

# News & views

Vision • Integrity • Quality

Vol. 10, No. 4 • April 1996

## Major Companies Target Crossdressers

*Routers Finance Wires, 4/1/96*

"It's always been a question of finding new customers for our products, and it's clear that cross-dressing men are an untapped market," says Ruth Kimball, VP, Direct Marketing for Sara Lee Direct. "The market for many of our products, like our Hanes brand sheer hosiery, has been slumping, and we need to use every resource we have."

Are crossdressing men the latest untapped markets? Not just Hanes think so. "We've been taking our lingerie catalogs to the point where they carry more plus size clothes and shoes, and we know it is mostly men who are buying these products," reports Dick Farnham, Director of Marketing for Frederick's of Hollywood. "While before we didn't have the tools to identify these men, with the wide availability of correlated marketing data, we can now identify them with greater certainty and pitch our products directly to them, both at home and work."

How is this possible? By analyzing buying patterns, including large size women's clothing and shoes, book and other purchases, and even the sales of erotic literature, along with data from Internet and other service providers, and even box-holder mail, marketers can determine with uncanny accuracy just who is buying those lacy panties for the lady of the house — and who is buying them for the man. "Everything you buy is coded, and we have been collecting all this data," says Francis Sharp, head of research for Avon International, "we simply program our computers to look for patterns of interest and of purchase, and we can easily create a list of prospects for our merchandise."

"It's a tough market to get a handle on," says Dionne Smith of Marketing Trends International, a Houston based research firm. "We have done some surveys and focus groups, with a room full of cross-dressed men talking about what they prefer, but in many ways we have to rely on the behavior and purchase patterns we track."

The companies have to be sensitive to the discretion of the buyer. "Most crossdressing men want to believe that their interest remains undiscovered. We use a variety of techniques to work around this fear, including sending non-forwarded mail to apparently former occupants and addressing mail to the woman of the house," explains Spiegel's Lynn Thompson.

"We don't specifically identify items for crossdressers because they want to believe that they are buying clothing for women, and not items specifically designed for crossdressers."

Will this discretion continue? No, says Frederick's Farnham, "As the competition increases in the cross-dresser market, marketers will have to become more bold to break through the clutter. This will mean more explicit mailings. Many in the market are waiting for this day, because once a crossdresser is out, he will buy more products, a benefit for all."

Some retailers refuse to court this market. "We have a strong belief in family values," says Joe Marnia of Dempster Fashions, "We actively discourage sales to crossdressing men, because of our deep moral beliefs. I've seen lists of these people available to me, from their organizations and such, and have refused to buy them, even though we could make money, because the Bible is clear on this topic."

How do crossdressers feel about this new choice of products coming into their home? "Well, I guess it gives them more options," says one crossdresser who chose to remain nameless. "But I'm not sure I want everyone to know I'm a crossdresser."

It seems too late to put that cat back in the bag, with companies set to exploit a large new market. "We don't have firm statistics on the market size, but with over 20% of our sales directly attributable to crossdressers, it's not something we are going to back away from" says Frederick's Farnham. Other marketers agree. "If they are going to buy from anyone, we want them to buy from us," says Sara Lee's Kimball. "Our Just My Size catalog has the products they want and need — and we are going to be aggressive in convincing whoever is doing the buying for crossdressed men to buy from us. One of our experiments is targeting the wives or girlfriends to buy products as gifts. While we have limits to how explicit we can be, women quickly figure out that the products we are pitching are designed for their male partners."

And in the future? "As crossdressing men are identified and targeted by more and more companies, we'll see an expansion in the market, and a broader exposure of what was once only a private and secluded behavior," says MTI's Smith. "This may cause some initial trauma, but the added consumer base will be valuable in the long run."



# Renaissance



# ***Page 1 Story Fake!***

## **Editors Attempt Another Aprils Fool Joke on Members**

Angela Gardner, editor in chief of *Renaissance News & Views*, said, "Well every year, in April, we try to make the readers laugh. Sometimes it works." JoAnn Roberts, associate editor, who was strong armed into this latest attempt at humor said, "She [Gardner] made me do it. I was just following orders."

The fake story originated as a prank with Callan Williams of TGIC in Albany, N.Y. "Callan is well-known," said Gardner, "for doing this kind of thing before. She's really good at it. So, we thought we'd take advantage of it. Nothing else in this issue is a joke."



