

# CROSS-TALK

The Gender Community's News & Information Monthly

#51

\$7.00



**WARNING: THAT CON MAN PHILIP SALEM IS BACK!!!  
WOULD YOU TAKE A PILL THAT CURED CROSSDRESSING?**

**THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LEADERSHIP**

**IS CROSSDRESSING BIOLOGICALLY OR SOCIOLOGICALLY MOTIVATED?**

**21 THINGS NOT TO SAY TO A TRANSSEXUAL**

**WOMEN'S BODY LANGUAGE**

**MOVIE REVIEW: MRS. DOUBTFIRE**

**NEW 'ZINE REVIEW COLUMN**

**NEWS ... INFORMATION ... COMICS ... HUMOR ... CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

Surgeon General's Warning: Cigarette smoke  
may be hazardous to your transition.

No, the surgeon general hasn't really issued a transsexual-specific warning about cigarettes, but the evidence is clear: cigarettes present a clear and present danger, not only for the smoker, but for those who are in the proximity of the smoker, increasing the risk of emphysema, cancer, heart disease, thrombosis, and other conditions. In concert with hormonal therapy and surgical procedures, the danger may be even greater. Cigarette smoke

decreases the effectiveness of hormones, slows healing after surgery, and may act in conjunction with estrogens in the formation of blood clots.

Not only that, but cigarettes contribute to premature aging. And although your non-smoking friends might not complain, you can bet that they are annoyed and inconvenienced by the odor on their clothes and furniture and the smell of cold cigarette butts in ashtrays.

If you are SRS-bound, consider this: many surgeons require you to be smoke-free before they will operate, and most hospitals will not allow you to smoke during your stay.

If you smoke, please consider the long-term health effects. Slow down, or better yet, stop. You'll feel better, and so will your friends. Food will taste better, hormones will work better, and you just might live longer.

# Put this in your pipe and smoke it.



# CROSS-TALK

The Gender Community's News & Information Monthly

**JANUARY 1994**  
(ISSUE #51)



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**COVER ARTWORK:** Tina A.

**THIS MONTH**, regular readers will notice that our regular columns and features appear in a different order than in past issues. We have rearranged the sequence based on reader feedback, in order to put the most popular features in more convenient locations.

We have also begun experimenting with new graphics for the headlines of columns and features, and would appreciate your feedback.

Thanks also to Billie Hughes for providing laser printer support for this month's issue; we take delivery on our new Okidata 400E soon.

As always, **Cross-Talk** is published entirely on recycled paper with soybean oil-based ink by our friends at Arena Press in Mendocino County, California.



## KYMBERLEIGH'S CLIPBOARD

# PHILIP SALEM RESURFACES

by Kimberleigh Richards

There is one name connected with the gender community that I had hoped I would never need to mention again. It is the name of an individual who has caused much pain, fear and paranoia to our community in the past. Many in our community, including JoAnn Roberts, Dallas Denny, and myself have spent a great deal of time and effort trying to keep this individual from preying on unsuspecting members of our community, many of whom have no idea what kind of bad news this individual is.

That individual goes by the name of Philip Salem.

Philip Salem is not his real name. Neither are any of the aliases he has used in the past. In fact, no one seems to know what his real name is. What we do know is that every time he surfaces, people get hurt and people get taken.

He is, to put it bluntly, a con man.

I first became aware of this individual in the fall of 1989, shortly after *Cross-Talk*, then a small newsletter serving the membership of the now-defunct social organization "The Valley Girls", received a letter from Salem addressed to me under my former name of Kevin, starting with the phrase "I received your letter today." No letter had been sent by me; I had never heard of the man before then!

The letter made such statements as "I will never understand why transvestites go through ... shaving, electrolysis, and wearing heels", and "I accept this as a personality disorder". He then advised me and my readers to "get yourself a sexual partner and enjoy life", and requested that I place two personal ads in the newsletter (which I refused to do, as we had no such service available at that time). Salem claimed at that time to have 300,000 to 400,000 contacts in the gender community, but in the same paragraph referred to the "fake (*sic*) and phoniness of the tv-ts world". He then asked for us to put him up for two days in Pasadena so that he could meet with the "about 40 female admirers" he had in the L.A. area. The letter ended "You will burn out too because you will not make any money. You have to be filthy rich like myself and do it for fun."

I reported the receipt of the letter -- including its obvious contradictions -- in *Cross-Talk* #12 (February 1990), and the response was immediate and overwhelming. Not from Salem ... from our readers!

The next month, I reported that Merissa Sherrill Lynn, executive director of IFGE, had told me by telephone that "Salem" was an alias and that he was not a doctor, as he

had claimed. She said IFGE was considering filing blackmail charges against him, if they could find out his real name to file and serve him under. Lynn also said that Salem owed IFGE money for copies of *Tapestry* that had been shipped to him, and that he had been selling the magazine at a marked-up cover price.

Several of our readers had called to relate their tales of dealings with Salem and his "North American TV/TS Contact Service". None of the tales were complimentary, and none had a happy ending. One reader sent a photocopy of a letter she had sent to "Ina Rubin" along with \$125 for membership in the "contact service" and membership directory. No such directory ever arrived, and the reader has since dropped out of our community.

Meanwhile, another letter arrived, obviously typed on the same typewriter, but signed "Tanya Ray", advertising a "wardrobe consultation service" for \$100 per day plus travel expenses. (JoAnn Roberts of Renaissance later confirmed "Ina Rubin" and "Tanya Ray" as Salem aliases.) Tania Volen, publisher of *The Transvestian* and *Femaline*, said she had removed Salem's ads from her newspapers, but did not elaborate at the time.

The saga continued in our April 1990 issue, as additional allegations surfaced. Bobbie Starr, who published the *TV-TS Journal* at that time, shared a photocopy of a letter she had received from Salem that started "You should be on hormones" and requested \$25 for membership and the directory. In that letter, Salem claimed "about 50 TVs and TSs in the L.A. basin" as members. Debra Darling of The Emerald City in Seattle sent a letter stating in no uncertain terms that Salem was not a doctor, and confirming the "Ina Rubin" alias.

By May, we had received a report from Vickie Stone at *LIFELines* in New York that one of her members sent Salem \$25 for a directory in December 1988 and had not received a reply six months later. Vickie had the member send us photocopies of her correspondence with Salem (one-sided; he never replied), and her complaint filed with the Postal Inspector against Salem. Salem's response to the postal authorities, dated September 10, identified the complainant as a transvestite who wanted to meet other individuals interested in crossdressing (both terms underlined in the letter). The member subsequently received a 1987 issue of *Tapestry*, an issue of a little-known publication, *Transitor*, and three back issues of Tania Volen's newspapers. (*continued, page 11*)



# The NewsQueen

Edited by Paula Jordan Sinclair

The new year is the traditional time for journalists to look back and remind readers of the previous year's events. Ms. Sinclair does not engage in this annual stroll down memory lane, having enough trouble focusing on events of the past month or two. Besides, she doesn't wish to disturb those who have perfected the self-preserving technique of selective memory. The new news is bad enough without having to think about the old news. By the looks of things this month, death and destruction will continue to make headlines.

A case in point is the October murder of a transgendered 17-year-old in Xenia, Ohio. Police say that Martin L. Johnson (who preferred to be called "Marquita") was murdered simply because Juan Harding was driving around looking to kill someone. Johnson was walking along East Main Street wearing a woman's sweat suit when Harding got out of his car, taunted Johnson about being gay, and then put three .25 caliber bullets into her head.

Johnson was a ward of the state Department of Children's Services and was living in a foster home. A former foster parent said Johnson always wore women's clothes and tried to pass as a girl.



Danny Leonard is used to taunts and threats. Under the name Brandy Alexander, Leonard performs as a female impersonator. He also owns Friends Lounge, the only gay bar in Jacksonville, N.C., just outside Camp Lejeune. So when the voice on the telephone said "We're going to get you good this time, faggot," he thought it was just another crank call. That was until the following night when his home was virtually destroyed by a fire that police say was of suspicious origin.

Investigators say that last October's fire, which was started in the middle of Leonard's bed with diesel or jet fuel, did between \$40,000 and \$45,000 in damages to the house and destroyed more than \$30,000 in personal property. Although the fire was extinguished in less than 20 minutes, the intense heat and smoke caused the extensive damage.

During the decade that Leonard has lived in Jacksonville, he has been shot at, mugged twice, stabbed, and kidnapped. The bar has been robbed 15 times, his house was robbed five times, and his car was stolen and blown up. In April, the bar was fire bombed and received moderate damage. Still, authorities in Jacksonville are not classifying the latest fire as a hate crime.



A man dressed in women's clothes expressed the most appropriate reaction to public officials of this ilk when he

recently strode into a city council meeting in Oklahoma City carrying a sign simply reading "Ptui."

Later, the man, who performs in drag as Pollyanna Peters, said he was protesting the council's rejection of a human rights ordinance that would have banned discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, age, family status, and disability.

He said he had lost a job and a residence because of discrimination by people who unfairly assumed things about his lifestyle.



One drag queen in Uruguay is using another method to send a message to elected officials -- he is campaigning for the national senate.

Miguel de Oxum owns a gay bar in Montevideo, the capital of the South American nation located between Brazil and Argentina. He is running a serious campaign under the banner of the Progressive Republican Party, a small party that draws most of its members from former police officers, soldiers, and gays.

"I am Miguela to the world of the night so that as a hostess of the gay movement, I can show everyone a strange world they don't know about," he said.

Alas, de Oxum has little chance of success. Public opinion polls show that his party will receive less than 1 percent of the vote in this year's elections.



Ms. Sinclair does not wish her readers to draw the conclusion that she has little regard for all public officials; just most of them. Still, enlightened members of that species surface in the most unlikely locations. Witness the following ...

Missouri State Police reacted calmly when they responded to a report of a man changing his clothes outside a fireworks stand in the northeast Missouri town of Hatton. The man explained that he was on his way home and wanted to stop into the store, but was unsure if it was OK to enter dressed, as he was, in women's clothes. That was no problem, they said. But using the roadside as a dressing room was.

The Montana Supreme Court recently ruled that wearing women's clothes does not automatically make a man a bad father.

In October, the court overturned a lower court order awarding a woman sole custody of her 3-year-old son. The lower court had based its decision on the fact that the father had admitted that he had worn women's clothes in the past. The woman said that she never saw him crossdressed during their three-year marriage.

Experts testified that the man had never crossdressed



publicly and that he is unlikely to ever do so in front of the boy. The man testified that he has not owned any women's clothes since 1990 and never intends to crossdress again.

Ms. Sinclair applauds the wisdom of the high court, but she wonders about the competency of the so-called experts who also testified that the man's crossdressing does not mean that he is a transvestite.



Of course, Ms. Sinclair knows that many men who are not transvestites crossdress, like most of the 2,400 men who responded to a recent survey asking them which they would rather be for a week: President of the United States or a woman. A mere 1,896 (or 79 percent) said they liked the idea of being female for a week. Only 21 percent wanted to be president.

"I think being a gal for a few days would be fun if you knew you could switch back," one man from Provo, Utah, said.

But don't switch back outside of a fireworks stand.



Nor are the ten Glenwood High School senior boys who competed for the first "Mr. Homecoming" contest in drag transvestites.

The contest in the central Illinois town of Chatham took a little over an hour to complete. Each of the boys paraded down the temporary runway set up in the gym wearing high heels, wigs, makeup, and fancy dresses and blowing kisses to the crowd like beauty queen contestants everywhere. Mothers and girlfriends helped the boys look beautiful. "I can tell he's having a good time," Chad Dixon's mother said of her son who later won the contest. Another student, Jeremy Maddox, said he couldn't resist the opportunity to participate in the contest. Offering one

of the oddest justifications for crossdressing, Maddox said, "We're seniors. We've got to do it all."



But things are different in California where a new state law banning sexual harassment in public schools forced the Woodbridge High School student council to cancel this year's edition of a traditional spoof where boys dress like female cheerleaders.

The skit has been performed at the high school in Irvine since 1980 without complaint. But last year some of the boys got carried away and filled their bras with oversized balloons and added suggestive pelvic thrusts to their act. This prompted nearly half of the school's teachers to call the performance degrading to women. They petitioned the student council to ban the skit.

Now if we could only get those teachers to put a halt to the carryings-on of some crossdressers we know ...



Glenwood High School student council officials hope their tasteful contest will become an annual event, perhaps like the annual Delhi Skirt Game played near Cincinnati in which men from the Delhi Athletic Association, the Price Hill Lions Club, and the Delhi police and fire departments don dresses for a charity softball game.

A students of drag will know, such games were commonplace around the turn of the century. Decades later, a professional male softball team toured the Midwest playing all of their games in drag.



Next year's Skirt Game will be a lot more comfortable for the players -- not to mention more interesting for the spectators -- if the players follow a main fashion trend for spring: baby doll dresses.

During the recent spring shows in New York, schoolgirl frocks surfaced as one of the most prominent fashions in the collections of designers ranging from Ralph Lauren to Todd Oldham.

The very short, full skirts were worn over bare legs or thigh-high stockings with just a sliver of skin showing between the stocking tops and the dresses' high hems. Some runway models showed a return to garter belts. The model's generally wore clunky shoes with the baby dolls, so softball cleats should be just right.



If anyone doubts that a certain crossdressing sensibility is creeping into the high fashion world, one needs only look at the audience at the New York shows. RuPaul was at Todd Oldham's showing along with Jaye Davidson, who wore a gray flannel jacket and a long black dress.



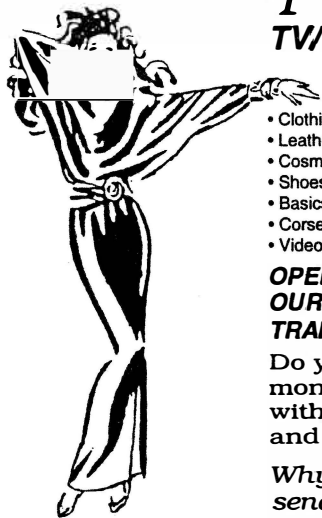
And speaking of RuPaul, did you think Ms. Sinclair could ignore the drag diva of 1993 (and possibly 1994)? The truth is, she can't no matter how much she tries.

You see, Ms. Sinclair was gifted with RuPaul's new Christmas album, and now she can't get the title song (*Little Drummer Boy*) out of her head. And every time she

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hears the song, she thinks of the hissy fit RuPaul threw during a rehearsal for a televised Christmas special featuring the song. But when cameras showed up to record the rehearsal for posterity (or blackmail?), he shrieked, "I can't be photographed like this. I don't have my corset on, I have the wrong makeup, and my regular hairstyle isn't here. And I just can't have it."

For those who are interested, RuPaul celebrated an ageless birthday on November 17.



And speaking of Christmas specials we are glad we missed, Greek Active, a crossdressed theater troupe in Seattle, recently presented a crossdressed version of *A Christmas Carol*.



With all the news about RuPaul, its easy to forget that the first pop-drag sensation was Boy George. Unlike certain other performers, Boy is modest about his position, acknowledging his debt to David Bowie, Little Richard, and Liberace.

"Certainly, each time somebody does it, they take it a little further," he said in a recent interview published in *Vanity Fair*. "Bowie broke down a lot of barriers for me, but, yes, I think I was the first."

Nor is he embarrassed by the costumes and hairstyles he wore in the Culture Club days. "I look back at the videos and I think, 'Girlfriend, you were on!'"



But for a mere twist of fate, the title that Boy George now holds could have gone to Johnny Depp. As a boy, the actor dreamed about being a rock star and worked on his wardrobe by raiding his mother's closet.

"Sometimes I'd wear my mom's shirts with French-cut sleeves and her seer-sucker bell-bottoms," he told *Cosmopolitan* magazine recently. "Yes, I'm familiar with women's clothing."

And he has gotten more familiar with feminine attire while working on his newest film, *Ed Wood*, a biography of the transvestite B-movie director.

"I'd never worn a bra before, so I couldn't understand that you're constantly bound and constrained and reminded by this, this thing," he said, waving his hands underneath his armpits. "After wearing a slip and a bra, I have much more respect for women."



Ed Wood isn't the only transvestite who posthumously is enjoying a theatrical biography. New York audiences have recently been treated to an adaptation of the life of Barquette, the Parisian music hall acrobat of the '20s who inspired Jean Cocteau and who was immortalized in the photographs of Man Ray.

Barquette, like Josephine Baker in the same era, was an American who had to go to Paris to become a legend. Born Vander Clyde in Round Rock, Tex., Barquette began his career as a crossdressing performer when he replaced one of the Alfarette Sisters, a popular American aerial act. But it was only after arriving in Paris that Barquette

became recognized as a man who performed as a woman.

*Light Shall Lift Them* stars John Kelly.



Back to the movies. If you saw the film version of *M. Butterfly* and thought something was missing, you may want to read the new book about the Chinese opera star and the French diplomat called *Liaison*. Author Joyce Wilder has packed the tome with facts far stranger than the fiction seen on the stage or on the big screen.

For example, when Boursicot, the diplomat, first met Pei Pu, the opera star was dressed as a man. Pei Pu told Boursicot that he was really a woman who had been raised as a male because his parents would have to get divorced unless they sired a son.

Of course, some of the "revelations" are not so strange, like the fact that Pei Pu was able to convincingly portray a woman during intimate moments by tucking his testicles up into his body and squeezing his penis between his legs.



