:

I have been in the closet for over forty years, and now I want to come out. But I am concerned about my wife's reaction, the reaction of my children and the reaction of my grandchildren. What can I do to just be me?

Love, Granny from Ohio

Dear Granny:

You are right. You are too old to make a fool out of yourself. You should have come out thirty years ago, and now that you have made your bed I guess that you will have to sleep in it. Here's my advice: Get into football and beer on Sunday after church. Let's face it, you are over the hill and all that you can do now is to be the best granddad that you can be. I know that this advice sounds cruel, but you have to think about the kids! If you had kept yourself in your skirt, you never would have been in this mess. Do you know why Columbus, Ohio does not have a professional football team? Because if they did, Cleveland would want one too!

Dear Bobbie Sue:

I attend a mainline church in southern Indiana. I am on the Board of Directors. I finally made an appointment with the minister, and I showed him some of the pictures that were taken of me. He asked me to come to his house this evening! What should I do? How should I dress?

Prayerfully, Cute in Red

Dear Cute in Red:

Dummy! You've got him right where you want him. Make him take you out to one of the restaurants in Louisville. And send me some pictures!  
(P.S. Be sure to order the most expensive thing on the menu.)

**HELPFUL HINT:** If you have recently gotten your ears pierced and they are slow to heal, try using an eye dropper to squirt hydrogen peroxide through the holes every night. You might also try clean each post with hydrogen peroxide and use an antibiotic cream on the posts before inserting. And if your skin shows sign of metal allergy, you'll find that nickel posts are the most common offender.

## FOLK FESTIVALS: A CD EVENT?

by Ricky

So you just got all dressed up and have nowhere to go. Sure, you could try the shopping mall again, but that's only a few hours. Wouldn't it be wonderful to spend a weekend en femme? But the next TV weekend is months away and besides, it's halfway across the country and you can't afford it anyway.

I have a suggestion for you then. I am as obsessed with folk music as I am with dresses, and all through the summer months there are folk festivals scattered around the country. When folkies converge on one piece of ground for a weekend of music something remarkable happens. An instant caring community forms and you can let the kids run free while you browse among the music and crafts or just simply enjoy yourself without any pressure or hassle.

Say the words "Folk Music" and most people think of Woody Guthrie or Peter, Paul & Mary. But folk music is much more than that. In a typical festival you will find a bluegrass band, someone singing the blues, a bit of '20s or '30s jazz, an entire area devoted to the kids, close-harmony Gospel on Sunday mornings, bawdy songs around the campfire, Irish tenors, British drinking songs in 95 part harmony, French love songs, a Yiddish klezmer band, a Scottish piper or a Canadian fiddler. In short, if there is not a long cord with an amplifier on the end you'll find it somewhere.

For the TV there are several advantages. Since it is the last refuge of the hippie look, long hair, flowing skirts and ruffled blouses are in, even if we can't join in the bra-less look. It's outdoors and there are no dress codes, so you have a wide choice of clothing to wear. The only problem is makeup. Since we can't very well go without it would take some care; heavy makeup would be noticeably out of place unless backed up with suitably ostentatious clothing.

Many festivals have booths of striking and original jewelry, clothing and oddments that are mostly made by hand and simply cannot be found elsewhere. You could stay at a motel, but as most festivals are held in the open there is camping on site or nearby and dressing privately in your tent or room is easy. The availability of portable toilets, while not the most wonderful of inventions, eliminates that vexing problem of which door to go thru when nature calls.

Most important, folkies are the original laid back crowd, and there is such an open and friendly feeling that even if you are read it will most likely result in some friendly and curious conversation with nobody getting excited. The cost for the weekend usually runs less than \$30 per person and kids 12 and under are usually free. Most have food at reasonable prices or you can bring your own. Most festivals ban or restrict alcohol to designated areas; these are very definitely family oriented events.

So how do you find one of these festivals in your area? The best way is to send \$3.75 + postage (call it \$4.50) to Sing Out!, 125 E. 3rd St., Bethlehem PA 18015 and ask for their issue with the festival listings. You could even be a big spender and send \$15.00 for a subscription, it's a good deal. So widen your horizons and get out to see the world.

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THE  
6:00

# TV NEWS

**HOLLYWOOD HONCHOS ATTEND BOAT BASH IN DRAG:** Some of the most powerful men in showbiz kicked off the New Year by putting on wigs, dresses, heels and makeup for an outrageous party in the Caribbean.

The gender-bender bash aboard a luxury yacht drew such power brokers as Quincy Jones and MTV-founder Bob Pittman, as two-thirds of the Pointer Sisters in matching Lycra outfits. Madonna's old flame, disc jockey Jellybean Benitez, was the completing member of the trio.

The costume party with a twist was hosted by advertising biggie Charles Saatchi, who wore "a little black cocktail dress, black net stockings, and a rhinestone handbag", according to one attendee. The party had two rules: One, nobody got on the yacht who wasn't in drag, and two, nobody got on carrying a camera.

An insider confides that New York adman Jay Chiat -- who was described as "smart and matronly" in a matching white hat and dress -- is reportedly furious that word of the party had leaked out. ["Star"]

**FROM BEST MAN TO MAID OF HONOR:** Nosey neighbors in North Raucosby, England gossiped for weeks about Roger Hall's newlywed wife being seen in the company of Roger's best friend David Lavender while he was at work -- so he angrily told the town gossips the truth: Wife Rebecca was teaching the best man at their wedding how to be a girl!

Although the revelation silenced gossips, who thought the two were having an affair, community pressure has forced David to give up his teaching job, and he plans to move to London before having his sex change.