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## MD Hearings on Gender Antibias Bill

by Jessica Xavier

**Annapolis, Md.:** Hearings were held in March for the first gender identity specific anti-discrimination bill introduced at a state level in the United States of America. House Bill 325, sponsored by Delegates Sharon Grosfeld and Salima Marriott, would modify Article 49B of the state code of Maryland to include gender identity as a specific category, and allow for compensatory damages to be awarded to transgendered plaintiffs who successfully sue their employers for discrimination.

*It's Time, Maryland!* a state chapter of the transgendered lobbying group *It's Time, America!* was the lead organization on this bill, which was endorsed by the Free State Justice Campaign (Maryland's statewide gay and lesbian civil rights organization), the Maryland Lesbian and Gay Law Association, the Interfaith Justice Coalition, the Legislative Agenda for Maryland Women and Maryland NOW. Sixteen months of hard work, including first-time grass roots community organizing, coalition building, obtaining endorsements, testimony before county and state human relations commissions, and lobbying of state and local legislators and officials culminated in the hearings yesterday in Annapolis.

*It's Time, Maryland!*'s witnesses described a pat-

tern of systematic employment discrimination from the Pennsylvania border to the DC line.

Transsexual women testified they had been fired from their jobs solely on the basis of their gender identity, and that in half of these cases, they were threatened and harassed by their supervisors and co-workers. One witness testified how she had narrowly escaped a construction "accident" which could have killed her, and how her supervisor threatened her with physical assault on her last day of work. Another transsexual woman related how she had been forced to endure months of verbal harassment before being fired from two different waitressing jobs. In her last job, the woman was physically assaulted and disabled by a co-worker in full view of restaurant staff and patrons. When she complained of the assault to her supervisor, she was told "to hit him back". Physically disabled in the assault, she could not work and was subsequently fired by her restaurant, which then illegally denied her workman's compensation and unemployment compensation. She later underwent surgery on her shoulder and may not regain the full use of her arm. Her assailant is still at large, despite the outstanding warrants for his arrest.

*continued on page 8*

## Menace Grinds Up SNL Host Takes Bite Out of MacDonald

**March 30, 1996:** Following a week of intensive discussions with NBC officials, the Transsexual Menace NYC has decided to forgo a planned picketing of *Saturday Night Live*, which resumed production here at 30 Rockefeller Plaza this past Saturday, March 10. Members of Menace LA are reportedly still split over whether to proceed with a planned demonstration outside the offices of NBC Entertainment, located on the West Coast.

The threatened action in New York City followed a particularly tasteless joke aired three weeks ago on SNL's *Weekend Update* "news" segment by staff regular Norm MacDonald. Referring to the recent death sentence given John Lotter for the murder of transsexual man Brandon Teena and two

friends, [MacDonald said], "I believe everyone involved in this story should die."

Officials at NBC's Office of Standards & Practices originally stated they were unaware of Mr. MacDonald's comments. Upon review of the SNL show, they agreed the "joke" was inappropriate and ill-considered.

After several days of negotiation, NBC officials in Standards & Practices and Community Relations agreed to hand-deliver a packet of information on the Teena case to Mr. MacDonald and the SNL staff. The packet included particulars of the gruesome rape and execution-style murder of Mr.

*continued on page 8*

# Renaissance



## Chapter & Affiliate Information

### Chapters

#### Delaware

**Wilmington, Delaware:** meets second Saturday of each month. Write for info to: PO Box 5656, Wilmington, DE 19808.

#### Pennsylvania

**Greater Philadelphia:** Write Renaissance GPC, 987 Old Eagle School Rd., Suite 719, Wayne, Pa. 19087. Meets third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia. Doors open 8 pm all year 'round. Call 610-975-9119 for information.

**Lower Susquehanna Valley:** Write Renaissance LSV, Box 2122 Harrisburg, PA 17105. Meets on the first Saturday of the month. Call 717-780-1LSV (780-1578) for location and meeting times.

### Affiliates

#### California

**Orange County:** Powder Puffs of California, PO Box 1088, Yorba Linda, CA 92686, or email to <ppoc@aol.com>

#### Connecticut

**Bridgeport/New Haven:** connecticutView, c/o Denise Mason, PO Box 2281, Devon, CT 06460. Monthly newsletter and activities.

