

Renaissance News



Volume 7, No. 3

Vision - Integrity - Quality

March, 1993

NEW GENDER COALITION FORMS

by Terry M., co-director MOTG

The historic inaugural meeting of the **Garden State Gender Coalition** took place on January 30, 1993. Support groups from three states, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, were represented. Thus, in actuality, this was a tri-state regional conclave. The Coalition was hosted by **Renaissance** affiliate **M.O.T.G.** at their meeting place in Monmouth County, NJ (just a stone's throw from the recently battered Jersey beaches). A total of seven gender support groups were represented by the following participants:

Chi Delta Mu - Tri Ess, Samantha R. Elena [redacted]

Sigma Nu Rho - Tri Ess, Donna Marie

Renaissance, Greater Philadelphia Chapter, Maryann Kirkland and Michelle [redacted]

Gender Identity Anonymous, Kate M. and Jennifer

Renaissance, South Jersey Chapter, Terry M.

Monmouth Ocean Trans Gender, Elaine M., Roz L. and Terry M.

In addition to the above representatives, the meeting was also enriched by the presence and contribution of long-time activist Jane Peabody. Ms. Peabody was very active in the old **Phi Chapter**, which, as some may know, was one of the predecessors of **Renaissance**.

The overall theme of the meeting was one of celebration: of each other, and of our growing gender community. In the past, there have been rivalries and frictions between the groups and the segments of the community that they represent. These differences, however, were set aside for a few hours as a spirit of cooperation and communication permeated the meeting.

Many issues were discussed. Each representative presented an outline of the focus, structure, activities, and future plans of her particular group. Some of the highlights were:

* **Sigma Nu Rho's** Donna Marie discussed her plans to do greater outreach via the media. She also announced that **Tri Ess** has pulled its annual "Holiday en Femme" event out of Denver, Colorado this year in support of the boycott being waged for gay and lesbian civil rights.

* **Gender Identity Anonymous**, a twelve step emotional support group, has changed its format and meeting place. This group, formerly **Survivors of Transsexuality Anonymous**, is now independent of **S.T.A. of NY**.

* Maryann Kirkland and Michelle [redacted] outlined many of the exciting social activities planned by the **Greater Philadelphia Chapter of Renaissance** for the upcoming **I.F.G.E. Convention** in Philadelphia. They also provided numerous suggestions for the Coalition, e.g., using "Renaissance News" and the **I.F.G.E.** national office as Coalition resources.

* **M.O.T.G.'s** Elaine M., Roz L. and Terry M. discussed some of their recent programs. Most notable were the successful shopping spree at the **Bra and Girdle Factory** and the excellent presentation by **NJ American Civil Liberties Union Director Ed Martone**. As a result, **M.O.T.G.** as a group has joined the **A.C.L.U.**

One of the suggestions brought forth was that groups make an effort to visit one another's meetings. This was greeted with universal agreement. It is of special importance to note, therefore, that even the "closed" groups would welcome visits from all types of sisters.

Some of the other major points of agreement discussed:

- to enhance inter-group networking and referral of new member contacts by exchanging updated and accurate group information with one another

- to enhance outreach both to the greater gender community and the general public

- to provide information about our community to professional psychological and counselling services

- to begin a state-wide drive to contribute books and other pertinent material about transgender issues to county libraries

Finally it was agreed that our most important effort is to reach out to our sisters who still suffer alone in the closet.

Several other proposals were also set forth. Some of these ideas are already in action within the individual groups and will be on future Coalition agendas. They include:

- establishment of a regional speakers bureau

- alliances with the gay and lesbian community and participation in mutually beneficial projects with them.

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Chapters & Affiliates

New Jersey

South Jersey: Meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Atlantic Mental Health Center, Inc. 2002 Black Horse Pike, McKee, N.J. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Call (609) 641-3782 or write Renaissance SJ, PO Box 189, Mays Landing, NJ 08330. Chapter leader - Terri [REDACTED]; Assistant Leader - Phil [REDACTED]

Pennsylvania

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

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

Affiliates

MOTG: PO Box 8243, Red Bank, NJ 07701

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

Renaissance News

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

And, don't forget about...

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

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

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

Pen Pal Program: If you would like to be a pen pal contact Maryann Kirkland at P. O. Box 530, Bensalem, PA 19020. Attn: Dept. PP.

Events Calendar

March

20th - NO Meeting

14th to 21st - CONVENTION

April

3rd - Annual LSV Dinner Social in Victorian Ballroom at Bube's Brewery in Mt. Joy

17th - GPC Marsha Hershman, "Gender Differences in Voice and Speech"

May

15th - GPC Dr. William Stayton, "Sexual Lifestyles"

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

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ROGER'S NOTEBOOK (#77)

by Roger E. Peo, Ph. D.

Recently I have had the opportunity to appear on television shows as "the expert du jour" as my wife describes my role. My rationale for taking time out of my busy schedule for these shows is simply that I hope to be able to provide some professional objectivity and balance to what can otherwise be a circus for ratings. There is no pay for such appearances and I do not get clients as a result of my appearance.

The producers who actually assemble these shows do a tremendous job in finding and persuading people in a particular situation to appear on the show. Sometimes they have to resort to disguises or hiding people's identities through a variety of camera techniques. In the end of their job is to get enough people on the show to make it good entertainment.

When you appear on such a show you usually sign away your legal rights. This is called a "release" and it basically says you can't sue the show or the network if your appearance causes problems for you. Also, you need to realize that you may not know the other people who will be on the same show with you. Lastly, it is crucial to remember that no one associated with the show is formally

trained in assessing or dealing with the psychological situations brought up by an appearance on the show. Basically, the purpose of the show is "entertainment" by showing (exposing) intimate aspects of otherwise normal people's lives.