Says Roger, "Rebecca has spent hours teaching David how to do his nails, put on makeup, and assorted other feminine things. She has also taken him to stores to buy things like bras, undoes and dresses."

David gave in to long-time feminine feelings after he was best man at the Halls' wedding last year. ["Sun"]

**EVERYONE CALLS HIM "LORD LIPSTICK":** The queen's nephew has shocked British royals by wearing lipstick and kissing drag queens. Hell-raiser Lord David Linley celebrated his 29th birthday wearing a long, glittering caftan at a wild London party, attended by drag queens from a nearby club and bisexual rock singer Elton John.

When she learned of his bizarre behavior, Queen Elizabeth screamed "this is an outrage" at Linley, adding that "we're at war and everyone is calling you Lord Lipstick!"

Linley, 13th in line to the British throne, danced with and kissed his crossdressed guests as two gals, socialite Susannah Constantine and model Nicole Formby, looked on in stunned amazement. According to another guest, "even the waiters were wearing blonde wigs and women's clothes".

["Globe"]

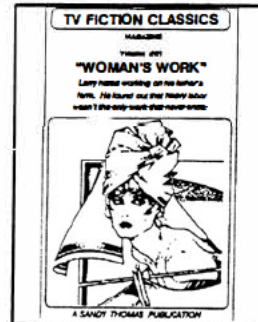
**NEW KID WANTS TO BE "NEW GIRL ON THE BLOCK":** The lead singer of the pop group New Kids On The Block has informed his bandmates that he intends to have a sex change "as soon as possible".

According to a close friend of 20 year-old Jordan Knight, the teen idol confided that "he felt as if there was a woman trapped inside him, and that sooner or later he had to let that woman out or he'd go crazy."

The other members of the group took it as a personal affront, and Donnie Wahlberg reportedly had to be restrained from attacking Knight when he told them. "What do you think you're doing?" Wahlberg is said to have yelled at him. "You're going to destroy us with your stupid whims!"

Managers for the supergroup are also concerned about what would happen if Knight went through with his sex change. A spokesman says "the group would cease to exist without him", an allusion to his appeal among teenaged girls.

["News Extra"]



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**MY WORST DATE -- SHE WAS A HE:** Mitchell Spicer thought he was having the best date in his life -- until his date's dad interrupted just when they were going to kiss goodnight, and Mitchell found out his girl was a guy!

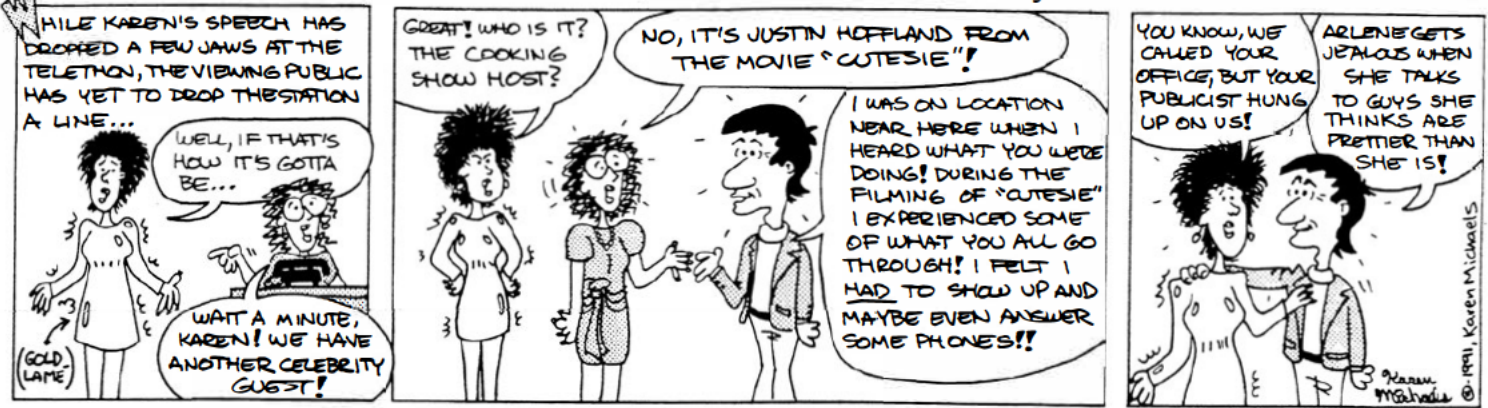
Spicer, 35, met a beautiful salesgirl named Linda in a jewelry store while shopping for his mother's birthday present. "She was about 5'6" and had a great figure," Spicer recalls. "She mentioned that she didn't have a boyfriend", so he asked her out.

After an evening of dinner, drinks and dancing, he took his dream date home, only to have her father come out on the porch just before their goodnight kiss and said "Roger, you'd better come in and get to sleep. You have to be at work early tomorrow."

Linda turned pale and explained that she was planning to have a sex-change operation soon, adding that she would love to see him again. Not only didn't Spicer date her again, he avoided shopping at the mall where Roger/Linda worked for years afterward.

