



Renaissance News

Volume 3, No. 11

Vision - Integrity - Quality

November 1989

The Battle of Heaven: Great Britain's Stonewall

A Special Report by Phaedra Kelly

During this past June on United Kingdom's "minority" television channels—BBC2 and Channel 14—Stonewall was much mentioned. But it was never said that the push for gay rights began with New York drag queens resisting police harassment.

It is true that the U.K. queens

real Gender Bender.

The trend lasted about six months, though the press tried to prolong the agony. The first generation of true Punks crowded out the New Romantics and drove them underground. But they soon emerge as second generation Gender Benders, with Boy George in the lead followed by the rise of radical street

cluded the "straight-gays," or what we call over here "male-impersonators:" cowboys, lumberjacks, balding bespectacled social workers, and *faux* skinhead/leatherboys. All of *them* crowded at one end of Heaven, clutching their pint mugs with as strong a wrist as they could manage and hissing bitch insults at those "swishy-girlie types, a dead give-away, my dear!"

This continued until a gang of genuine East-end skinheads conned their way into the disco and began bashing fags. The cowboys, lumberjacks, et al. left by the back door, screaming like kids on a hydroplaning school bus in December. But the sisterhood stood their ground, turned, and fought like she-cats.

The battle went on for some time since nobody would call the cops to save the trannies or queens, much less the skinheads and gays. By the time the metro police did manage to rustle up a paddy wagon and park it at the end of the street (for their own safety), what was left of the real skinheads came flying out of the gates of Heaven, some on the toe of a slingback pump. They ran in tatters up the road toward the police, screaming for the medics and sanctuary from those "bloody mad male hellcats."

The following night, Heaven restored, the avenging angels returned, expecting their due of a victory celebration. They found it stuffed to the fire doors with straight-gays who had imposed a ban on all men in frocks because they were "too rough."

Ever since, no British queen or tran need fear a skinhead because the skinheads would sooner fight beside one of us than with one of us.



A marriage made in Heaven: Diana Dogg (left) & Tasty Tim (right)

won't take any bull from the bullyboys either. Such was the case in Britain's own Stonewall, known as the Battle of Heaven. This is an event that has not yet been acknowledged on television.

In the mid-seventies, gay liberation in Britain was a joke. They were the smallest of minorities inside a minority, with no real bite. This was also the time of the New Romantics, a brief media-hyped modern renaissance of frill-shirted men. Look alikes for Adam Ant, Steve Strange and others of their ilk; all imitating Bowie, the first

drag and Peacock Punk.

George and the others never would have emerged after the implosion of Punk anarchy if it had not been for Steve Strange and others who opened a disco known as Heaven. Heaven was meant to be for the gay community. While Blitz, and a few other small clubs existed, Heaven had a *je ne sais quoi*.

Accordingly, the entire London community of glitteratti, paparazzi and elite were invited to the opening, along with the queens in their finest, transvestites and transsexuals too. The opening party also in-

Chapter news & notes

Louisiana

New Orleans: Leslie [REDACTED], chapter leader. Write Renaissance N.O., Box 58428, New Orleans, LA 70158 for details. Provisional chapter. Meetings are held in a Metropolitan Community Church.

New Jersey

South Jersey: Tina Louise, chapter leader. Address inquiries to chapter secretary, Emily Sheldon, Renaissance SJ, P.O. Box 4457, Greenville, DE 19807. Regular meetings on the first Saturday of the month at the *Atlantic Mental Health Center, Inc.* 2002 Black Horse Pike, McKee, N.J. Meetings start at 9:00 p.m.

No smoking is permitted in the meeting rooms.

Pennsylvania

Greater Philadelphia area: Teri Kay, chapter leader. Write Renaissance PHL, Box AD, Bensalem, PA 19020. Meets third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia, Pa. Doors open - 8:00 p.m.; new member orientation, 8:30 p.m., main program, 9:30 p.m.

No smoking is permitted in the meeting rooms.

Programs for the coming months include a psychic, Dr. Bill Stayton, and Dr. Richard Friend.

Reading: Susan [REDACTED], chapter leader. Write Renaissance RDG, Box 14421, Reading, PA 19607 for the latest information.

The Reading chapter meets twice a month. There is a dinner-social held at *THIS IS IT*, 801 Walnut St., Reading, second Wednesday of the month. A regular membership-business meeting is held on the second Saturday.

Lower Susquehanna Valley: Elsa [REDACTED], chapter leader. Write Renaissance LSV, Box 7412, York, PA 17404.

A social is planned for November 25, 8:30 p.m., at *Bube's Brewery & Central Hotel*, 102 N. Market St., Mt. Joy. A \$5 cover charge is required for the meeting room. If dinner is desired call 717-653-2160 to make a reservation in Alois's dining room.