With this rather long preamble, let me describe a recent experience. This show was exploring the impact of transsexualism on people's lives. One aspect of such an impact was represented by a family in which the father was post-op male to female transsexual. Prior to the show, I had an opportunity to talk with the ex-wife. It was obvious to me that she was quite upset by the prospect of appearing with her ex-husband on this show. She had been assured by her therapist that it "would be good for her." This couple had been married for about 20 years and the ex-husband's final transition was very recent having taken place less than six months ago.

The show came on and the family appeared. Because of the number of people on the stage no one had much time to tell their story. In particular, this couple was not able to say very much about their situation. Things remained calm until the show was over. Then the woman

became highly distraught. She began to scream at her ex-husband that she hated him for what he had done to her, then she broke down and cried uncontrollably. Clearly, appearing on this show created emotional strains she was unable to manage.

Is there "blame" in this situation? Probably none that have legal consequences. However, there seems to be a lesson here. Television talk shows are entertainment, not therapy. They also provide a very limited forum in which to do any real education. People who agree to appear on such shows need to realize that they are at the mercy of the producer. Further, once you have appeared, the "genie is out of the bottle." Your privacy has been invaded and your emotions laid bare.

There is an acronym I use in workshops I do to help people analyze decisions -- MARC. It stands for Mutual, Appropriate, Responsible and Consequences. Probably the most important here is Consequences. When appearing on public television, be sure you analyze the possible outcomes. If some seem to be problematic, then perhaps it is better not to participate.



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

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News, Views & Reminders

by Angela Gardner

Editor's Angry Tirade

Boy oh boy have I got a bee in my bonnet! Since I was first thrust into the writer's craft, (by default) I have been playing the "good cop" and letting other writers like JoAnn and Brenda rail against hypocrisy and incompetence in their columns. Well, no more Ms. Nice Transvestite!

By now you're saying to yourself, "Boy, what set her off?" Well, I'll tell ya girls. I saw a little TV Show with TVs on it on my television. It was February. It was sweeps month. They trotted out the guys in dresses. The usual types in the audience stood up and asked the usual questions; "What do your children think? What bathroom do you use? Are you a homosexual?"

They made the usual statements; "You people are sinners in the eyes of God! You people should just do that in your own homes with the shades drawn." and the everpopular, "I don't see anything wrong with it." (We like that one.)

The people on the panel made a decent job of defending themselves. They had good answers and the host even stood up for them. Heck, he even had a woman on the panel who thought that it would be great to marry a transvestite because we're all so sensitive and enlightened. I can only suggest to her that not everyone in a dress is as sensitive and enlightened as I. (Ok, some are more enlightened than I, but I am the most sensitive.) Anyway, the show wasn't that bad. What's got my knickers in a twist is simple. Why do transvestites have to defend them-

selves? When the psychologist in the audience stood up to give the scientific answer to the question, "Why are transvestites the way they are?" one of the panelists jumped in with the, "We're all born female and then the wave of hormones in the fetus makes it turn male" theory. When she finished the psychologist finally got to say, "We don't know."

That's all there is to it. We have no idea. Lots of pet theories have come and gone. I even have my own but so far there is none that explains it completely. Fine. Let's keep looking for an answer. It really would be nice to know why you have been drawn to a behavior that the rest of the world finds weird and perverted. Until we do find out I think all of the sympathetic talk show hosts, the outraged church folk and other genetic debris inhabiting talk show audiences should be satisfied to hear us say, "We do it because we like it."

Should we still appear in their little ratings circuses? Yes. Being on television is more than an ego stroke or chance to perform at our feminine best in front of the whole country. It's got to be used to reach other people like us. People who have been fighting with themselves their whole lives. It gives us a chance to say to them, "Do it if it makes you feel good. It's OK. Explore your needs and learn about who you really are."

We do start out female and then the fetus develops male traits. Then we're born and if we have this urge to act out feminine behavior we're stuck with it. No need to defend it to anyone. As Popeye the

sailor said, "I yam what I yam." And now ... the news!

TS GUARD BACK ON DUTY

Lt. Belinda Joelle Smith has been reinstated as a corrections officer in Jacksonville, Florida. Lt. Smith was fired eight years ago for "conduct unbecoming an officer" when the then William Harvey was caught wearing a woman's bathing suit at the beach. Lt. Smith has completed her surgery and is now doing the same job that she did before as a man.

In addition to her job, Lt. Smith received a cash settlement of \$149,500. If we hear any more about how she is adjusting to the rigors of corrections work we'll let you know.

EGG MAKEUP

Well, I made an error in reportage. That's why I've got this egg on my visage. (Gosh, rhyming!) In the January issue I said that Tom Hanks would be wearing a dress again in his new film, "Philadelphia." Wrong. It seems that he will appear in the Halloween party scene as a naval commander. It's a dress uniform so I guess that's close.

ROCK VIDEO'S A DRAG

I want my MTV! I must be the last person in the country with out cable and since I don't have MTV playing round

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the clock in my humble domicile, I tend to miss creative uses of drag in contemporary rock videos. Every so often I do catch one on Friday Night Video or while I'm out in a club.

While I was out at a New Jersey watering hole I happened to catch the Erasure video. Unfortunately, (since whenever they play videos in clubs they never play the audio) I wasn't able to hear the song so I have no idea what it was called. The group is only two guys and they are the best known openly gay band on the scene. They appear in the video as themselves and as two female alter egos. The intercutting is very good. At times it looks like four people on the same stage. They don't look bad in drag either.

Friday Night Video is the other place I saw a little female impersonation. A San Francisco (it figures) band called Faith No More had stirred controversy a while back by having a fish flopping around on a beach at the end of their first hit. In this latest video, a remake of the Lionel Richie tune "Easy," the band is not going to offend any animal rights activists. They feature female impersonators, not fish. Now my reception isn't that good but the "women" the boys are sitting around with in little domestic morning scenes sure do look like drag queens. There are five girls featured. If you have cable and can get a less fuzzy look at these rock video babes, drop me a line and let me know if they are female impersonators. Hope so.