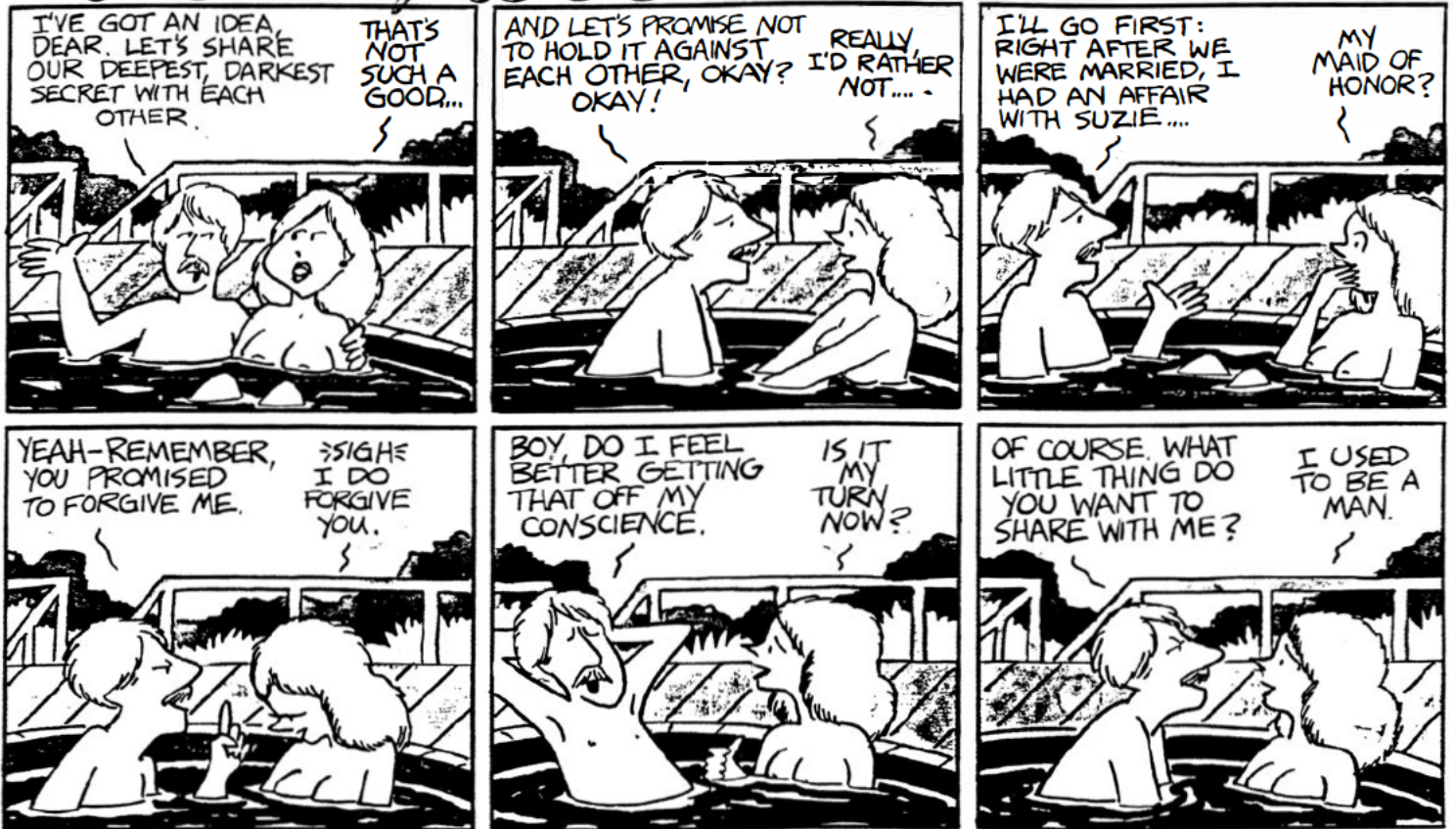
["National Enquirer"]





# Saturday Nite Live

BY BILL JOHNSON



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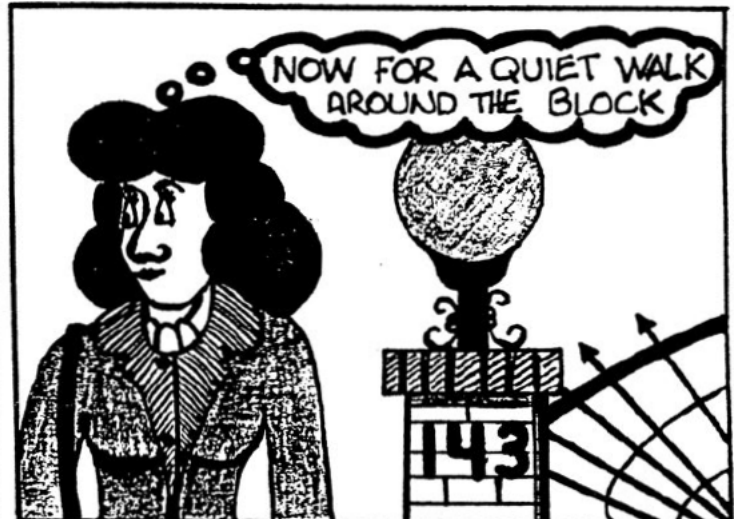
**LORI**

THE GENDER BENDER

ONE NIGHT AT HOME



BY L. R. Wilson





# THE SEXCHANGERS



By Lyn ©

"I couldn't decide whether I wanted large or small implants."

"THE FEMME SIDE"

by Vickie



"I'd feel much more comfortable out dressed if the waiter would stop calling us 'gentlemen!'"



AT THE  
MOVIES

"Perfectly Normal", publicized as a magical comedy about a perfectly normal guy persuaded by an extraordinary friend to act upon his dreams, is perfectly average ... except for when the dreamer (Michael Riley), stages an opera scene in which, draped in "Norma" finery, sings a duet in a perfectly ordinary, male voice. No wonder it never gets off the ground!