Are you interested in forming a Renaissance Chapter in your area? Write or call the Renaissance national office.

And, don't forget about...

- The last of the Benjamin books, *The Transsexual Phenomena* are back in stock. When these are gone, there are no more. The Deluxe Edition is \$39.95 and the Regular Edition is \$35.95.

- 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. A paper on transsexualism is in work.

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

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

- Articles and opinion pieces for the newsletter are always welcomed. We want to hear what you have to say about what goes on in Renaissance and in the community at large.

Renaissance News

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

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

EVENTS CALENDAR

November

4th Ren. So. Jersey Chapter
5th PCHA Dance Party II
Pier 19, Phil Waterfront
11th Ren. Reading Chapter
18th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter
25 Ren. LSV Chapter

December

2nd Ren. So. Jersey Chapter
9th Ren. Reading Chapter
9th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter
Holiday Party-Gr. Valley
16th Ren LSV Chapter

January

6th Ren. So. Jersey Chapter
13th Ren. Reading Chapter
20th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter
27th Ren LSV Chapter

February

3rd Ren. So. Jersey Chapter
10th Ren. Reading Chapter
17th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter
24th Ren. LSV Chapter
22-25 Texas 'T' Party
San Antonio, TX
25-28 Mardi Gras, New Orleans

March

27-1 IFGE 4th Annual Conv.
Natick, Mass.

Opinion - **Forum** - Information

Who's disabled? ... I'm okay, but you're not.

Early in September the U.S. Senate overwhelmingly approved the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Chief co-sponsor Sen. Edward M. Kennedy saw the bill as way to ensure that all Americans, especially those with AIDS or who carry the virus "deserve the opportunity to work for a living."

But by raising the issue of AIDS (which everyone *knows* comes from "immoral lifestyles"), Kennedy and bill's other supporters also raised the hackles of troglodyte Sens. Jesse Helms and William Armstrong. And this is where the transgendered community enters the picture.

Armstrong first tried to amend the bill so that it would exclude people with AIDS, homosexuals, bisexuals, and those who face discrimination "based on bone fide religious or moral beliefs." Kennedy vehemently opposed the amendment, and convinced Armstrong to submit an amendment that was more specific.

The result is a legal definition of disability that excludes "homosexuality, bisexuality, transvestism,

pedophilia, transsexualism, exhibitionism, voyeurism, compulsive gambling, kleptomania, or pyromania, gender identity disorders, current psychoactive substance-induced organic mental disorders...or other sexual behavior disorders." Transvestites were specifically and solely excluded in another amendment proposed by Helms.

The distinctions made by Sens. Armstrong and Helms seem rather straightforward to us: transgendered people are *not* considered to be disabled solely on the basis of their gender role/identity. However, a transvestite with polio, for example, would be protected by the act insofar as she was discriminated against on the basis of having polio.

There are those in the gender community, though, who object to losing their disabled status. They see the Senate bill as chipping away at the rights of transgendered people. Others, more correctly we believe, object to the amendment because it again excludes transgendered people from federal protections afforded other Americans.

The business of whether or not we are disabled gets at many issues, few of which are easily resolved. A New York psychological therapist of our acquaintance rejects the whole notion of disability and mental illness as playing into the medical model of psychiatry, i.e. if it is a disease, it must have a cure. But by not claiming status as disabled, transsexuals would be rejecting the "birth defect" model proposed by Kim Elizabeth Stuart.

Clearly the answers to this question, like many of the questions faced by transgendered people, are not black or white.

There is, however, an issue here that is clearly one of right and wrong, and it is the ease with which Sen. Kennedy and lobbyists for the gay and lesbian community ignored the sensibilities of transgendered people. Lumping us in with those who have an unfortunate—but real—mental illness perpetuates the notion that people who dress as the other gender, or who believe themselves to be of the other gender, are sick.

IFGE convention set for historic Boston area in March

The International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) and the Tiffany Club of New England have announced the dates and location for the 4th annual "Coming Together" convention.

The convention venue will be the Crown Plaza Hotel in Natick, Mass., just outside of Boston proper. The

event runs from Monday, March 27, to Sunday, April 2.

The registration fee is \$220 per person for the full package with a special price of \$375 for couples. Discounts apply for early payment.

The registration fee includes all the workshops and seminars, unless specifically noted, Wednesday's

Orientation Buffet, Saturday's Award Banquet and Sunday's Wind-down Brunch.

Hotel accommodations and meals (other than those listed above) are not included with registration.

For more detailed information call IFGE at (617)-894-8340 or write P.O. Box 367, Waltham, MA 01778.