"FBI! THIS IS A FALSIE! I MEAN BUST."

We had heard sometime ago that J. Edgar Hoover was gay. I mean, everyone knew about his, "companion." Now we hear that the J. in J. Edgar may have stood for Janet. While I did not get to see the Frontline program "The Secret Life of J. Edgar Hoover" and (like a dizzy blond) I forgot to set the VCR, our loyal reader Lynda [REDACTED] caught the show and lets us in on J. Edgar's fashion sense. Lynda reports that a woman on the program reported that Hoover attended a party at the Plaza Hotel attired in a short, black chiffon dress accessorized with black lace stockings and black shoes. No word was given on Hoover's jewelry but I'm sure his boy friend would only give J. Edgar real pearls. The ensemble was topped off by a curly wig and false eyelashes. J. Edgar asked everyone to call him Mary. That's a little common but at least her outfit sounded cute. If anyone has the show on tape why not donate it to the Renaissance library?

OOPS. SORRY

We get junk in the mail. One of the things we received was a brochure from a surgical clinic that performs sex reassignment surgery. Nothing wrong with that right? Well the first stuff we got told all about their surgical procedure and had their address and phone number so we could set up an appointment. A few weeks later we got another mailing. It said, "Special Newsletter" at the top. The gist of this one was their acquisition

of a seven hundred phone number. This, they informed us would enable them to keep the same number no matter how often they moved. This made me wonder, how often do they move and why?

Then came the clincher. The "2nd Special Newsletter" arrived in another week or so. This is an exact quote from that missive; "Oops—we goofed again. How can anyone use stationary for several weeks without examining it closely, especially since we made one change, without noticing that the printer had put the wrong street on the stationary?"

Good question. Take that along with the fact that only one of their surgical team studied in the United States, (Mexican medical schools are well represented on their resumes) and in the words of Homey the clown, "I don't think so." Johns Hopkins they ain't.

MISS PA USA PICKED

Congratulations are in order for Miss Nancy Montiel of Allentown. She won the Miss Pennsylvania USA title at the Stonewall in Allentown on January thirty first. Miss Montiel received big cash prizes and will represent our state in the national pageant.

A ROSE BY ANY INITIAL

Back on the soapbox! Can anyone tell me why when they pick a femme name they stop after the first name and just use an initial? We have a number of initial people on our mailing list. We have

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initial people on some of the local boards. I know you don't want to use your real last name but why can't you think of something? Smith, Jones, anything. I'm sure there must be a postman somewhere asking a colleague, "Yo, Frank, how come dis babe only has a letter as a last name? Pretty kinky huh? Maybe she's like that broad in that, *Story of O*. I'd like to met a chick like that." Yeah, it could be scary. Be like me. Name yourself after a member of your domestic staff.

HERE'S TALKIN' AT YA

While you're sending in your name change put a note in there letting us know if you're going to stop by the speaker training session on April seventeenth. Anyone interested in speaking on television, radio or in college classes should show up for indoctrination. We'll be training from two till five and then the GPC meeting will follow at eight PM. Bring a couple of bucks to pay GPC for the use of their meeting site. Everyone attending will be put on the speaker list and you'll receive some hand outs with

tips you can use when you make your television and college appearances. We'll try to get some cookies and coffee too.

DOUBLE YOUR PLEASURE

Double your fun. Woody Allen said that being bisexual doubled your chances of getting a date on Saturday night. That's only if you get out there and build yourself a social life.

If you think you might be bisexual and you would like to explore that part of yourself there is an organization for you. Bi Unity has social events called Bi Friendlies every month. They also have support groups for various types of bi people and discussion groups on a variety of bi related topics. You can get information on their activities by calling 215-7BI-FONE. You can subscribe to their newsletter, BiFocus, by sending twelve dollars for four issues to PO Box 30372, Philadelphia, PA 19103. They are nice folks. Tell them Angela sent you.

PAPERCUTS

South Jersey Chapter leader Terri

has sent in a couple of clippings for us to share. The first one is enough to get an angry editor back up on her soap box.

The January issue of Reader's Digest had a compilation of, "absurdities in our society" titled, "That's Outrageous." Right between a paragraph about the undertaker who dumped a father's body on the doorstep of the deadbeat son who hadn't paid the mortuary bill and a paragraph on the orthodontist who fondled teen-age girls while they were under his care was a digested story about an Illinois prisoner who wants to wear feminine clothing while incarcerated. The Digest is almost as clever with headlines as we are. Their's is, "He Wants Redress." Cute. What isn't cute is not knowing all the facts in the case. We're told that the prisoner killed his great grandmother and is serving eighty years. The prisoner is suing the state and that's the part the Reader's Digest finds outrageous.

Well. There are a few things here that are upsetting. First of all nobody should be murdering their relatives for any reason. (They don't tell us what this person's reasons were. Maybe great grandma had stretched out the prisoner's favorite

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pumps.) Second, there are enough transgendered prisoners in the US penal system that you might think states would have developed a program to accommodate their needs by now.

Yes, the Reader's Digest is right. This suit will cost the taxpayers of Illinois an awful lot of money. Money that could be used in far more constructive ways than denying an individual prisoner gender freedom.

PAPER CUT II

Terri's second clipping is a little more light hearted but just as alarming in it's own way. Sassy magazine, a mag for teen-age girls has a column called, "What He Said." The byline on the column is Laura M. and Samantha. Wow, an initial person and a girl with no last name. (Could they be girls like us?) These young ladies ask several hot, sassy young guys a question and then print their response. The question asked in the column Terri sent us was, "If you woke up one morning as a girl, what would you do?" There's a question I'm sure we've all asked ourselves.