#### Georgia

**Atlanta:** The American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS), PO Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033-0724 or call 770-939-0244, or email to <aegis@mindspring.com>. Information resources & referrals.

**Atlanta:** Atlanta Gender Explorations (A.G.E.), PO Box 77562, Atlanta, GA 30357, 770-939-2128.

#### Illinois

**Chicago:** The Chicago Gender Society, PO Box 578005, Chicago, IL 60657, 708-863-7714.

#### Louisiana

**New Orleans:** The Gulf Gender Alliance, PO Box 56836, New Orleans, LA 70156-6836, 504-833-3046.

#### New Jersey

**N. Central Jersey:** Monmouth/Ocean Trans Gender, (MOTG), write PO Box 8243, Red Bank, NJ 07701 or call 908-219-9094.

#### New York

**Manhattan:** Metropolitan Gender Network (MGN), write 561 Hudson St., Box 45, New York, NY 10014, or call 201-794-1665, Ext. 332.

**Long Island:** New York GIRL & Partners, PO Box 456, Centereach, NY 11720, Call 516-732-5115 for info.

**Long Island:** Long Island Femme Expression (LIFE), PO Box 3015, Lake Ronkonkoma, NY 11779-0147.

#### Oklahoma

**Central Oklahoma:** Sooner Diversity, part of the Central Oklahoma Transgender Alliance (COTA). Contact, Rachel Rudnick, P.O. Box 575, Norman, OK 73070.

#### Pennsylvania

**Lehigh Valley/Pocono area:** Northeastern Pa. Transgender Alliance, NEPTGA, meetings on the second Saturday of the month in the Allentown area. Call for directions and more information, 610-821-2955.

#### **South Jersey Residents**

A new Renaissance Affiliate is forming in South Jersey to replace the old South Jersey Chapter. Due to personal problems, Terri [REDACTED] will not be able to lead the reorganization. However, this will not stop the effort. Please call the national office if you're interested in helping re-establishing the affiliate.

As soon as a new meeting location is verified, a notice sent out to all former SJ Chapter members.

## Renaissance News & Views

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Articles, opinion pieces, and letters to the editor are always welcome. Ideas for articles and opinion pieces should be sent to our editorial office care of Renaissance, PO Box 530, Bensalem, Pa. 19020-0530. Or use email to <bensalem@epcn.com>. Complimentary and irate letters to the editor may be sent to the same address.

Renaissance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing education and support to the transgender community and the general public. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, make your check or M.O., payable to Renaissance and send it to our National office. Your contributions will help us continue our efforts to provide education about transgender issues. Donations can also be made through your local United Way agency.

### Local Calendar

#### April

- 6 Ren. LSV meeting  
Ren. South Jersey-TBA
- 13 Ren. Delaware
- 13 NEPTGA, Allentown
- 20 Ren. GPC

#### May

- 4 Ren. LSV meeting  
Ren. South Jersey-TBA
- 11 Ren. Delaware
- 11 NEPTGA, Allentown
- 16-19 Paradise In The Poconos/CDS
- 18 Ren. GPC



# News Beat & Reminder



by Angela Gardner

Hola, muchachas. It's a new month... so here's a new column. How do I do it? Mirrors! I don't know about you, but I'm thrilled that Spring is in the air. I'm totally over the Winter Wonderland thing and am looking forward to floral dresses and sandals. I'm not particularly looking forward to what the fashion forecasters say we should be wearing, lime green, lemon yellow. Thanks goodness they left out orange orange. (Silly rabbit.)

The hot Spring fashion colors make me look like an old hag. Hey, wait a minute, I am an old... nah, I'm not gonna say it. I mean, what are you to do if you're a "Winter" in the color scheme of things? Pastel greens and blues look fine on fifteen year old girls with blonde hair. It's another story on a middle-aged woman with red hair (or dark brown—only my wig shop knows for sure.)

So, I intend to wear what I like, and what I think makes me look good. If the pastels work for you, go for it. If not—get out that little black dress. And speaking of dresses...