Giving in to Pier Pressure

Philadelphia Community Health Alternatives and The Philadelphia AIDS Task Force are planning a party that may prove to be one of the most exciting that this city has seen in a great while. (Well, at least since Henri David's Hallowe'en Ball.)

The "Dance Party II, Pier Pressure" is scheduled for Sunday eve-

ning, Nov. 5, at Pier 19 on the waterfront. The event is an exciting evening of dance, music and surprises at a price affordable (\$25) by almost everyone.

The price includes admission to the party, food and an open bar from 8 p.m. until midnight. The sponsors are expecting up to 8000 people to

attend this evening extravaganza.

Proceeds from the party will benefit the AIDS Task Force and the John Locke Patient Support Fund. Tickets are available from PCHA, 1216 Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19107, (215) 545-8686 or from a variety of clubs and organizations in the city. See you there.

Paula Jordan Sinclair...The NewsQueen

Leading lives of illusion as many transgendered people do, we can rightly consider ourselves actresses and actors. So with more than a little bit of professional curiosity, let's see what our colleagues on the stage have been up to.

There is a theater troupe in Japan where members of one gender take on both male and female roles. No, we're not speaking of Kabuki theater, but of the Takarazuka Revue Company, an all-female group of performers who last month started an American tour with a three-day run at New York's Radio City Music Hall.

The show included numbers from the Broadway musical "Me and My Girl," highlights from Western literature such as "Gone With the Wind," and traditional Japanese dance and drama. The company has a big following in Japan.

Does this mean that the male Kabuki actresses have to worry? Not according to Takarazuka president Haruhiko Saka. Back in Japan, he said, "The male girls are still top stars."

♣ ♣ ♣

San Francisco recently saw a drag show of a different sort—a production of "The Odd Couple" starring men in roles Neil Simon rewrote for women. Audiences at the city's Theatre Rhinoceros Studio were treated (some critics would say "subjected") to seeing men portray sloppy sportswriter "Olive Madison" and neat freak "Florence Unger."

Simon inverted the sexes of the characters made famous by Matthau, Lemmon, Klugman, and Randall for a 1985 Broadway revival by Rita Moreno and Sally Struthers. This "Odd Couple II" failed to excite New York theatergo-

ers four years ago, and San Francisco critics say the drag version is worse.

One problem is that the actors/actresses, many of whom are associated with the San Francisco Imperial Court, are never able to break away from their drag queen images. One critic noted that Lilly Street, a former empress, "can never shake the singular persona of the drag queen he is known as. You never believe Olive's a slob...We should get Linda Ellerbee. Instead we get Diane Sawyer."

The production does provide an insight into the "appropriate" role for men and women. The play was first written for actors, then rewritten for actresses. But the licensor of the play, Samuel French Inc., threatened to halt the production by saying the use of male actresses was a

continued next page

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the only book on developing a feminine voice

P.O.Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406

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

direct contradiction of the Neil Simon's intent. For the record, Simon agreed to the unconventional casting.

♣ ♣ ♣

If that item about "The Odd Couple" got your nostalgic juices flowing, here's one that will produce a flood. Flip Wilson is preparing a full-scale return to show business, complete with Geraldine. No other details are available through our normal sources, but when we learn more, you'll hear about it.

♣ ♣ ♣

One of the responsibilities of fame are personal appearances. But West Coast dominatrix Ann Murray recently made a personal appearance that she would probably prefer to forget. The six foot blonde, whose real first name is Anita, recently pleaded guilty to five misdemeanor obscenity counts involving the sale of video taped torture sessions of her husband. The judge sentenced Murray to a suspended one year jail term and a \$10,000 fine.

Police purchased the five tapes through the mail directly from Murray. Later, authorities served a search warrant at her home, perhaps hoping to interrupt some of the B&D activities portrayed on the videos. Instead, they found the Mistress and her submissive husband wearing matching negligees and baking a cake.

Deputy City Attorney Michael Guarino said Murray made about \$50,000 a year from her videos through direct sales or by selling rights to other distributors. Two of those companies, both located in New York, are the target of an investigation with possible federal charges being brought against them.

In addition to her B&D activities, Murray also edits "TV Girl Talk" and "Ann Murray's Erotic Reflections." News reports of her trial did not say if those activities were under investigation.

♣ ♣ ♣

Last month we reported that Norma Kristie of Miss Gay America Inc. put up her Little Rock, Ark bar as collateral for Cherry Lane's bail after the 1988 title holder was arrested for selling drugs. Kristie reports that the incident did not take place in her club and that she did not put up her bar as security. The only question remaining is where Lane got the \$25,000.

♣ ♣ ♣

Here are two entries from the "Hey Kids, Don't Try This At Home" Department.