Generally, mainstream films trivialize the transgendered experience. Ms. Sinclair calls this "the Hoffman/Williams syndrome," named after the stars of *Tootsie* and *Mrs. Doubtfire*. For those who wish to see a more realistic portrayal, she recommends what are called "art films." Here is a current selection.

*Female Misbehavior* -- This is actually four documentary short films by Monika Treut. While two of the films feature familiar personalities -- iconoclastic feminist Camille Paglia talking very fast and porn star Annie Sprinkle inserting a speculum in her vagina -- the most effective if the fourth "filmette" in which Max tells what it is like being a woman turning into a man.

*Le Sexe Des Etoiles (The Sex of the Stars)* -- This

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**ALSO AVAILABLE:** The classic book by Mariette Pathy-Allen, **TRANSFORMATIONS**, a series of photo essays with biographies of the crossdressers portrayed. (\$24.95 + \$3 P & H)

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French-language film tells the story of a 12-year-old girl from Montreal who discovers that her missing father has returned home after a sex-change operation. Denis Mercier won the best actor award for his portrayal of the transsexual father when the film was screened at the 17th World Film Festival in Montreal. In fact, the festival featured nine films with transgendered themes.

*I'm My Own Woman* -- A German film with English subtitles that tells the story of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf who was born Lothar Berfeld in 1928. His tyrannical father wanted Lothar to become a "proper soldier" under the Nazis. But it was Charlotte who survived the Third Reich, World War II, and the communist East German regime to receive the Order of Merit from the Federal Republic of Germany in 1992. Charlotte herself, now 65, interacts on screen with younger versions of herself.

*Split: William to Chrissy* -- The story of International Chrissy, a transsexual who achieved fame in the late '60s and who died several months ago.

At least one of the films, *Female Misbehavior*, is on video.



Maybe what sets these films apart from the transgendered fantasies produced by Hollywood is that they are based on real people in real situations. Well, you can't get much more real than having a transsexual in a sexually hostile work environment. But what if the transsexual is the one accused of the harassment? That's just what happened to R.J. McCoy who two years ago began dressing as a woman even at her job at McCoy Motors, a Flagstaff, Ariz., used car dealership owned by her brother.

Former salesman John P. Quaranta has filed a \$1 million lawsuit claiming that he was the victim of R.J.'s sexual advances and harassment. He said R.J., his supervisor, grabbed and touched his genitals, made sexually suggestive remarks, and one time kicked him in the chest. The harassment lasted from October, 1992 until he was fired in June of last year.

McCoy said that Quaranta is "delusional," adding, "If anything, I'm the victim of sexual harassment. Every comment that came out of his mouth had a sexual connotation."

Quaranta claims that the fact that McCoy is transsexual has nothing to do with his suit. "When I got hired, I thought R.J. was a woman," he said. "She wore eye shadow, earrings, a bra, perfume and jewelry. But then I started

finding out that a lot of people knew R.J. as Robert, and then I saw her get mad and she spoke in a man's voice." "She demanded to be called R.J. rather than Robert," Quaranta said. "A couple of times I slipped up and called her 'sir,' and she threw her keys at me. But maybe that was fair."



A more tradition case of job discrimination played out in the Netherlands recently when the members of a Dutch Reformed Church in a conservative rural region of the country rejected a transsexual as their pastor.

"I will always be a pastor in my heart, but there is no place in the Dutch Reformed Church for me," the Rev. Jannie De Boer said.

De Boer, 60, had sex change surgery in 1982 and had been preaching regularly at the church since 1990. But the congregation declined to hire her as the full-time pastor after she revealed her sex change during confirmation proceedings.



Events like this are enough to get anyone down. But mood swings among transsexuals because of hormones are not uncommon either. What's more, a rare medical condition among men also causes mood swings because of a shortage of testosterone. It is called hypogonadism, and a California pharmaceutical company has received Food and Drug Administration approval to market a remedy.

Alza Corp. of Palo Alto, which pioneered the development of the transdermal patch (most commonly used to quit smoking), has a patch that slowly releases testosterone into the bloodstream.

Now if they would only make one that contains estrogen.




Maybe someday they will.

Researchers at the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience held in November reported that doses of estrogen given to post-menopausal women reduces those women's risk of getting Alzheimer's disease. And if they do get the disease, the symptoms are lessened.

The disease is three times more common in women than in men, raising this question: would estrogen have the same impact in preventing or lessening Alzheimer's in men?





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Ms. Sinclair offers belated congratulations to a new publication serving the transgendered community. The first issue of *TransSisters, the Journal of Transsexual Feminism* was published in September.

The editors of the journal have taken on several hefty purposes, any one of which could prove to be daunting to a lesser crew; to provide a forum dealing specifically with issues of transsexuality and feminism, to promote a dialogue between the feminist and transsexual communities, to foster understanding of transsexuality within the feminist community, and to promote feminist consciousness within the transsexual community.

The first issue featured an interview with transgendered lesbian activist and author Leslie Feinberg, a genetic female who presents a male gender role. The second issue was entirely devoted to the issue of admitting transsexuals to the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival.

The journal will be published every other month. Single copies cost \$3; a year's subscription (six issues) is \$18. For information, write to Davina Anne Gabriel, 4004 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64110.



Ms. Sinclair will pass up the opportunity to make the obvious connection between her memory and Alzheimer's disease, believing that jokes about illness are in the poorest of taste. Instead, she will simply urge you to send clippings about crossdressing to her in care of this publication. Don't forget to note the name and date of publication.

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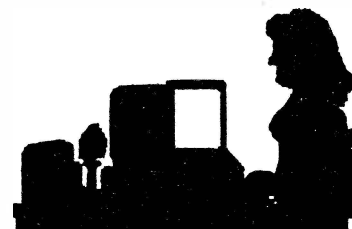
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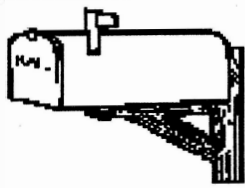
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# VOX POPULI

## Reader letters

**Re: "The Benjamin Standards Of Care: A Safeguard for Consumers and Caregivers" (November):** I found Dallas Denny's defense of the Standards of Care distressing. If this person is involved in "helping" transsexuals and crossdressers, I feel badly for those with the misfortune to be placed in her care. Between the lines, it's quite clear that, while she mouths the words of understanding, she lacks respect, love and genuine understanding for those desiring to change their gender status. What's left is arrogant paternalism and a health care professional who apparently lacks caring and probably does little to promote health.

As you finish the article, you're left with the impression that most every transsexual is bummed out on some substance or is dysfunctional on some psychological account. "The dysfunctionality of most of these people is not in my opinion due to transsexualism, which does not after all automatically render all transsexual people dysfunctional ... No, the dysfunction is more often due to alcoholism, to drug addiction, to immature and inadequate personalities, and it is here that effort should be expended to rehabilitate." Of course, she is talking about people at the "Tenderloin" (whatever that may be) but she uses their case to justify the restrictive nature of the Benjamin Standards. Denny sums up by suggesting that "allowing someone under the influence of drugs or alcohol, someone who is psychotic, someone who is not thinking clearly, to make life- and body-altering decisions is like giving a child a loaded gun." Paternalism aside, the statement is trying to make a correlation, without coming right out and saying it, between drugs, alcohol, psychosis, unclear thinking and transsexualism. If there is any evidence of such a correlation in greater proportion than any other community seeking medical assistance, I'd like to see it. But I doubt there is any such evidence that is not skewed by predisposed observation or by the obstacles placed before transgender persons by society and the health care system. Denny's failure to explore this self-fulfilling prophecy betrays her lack of compassion and understanding of the dynamics at play. Denny is careful not to come right out and label transsexualism itself as dysfunctional, but if you step back from the article, it's obvious that it is the operative assumption. Therapists buy into the cause/dysfunction/treatment paradigm easily because it appeals to their professional ideal of caring for the afflicted. They may no longer be actually trying to

treat transsexualism -- that is, to change their desires -- but research into causes goes on, as it probably still does into homosexuality.

Coincidentally, it becomes an industry for them and delivers them a living as well. A restrictive approach to dealing with transsexuals enhances demand for their services -- not only because therapists hold the power to grant transsexuals access to their goals but because the restrictive approach compounds the problems associated with the changes.

I don't mean to suggest that there is no place for psychiatric therapists in the transgender process but I do suggest that such therapists should not exercise control over it. It seems to me a straightforward-enough principle that psychiatrists should restrict their involvement to those situations in which they are asked to be involved. And if a person seeking gender change requests assistance from a therapist, that assistance should be directed at the problems placed on the table, not an imposition of standards. With transgender people, as with all people, one size does not fit all. (It's actually a lie with pantyhose too.) I believe there are millions of transgender people who are quite capable of organizing a change in their gender status, thank you very much, if they were simply provided the relevant information about the process and access to an endocrinologist. There are likely millions more who could do the same with the help of an understanding sounding board. The condescending, almost sneering, approach of Denny cannot possibly resolve anyone's situation.

One of the problems is that the relevant information is usually not readily available. General practitioners and most medical specialists do not have the information and are usually indifferent to finding it out. Therapists in the field prefer to focus on the patient and part reluctantly with information which they probably regard as proprietary. Denny's response is in tune with the rest of her article. "Most of them have little notion of how hormones will affect their bodies and their minds, of their options in life, of what transsexualism is and is not. How, then, can they give informed consent? My answer is that they can't." My answer, Ms. Denny, is to inform them, which is the normal way any medical practitioner obtains consent for a procedure.

However, the most insidious notion contained in Denny's article is that therapists often cannot

comply with a transsexual's wishes because they are sworn to do no harm. To a profession that really only categorizes these behaviors without truly understanding their dynamics, where they come from or what their significance is, the professed desire to "do no harm" takes on a "bull-in-china-store" character; almost laughable, were it not so tragic for so many people. What is really needed is a whole new approach to the notion of gender. Assuming transsexualism to be some sort of dysfunction with a cause (as yet unknown) is like saying a person's preference for MacIntosh apples over Grannie Smith apples is dysfunctional. There may, in fact, be a determining genetic or environmental influence on both apple and gender preference but it's irrelevant.

What we are really dealing with is the capacity of nature to produce diverse individuals within a population -- biodiversity. A species cannot survive without it. Transsexualism is one manifestation of biodiversity. The more important question to be answered is why human societies seek to regiment all individuals into one of two psychological profiles; individuals with penises in one row and those with vaginas in another. That is the most profoundly influential factor in all human lives, not just transgender people. It determines outcomes for individuals, families, community organizations, cities and nations. Yet it defies reason that every last person with a penis would seek to confine her behavior to only masculine things. Women have already seen the absurdity of the reciprocal logic and have been encroaching on male territory for decades.

Understanding how human societies became preoccupied with the social and psychological trappings of gender, and how all of that affects what happens in our lives, is the key to resolving not just issues in the gender community but in the underlying conditions that touch all human lives adversely in hundreds of different ways, from violence, poverty and exploitation, to mental illness, sexism and war. We are confronted with the evidence every day of our lives -- we just have to change our way of looking at it. It seems Denny would prefer transgender people continue to be regarded by mainstream society as creeps and misfits and in need of her services. No, thanks.

*Dawn Linden  
Victoria BC, Canada  
via Internet*

**Re: "Testosterone And You" ("Virgin Views", October):** In her column, Virginia Prince invited people to disagree with her. I have decided to accept that invitation.

There seems to be a great deal of transsexual bashing within the crossdressing community lately. Numerous comments have appeared in these pages touting the higher value of heterosexual crossdressing as compared to surgical sex reassignment. I find arguments about one person or a type of person being superior extremely offensive. When I read comparisons between groups, I am reminded of a redneck uncle defending his racism. This applies to race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender perception. It lowers my esteem for those involved in the argument and threatens the very foundation of society.

Some believe that crossdressing or transgenderism is a cop-out. Rather than representing the best of both worlds, it is a sentence to the neither world. In fact, a transsexual will have much difficulty in conceiving why a person would live their life playing dress up. A transsexual would never define themselves by what they wear.

Transsexualism is not a choice. If there were any other options for these people, they would take it. The old saying "If you can do something else, then do it" applies here. If you have no desire to reshape your genitalia, then thank the deity that you worship. You have been spared one of the heaviest burdens ever conceived. Would you deny a blind man the gift of sight, if medical wizardry could provide it? Who is better off, the cripple that is healed, the cripple that wants no healing, or the person that says they are not a cripple at all? The fact is if you are content with who or what you are, you are blessed.

Crossdressing and transsexualism have many things in common. With most of the world already against us, I believe we have much to gain by focusing on our similarities, and nothing to gain by creating divisions. My point is not to further the argument. The issue is understanding and harmony within the community. We must understand that we can never see gender the same way. We are looking at a common valley from two separate hill tops. We see different things because we are looking from different vantage points. We must accept that crossdressers and transsexuals are different.

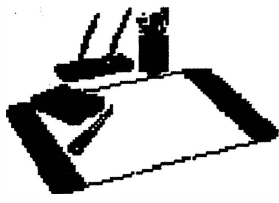
Yet, can we stop oneupmanship (*continued, page 12*)

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COGITO ERGO FEM

## READING BETWEEN THE (HEM)LINES

by Anne Blackwood

Last time I wrote about role playing, and I thought I would follow up on that just a bit, but from a very different perspective. Today I'm going to write about what women can learn from crossdressers about how they are perceived by men. I actually got started thinking about this when Kym called to tell me that Virginia had suggested an article about the role of crossdressing in ritual behavior surrounding such celebrations as Mardi Gras and Carnival.

During such celebrations men dress up as caricatures of women; we've all seen the footage on the 6 o'clock news. In these circumstances the men are not trying to find "gender relief". They are not escaping the pressures of their normal lives playing at being a female. They are celebrating life and blowing off steam, and part of their ritual may include putting on a dress (or unreasonable facsimile) and parading around New Orleans, San Francisco, Rio, or Sao Paolo.

These men are role playing. They are presenting a version of what they perceive women to be. That presentation is an exaggeration to be sure, but it comes from what they truly believe. The same is true for crossdressers, to escape their work-a-day world they put on a dress and pretend to be a woman. That character they create is based on what they **think** women are about, not what women are truly about.

I am an actress; acting is my profession. Acting is about taking on roles and making them live, so I know whereof I speak. Most actors are lazy. Most actors don't want to do enough homework. Most actors want to adapt a character to themselves rather than adapt themselves to the character, and so it is with crossdressers. The man puts on a dress and makeup and presents what he thinks is feminine behavior. He adapts the role he is trying to play to himself, and this is where he makes his prime mistake. He isn't being a woman, he isn't playing the part of a woman, he is playing **what he thinks is a woman**, but he is a man and doesn't know what he is doing. I suspect that many S.O.s of crossdressers are put off of the activity because they are to some degree offended by what is presented to them.

Now, this is not meant to be a criticism, just an observation. Many crossdressers when dressed are just men in dresses, they don't want to be women, they don't want to take on the role of woman, they just want to play at being something other than masculine. So, they play at

being the opposite of masculine, but not feminine. Yet, I think that many men (and some women) believe that feminine and masculine are opposites, but as I have said before, they are not. Masculine and feminine are compliments of one another. The point being that even still, these men are acting out some version of their perception of WOMAN.

If you are a woman involved with a crossdresser, observing his behavior when dressed should clue you into what he expects (at some level) from you. From this you may be able to figure out how to deal with him, or if you want to deal with him. By the same token, his behavior while dressed may also clue you in to what he expects of himself as a man. Look at it, reverse it, and *voila!*

I am being deliberately vague in that every person's motives are their own and what can be read from their behavior varies from individual to individual, and although I have already made some generalizations, I am loathe to make more. The following are not to be inferred as blanket statements, rather they are hypothetical instances, OK?

Ladies, suppose the man you are involved with dresses his age -- colors, fabrics, and style. This fella is probably more tuned in to the superficial aspects of what it is to be a woman (and that's as far as I'll say). Suppose he wears crotch length shirts, fishnets, and tube tops. "Danger, danger Will Robinson, danger danger!" Sirens blare, lights flash! This guy probably hasn't a clue and equates women with prostitutes. Oh, maybe not blatantly, but somewhere inside women are not people, but objects (that's another column). Though, to be honest, considering what most of my girlfriends tell me about how the men in their lives treat them, I'm beginning to wonder if men in general are incapable of recognizing women as people, but that's part of that other column.

I guess what I am saying is that how a man presents himself as a woman tells you what he thinks women are, but it is not necessarily an easy page to read. Getting back to the acting analogy, any competent actor can read the text, but it takes a really good actor to see the entire subtext. Maybe Ms. Fishnet doesn't see women as prostitutes, but sees himself as a prostitute in a corporate world. Perhaps Ms. Stylish is just a fashion fanatic, and views women as mannequins. I can't say. I don't know everyone (although I know a woman who does, or so it seems). Don't just read the text, read (*continued, page 12*)

What I said then still holds: Anyone who would reveal someone's connection with our community as retaliation for filing a complaint with the authorities for lack of delivery on a mail order, cannot and should not be trusted.

But the mailbox continued to fill here with Salem paraphernalia. Cynthia Howard of the Gender Alternatives League sent a copy of an interview with Salem in *Tapestry* #46 in which Salem said he had moved to Seattle in 1977 to take over Cathy Slavik's Empathy Press. (Slavik, contacted by telephone, said Salem worked for her only briefly and that she fired him for thievery of merchandise.) Subsequently, Merissa Sherrill Lynn issued a very strongly worded statement in *Tapestry* after receiving "many letters, phone calls and personal comments ... mostly negative" following publication of the interview, supporting Salem's work with segments of the gender community that were not being served otherwise. While Lynn urged caution and advised that no one give Salem their name, address, or phone number, she said she did not believe Salem was "a sex merchant [or] exploiter".