"The Silence of the Lambs", the new film based on the Thomas Harris bestseller, has a "killer TV" plot. The serial killer is fashioning a "girl suit" for himself using the dead women for parts. Why? Because he thinks he is a transsexual but is unable to convince the needed psychiatrists in order to attain hormones, surgery, etc.

Sylvester Stallone and Arnold Schwarzenegger are set to appear in drag in the upcoming movie "Operation Pipeline", as undercover cops who dress as women in the line of duty. Rumor has it that Sly and Arnold have even enrolled in a charm school to make themselves even more enticing!

John Candy, who donned drag many times in "SCTV" as well as in the movies "Who's Harry Crumb?" and "Armed And Dangerous", appears in a wedding dress frequently in the course of the movie "Nothing But Trouble". Candy's character, a "Twin Peaks"-type strange sheriff, makes the lives of visiting tourists Chevy Chase and Demi Moore miserable. We don't know why the bridalwear, though ...

Please welcome our newest contributors to the comics page.

Lyn ("The Sex-Changers") was one of the founding member of Seahorse Victoria in Melbourne, Australia. She has served as its President in 1987-88, and subsequently was its newsletter editor until last year. The cartoons running in "Cross-Talk" are from the series which ran in that newsletter between 1985 and 1990.

Vickie ("The Femme Side") is one of the gender community's best-known lawyers. She is one of the founders and current newsletter editor for Long Island Femme Expression (LIFE) in New York. Although as an attorney, she should know better, her contributions to "Cross-Talk" consist of cartoons that she has plagiarized from mainstream publications and written new captions for.

L.J. ("Lori the Gender Bender") is a long-time member of the Puffs of Orange County and long-time "Cross-Talk" subscriber.

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# EVIDENCE OF A FEMININE PASTLIFE

by Wendi

When I was a young boy of seven, I found a girl's plastic bracelet in the road. You know, one of those that snap together. It was soiled and scratched, dented and cheap. But when I lifted it from the pavement it seemed to sparkle and gleam. I ran home with it clutched in my hand with a magical feeling in my heart. I rushed into my room where no one could see me, and fastened it around my wrist. Although it was dull, it appeared to shine like real expensive pearls surrounded in an aura of iridescent light. I became tantalized and enchanted, yet mysteriously bewildered by my attraction to this feminine object. While I admired the cute bracelet my sleeve fell back to the elbow to expose the smooth shin of my almost hairless arm. "This looks pretty", I said aloud. It had seemed so natural and so familiar, that somehow I knew I had worn pearls before. But I knew I hadn't at that young age, or at least not in this lifetime.

Remembering that day today releases fresh thoughts of those joyful experiences when I first wore an item that belonged to the opposite sex. I never felt ashamed by that: as a matter of fact, my imagination had created beautiful images in my mind. I saw my bare arm in a sheer ivory white sleeve with an adorable ruffled cuff. The bracelet around my wrist with the darling sheer sleeve and tulle cuff bewitched me so intensely that I was driven to see and feel this in reality. So a few days later I invaded my sister's closet and snatched a long sleeved blouse with those pretty cuffs from its hanger and took it back to my room. There, I removed my shirt and slipped into the white blouse, and

retrieved the plastic bracelet from where I had it hid, and again fastened it around my wrist. The thrill was one that we all have experienced at one time or another. And I wondered where this electrifying rush emanated from that was so sensational and addictive. It shot from my loins up into my heart chakra. But when I saw myself in the mirror the mood faded. I looked so queer in a little girl's blouse with my boy's blue jeans on. Oh yes! The fabric of the blouse was so soft and delightful, and it also felt strangely familiar, almost like I had been a girl before.

Further I was compelled by an unexplainable force, like a puppeteer had once again guided me into my sister's closet. This time I grabbed her favorite Easter frock from the hanger, and skipped back to my room with it. My heart banged so hard I could almost hear its drumming beat. When I slipped the satiny lavender lace dress over my head, I was overwhelmed with ecstasy, not only because of the sexual stimulation that was new for me at that young age, but by how ordinary and normal I had felt in the lovely dress, and like I had worn a dress like this before. Growing up as "Valerie" I became extremely enthralled and intimate with everything that's feminine, so I acquired a secret collection of jewelry, dresses and other girlish items. Because it was painful and frustrated me to hold these feelings inside, I created imaginary friends and actually got so desperate as to steal a Barbie doll from a local

(CONTINUED, PG. 25)

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by Cynthia A. [REDACTED]  
(from "The Pin" Delta Chi Educational Association)

So you want to come out of the closet? Yours can be the confines of your home, or the confines of a group. But the closet that I refer to is that effort to deny the part of your personality that needs to be expressed femininely. No doubt you're fighting the "great debate" within yourself. Why am I doing this? Why do I enjoy doing this? The debate probably consists of things like fear, confusion, and perhaps a little paranoia. Relax. Everyone who has come out of the closet to accept this part of themselves has faced these emotions.

First, the need to feel feminine is not an illness. The medical community has not established a definitive cause for this behavior; however, the latest medical opinion suggests that you probably didn't bring this on yourself. Rather, through chemical processes that began in the womb, a pattern has been established in you that is lifelong. Regardless of the cause, one thing is clear: There is no recognizable "cure".

Second, this is not a perversion. If anything, the perversion is the guilt, self-loathing, self-abuse and self-destructiveness that we use to deny ourselves the right to develop this part of our personality. The perversion is also the isolation and substance abuse that we use to cover up the confusion. Anything that denies the spirit and prevents personal growth perverts.

