

Renaissance News



Volume 5, No. 8

Vision - Integrity - Quality

August, 1991

Campaign begins for change to Pa. hate crimes law

by Angela Gardner

Prompted by an article in last month's *Renaissance News*, a Greater Philadelphia Chapter member has begun a personal lobbying effort to support the proposed amendment to the Pennsylvania hate crimes law, House Bill 1353.

The amendment, sponsored by State Rep. Babette Josephs (D-Phila.) would add the words "actual or perceived ... sexual orientation" to Section 2710, Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes. This law now calls for more severe penalties when a violent crime is "motivated by hatred toward the race, color, religion, or national origin" of the victim. The Josephs amendment would require the same stiffer penalties when the victims are lesbian or gay, or are perceived by their attacker to be lesbian or gay.

The proposed change in the law would provide some protection for

transgendered people even though they are not specifically mentioned in the amendment. This is because violence against transsexuals and transvestites is often prompted by the belief that these people are "queer." By including perceived sexual orientation, the amendment would ban this type of attack.

"Many crossdressers go to gay clubs due to the greater acceptance we get there. If someone decided to beat me up when I'm leaving a gay club in drag and they think I'm gay, I should have the additional remedies the law provides," Joann [redacted] of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter said to explain why she is working to help pass the amendment.

[redacted] contacted Josephs' office and asked what she could do to help get the amendment approved by the state House of Representatives. Andrea Friedman, and aide to Josephs, told her that lawmakers needed to hear from their constitu-

ents. Post cards were available, and if [redacted] could get them signed and returned to Josephs' office or to the Philadelphia Mayor's Commission for Sexual Minorities, they would be forwarded to the appropriate legislator.

When asked about security for the crossdresser who is closeted, Friedman said that the cards could be signed with the individual's femme name, but that it must carry that person's correct Zip code so the card would reach the proper lawmaker.

"The cards don't say anything about the sender's sexual orientation or gender role," Friedman added. "All they say is that the sender is asking her legislator to support the Hate Crimes Amendment."

If the bill is approved by the state House, a similar lobbying effort must be directed toward the Senate.

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Vikki is a veteran of police encounters

Even when things go well, crossdressing in public is a challenge for many transvestites. But when problems develop, it can become a scary experience. Several months ago, one of our members had an adventure that could of pushed her back into the closet, yet she handled the situation well. Although this happened some time ago, the lesson remains valid.

—PJS

Vikki, who lives in a Philadelphia suburb, was driving to the February Greater Philadelphia meeting when she realized the worst fear of many transvestites — car trouble. The transmission in her van died while she was on the Pennsylvania Turnpike just before the exit for Route 202; she was stuck in the center lane with no power.

Being dressed up for a meeting with the girls is one thing, but

being dressed while stranded on a busy limited access highway is quite another.

"I considered changing into my street clothes which were in the back of my van," she said. "But after about five minutes, a state police car pulled up and the troopers asked if had car problems."

Following routine, one of the troopers took her license and registration and checked it out, then

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Chapter information

New Jersey

South Jersey: Kelly [REDACTED], chapter leader. Write Renaissance SJ, c/o P. O. Box 189, Mays Landing, NJ 08330. Meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Atlantic Mental Health Center, Inc. 2002 Black Horse Pike, McKee, N.J. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Call (609) 641-3782.

Pennsylvania

Greater Philadelphia area: Dina Amberle, chapter leader. Write Renaissance PHL, Box AD, Bensalem, PA 19020. Meets third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia, Pa. Summer hours: meeting starts at 9:00 p.m. For information, call (215) 946-8887.

Pennsylvania

Lower Susquehanna Valley: Brenda Davidson, chapter leader. Write Renaissance LSV, Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105. Meets the first Saturday of the month. Presently, the chapter lacks a permanent meeting site, so call (717) 780-1578 for latest information and meeting location. The June meeting will be at 8:00 p.m.

Pennsylvania

Reading: The National Board has revoked this chapter's charter. If your membership there has not expired, please contact National Secretary Susan [REDACTED], P.O. Box 552, King of Prussia, PA 19046.

AFFILIATE INFORMATION...

The board of directors has approved a new policy for the development of chapters and affiliates.

- Any group that wishes to become a Renaissance chapter must be incorporated as a non-profit institution in their home state (except Pa.) before asking for chapter status.

- Any group that wishes to become a Renaissance affiliate will pay a small annual fee for services normally afforded to chapters for free. Affiliates have no legal connection to Renaissance and remain autonomous. Services include unlimited

access to reference publications and newsletter copy.

Write for details to Alison Laing, Co-director of Outreach, P. O. Box 552, King of Prussia, Pa. 19046.

Current affiliated organizations are:

- Monmouth/Ocean Transgenderists, PO Box 1326, Brick, NJ 08723

For current information about national Renaissance events and activities, call (215) 630-1437 24 hours a day.

AND, DON'T FORGET ABOUT...

- Background Papers** are available for \$1 each plus \$.25 postage for each pair ordered. Eight papers are available: 1-Myths & Misconceptions About Crossdressing, 2-Reasons for Male to Female Crossdressing, 3-PARTNERS: Spouses & Significant Others, 4-The Matter of Children, 5-An Annotated Bibliography, 6-Telling the Children: A Transsexual's Point of View, 7-What Is Renaissance?, and 8-AIDS & HIV Safety and Ethics.

- The Pen Pal Project. If you

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

- A gift of only \$6 gives a transgendered inmate 12 issues of the Renaissance News. Please help provide this needed support to our sisters in prison.

- A few copies of the deluxe edition of Benjamin's *The Transsexual Phenomenon* are still available at \$39.95 postpaid. Make checks payable to Renaissance.

Renaissance News

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Articles must be submitted for publication one month in advance.

For current information about Renaissance, call (215) 630-1437 24 hours a day.

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

Calendar of Events

AUGUST

3rd So. Jersey Chapter

3rd Ren. LSV Chapter

17th Gr. Phila. Chapter Vendors' Night

24th LSV's 2nd Annual Hawaiian Luau

SEPTEMBER

7th So. Jersey Chapter Speaking As a Woman w/ Alison Laing

7th LSV Chapter

19th -22nd Paradise in the Poconos

21st Gr. Phila. Chapter A Feminine Inner-Self w/ Alison Laing

OCTOBER

5th So. Jersey Chapter

5th Ren. LSV Chapter

19th Gr. Phila. Chapter

JoAnn Altman Stringer™
SURVIVAL

During the Vietnam War, I was the producer and chief photographer for Charles Kurland, and was the creator of his "On the Road" looks at life. As we turned our cameras toward life in America, from small town to metropolitan city, I became very aware of the differences in social attitudes. This curiosity motivated me to explore this unique phenomena further... especially where gender issues are concerned.

Attitudes have changed very little in 1991 from what we learned about in the 60's and 70's. By that I mean many American people think and believe much the same way as they did 25 years ago. Sure we made some great strides in racial equality and in women's rights, but these issues are merely the symptom of the problem, rather than the real cause. In short, we have been treating the symptoms of the illness, not the cause, and now the patient is dying.

The reasons *why* people believe the way they do have not changed primarily because of the way people are socialized. Someone growing up in Los Angeles is going to be socialized in today's world much differently than someone reared in Sandy Hook, Mississippi. Quite simply, it comes down to the issue of large versus small city.

My cousin, Sandi, and I have spoken of this difference quite often relative to gender issues (primarily my personal issues).

I grew up in a very rural area in Idaho. My parents had been reared here as had theirs before them. Much of the local interest centered around friends and neighbors, farm and ranch issues, and local high school sports. Grangerville was such a small town that it seemed totally separated from the rest of America. Things occurring in the Middle East or in New York didn't affect us much, so most people weren't much interested in outside goings on. The val-

ues passed on to the new generation of children were those probably stemming from what great-grandpa believed. And in such a small town you really didn't see a crossdresser parading around in public. Even homosexuality was taboo, never to be talked about. I mean, no one in that little town could ever be gay, or transsexual. At least that is what those people in small-town America believed. Those kind of things just didn't happen there.

Since my cousin had grown up in the gigantic megalopolis of L.A., she was aware at a very early age of the varieties and types of people that inhabit our world. She learned at a very young age the many problems affecting would could be termed normal society Sandi was witness to gays, lesbians, crossdressers, transsexuals, S&M, and all the rest. It was a part of her world where it was *not* part of the micro world of Grangerville. Her sociological upbringing allowed her the opportunity to see more variances in life that could be found in the small city.

Too, her parents did pass on to Sandi values that were 100 years out of date. When she learned of my transsexual issues, Sandi immediately had a rudimentary understanding of my problems (though she had known for years). It was not a shock nor did her teeth fall out when she heard of my sex reassignment surgery. In fact, Sandi became my most ardent supporter, and today is more as sister to me than my own sister.

There are more issues that affect transsexuals in this small versus large town argument, things much more basic to survival.

Gender conflicted individuals in the small town, partly due to this "small town thinking" and socialization will find professional support extremely limited. Physicians in a little berg probably won't know anything about the medical treatment of the transsexual in transi-

tion — especially endocrine management. Psychologists and psychiatrists in this same setting, too, most likely won't know much about your problem and how to deal with it. I had one psychologist in a small town tell me, "I have never dealt with transsexualism before, but we can explore it together." Sure we could; I could give him an education while paying him \$75 an hour for that honor. Bull crackers!