Shortly after *Cross-Talk* published the report of Salem's response to the Postal Inspector, *Tapestry* quietly dropped all references to him from future issues.

Meanwhile, Tania Volen began accusing me of having a "personal vendetta" against Salem, and demanded that I release any and all documentation for public viewing. I declined to do so, since the documentation contained the real names of some people who had not given permission for release of that information. Volen subsequently published a "Tanya Ray" ad, despite concurrent correspondence to me confirming that she was no longer doing any business with Salem's organization.

In November, I cancelled a reciprocal advertising agreement with Volen's publications after advising Volen why I was unable to comply with her demand. Volen has not responded to this day.

Meanwhile, Salem found a new outlet for his mischief ... a "contact" magazine called *T.V. Guy*, based in Las Vegas, contained two "advice" columns written by "Dr. Salem the Transvestite Shrink", an ad for his "North American Transvestite-Transsexual Society" featuring "Tanya Ray" as "screening coordinator", and 14 personal ads using Salem's Seattle address. As the magazine had what could be termed sexually explicit content, and had been mailed to our P.O. box without request and without the required warning labels, I began taking legal action against the

publishers in January of 1991, which ultimately resulted in the issuance of a Prohibitory Order against the publishers. Meanwhile, a second issue of *T.V. Guy* arrived, containing more "advice" from "The Kinky Shrink: Dr. Philip Salem", 24 personals referring to Salem's organization, "transsexual of the month" and "transvestite of the month" (featuring "members" of NATTS, naturally), and a two-page spread of the photos of Society "members" ... two of which were of Danielle Alexis, publisher of *Crossdressers' Quarterly* (To this day, no one is sure how Salem got her pictures. Danielle says she's never had even an accidental encounter with him.)

In May, approximately two weeks after the Prohibitory Order was filed, I received a letter of apology from the publishers of *T.V. Guy*, which I responded to with a letter outlining Salem's past activities and urging them to discontinue their association with them. While they never responded, in October of 1992, I had a conversation with one of *T.V. Guy's* retailers, who told me that he was apparently no longer appearing there.

While my one-sided conversation with *T.V. Guy* continued, Dallas Denny of AEGIS forwarded a copy of a letter Salem sent to a New York area crossdresser, claiming 30,000 members nationwide to his organization. (Note the huge discrepancy in claimed membership numbers from less than three years previous!)

We heard no more about Salem until October of 1992, when I received a letter -- with by-now familiar handwriting on the envelope -- from "Soraya" of the New Woman Surgical Center, requesting advertising rate information for *Cross-Talk* and inquiring as to the percentage of transsexual readership. Since Dallas Denny had already alerted us that the infamous John "Butcher" Brown was operating the Center in Tijuana under a pseudonym (*Cross-Talk* #39, January 1993), and since JoAnn Roberts had already identified "Soraya" as a Salem alias, I wrote back a terse letter to Salem advising him that we were all on to him. He disappeared completely ... or so we thought.

In the most recent issue of the Monarch Social Club's newsletter *Miss C's Musings*, there was a short notice of a "national TV/Ts leather club" forming. According to the notice, which originally appeared in issue #50 of *The Leather Journal*, the "North American Transvestite/Transsexual Leather Club", claiming 300 members and expecting to have 1,000 by 1996 (amazing how the figures keep spiraling downward), gave as its

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contact one Philip Salem of Seattle, Washington.

I have had more than enough of this man. I will even be presumptuous and say that the entire gender community has had enough of this man.

Philip Salem, as far as any of us have heard, has never received one word of support or praise from anyone in our community. At no time since I started keeping track of him four years ago has anyone stepped forward to offer a story of how Salem helped them. All I have ever heard are stories of how Salem has ripped off unsuspecting people, how he has taken photos sent to him in good faith and used them to lure more unsuspecting victims into his confidence.

He has more aliases than a crossdresser, more stories than someone covering for their attendance at a convention, more lies than Jon Lovitz's character Tommy Finegan.

The only reason none of us have ever taken legal action against him is that -- like any successful con man -- he has always eluded us as far as discovering his true identity. I would have no reservations in taking him on, as I have nothing to hide, but I can't because I've never been taken in by him.

It is my hope that by publicizing Salem's activities we as a community can rally and gather enough information to make him go away, once and for all. Everything I've written in this column can be substantiated by documentation in my files, but I have little or nothing prior to 1989, and I'm sure there are also a lot of stories in the present that I'm not aware of. So while I can continue to gather the information on our community's behalf, I need the help and support of our community to finally **do something** about Philip Salem.

Please send anything you may have to me here at Cross-Talk. You have my personal assurance that your identity will be kept confidential and that any contact by authorities -- if we are successful enough to be able to begin working with them -- will be through me.

On behalf of those who may be Salem's future targets, thank you in advance for your support.

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**COGITO ERGO FEM ... continued from pg. 10**

the subtext, and **that** should clue you in to what is going on and how to handle the situation.

For some men crossdressing is just a way to blow off steam, for others it is a sexual turn-on, and for others it allows them to become who they really are. "If it makes your life better, great!"

*[Anne Blackwood can be contacted at P.O. Box 1251, Beverly Hills CA 90213.]*

**VOX POPULI ... continued from pg. 9**

long enough to work together to our common good. Can we fight for acceptance of gender choice? Can we stand firmly together politically and socially to say that we are unwilling to sacrifice any of our constitutional rights because of our individual choices, what ever they might be? Can we say that your friend is my friend and your foe my foe? We will all be better served by our joint strength than any one of us will be by separation. I would prefer to see more about the issues that will make us better off a year from now, not the silliness of superiority. After all it is such a masculine trait, the gender bent version of macho, and as ZaZa says "Macho don't mean mucho." I do not feel that I am better than anyone, although I am more different than most.

*Christine Julian  
Bakersfield, CA*

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## VIRGIN VIEWS BY VIRGINIA

# REGARDING THE PILL

by Virginia Prince

Answers to a discussion question about the theoretical pill that might remove all desire for transvestic activities have been varied and enlightening. As might be expected they have run from the extreme of "Heck yes, I'd take it and be rid of this constant unsatisfied desire" to "I wouldn't come within ten feet of such a pill". There were more individuals that would not take it than those that would; however, I think the type of answer given is somewhat of a measure of the state of development of the individual from a TV toward an FP. You will recall that the term *FemmePersonation* was coined to indicate one who was able to make a person out of his *femmeself*. This is surely a higher state of development than a TV if the latter is considered to be its literal meaning, i.e., a crossdresser. At this level the dressing has a much higher erotic component, is more compulsive, and accompanied with much more isolation, guilt, loneliness, fear and shame. If the amount of guilt and shame is great enough the individual would feel that a means of getting rid of all that pressure and settling down to a relatively less

complicated life would be a very desirable thing. Such a person would reach for the pill.

On the other hand, after going through some years of such travail, and after having had various good experiences, such as many opportunities of going out and integrating their feminine self with the general public, or bad experiences such as living through a divorce resulting from TV activities, etc., individuals grow because of these experiences. They are not only older of body and years but wiser in experience, perspective and judgment. Wisdom and insight are not learned in ordinary institutions of higher learning. There is only one place where this degree can be earned, and that is in the College of Life in the Department of Social Experience. Thus it usually happens that the graduation of a TV to the condition of FP does not take place till age 35 or after, as it takes that long to acquire the experiences – good and bad – which give the perspective for a new view of the whole thing. Perhaps the greatest contribution that my efforts in the past and at present are making to the lives of readers is that we are helping to clarify questions, destroying the sense of being the only one in the world, of assisting the development of self-acceptance (and thus self-respect), of reducing guilt and fear, and, in short, of opening the valve and letting the pressure drop. Because of this, readers are achieving the FP state at a much younger age which means more years of enjoyment and fewer years of corroding self doubt, despair and guilt.

The higher proportion of those who would not take the pill attest to this fact. These individuals have begun to find that there is something deeper than just crossdressing involved in the whole thing. This higher something they find psychologically satisfying and thus would not want to lose it by taking the pill. Those remaining at the more primitive level would just as well take the pill, as it would remove a lot of pressure and insatiable yearning which comes close to giving them more pain than pleasure.

One, who in this case might not want to be identified, answered "It would be a heaven sent blessing to be either (and totally) masculine or feminine in the approach to any given problem." She goes on to say that her upbringing was such that she was taught masculine things by her father at a very early age, and was forced to learn feminine things, likewise, since her mother was ill. These circumstances have given her a combination masculine and feminine outlook which apparently, in comparison to

## WHAT'S ON THE TV TONIGHT?

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A book of nearly 100 cartoons drawn by Christine-Jane Wilson. In the magazine 'Forum', editor Isabel Koprowski wrote: " – the answer is not *East-Enders*, you'll be glad to hear, but delicious feminine clothing such as lacy bras, six inch stilettos and the sheerest of stockings.

*'What's on the TV Tonight?'* is a charming cartoon book depicting transvestites in a variety of amusing situations. Because it is the creation of a TV, none other than Christine-Jane Wilson, the editor of *The Glad Rag*, the book always laughs with, not at, transvestites. The author draws on her own experience, as well as her imagination, to produce cartoons showing the dreadfully embarrassing things that can happen to TVs, whether in social or family context. But it's not blishes all the way: some pages glow with the positive pride a cross-dresser may feel when found out unexpectedly.

Transvestites will identify with the author and find the book reassuring as well as amusing. Everyone will be touched by the sensitivity and delicacy with which Christine-Jane treats the difficulties of being a TV.

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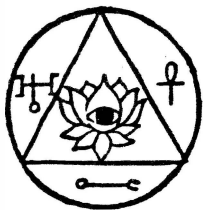
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others, seems to be less than a desirable condition. She would appear to be in the some what anomalous position of being a body (or two bodies) without a soul, so to speak. By this I mean that she has learned the mechanical-masculine and the domestic-feminine roles and procedures well; she is able to live, apparently, on both levels. But from her quoted statement alone (and this is all I have to go on) it would seem that she has not given a soul, an individuality, and, in short, a "life" to the feminine part. Maybe even to some degree the masculine does not have as much of an individuality as it should. The yearning to be one or the other and not a mixture indicates that this reader is missing the "joy of being" that should pervade both aspects of our life. She apparently has all the setup for FemmePersonation on the knowing and doing level, but has yet to appreciate her good fortune on the living level.

In conclusion, let me make the observation that little that is good and worthwhile in life comes easy. Hardships, suffering and sacrifices of one kind or another are the pavement on the road to experience leading to the goal of accomplishment, understanding and appreciation. Thus the state of mind which leads one to say he would take the pill indicates that the speaker is still "on the road" so to speak. When he has passed through this stage, when he has indeed become a FemmePersonator, he will have arrived at a destination that he can enjoy, and, finding enjoyment and satisfaction, would not wish to destroy it all with a swallow (of a pill).

*[Originally published in the FPE Femme Mirror #2, February 1962. Some minor editing has been done to this reprint.]*



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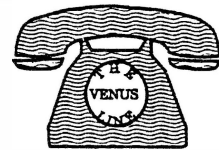
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# "Cross-Talk" Newswire

## News of the worldwide gender community

IFGE has announced its first board of directors meeting to be held at its new headquarters in Waltham, Mass., for January 15.

The meeting -- also the first IFGE board meeting not held at a major gender community function -- is being called "a perfect opportunity to build a sense of friendship, teamwork, and common purpose", according to IFGE executive director Merissa Sherrill Lynn. Lynn has suggested that board members arrive earlier in the week to observe headquarters operations, noting "the more time you spend in the office, the better you will understand how IFGE works."

The organization has also entered the second phase of its strategic planning project by beginning arrangements for focus groups to get feedback on IFGE's strategic intent and statement of purpose, and has announced that fundraising efforts are ahead 11% over last year's campaign.

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The Society for the Second Self's (Tri-Ess) annual "Holiday En Femme" convention made history by being the first major gender community event to be covered by television while the event was in progress.

Three Los Angeles television stations and the local CNN bureau discovered the event's existence after a feature article in the *Los Angeles Times* was published three days earlier than anticipated, resulting in camera crews and reporters videotaping seminars and vendor booths at the convention for several hours. Tri-Ess chairman of the board Jane Ellen Fairfax indicated that while the media coverage was not anticipated, it resulted in "a great deal of positive publicity about crossdressing in general." Fairfax noted that she personally spoke with more than

two dozen crossdressers who showed up at the hotel after the media coverage.

Holiday En Femme vice-chairperson turned media coordinator Kymberleigh Richards appeared in virtually all the television coverage, including a live interview on one station's prime-time newscast and a report by the local ABC-owned station that was fed nationwide to affiliates for their use. Richards said that interviews at the convention with a reporter from National Public Radio is leading to a special program on that network on crossdressing as well.

Richards and Fairfax also stressed the professionalism of the reporters and camera crews, who were careful not to show anyone on camera who did not agree beforehand to appear.

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The dates have been announced for the third annual International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy by conference organizer Phyllis Randolph Frye.

August 17 through 21 has been selected for this year's conference, which will once again take place in Houston, Tex. One of three regional "mini-conferences" leading up to the conference was held November 6 in Washington, D.C.; the others will take place during the "Texas 'T' Party" in February and at the IFGE convention in March. The regional meetings will help to determine the agenda for the August conference, according to Frye.

Frye also announced the availability of written and audio transcripts of the two previous conferences. The 1993 conference is being made available on VHS videotape as well.

Those interested in attending a regional "mini-conference" or the August main conference may contact Frye for information at (713) 723-8368 or by fax at (713) 723-1800.

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San Francisco (Calif.)'s ETVC has begun offering information and voice messaging for the Bay Area gender community via a recently installed voice mail system.

The ETVC Voice Mail System is operated free of charge 24 hours a day, according to system operator Jamie Faye. Its three public information areas provide information on ETVC's upcoming events and the organization itself; general information on crossdressers, transsexuals, and female-to-males; and personal advertisements, information on local gender community businesses, and gender community organizations. The system also offers private voice mailboxes to ETVC members for a \$10 annual fee.

The access number for the system, which has been operating since late October, is (415) 334-3439. Faye says local phone company toll or long-distance charges may

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OOO

The Minorities Trust has, with the help of two close friends of founding trustee and administrator Leone Neil, secured funding to continue production of their magazine *Transcare New Zealand*.

Neil, in a letter dated November 6, said postage for mailing exchange copies of the magazine to support groups worldwide has been guaranteed indefinitely, and that a photocopier is also being made available at a reasonable cost. Neil's original photocopier was stolen a year ago, which had made production and distribution of the magazine dependent material compiled and copied in 1992, before Neil lost her civil service position. More timely information was contained in smaller supplements for the past several months.

The supporters, who Neil declined to name, secured the postage funds and photocopier because "if the magazine went out of production, contact with overseas groups [might be] lost forever." The pair is also attempting to form an independent support group for crossdressers and their partners in the Wellington area.

Neil has asked subscribers to renew their subscriptions early, if possible, in order to purchase the copier and ensure supplies of toner cartridges.

OOO

Organizers of the annual "Esprit" event have chosen the weekend of May 20 through 22 for the 1994 event, to be held in the Seattle suburb of Port Angeles, Wash.

In addition, a "sneak preview" evening will be held March 18 in Portland, Ore., during the IFGE "Coming Together-Working Together" convention. Northwest Gender Alliance, which co-hosts "Esprit" with Seattle's Emerald City and Vancouver (B.C.)'s Cornbury Society, is host organization for this year's IFGE event.

The proposed schedule for "Esprit" will include an ocean cruise, high tea at the Empress, classes and vendors, banquets and dancing, and a Las Vegas casino night. Much of the proposed schedule has been duplicated from 1993's successful event.

"Esprit" began as "90 in 90", sponsored by Emerald City; NWGA and Cornbury began co-sponsorship the following year. Information for this year's event can be obtained from P.O. Box 873, Kirkland WA 98083.

## YOU WANT BACK ISSUES? WE GOT 'EM!

As our retailers return unsold copies of *Cross-Talk* to us, we build up enough of a stock of back issues to fill all the holes in your personal collection. Currently available:



**#46** (*August '93*) contains an editorial on whether or not the Benjamin Standards for SRS should remain public knowledge; why talk shows don't always show our community favorably; communication as an important part of a relationship; real-life experiences of the early feminist organizations in Houston; a game plan for achieving equality in human rights; advice for coping with situations while "dressed"; the difference between homosexuality and bisexuality; how you perceive yourself and how others perceive you.

crossdressing in Brazil; and feminine traits.

**#47** (*September '93*) contains an editorial on personal agendas within the gender community; what to say when someone discovers your "secret"; switching gender roles full-time; real-life experience appearing en femme among friends who never knew before; building a transgender archive; the history of crossdressing in the British theatre; integrating masculine



**#48** (*October '93*) contains an editorial on "in your face" outreach; potential impacts of health care reform; a wife's perspective on learning to cope; suggestions for Halloween costumes; the semantics of the term "tomboy" and lack of an appropriate complementary term; avoiding "turning-off" an accepting partner; the most-asked questions about organizations and publications.



**Also available:** Issues #39\*, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44\*, and 45. Issues marked with \* are in extremely limited supply.

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A very few copies of a special promotional version of issue #39, containing a short story from Sandy Thomas, will be available for \$8.00 plus \$1.00 postage while supplies last. Order #39-S.

# THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LEADERSHIP

by JoAnn Roberts

**A**riadne Kane of the Outreach Institute often refers to what we call "TV/TS Support" groups as "Social Contact" groups and to an extent she's correct. Most of our organizations are not like other mainstream support groups in that we aren't trying to help people, for the most part, get over serious traumatic events like rape or physical abuse. Most of our groups provide peer support to its members by letting them know they are not alone and by providing a safe environment in which to socialize and meet other transgendered people.

Because of this social nature, we tend not to give a lot of consideration to important aspects of leadership that might be required if our organizations were more like mainstream support groups. The social and "fun" aspects of our organizations do not necessarily require strong leadership skills in order to survive at the local level.

However, we now have in our community several organizations that have taken on a more serious role of education and proactive outreach to the world at large.

We have created these organizations in the image of larger non-profit corporations and we've taken advantage of state and federal regulations to acquire tax-exempt status so that certain doors which would otherwise be closed are now open to us.

But, we have not overcome the "social contact" mentality when it comes to selecting the leadership of these corporations. Are we choosing or electing the best qualified people? Are we looking for genuine leadership skills in our leaders? Do these corporate officers understand the financial and legal responsibilities they assume when elected to office in a tax-exempt organization? Do we not understand the seriousness of the roles these individuals play in these organizations? The people we choose to lead these special organizations must be the best that our community has to offer and they must understand the tremendous responsibility that we are handing them.

The prime responsibility of a leader to an organization must be the organization itself and not personal ego. We have created these organizations to, ostensibly, help people understand the nature of the transgender phenomenon. That must be the organization's primary

goal. If a leader gets some personal ego strokes along the way, that's fine. It's a bonus. But, we must never permit self-aggrandizement and/or personal gain to be the driving force behind any action taken on behalf of our organizations. Someone once said, "There is no greater treason than to do the right thing for the wrong reason." We don't want or need leaders who will only do what is best for themselves. We must require our leaders to do what is best for the organization even when it means a hardship for themselves.

Our chosen leaders must fully understand and respect their roles as care-takers of our community organizations. Regardless of who founded what, the moment an organization accepts a tax exemption from the federal government, that organization now belongs to the public and that means us, the transgender community at large. We must expect -- no, we must demand -- of our leaders only the highest ethical behavior. Any leader who feels that an organization is "theirs" to do with as they please, is

**The best way for a leader to inspire the respect of their followers is to show respect to them first.**

violating the trust we've placed in them and does not deserve to be in a leadership position.

Organizations can and do come and go on the whim of its supporters. In order to build anything of permanence, leaders must inspire the respect of their followers. The best way to do that is for a leader to show respect to his/her followers first. Any leader who cannot or will not respect the supporters of their organization is surely on an ego trip and not concerned about the organization itself.

Any person who seeks a leadership position in one of these organizations should be qualified for that position. We should not choose merely by personality, although that is important, but also by education, real-life experience, and appropriate people/organizational skills. It is not sufficient reason to put someone in a leadership position



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simply because the organization was their idea, especially if that person has no skills to sustain the organization. Placing the organization's fate at the hands of unskilled personnel is irresponsible.

Any person elected or appointed to a leadership position should understand their job and what is expected of them. Organizations should set standards and goals for each position of responsibility, then measure their leaders against these criteria. Organizations should periodically review the performance of their leaders and let them know how they're doing and have the courage to tell them where they need to change or improve their performance. Organizations should also have the courage to be clear about the consequences of unacceptable job performance.

As our community's organizations grow in scope and complexity, it is not unreasonable to compensate leaders for their work. But, such compensation should be linked to performance in the position. No one is entitled to compensation solely on the basis of their community status. No one has a right to compensation of any kind. Each must carry their own weight and earn whatever compensation is granted them. Anyone who does not perform to expectations, does not deserve a dime, regardless of who they are.

People in leadership positions are usually granted perks, little favors to "sweeten" their position. There is no problem with this practice as long as such grants are legal and above board. Organizations cannot condone under-the-table subsidies, or back-room agreements for perks, especially if they are designed to benefit only a select few. That generally violates the principle of every tax-exempt organization that no one shall personally profit from the proceeds of the organization.

Any person in a leadership position who wants a guaranteed position in perpetuity should be considered suspect in motivation. Such people are concerned only with their personal status, not the organization's goals. If someone is a good leader, there will always be a place for them in our community's organizations. In fact, the very best leaders are always in demand.

Finally, it is not sufficient to hold high standards of behavior for one's self. Leaders must require the same high standards of behavior from everyone in the organization without exception. And, every rule and regulation governing the exempt organization must be followed scrupulously to the letter. We must expect no less.

It is also important for our community to know what its rights are concerning these public corporations. You have the right to know who sits on the board of directors, who the officers of the corporation are and what compensation they receive, if any. You have the right to inspect a tax-exempt organization's Articles of Incorporation, By Laws, and original application for tax exemption. You have the right to inspect a tax-exempt organization's tax returns (Form 990) for the past three years. If you are denied the right to inspect these documents, you have the right to file a complaint with the Internal Revenue Service; they will investigate. (Note: Having the right to

inspect does not mean an organization is required to mail you copies of documents. They can require you to inspect on their premises. This regulation may change in the next year so that a mail request must be honored.)

To recap, the leadership of our tax-exempt organizations should be the best educated, most experienced, and most skilled people with only the highest standards of integrity and ethical behavior. If we allow anything less, we are doomed to experience a vicious cycle of organization creation and dissolution designed to benefit a select few.

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## ROGER'S NOTEBOOK #82

# IS BIOLOGY NECESSARY?

by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

The phrase "Biology Is Destiny" once was used to justify the treatment of any group of people. It was felt that the physical characteristics of a person determined how they were to be treated, women were "emotional", blacks were "inferior", etc. Similar arguments now arise in and about transgenderism although clothed in different terms. There is the age-old question of whether there is a physical or biological component to transgenderism.

Those who argue for such a basis feel that if a biological cause can be found then they can shed the label of mental illness and perhaps gain some social acceptance. Those who argue against biological underpinnings feel that if biology is shown to be a factor it would open the avenue to further discrimination. Their reasoning is that if transgendered people are "different" they need to be cured or controlled.

A similar situation seems to be occurring in the gay community. Here studies seem to show there are genetic and biological predispositions to "gayness" although the evidence is far from conclusive. In spite of these studies, there has been little change in society's acceptance of a gay lifestyle.

People who express transgender feelings are found in all cultures and throughout history. So it seems likely that there is some biological basis for transgenderism in much the same way as there is for almost all other human traits. However, it also seems likely that there is an influence from the society in which the person lives. Thus it is not "either/or" but both.

Whatever the biological causes of transgenderism are, they most likely occur during fetal development with perhaps an additional influence from hormones during puberty. So biology probably sets the stage for the social interactions that influence the development of gender identity. If the person's internal sense of self is at odds with social requirements, "gender dysphoria" can develop. For example, the transsexual's discomfort arises when social disapproval prevents the expression of their inner feelings. What this argues for is more freedom in social

roles. With greater freedom of gender expression the person whose gender identity does not fit his/her anatomy can find an appropriate middle ground.

Unfortunately most societies seem to function in a very polarized way. There are men and there are women. Each sex is expected to follow different social roles. Such "rules" do not allow for crossdressing, homosexuality or bisexuality. The transsexual's sole relief is to modify his/her body in order to be free to express her/his inner identity. Even then, discovery of the past can create problems.

Far more sad is that most cultures abuse and exploit sexuality, keeping it a thing apart from the rest of their humanness. Such separation generates a fear

that oppresses everyone, not just the transgendered.

So in the end, even if there is a biological component, its effect is overshadowed by the environment that the culture creates.

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It seems likely that there is some biological basis for transgenderism. However, it also seems likely that there is an influence from society.

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[ You may contact Dr. Peo at P.O. Box 3445, Poughkeepsie NY 12603, or by phone at (914) 452-8405. All communications are kept confidential. Copyright 1993 by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D. This column may be reprinted in any non-profit organization's newsletter if Dr. Peo's name and address appear with it. Other publications must obtain written approval from Dr. Peo. A copy of any reprint must be sent to Dr. Peo.]



## WOMAN TO WOMAN

# CONFRONTING THE QUESTION OF FEMININITY

by Linda Peacock

In last month's column, I began by mentioning that on a recent trip I had visited a bookstore owned by two lesbian women in which there was a small section of books and tapes for lesbians. I also mentioned that the majority of the stock was about and for women, validating us as humans, concentrating on our needs as women and as individuals.

My editor mentioned to me how very unusual it was that a wife/partner of a heterosexual crossdresser would mention lesbianism in a column directed to other wives and partners, and I found the editor's comment very thought-provoking, as well as disturbing.

I find myself very concerned about the fact that we are often too narrow-minded to accept someone who is different from us and that they often threaten our well-being. We make jokes about

those different from us, whether through nationality, race, sexual preference, profession. We accept discrimination by others quietly, rather than saying that we disagree. We judge a man on his "manliness" rather than the man he is inside; if he isn't doesn't measure up to what society says he ought to be, then we agree.

We never take the time to remember that he has feelings inside, that maybe he can't be

that "manly image" we've been taught to look for in a male. We have preconceived ideas of who and what he ought to be. At the same time, we have preconceived ideas of who and what we, as women, ought to be. We have it etched into our brains and hearts that we must be what society says we should be -- soft, feminine, slender, attractive, gentle -- always subservient to the male counterpart.

Fortunately, the last few years have brought us to a place where, as women, we have a choice. No longer do we have to conform to what society, or men think we should be. We can be ourselves, do our own **thinking**, seek our own goals, say what we believe and not have to sit and have the **thinking** done for us by men. We have brains, we have strengths, we have gifts ... then let's use them!

We, as wives, are far too often flooded with insecurity, fear that we are not as feminine as we "should" be. We are not only put off by our husband's feminine pursuits, it may seem to be a slap in the face, that we aren't woman enough for him.

I say that this is a **major** misconception on the part of wives and partners. We should not question our own femininity ... our worth as a woman. Our femininity should not be measured by what we wear, or how our hair looks. Rather, it should be measured by our self-valuation, the knowledge that we are important human beings, with rare gifts to share, and strengths to share with others not so strong. Our life, though shared with another, is separate from him, and we aren't going to get a second chance to live it as we want to. We cannot allow ourselves

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Our femininity should be  
measured by our  
self-determination and  
the knowledge that we  
are important  
human beings.

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to be second-best simply because history has placed women as subservient, useful for a man's pleasure and giving birth. We must make those around us, most especially our partners, realize how special we are, how much we have to give, and how much we need back from them. We cannot be only givers, we must also be takers. We should demand back the affection, the acceptance, the strength, the love we give to our partners ... if they won't give it

back, then the relationship simply becomes an existence. If we don't stand on our own feet, if we don't demand what is ours, we lose. If we don't get back what we give, we have the choice: To leave, or to stay in an existence.

If we, as women, demand what is ours, should we not also be open to others who are different from us, but who also have needs? If we are secure in ourselves, in our womanhood, knowing that we are making a difference in this world, why should we be fearful of those different from us? As wives of crossdressers, we too often seemed filled with fears that have no depth ... they are fears that have been implanted in our brains and hearts by a society unwilling to compromise or to agree that there are different people out there.

Why are we fearful or personally discriminatory against

those whose sexual preference is different from ours? Perhaps such preferences go against what our religious beliefs dictate; yet, most religions are based on loving our fellow man, so to hate someone different goes against such beliefs.

I've heard many wives express fears that they might be "lesbian" if they go to bed with their husband *en femme*. Time and time again, I have heard the professionals in our community emphatically state that this is a groundless fear. No matter what he may be wearing, he is still a man under it, and desiring that man, even if he is *en femme*, is a heterosexual, not lesbian, desire.

If we are comfortable with our sexual selves, we should be able to put aside fears about lesbianism and homosexuality. We are each responsible for our own sexual satisfaction, and as such, we should seek that satisfaction, and not worry that our sexual preference has changed because our partner wears a dress. If you don't want him, *en femme*, in bed, then say so ... let him know it hinders your satisfaction. If it makes you feel as though you would be performing a lesbian act, and that makes you uncomfortable, tell him this. Talk about your feelings, your needs, but be willing to listen to his, too. And think about being open to those who truly are lesbian or homosexual -- they can't help their personal desires

anymore than you can -- they are simply different from you.

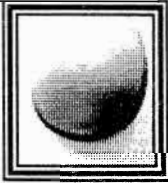
If you are truly a self-accepting, self-loving woman, then that self should be open to those who are different. The old term, "Right is right, and wrong is wrong" becomes blurred when we become more aware of the needs of others who are different from us. There are some very definite wrongs in society which we must recognize, such as child molesters, wife abusers, murderers, etc., but to condemn a person based solely on their sexual preference or their race or their religious beliefs is a crime in itself -- a crime against humanity. We, as women, as wives and partners of unique men, have an opportunity to make a difference by knowing and accepting our own uniqueness, by sharing the uniqueness of our husbands and partners, and by realizing that we are different from others, just as they are different from us. We need to put aside the fear, and realize that we can make a difference -- in our lives, in the lives of our husbands and partners, and in the lives of others who are different from us.

[Linda Peacock is the director for wives' and partners' support on the Tri-Ess board of directors and publishes the Sweetheart Connection newsletter. She may be contacted at P.O. Box 7241, Tallahassee FL 32314.]

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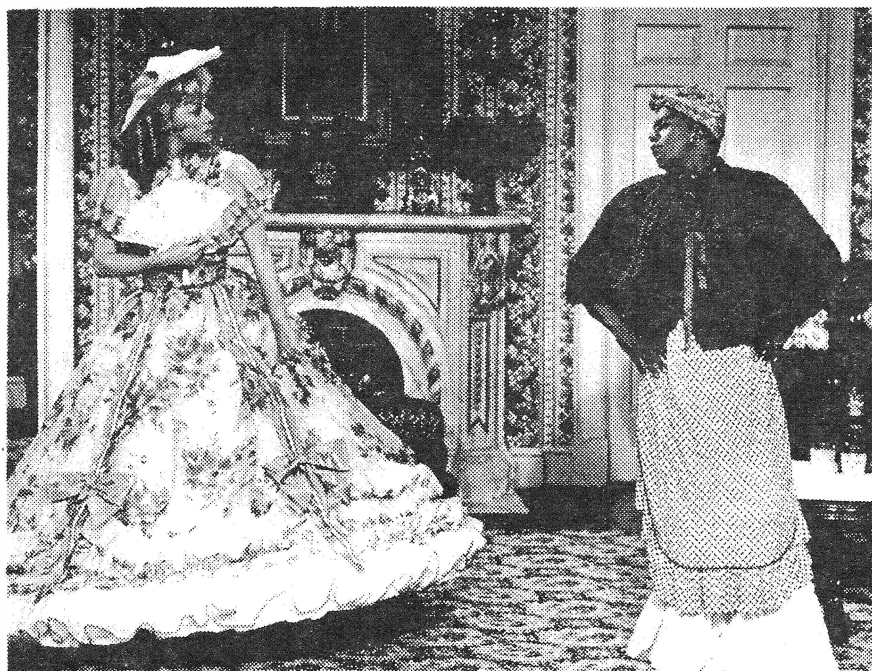
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# GREAT MOMENTS IN TV HISTORY

by Ralph Judd



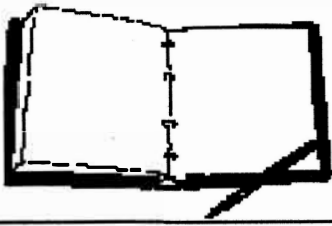
5/15/80: Mork (Robin Williams, left) tries out for the Denver Bronco cheerleaders, creating an uproar in front of 70,000 cheering fans on *Mork & Mindy*, ABC.



8/6/73: Lucy (Lucille Ball, left) wangles a job as an office girl with Flip Wilson (right) in order to try to break into show business on *Here's Lucy*, CBS.

Ralph Judd's books *Drag Gags* and *Drag Gags Return*, each featuring old movie photos showing female impersonation, with fictional humorous captions added and identified by actor, title, studio, and year, are available for \$8.95 each plus \$2.05 shipping and handling (Calif. residents, add 74 cents sales tax) from Ralph Judd Communications, 1330 Bush St. #4H, San Francisco CA 94109. Credit card orders, call (800) 637-2256.





## THE BEARDED LADY

# INFORMATION OVERLOAD

by Ricky Hunt  
Illustration by Rita

I am an information freak. I listen to PBS when I am in the car, or CBC (Canadian Broadcasting) when I am in range. I read the newspaper, sucking up all the columnists' opinions. I long ago gave up on television for real news coverage, but read *Discover*, *Mad* and *PC Magazine* from cover to cover. Give me a three year old copy of *Time* in the doctor's office and I'm happy as a clam. I love having all those little details stored away in my brain, half forgotten until something triggers them, and being able to come up with a perspicacious comment



on some esoteric subject. Besides that, it's just fun to KNOW.

When I first discovered there were other men out there who actually liked bras and panties and wrote about it I was in heaven. I read every scrap of paper that had an opinion, factoid or cartoon on it that was in any way connected to crossdressing. But lately I feel like an explorer lost in a swamp. I am surrounded on all sides by too much wet, gooey information, and no time to assimilate it all. I must have about 23 metric tons of crossdressing magazines in my closets, but these days I only get three of them regularly. Lately I have been letting even them go unread for months at a time. Partly it's working a temporary job with long hours and little time for reading, but partly it's because it seems I have been reading the same things over and over.