♣ ♣ ♣

The supermarket tabloid the *Sun* last month carried a report about a man who was struck by lightning, and knocked unconscious. When Martin Camacho awakened in a hospital two days later, he had begun turning into a woman.

According to doctors quoted in the story, the lightning halted Camacho's production of male and triggered the higher production of female hormones. The newspaper said Camacho and his family were very disturbed about his "lightning sex change."

(Too bad lightning didn't hit the staff of the *Sun* and turn them into journalists. The story failed to report where Camacho lives.)

♣ ♣ ♣

Richard Johnson wasn't waiting for a thunderstorm for his sex change; the 41-year-old man kidnapped a family of five at a campground near Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. After keeping the Wayne Pascoe family captive for six hours, Johnson released them but took \$2,500 in cash and travelers checks and their camper.

"He said he was taking hormone pills," Pascoe said. "All he needed was money to have a sex change operation."

Johnson was arrested about three hours later and was charged with kidnapping and armed robbery.

♣ ♣ ♣

If convicted, Johnson will join hundreds of transsexuals who have been sent to jail for crimes committed to get money for surgery. But in Australia, such men don't just become inmates, they become women.

According to a report in the *Sydney Daily Telegraph*, 13 long-term prisoners in the state of New South Wales are receiving sex-change therapy at taxpayers' expense. What's more, the practice has been going on for nine years. The new Corrective Services Minister, Michael Yabsley, called it an "abhorrent program" introduced by the previous Labor government.

♣ ♣ ♣

The plight of transsexuals both in and out of prison was discussed by the European Parliament last month, and resulted in a call for the 12 member nations of the European community to pass laws banning discrimination against transsexuals. Such laws are already in effect or pending in Denmark, Germany and Italy.

According to a report commissioned by the parliament, many countries do not permit transsexuals to marry even after they have had the sex change surgery. The laws regarding identity documents in some countries also make it difficult for transsexuals to change their names. Because of these and other forms of discrimination, the reports says, many transsexuals are unable to earn an honest living and must resort to prostitution. In addition to calling for an end to discrimination, the parliament also called for laws protecting the rights of people to undergo a sex-change under appropriate medical guidance.

While Miss Sinclair reads several newspapers each day, she may miss an item relating to crossdressing. Should you see such an item, you too can be a "NewsPrincess" like Maryann Kirkland. She saw two, clipped them and sent them to Miss Sinclair at the Renaissance office. Maryann also noted the name and date of the publications. So should you.



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Discoveries: The Facts About Transgender Behavior — Part 3

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How It Happens — Maybe

Human beings are curious by nature. We have an insatiable need to understand how things work. Human sexual development is an area that only recently has received a lot of attention. Research in this area has given us some clues as to why some people exhibit transgender behavior.

The Eve Principle

We all learned in high school biology class that the Y chromosome from the male sperm cell combined with an X chromosome from a female egg causes the egg to develop into a male child. Until just recently, science did not know how the Y chromosome performed this miracle. By studying people with unusual chromosome sets, some light has been shed on this process.

Beginning with the biblical account of the creation of humans (Genesis), we've always assumed that being male was the "natural" state of things and that "female" was somehow derived from male as an afterthought. This is known as the Adam Principle or "Man first, Woman second". (What would you expect from the men who wrote these biblical stories?) As it turns out, this is backwards. Just the opposite is true. Every fetus has the potential to develop into a male or female. There are clusters of cells within each fetus that could become a penis or a clitoris. In the absence of any masculinizing influence (i.e. the Y chromosome) the fetus will develop into a female. Whether the female is "normal" depends on the chromosome set. A normal female has an XX pair of chromosomes, sometimes denoted 46(XX). There are some females who are 45(X-). They are missing the 46th chromosome and although they are physically female they do not develop in a normal fashion. A "normal" male has an XY chromosome set, 46(XY). The Y

chromosome, at some point in fetal development, triggers a "bath" of masculinizing hormones which set the course of development onto the male path. There are also males with 47(XXY) sets or various other multiple chromosomal abnormalities, but whenever the Y chromosome is present, a physical male results. This process of development has been called the Eve Principle. Restated simply: A fetus will develop into a biological female unless there is the addition of appropriate masculinizing hormones and only then will a male result. This is true even if the male Y chromosome is present but does not cause the proper male hormones to be released.

It does appear that the process is not a simple one-step process, but occurs in multiple stages. Any error along the way may cause physical or psychological abnormality. This is significant because it implies that males are more "complex", biologically, than females and therefore more prone to unusual behavior. It is easy to infer why, then, with so many processes needed for "normal" male development, that transgender behavior is so pervasive in the male population.