Trying to fight the prejudiced intellect in a smaller city while attempting to find work as the person you wish to be is akin to bashing your head against a brick wall. More doors will be closed in your face than at a magician's convention. Most probably, word will have gone through the grapevine before you ever walk into the employer's office.

In a city larger than 100,000, the number of available jobs is greatly increased simply because of the population size. Employers will possibly know something about transsexualism, and will not be likely to be negatively biased. Medical and counseling services will be more knowledgeable. And neighbors aren't going to be afraid you will molest their cat or children.

So, what is the answer to those transsexuals struggling in small-town America? Your search may prove to be more fruitful in the larger area in all capacities of transition. But it may mean moving away from family and friends to an unknown city. In the new area you may also find gender support groups that will make the move easier.

There is no way to change the idiom of small-town thinking. If you can't change the way the world around you thinks, you certainly can change where you live.

☞ For a different view of small-town America and gender issues, see Paula Sinclair's article about her high school reunion on page 5.

—PAW

At University of Pennsylvania

Murder of crossdressed king may hold lessons for freshmen

Next month, 2,300 freshmen at the University of Pennsylvania will form small groups and discuss the story of a man who was murdered by his mother and her friends when they discovered him dressed in women's clothes.

No, the Penn freshmen will not be discussing a story from *The Weekly World News*; instead, they will be talking about the classical Greek play by Euripides *The Bacchae*.

As an experiment to prompt student debate on several contemporary subjects, all incoming freshmen at the Ivy League school have been asked to read the play over the summer. During freshmen orientation week, more than 150 faculty members will lead discussions

among small groups of students. Courses will also be offered about they play during the school year

Penn officials hope that discussions about the play will lead the students to talk about contemporary issues affecting the campus.

So how does crossdressing fit into this plan?

The play is about Pentheus, king of the ancient Greek city-state of Thebes, and his efforts to drive the effeminate Dionysus, the god of orgies, wine, and the theater, out of Thebes. One of Pentheus' failures is his inability to recognize the irresistible nature of the Dionysian cult with its frenzied celebration of wine, women, and song.

The king is tricked into dressing like a woman so he can spy on the

frolicking women, including his own mother. She joins the other women in killing and dismembering Pentheus after they discover his true gender. Only after the deed is accomplished does she realize that it is her son's head that she has impaled on the tip of her spear.

"The play is as current as a Spike Lee movie," said Normas S. Adler, associate dean for undergraduate studies in Penn's School of Arts and Sciences.

He adds that "it questions some of our basic tenets" such as rationalism, masculinity, the role of the state, power, and the psyche of a society.

It is also likely to keep crossdressing Penn freshman deep in the closet.

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Back home again

Clothes make the transvestite at 25th high school reunion

by Paula Jordan Sinclair

Walking into my 25th high school reunion in drag made me think about what happened to Carrie at her senior prom. I quickly checked the rafters of the local Elk's lodge — no buckets of blood. Only two doors led out of the room — a snap to close with my psychokinetic powers if I needed to incinerate the place for revenge.

Unnecessary fears? Hardly, judging by the response of my classmates to my smart black cocktail dress, tastefully accessorized with simple rhinestone jewelry and a name badge that carried my '66 yearbook picture. Many classmates merely nodded to acknowledge my presence; others gave me a perfunctory greeting after first checking my name badge and my cleavage (but not in that order), and some walked away while I was talking to them. Only one or two actually conversed with me, and they didn't even ask why I was dressed as a woman. I had to prompt them to inquire so I could explain.

"I have been a transvestite since before I started school," I said. "Until recently, this had given me a lot of guilt. When I was in school I kept people at arm's length so they would

not discover my secret. But now that I have accepted this part of my personality, I want to share it with you so that you have a better understanding of who I am."

This went over well with all but one friend. After my little speech, he replied, "This is a joke, right?" No, Jack, I'm serious. But he insisted, "you were such a kidder in high school, this has got to be a joke." I left him standing there waiting for a laugh that wouldn't come.

By pacing myself, I was able to occupy the cocktail hour with enough small talk so I didn't feel too much like an outcast. In fact, I began to enjoy my peculiar method of crowd control; I would go to one side of the room and my classmates would move to the other. That game ended when everyone went into the dining room.

With my chaperone for the evening, a reporter from a local newspaper, I went to several tables in search of seats. "Sorry, these are saved," we were told on more than one occasion. Finally, we found two chairs at a table in the corner.

I had not been close to the woman at the table, but she remembered me (prompted by my photogenic name badge) and introduced me to

her husband after asking how I wanted to be addressed. After exchanging some pleasantries, she leaned close to me and whispered, "I don't want to pry, but when did you have your sex change?"

At last, I thought, someone is acknowledging the difference between the way I looked in high school and the way I look tonight. Even though her question was off the mark, she at least had identified me as being transgendered. She caught on quickly when I explained the difference between transsexuals and transvestites, adding that the way I was dressed didn't bother her because she was sophisticated — she had moved away from Dowagiac, Mich., (pop. 6,409) to the state capital!

The only other memorable occurrence during dinner was when a guy at a neighboring table kept hissing at me, "Stop fanning yourself; you're just trying to attract attention!" I replied that the only way I could attract *more* attention was if I had been accompanied by a naked man waving an long-handled ostrich-plumed fan. He didn't get the joke.

The third phase of the evening's festivities began after dinner: the requisite awards for class members' "achievements." First was the award for the person who had come the farthest. This prompted a debate on the distances to California and Washington (Washington won). The award for the most grandchildren sparked discussion on whether step-grandchildren counted (they did). Finally came the award for the person who had changed the most.

"I am sure we all agree," the reunion chairman said, "that person is Paul Hanson."

I think there was applause as I

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Hate crimes battle begins

(continued from page 1)

██████ will have the postcards available at Greater Philadelphia Chapter meetings. But she also recommends that members write a letter or call their legislators' offices and tell them to vote for the bill.

"A postcard is great," she said, "but a personal letter or a phone call from a constituent will have an ever greater impact."

To find out who your state representative is, call Joseph's office ei-

ther in Philadelphia, (215) 977-7732, or in Harrisburg, (717) 787-8529.

"It's not a perfect world," said ██████. "In a perfect world no one would beat you up for being different. As long as people who act like that are around, we're going to need things like the Hate Crimes Law. It may not give our community everything we need, but it is a start. I think transgendered people who don't help get it approved are extremely foolish."

THE *Paula Jordan Sinclair* NEWSQUEEN™

Miss Sinclair is in a huff this month; she returned from Michigan and found only a few clippings waiting for her. Fortunately, she had read the newspapers while traveling, and so can provide her fans with the news items they love so much (not that they deserve the attention).

♣ ♣ ♣

You can imagine Miss Sinclair's surprise when she was thumbing through the latest *Female Mimics International* while waiting for a light trim at the only barbershop in her hometown and came across a full page photo of our own Alison Laing. Miss Sinclair was even more surprised to see that Alison was fully clothed in the photo. No, that's not what she meant, you dirty-minded queens! Miss Laing is *always* a lady and always poses clothed. It's the others pictured in *F.M.I.* whom one has to worry about.

The photo of Allison appeared in a feature about Mariette Pathy Allen's book.

♣ ♣ ♣

Being unaccustomed to driving in flats, Miss Sinclair fears that she may have exceeded the speed limit while crossing Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana. Yet she was fortunate in not meeting any state troopers. She would have been especially fortunate not to meet a man in Maryland who was posing as a police officer and stopping lady motorists.

Justine Fahringer told actual authorities that at first she wasn't suspicious when the person dressed in a low-cut T-shirt and wearing makeup and a long wig stopped her and identified himself as an undercover police officer. "He wasn't trying to disguise the fact that he was a male," she said.

After the man displayed what Fahringer thought was a Maryland state police badge, she handed over her driver's license and her car

registration. Then he told her to get into his car and he would take her to the police station for questioning about a hit-and-run accident.

"That's when I knew he wasn't a police officer," she said. When she refused to leave her car, the impersonator told her she was resisting arrest. "I told him I'm resisting whatever it is you are trying to do."

Maryland authorities had no leads in their investigation into the crossdressing impostor.

♣ ♣ ♣

You have got to give the impostor credit for having a good line. But not as good as the crossdressed man arrested in a women's bathroom in Turin, Italy. He told police he only wanted to the read the feminine graffiti.

♣ ♣ ♣

If you are in Syracuse, N.Y., and are stopped by men dressed as women claiming to be police officers — they probably are.

To crack down on prostitution, two officers dressed as hookers (complete with mini skirts) and offered sex for \$20 or \$30 to unsuspecting johns. When the men agreed, other police officers moved in to make the arrests. According to reports, the johns never knew what hit them. The decoys never dropped out of character even after the arrests were made, and did not divulge their true gender to the arrested men.

John Corbit of the department's Special Investigations Division admitted that normally female police officers are used for this type of decoy operation, but that both officers volunteered for the assignment and were very serious about their jobs.

"Besides," Corbit said, "they already had all the clothes and real frilly lingerie. Next time, I want to do it."

No, he didn't actually say that. Miss Sinclair just wanted to see if

you were paying attention.

♣ ♣ ♣

A former police officer from Rock Hill, S.C., donned a different type of drag, to avoid being arrested, and it worked for more than six years.