I suppose it's another facet of the problem I face each time I sit down to write this column. There are only so many things you can say about the subject of crossdressing, and I hate to repeat myself. I know an editor has to fill the

pages somehow, and is dependent on ego-tripping people such as myself who want to get their name in print, but if I read one more inane letter to the editor I just may toss my cookies down my bodice and have to wash my bra again.

**Dear Editor:**

Here is my subscription renewal. I just (gush) love your magazine to pieces. Here is a picture of me in my pretty new dress.

**Thank You, Sister Sabrina May**

Come on, ladies. The letters to the editor should be comments on previous stories, astute observations, joyful expressions of outrageous opinion and suchlike; not words in a row printed to fill up space or pat the editorial staff on the back. (Let me hasten to congratulate Kym on publishing an issue where "Vox Populi" had a note admitting there were no letters worth printing. Sound editorial judgement, that.)

Then there is the content of the articles. Some of them have to have information you have seen before, basic stuff for the new readers need. I wolfed these articles down gleefully ten years ago when I discovered there were others like me, but now they're old hat. So there has to be a mix of this essential old material with something new, and that's where I'm getting bruises on my forehead because I don't hit anything of interest while skimming thru the pages until I run smack dab into the back cover, which all too often has some bad poetry on it. (Truth in advertising: I don't like most poetry anyway.)

Perhaps we as a community are spreading ourselves too thin. In the last issue of a nameless magazine I saw ads for six other TV-oriented rags. Maybe that's cause for joy to have a growing audience, but I can't help wondering where they get all the words to fill the pages. Too often it is by reprinting from another magazine, leaving me slightly confused, knowing I heard this somewhere before. Or maybe it's yet another thrilling adventure as some courageous sister ventures forth to the mailbox with an unstuffed bra under three winter coats to mail a letter at 4:13 a.m.

So enough complaining. I have (gasp) a constructive idea. Next time there is a national convention, let's have a session for all the editors out there in TVland. Maybe invite an editor from the newspaper in the city or someone from a recognized book publisher. Get together and make a conscious effort to improve the quality of the publications. Maybe some egos can be laid aside and some of the publications with similar goals and readers could combine, and only the best and most interesting articles will see print. It just might get me reading again.



# HotBuzz!

Edited by JoAnn Roberts

"It is easier to fight for one's principles than to live up to them."



Some time back I reported on a sexy vs. sleazy survey. Well, here's another from *Glamour* where 100 men and women were polled about lingerie -- Black satin push-up bra: 98% women said "sexy" while only 77% of men agreed; lacy bodysuit: 71% of women found it sexy vs. 59% of men; thigh-high stockings: 86% of women said "sexy" and 77% of men agreed; merry-widow: only 61% of women said "sexy" and only 50% of men went along; finally, a bustier: 76% of women found this sexy compared to 90% of the men. Hmmm! Think men in this society are breast conscious, or what?



Continuing in the lingerie drawer, check yourself against these averages. The "typical" woman has 9 bras, 18 pairs of pantyhose, 22 pairs of panties, 4 slips and 2 camisoles.



Since we're not "typical" women in any sense of the word, here are a few resources that you might need. For large-size bras (from 32 DDD to 44 DDD) check out Bali or Olga. For larger bodysuits and briefs (to size 48) check out Flexees and Subtract. For large size pantyhose many styles and color are available from Hanes, Jockey For Her, and Forgotten Woman.



What would you think swimsuits and winter coats have in common? They are both priced with the expectation that they'll go on sale. The moral of this tidbit is ... Don't buy a winter coat or swimsuit until it goes on sale.



Fetish becomes fashion. Nordstrom is advertising knee-high black leather boots with front zips for \$315. Shades of Betty Page! Speaking of Miss Page, has anyone seen the two vinyl models of her astride a rocket and draped seductively across a bed?



Not everyone of us can grow out their nails to a feminine length. I'm sure that crossdressers count for a significant portion of the sales of press-on nails. But most nail sets are just too narrow. My good friends at N.S. Products carry wide-width press-on nails. Contact them at P.O. Box 6678, Glendale CA 91225-0678, or call 818-957-2310.



The hottest buzz this new year is IFGE's financial

situation. Varied and sundry stories have appeared throughout the gender press along with some highly imaginative explanations for their cash flow problems. Neither the amounts discussed nor the explanations have been accurate. (My fave is the "billing gap" explanation which calls to mind Richard Nixon.) The board has been working the problems and you can expect a public announcement soon of significant changes.



Meanwhile, ballots for IFGE board member elections should be in the mail. Please, please consider carefully when you cast your vote. IFGE needs the most skilled and most qualified people to fulfill its mission of service to the community. Your vote will shape the future of this organization. The people you elect must also be committed. Consider this: There are 21 members of the IFGE board, but of the nine IFGE board committees, three have no chairperson and two are chaired by non-board members. Remember: if you do not learn from the past you are doomed to repeat it. Vote, but wisely.



THE look for Spring is short and flirty -- which is fine if you're twentysomething, but ridiculous if you're fortysomething. The fashion pundits proclaim the mini is back, but most women (and most transgendered folk) don't have the legs for it. The best advice is dress your age -- well, most of the time at least. Here's a few tips: hemlines above the knees or at the ankles -- never midcalf; trousers, not leggings; and makeup, but not too much. Sweater sets look great.



With hemlines headed North, patterned pantyhose are *de riguer* and the runways were full of bizarre combinations. Lagerfeld showed glimmery tights with hiking boots. Bad boy Lacroix previewed sheer hosiery with curlicues. But the hands-down winner of the "fashion is stupid" award

## GRACE AND LACE LETTER

A Publication for Christian Crossdressers

Lee Frances Heller Publisher

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goes to the limited edition (thank gawd) Jenny Hozer hosiery with one leg bearing the words "the future" and the words "is stupid" on the other. The best advice here is don't copy any look seen on a runway.



Red lips have always been a fashion staple and this year is no exception. In fact, all the cosmetic companies are counting on it with loads of new formulations. Check out Clinique's Long Lasting Lipstick in Berry Kiss, Estee Lauder's All night Lipstick in Glamour, and Revlon's Don't Tell Plum.



Director Robert Altman, who skewered Hollywood in *The Player*, will aim his barbed wit at the fashion world with his latest film project *Pret a Porter*. (For the Francophilically challenged that's "off the rack.") Word is that the film really lays open the bitchiness and back-biting of the fashion mavens.



Another "hot" look I won't be copying this season is no-eyeliner eyes. Some makeup artists are skipping the liner and emphasizing lashes. If you'd like to try this look sweep taupe shadow all over the eye. Curl upper lashes and separate with a clean mascara or tooth brush. Apply several coats of mascara to upper and lower lashes. Try Revlon's new Lengthwise mascara.



Microfibers continue to revolutionize pantyhose. Two lines (Donna Karan and Hanes) have released body-toner pantyhose of microfibers that smooth legs and tummy. Prices range from \$8 to \$15 per pair. Microfiber hose look and feel great, and they are much more durable than regular hose. BUT, when they run, they RUN. My advice is to but 'em by the bagful through the L'eggs/Hanes catalog. They're about \$4 to \$5 a pair.



Lotsa crossdressers have a "thing" for wedding dresses. (The queen never wears white.) If you can't actually were one yourself, maybe you could imagine yourself in one. And a new book from Random House may be just the thing to help visualize just how you'd look. *The Wedding Dress* is billed as the ultimate book about the ultimate dress. A bit pricey at \$40, but what the hey, if you gotta have it, you gotta have it. Check your local bookstore or call Random House at 1-800-456-5303 for credit card orders.



Had an interesting experience not long ago with an electrologist who visited Renaissance. She asked me if I'd had electrolysis. I said, "No." She said, "Why not?" Now think about that. If she had to ask, she couldn't tell. But what bothered me was her attitude that electrolysis was required for all transgendered people. This same attitude was reflected in a newsletter article by a full-time transgenderist. She said something to the effect that if you're going to go out in the daytime, electrolysis is a necessity. I really hate it when people make statements

like that. What's necessary is that you hide your beard effectively. Maybe that means electrolysis, but maybe not. And here's something to consider while considering electrolysis: after removing your beard completely, you'll likely need a facelift. The follicles help support the facial skin. After you destroy them, your face may sag. I've seen it over and over with people I know. I thought they looked older but couldn't put my finger on why until I ran across this bit of info in a lecture.



What's the difference between Michael Jackson and Madonna? Madonna's penis is bigger. (Stolen from A&E's *Evening At The Improv*.)



**Rip-Off Alert – Rip-Off Alert – Rip-Off Alert – Rip-Off Alert** – Nationally infamous rip-off artist Philip Salem is at it again. Salem, who variously passes himself off as a psychiatrist or medical doctor, and was last seen touting a "national" dating service for transvestites and transsexuals, has resurfaced pushing another "national" organization for "TVs and TSs who enjoy the world of leather." While I am certain there are such transgendered people, I would never recommend they get involved with Salem who has caused much grief and pain in this community. Stay away from the North American Transvestite/Transsexual Leather Club in Seattle.



I mentioned last month using dark loose powder as blush. The cosmetic companies picked up on this new trend and there are now "contour" blushes on the street that accomplish the same effect as noted earlier. The contour blushes go "under" the color normally applied to cheeks. Check out Prescriptives' Pick 2 Shapers, Maybelline's Brush/Blush II, or Cover Girl's Instant Cheekbones.



Anyone seen the latest commercial from Dos Equis beer? They're running a contest called "Change Your Life" with a grand prize of \$25,000 or a new Corvette. Several people are featured telling how they'd change their life if they won. One young woman says, "I'd have a sex change." Cool, huh? But, honey, you'll need at least another \$50,000 to go from F to M.



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# 21 THINGS YOU DON'T SAY TO A TRANSSEXUAL

by Riki Anne Wilchins

**D**ON'T #1: "I was just talking to A CHANGE the other day and ..." To me this suggests that you are having strange conversations with your pocket money. No one IS a change. One can ask for change, own change, ex-change, change tires, change clothes, change sides, change to a minor key and change of life, but one cannot BE a change.

**DON'T #2:** "You look just as good as I do." Of course I do. And this is precisely the state of grace to which we all aspire. But more than likely you do both of us an injustice.

**DON'T #3:** "Well, I want you to know I certainly consider you a woman." It is a never-ending source of wonderment that well-intentioned, and otherwise very well-brought-up people say this to me, with a light of total sincerity from their eyes for which any self-respecting cocker spaniel would kill. Unfortunately, this assurance turns on at least four assumptions which, upon closer inspection, prove to be entirely unfounded: a) my gender is a subject about which reasonable people might be expected to reasonably differ; b) my gender is a topic that is currently open for discussion; c) my gender and your perception of it, is something about which I suffer rather a great deal of anxiety and about which I am seeking some reassurance; d) you, since you are a non-transsexual, are in just the providential position of providing me with this reassurance I desperately seek.

**DON'T #4:** "I consider you as much a woman as ANY of my friends." What a treat for them; especially your male friends.

**DON'T #5:** "I would NEVER have guessed you were a

you are destined for a life of more or less unending private humiliations.

**DON'T #6:** "When did you decide to become a woman?" Well, when did **you** decide to become a woman? Oh ... I see; with **you** it is normal. Um-HMMMMM.

**DON'T #7:** "Can you have an orgasm?" Yes, but only when I'm asked this question.

**DON'T #8:** "Can you have an orgasm?"

**DON'T #9:** "Can you have an orgasm?"

**DON'T #10:** "Can you have an orgasm?"

**DON'T #11:** "You must have a lot of courage to face surgery." To have the actual surgery, I just had to be able to breathe deeply, count at least partway backwards from 100, and fall asleep with some semblance of dignity. In all of these tasks I was reliably aided by enough I.V. anesthetic to subdue a small water buffalo. It would also have helped, had I \$10-20,000 in spare **change** (see #1 above) about my person. Unfortunately, while I was thus drifting majestically off to sleep, I found I also had to be able to watch my friends, most of my lovers, all of my family, and any Lesbian who used the term "politically correct" in any context other than a Lily Tomlin joke, fade out of my existence forever. Also, I found that I woke up to endless refrains of DON'Ts #1 through 7, above. That is the hard part; the surgery I could probably do again before breakfast.

**DON'T #12:** "I don't think it's anyone's concern what's between your legs, unless they're sleeping with you." Well, yes. But you, like me, might be surprised at the profound lack of fastidiousness some people display at even **this** tender area, as my weekly trips to the *accoutrements* racks at The Pleasure Chest and Eve's Garden confirm. In any case, I'm quite certain that whatever is between your legs, even during those hot, sticky, yucky days of summer, is totally above reproach and perfectly charming, while what's between mine, even on the very best of days, is, well, let's just not talk about it.

**DON'T #13:** "No one needs to know..." Of course they don't. We all have our little secrets, the small indiscretions we would prefer no one know. The thirty-five or so years of my life just happen to be mine.

**DON'T #14:** "This is women-only space." This is usually said to me by a rather red-faced Lesbian, who probably believes she is confronting the LIVE PENIS MONSTER (*moi*) as it approaches her VERY DOORSTEP. But then, these things are so difficult today; perhaps she is really a straight woman complaining bitterly about a lack of men. The only correct response I can ever think of is, "Well I certainly feel better knowing **THAT**".

**We all have our little secrets, the small indiscretions we would prefer no one knows. The thirty-five or so years of my life just happen to be mine.**

transsexual." This phrase is usually accompanied by a look of the utmost incredulity, followed closely by a searching, penetrating, and largely sotto voice reappraisal of all the things you thought you knew about me (or perhaps only all the times we slept together). Unfortunately, this utterance assumes that your credulity, no doubt a topic of endless fascination to you, is of equal interest to me. Since there are tens of thousands of us (perhaps in **your building alone!**), the fact that some of us can "pass" (a nasty concept if ever there was one) as non-transsexual only prophesies that, wedded to the entirely fragile notion that you should be capable of identifying all of us on sight, that

**DON'T #15:** "How did you know you're a woman?" Well, how did you know you were a woman? Ah-humm: breasts and vagina. Well, I can introduce you to some very handsome, bearded, muscular young men of my acquaintance who began life with the very same equipment, so that's not particularly compelling evidence, is it? ... I see, **inside YOU just know** ... Call me sometime, we'll have lunch.

**DON'T #16:** "When you were a man ..." Unless this phrase refers to a prior life of mine (something I have yet to explore), it's always difficult to respond to, because it assumes that I ever **was** a man. I think this sentence is meant to begin with, "When you lived socially as a man ..." or "When people thought you were a man ..."; small, but nonetheless, like lapels or pleats, highly significant differences.

**DON'T #17:** "I think transsexuals are just men in drag." Of course you do, and you're entitled, even justifiably proud, to think so. **Do not**, however, voice **this** sentiment while surrounded by a full room of men who really are in drag, (for instance, the next Fantasy Ball). Also, be certain to note the exception to this rule, which is, of course, female-to-male transsexuals, who are really, well, just women in drag. We all know how naturally distasteful it is when men wear dresses or women wear pants. **Do not**, however, voice **this** sentiment while surrounded by a room of S/M dykes in full leather and studs.

**DON'T #18:** "Well, I want you to know I respect your choices." And I yours, particularly in transcendent matters, such as whether to register your pattern at Bloomingdale's or Saks, or whether a bright, robust yet tart, Almanden can properly accompany sushi. However, in more pedestrian spheres, such as gender identity, it profits us immensely to recall that **none** of us exercises much choice.

**DON'T #19:** "You look just like a REAL woman." How splendid, especially when you recall I'm composed almost entirely of compressed soy by-products. And you look just like a REAL transsexual. Oh, I'm so sorry, I didn't realize that was an insult.

**DON'T #20:** "Isn't it AMAZING you're the ONLY transsexual I know?" Yes, and isn't it amazing, when you came out to your mother, **you** were the only homosexual she knew. Ho-hum. The fact that I am the only transsexual you know only emphasizes that: a) you probably know a few hundred of us, but you don't know you know us, and we won't tell you that you do; b) there are tens of thousands of us, and more all the time; c) we are secretly plotting to take over the planet earth, and infiltrating your prevailing non-transsexual culture is just our first step; d) while we are waiting to take over your planet, we are amusing ourselves at your expense by seeing just how much we can f--- with your head.

**DON'T #21:** "This may be a really dumb question, but ..." No question is dumb, especially yours, and particularly

those you feel must be ushered in with a disclaimer. It is wonderful when someone cares enough to ask questions, and to add to their information. However, I do confess to problems with certain kinds of inquiries which (for reasons which continue to elude me completely) I still **cannot** seem to answer properly. These include questions such as, "Have you stopped biting your lover yet?", and, "Have you always looked this bad in sunlight?"

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# THE BODY LANGUAGE OF WOMEN

by Laurie B.

One of the more interesting by-products of a more open TV lifestyle is a clarity of thought, especially when considering past interests and ideas. And especially so when examining the previous practice of "woman watching" and reading girlie magazines.

In my previous typically male lifestyle, a main fetish was watching and admiring the legs and feet of women, and how women moved their lower limbs. Women pose and twist their legs when talking, and often play with their shoes (and go through ballet-like movements with their feet) while seated or standing. A favorite part of girlie book reading was studying the legs of the models and wishing it was me, which applied to girl watching, too, I'm afraid.

## Body language is drummed out of men with clothes that reduce body motions of a childlike or feminine adult type.

Although I occasionally half admitted why women's leg and foot motion attracted me while I was looking, it now is very clear. It's because a woman's leg and foot body language conveys a freedom to express human physical sensitivity that is somewhat denied to men in our society. Let me explain, if I may.