One twenty three year old said he would take the opportunity to find out what girls talk about when there are no guys around and he would try to find out why they go to the restroom in groups. To borrow each others makeup of course. Bob, a nineteen year old said he would wear men's cloths to shake people up and he would yell at himself for leaving the toilet seat up. Well Bob, if you really did wake up as a girl you would only have to yell about the seat on that first feminine morning. Dan, a sensitive sixteen year old seems to be aware of what we all know. He thinks the best thing about waking up as a female would be being able to wear male and female clothes. He says that there are lots of funky outfits that he is unable to wear because of his maleness. Gee, I don't see where that's any barrier.

The response that is the scariest comes from fifteen year old Andrew. It sounds a little bit like a few crossdressers I know. If he found himself changed into a good looking female he would walk around in sexy clothes and try to get picked up so he could see what it feels like. I guess if he wasn't a good looking girl he'd just hide

in the house or become a nun. The ladies who edit the column were upset and asked if he wouldn't feel objectified? Andy didn't have a clue about that one. Maybe he could use some sensitivity training.

THE BIG FINISH

I've done it again. Managed to turn out another column at the last minute and just stuffed it with informative and entertaining tidbits.

Just a few more words and at last my weary digits can get a much deserved rest. Last issue I said I'd be escorting a group of diners to Hepburn's on the Thursday night of the IFGE convention. Wrong again oh made up one. I have taken on the casino manager job for Chez Renaissance, our fund raising casino night. You can lose big money in an attempt to win valuable prizes in a classy gambling den run by me and my goils. That's on Friday night, March nineteenth. All proceeds will be given to the Make A Wish Foundation. Bonnie [REDACTED] will be taking the diners to Hepburn's on Thursday the eighteenth.

Our Partner editor would like me to remind all partners of crossdressers to send in stuff for the newsletter. Evelyn Kirkland would like you to send things directly her partner's post office box so she can see it sooner than if you send it to our PO box first and then we forward it, etc. The address for Partner submissions is: Kirkland, P.O. Box 1242, Newtown, PA 18940. Don't forget Carolyn [REDACTED]'s organizing effort. Carolyn is interested in getting a week night meeting together in the York/Harrisburg area. She also hopes to arrange some special group shopping trips and maybe a sewing circle. If you'd like to be involved you can write to her care of the LSV Chapter.

Speaking of LSV, the homeland of our beloved national managing director, Brenda Davidson. Unfortunately, there will be no Vis a Vis this issue. Brenda is a transparent and working type person who has to take a month off before she breaks a nail. Her column will resume in the next issue. Bigger and better than ever. Or, at least there.

That's it everyone! I don't think we're in Kansas any more! Good night Mrs. Calabash. Where ever you are.

Book Nook

by Lee Etscovitz

Transsexualism and Sex Reassignment, edited by William A. W. Walters and Michael W. Ross, is a collection of fourteen articles organized along three major themes: gender identity as a problem (chapters 1-6), medical aspects of sex reassignment surgery (chapters 7-10), and the social implications of transsexualism (chapters 11-14). The various discussions offer some clear insights into various aspects of each topic. The book as a whole tends to be technically written, though still very readable. Included are some excellent photographs of the actual phases of reassignment surgery in a male-to-female transsexual. For those of us who want to know more about the basic issues and problems involved in sex reassignment, both male-to-female and female-to-male, this is an excellent introduction.

(CLOSET: continued from page 9)

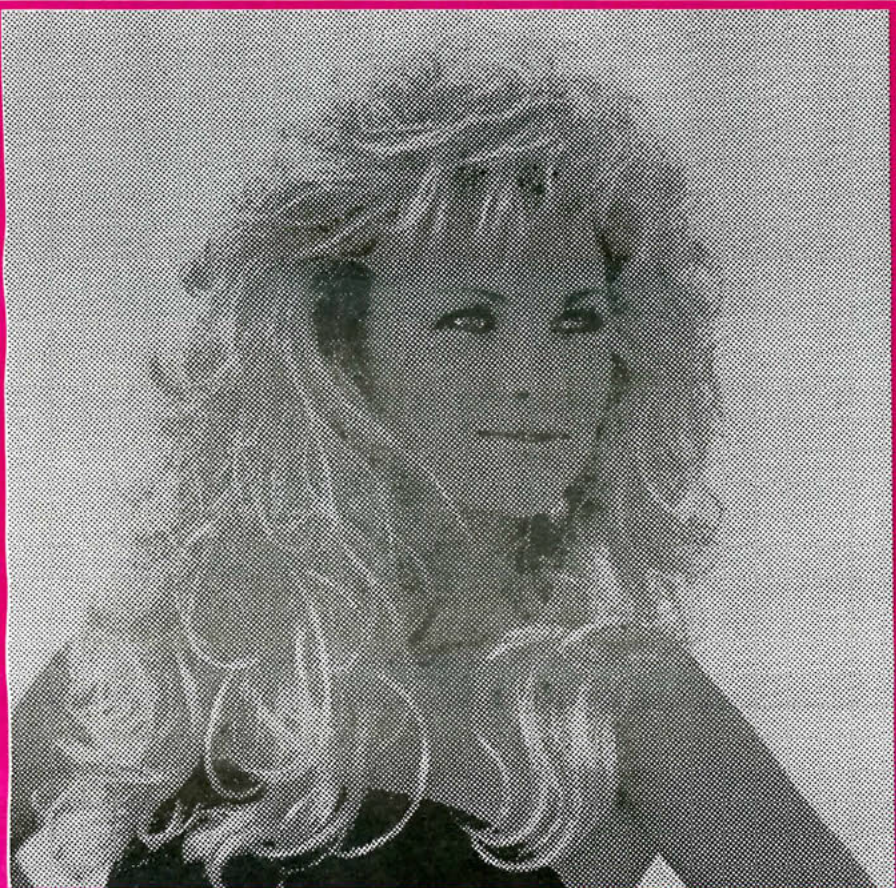
bian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation. Our visibility alone will convince the more numerous Gay and Lesbian participants that we transgendered are finally ready and willing to be their partners in positive action. Their civil rights are ours too. The rising tide can and will lift all boats. We can and must support them, burying our fears, our differences and our indifference itself. The old sixties saying rings very true here: we who are not part of the solution are indeed part of the problem. Gays and Lesbians know their Out In Numbers strategy will eventually work judging from previous polls that have shown an increase in tolerance and acceptance by those who do "personally know someone who is..."