## Floral Print or Metallic Mini?

On February 23, **Tom Snyder** had **Robert Blake** as a guest on *The Late Late Show*. Of course Blake has been an actor for years, in everything from the *Little Rascals* to *Barreta*, but he confessed to Tom that he was a little uncomfortable in the talk show milieu. Tom, being the gracious host, asked if there was anything he could do to make Blake more comfortable. Blake paused for a second and then asked,

"Can I wear a dress?" Tom got a slightly surprised look on his face and quickly asked, "What size?" Do you suppose Robert Blake was one of the actors who tried out for *Too Wong Foo...* and *The Birdcage*? I guess we'll never know.

## Even Cow Girls Get the Blues

It seems the ladies of **Cowboys LaCage** may have something to be blue about. **Marisa Richman** of the fabulous Tennessee Vals sent some information from a Nashville newspaper that may cause the girls to pack their pickup trucks and ride off into the sunset. The investors who backed the country's first drag C&W club owe nine creditors a total of \$588,000. (Gee, sounds like my financial planning.) In order to stop those annoying calls from angry creditors, they have filed for a Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Most of the investment cash was spent on renovating the club building, advertising the opening, and relocating the performers (none of the LaCage girls are from Nashville). The club is supposed to reopen in the Spring after it gets reorganized and the ladies get off the road, so hopefully they won't have to get jobs as waitresses in local truckstops. "Hey Merle, that there waitress looks just like Dolly Parton."

## The Birds of a Feather

The remake of *La Cage aux Folles* has landed at a theater near you and it's done boffo box office. *The Birdcage* pulled in over 18 million dollars in its first week. Who says the U.S. is all

turning into Pat Buchanan country? If they'll spend money like that on a gay drag movie perhaps there's hope for tolerance.

The main drag queen role is played by **Nathan Lane**. He is one of those actors who has been around for years but you never knew who he was. After *The Birdcage* he'll no doubt get recognized more often at Spago.

In a recent issue of *Premier* magazine, Lane was asked where he got the idea for his character. "Well, they gave me these big pearls to wear, and it just became the image everyone used...

Yes, I found the **Barbara Bush** inside me. My inner Bush." The interviewer then asked Lane and **Robin Williams** if they had ever dressed up as kids. Williams replied, "Just my mom's teddies... they were great to wear under hockey clothes." I think we can take that as a joke... but, you never know. Silk teddies are okay under hockey gear. Polyester tends to hold too many odors.

Lane fessed up to wearing an evening gown once, on Halloween. He turned it into a joke saying he wanted to go trick or treating as Casper the Friendly Ghost, but they were so poor he had to wear Mom's clothes. Wonder how he did on candy?

## Got Them Ol' Crossdressin' Blues

On *Stage Philadelphia* faxed me a press release the other day. On Sunday, May 5th at 1:30PM they'll be hosting an outdoor concert in the street outside the **Philadelphia Gay, Lesbian, Transgender Community Center**. Along with several gay and lesbian acts from Philadelphia and New York, local Blues lady **Terri Arnaldi—The Drag Queen of the Blues**, will be rockin' out. Terri rocked the 1994 Renaissance GPC Holiday Party with an impromptu set and she played the gosh darn heck out of that geet-tar. Terri will have her own band for this gig so her set should be, as they say in the Blues parlance, smokin'. For more info on the concert call Outmusic at 215-844-6910.

*continued next page*

# News Beat...

## Attention Starving TG Artists!

The Gender Identity Center of Colorado is looking for writers, poets and humorists whose subject is the transgender community. They're also looking for art work. If you are a creative, transgendered artiste whose work is hidden away from a potentially admiring public write for their guidelines: G. I. C. of Colorado, Inc., Att: Book, 1455 Ammons St., Ste 100, Lakewood, CO 80215.

They are going to assemble everything into a book "from the heart and soul of our community." I'd submit something, but fortunately I already have a creative outlet, or two.

## Pass The Mink Oil

Now here's a contest I can get behind. The kind of contest that has you sign a consent form before you show up in your leather G string. It's the **International Ms. Leather 1996** contest and it happens right here in my backyard at that cradle of liberty, the Holiday Inn, Independence Mall. (Not really on Independence Mall but close enough. Imagine strolling over to see the Liberty Bell in your thigh high boots.) They're holding the contest from the 18th to 20th of July and I hope the hotel has good central air. Those tight leather duds (not to mention those cute full head hoods) can cause wearers to perspire freely and sometimes the resultant odors can be less than thrilling. For information on the contest, both for watching and entering, contact Bare Images Productions, 4332 Browne Street, Omaha, Nebraska, 68111-1829. Email <imsl@synergy.net>. Now, I wonder where I put that leather harness?