Ever watch men sit in their business suits, ties, belts, and heavy wing tip leather shoes? Real stiff, real still, real straight. Women express emotion in their sitting, in their talking, in their movements, through all their limbs. Emotion or feeling, especially in younger women, seem to flow freely -- happiness brings on lots of body language.

Watching women and being a product of the constant "sit straight", "stand still", "don't move your feet" society, I was jealous of ladies. And if you look even further, women's clothes are made to allow for greater physical movement, expression, and feeling which supports the body language. This seems to explain some of the special status of women, in that they have the freedom and the clothes that might make a man admire feminine things, aside from the various other drives.

Going a bit further, the body language of ladies bears a lot of similarity to the basic emotions and feelings of children. When a child talks to an adult, they'll often twist in place, and hold a leg out at an odd angle, or swivel a foot in a shoe. Grown-up women do this, too. Could it be that women retain more of the body language of childhood into their maturity, and thus retain more of that special sensitivity, lightness and expression (ever try to slide a foot around in a wingtip, or lift the heel out of the laced

shoe?). Body language is drummed out of men, with clothes that further reduce body motions of a childlike or feminine adult type.

**What does all this mean to us?** When dressing as a straight male, the language of the body can be assisted by carefully choosing looser clothes, and silkier, more flowing garments. And shoes that are less restrictive, and more conducive to decent blood circulation. The popular women's style of white socks and loafers exactly fills the bill during informal times, allowing for air circulation, good blood flow and foot wiggling. Men's socks often cut into my calves awfully, doing all sorts of bad things to the body.

Looser clothes yield other benefits as well, with regard to casual wearing of more feminine garments. Long, loose pants allow for nylons to be worn with loafers or women's style shoes, without calling too much attention (and it looks sharp). Baggy or roomy shirts and turtlenecks can easily accommodate bras, without an excess of telltale strap

showing, as opposed to the need for an undershirt when wearing tighter shirts. And loose pants do not give off that panty line. To my mind, tight, form hugging clothes are but a small part of a ladies' wardrobe.

For crossdressers, the same general sort of advice would apply, though there might be less need to cover over the wearing of certain garments and nylons. Ever since reading an article on how pantyhose helps foster certain problems in women, due to a reduced air flow and heat build-up in sensitive areas, my love of garter belts and stockings has been more than a fetish, or a bit of nostalgia, ("bad girls" in the movies always wore garter belts and stockings). From personal experience, gartered stockings can be worn under pants with no sign of the elastic, given loose enough pant legs.

**Why Women Wear Nylons:** Apart from the sexual attractiveness and nice appearance of nylons, silk stockings and lacy ankle socks, I believe that there is an aspect related to body language. If I may take the liberty of theorizing awhile, the result of my studies may further explain why nice leggings and socks make one feel feminine and sensitive.

The foot is a very sensitive part of the body, possibly equalling or exceeding the hand in nerve endings, depending on the person being tested. This sensitivity may be due to a number of causes, including:

A. The foot must quickly identify foreign objects such as small rocks, thorns, needles, etc., in shoes before they puncture or irritate the skin.

B. Feet are often used to explore unknown terrain, such

as when climbing up, down or across hills and walls, or when walking in the dark, getting a feel for what's out there.

C. If one believes in evolution, man's ancestors lived in trees, and used their feet like hands, requiring a fine touch. Thus, our foot sensitivity is, or may be, a carryover from earlier models that required the extra nerve endings, just as other features such as more body hair and beards are probably carryovers.

Wearing nylons permits the foot to come more closely in contact with the bottom, sides and front texture of the shoe, providing stimulation over and above the feel of the nylons, which in itself may be considerable. When a woman removes her feet from her shoes, and runs them over the top of the shoe, the floor, or desk and chair legs, it appears to provide stimulation or communication of surroundings to the foot and body. One may have noticed how women take pleasure in walking in their stockinged feet in an office, or in going barefoot. I myself often find my toes playing with the tiny seam at the tip of the nylons, or running toes and feet over objects, as if trying to explore what's out there.

If what I've theorized is true, and wearing nylons and lace provides more sensitivity to the body, then this furnishes a bit more support for crossdressing by males: feminine garments promote overall body sensitivity, and don't necessarily just pander to male sexual fantasies and desires. Of interest here is the fact that male skin is generally rougher than the female, which might, at first glance, suggest that sheer, silky garments go to waste on male bodies, especially those not softened by estrogen. To this, one might counter that feminine feelings in males suggest a greater sensitivity, which fits right in with garter belts and nylon stockings, or silk panties, or whatever.

**Conclusion:** The examinations in this article appear to support the general theory that crossdressing by males satisfies more than a mental need, and fits in with body language needs and feelings of the overall body. Thus, crossdressing represents a holistic approach to dealing with gender identity issues, in that it addresses many personal needs.

**CROSS-TALK** is looking for retail outlets interested in selling this magazine every month. We are especially interested in gender community boutiques, alternative press bookstores, and other businesses catering to crossdressers and transsexuals.

Please call us at (818) 776-8503, fax us at (818) 347-4190, or write P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365 for a current list of our wholesale distributors or to arrange for monthly shipments directly from us.

While one might not be able to wear that special dress every working moment if one has to work outside the home, there are socially acceptable ways to dress that can satisfy the needs brought on by the so-called feminine feelings in men, when one must adjust. Thus, one does not have to suffer, or be in conflict, when dressing straight.

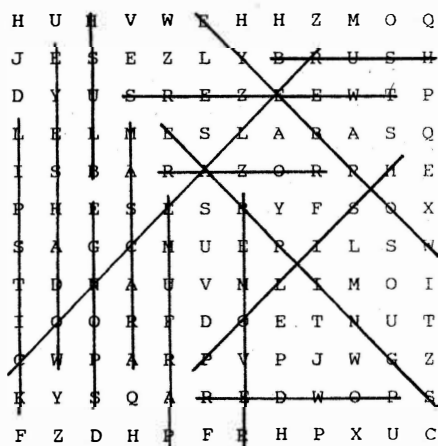
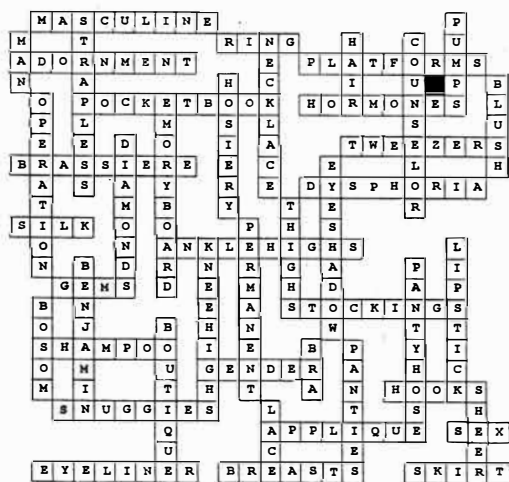
By study of just what makes us feel feminine, and how and why certain clothing, shoes and body care routines fit right in, we can make life work for us, instead of being at the mercy of society.

**Postscript:** It is interesting to note that during the European Age of Foppery, a well dressed, sensitive gentleman was expected to wear high heels, jewelry, powder, fine clothes, silk stockings and a wig. How society has changed!

In contrast, when I mentioned to my secretary that I used facial moisturizers, she stared back and replied that most men won't, they're too feminine. Denial of the most basic skin needs in the name of gender.

*[Reprinted with permission from The Transgenderist, TGIC, Albany NY.]*

**ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE PAGES**





# EXTENDING AND LEAVING THE CLOSET

by Barbara Jean Jasen

I got a letter a few months back from my sister Jeanette in California that I often write to. Jeanette is a TS and she said that in her observation most of the mostly CD support groups were basically an extension of the closet.

Now while I won't go so far as to say that most of the CD support groups are an extension of the closet, many are. In the typical closet group the members will meet in a private home, a sympathetic business, or even a motel suite where the members will come as males with suitcase in hand, then get dressed meet and then return to the

maleself a few hours later. They are never seen by the public eye. These groups are ideal for the sister who is fearful of the public as only those like her will know about her or see her.

Then there are groups on the other side of the coin, groups like the one I belong to. We gather *en femme* in the main lobby of the hotel, we go out to dinner *en femme*, we go on tours of the town *en femme*. In short we are always in the public eye. We are out to have fun *enfemme*.

It is said that crossdressers are their own worst enemy, and in reality no truer words were spoken. Many crossdressers fear emergence into public. They fear being recognized by someone that they know, or they fear social ridicule. I do not condemn my sisters for that, as I too have been there. For these sisters a chapter that is closeted is very much of a necessity.

But both of these types of groups have a lacking. The sister who is out of the closet does not want back in; she wants to go out and have fun, while the closeted sister will be afraid to attend a group that is fully exposed. Obviously, the ideal group will be somewhere in the middle of these two groups. Most closet crossdressers want out of the closet, but because of fear they remain locked inside. I think the ideal group will offer our sister the security of the closet as long as she needs, but will also be there for her and assist her in coming out of that closet when she is ready.

A couple of years ago Tri-Ess started what they call a "big

sister" program. New members who requested a big sister are assigned a big sister who is a member who volunteered for the job. The big sister gives a year of assistance (or more) to the new sister, answering questions on the organization, and even helps with advice on things like makeup, clothing, etc. I think a similar program is something that all groups need. The big sister would be a member who is out of the closet, she would assist her closeted sister in her coming out. To be effective the big sister would have to become close to her little

sister, she would have to try and find out what her little sister's fears are, and then work with the little sister on those fears. Perhaps it may be makeup or clothing, or just being seen by someone she knows. The big sister would escort her little sister on her coming out.

One question that has been posed to me in the past is "if we are heterosexual, why do we go to gay clubs?" Well, not only is the entertainment at the gay club to our liking, but also I think it is

about the safest place to take a newly emerging sister.

There is little chance of the gay man hitting on our sister, for what I have found is that the gay man wants a **real man**, and since the gays have suffered from prejudice they are more open to people who are other than the so-called norm.

If our sister is fearful of being recognized by someone she knows, then a distant (but not too distant) city is the place to take her for her first outing. The big sister would do whatever it takes to help the little sister feel safe and comfortable.

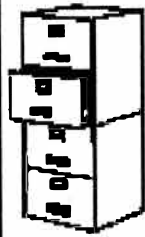
I think that if you were to be a big sister the one rule that you would need to follow the most in bringing your little sister out is to be patient. She must be allowed to come out at her own pace. To rush her will force her deeper into the closet.

Now here is a very thought provoking scenario for you girls who are public. You are out in public when someone you know, but does not (*continued, next page*)

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While I won't go so far as to say that most support groups are an extension of the closet, many are.

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# NATIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

- January 29, 1994:** 10th Annual "Miss ETVC Pageant and Cotillion", San Francisco CA. Information from ETVC, P.O. Box 426486, San Francisco 94142 or by calling (510) 549-2665.
- February 25-27, 1994:** 6th Annual "Texas 'T' Party", San Antonio TX, sponsored by Boulton & Park Society. Information from P.O. Box 700042, San Antonio 78270, or by calling (210) 980-7788.
- March 12-20, 1994:** International Foundation for Gender Education "Coming Together-Working Together" convention, Portland OR. Information from IFGE, P.O. Box 367, Wayland MA 01778.
- March 17, 1994:** "A DREAM of a Reunion", Portland OR, for all who attended any of the DREAM conventions on the 1970's and 80's; held during the IFGE convention. Registration information from Jennifer Richards c/o StLGF, P.O. Box 9433, St. Louis MO 63117.
- March 18, 1994:** "A Night at Esprit", Portland OR, held during the IFGE convention. See May 20-22 listing for information.
- April 27-May 1, 1994:** "California Dreamin'", Burbank CA, sponsored by Powder Puffs Of California and Neutral Corner. Details from P.O. Box 1088, Yorba Linda CA 92686 or by calling (714) 779-9013.
- May 19-22, 1994:** "Paradise in the Poconos", Canadensis PA, sponsored by Creative Design Services. Information from CDS, P.O. Box 61263, King of Prussia PA 19406, or by calling (215) 640-9449.
- May 20-22, 1994:** "A Taste of Esprit", Port Angeles WA, sponsored by Emerald City, NWGA, and Cornbury Society. Details from P.O. Box 873, Kirkland WA 98083-0873.
- August 17-21, 1994:** Third Annual International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy, Houston TX. Information from Phyllis Randolph Frye, 5707 Firenza St., Houston 77035-5515, or by calling (713) 723-8368 (fax: 723-1800).
- October 4-7, 1994:** "Dignity Cruise V", steamboating aboard the historic Delta Queen. Details from Peggy Rudd, 1811 Crutchfield, Katy TX 77449 or by calling (713) 347-6563.
- September 15-18, 1994:** "Paradise in the Poconos", Canadensis PA. See May 19-22 listing.
- May 17-21, 1995:** "Esprit '95", Port Angeles WA. See May 20-22, 1994 listing for information.
- (Please send information on national gender community events to Cross-Talk, P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365.)*

## INSIGHT ... *continued*

know about your *femmeside* recognizes you. "John, what the hell are you doing in that getup?" Do you have an answer ready on the tip of your tongue for them? Of course they will also have many other questions for you as well. Have you practiced how you will respond to them? Do any of you do as I and carry a brochure of some sort that will answer their many questions? I think this is a good idea. I carry one that I prepared for the Mu Sigma Tri-Ess chapter, and I think all groups could work on making their own (you can get a good one from the Boulton & Park Society entitled *Information about Transgendered People*). Carrying a few of these brochures will oftentimes assist you in answering the questions that people may ask you.

Social ridicule is another fear that the girl in the closet often has. Most of us who have been public know from experience that this is only self-perceived. From my own experience most ridicule will come from teenage boys, and girls will giggle. Peer pressure is very strong during those years, and they want to show their friends that they are like their friends. Most adults I have found will often take a second look at us, only because they want to make sure that their eyes did not deceive them. Beyond that they simply go their merry way. Most will not even take the time to ask questions. Salespeople are as helpful to us as to any other woman and are usually quite accommodating.

Look at the group that you are a member of; what kind of group is it? Is it a closeted group, an open group, or one that combines the good aspects of both? The sister who is in the closet really in her heart does desperately want out of the closet, but she needs the help of her sisters who are out to do it. Remember you were there once yourself. Give your sister the help she is in need of. Listen to her fears and work to help quiet those fears. In doing so you will help not only her but yourself.

## CROSS-TALK

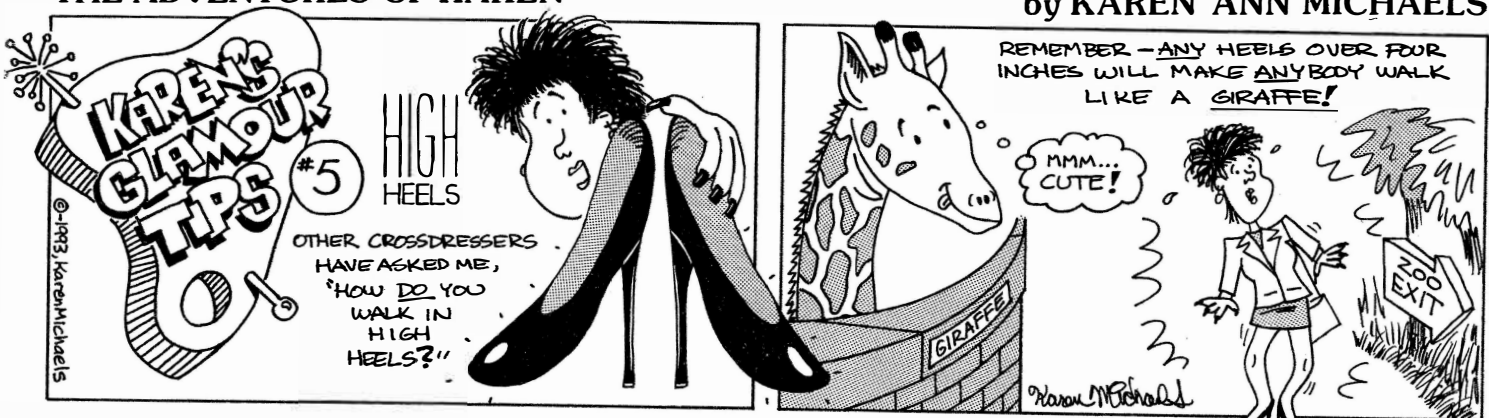
costs less by  
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subscription!

If you see a news article relating to the gender community, please send it to us at P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365, or fax it to us at (818) 347-4190.