It's time that you explore the positive and rid yourself of the negative. It is far more healthy to fulfill the need to feel feminine rather than to suppress it. By coming out, by accepting yourself, you CELEBRATE THE SELF. You will begin the process of learning to accept yourself and will feel good about being you. Remember, as far as we know, you only have one life to live here on earth. To live that life in a positive manner is HEALTHY. To enjoy it will bring out all the good things that you deserve. You will learn step by step, day by day (remember, Rome wasn't built in a day!). Hopefully, this will bring an inner peace because you will have decided, once and for all, to end the war waging inside you. After all, if you're fighting yourself, can there ever be a winner?

Now that we've established that you are not sick or perverted, let's address that big, bad old paranoia and fear.

Certainly we all have to be careful with our lifestyles. But with a little planning, we can alleviate most of the fear and paranoia. Here are three ideas that might help you come out in a safe and sane manner:

1. RENT A POST OFFICE BOX. For less than \$50.00 a year, you can rent a box to receive all your mailings.
2. SEND FOR CATALOGS. You can buy everything you need from catalogs. They're also great to give you ideas as to the current fashion. Remember when you call to place an order: The companies only care about the green of your money, not your gender.
3. JOIN A GROUP. Only through a group can you further your education. Through a group you can share with people that have traveled the same path in life. Don't worry, you won't be judged, you will be helped.

So accept yourself fully, end the debate and embrace that part of yourself that you've been fighting. Then live your life day by day, exploring all your emotions.

**GENDER-BENDER FACTOID:** A survey by the American Orthopedic Foot and Ankle Society shows that 88% of women surveyed wore shoes that were at least a size too small. But the discrepancy was not found to be so much in the length, but in the width. The average respondent said her shoe size was an 8B, but when measured, her foot was an 8C. The difficulty, say the researchers, is that the heel width is too broad in C-width shoes, and the shoes end up slipping off the back of the women's feet.

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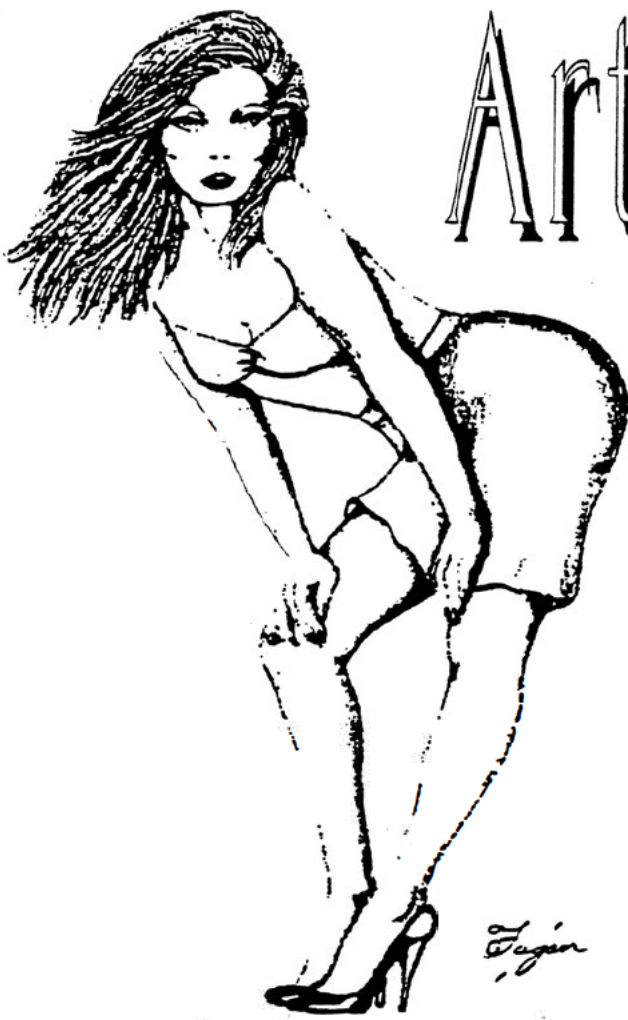
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# CHANGING YOUR NAME: THE COMMON LAW METHOD

by Amanda [redacted]  
(Part 1 of [redacted])  
(from the American Transsexual Education Center newsletter)

[Ed. Note: While the methods described in this article are based on California law, those living in other states will find the procedures similar.]

Common law is a de facto method that seems to work well for most purposes. If you are entering into transition -- that is to say, living full-time as a member of your gender of choice, you will shortly find that you will be needing a few pieces of gender appropriate identification.

The most common piece of identification is the driver license or state I.D. card. There is a relatively simple way to go about doing this. Because people get married and divorced all the time, most states have an apparatus in place to expedite the process.

In California, DMV form 84-3 is a confidential medical information authorization for change of name and gender which can be picked up at any DMV office. This form calls for a doctor's signature, but I have seen it accepted with the signature of a social worker if the signatory is known to that DMV office.

Upon presentation of this form you will be issued a new driver license or I.D. card. It will be necessary for you to appear in the office in your new gender so your photo can be taken.

The catch (there is always a catch) is that you may be asked for a picture I.D. so as to demonstrate your identity and thus prove that you are the person the form refers to.

The simplest way which I have found to achieve this is to go to your public transportation company and apply for a handicapped bus pass. In L.A., the RTD issues a disabled fare application which must be signed by a doctor or social worker, but which requires no secondary piece of I.D. to accompany it. The nice thing about this method is that the bus pass can be picked up in a day or two, unlike the driver license which takes six to eight weeks to arrive.