After she was charged with grand theft while on the force in 1985, Renee Brown went on the lam, taking on the identity of a man and calling herself John D'Amanda. She took male hormones and had her breasts removed. She even married a woman named Linda Cleveland, although Renee had not actually become a man.

"When I saw the relationship was becoming serious, I sat Linda down and told her I had once been a woman," Renee said from her prison cell. "She was shocked. She said 'I can't picture you as a woman.' After thinking things over for a week, she said, 'I fell in love with you as John.'"

The pair lived together for a year, and then were married. But their happiness was cut short when Renee was arrested. She believes her brother-in-law tipped off police.

She said that the reason she tried to avoid arrest was that she was fearful of the treatment she would receive from her former colleagues on the force and prison guards.

♣ ♣ ♣

Fear of the police can cause people to do strange things. Take Rodney King's case, for example.

King, you may remember, is the Los Angeles man whose videotaped beating at the hands (and clubs and feet) of several of L.A.P.D.'s "finest" made national news last March, and caused a shake-up in the department.

Several months later, King was stopped by police for soliciting a prostitute in Hollywood. When confronted, he tried to run down the vice cops with his car.

The cops were working undercover at the time they tried to arrest King, who claimed he didn't know

THE *Paula Jordan Sinclair* NEWSQUEEN™

they were cops. No, it's not what you think. The police were dressed as men. It was the prostitute who was in drag.

♣♣♣

The prostitute King hired and then ejected from his car fared better than one of her sisters from the Hollywood streets, Chris (Chantel) Lopez. His dead body was thrown from a speeding car. He had been shot. Witnesses didn't get a good description of the driver, but they easily identified the car as a powerful Camaro with wide tires, chrome wheels, and a raised rear end with a spoiler fin.

This was the third killing of a transgendered prostitute in Hollywood this year.

♣♣♣

Police officers in Raleigh, N.C., have been busy keeping the town safe for decent people. No, they haven't been posing as prostitutes and arresting johns, or even preventing murders; they have been cleaning out adult bookstores. Earlier this year, six employees at two establishments were arrested, and last month four pleaded guilty to distributing pornography.

The businesses remain open even after the employees paid their fines. But the stores no longer stock the type material that the vice cops seized as being beyond the community's standard. The citizens of Raleigh can enjoy their straight porn, free from the scourge of she-male, gay, and bisexual erotica.

♣♣♣

The Raleigh police obviously can't recognize the important educational value of she-male erotica. For example, having viewed a video tape entitled *Bangkok Lady Boys*, Miss Sinclair is fully able to understand the social implications of the following Reuters dispatch...

BANGKOK - A Thai court has annulled an Italian man's marriage to a man he thought was a woman.

Paolo Edoardo Boeris, 27, the owner of a soft-drink business in Asti, Italy, married Riam Kuemjan, 33, last year.

They had sex several times, but always in the dark, and Riam was able to disguise the fact that he was a man, Boeris's lawyer, Prechab Nuan-samlee, told reporters.

Was Boeris so inexperienced with sex that he couldn't tell a man from a woman? Is it a myth that Italian men are sexual animals? Is there a hit Broadway play in this story? These questions naturally would come to mind after reading this news story. But thanks to the educational video she was able to rent at 12th and Spruce Streets (far from the reach of the Raleigh police), Miss Sinclair understands (and admires) the clever tricks used by the "lady boys," of Thailand and has only sympathy for poor Paolo.

♣♣♣

The desire to "have a relationship with a man as a woman" and perhaps avoid an embarrassing annulment, was one of the motivations for a sex change cited by a celebrity in our community from Texas.

Kathryn McGuire (*nee* Charles McGuire) became a woman in London last month following a career as a highway contractor, Houston's premier socialite transvestite, and first openly transgendered (but unsuccessful) City Council candidate.

After years of crossdressing — at first secretly and then openly — McGuire found transvestism unsatisfying. "The more I dressed that way, the more I realized that I wanted to be all woman and have a relationship with a man as a woman," she said in a telephone interview with *The Houston Post* from her London hospital bed.

"So many socialites have said they'll give me tips on how to please a man," she said.

McGuire, who has never let money or modesty stand in her way,

said her story will be the focus of a documentary that Hollywood filmmaker Brian Huberman plans to air on the Fox network, but she gave no air date.

"I'm excited about it," she said of the film project, "but I just hate the thought that people are going to see me without my makeup and wigs. I just hope it doesn't turn off too many good-looking men. I'm sure it won't turn off this one guy in Cleveland who met me when I gave a speech there. He says he's sure he'll love me because I'm Texas-tough."

♣♣♣

We don't know about "Texas-tough," but we do know about "Pittsburgh-tough," at least as practiced by a pair of rock 'n' roll DJs: Jim Quinn and "Banana" Don Jefferson of WBZZ-FM. The pair recently posed for an advertising photo wearing women's wigs. A third person in the photo was a female model. The ad read "two out of three women listen to" Quinn and Jefferson.

The ad campaign began after (but not because) the station was ordered by a court to pay \$694,000 in response to a sexual harassment complaint filed by the station's former news director, Liz Randolph. The station later settled a second complaint filed by Randolph out of court. She alleged that between 1986 and 1988, the morning team subjected her to jokes about sex and troubles with men, yet the station did nothing to stop them.

Are these guys *real men* or what? First, they insult a female co-worker, then, they pose as women. It's circumstances like this that give credibility to the allegation by some that drag is demeaning to women.

Miss Sinclair is determined to add to her anthropologic knowledge by renting many more video tapes. Therefore, she may not see some news stories concerning crossdressing. Won't you help her out like Mary Ann [redacted] and R. Fenner did this month by sending her clippings? Be sure to note the date and name of publication.

Dr. Docter wants YOU!

Join the National Gender Project

by Richard F. Docter, Ph.D.

The National Gender Project is an ongoing research project dealing with the causes and development of transvestism and transsexualism. The objectives are to better understand the various expressions of these behaviors, study their causes, and describe their long-term development.

Unlike most other studies, this effort involves a long-term approach. Our research participants are requested to contribute information at various stages of their lives. It is anticipated that this will yield a more complete picture of the transvestic and transsexual individual than has previously been available.

Participants are requested to complete a series of self-report in-

ventories, scales, and other behavioral and psychological tests from time to time. Several hundred persons are now cooperating in this project throughout the United States and Canada. Volunteers from other countries are most welcome.

Complete security and confidentiality are strictly maintained.

Family relationships are often affected by transvestism and transsexualism. Therefore, we also invite the participation of wives and long-term partners.

Our present focus is on genetic males.

How can you assist?

Easy. Volunteer to be a participant. The initial survey form is reprinted on the following six pages of the *Renaissance News*. Simply

answer the questions and mail the complete survey to me at The National Gender Project, P.O. Box 126, Northridge, CA 91328.

You can also invite others who would be suitable participants to volunteer by contacting them and explaining the purpose of this research. Perhaps you can encourage others to help through one of these procedures:

✓ Copy the survey and send it to your transgendered friends.

✓ Ask friends to write me and request a copy of the survey.

✓ List and explain the project on a computer bulletin board.

If you have already volunteered and completed the questionnaire, please do not do so again. We have received your responses, and you should be getting our initial report shortly, if you have not already. To those who have joined the project, as well as to those who are considering doing it, we say "Thank you."

Police encounters

(continued from page 1)

they pushed the van to the side of the road and asked where she was going.

Vikki figured it was time to make a clean breast of it, so to speak.

"I told him I was heading for a Renaissance meeting, and I asked if he had ever heard of Renaissance, an organization for transvestites and transsexuals."

"That's interesting," was all one trooper said.

So far, so good, Vikki figured, so she asked if they would drop her off at the meeting so she could get a ride home. They agreed.

"When we arrived at The Woods," Vikki said, "one of the troopers asked if all the cars were there for the meeting. He seemed amazed by the number of people attending."

The members standing outside when Vikki pulled up in a state police car were no less surprised than the troopers. But Vikki was calm because she had an earlier encounter with police while

crossdressed. It happened several months earlier following a Mary Kay makeover.

Vikki was driving home in drag for the first time. A block from her house, she ran past a newly-erected stop sign. A policeman instructed her to pull over to the curb right in front of her house.

"I thought 'Oh my God! What should I say?' she recalled. "When I handed over my license and registration I told the cop, 'I'm in drag.' He kind of smiled a bit and said 'So you occasionally get dressed up like this?' I would have had a hard time denying it under the circumstances. He gave me a warning about the stop sign, but didn't say another thing about the clothes I was wearing."

But her ordeal wasn't quite over. Just as the policeman was leaving, Vikki's next door neighbor pulled up to see what was happening. Vikki drove away as quickly as she could and returned to her house when the coast was clear.

Who is Richard F. Docter?

Richard Docter received his Ph.D. from Stanford University, and since 1966 has been Professor of Psychology at California State University, Northridge. He is also a clinical psychologist specializing in gender concerns. His work includes both counseling and research. Data collected during the 1980s resulted in publication of his book *Transvestites and Transsexuals; Toward a Theory of Cross Gender Behavior* (Plenum Press, 1988). The book is available at most university libraries. It may be ordered from the International Foundation for Gender Education, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778.