The Brain As A Sex Organ

The brain is the second largest sex organ, right after skin. Most of us never think (no pun intended) of the brain that way. It is the central switchboard for all signals and stimuli that get us "turned on". Everybody "knows" that men and women don't think alike, but it is only recently that we've been able to see why this might be true. The human brain exhibits sexual dimorphism which is a fancy way to say that there are significant differences between a male brain and a female brain. Exactly what these differences are is not clear, but all the indirect evidence points to this conclusion. These differences have

nothing to do with intelligence but more likely the ways in which men and women process information. For example, men, generally speaking, are more visually oriented, while women are more tactile.

Based on the Eve Principle, we must assume that a developing female fetus also develops a female brain. Certain instincts and behaviors are "scripted" or written into the developing brain for female behavior. For a developing male fetus these "scripts" must be erased and replaced with appropriate male "scripts". The two processes are defeminization (erasing the female script) and masculinization (writing the male script). It is not clear whether these two processes occur simultaneously or step-wise. If anything goes wrong with either of these processes, there is the potential for transgender behavior, but it doesn't end with the developing fetus.

Nature vs. Nurture

For years, students of human behavior argued whether our actions were determined by our nature (heredity) or by our nurturing (the way we are raised). As is usually the case, the answer seems to lie somewhere in between, at least for transgender behavior. The "stage" is set in the developing fetus, but the "play" unfolds after birth, and it is in several "acts".

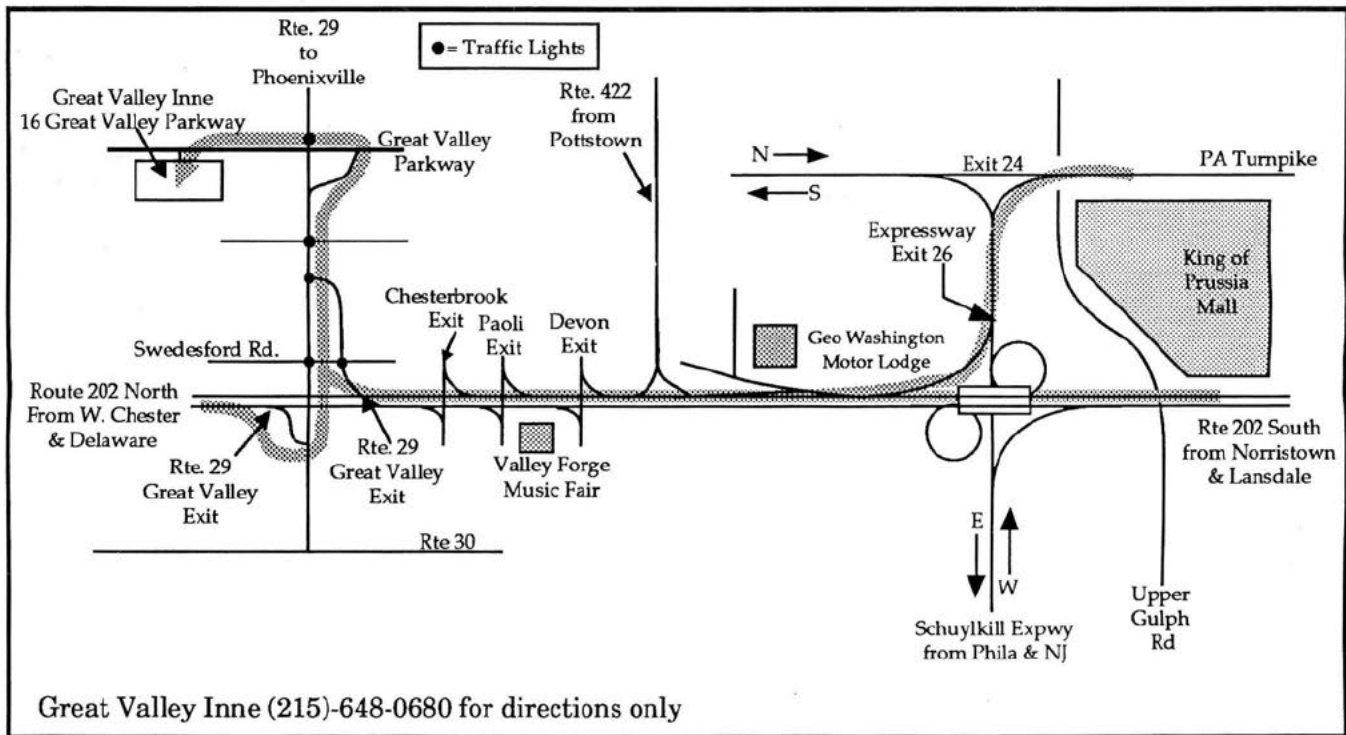
Sometime between birth and the age of 4 years we begin to develop our sense of self — who we are. We begin to recognize the differences between males (boys) and females (girls) and we identify ourselves with one or the other. At the same time we learn the proper social behavior for our physical sex (gender role). All of this information flooding our newly discovered sense is "filtered", however unconsciously, by that sex organ between our ears, the brain. Our brain sorts the information

continued on page 9

Greater Philadelphia Chapter Holiday Party

Saturday, December 9, 1989

Map to Party Location



Party-Party!