Returning to the latter, I should mention that you will be allowed to retain your old license even after you have received the new one. [Ed. Note: This exemption to the "one license to a person rule" only applies to transsexuals. Transvestites and transgenderists must still surrender the old license or I.D. card if they wish a change of name.] A word of warning: Don't go out with both pieces of identification or you may find yourself charged with attempt to defraud. One gender and one gender ONLY is all you should have on you at any one time, and that should be consistent with your gender of presentation. If you are still changing back and forth, perhaps for work, keep each piece of I.D. in the right wallet.

Once you have gone through this, DMV will place your

records into a closed file which is not available for public inspection. In this way, they protect your privacy. To get a printout of your records for insurance or other purposes, you will need to go to a DMV office and present your I.D. to a supervisor who will have the password to access your file.

With your new driver license or I.D. card, you can walk over to the Social Security office and get the name changed on their records as well as being issued a new card. This is just a matter of filling out another form. This time you will not need any signature besides your own. You will keep the same number that you have always had so there is no need to worry about a loss of benefits. Your sex will not be changed until after you have had SRS and present them with a letter from your doctor, but that information does not appear on your card anyway.

Don't worry about paying taxes with W-2s in two different names. The IRS doesn't care what your name is as long as your social security account number is the same.

Next, you will most likely want to open a bank account in your new name. This you may do with your new I.D., just as you have done in the past, or you may want to put an AKA on your existing account. If you elect to do the latter, you will be able to cash or deposit checks regardless of which name they may be made out to. Names on your checks may be anything you want ... either or both. You may wish to have checks printed in two sets, one for him and one for her. It is up to you; whatever you think would work best for you, the bank will do. They just want your money and really don't care about gender issues.

Credit cards may be the easiest thing of all to change. What many people have done is to simply have the card company issue a second card on your existing account, as they would for a spouse. In this way, once again you have a credit card for both genders. How convenient. If you do not use your male card and always pay your bills with checks printed in the female name, in time you may want to change the name on the account with a history of payments in the new name already established. You then bypass any trouble that the lack of a credit history for your new name may present.

Once you have done these things, maybe also taken a class at the local community college (getting an I.D. there also), you are well on your way to establishing a paper trail that the new person exist. Other things may be a phone book listing, a change with the utility companies, and receiving mail. After about a year, you are who you now call yourself and the old you is almost gone.

[Next month: Changing your name through the courts.]

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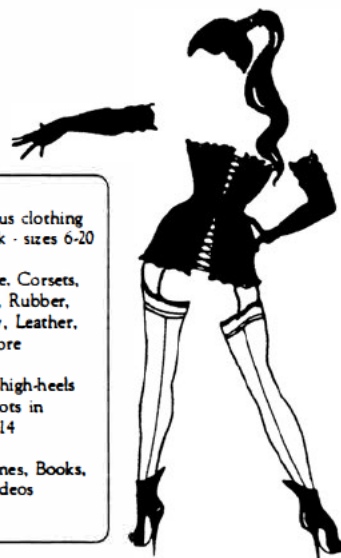
[This list of telephone numbers of local groups is provided by "Cross-Talk" as a service to the gender community.]

Alpha Chapter Tri-Ess, Los Angeles:	(213) 876-6141
Atlanta Educational Gender Info. Service:	(404) 325-7055
Beta Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Mississippi:	(601) 982-7678
Boulton & Park Society, San Antonio:	(512) 657-2540
Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Chicago:	(708) 364-9514
Chi Delta Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, New York City:	(201) 663-0772
Chicago Gender Society:	(312) 434-5445
Cross-Port, Cincinnati:	(513) 771-4933
Crystal Club, Central Ohio:	(614) 777-0648
Delta Omega Chapter Tri-Ess, Dallas:	(817) 261-3253
Educational TV Channel, San Francisco:	(415) 763-3959
Emerald City, Seattle:	(206) 822-6953
Gender Identity Center, Denver:	(303) 458-5378
Hawaii Transgendered Outreach, Honolulu:	(808) 529-5634
Heart of Texas Gender Alliance, Austin:	(512) 892-6454
Hierarchy, Philadelphia:	(215) 425-5240
Long Island Femme Expression, NY:	(718) 446-6753
My Choice, Baltimore:	(301) 732-4546
Neutral Corner, San Diego:	(619) 236-1586
Northwest Gender Alliance, Portland:	(503) 774-8463
Powder Puffs of Orange County, Anaheim:	(714) 779-9013
Rainbow Gender Association, San Jose:	(408) 984-4044
Renaissance, Philadelphia:	(215) 630-1437
Renaissance LSV Chapter, Harrisburg PA:	(717) 780-1578
Sacramento Gender Association:	(916) 441-8379
St. Louis Gender Foundation:	(314) 567-8615
Tau Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Houston:	(713) 988-8064
Tiffany Club, Boston:	(508) 358-2305
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- \* When creating files, please only use the "Return" or "Enter" key at the end of paragraphs. Do not hit it at the end of every line.
- \* If you are using any other type of computer, word processor, or typewriter, please submit articles already printed out, scanner-ready (using a new ribbon if possible), single-spaced, with good contrast and without handwritten cross-outs or inserts.
- \* Handwritten articles (legibly written or hand-printed) are acceptable but should be submitted as far in advance of deadline as possible.

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Deadline for articles is the third Saturday of the month preceding issue date.

**GENDER-BENDER FACTOID:** Pantyhose, as we all know, is light, warm and supportive. L.M. Boyd, in his syndicated column, quotes one officer of the law as thinking we'd be amazed if we knew how many policemen wear pantyhose.

**GENDER-BENDER FACTOID:** According to the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, there is a 76% increase in pressure on the ball of a foot when walking in a shoe with a 3" heel.