## THE ADVENTURES OF KAREN

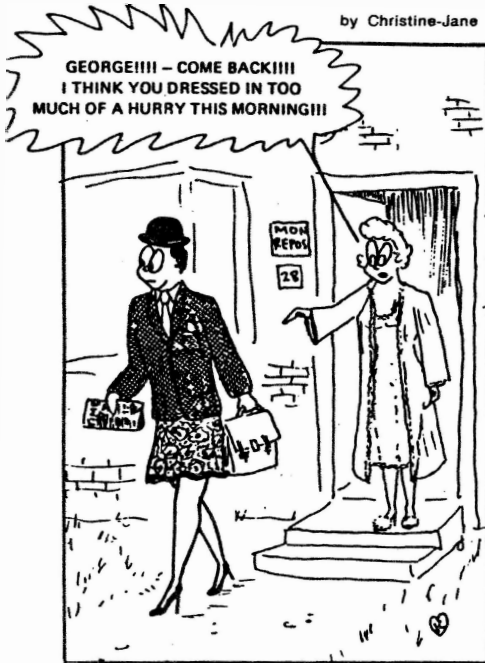
by KAREN ANN MICHAELS



## WHAT'S ON THE TV TONIGHT?!

by Christine-Jane

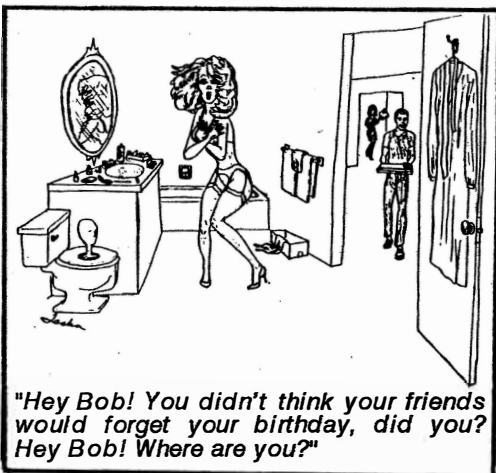
here in the (un)real world by Nancy Wilson



## THE PASSING SCENE by Kay Lightner



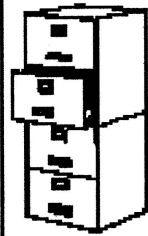
## Tasha's World by Tasha Barnard



**NOTE:** The comics and cartoons appearing on this page are separately copyrighted by their creators, and may not be reproduced in any form without their permission.

Cross-Talk will be happy to forward any request for republication to the appropriate artist. However, we must insist that the request be made before reprinting. This must, unfortunately, include the many fine non-profit support group publications in our community. Thank you for your cooperation.





## THE BEST OF "CROSS-TALK"

# A REASON OF BEING

by Wendi Seabreeze

Many articles have been written about the psychological, biological, and environmental influences, as the explanation for crossdressing. Some of you who have read these articles, no doubt have said, "this still doesn't explain why I am!" And I know this to be true, because many sisters of our sorority have related this to me. I have truly brought peace to their hearts, mind and souls, through metaphysics, as a possible answer to why we crossdress.

Metaphysics can be defined as the study of the finer forces of nature. Few TV/TS articles have been written on this subject and fewer have been published. What I wish you to understand through metaphysical science, is the reality of the inner-self and all its divisions. To some of you this is a complex subject. To explain this, so it may be comprehended easily, we will divide the inner-being into its three sections.

The first division is that of your lower-self. This region of your ego incorporates the outer-most layer of the physical brain, and the three lowest energy point centers (Chakras) of your electromagnetic form. The lower-self commands your sexual desires, your eating habits, and your emotional strengths and weaknesses. The lower-self is also the perpetrator of lust for power, material wealth and possessions. Here lies the center of every mental thought. It dominates your "conscious" brainwave patterns, up to the time you sleep. Individuals who are sadly governed by the lower-self, without waking interactions of the middle-self, are generally the losers in life. They may be self centered, lacking in moral conduct and personal hygiene. These lost personalities are usually loud and ludicrous, with little self-respect. They're sexually promiscuous, and may sometimes be easily addicted to drugs and alcohol.

The second division is the middle-self. This area of your consciousness exist within the next two layers of your

cerebrum matter. It is associated with the higher energy point centers. This middle-self governs the subconscious mind which regulates all bodily functions, that allows us to live. The middle-self attempts to guide the lower-self, and to harmonize with it. It (the middle-self) works its magic through dreams and when your mind (brain) is within the alpha and theta wave states of awareness. We who are at peace with ourselves, have united with the middle-self. This alliance may have been accomplished through a variety of methods ... like displaying love and compassion for others, which in return brings us inner well-being. Through a discipline of meditation, diet, good morals we may also harmonize with the middle-self. It blesses us with musical, poetic, and artistic talents through intuition and imagination. During mediation we may pierce the veil of the middle-self and receive illumination from it. You must experience a pure life with the unity of your lower and middle selves, before you can grasp the beauty and light of your potentially divine higher-self!

The higher-self is symbolized by the nimbus or halo. It may exist above your head on the edge of your aura. It may coexist with the crown chakra and the pineal gland. A brief glimpse of this sacred-self, could spark you with many psychic abilities. Masters whom have molded the three selves into a perfect being, live within a serene state of rapture and bliss called Godhead. Even just the knowledge that the higher-self is within can give wonders of beauty and infinite wisdom. You can enhance your feminine identity if you sincerely reach for the higher-self.

If you are a transvestite or transsexual who is licentiously sexually active, I would tend to believe you crossdress due to biological or psychological influences, and are hopelessly caged within your lower-self. But, if you sense a spiritual affinity to your crossdressing, then it is almost certain that you are who you are, and do what you do, because of the middle-self. It is the *(continued, next page)*

## LARGE SIZE SHOES DIRECT TO YOU!

LaFemme Footwear, a leading large-size ladies' shoe manufacturer's representative is now selling **DIRECTLY** to the gender community at unheard-of low prices! We have the widest variety possible of shoes -- pumps, boots, ankle straps, sandals -- in sizes ranging all the way up to **SIZE 15**, and up to **5"** heels!

We know what it takes to make a large-size shoe for the crossdresser and have the experience to give you a shoe that fits properly and comfortably. Plus, because we work directly with the manufacturer, we can even provide custom color shoes to match that special outfit!

**WRITE TODAY FOR FREE BROCHURES DETAILING OUR PRODUCT LINE:**  
**LaFemme Footwear, Dept. XT, P.O. Box 788, Sun Valley CA 91353**



# MOVIE REVIEW: *Mrs. Doubtfire*

by Charlene Day

Certainly you are aware that Robin Williams plays a part as a woman in the this movie. In the early stages of the movie, the character portrayed by Williams is shown to be a middle-aged, free-spirited character that is constantly at odds with his no-nonsense wife Miranda (Sally Field). She is a serious-minded interior decorator and they have grown apart in their marriage.

He gives an uproarious birthday party for his son and when she comes home early to find the home in a mess she can stand no more and gets a quick divorce. Because of his lack of stability, the court awards her full custody of the three children and he is only allowed to visit with them on Saturdays. He is devastated. The court gives him two months to get a job and find suitable living quarters for the kids to visit.

When he learns that his wife is advertising for a housekeeper to take care of the kids after school, he works things so that "Mrs. Doubtfire" is the only applicant that Miranda interviews. Then he gets his makeup artist brother to dress him up as Mrs. Doubtfire and goes for the interview. Miranda gives him the job and things go pretty smoothly for a while ... until the court-appointed liaison comes to see if he has gotten a job and a suitable place for the kids to visit. This involves a frenetic changing of clothing on his part, which will remind many of us of

times when someone arrived unannounced or too early and we had to quickly disrobe and change to our male garb. More complications are introduced when one of Miranda's handsome clients takes a great deal of interest in her: Mrs. Doubtfire tries to head things off with some "motherly" comments and advice.

The movie moves along at a pretty good pace with a lot of amusing incidents, culminating in a scene at a posh restaurant where Williams must again go through frantic changes of clothing. Mrs. Doubtfire's true identity is discovered and things come apart.

I won't give away the ending, which I think is probably realistic in our present-day society.

Postscript: I saw an interview on television in which Williams was asked how he prepared for the part and whether there was something that came from within him. He answered by saying that once he was made up, there were just certain ways that he responded to the clothing, wig, padding, etc. The character came from the outside in, he said.

Although the movie is rated PG-13, some of the dialogue and graphic references may be a little too much for small kids. Overall the movie is enjoyable and I think the scenes where Williams is dressed as Mrs. Doubtfire will touch a responsive chord with many crossdressers.

## A REASON OF BEING ... *continued*

conflict between the lower and middle-self, that is the cause of much of your confusion and despair. Unfortunately, the complexities do not end here. Your conflicting emotions may evolve from either side.

So that you may understand your struggling, I will give you a simple example: If you feel a psychological root to your crossdressing and are confused, then your middle-self is attempting to inform the lower-self of this abnormality. Your middle-self is convinced that what the lower is doing is wrong and immoral. A union with the middle-self would not be enough for you to achieve mental peace. So you must receive wisdom and holy compassion from the sacred higher-self! Understand?

But if you feel your crossdressing is due to a metaphysical incursion, then it is the lower-self that will try to bring the middle-self out of its heaven and down to its level. It is actually jealous of your enlightened cross-gender essence, and wants to destroy that whimsy. The lower-self recognizes you are a man (or woman), and logically deduces that you cannot become a woman (or man) in this life span! Nevertheless, in this case the middle-self usually wins the battle. That is because it is drawn nearer to the higher-self, which is both masculine and feminine. The oversoul and spirit in the after-life is androgynous. So when you live on the threshold of Godhead, you are those

uncontrollably urged to experience the opposite sex! This is such a marvelous phenomenon of life, that I'm elevated in spirit as I write, just dreaming of all you angels I would love to know and cherish, guide and embrace.

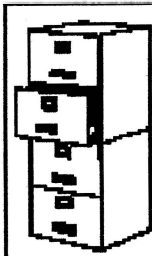
A psychologist may seem to have all the answers, condensing your gender situation to influences from your childhood. Most of this cannot be confirmed. I laughed when I was told this because I've experienced, as a young boy, the urges to dress as girl, at the age of six! So because of this, I have searched all resources for the real answers to my question: Why Am I?

As a thirty-five year young mystic, I am aware, neither can my hypothesis be substantiated. It is the duty of each individual to decide for themselves what they perceive the truth to be concerning their cross-gender identity. If you are inclined to believe that your *(continued, page 39)*

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The new **Cross-Talk** style book is now available for those wishing to submit articles for publications. To receive a copy, send a #10 SASE to P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills, CA 91365.

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# HOTLINES

These hotlines are run by non-profit organizations, and may not be answered "live" at all times as a result. Listings followed by % are for groups known to be sexually-oriented; listings followed by # are for primarily TS-oriented groups; listings followed by @ are for heterosexual TV/CDs only. Most other listings are for "open" (both TV/CD and TS) groups. While we make every effort to keep this listing updated, phone numbers may change without notice. If you find an incorrect listing, please let us know!

## NEW ENGLAND REGION:

CD Network, Rochester: (716) 251-2132  
Chi Delta Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, NYC: (201) 663-0772 @  
Cross Dressers International, NYC: (212) 321-2302  
East Coast F2M Group, Cambridge: (413) 584-7616 #  
Eulenspiegel Society, NYC: (212) 477-6588 %  
Expressing Our Nature, Syracuse: (315) 475-5611  
Gender Identity Program, NYC: (212) 969-0888 #  
Girls' Night Out, NYC: (212) 794-1665 ext 202  
Int'l. Foundation for Gender Education: (617) 894-8340  
Lambda Chi Lambda Chapter Tri-Ess, Ithaca: (607) 547-4118 @  
Long Island Femme Expression: (516) 538-5304  
Metropolitan Gender Network, NYC: (718) 461-9050  
My Choice, Baltimore: (410) 732-4546  
Outreach Institute, N. Portland: (207) 775-0858  
Renaissance Education Ass'n.: (215) 630-1437  
Renaissance Greater Philadelphia Chapter: (215) 946-8887  
Renaissance LSV Chapter, Harrisburg: (717) 780-1578  
Renaissance S. Jersey Chapter: (609) 641-3782  
Tiffany Club, Boston: (617) 891-9325  
Transgenderists Independence Club, Albany: (518) 436-4513  
Transpitt, Pittsburgh: (412) 781-0257  
Washington-Baltimore Alliance: (301) 277-5475  
XX (Twenty) Club, Hartford: (203) 646-8651 #

## THE SOUTH:

American Educational Gender Info. Service: (404) 939-0244  
Atlanta Gender Explorations: (404) 962-3118 #  
Black Rose, Arlington: (301) 369-7667 %  
Carolina Trans-Sensual Alliance, Charlotte: (704) 551-8838  
GDA North Carolina: (704) 642-1914  
Gender Information Network, Gainesville: (904) 332-8178  
Grace & Lace, Mississippi: (601) 982-7678  
Montgomery Institute, Augusta: (404) 603-9426 #  
M.O.R.E., Ft. Lauderdale: (305) 966-2138  
Mu Sigma Chapter Tri-Ess, Arkansas: (501) 972-1826 @  
Phi Epsilon Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, Central FL: (407) 677-9540 @  
Phoenix, Asheville: (704) 259-9428  
Reality, Orlando: (407) 425-4527 #  
Serenity, Hollywood: (305) 436-9477  
Sigma Epsilon Chapter Tri-Ess, Atlanta: (404) 552-4415 @  
Starburst, Tampa-St. Petersburg: (813) 685-9254  
TransGender Educational Ass'n, Arlington: (301) 949-3822  
Virginia's Secret, Richmond: (804) 741-1187

## MIDWEST & VICINITY:

Central Illinois Gender Assoc.: (309) 444-9918  
Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Chicago: (708) 364-9514 @  
Chicago Gender Society: (708) 749-1202  
City of Lakes Crossgender Comm., Minn'pls: (612) 229-3613  
Cross-Port, Cincinnati: (513) 474-9557  
Crossroads, Detroit: (313) 537-3267  
Crystal Club, Columbus: (614) 224-1165  
Gender Dysphoria Support, Shawnee Mss'n: (913) 371-0658 #  
Indiana Crossdressers Society, Indianapolis: (317) 894-8109  
Iowa Artistry, Cedar Rapids: (319) 842-2654  
Minnesota Freedom of Gender Expression: (612) 220-9072  
N.G.D.O., Detroit: (313) 842-5258 #  
Quad-City Society for Sex. Ed., Davenport: (319) 324-9641  
St. Louis Gender Foundation: (314) 567-8615  
Sunday Society, Chicago: (312) 252-7024

## SOUTHWEST/MOUNTAIN REGION:

Alpha Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Amarillo: (806) 359-7714 @  
Bluebonnet Coalition, San Antonio: (210) 656-4163  
Boulton & Park Society, San Antonio: (210) 545-3668  
CrossDressers International, Tulsa: (918) 582-6643  
Delta Omega Chapter Tri-Ess, Dallas: (817) 261-3253 @  
First Saturday, El Paso: (505) 434-5144  
Gender Crisis Help Line, Tucson: (602) 293-3456  
Gender Identity Center, Denver: (303) 458-5378  
Gulf Coast Transgender Comm., Houston: (713) 780-4282  
Heart of Texas Gender Alliance, Austin: (210) 438-7604  
Help Me ... Accept Me, Dallas: (214) 404-1926  
ReCast, Dallas: (214) 641-4842 #  
Second Image, Austin: (512) 778-5460  
TS Peer Support, Houston: (713) 333-2278 #  
Tau Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Houston: (713) 988-8064 @  
Tri-Plex Gender Association, Waco: (817) 867-1077  
West Texas Gender Alliance, San Angelo: (915) 944-1381

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST:

Emerald City, Seattle: (206) 284-1071  
Northwest Gender Alliance, Portland: (503) 774-8463  
Rose City Gender Center, Portland: (503) 230-1036  
Salmacis Feminist Social Society, Eugene: (503) 688-4282  
Transsexual Lesbians & Friends, Seattle: (206) 292-1037 #

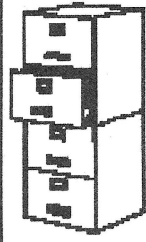
## THE WEST COAST (CA & HI):

Alpha Chapter Tri-Ess, Los Angeles: (213) 876-6141 @  
Androgyny, Santa Monica: (213) 467-8317  
CHIC, Los Angeles: (818) 766-0520 @  
Diablo Valley Girls, Concord: (510) 849-4112  
Educational TV Channel, San Francisco: (510) 549-2665  
Hawaii Transgendered Outreach, Honolulu: (808) 923-4270  
Neutral Corner, San Diego: (619) 685-3696  
Powder Puffs Of California, Anaheim: (714) 779-9013  
Rainbow Gender Association, San Jose: (408) 984-4044  
Sacramento Gender Association: (916) 482-7742  
Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess) Nat'l.: (209) 688-9246 @  
Swan's Inner Sorority, San Jose: (408) 297-1423

## CANADA:

Club Met, Montreal: (514) 528-8874  
Entre Femme, Quebec: (418) 529-1132 #  
F.A.T.E., Vancouver: (604) 254-9591  
Gender Mosaic, Ottawa: (613) 749-5203  
Illusions Social Club, Calgary: (403) 486-9661  
Monarch Social Club, Ontario: (416) 949-6602  
**U.K.:**  
Beaumont Society, London: 081-756-1782  
Gender Dysphoria Trust, London: 0323-641100 #  
GenTrust, London: 071-730-7453  
Liverbirds, Liverpool: 051-709-4745  
New TransEssex: 0268-583761  
Rose's, Sheffield: 0742-342870  
Scottish TV/TS Group, Edinburgh: 031-556-4049

**PLEASE REMEMBER, WHEN PATRONIZING OUR ADVERTISERS, TO TELL THEM THAT YOU READ THEIR AD IN Cross-Talk!**



# 'ZINE REVIEWS!

by Kimberleigh Richards

Welcome to **Cross-Talk's** newest regular column! "Zine Reviews!" is the replacement column for our previous "National Publication Review" column, which used to review gender community and mainstream publications, with an occasional 'zine thrown in for good measure. This column will concentrate on 'zines exclusively.