Our silence can truly equal death. The next gay bashing statistic may be you, sister! And the Republican conservatives and the religious right are already organizing their counter-attack to block President Clinton's opening of the military for gays and lesbians. We must seize this moment, or retreat to suffer countless more decades of fear in our closets. Come to Washington this April 25. The drums along the Potomac are beckoning you.

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The Perfection

Perfectly rounded for a distinctly feminine edge. Fringing at cheek level and on bangs create a textural frame for your face or swept bangs to the side, the look is very soft and sensual. Soft skin crown, shoulder length page.

Available in colors: 1B, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 18, 22, 24, 24B, 27, 28, 30, 33, 130, 613, 14/24, 16/22, 18/22, 27/30, 12HL6, 14HL8, 16HL8, 16HL10, 613HL24B, 613HL27, 12/30BT, 24BT18, BUTTER SCOTCH

\$99.00



Sioux

Long, free and sexy, left to spill over the shoulders. One length slightly layered end, with a soft skin top for naturalness

Colors:

1B, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 22, 44, 24, 24B, 27, 28, 30, 33, 60, 101, 130, 613, 14/24, 16/22, 18/22, 12HL6, 14HL8, 16HL10, 24BHL27, 613HL24B, 613HL27.

\$129.⁰⁰



TEMPO

Naturalness 30's classic!
Halfway between a curl
and wave for a moving
but tidy effect.

\$89.⁰⁰



COLOR AVAILABLE 1B, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 22, 24, 24B, 27, 28, 30, 33, 60, 101, 130, 613, 14/24, 16/22, 18/22, 12HL6, 14HL8, 16HL10, 613HL24B, 613HL27, 24BT18, BUTTER SCOTCH



The Shag

A hint of the 70's with a perimeter that remains straight or softly waved in layers towards the face.

\$89.00

COLORS: 1B, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 22, 24, 24B, 27, 28, 30, 33, 60, 101, 130, 613, 14/24, 16/22, 18/22, 12HL6, 14HL8, 16HL8, 16HL10, 613HL24B, , 613HL27, 24BT18, 27T33B, 613T27, 12/30BT, BUTTER SCOTCH, LIGHT CHOCOLATE.

MAMIBO

Sleek and shiny is the way to go with a long straight mane. Full bangs, soft skin crown, well past shoulder length blunt cut. Add's a 60s flair to this straight style.

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COLORS: 1, 1b, 2, 4, 6, 8, 24b, 28, 132, 16HL10, 20HL8, 24BT18, 613T27, 22MB, BUTTER SCOTCH.

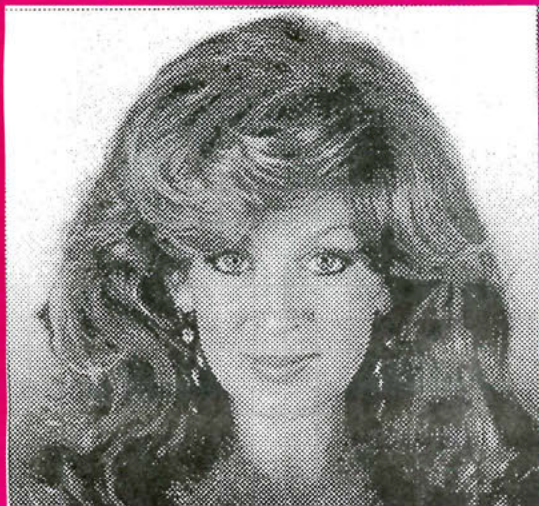
Riviera

Sizzle with this European inspired, tousled texture, airy bangs, frothy waves cascade down the sides and back, Mousse or Spritz for your own flair.

Colors:

1B, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 22, 24, 24B, 26, 27, 28, 30, 33, 101, 130, 613, 14/24, 16/22, 18/22, 12HL6, 14HL8, 16HL8, 16HL10, 24BHL27, 613HL27.

\$89.00



SHELLA

Super page for sporty sophistication, abundance of full body, soft bag or demi part.

Colors: 1B, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 22, 24, 24B, 27, 28, 30, 33, 101, 102, 130, 613, 14/24, 16/22, 18/22, 27/30, 12HL6, 14HL8, 16HL8, 16HL10, 24BHL27, 130HL30, 130HL33, 613HL27,

\$89.00

COLOR CHART

Blacks

1-Blacks
1B-Off Black

Browns

2-Darkest Brown
4-Medium Dark Brown
6-Medium Chestnut Brown
8-Chestnut Brown
10-Medium Golden Brown
12-Light Golden Brown
18-Light Ash Brown

Blondes

14-Dark Beige Blode
16 -Golden Blonde
20-Sandy Blonde
22-Light Ashe Blonde
24-Light Glolden Blonde
24B-Brightest Golden Blonde
26-Champange Blonde
613-French Vanilla

Reds

27-Strawberry Blonde
28-Irish Red
30-Medium Auburn
33-Dark Auburn
130-Copper Red

Platinums

60-Pure white
101-Pearl Platinum
102-Platinum

Grey Mixes

34-Dark Brown-5% Grey
38-Light Brown - 15% Grey
39-Medium Dark Brown - 25% Grey
44-Darkest Brown - 50% Grey
48-Light Golden Brown - 20% Grey
51-Medium Dark Brown - 75% Grey
56-Medium Dark Brown - 90% Grey
59-Medium Brown - 95% Grey