**QUICK QUOTE:** "It would be great to be both sexes. Effeminate men intrigue me more than anything in the world. I see them as my alter egos. I think like a guy, but I'm feminine. So I relate to feminine men." -- Madonna, in "Vanity Fair"



damned all others.

Our obligation is not to protest that we hurt no one so long as there are those that still fear, envy, and from that hate us and hurt us. Rather, we must find out how, why and who we hurt, and set about first pointing that out to them, since they, as much as the majority of our minority, seem to be involved in that closed loop of pain -- for the most part unconsciously. This demands that we be scrupulously true to ourselves, which fortunately we are able to do, since ours is not by half the mythic, illusory world that others would have us think.

Simply, it's integrity and discipline to be first true to the inner being and to let it free on the outside through the conscious control that clothing and naming provides, as we do, than to deny its existence and bury it deeply in some hope of making the surface portion real as a lone symbol of oneness (or monism). We do true dualism, they do false monism. We come to a reunion with ourselves and each time find our true monism in which both are parts of the whole. They lapse into a false dualism in which the denied other self becomes their unconscious and jealous master/mistress.

Freud and Jung observed all this, and from where do you think they got it? Us and the ancestral Shamans. It is of the past, present, and future all in one. It is the space/time, life/death, man/woman continuum, and no one thing comes first for those who would truly be consciously human.

The rough with the smooth is what liberty demands. Equality is proven by that self-confidence. We have to show ourselves as human beings, not aliens, and accept that we DO hurt others.

HAVE YOU ASKED A FRIEND TO  
SUBSCRIBE TO "CROSS-TALK"?

**GENDER-BENDER FACTOID:** Among the memorabilia at the Roy Rogers Museum in Victorville, CA is "Buttermilk", who was Dale Evans' mount for so many years. The horse, who died in 1972, had something in common with the world's most famous collie; like Lassie, she was a he.

**HELPFUL HINT:** If you're tall and heavy, go with big, bold and bright jewelry and accessories; they'll give you an air of style and confidence, as well as being in proportion with your whole image. Look for sweeping shawls, unusual belts with big buckles and dramatic jewelry (large pins, cuff bracelets, long necklaces). Dainty accessories will make the rest of you appear larger by contrast.

someone stand in judgment and assume their way is the only way? What supreme arrogance and colossal egotism! Yet, most of us do it in some small way throughout our own life. This is why there is such a need for coming together and understanding the various elements in our community.

You want to be careful about revealing yourself if you decide to go public because some become hostile, or at least passively aggressive, if they are confused. You upset their frame of reference by telling them that black is white and up is down. A lot of folks become very defensive about this. The same holds true if they perceive someone anatomically male their entire life, who suddenly declares himself female as a gender choice. By confusing their frame of reference, people aren't able to peg you into a convenient slot and the kind of defensive hostility, bigotry, or social ostracism that results can harm jobs, relationships, and the tranquility of life in general. The solution is educating the public to separate concepts of sex and gender as the difference between what's between your legs and what's between your ears. Our concept of how people view themselves is their business and there is no rightness or wrongness attached to it.

In the Nineties, if a young girl envisions herself as an athlete or future U.S. president nowadays no one balks, but the young boy who envisions himself as a dressmaker is in trouble right from the start in our nervous, homophobic society. To educate the public takes time, effort, and a desire to change things.

My hope is that this article is provocative and controversial enough to stimulate open discussion as to how we might further our goals. For the futurists among you, speculate on the various dynamics of role expectations in the future, a future in which women take on more responsibility and equal pay. This is a sensible approach to living. My hope is that the discussion will also include common goals of the Gay, Lesbian, D&S, TV, TG, and TS community and how we can all work together instead of working at opposite ends, diluting the strength that we do have.

Merissa has spoken of a long term goal in the Nineties to encourage the professional community to have transvestism and transsexualism removed from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. The Gay community had themselves removed from the DSM and we hope that we'll be off of the list as well. By doing this, we will help to de-stigmatize our group.

[Next month: A summary of the series.]



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idea is that once you are color coded to a seasonal group then you can use the associated colors for that season as a guide in selecting colors for your wardrobe.

Determining your season may not be easy, but it can be fun. You may already have an inkling of your season if you have an extensive wardrobe and you can identify some of the outfits as always looking good on you and drawing compliments from friends, while other outfits make you feel uncomfortable without exactly knowing why.

Your clothes, particularly upper body garments and hair, provide a frame for your face. Your face, aided by makeup, provides a frame for your eyes which should be the focal point of your person. The eyes are usually the initial contact point when encountering another person and they should be the focal point of contact during a conversation.

The color of your eyes should be your most dominant feature in determining your seasonal group. Analyzing eye color under natural light conditions is a good activity for a small group. Have each person observe your eyes and write down the impression of the color they see. You may want to repeat this under different lighting conditions. Hopefully you will get a majority opinion.

The following eye colors are categorized according to seasonal groups:

SUMMER	AUTUMN	WINTER
Light Blue	Dark Brown	Black
Clear Blue	Hazel	Deep Blue
Bluish Gray	Amber	Reddish Brown
Greenish Gray	Pale Green	Dark Green

In addition to eye color, your natural hair color may help to determine your seasonal group. The following hair colors are categorized according to seasonal groups:

SUMMER	AUTUMN	WINTER
Ash Blonde	Reddish Brown	Dark Brown
Strawberry Blonde	Auburn	Black
Silver	Ash Brown	White
Gray	Chestnut	Frosted Blonde

This table can be used in reverse; once you have determined your seasonal group, you can use the table in selecting a wig color.