National Gender Project: Part 1

Doctor Gender Identity Inventory

Copyright 1990

Richard F. Docter, Ph.D.
Department of Psychology
California State University, Northridge
Northridge, CA 91325-9962

This information will be treated with complete confidentiality. Responsibility for this is accepted by Richard F. Docter, Ph.D. It will not be released to anyone. No identification by name will ever be made.

Please print your name and full address EXACTLY AS YOU WISH TO RECEIVE MAIL. I shall let you know that your materials have arrived. Later, when the data have been analyzed, I shall send you feedback on the project. If you do not wish to receive mail from me, please just write in your femme name or any code name you wish to use.

NAME: _____

Today's date is: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Did you send Dr. Docter any research materials between 1982 and 1986?

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

____yes ____no ____unsure

While answering most of this I was: ☐ partially cross dressed ☐ completely cross dressed ☐ not cross dressed.
These questions were designed for *chromosomal (or anatomic, genetic) males*. Were you born male? ☐yes ☐no
Are you willing to have me send you other materials in connection with this research? ☐yes ☐no

Age _____ Years of high school attended _____ Did you graduate from high school? ☐yes ☐no
Years of college attended _____ Major: _____
List college degrees: _____

Race or ethnicity: Caucasian _____ Negro _____ Asian _____ Hispanic _____ Other _____

Are you now working full time? Yes _____ Part time _____ Retired _____ Unemployed _____

Principal job title (when working full time) _____

Please indicate your present marital status:

☐ I have never been married.

☐ I am married and living with my wife.

☐ I am separated from my wife but not divorced.

☐ I am a widower.

☐ I am divorced but not remarried.

☐ In your longest marriage, how many years was this: _____

☐ I am now living with a long-term live-in partner. We have been together for _____ years.

How many times have you been married? _____ How many times divorced? _____

If you have been married, does (or did) your wife know of your cross dressing? ☐yes ☐no

If she knew of your cross dressing, when did she learn about this? Prior to marriage _____ How many years after marriage _____ (Continued on page 2)

From whom did you get these research forms?

☐ Through a club or a convention.

☐ Mailed to me by: _____

☐ Other: _____

If your wife knows (or knew) of your cross dressing, how did she find out? I told her____ Other: Please explain briefly:_____

Have you been the father of any children? yes__ no__ If yes, how many children?____ If yes, do your children know of your cross dressing? yes, all know__ some know__ none know__

Years of full time military service__ __Army __Navy __Air Force __Marines __Coast Guard

Check your region of the U.S. (or write country where you reside):

__New England __South __Northwest
__East Coast __Southwest __West coast
__Southeast __Midwest Other: _____

What was your father's main job title_____

Did your parents remain married to each other throughout their lives? yes__ no__

If your parents separated or divorced, how old were you at that time? _____

Father is now living: yes__ no__ Father died when I was age____

Mother is now living: yes__ no__ Mother died when I was age____

In the birth order for children in my family I was born number____

Number of brothers older than you__ Number of brothers younger than you__

Number of sisters older than you__ Number of sisters younger than you__

Were you raised entirely (or almost entirely) in the household of your natural (biological) parents?
yes__ no__ If no, please explain by whom you were raised.

How many alcoholic drinks including beer do you average *per week*_____

How many cigarettes do you usually smoke *daily*_____

Do you use marijuana? yes__ no__ If yes, how often? _____

Do you use cocaine? yes__ no__ If yes, how often? _____

Do you take any tranquilizers regularly by prescription? yes__ no__

Do you take any other medication or drugs frequently which alter your mood, such as "uppers" or "downers"? yes__ no__ If yes, please name drug:_____ How often_____

Do you now take female hormones regularly? yes__ no__ If yes, for how long? _____

Have you previously taken female hormones regularly? yes__ no__ If yes, for how long? _____

Have you ever been a member of a cross dressers club or organization for six months or longer: __yes __no

How many clubs or organizations concerned with cross dressing or gender do you currently belong to: _____

Please check the statement or statements which best describe you.

1. __ I have no interest whatever in any form of cross dressing or in functioning in a feminine role.
2. __ I have an interest in cross dressing, but I never or almost never cross dress.
3. __ I am a former cross dresser. __ I used to be mainly a PARTIAL cross dresser. __ I used to be mainly a COMPLETE cross dresser.
4. __ I am a PARTIAL cross dresser. I cross dress occasionally but not completely so as to appear to be a woman.
5. __ I cross dress COMPLETELY (clothing, wig, makeup, etc.) between 1 and 12 times each year.

This list is continued on the next page.

6. ___ I cross dress completely about once or twice a month.
 7. ___ I cross dress completely about once or twice a week.
 8. ___ I cross dress completely more than twice a week but not daily.
 9. ___ I cross dress completely each day or almost daily.

 10. ___ I live part of my life as a woman *but I do not* consider myself to be a pre-operative transsexual.
 11. ___ I live part of my life as a woman and *I consider myself* to be a pre-operative transsexual.
 12. ___ I am now living full time as a woman but I do not plan to continue doing so.
 13. ___ I live full time as a woman (without complete sex reassignment surgery).
 14. ___ I live full time as a woman and I have completed genital sex reassignment.

 15. If you have been living FULL TIME as a woman, how long have you been doing so? _____
 16. ___ NONE OF THE ABOVE. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR PATTERN OF CROSS DRESSING OR FEMININE ROLE BEHAVIOR:
-

Please respond to each item by showing whether it is MORE TRUE or MORE FALSE. Please mark in the True or False box.

Please respond to each item.

T F

- ☐ ☐ 1. Most close relatives (wife, children, parents, etc.) and close friends know of my feminine identity.
- ☐ ☐ 2. When I wear womens' clothing I do not consider it "cross dressing" because my true gender is feminine (or mostly feminine).
- ☐ ☐ 3. It is easy for me to pass as a woman even when I must use my voice.
- ☐ ☐ 4. I have an alternative "fantasy cross dressing wardrobe" which is too sexy to wear in public.
- ☐ ☐ 5. Sometimes I have acquired more sets of fancy underwear or other sexy clothing than I need.
- ☐ ☐ 6. I believe I am a "woman in a man's body."
- ☐ ☐ 7. I often go shopping appearing like any other woman.
- ☐ ☐ 8. I eat in restaurants in my feminine role several times a year.
- ☐ ☐ 9. I attend entertainment, musical, or athletic events in my feminine role several times a year.
- ☐ ☐ 10. I have travelled by airplane in my feminine role.
- ☐ ☐ 11. I have sometimes become sexually aroused reading fantasy stories of men being transformed into women.
- ☐ ☐ 12. Even in my feminine role, I have occasionally thought of myself as a guy wearing a dress.
- ☐ ☐ 13. In my feminine role, I usually feel like I am a woman.
- ☐ ☐ 14. I prefer to think of my feminine name as my real name.
- ☐ ☐ 15. I have adopted a feminine name which is now my legal name.
- ☐ ☐ 16. I can experience feelings of being female at practically any time no matter how I am dressed.
- ☐ ☐ 17. Even when not in the feminine role I reveal some feminine mannerisms (or I used to).
- ☐ ☐ 18. I get pleasure from carrying a photograph of myself showing my female appearance.
- ☐ ☐ 19. I have always felt that I've had some feminine physical characteristics.
- ☐ ☐ 20. It is usually necessary for me to be dressed as a woman to experience strong feelings of being feminine.
- ☐ ☐ 21. I have a driver's license or other valid identification showing my female picture and name.
- ☐ ☐ 22. My feminine identity comes and goes depending on how I am dressed and various other circumstances.
- ☐ ☐ 23. I can enjoy being a woman, but at other times I enjoy functioning like a man.
- ☐ ☐ 24. If I'm not in my feminine role I'm mostly masculine in my behavior.
- ☐ ☐ 25. I have a well established feminine identity.
- ☐ ☐ 26. When in my feminine role I feel I am expressing my "true self," not putting on an act.
- ☐ ☐ 27. I think of my masculine identity as well established and my feminine identity as weaker.
- ☐ ☐ 28. I think of my masculine and feminine identities as equally well established.
- ☐ ☐ 29. I think of my feminine identity as well established and my masculine identity as weaker.
- ☐ ☐ 30. In general, I think I have been successful *as a man* compared to most of the men I know.

T F

- ☐ ☐ 31. I spend at least 10 hours per week living entirely as a woman.
- ☐ ☐ 32. Sometimes I get a sexual thrill when I see my feminine image in a mirror.
- ☐ ☐ 33. I live entirely in the feminine role for at least a few hours almost every day.
- ☐ ☐ 34. If I am wearing a sexy dress I sometimes feel more attracted to men.
- ☐ ☐ 35. I sometimes sleep in a frilly nightgown or some other sexy women's sleepwear.
- ☐ ☐ 36. When I feel tense, wearing something feminine will usually make me feel a little more calm.
- ☐ ☐ 37. If it were possible, I'd choose to live my life as a woman (or I now do so).
- ☐ ☐ 38. I have lived entirely (or almost entirely) as a woman for 5 (or more) consecutive days.
- ☐ ☐ 39. I have lived entirely (or almost entirely) as a woman for 30 (or more) consecutive days.