Frosteds

8/22 - 8 Frosted 22
14/24 - 14 Frosted 24
16/22 - 16 Frosted 22
17-101 - 17 Frosted 101
18/22 - 18 Frosted 22
27/30 - 27 Frosted 30

Tone on Tones

56F51F44 -56 Front 51 Tone on 44
56F51 -56 Front tone on 56
60F56 - Front tone on 56

Sun Streak Hi-Light

(All 15% Hi Light)
12HL6 - 6 Hi Light 12
14HL8 - 8 Hi Light 14
16HL8 - 8 Hi Light 16
20HL8 - 8 Hi Light 20
24BHL27 - 27 Hi Light 24b
613HL24B - 24B Hi Light 613
613HL27 - 27 Hi Light 613
130HL30 - 30 Hi Light 130
130HL33 - Basic 33 Hi Light 130

Tips

24T12 - 12 Root 24 Tip
24T18 - 18 Root 24 Tip
24BT18 - 18 Root 24B Tip
26T8 - 8 Root 26 Tip
27T33B - 33B Root 27 Tip
102T8 - 8 Root 102 Tip
22MB - Golf Blond Tip
88BT - 8 Root Golden Blond Tip

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Chestnut
Light Chestnut
Golden Chocolate
Light Chocolate

You can send us a sample of your hair and we will match it as close as possible to our vast color selection

Closet or Change: A Choice and A Chance

by Jessica Xavier

Mx. Xavier from the Delta Chi Education Association is a volunteer to the March on Washington Committee.

Washington, DC: The sounds of the drums are beginning to boom once again along the Potomac. Sounds I've not heard since the sixties, when I was a child. From the summer fury and fall campaign, the winter seeds have been sown. A dream is beginning to take root as a fragile flower blossoming in the chilly spring air. The natives are restless as the winds of change sweep in from the north, south and west. The people have spoken: change is what they want and change is what they'll get. Or will they?

Any student of politics cannot help but notice the striking parallels between 1961 and 1993. A new, young president comes to office after a decade of stagnation. Then the issue was race, now it is sexual orientation, but at heart it's still the same cause: basic civil rights. The right to freely associate. The right to housing. The right to be hired and promoted without job discrimination. The right to serve in the armed forces of your country. And yes, if you remember the anti-miscegenation laws, the right to love and marry whom you choose.

But as Aristotle said in *Politics*, "the goal of political studies is not knowledge, but action." Unlike many African-Americans thirty years ago, American Gays and Lesbians have always had the right to vote. Now they have helped to elect a president who actually listens to them. And if those of us who care don't rush to his side to fight the conservative backlash, Bill Clinton's election will be for naught.

It is commonly accepted that the largest subgroup of transgendered persons in our country are the heterosexual cross-dressers, so most of this is for you. If you are like most of your totally straight counterparts, many of you feel ambivalent about (if not distinctly apart from) the larger Gay and Lesbian community that harbors us. Some of you may feel a visceral disgust of homosexuality in general and some of you may even be homophobic. Thus, it may be very diffi-

cult for you to understand how much you really do have in common with homosexuals. And the prevailing politics of our recent past have not done much to raise anyone's consciousness.

Unless you've been asleep, you might have noticed how effectively the Republicans and conservatives have controlled this country over the past twelve years. They did it by carving up the electorate into small subgroups they could manage by single, wedge-issue politics, like abortion, gun control or Willie Horton. Or, even better, they set group against group by emphasizing the differences between people instead of our commonalities. They became the masters of the politics of division, using pro-choice advocates, single mothers, African-Americans, Gays, Lesbians, and others as their whipping boys.

In our own (male to female) transgendered community the drags are very different from the crossdressers who are very different from the transsexuals. Yet, we all wear dresses, and we all suffer for it. So we band together for the security of our little insular groups. And over time, in order to attract members and survive, more and more transgendered groups have learned to practice the politics of inclusion, opening up their doors to members of different sexual orientations and genetic origin. Solidarity forever, everyone?

But despite our trend toward openness, it is still quite easy for us to forget our common bond with Gays and Lesbians. We, transgendered and homosexuals, are all born different to a society that neither understands nor accepts us. When discovered, we face the very same discrimination directed at Gays and Lesbians and we also fall victim to acts of violence and harassment. Indeed, according to one recent estimate, half of the gay-bashing incidents committed in New York City have been against transgendered persons, because we are much more easily "read." The medical, legal and insurance problems faced by transsexuals are enormous, due largely to a lack of the public's understanding of us. Simi-

larly, when the HIV epidemic first broke out in the gay community, the public was largely unaware of the suffering, not only from the disease but also its ramifications.

Our invisibility, the essence of our existence, is a blessing and a curse. The safety it provides us also prevents the public from understanding us. Almost all transgendered persons live closeted lives, as did almost all Gays and Lesbians just 24 years ago. In those days they also felt it too dangerous "to be out" because of the scorn and ridicule they would face. That is, until a group of Latino drag queens rioted against the police harassment they faced at a small gay bar in New York City. Until Stonewall. Today many of them can walk openly in the sun, cautious but free to express who they are and who they love. Working with and learning from them, we could get there too someday. A future without fear. Imagine that...

But, because fear has held us so long in its iron grip, our vision has dimmed as we view our lives in the perpetual twilight of our closets. We are, each and every one of us, witnesses to the endemic fear, apathy and self-loathing within us. Sisters, the Gays and Lesbians have been there. In talking and sharing with them, I have found almost all of them happy to have us stand with them. Many are stunned to discover the common bonds we share with them. But up to this point, apart from a very few courageous individuals, the only politically active transgendered subgroup with whom they have had experience has been the drag queens, who are mostly homosexual themselves and thus more connected to the larger Gay and Lesbian community and its issues. Many in the Gay and Lesbian community see the drags as the sole representatives of the rest of our tiny closeted transgendered community. Must the silence of the TV/TS lambs linger forever?