In the conclusion of this article, we'll see what colors look best for each seasonal group.

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department store. She became my best friend who I would make clothes for and talk to about my problems.

Proudly, I have never regretted this childhood of mine, and have always considered the plastic bracelet to be a gift from an angel, who sent me of on a path to discover the life I now live. Besides my clandestine desires to be a girl, other curiosities had ripened, that I guess weren't typical for a teenage boy. I was fascinated by the eerie and the unknown, especially events related to the cosmos, ancient civilizations and the supernatural. At that time they all seemed unrelated, but as I continued to dress up like a girl, I became physically, mentally and spiritually sensitized. All my interests became interwoven as I began to sense the deeper meaning of my life. Soon I had blossomed into a talented artist and poet, much to the surprise of my parents and myself. The colors, forms, and textures of my world became so intensely beautiful that I would cry at the sight of a red rose or a kitten. At times I could hear what others were thinking in my mind. And when I learned that some ancient civilizations believed in life after death and reincarnation, I also did. That was because since I was a child, the emotions persisted that I had lived before as a girl.

When the first man to walk the dusty surface of the moon did so on my fifteenth birthday, I perceived this to be some sort of an omen, and celebrated late that evening by candlelight with my dolls and bracelet, sweetly dressed in my girlish delights. A month later I packed up my favorite things and ran away from home. Then out of my delicate identity of Valerie, "Janet" easily surfaced because she was someone who had already existed within my inner-being. Living as Janet out on the streets full-time wasn't always fun. Because when I was discovered to be a male, I was beat up and rejected by close girl and boy friends. I had been raped and abused in every way imaginable. And along this sometimes suffering road, I always knew someone was watching over me, guiding me from one experience to the next.

On my 21st birthday, "Vicky" emerged from within me. She had an inborn quest to answer all those questions I had during my adolescence. This of course led to the study of biology and physics ... she researched geology and then anthropology, then psychology, metaphysics, astronomy and astrology. I enrolled in a city college as Vicky to shape my artistic abilities and learn some literary skills. However, what finally led to a firm belief foundation was the practice of antediluvian sorcery. Through ten years of this I somehow remained sane, yet all this wisdom became too much for my feeble mind to cope with. I withdrew from the practice and study of books and became who I am now. Wendi Seabreeze, named to symbolize a moving force and turbulence. Yet I am calm, romantic and sometimes very ethereal. Valerie lived to be sweet and to mature, Janet to escape and experience, Vicky to learn and practice, and Wendi to love and share.

One problem I have in explaining how the spiritual being influences my personality and yours, is that we are all so complex. The biologist in the lab declared we inherit our identities through DNA passed from parent to child ... the psychologist states that our adolescent environment, experiences and parent dominance creates our adult identities. The astrologer says that the planets and the sun and moon dictates the fate of our character, and the spiritualist teaches the doctrine of reincarnation and may claim that past life memories and idiosyncrasies can leap into our consciousness. Within these four branches of knowledge exist many truths and many misleading facts. For an example, read the daily newspaper astrological column. Most of what is written is so vague that it could fit almost anyone. However, because I know myself (born on the cusp of Cancer and Leo), I realize I really do have the personality (sun sign) of both Cancer and Leo. I cannot find any other sign in the zodiac that is compatible with "my" character. The much deeper wisdom behind astrology is the vibrational patterns (music of the spheres) that reaches earth to permeate our electromagnetic forms. Human biology studies

We have learned that two articles that appeared in recent issues of "Cross-Talk" were fictitious in nature, but presented as fact. Both appeared in the "Odds & Ends" column: In September, the report of a facial transplant procedure; and in December, a report that the Arkansas legislature had passed a law forcing crossdressers to undergo sex-reassignment surgery. Both items had originally appeared in the newsletter of the Indiana Crossdressers Society (IXE). The author of the two news items, Elaine Edwards, confessed to the hoax in the most recent IXE newsletter, explaining that she had inserted them to prove her point, which was that information in gender community publications cannot be trusted to be factual. "Cross-Talk", while regretting the reprint of these articles, condemns the perpetration of this hoax by Ms. Edwards in order to lend credence to a statement that could not have been proven by previously existing circumstances.

We have also been advised that the article "Society and Gender Ambiguity" which appeared in the January "Cross-Talk" was not authored by Jaclyn [redacted] of Neutral Corner, as indicated in the byline. The article originally appeared in the Tri-Ess national magazine "The Femme Mirror" in [redacted], and was authored by "Cross-Talk" subscriber Andrea [redacted]. We regret the erroneous byline.

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our physiological makeup. The practice of psychology, which recently has begun to be accepted as a medical science, analyzes our personality characteristics (aggressiveness/passiveness, temperance, emotions, self-control).

In spite of all this knowledge I've accumulated, nothing logically explains the magic of a simple plastic bracelet, except for my belief that I was a girl in a previous lifetime, and I had cherished a real pearl bracelet with all my heart and soul. This faith has been the remedy for me to survive and cope with the caustic and dangerous world of today.

Where one sees ugliness, I see beauty. Where one sees shame, I see pride. Where one sees weakness, I see strength. Where someone searches, I discover. Where one hoards, I share. Where one hates, I love.

Remember, when you're in a dress you've found your spirit, and your own feminine essence is elevated to new heights. Even within this infinite circle of our lives. Having written all this, I should tell you I once again wear a real pearl bracelet around my tiny wrist. I have and cherish a gorgeous lavender lace gown, and have finally found happiness with myself, friends, and lovers. And in my mind's eye I can see you all, under the bright glow of your own halo!



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