- ☐ ☐ 40. I have lived entirely (or almost entirely) as a woman for more than six consecutive months.
- ☐ ☐ 41. I have lived entirely (or almost entirely) as a woman for one year longer.
- ☐ ☐ 42. I have received 10 or more hours of electrolysis.
- ☐ ☐ 43. I have received 50 or more hours of electrolysis.
- ☐ ☐ 44. I have talked with a physician about obtaining female hormones (whether you did obtain them or not).
- ☐ ☐ 45. I have taken female hormones regularly for three months or longer.
- ☐ ☐ 46. I have taken female hormones regularly for six months or longer.
- ☐ ☐ 47. I have taken female hormones regularly for one year or longer.
- ☐ ☐ 48. I have discussed with a physician possible (or actual) cosmetic surgery to improve my feminine appearance.
- ☐ ☐ 49. I have received a small amount (or more) of cosmetic surgery to improve my feminine appearance.

- ☐ ☐ 50. I have received extensive cosmetic surgery to improve my feminine appearance.
- ☐ ☐ 51. I usually use breast forms which cost over \$100 per pair.
- ☐ ☐ 52. I have received surgical breast implants.
- ☐ ☐ 53. I consider myself to be a pre-operative or a post-operative transsexual.
- ☐ ☐ 54. If I must put aside my feminine role for even a short time, it is very hard for me to do so.
- ☐ ☐ 55. Buying and using beautiful makeup will often make me feel sexually excited.
- ☐ ☐ 56. Putting on lipstick or perfume often makes me feel erotic and sexy.
- ☐ ☐ 57. I often prefer sexy hosiery and high heels to the more ordinary styles many women wear.
- ☐ ☐ 58. For me, wearing a garter belt and stockings is more sexy than pantyhose.
- ☐ ☐ 59. Often I wear more flashy jewelry and more of it than most women would choose.

- ☐ ☐ 60. I would rather be an occasional "cross dresser" than a "full-time" woman.
- ☐ ☐ 61. For many years I have felt considerable tension and conflict about my needs to be in the feminine role.
- ☐ ☐ 62. While in the feminine role, men I did not know have bought me refreshments or drinks.
- ☐ ☐ 63. While in the feminine role, I have been escorted to a restaurant by a man as his date.
- ☐ ☐ 64. While in the feminine role, I have been escorted to some kind of entertainment event by a man on a date.
- ☐ ☐ 65. While in the feminine role, I have danced with a man.
- ☐ ☐ 66. While in the feminine role, I have been passionately kissed on the lips by a man.
- ☐ ☐ 67. While in the feminine role, I have had a physical sexual encounter with a man that went beyond kissing.
- ☐ ☐ 68. I have developed a passable style of speaking as a woman.
- ☐ ☐ 69. Since I was a small child I have wished I could be a woman.

- ☐ ☐ 70. I have a definite plan to live full time as a woman (or I am now doing so).
- ☐ ☐ 71. I have a definite plan to obtain sexual reassignment surgery when I am able to do so (or I have done so).
- ☐ ☐ 72. As a man, I am exclusively attracted to women.
- ☐ ☐ 73. As a man, I am attracted to both women and men. (Not necessarily equal.)
- ☐ ☐ 74. As a man, I am exclusively attracted to men.
- ☐ ☐ 75. When in the feminine role, I am exclusively attracted to women.
- ☐ ☐ 76. When in the feminine role, I am attracted to both women and men. (Not necessarily equal.)
- ☐ ☐ 77. When in the feminine role, I am exclusively attracted to men.
- ☐ ☐ 78. Being in the feminine role is almost always a somewhat sexually arousing experience for me.
- ☐ ☐ 79. Wearing beautiful lingerie usually gives me some sexual excitement.
- ☐ ☐ 80. Some specific articles of clothing usually have an especially powerful effect on my sexual arousal.

T F

- ☐ ☐ 81. Some specific articles of clothing are essential for me to become highly sexually aroused; without these items I cannot become sexually aroused.
- ☐ ☐ 82. Wearing beautiful clothes and makeup often brings me greater sexual pleasure than other sexual activities.
- ☐ ☐ 83. I often become sexually excited just thinking about being a woman.
- ☐ ☐ 84. I sometimes become sexually excited when I shop for women's clothing, shoes, or makeup.
- ☐ ☐ 85. Often I become sexually excited when I read about men who become women.
- ☐ ☐ 86. I occasionally wear one or more items of feminine apparel under my male clothes.
- ☐ ☐ 87. I almost always wear one or more items of feminine apparel under my male clothes.
- ☐ ☐ 88. I daydream or think about being a woman at least once a day.
- ☐ ☐ 89. I daydream or think about being a woman at least 10 times each day.
- ☐ ☐ 90. I sometimes have a fantasy in which I am a woman and I am having sex with a man.
- ☐ ☐ 91. On one (or more) occasions, while in the feminine role, I have had a sexual encounter with a man.
- ☐ ☐ 92. On at least 25 (or more) occasions, while in the feminine role I have had a sexual encounter with a man.
- ☐ ☐ 93. I sometimes have a fantasy in which I am a woman and I become sexually excited while having sex with a woman.
- ☐ ☐ 94. On one (or more) occasions, while wearing women's clothing, I have had a sexual encounter with a woman.
- ☐ ☐ 95. On about 25 (or more) occasions, while wearing women's clothing, I have had a sexual encounter with a woman.
- ☐ ☐ 96. Occasionally, while in the feminine role, I have taken foolish chances which I later regretted.
97. (PLEASE SKIP THIS UNLESS YOU PARTIALLY CROSS DRESS FREQUENTLY.) I masturbate during at least (check one) ☐ zero % ☐ 10% ☐ 25% ☐ 50% ☐ 75% ☐ 90% of the sessions when I'm PARTIALLY cross dressed.
98. (PLEASE SKIP THIS UNLESS YOU FREQUENTLY DRESS COMPLETELY LIKE A WOMAN.) I masturbate during at least (check one) ☐ zero% ☐ 10% ☐ 25% ☐ 50% ☐ 75 % ☐ 90% of the sessions when I am completely in the feminine role.
- ☐ ☐ 99. Being in the feminine role is somewhat pleasurable but nothing special.
- ☐ ☐ 100. Being in the feminine role is at least equally pleasurable compared to most other activities.
- ☐ ☐ 101. Being in the feminine role is much more pleasurable compared to most other activities.
- ☐ ☐ 102. Being in the feminine role is a super-pleasure for me.
- ☐ ☐ 103. Being in the feminine role reduces my alertness level.
- ☐ ☐ 104. Being in the feminine role has very little or no effect upon my alertness level.
- ☐ ☐ 105. Being in the feminine role makes me much more alert or awake.
- ☐ ☐ 106. Being in the feminine role often produces strong feelings of exhilaration.
- ☐ ☐ 107. I especially enjoy seeing pictures of myself when I'm in the feminine role.
- ☐ ☐ 108. Being in the feminine role sometimes helps me to concentrate better.
- ☐ ☐ 109. Being in the feminine role makes it easier for me to express my emotional feelings.
- ☐ ☐ 110. As a child I avoided "rough and tumble" boys' play.
- ☐ ☐ 111. About once a week (or more) I feel I positively must get into the feminine role.
- ☐ ☐ 112. In my early school years, I preferred to play with girls.
- ☐ ☐ 113. After several hours (or days) in the feminine role I'm usually ready to change back into men's clothes.
- ☐ ☐ 114. Being in the feminine role has had slightly harmful consequences for me or others in my life.
- ☐ ☐ 115. Being in the feminine role has had serious harmful consequences for me or others in my life.
- ☐ ☐ 116. Being in the feminine role has had extremely harmful consequences for me or others in my life.

My feminine needs or feminine behavior have been associated with these harms in my life:
(Please mark with a check any that apply.)

Minor harm Serious harm

- ☐ ☐ 117. Harm concerned with my job (security clearance, firing, promotion, etc.).
☐ ☐ 118. Harm in the form of loss of financial security or income.
☐ ☐ 119. Harm caused mainly by spending too much money on my feminine activities.
☐ ☐ 120. Harm caused mainly by spending too much time on my feminine activities.
☐ ☐ 121. Harm involving my relationship with my wife (or significant other).
☐ ☐ 122. Harm involving my relationship with my children.
☐ ☐ 123. Harm involving my relationships with other family members (parents, relatives).
☐ ☐ 124. Harm involving my relationships with close and long term-friends.
☐ ☐ 125. Harm coming from being arrested or detained by police.
☐ ☐ 126. Harm in the form of serious embarrassment to me or my family.
☐ ☐ 127. Harm in the form of scorn or rejection by persons I did not know (or barely knew).
☐ ☐ 128. Harm caused by other cross dressers.
☐ ☐ 129. Harm caused by counselors or counseling
☐ ☐ 130. Harm in the form of some kind of health difficulty associated with cross dressing. (Please give a short explanation.) _____

131. Please describe any other harm: _____

Please answer this IF you are married and living with your spouse or significant other:

My wife (or significant other):
(Please mark with a check any that apply)

Rarely Often

- ☐ ☐ 132. Cooperates in making cross dressing possible at home or elsewhere.
☐ ☐ 133. Attends cross dressing club meetings or other events.
☐ ☐ 134. Participates in discussions with another wife or with a wives group.
☐ ☐ 135. Purchases make up, jewelry or clothing for me.
☐ ☐ 136. Takes a leadership role in cross dressing activities (clubs, groups, publications).
☐ ☐ 137. Reads books and articles about cross dressing; wants to learn about this.
☐ ☐ 138. Participates in research about cross dressing.
☐ ☐ 139. Engages in sexual activity while husband is partially cross dressed.
☐ ☐ 140. Engages in sexual activity while husband is fully cross dressed.
☐ ☐ 141. Goes out to a restaurant with husband cross dressed.
☐ ☐ 142. Goes shopping with husband cross dressed.
☐ ☐ 143. Travels in a car with husband cross dressed.
☐ ☐ 144. Invites one or more cross dressers into our home, provided they are not cross dressed.
☐ ☐ 145. Invites one or more cross dressers into our home when they are cross dressed (or at other times).
☐ ☐ 146. Attends regional or national conventions of cross dressers.