We have a choice, and a chance, for change. This year we can make a difference by coming to Washington, DC, for the 1993 March On Washington for Lesbians and Gays.

(continued on page 8)

Hot • Stuff

JoAnn Roberts

"Logic is the art of being wrong with confidence."

• • • • •

First things first. I gotta eat some crow here. I received a call from the Director of Operations at the International Foundation for Gender Education, Yvonne Cook. Yvonne took issue with my comments on counting the ballots for the election of IFGE directors. It turns out that IFGE did not follow the procedure specified in their By Laws since that *would* have resulted in the conflict of interest I cited in my January column. Yvonne assured me that the ballots were counted by a person who had no stake in the election and that there was no conflict of interest. She also said that the ballots did go out late (her fault) but that they were only a week late. This Queen is properly chastised and contrite: I apologize.

• • • • •

Wanna beat the signs of ageing? Try Clinique's new *Turnaround* cream. This new product is based on a new class of compounds called "alpha-hydroxy acids." (Yes, you need to know this stuff. There **will** be a quiz later.) The compounds act to slough off dead cells. Unlike the retinoic acid in Retin-A, alpha-hydroxy's cannot make a permanent change in skin-cell structure.

• • • • •

Can we expect Hillary Rhodam Clinton to be a role-model for some crossdressers? Why not. She's "chic" and very classic at the same time. A lot of TVs would do well to copy her style. My personal heroine is Dr. Bernadette Healey, Director of the National Institute of Health.

• • • • •

While Visine may help to "get the red out," fashion mavens are puttin' the red on the eyes rather than in them. Hot for Valentine's Day was Givenchy's *Rubis*, Prescriptive's *Garnet* and Estee Lauder's *Voila*. CAUTION—keep red eyeshadow away from lashes unless you want to look like a pink-eyed bunny.

• • • • •

Someone wrote and asked me about a

"bust enlargement cream" advertised in a woman's magazine. Another person wanted to know if the "feminizing" pills sold by a well-known mail order company are effective. My answer to both folks was: "Save Your Money!" So-called mail-order "hormones" are totally ineffective. They're often just vitamins or plant-based hormones and harmless. If you feel that you've been scammed by phony, mail-order hormones you can call the National Fraud Information Center at 1-800-876-7060 from Mon. to Fri. from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

• • • • •

Didja know that 31% of American women are a size 16 or larger? Or, that they spend 10 million dollars a year on clothing? Many designers are cashing in on the boom while others see the "Plus" market

as the Kiss-of-Death. Adrienne Vittadini was the first designer to put her name on a truly fashionable "Plus" size line. Liz Claiborne's "Elizabeth" is another favorite. Donna Karan, on the other hand, only designs up to a size 14 and that's that. The emergence of fashionable "Plus" size clothing is also a boon to crossdressers who are hard to fit. Wonder if those \$10 million include the money spent by TVs?

• • • • •

Know anyone in Europe? Later this year a revolutionary new razor will go on sale there for around \$6 a pop. What's so Hot about it? Rather than a stainless steel blade (as is so prevalent in the best razors) this one has a *ceramic* blade that will last for about 150 shaves before it wears out. Ain't science grand!

• • • • •

Sunday, April 18, the
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The Girl of My Dreams

by Elsa [REDACTED]

At age 45, I realize I have spent almost all my life searching for the girl of my dreams. Before I had words, I had dreams and the image of my mother. She must have seemed to be a part of me. As I grew older, it became obvious that we were separate beings, but I depended on her for everything. She must have been in almost all my early dreams.

By age 3, I remember dreaming that I might be pretty like my mother. When I would find one of her long, curly hairs, I would rub it on my head hoping I would get pretty hair. Sometimes, I would even dream that I was a mommy.

But, most of the time, I knew I would not grow up to be a mommy.

At age 4, a 2 year old neighbor girl was my playmate. I thought we would get married when we grew up. She would be the mommy and would do what daddy wanted her to do. She was the girl of my dreams.

In kindergarten, I was fascinated by the page boy haircuts that all the little girls wore. Some were even able to touch their hair to their lips. How lucky they were to be able to do that. They were the girls of my dreams.

There was lots of attention paid to the Brownie Scouts when they flew up to Girl Scouts. How lucky they must be to be with girls and do girl things. They were the girls of my dreams.

Who's my favorite Mouseketeer? Yes, Annette is very cute, but there's something about Darlene. She looks more like I would look as a girl. She's the girl of my dreams.

I wonder what girls like to wear. Maybe I can find it in the Sears catalog. Oooo, look at the pretty clothes girls get to wear. And pretty shoes and hats and muffs. Can I dress like them, the girls of my dreams?

The girls' shapes are changing. Wow, here's one in Sears showing a hint of nipple. All the boys in school are talking about her. She is the girl of my dreams.

Did you know that if you dropped something on the floor and bent over to pick it up, you might get to see up a girl's skirt? We all did. And sometimes a girl would get her skirt caught on her desk or

purse. That wonderful flash of thigh above the stocking! Any girl whose thigh I saw was the girl of my dreams that day.

How can I get a girl to show me some thigh when I want? I want all my money for candy so I won't pay a girl for a leg show. Maybe, if I put on some of mom's clothes and stand in front of the mirror.... I am the girl of my dreams.

Now, I scan the Sears catalog daily, looking for the perfect outfits for me. In my dreams, I wear the sexiest outfits they have. I have wonderful dreams with all the girls of my dreams.

Where did the time go? I'm in college. I have a car and a little bit of money. I'm the kind of man who reads *Playboy*. I

**I'm the kind of man
who reads *Playboy*. I
want to look like the
girls in the pictures.
Maybe I can date a
pretty girl. But
which of us will be
the girl of my
dreams?**

want to look like the girls in the pictures. Maybe I can date a pretty girl. But which of us will be the girl of my dreams?