What is a 'zine? Basically, to be classified as such, it must be a limited circulation (less than 10,000 is usually used as the cutoff number) publication, with a focus on a specific interest, the publisher's personal viewpoints, and/or an alternative lifestyle. **Cross-Talk** is considered a 'zine (the more mainstream nomenclature is "alternative press").

Over the past year, I have become more and more aware of smaller 'zines covering transsexualism and crossdressing, and I have gradually made contact with other publishers to exchange copies of our respective publications. What I hope to do in this column is to bring them to your attention.



The first 'zine this month actually was sent to me by my good friend Lois Commondenominator of *Dragazine*. It's a clever little comic book entitled *Trantastic Comics*, published in the U.K. by Simon Murphy, a self-admitted transvestite (the inside front cover has several head-and-shoulder shots surrounding his introduction). It's mostly the cartoonists' personal catharsis, told somewhat autobiographically. Murphy's style is simple but amusing, and several of his experiences will seem very familiar.

The back cover is entitled "A-Z of Love", including High heels, Outfits, Wigs, and *Zot!* (a rather silly 1962 movie starring Tom Poston).

Murphy says he'll send anyone a copy for \$2.00 U.S., but Lois and I think he's underpricing himself, since the airmail postage alone would eat that up. So send him at least \$3.00 at 8 Hanley Court, Hanley Road, London N4 3QB, U.K.



The other 'zine that's been waiting patiently for attention is *The Official Dragqueen Handbook*, published in San Francisco (where else?) and consisting of full-page photographs of various drag queen looks, with definitions on the facing pages. For example: "Hollywood Queen" is defined as "a legend in her own mind"; "Lithium Queen" "keeps Target in business with her cheap lipstick"; "Gothic Queen" tends to be "straight yet is clad in high bat buckled heels, eyeliner & lips of black". My personal favorite is "Queen In The Hood", which ... well, let's just say RuPaul comes to mind.

Late in September, I got a flyer from the publishers,

Enrique Vargas and Nicholas Bohn saying that the "white trash" issue was coming out in October, but it hadn't arrived at press time. I'm presuming, though, that it will be every bit as entertaining.

Either the original or the new issue can be ordered for \$4.00 postage paid (\$1.00 extra postage outside the U.S.) from 1800 Market St. #73, San Francisco CA 94102. Enrique and Nicholas also say they're open to photo and writing submissions.



Closing note: If you decide to get your own copies of any 'zine reviewed, there are two things you should know about the alternative press world: (1) Hard, cold, cash is best, because frequently 'zine publishers aren't in a position to cash checks with funny names on them; and (2) 'Zine editors love getting mail, so send creative letters when you order and be sure to write them and tell them how much you loved their work after you get it.

**LadyLike Chat Line**

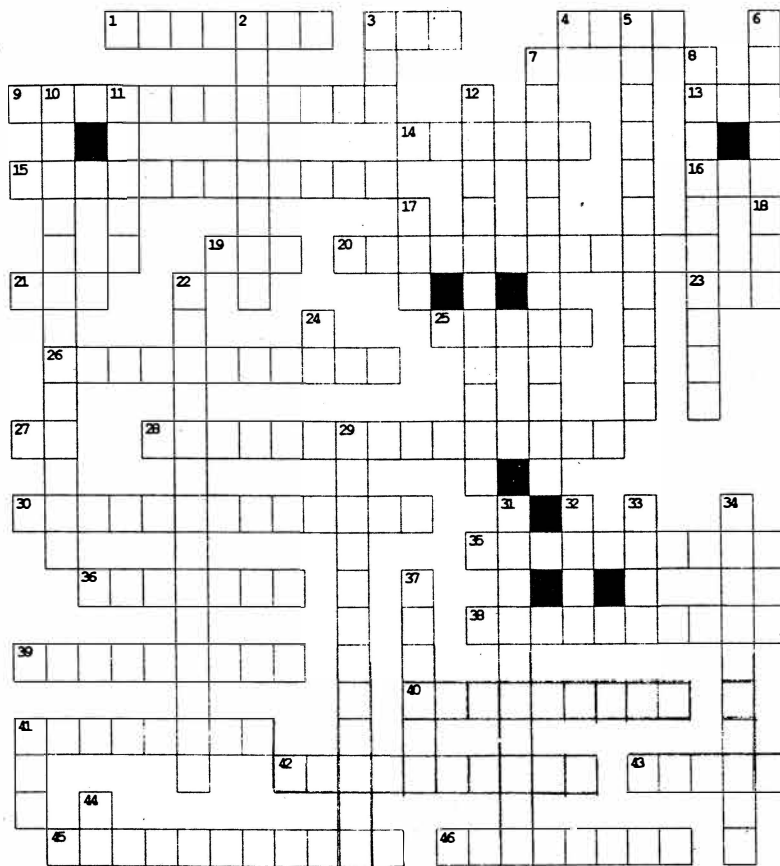
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LadyLike Chat Line is a service of LadyLike Magazine in conjunction with Strictly Speaking Publishing Co., PO Box 8006, Palm Springs, CA 92263

# PUZZLE PAGE



Designed & contributed by Sami Rae Shaw

## ACROSS

1. Teats
3. Degree
4. Young Miss
9. Change of allocation
13. Tush
14. Close fitting undergarment
15. Male hormone
16. Boob tube in radio cabinet?
19. Brooch
20. Angry brother in sister's clothes?
21. Operation
23. Purse
25. Spikes
26. Second operation
27. Natural woman
28. Counselor
30. 28-across product
35. Embellishment
36. Female gland
38. Advice
39. Inate knowing
40. Natural talent
41. Closet full
42. Enamel
43. Pigtail
45. After shampoo
46. Female hormone

## DOWN

2. Nightee
3. Feel up
5. Rebirth
6. Osculate
7. Hair destroyer
8. Upholder of nylon
10. Shocker
11. Silky fabric
12. Gender bender
17. Young male
18. Embrace
22. Change
24. A small changer of sex
29. Brother in sister's clothes
31. Studies sex
32. Female clothing item
33. Manlike
34. Base
37. Cosmetics
41. Toupee
44. Hairstyle

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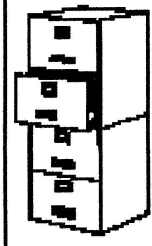
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ANSWER NEXT MONTH





# READER PROFILES

To respond to an ad: Seal your correspondence in a stamped envelope and write the subscriber number IN PENCIL on the front. Then place the envelope(s) in a larger envelope and mail to **Cross-Talk, P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365**. Please include \$1.00 per letter to be forwarded.

**Anaheim, CA:** Stephanie Marie, 31: I am a cabinetmaker and photographer. Have not yet been to any events; I have just made my first trip out to a nightclub and I am looking to become more involved in the gender community. **#1478**

**Bakersfield, CA:** Chrys, employed in marketing, and consider myself a writer. I regularly write for trade publications and have had numerous pieces published in **Cross-Talk**. I am currently working on an epic-fantasy (dragons, magic potions, etc.). I like long walks and long talks and would enjoy corresponding with those with similar interests. **#1144**

**Daly City, CA:** Brenda, 44, single, living in Bay Area. Novice dresser, not out in public yet. Looking for friends and tips. Would love to hear from you. **#1452**

**Downey, CA:** Desirey, 33, receptionist/clerk. I play a trumpet and just graduated from square dance callers' school; would like to start a square dance club for crossdressers (maybe call it "Crossdancers"?). I've been out to clubs and meetings and enjoy sports of all kinds. Engaged. **#1527**

**Glendale, CA:** Brenda Chase, self-employed professional and pre-op TS. Looking for new friends and/or significant other to share life with. Interests include reading, music, golf and skiing. If you would like to know someone like myself or just share a friendship, write -- I don't bite! **#1465**

**LaVerne, CA:** Gwendolyn Ann, 26: I am an artist and illustrator. Enjoy reading, Macintosh computers, AD&D, and a wonderful relationship with a very supportive wife. Enjoy corresponding with others in the gender community. **#1445**

**Ramona, CA:** Kimberly, single heterosexual TV. Enjoy tennis, jogging, swimming and skiing. Willing to share my beautiful home with other TVs/TSs for "get togethers", talks, overnight parties, and lasting friendships. In my 40's, physically fit. Live 35 miles NE of San Diego, work for Department of Navy. Let's get together! **#1193**

**Redondo Beach, CA:** Diva, looking for musicians to form a crossdressing rock/alternative band! **#1201**

**San Francisco, CA:** Ayme, 36, M2F TS, living and working as a woman for the last two years. Tall, attractive, feminine, sexy. Confident and comfortable in any social situation. Interests in Macintosh desktop publishing, music, dining and dancing. Seeks male or female friends. **#1186**

**Santa Ana, CA:** Susan, 45, in business part-time. Enjoy sports, reading, chess and war games. Always dressed at home. Interested in hearing from others; also would like to have a serious relationship with a woman who understands me. **#1323**

**Santa Clarita, CA:** Bonnie, 40+, love tennis, golf, shopping, cooking, being Bonnie. Been out in public three times dressed and love it. Mother dressed me as a girl when I was a young boy (she always wanted a girl). Will write to all. **#1248**

**Sun Valley, CA:** Laura, 43. I am an electrologist, pre-op

and full-time TS, 5'8", 128 lbs., blonde, blue eyes. Love: Christ, my two dogs, hang gliding, walks, company, Bible study, baking, movies, and hugs. Looking for more friends to visit and have over for dinner at my house. **#1486**

**Van Nuys, CA:** Melissa, 44, electronic tech (repair VCRs, stereos, etc.). My passions are music, dressing, shopping, good talkradio. Guitar player for the past 25 years. I love a good 12-step program, the whole gender community, the hell I plan to raise over the next 20 years. I love kids and dogs and I send money home. **#1469**

**West Hollywood, CA:** Michelle, 37, SWM, Bi, 5'11"/150 lbs. TV since 11 years old, attending CD clubs last two years. Writer. Other interests photography, film and cinema. Would enjoy meeting other 30-something TVs, possibly for social outings *en femme*. **#1355**

**Kittredge, CO:** Ashley Armstrong, married, age 45, works in the financial planning field. Wife does not approve; been dressing for 40 years. Little chance to get out, but would correspond with others who have learned to manage the voice problem. **#1553**

**Avon, CT:** Michelle Kay, MWM, hetero, 5'10", 170 lbs., blue eyes, dark brown hair, '50s, very passable. Member Tiffany Club, co-founder of Connecticut Outreach Society (COS), participant P-Town outings, program chairlady of COS, director/founder of COS Couples Club. Wife is accepting and started COS wives support group. Interest in corresponding with and meeting other honest, caring, passable CDs or couples. Interests include theater, music (jazz, classical and oldies), travel, cross-country skiing, swimming, boating and water sports. **#1457**

**Atlanta, GA:** Free yourself of conventional notions of correspondence. I'm interested in the creative process and artistic exchanges. Mystic linguistics: Let's transform and expand our miss language. Cut-ups, memorable slang, "She's gonna ..." (assertive feminization scenarios), everyday "snapshot" conversations and making up outrageous *femme* names encouraged. Hetero perspectives only. No passing interests. **#1560**

**Honolulu, HI:** Alana, Asian hetero CD, 5'10", in 40's. Member of Tri-Ess. Love fashion, professional sports, shopping, travel and girl talk. Welcome friendship, correspondence, or meeting with other CDs or understanding women in order to enhance my feminine image. Will answer all letters. **#1558**

**Shreveport, LA:** Jeri, 51, MWM. Travel throughout the South and only have an opportunity to dress when I travel. Would like to correspond and meet other CDs throughout the South. Attended Texas "T", enjoy all sports and music, and enjoy going out dressed when travelling. **#1546**

**Kansas City, MO:** Barrie, married, age 46. Hobbies include photography, writing, playing several sports, collecting antiques. Go to movies, dinner, dancing, shopping as Barrie. Member of Tri-Ess, RCGA (Omaha), and Sigma Nu Rho. Travel in Midwest. Love to hear from sisters. Let's exchange photos. I answer all correspondence.

correspondence. #1203

*Roslyn Heights, NY:* Jane, 34, married, Northern Italian. 5'7"/135 lbs. LIFE and Tri-Ess memberships (2 years). Also subscribe to *Renaissance News*. Interests: Travel, photography, sportscars, nature, skiing, gardening, music, dance, theater, swimming, art and earth sciences. Go out dressed day and night; dress flamboyantly as a guy when not working (Danskins, stirrups, parachute pants, jumpsuits, accessories). Travel throughout the US regularly. Lived in and love California, which I visit as often as possible. I am anxious to correspond with other TV sisters who would be interested in doing the same.

#1348

*Trotwood, OH:* Fran, senior citizen living in SW Ohio, retired. Interested in most outdoor sports, writing and photography. Out of the closet once, years ago, but now in a small community and spouse not supportive. #1489

*Portland, OR:* Michelle, 33, SBM, TV, hetero, 5'9"/160 lbs. Fun, sensitive and sincere, attractive, never been married (but lucky, have five sisters). I enjoy a full feminine figure, and love all things feminine! Have enjoyed crossdressing in the closet all my life: It's time for a change! Looking for CDs/TVs to go out with and help me pass in public. Would enjoy meeting other thirty-something CDs and TVs for social outings *en femme*.

#1529

*Irving, TX:* Bernice, Texas girl, mature, not old. Come to California often. Do gatherings frequently (Texas "T", California Dreamin', Esprit, Be-All, Southern Comfort, Fall Harvest, Law Conference, Holiday En Femme). Enjoy all T-community members. I am approaching a TG/TS status. A slow writer, so would appreciate phone number and time if possible. #1450

*Amelia, VA:* Laura, pre-op TS accountant wishes to correspond and/or meet with other TVs/TSs. I am 52, 5'7", 115 lbs., and wear size 6 clothing. I am interested in photography, collecting '50s rock & roll records, and dressing as my feminine self whenever possible. #1523

*Merry Point, VA:* Samantha Louise, 76 (going on 50), MWM, retired engineer. Interests: Amateur radio, Rotary, sailing, woodcarving. Attended "Holiday En Femme" in Chicago, "Coming Together" in Houston, "Southern Comfort", "Fall Harvest". Member of Virginia's Secret, DCEA, IFGE, Tri-Ess. Editor of "Secrets", newsletter for Virginia's Secret. Out of the closet since June 1991 and making up for lost time. #1416

*Seattle, WA:* Rose C'est La Vie, neophyte CD, seeking friendship, guidance and amusement. Divorced, 40, and just now learning the art of dressing. Interests include art (read art history, collect Northwest art), baseball, literature and music. I am a lawyer, taking a landscaping class, and write short stories. #1521

Subscribers are entitled to a free 50-word reader profile in this section. Please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for a profile form if you cannot locate the form you were sent previously.


This month, we are implementing a new policy for our reader profile section in which all letters will be forwarded through Cross-Talk, rather than publishing some reader addresses. This policy was developed after discussions with some of the readers whose profiles appear here, as well as with other gender community publishers.

We hope that this will better ensure the security of our readers, and will also give us a means to gauge reader use of this service.

We regret that this policy change also makes it necessary to stop free forwarding for subscribers.

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### A REASON OF BEING ... continued from pg. 34

duality-like ambition share a spiritual foundation, then what I now write will not be that implausible.

Within the higher-self exist the oversoul. This entity is the you that is immortal and has lived before. Within the ether of this oversoul are the Akashic records (biblical book of life). This is like the memory bytes of a computer, possessing all recorded events of your past-lives! It has been learned that it's possible for certain past-life personalities to breach those etheric barriers, via the higher-self, and then manifest within your body and life span. I know this may be very difficult to believe, but I sense some of you reading this, feel this could be the answer they have been seeking.

To all of you, my lovely friends, heed the messages from the inner-beings.

[Originally published in Cross-Talk #18 (April 1990).]

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Every month, **Cross-Talk** serves up a variety of articles, news, information and features tailored for the gender community and those interested in gender issues, without gossip, sexually-oriented material or references, or so-called "passing" stories. **Cross-Talk** is the only publication in the gender community that regularly offers mainstream, tabloid, and community news ... editorials and reader feedback ... psychological insights and advice to partners ... original cartoons and humor ... and much more. We have been providing this informational and educational resource to the gender community since 1988, and in magazine format since 1993. **Cross-Talk's** readership keeps growing in the United States and worldwide at a spectacular rate, so we must be doing SOMETHING right!



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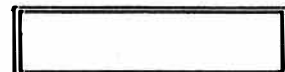
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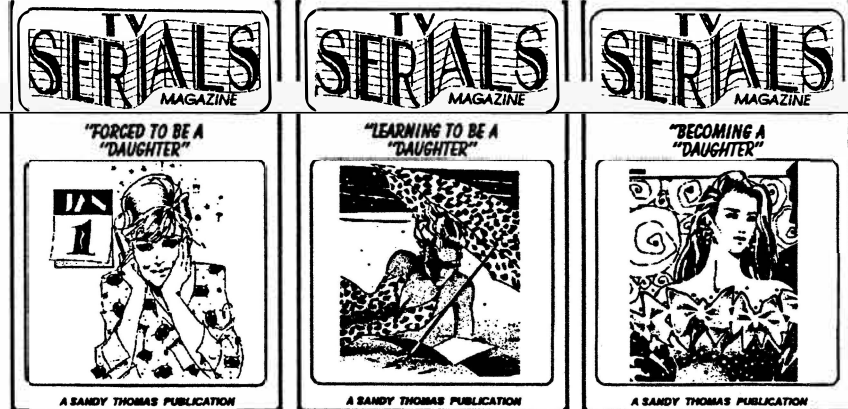
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