Rock 'N' Roll!

Twist and Shout!

Don your gay apparel!

Let your hair down!

Dance your panthose off!

Hors d'oeuvres

Buffet & Music

Prizes

The 1989 Holiday Party will be held at the Great Valley Inne, 16 Great Valley Parkway, Malvern on Saturday, December 9th. The festivities will begin at 7:30 PM with No-Host Cocktails. Ms. Charlene has some surprises planned for us all. The cost is \$25/person for Members and guests. Everyone is invited to attend. You *must* return this registration form and payment to the Greater Philadelphia Chapter Renaissance office no later than *November 29, 1989*.

Holiday Party Registration

Yes I am planning on attending the 1989 Renaissance Holiday Party.

Please reserve _____ spaces for me. Enclosed is my payment of \$_____.

Send tickets to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mail to Renaissance, P.O. Box AD, Bensalem, PA 19020

Discoveries...from page 8 about behavior into sets. Some behaviors we accept for our own gender identity and are coded positive (Implementation - Set 1), while others are accepted as appropriate for the opposite gender identity and are coded negative (Complementation - Set 2). The remainder are behaviors that we code as acceptable for either gender (Set 3 or gray area). This scheme is shown in the Figure 1.

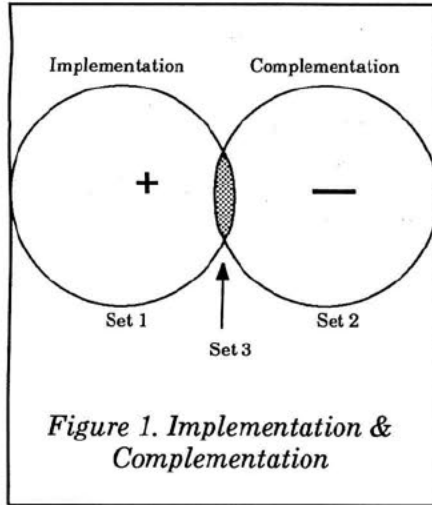


Figure 1. Implementation & Complementation

The diagrams for a "normal" male and female are shown in figure 2. (It is interesting to note most researchers agree that Set 3 is increasing.)

Now, let's apply this model to transgender behavior. Assume a biological female (46XX) who rejects feminine behaviors but accepts the masculine ones and has no gray area. The diagram might look like that in figure 3.

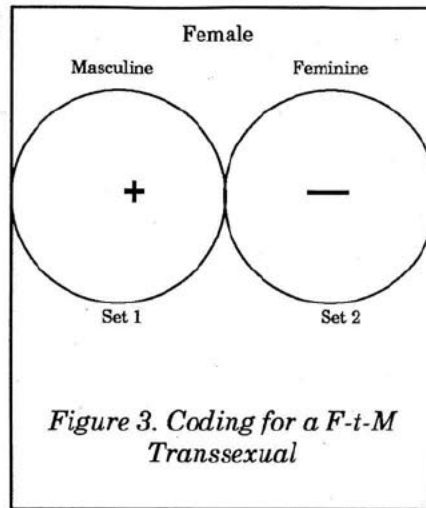


Figure 3. Coding for a F-t-M Transsexual

We would say that this person is a female to male (F-t-M) transsexual. Her brain has rejected those behaviors which society says are appropriate for her gender role, based on her biological sex (female), and she has accepted those behaviors which fit more closely to her gender identity (male).

Let's take another possible case. Assume a male (46XY) who accepts *both* masculine and feminine behaviors. The diagram might look like figure 4.

In this instance, we would label this person a Male Transvestite. His brain has accepted and coded behaviors that are deemed appropriate for both sexes and he will find that he has a need to express the feminine behaviors, usually through crossdressing. There is no confusion over gender identity but rather over gender roles.

So what does all this coding stuff

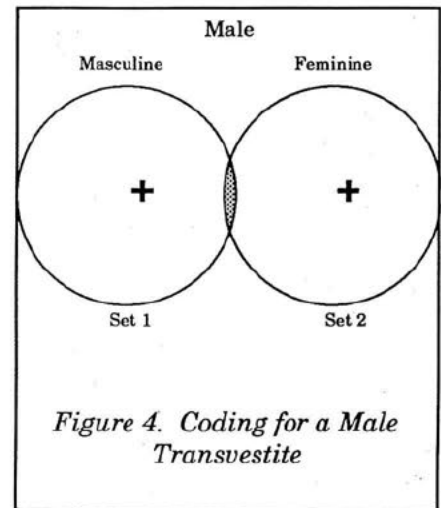


Figure 4. Coding for a Male Transvestite

mean? In essence, it takes both the prenatal influence during fetal development, and the environment around us, as we grow and develop as a person, to trigger transgender behavior. An appropriate analogy might be the development of speech. Almost all of us are born with the ability to speak, but the language we learn depends upon where we grow up in the world.