+++++

Thank you. That is the end of this Inventory. I hope you will be willing to have me send you additional research materials.

If you are married or have a significant other living with you, would she be willing to participate in this research by filling out a questionnaire? ☐ Yes, send the materials. ☐ Not at this time.

If you know of others who may be interested in participating in this research, please either let me have the addresses or ask them to write to me and I will send the materials.

Can you distribute these research forms to interested friends in person or in the mail? IF YES, HOW MANY SHALL I MAIL TO YOU? _____ *Thank you very much for your cooperation!* v 5.0 11/90

The **FORUM** For Ideas

Chapter's lingerie party threatens Renaissance mission

To the Editor:

Renaissance Education Association: what's in a name?

It has always been my belief that Renaissance Education Association meant *educating* the public, but more importantly educating crossdressers, transsexuals and their partners, (wives, girlfriends, significant others) that this alternative life style is acceptable and maybe even OK.

Why then, oh why is the Greater Philadelphia Chapter substituting a "fun" event (disgusting is the term I would use) for this very important role that Renaissance has always emphasized?

Lingerie parties, with crossdressers encouraged to wear their finest lingerie, belong scheduled as an extra event, not on a regular meeting night. How would you feel if you were exploring crossdressing for the first time "out of the closet" and you walked into a room full of men in nightgowns, teddies, corsets, and God only knows what else? Would you accept what you're doing as "OK?" Haven't we (the wives and girlfriends) dealt with enough crises

when a partner has been introduced to a Renaissance meeting where *no one* was inappropriately dressed? Have arrangements been made to deal with the distinct possibility that partners or even first timers may become unglued in a room full of men in lingerie?

Why is the national board allowing a local chapter to deviate so widely from what, for the last four years, has been the goals of the Renaissance Education Association? Why is the national board allowing a local chapter leadership to substitute "a little fun" for what should be a mission?

Meeting nights should be maintained for educational purposes; fun events should be scheduled on alternative nights.

I'm in no way a prude. I have attended many Renaissance meetings and functions, and I have traveled all over the country with my husband, attending crossdressing events. If this is the new trend for local Renaissance chapter events, I will no longer be able to support my husband at Renaissance functions. What a waste! Throwing away sup-

port and education for the sake of a "little fun."

—Evelyn [redacted]
Newtown, Pa.

☞ *On behalf of the National Board, JoAnn Roberts, the founding managing director, responds to the questions on the National Board's responsibility:*

"The chapters are responsible for their own programs. They have a relative high degree of autonomy in that respect. It is not the national's function to police chapter events and activities unless a specific problem surfaces that seriously threatens the organization. Evelyn's points are well-taken, but should have been addressed directly to the chapter leadership. If the chapter did not respond in a forthright manner, then the national would step in to assure a fair hearing."

This letter arrived just before deadline, so there was no opportunity to solicit a response from the leadership of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter. That response, we trust, will appear in the September issue of RN.

—PAW

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The *For Ideas*
FORUM

A modest proposal to gain public acceptance of crossdressing

☞ The following article is reprinted with permission from the newsletter of Australia's Flamingo Association.

by Sally Anne

Should transvestites stampede out of the closet? Certainly not! If every man who has ever secretly sneaked into his wife's/sister's/mother's knickers emerged from the closet, the closet industry would collapse and thousands of workers would be made redundant.

We must remain in the closet at all costs, if only to protect the world from mini-skirted, pony-tailed, rouged, and dangerous middle-aged teenyboppers!

This is not the time to tamper with hard-won prejudices and blind societal hatred. If society didn't have us to despise, it would batter its babies harder than it already does. Besides, "respectable" people need someone to look down on, otherwise they might be forced to examine their own questionable morals.

But if dedicated decloseters insist on pursuing this tantalizing dream, I would like to suggest that they are going about it in the wrong way.

First, we need to tackle the question asked by so many: "What is a true transvestite?"

There are those we suggest that a "true" transvestite isn't a man who crossdresses to attract other males, and it certainly isn't a full-on, bum-wiggling homosexual.

I can't help thinking that asking "What is a true transvestite?" is a bit like asking "What is a true day?"

A transvestite is a person who, for a multitude of personal reasons, enjoys dressing in feminine garments. He may do it because of a hormonal imbalance, or he may do it because he once attended a party as Bette Midler and he developed a pleasant lump in his Hickorys. He may do it because his sister got more love and attention than he did, or he may do it because he internalized his desire for a sensuous woman. He may do it because of overwhelming female influence throughout his formative years, or he may do it out of an exaggerated admiration for all things feminine. He may simply be a fetishist who enjoys gazing at items of feminine apparel. He may do it because it turns his girlfriend on — or his parrot. He may do it because it

enhances his masturbation, or he may do it because he likes being admired and seduced by other men.

He may do it because of a little bit of this plus a little bit of that, garnished with a sprinkle of something else.

But all of the above crossdressers, plus hundreds more, are, in my opinion, "true" transvestites.

One thing we all have in common — or most of us, I suspect — is that our progression from panties to petticoats, to dresses, to high heeled shoes, to wigs, makeup, and jewelry was gradual. Therefore, to hit the public between the eyes with hordes of fully dressed male *sheilas* demanding acceptance is a bit much, I think.

I believe the public, particularly the male of the species, should be introduced gradually and progressively to transvestism, taking the same route each of us did.

Furthermore, I think we should turn them on sexually to transvestism. The respectably married, 100 percent heterosexual transvestite will probably disapprove of what follows, but others amongst you may agree with what I'm about to say.

(continued on page 20)

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The **For Ideas**
FORUM

A visit to Fantasyland need not be a 'guilt trip'

by Paula Jordan Sinclair

So you've adjusted to your desire to wear women's clothes. Perhaps you told yourself "it's natural — people have been doing it throughout recorded human history and in all cultures." Or, maybe you justified it as a "hobby." Maybe you called it an expression of a masculine-feminine duality in your personality. But by whatever means, you have come to terms with the clothes.

But what about the eroticism you still feel when you get dressed up, that warm glow in your loins? Is there still a little bit of guilt in that department? No? Well then, what about those *really wild* fantasies that creep into your mind. No sane person thinks about doing *those* things, right? Not according to a recent article in the science section of the *The New York Times*.

Sex fantasies are normal

"Therapists who once viewed perverse sexual fantasies as the furtive compulsions of a lonely minority are seeing them in a new light, as more and more 'normal' people report them in therapy and new studies suggest that even vio-

lent fantasies are surprisingly common," the article states.

Dr. David Barlow, director of the Sexuality Research Program at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany says, "Most people have a number of sex fantasies, some of which are so bizarre that they would prefer not to admit to them."

What about perversions?

These aberrant fantasies, other experts note, often include crossdressing or bondage. Furthermore, a study of college-age men found that 12 percent have sexual fantasies involving children. Another study found that 30 percent of men are aroused by watching portrayals of physical violence against women.

Most therapists see nothing wrong in fantasies per se, and the standard response is that fantasies are not a problem unless they harm someone. In fact, some influential psychoanalysts believe that fantasies can serve important purposes, such as filling empty relationships, relieving depression, and increasing self-esteem.

But some of these fantasies are actually *perverted*, right? Not necessarily, experts say. The issue of sexual perversion arises when a person is compelled to bring to mind a specific aberrant sexual fantasy in order to become sexually aroused or have an orgasm.

If sexual fantasies "become essential for sexual arousal, (they) can become a substitute for life, diminishing your capacity to empathize with your partner," said Dr. Gerald Fogel, a psychoanalyst at Columbia University.

Yet other therapists have a more benign view of perverse fantasies, seeing them as of concern only when they cause a person distress, or when they leave the realm of fantasy and enter reality, such as actual child abuse or wife beating.

Perverse fantasies can be healthy too

Even perverse fantasies can have a healthy purpose, says Dr. Louise Kaplan, a psychologist at the Margaret Mahler Research Foundation in New York.

"In perversion, affirmations of self-esteem and security blend with sexuality," she said. "The erotic (continued on page 21)"

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The **FORUM** For Ideas

She is a fan of old news

To the Editor:

My comments concern the piece in the June issue of *RN*, titled "Drag in Old Philadelphia."

The first thing that struck me is that Roberta, the authoress, was between 7 and 10 years old in the late '20s. I, too, was between 7 and 10 years in the late '20s! I didn't know there were other senior "seniors" in our community!

The second thing that struck me was the mention of female impersonators in the old vaudeville shows. I remember them! And they used to give me a kick, too. But I didn't have the slightest idea why at that time. My father call them "arr-teests," with no malice I was aware of.

The third thing (should have been the first) is Roberta's name, a name I hold in great reverence in relation

to the motion picture of the same name. It starred Irene Dunne, Randolph Scott, and in secondary roles, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. That picture, for me, is the quintessential crossdresser's dream: the most gorgeous gowns I have ever seen. It was released in 1935 when I was 15, and I knew at *that* time exactly why I liked that movie. I've seen it many times since.