## Heaven's Not Just A Drag, It's A Laugh

*Heaven's A Drag* is not your typical drag comedy. It's a British film that's just hit video stores in the US. It's also one of the only films I've ever heard described as a "quirky AIDS comedy."

Not much funny there, you'd think, but when you add a drag queen ghost (Oh! Mrs Muir!) to the plot and have her plague her former lover with dirty tricks when he doesn't seem to spend much time grieving over her death—he goes right back to a promiscuous life of sexual conquests—then you've got a few big yucks on your hands. And, since the film's British you get to hear all those great British accents. The *Village Voice* said the film blends, "light supernatural comedy and old fashioned tear jerking." I'm a sap for a film like that. I always loved the **Topper** movies. *Heaven's A Drag* is available for \$59.95 from First Run Features at 212-243-0600.

## More Pics To Click

Somebody in my circle of non-crossdressing acquaintances has a real great sense of humor. They thought it would just be a real scream to put me on some gay mailing lists. Yeah, he wears a dress, he must be gay. Duh. I say "acquaintances" since my real friends know I'm a lesbian. (Well, when I'm crossdressed.)

For several months now I have been getting stuff from gay dating services, offers for calendars decorated by hot hunks, and catalogs from gay oriented businesses. Most of this is just waste paper to me since male bodies don't turn me on. (Male wallets, now that's another story.)

I had used one of my male credit cards at a gay restaurant once or twice and, at first, thought that was how I got on the list. Then I realized my name was not spelled correctly, as it would have been if it came from credit card records, and my street name was spelled wrong. Ah ha! I deduce the culprit is not only easily amused, but uneducated as well.

The joke's of them. Part of the stuff I've received is the *Gay & Lesbian Film Catalog* from TLA Video. While the majority of the films they sell are aimed at a gay crowd, there are several titles of interest to me and other transgendered folks. There are around twenty titles that would make a drag queens heart go pitter pat. Among them, the earlier mentioned *Heaven's*

*A Drag*, plus *La Cage aux Folles* (I & II), *Some Like It Hot*, *Vegas in Space*, *Wigstock* and *To Wong Foo, Thanks For Everything!* Julie Newmar. (Bet you thought I didn't remember the whole title.) There's also a little flick called *Time Expired* that came out in 1992 in which **John "Chi Chi" Lequizamo** plays a Puerto Rican transvestite. Is that type casting or what?

You can call TLA Video for your copy of the catalog at 800-333-8521 or email them <tlaoe@ix.netcom.com>. Let's hope they don't sell the list and fill your male box, I mean mailbox, with steamy, erotic, well oiled male bodies. Their sultry, seductive eyes looking at you from the hot pages as they.... Oh, sorry. Got a bit carried away there. Nevermind. Move along.

## On A Serious Note

**Leslie Fienberg**, the author of *Stone Butch Blues* and the forthcoming book, *Transgender Warriors*, has been seriously ill. Bacterial infections and medical bills have been causing Leslie many problems. Writers don't have great medical plans and Leslie doesn't have any. If you'd like to help out, send a donation to the Leslie Feinberg Health Fund, c/o William Sachs, Esq., Column Foundation, 370 7th Avenue, New York, NY 10001. Get well soon, Leslie.

## On A Less Serious Note

Diane [redacted] snagged this joke gem during a trolling session on the World Wide Web. She credits it to an F to M named Julian.

**Q:** How many people does it take to change a transsexual lightbulb?

**A:** Well, first the lightbulb has to find a therapist, tell the therapist it realizes its incandescent but has always felt fluorescent inside, ever since it was a tiny little bulb. Second, it has to find an electrician to rewire it so it can be more fluorescent. And even then occasionally there will be people who still 'read' it (or read by it) as incandescent, or remember it from its incandescent days. Overall though, once it's changed it will have a much nicer glow about it!