You can begin to see just how complex transgendered behavior really is. There is just no simple way to explain it all, in its every aspect and manifestation. All of the above describes current theories about HOW transgendered behavior might develop. It does not answer the question WHY. We may never know WHY and for the time being take what little comfort there is in knowing HOW.

(To be continued.)

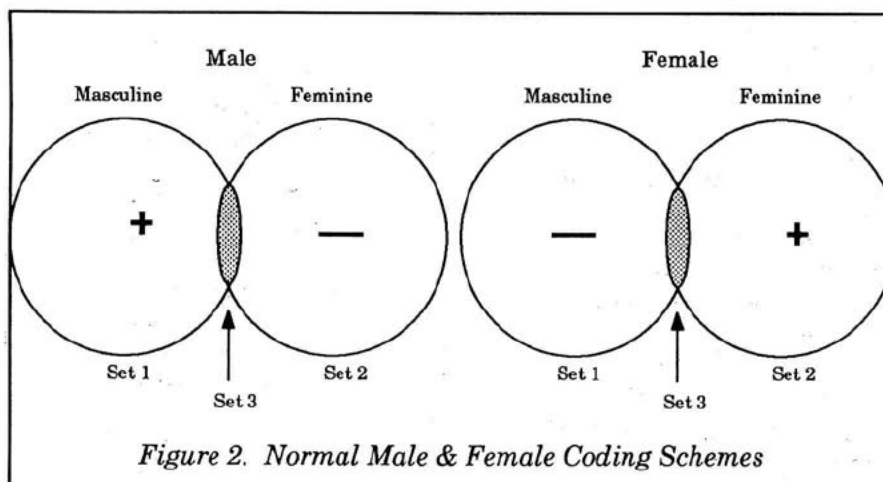


Figure 2. Normal Male & Female Coding Schemes

Notable & Quotable Excellence can be attained if you...

Care more than others think is wise;

Risk more than others think is safe;

Dream more than others think is practical;

Expect more than others think is possible.

Anonymous

National Gender News

from around the TV/TS community

INDIANAPOLIS — In the wake of the brouhaha this past summer over crossdressers being barred from gay bars in this city, Justice, Inc. has called for a set of uniform bar policies. Justice is a politically oriented group which acts as a clearinghouse for gay organizations in Indiana. Their aid was enlisted by members of the **Indiana Crossdresser's Society (IXE)**.

Reported in the *New Works News*, Vol. 9, No. 1a representative from Justice said bars that choose to require ID — which is not mandated by state law — must make genuine, uniform efforts to compare each customer's appearance with their ID. If the ID does not match the customer's appearance, the bar owner should make every reasonable effort to confirm the customer's identity by other means.

Justice also stated that crossdressers should bear in mind if they plan to use any services that require ID, it's sensible to expect that the description on their ID and their appearance should be recognizably similar when judged by fair and reasonable standards.

In the same issue, Sharon Allan,

IXE Vice-president, reports a conversation with the manager of a local Indy bar that has agreed to review their ID policy.

It looks like progress is being made here but at no little cost to some of the IXE members. We are proud that our Indy sisters stood up to the discriminatory practices.

And we ask everyone to recall the words of Frank Zappa, "It can't happen here."

NGN

SEATTLE — Speaking of political actions, **Karen Williams**, editor of the *Emerald City News*, laments the fact that there is still no long-hoped-for political organization to work toward equal rights for transgendered people.

Williams says that only a few cities prohibit discrimination against transvestites and transsexuals, Seattle being one of them. She says such an organization could be patterned after Greenpeace or the Sierra Club with lobbyists at the state and federal level.

We tend to agree with Williams in principle but see many obstacles to such an organization, the most serious being people to go public.

NGN

SPRINGFIELD, MASS. — We won't have them to kick around anymore...

The "Octoboo '89" issue of *Twenty Minutes*, the newsletter of The XX Club, carried a notice that publication will cease after December unless a new staff is found.

Editor, **Veronica Brown**, is moving to Canada, assistant editor, **Lynda [REDACTED]**, is moving to Florida, and the rest of the news staff will be moving on, as well.

Brown and life-partner, Paddy, visited us this past September. We presented Brown with her long overdue MONA (April Ren. News).