The fourth, and last thing about the story is the abrupt way in which it ended. I felt that there certainly must be more to it.

—Stella [redacted]
Silver Spring, Md.

⇒ Roberta is one of our pen pals. The article that Stella enjoyed came from one of her personal letters. Unfortunately, that piece was the extent of Roberta's recollection. Per-

haps this will further encourage her — or other "senior 'seniors'" — to write their memories regarding crossdressing.

—PJS

Newsletter is well done

To the Editor:

As usual, I enjoyed reading the latest issue of *RN* as I do every month. It certainly is not a "My Trip to New York" type of newsletter. Thank God.

Keep up the good work.

—Joan Hoff
Andover, Mass.

⇒ This note from Joan arrived before she received the July issue containing the latest volley from Phaedra. But we assume she liked that issue as well.

—PJS



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☞ With this issue, we are pleased to welcome Gloria Lee [redacted] as poetry editor.

Miss [redacted] a member of the First Families of Virginia, received her bachelor's degree from Duke and her master's and Ph.D. in English literature from Harvard. Her interests include Victorian literature, French opera, and contemporary cinema. An ardent fan of Virgil, she annually re-reads *The Aeneid* in the original Latin. "I am affronted by bad poetry," she said, "but I am never taken aback by it."

—PAW

That Girl

by Kara [redacted]

I saw that girl again today
you know of whom I'm talking.
You can tell her right away
sometimes by the way she's
walking.

She may not have the classic look
of a big name movie star.
Her legs may not be perfect shape
but you recognize her from afar.

It's not lust that fills you
as you watch her walk nearby;
it's jealousy and envy so deep
it make you want to cry.

Yes, that girl, you know her
as your insides come apart,
'cause she's the one you want to be
so deeply in your heart.

The Truth About Shaving

by Kara [redacted]

The first time that I shaved my legs
it seemed like quite a kick.
My spouse shaves only weekly,
that seemed an easy trick.

Then I found the awful truth;
mine grows three times as fast.
I've got more nooks and crannies;
two days was all it would last.

My skin proved much more tender,
more bumps and lumps were
raised.
I ended up with more cuts and
blood.
My God, I must be crazed!

I looked into the mirror
how carefully I had tried.
But all that I ever saw
looked like attempted suicide.

Is it all really worth it,
this battle I cannot win,
to attain that one brief moment
of enjoying such smooth skin?

I guess it must be worth it,
as I stare at the ugly stubble,
I still enjoy my smooth body.
Yes, it's worth the trouble!

Butterflies and Tears

by Laura [redacted]

When I see butterflies
in sunlight so brief,
I see fragile beauty
that interrupts our grief.

When I see people cry
dry tears of discontent,
I see silent strength
for our predicament.

In butterflies and tears
I see the hope of man,
whose beauty and whose strength
suggest a nobler plan.

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A modest proposal to gain public

(continued from page 16)

If we really want to emerge from the closet, we should make the idea of transvestism universally desirable to men. Next, women must be encouraged to see the sexciting possibilities of transvestism rather than the shock/horror side of it.

One way to achieve this would be to design underwear specifically for men which is so close to femme gear it'd be hard to tell the difference. There is already a trend toward this: bikini briefs and silk boxer shorts. But these don't go far enough. We need shinier material and lacy trims, plus a range of pretty colors. Then the product has to be properly marketed.

I can visualize bold colored advertising in top fashion magazines: photos of big, macho men wearing the most revealing feminine knickers which would accentuate their masculinity to such a degree that

the average wife or girlfriend would sacrifice the bingo money to buy her man a pair!

You see, I believe that most men are just a split-hair's breadth away from being sexual aroused at the prospect of themselves in feminine undies, and that accounts to some degree for their violent reaction against transvestism; "queer" bashing is a way of defending their egos against the awful suspicion that they themselves might be "weird."

What I'm suggesting is that we take the weirdness out of fem-dressing and turn the world on to it, gradually, a little bit at a time. Arouse men sexually, and their partners too. Once they've gotten used to wearing sexy little panties, the idea should be sold to them that their penises need framing in a delicate lacy suspender belt and a pair of sheer black stockings. And then, "Darling, you may as well

complete the picture with this divine little lacy bra..."

This isn't as impossible as you may think. Almost everything everybody wears is due not to necessity but to cultural conditioning. In Australia's summer climate the most sensible garment for both men and woman would be a loose-fitting sarong. But custom dictates that men in particular wear highly inappropriate clothing, especially in the business sector. A bra is no more frivolous a garment for a man to wear than is a tie. Both are unnecessary, but one is culturally acceptable, while the other is not. Little girls wear two-piece bathing costumes ten years before the first stirring of puberty; totally ridiculous but culturally unremarkable.

Correct marketing is the key. With correct marketing anyone could be made to wear anything. If

(continued on the next page)

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acceptance of crossdressing

men were encouraged to feel that frilly knickers enhanced their sexuality rather than detracted from it, you couldn't get near the lingerie counter for all the rugby players and skinheads!

Yes, I can definitely see those sexy lingerie ads in *GQ* magazine — Tom Selleck in a black lacy bra, frilly black panties, and a matching suspender belt — “What the modern man is wearing.” I just know that women would go overboard for the idea, providing it was sold to them properly.

That, in my opinion, is the way to go if we are serious about dismissing the closet.

I regret to say that 20 of us turning up *en masse* at a restaurant, dressed respectably and behaving impeccably will continue to have the affect of arousing mirth, pity, or hatred. Nothing more.

Transvestism needs to be marketed in the same way that religion is. You don't leap out in front of an agnostic and say, “Hey man, come and worship this god-guy whose mother was a virgin, and who

brought dead bodies back to life, and after the pigs had murdered him he rolled the stone out the way and walked around Jerusalem with holes in his hands and feet, and then after a final nosh-up with his mates he gets sucked up to heaven!” — do you now?

You lead them gradually into it, a little bit at a time, and that's how we should market transvestism.

I say convert the world with enormous masculine bulges bursting out of minuscule feminine panties.

A visit to Fantasyland

(continued from page 17)

pleasures in a perverse fantasy is secondary to the emotional reassurance it offers.” In other words, a particular fantasy may turn a childhood trauma into a triumph by adding the dimension of sexual pleasure.

There is a danger here, however. Repeatedly playing out a fantasy makes the sexual partner “a non-person, someone with no feelings. In perversion, the other person is

just a player in your own fantasy,” said Dr. Arnold Cooper, a Cornell University psychiatrist.

Okay, so some level of perverse fantasy is okay, for men that is. But you shouldn't have these kind of thoughts when you are feeling like a woman, right? Wrong again. SUNY professors Dr. Jennifer Jones and Dr. Barlow report that women have about as many fantasies as men; both groups reported two to three fantasies a day.

One common perversion among women, Dr. Kaplan notes, is what she calls “female impersonation” in which women adopt an exaggerated stereotype of sexiness. She says that these women were often sexually abused as children or exposed to inappropriate sexual stimulation. As a result, they feel deep uncertainty about their identity as women. By playing the *femme fatale*, these women find reassurance about their womanliness “and a sense of vengeance” on childhood abusers, she said.

Other common female fantasies are outlined in Kaplan's book *Female Perversions* (Doubleday).

“Fantasies are normal and healthy for everyone,” including transvestites, said Dr. Kenneth D. George, a Philadelphia therapist whose clients include transgendered persons.

“The key is what the fantasy does for the person. It is a turn-on, no big deal. But if it causes problems, or guilt, or hangups, then you have to look at why you are using a fantasy that is not pleasurable,” he said.

“Why create something that is not pleasant for you?” he asked.



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TRENTON, N.J. - Mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa...

Yes, friends, this is one of the few times I was wrong. The May newsletter reported the demise of **Tri-Ess** chapter **Sigma Nu Rho** (ΣNP) in an article about the new Renaissance affiliate **MOTG**.

Well, **Donna Marie** [REDACTED], president of ΣNP set the record straight on that account. The chapter is alive, she says, and still meeting on the second Saturday of each month. Anyone interested should contact ΣNP at P.O. Box 9255, Trenton, NJ 08650

▼▲▼

SPRINGFIELD, MASS. - Birds of a feather flock together...

The June issue of *Twenty Minutes* (**The Twenty Club**) carries a letter that criticizes Editors **Becky** and **Sonia** for some of the vitriol that has been published of late. **Norma L.** writes she felt obliged to speak out that, "... it is not mandatory to be hostile, bitter or a misfit in order to make it through transition."

Well, **Becky** and **Sonia** couldn't take that lying down. **Sonia** replied she felt "personally attacked," and **Becky** countered with, "To you and **Sister Mary Elizabeth** and **JoAnn Roberts** who have attacked me for publishing **Veronica's** [Brown] articles, I do so because I... agree with most everything she writes."

Gee, I'm in great company but I don't recall personally attacking anyone. Stupid ideas, dumb policies, yes; people, no.

C'mon kids. If you want to play in the big sandbox then you have to be able to stand it when some sand gets kicked in your face.

▼▲▼

SAN ANTONIO, TEX. - A changing of the guard...