# Denver Hotel Harasses Imperial Court Attendees

*On Saturday, March 9, the Imperial Court of The Rocky Mountain Empire held a gala event at the Holiday Inn in Denver, Colorado. According to the following report hotel security and the Denver police used the event as an opportunity to harass attendees. This report was received on March 12 from a lady in Colorado named Dianna. For further information contact her directly at: <[REDACTED]@aol.com>.*

Last night, the nightmare I had often dreamed came true. My transsexual lover was arrested for using the ladies room at the Red Lion Inn in Denver, Colorado. She was attending a function of the Imperial Court of the Rocky Mountain Empire, a local gay philanthropic organization. The organizers claim that an announcement [about the restrooms] was made, but no one in her party heard it. It was not in the reservation literature. No signs were posted. She normally would not have even been in attendance, but she had been asked to come and be presented to the court as a representative of a local transgender group. Another friend, also arrested, had been on site since initial set-up of the event to assist one of the performers with her wardrobe changes. She never heard an announcement either. We also know of other "drag queens" arrested.

Security in the hotel placed themselves outside the ladies room and stopped those exiting, asking to see IDs. If [the ID] indicated "male," the victims were escorted to the security office where the Denver Police were waiting. No arguments about being a preoperative transsexual, even in the face of a letter from a therapist were considered. They were *prima facie* guilty—and humiliated.

I am angry. Really angry. Just who were these poor people hurting? I am ashamed to be part of a society that intentionally chooses to hurt those who are very docile, but different. It makes me angry that after years of civil rights demonstrations and liberation campaigns for blacks, other minorities, and women, we are still looking for scapegoats to intimidate and bully in this society. The legal ramifications for my lover are severe. I am angry. Really angry. Where is tolerance and understanding—is there no true justice?

So why am I writing you? Say prayers for us in Denver, if you pray. Be careful if you come here for any events (especially avoid the Red Lion Inn). Share your anger with others. Help us change our world for the better. Hate injustice. Work for change!

## More Details

In another message from Denver, Dianna let us know there was a

trucker's conference in the hotel that same night. In her words, "Imagine TG/TS girls and drag queens in the men's room with truckers? At night?" She offered this additional information on the incident: Hotel security was not checking the IDs of **everyone** using the restrooms; they were being selective. The State of Colorado will not change the "sex" designation on driver's license/identification cards until after sex-reassignment surgery (SRS). The medical community will not allow SRS without a minimum of one year of living full-time in the target gender role.

"It is my understanding that no one was actually arrested," she wrote, "but many girls were issued summons. One of the girls involved has lived full-time in the female role for several years, as part of her TS transition/pre-surgery process; her letter from her therapist was ignored by police."

To communicate how you feel about this harassment you may write the Red Lion Stapleton Inn, 3203 Quebec, Denver, CO 80207. The hotel manager is Chuck Freije. His office number is 303-321-3333. The Transsexual Menace is planning to take action on the matter and several transgender organizations are planning to make an official response.



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# Midwest Transgender Activist Dies In Accident

by JoAnn Roberts

Gloria Fredricks, a driving force behind the Nebraska/Iowa *River City Gender Alliance*, died in an accident in early March. Details are sketchy, but apparently Fredericks fell twenty-five feet at a job site where she was working as Gary.

It was obvious to many that Gloria was dedicated to the betterment of the transgender community. Gloria was the only transgender person to actually see and speak with a U.S. Senator during the National Transgender Lobby Days last October. During that meeting, she impressed the Senator so

much that he left a Russian delegation waiting in his outer office while he discussed transgender issues with Gloria.

After that experience, Gloria became a one-woman transgender political action committee. She developed the idea of selling "shark's teeth" buttons to raise money for ICTLEP.

Many of the transgender leaders involved in creating the GenderPAC were very impressed with Gloria's energy and dedication to transgender activism. So much so that Gloria was considered for an "evangelist" role with GenderPAC to help educate the mid-America transgender community

about the need for political activity.

The Gloria Fredericks I knew so briefly was a wonderful person with a terrific outlook on life. Her star was rising on the national transgender scene and it saddens me deeply to see it extinguished so suddenly.

The groups that make up MAGGIE (Mid-America Gender Group Information Exchange) have lost two bright lights in the past three months, Jennifer Richards and Gloria. My sympathies and my condolences go out to all the MAGGIE members. Your loss is our loss.



## MD Bill...

It's Time Maryland! expert witness Martine Thibblat, a former director of the Transgender Law Conference and author of *The Apartheid of Sex*, testified that transgendered persons in Maryland enjoy no protection whatsoever under existing anti-discrimination laws based on sexual orientation, sex (Title VII), personal appearance or physical disability.