I marry a pretty girl that I should be dreaming about, but I am still the girl of my dreams. My wife learns that I am the other woman. She is not pleased and we part. But I draw lonely comfort as the girl of my dreams.

Years later, the girl of my dreams tires of her dream world and wants to get out, to have friends, a real wardrobe, places to go, things to do. I struggle for years to keep her a dream but she grows stronger. The struggle exhausts me mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Am I going insane? I fear her as much as she comforts me.

I can no longer live with the dream bottled up inside. We make a truce. I will let her out. She will not destroy us. I give her permission to be herself. I will not worry about it.

She is actually a fun person. People like her. Maybe they like me too! When I meet anyone who seems interested in me as a person, I tell them about her. People open up to me. When I tell my mother, the first girl of my dreams, about my dream-self, she responds, "You must have been so lonely."

As I let my dream-self become real, much of the dream world is replaced with memories. I let the dream go on to live part-time as a woman, to become as much a woman as she needs. She enjoys her freedom, but finds her limits and assures me that she is mostly a dream. I may dream about her whenever I want, but the boundary of dream and reality is clearer now.

I become comfortable with myself as a person and meet a very nice woman. She is tall, pretty, and could be a model in *BBW* magazine. I fear she will not accept my dream. She is much like the woman I would be in my dreams.

She cries when I tell her about the dream, but she stays in my life. We discover that we really enjoy each other and have nothing to hide. Is she the girl of my dreams?

Yes, she is. And, when I accept that, the duality of my life comes to order. She accepts that I dream. We accept, forgive and redeem each other. She knows that she is the real woman in my life. We want to build a life together. We dream together.

We decide not to wait to start a family. My wife has vivid sometimes frightening dreams. Mine are not so frightening, but include possibilities of adding a child to the accessories that contribute to a feminine image. Who would ever suspect that the large woman changing the baby in the ladies room is really ... only dreaming.

Such a dream is exhilarating, and perhaps odd. But so are the dreams of being able to fly or being invisible.

(continued on page 14)

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I wish to share an interesting story with our community. On my way home from a most enjoyable evening in July I was quickly turning into a pumpkin. I knew I had to change my attire before returning home. What a shame for I had just spent a wonderful evening with the girls of Renaissance.

I decided to change at a little park behind the then called Johnsville Naval Air Base. Making sure I would not be detected, I approached with only my parking lights on. Once parked I sat there reminiscing about the splendor of the evening.

As I was taking my errands off I noticed the headlights of a car in my rear view mirror. I stopped moving and so did the car. I was mortified, frozen with fear. "What if this??? What if that??? Calm down now young lady" I told myself. "You're not doing anything wrong here."

All of a sudden I heard the leaves crackle as the intruder approached. Suddenly, there he was, revealed to be a police officer by the illumination of his flashlight. Before he could utter a word I began to explain the situation to him. I told him not to be alarmed. I belonged to an organization for crossdressers and I had merely stopped there to change my attire. Curious, he shined his light into my cab and was taken aback by what he saw. The voice of a man but the likeness of a woman! He seemed dumbfounded. He didn't know what to say. Then he apologized for startling me and explained that teens were known to frequent the park to do drugs. I assured the officer that was certainly not the case and he told me to, "take all the time I need" and went to his cruiser and drove away.

I learned that night that if you maintain your composure and treat the officer with respect chances are the police are only after the bad guys. Thank the Lord for those guys and gals of the Warminster Township Police Force.

There you have it. I only hope that this story will enlighten our sisters and ease some of their pent up fears of being discovered.

Truly yours,

Jacquelyn J. [REDACTED]

Dear Jacquelyn,

Just think if it hadn't been one of the boys in blue. What if one of the bad guys had showed up with some of his teenage drug taking friends. Every transgendered person who is out alone, in a car, walking on the street or in a dark park in the middle of the night needs to remember they are a woman. Alone. Defenseless. Even if you know how to defend yourself you are still going to be perceived as a helpless female victim. (Criminals aren't known for feminism.)

Fortunately your story had a happy ending and it is a good lesson about how to act with officers of the law. But, in the words of an old television officer of the law, "Let's be careful out there."

(COALITION from page 1)

- combating the "adult book store" image of transgendered people
- outreach to churches and synagogues
- fundraising and advertising
- political involvement

The first conference of the Garden State Gender Coalition was both exciting and inspirational. The possibilities of

what we can do together are breathtaking in scope. If we remain open and caring towards one another, our community will be enriched with steady growth and sustained by hope.

The next Coalition meeting is scheduled for the I.F.G.E. Convention in March at the Hilton Hotel, Philadelphia, PA.

(DREAMS: continued from page 12)

Our dream together became an 8 pound 3 ounce reality in August 1992 when our Sarah Elizabeth was born. She is the girl of our dreams. We dream of a loving and secure future for her. We also know that her father sometimes has other dreams.

I finally emerge into reality to find myself a middle-aged, first-time father, financially responsible for other people. No matter how sexy the outfit, we can no longer justify the expense both of us can use it. I find a closet full of clothes that do not suit my wife and I don't really

enjoy wearing. I think I look good with a beard and the baby likes it. She's already got a pretty mommy who looks great in a dress and make-up. Will I confuse or amuse her?

I work quietly to make real the dream of a time when gender and sexual identity and orientation will be no more important than political party affiliation. When there will be peace and justice for everyone. But until that day arrives, how do we raise her? How and when do we tell her about her daddy's other dreams? What attitudes should we share with her?

Probably half the members of Renaissance have children. No matter how

different we are, most of us want to do the best we can for our children while maintaining our own selves.

What works? What doesn't? What would you like to try with your own children?

I need to know and want to exchange with you whatever ideas we can come up with so all of our children can have a better future.

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