Last issue I called for the board of **Boulton & Park** to put the **Texas "T" Party** back in the hands of those who created the event. That is highly unlikely now with the an-

nounced resignation of **Mary Frances (Muffy) Williams** one of B&P's founders. Also tendering her resignation was **Cheryl Clark**, the current president.

So, who's at the helm now? **Linda Phillips** was unanimously appointed by the remaining board to fill Clark's vacancy and **Tere Frederickson** was appointed to the vice-presidency.

The new directors of B&P also supported the *Bill of Gender Rights* and passed a resolution to support an initiative to remove transgendered behavior from the *Diagnostic and Statistics Manual-III-R (DSM)*.

Frederickson and **Phillips** will attempt to explain transgendered behavior with their own theory, and use it to refute the DSM. The first part of their treatise was published in the July *Gender Euphoria*. They've already made several factual errors, but I'll wait for the really good stuff.

The next "T" Party is set for Feb. 28-Mar. 1, 1992.

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DECATUR, GA. - Maybe it is better to do it the other way 'round...

Most people form a support group first, then publish a newsletter. Not **Dallas Denny**, of the **Atlanta Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS)**.

Denny made a splash in March with *Chrysalis Quarterly*, a very nice looking, well written journal with a transsexual theme. Now **Denny** announces the formation of a support group for all transgendered persons. Cost is minimal (\$3 donation at the door, soft drinks \$.50) and the purpose is peer support. They meet at the office of a counseling professional.

Interested persons should contact **AEGIS**, P.O. Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033 or call (404) 939-0244.

▼▲▼

INDIANAPOLIS - It could happen, couldn't it?...

The federal Securities and Exchange Commission announced today that it was initiating an anti-trust investigation against the **Indiana Crossdresser's Society (IXE)**. A spokesperson for the SEC, **Shirley Ugest**, said the investigation would focus on the activities of **IXE Worldwide**, a subsidiary of **IXE** that is currently involved in a leveraged buy-out of **IFGE**. **Ugest** commented, "Isn't that special?"

The buy-out was announced in the July issue of the **IXE** newsletter where it was also revealed that **IXE** secretly owns the publication *Cross-Talk*, which should be real news to publisher **Kym Richards**.

Other fast-breaking news from that issue includes the excommunication of **Elaine** [REDACTED] from the gender community. [REDACTED], who has been making up news stories to break up dull days, had her First Amendment rights rescinded by a court order instigated by **IFGE**.

Meanwhile, the **Society for the Prevention of Stupid News Stories (SPSNS)**, headed by **JoAnn Roberts** and **Kym Richards**, has launched an investigation of their own into how one of [REDACTED]'s phony stories made it into the most recent edition of *Rosebuds*, the newsletter of the **Tiffany Club of New England**. Apparently **Liz J.**, the **TCNE** editor, was unaware the **Arkansas Sex Change Law** story is phony. Rumor has it that a large hole appeared in downtown Boston and **Arlene** is looking into it.

Great issue kids! Loved it.

▼▲▼

PORTLAND, ORE - Inquiring minds want to know...

"Are we deviant, deficient, or maladjusted?" That is the question posed by **Grace** [REDACTED] in the July **Northwest Gender Alliance** newsletter. "Most doctors and psychologists treat transvestism as a problem or a psychological defect," she continues, "They attempt to cure us and bring us back to the accepted

THE **ICONOCLAST**™

JoAnn Roberts

and social norm."

I don't know who [REDACTED] has been seeing, but the therapists I know, along with the American Psychological Association, do not automatically consider transvestism a mental disorder or defect.

Allow me to quote from the introduction to the *DSM-III-R*, page xxii,

"Neither deviant behavior, nor conflicts that are primarily between the individual and society are *mental disorders*, unless the deviance or conflict is a symptom of a dysfunction in the person." Q.E.D.

▼ ▲ ▼

EVERYWHERE, U.S.A. - May I have the envelope, please...

The scorecard on the *Bill of Gender Rights* is as follows:

Endorsed - Renaissance national and its three chapters; **Tri-Ess** national and **Tau-Chi** chapter; **Gulf Coast Transgender Community**; and the **Boulton & Park Society**.

Rejected - **IFGE** (Too political) and **Indiana Crossdresser's Society** (Not needed.)

Undecided - everybody else.

▼ ▲ ▼

SYRACUSE, N.Y. - Mark this date on your calendar...

I had a great conversation recently with **Molly Kennedy**, a member of the board of **Expressing Our Nature** (EON) about the upcoming **Autumn Accord**.

The Accord is one of the many regional events sponsored by a group or coalition of groups. In this case, it is the **New York State Gender Coalition** consisting of EON, **CD•Network** (Rochester), and **TGIC** (Albany). Keynote speakers under consideration include **Virginia Prince** and **Dr. Vern Bullough**. There will also be a panel discussion at the Saturday luncheon on activism and yours truly, along with **Paula Jordan Sinclair**, have been asked to participate.

The date of the Accord is Oct. 4-6. For more information write to EON,

523 W. Onandaga St., Syracuse, NY 13204.

▼ ▲ ▼

CHICAGO - The torch is passed... My congratulations to **Gloria Wright** on her election as president of the **Chicago Gender Society** (CGS).

Wright is a fire-ball, go getter who can't sit on her laurels. She's been a publisher (*Crossdresser's Bureau*) and has held offices in both CGS and **Chi Chapter Tri-Ess**.

Wright replaces **Karen Baumgardner** who, I hope, will now have time to write *Ask Patty* again.

▼ ▲ ▼

SOMEWHERE, U.S.A. - The names have been changed to protect the guilty...

I was speaking with an officer of an "open" support group recently. The topic was how to get more people to come out to their meeting. This person had just been to a Renaissance chapter meeting where about fifty percent of the membership attended the June meeting.

We discussed her group, its officers and policies. The group leader is married but his wife doesn't know about his crossdressing. The second-in-charge is in the same situation. The membership/outreach person is homophobic. You may not attend a meeting nor will you receive a newsletter until you have joined the group. In spite of this, they have about 150 paying members, but they're lucky to get 20 at a meeting. "Why?" my friend mused.

It seemed pretty obvious to me. The whole tone of the organization is built on the fear and shame of being discovered. It is beyond me how a group can function with leaders that are so fearful about who they really are. How do you call a board meeting? How can you do any public relations? How do you get your name in the newspaper or on radio and television if you are so scared that someone will find out

you're a crossdresser?

Worse than that, it seems that my friend is willing to take the risks, but the other officers won't even let her do that!

I'm not suggesting that these officers make a public declaration of their crossdressing, but I would strongly recommend that they examine their motives for accepting the positions they did. It's pretty obvious by the lack of attendance that the meetings are not serving the needs of the membership. Perhaps, the meetings only serve the needs of the officers. If that's the case, they ought to resign and let someone run the group who can do the job the way it needs to be done.

▼ ▲ ▼

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CALIF. - They say politics makes strange bedfellows but this could be dicey...

Long-time political activist, **Sister Mary Elizabeth, SSE**, has formed the **Interfaith Coalition for Human Rights** (ICHR). The ICHR Statement of Purpose says, "The specific purposes for which this corporation is organized are to:

"Break down all the barriers which stand in the way of love and unity and unite on terms of equality and fellowship those of different age; color; class; ... gender or gender identity; ... sex, sexual status, sexual orientation or preference.

"Fight against all the ignorance, pride and prejudice that breeds injustice or partiality on account of distinctions of age; color; class; ... gender or gender identity; ... sex, sexual status, sexual orientation or preference."

Interested in finding out more about the ICHR? Write to Sister Mary Elizabeth, SSE, c/o ICHR, P.O. Box 184, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693-0184, or call (714) 496-J2CP.

▼ ▲ ▼

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

Back home again

Clothes make the transvestite at 25th high school reunion

(continued from page 5)

stepped to the podium, I was too busy concentrating on walking like a lady to notice.

The tension in the room was thick until I tucked the \$25 prize in my bra. After the laugh, I thanked my classmates for the award and for the kindness and understanding they had shown to me that evening. (So I lied a little bit.) I closed by saying that I was dressed that way for a personal reason which I would be happy to share with them later. Returning to my seat, I was certain there was applause.

That award had broken the dam. No sooner had the program ended than classmates came up to me to ask questions or just to visit. "What's the story?" "Do you live like this all the time?" "Where did you get that

dress?" "Is that cleavage real?" But more importantly, several classmates really understood when I told them of my childhood secret and why I had been aloof in school.

I even got to make peace with one guy whose third and fourth grade Halloween costumes had haunted me all of my life. He had dressed up as a girl and (damn him!) *hadn't been guilty about it*. Of course, he had forgotten the homemade bridal gown and ballerina tutu. But when I told him how much they had bothered me all these years, he actually apologized for the pain he had inadvertently caused.

Several classmates, including former jocks, expressed admiration for my courage. I was even recognized from my television appearances. But perhaps the highlight

was the many invitations I received to attend the 30th reunion and, meanwhile, to visit classmates if I was even in their neighborhood. The invitations were tendered without specifying how I should dress. It seemed they sincerely wanted to get to know me better, and that they didn't care if I was dressed as Paul or Paula.

So why the sudden change of heart among my classmates? One woman summed it up when she said that she actually didn't know what to say to me earlier in the evening. "It's like when someone dies," she explained. "You know you have to say *something*, but you don't know *what*. After you made your speech, we knew that you are really the same person we knew 25 years ago."



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