Other witnesses included Unitarian

minister John Manwell, Jan Nyquist of the Free State Justice Campaign, and Joanne Salzberg of the Maryland Commission for Women.

It's Time, Maryland! efforts mark the first time the transgendered community of Maryland has organized itself to petition its legislators for relief from the harsh effects of employment discrimination. Although civic ordinances in California, Minnesota and Iowa mention gender identity, HB 325 contains the first usage of this still new term at a state level. The state of Minnesota's sexual orientation anti-dis-

crimination law passed in 1993 affords transgendered persons protection without mentioning gender identity. This pioneering legislation should now facilitate the discussion and even introduction of other gender-identity specific measures at the state and local levels in other jurisdictions. It's Time Maryland! hopes that its efforts will demonstrate what a disenfranchised and heavily stigmatized sexual minority can do, once it decides to seriously undertake sustained efforts over time to obtain redress from the wrongs committed against it.



## SNL Menaced...

Teena, and began with several full-color pictures of the young man and his friends. Said Riki Anne Wilchins of the NYC Menace, "While we are pleased with NBC's responsiveness, it is unconscionable that anyone could find the murder of this beautiful young man, much less the death sentence of his murderer, occasions for humor. Sometimes, you just wonder where people's head are."

Privately, Menace representatives were assured that Mr. MacDonald agreed the lines were in poor taste, and should never have aired. They

were further assured that NBC would not do any more jokes of a similar nature in the future. To date, NBC has refused to air a public apology for the incident, stating that it is their corporate practice not to do so.

In other developments, NBC's *Dateline* aired a segment on transgendered lesbian Birdy Jo Hoaks, recently incarcerated in Salt Lake City largely for presenting herself to the Department of Social Services as a young boy, after she was denied housing at a local women's shelter for being too masculine. Stating they would tell the "true story," the *Dateline* segment was titled "The Birdy Who Stole Christmas," painting Ms. Hoaks, who

was promised evenhanded treatment, as a scam-artist solely intent on fraud.

"As transpeople increase our visibility, the fight over public perception is shifting to mass media. Every minority group goes through this process, and now it's our turn to be portrayed as strange, bizarre, and unknown. It's going to get a lot worse, before it gets any better. As making fun of gays slowly becomes unfashionable, a lot of closet homophobia is going to be expressed on transpeople—still considered legitimate, and powerless targets. One can only hope national queer groups make this connection," said Menace NYC spokesperson Riki Anne Wilchins.





# PARADISE • IN THE • POCONOS

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*Vis a Vis* has been chosen as the official transvestite newsletter column of the Atlanta Summer Olympics. Other worthy columns like *News Beat* and *Hot Buzz* didn't stand a chance once I said I'd donate the leotards for the women's gymnastics events. I'm not sure how those tiny women are going to look in slightly used size XXL gymslips but that's their problem now.

*Those leotards are really too loose  
They were stretched by a transvestite moose  
When the gymnasts leave the ground,  
the damn things may slip down  
And they'll land with an uncovered caboose*

## Second Verse Same As The First

Dallas Denny, Executive Director of AEGIS in Decatur, Ga., contributed a neat little item to *The Transgenderist* (Feb 96, TG Independence Club in Albany NY). The short piece is *Template for Transsexual Autobiography*.

The idea of the piece was to help anguished transsexuals who wished to write their own life stories by following the formula usually found in such writings. It begins with "Prenatal event which explains and justifies everything," and then slides into a series of typical life and psychological experiences such as "first memory of being the opposite sex; pain; adolescence; pain; depression and ridicule from peers; pain; unsuccessful suicide attempt; pain; marriage; pain; depression; unsuccessful suicide attempt; pain; therapy; diagnosis; pain; begin transition; pain; unsuccessful suicide attempt; pain; divorce; real-life test; pain; depression; surgery; joy; hearts; flowers; happiness; the end."

Dallas makes note that she doesn't wish to belittle the pain, depression,

and suicidal experiences transsexuals often have, but most TS autobiographies are: "...typically written right after SRS, which is portrayed as a magical, transforming experience." She points out one nameless biography had 340 pages of anguish followed by one page about the surgery and three more pages about "how wonderful life is after surgery." She wonders whether most of these bios are not attempts to justify what the individual did.