We'll miss the stinging wit of *Twenty Minutes* and lament the loss of a damn fine newsletter.

NGN

GURNEE, ILL. — Another newsletter goes belly-up. Issue #43 of *Kiara* came with a notice that editor **Gloria Wright** will cease publication with the October issue.

Most interesting is the fact that *Kiara* is a recent name change for the publication which had been known as the *Crossdresser's Bureau*.

This is another publication we'll

continued next page



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miss. Changes in Wright's personal and professional lives won't leave her much time to write. That's too bad because she has a real flair for the job but we understand the circumstances all too well.

Subscribers will be offered refunds on unfulfilled subscriptions.

NGN

ARLINGTON, VA. — And we might lose yet another publication, *The Pinnacle*, newsletter of the Delta Chi Education Association. Editor, **Michelle Johnson**, has relocated to Dallas, Texas.

We're beginning to wonder if there is trend here. Now, if we could only get the really bad newsletter to fold up...

NGN

BALTIMORE — We received a nice letter from **Shana** (no relation to our JoAnn) telling us that My Choice, a group started by **Kathy Stevens**, is still around, though we haven't heard from them in a while. They meet on the second Sunday of each month at St. Johns church, 27th and St. Paul street. Meetings start at 7 p.m.

Roberts tells us she's the only "straight" volunteer at the Baltimore Gay & Lesbian Switchboard. Her fellow volunteers don't necessarily understand her need to dress but they do accept and appreciate her. She also says it's a real trip to go to switchboard meetings as Shana. She's the only one in a dress.

For more information about My Choice write care of Shana at [redacted], Balto., Md. 21231 or call (301)-[redacted].

NGN

NEW YORK CITY — On Sept 14, photographs by **Mariette Pathy Allen** of crossdressers, transsexuals and their families went on display at the Big Apple's Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center National Museum of Lesbian and Gay History.

Then, on Sept 26, Allen, Renais-

sance Director of Public Affairs **Paula Jordan Sinclair**, and IFGE representatives **Yvonne Cook** and **Dan Riley** took part in a presentation on gender issues to a primarily gay and lesbian audience.

Cook and Sinclair are featured in Allen's forthcoming book, *TRANSFORMATIONS: Cross Dressers and Those Who Love Them*, to be published by Dutton in January.

NGN

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CALIF. — J2CP Information Services has sent out a Legislative Alert to all transgender support groups.

In September the U.S. Senate approved the *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1989* which attempts to clarify the rights of disabled Americans. The bill includes an amendment introduced by Sen. William Armstrong (R-Colo.) that specifically excludes homosexuals, bisexuals, transvestites, pedophiles, transsexuals, exhibitionists, voyeurs, compulsive gamblers, kleptomaniacs, pyromaniacs, or those with "other sexual behavior disorders" from protection under the act.

Sister Mary Elizabeth, one of the founders of J2CP, finds the amendment offensive and urges all of us to write to our representatives and express our opposition to the bill in hopes that the House does not approve it. We certainly don't like being included with child molesters and drug addicts, but we also don't like being considered disabled either. We'd rather eschew protection under that guise.

NGN

KING OF PRUSSIA, PA. — The Advisory Committee on Transgender Information Outreach and Networking (ACTION) of Renaissance has just finished its first review project.

The committee submitted its reports and comment on two Background Papers, *Spouses & Significant Others* and *Understanding Transsexualism*.

The paper on spouses had been previously released by Renaissance, while the transsexual paper is new. Both papers are in rewrite and the committee will have one last look before re-publication.

Renaissance will have ACTION review all of its current and future Background Papers.

NGN

HARTFORD, CONN. — We're pleased to see the connecticutView coming along quite nicely. Their newsletter has a new look with a nameplate designed by Creative Design Services, the same folks who lay out our newsletter.

View founder **Denise Mason** seems to be getting a much needed rest while newcomers **Judy**, **Jill**, **Corine**, and **Lynn** take over the administrative duties.

Meanwhile, Mason is not idle, having just completed a review of several Renaissance Background Papers as part of ACTION.

NGN

MADISON, N.J. — Last month we mentioned the publication of Dr. Robert T. Francoeur's new textbook on human sexuality, but we neglected to give its title.

The new college textbook is titled *Becoming A Sexual Person* and is expected to become available in the summer of 1990.

Over ninety-two friends and colleagues agreed to serve as special consultants for the book. These consultants will be identified at the opening of each chapter.

NGN

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. — A flyer from DV&P, Inc., came through here recently. For a \$10 membership fee, DV&P will send you a bi-monthly catalog of larger sized fashions and accessories at special prices. They also have access to wedding gowns, square dance outfits and period costumes. Contact DV&P, Inc. at Box 2667, Minneapolis, MN 55402.

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