Dallas ends her piece with a wish that we had more transsexual autobiographies written well after the SRS experience, when a more complete picture of how life plays itself out after this major turning point. Christine Jorgensen didn't write her autobiography until 1967—fifteen years after her ground breaking surgery.

Although she leaves it unsaid, the implication in her brief template and commentary is that most of the first person experiences paint an incomplete picture for transsexuals contemplating SRS. The emphasis is long on pain and suffering leading up to surgery. The euphoria of surgical reassignment is usually too recent in the authors' minds without any weight of evidence of how life is really working out as a new woman (or man) to counterbalance their view.

There are now many post-operative transsexuals who could contribute more complete stories that cover the realities of what it is like to live after SRS, as well as the well-documented tortured lives before surgery.

## Brother Can You S'Paradigm?

We receive a publication called *Help Me... Accept Me* out of Dallas, Texas,

and it reprinted an article by Margrit [redacted] that appeared in *Expressing Our Nature* in Syracuse, N.Y. (And after seeing those two unwieldy newsletter monikers, I am loving our somewhat boringly titled *News & Views*). But, I digress...

Margrit's article was titled *Sex Change Operations: The Last Bulwark of the Double Standard* and it adopted the framework of the paradigm shift, about which I wrote two issues ago.

In a nutshell, Margrit's thesis was that sexual reassignment surgery is the result of "overly rigid sex-role differentiation." The sexes are not "opposites" because males and females have many similarities and each of us embody some aspects of the other sex. Beyond the overt physical differences (including the sexual organs), much of what we ascribe as stereotypically "masculine" or "feminine" is really a matter of degree and there is not a single, easily identifiable turning point.

However, once someone identifies themselves as a transvestite or transsexual, "we are struck by the perceived inappropriateness of engaging in behaviors that are seen as fitting the other sex." In considering SRS, "clinicians need to believe fairly strongly in 'sex-appropriate behavior' and 'proper gender identity' in order to justify the removal of physiologically perfectly normal and healthy sex organs." Furthermore, "performing the operation implies that the physicians agree that the perceived discrepancy is a real discrepancy... in the face of evidence that suggests... our sex identity is a social, rather than a biological, product. Transsexuals are people who suffer so deeply from the sex structure that they are willing to endure terrible pain and loneliness to reduce their suffering."

What is being said here is that SRS is seen as an option because patients and clinicians have not adopted the paradigm shift viewpoint that says gender identity does not necessarily need to match biological sex. If people were more enlightened on the new way of thinking about gender-sex discrepancy, the "need" for SRS would be lessened. Some may still opt for surgery, but others could simply live as they chose, blending the masculine and feminine,



without surgical reassignment. The current clinical path of funneling transsexuals toward surgery, as the only viable option, she says, "this change potential is diverted and becomes as conservative as it could have been revolutionary."

### Fear & Loathing In High Heels

The February '96 issue of the *Silhouette* newsletter of Alpha Omega Tri-Ess sorority in Cleveland, Ohio, carried an article by Gloria Sue [redacted] titled *Perceptions*.

Gloria begins by recounting a skit on the old Carol Burnett show. A lineup of leggy models was brought out on stage and seated behind a screen with only their legs visible. The audience was asked to vote who had the best legs. The payoff was that the legs belonged to Carol's co-stars (male and female) and show staffers. Lyle Waggoner was chosen the winner. The audience was completely taken in by the ruse and had a terrific laugh when it was unveiled.

Gloria writes that had she been in that situation as one of the males, she "could not have handled what I would have perceived as people laughing at me." She says that she does not venture out much in public and that is primarily because she is not confident about her ability to pass and does not like the kind of negative reaction an un-passable crossdresser receives.

We all have a certain perception of ourselves when dressed and the non-crossdressing public holds its own perceptions about crossdressers. Where those two sets of perceptions differ is where many crossdressers begin to feel uncomfortable.

Implicit in Gloria's thinking is that crossdressers fool themselves into believing we look the way we feel. And I don't think admitting that (if you care to admit it) is indicative of any psychosis. Everyone, whether crossdressed or not, has a self-perception that may—or may not—match what others see in us.

### Making Friends And Influencing People

Our very own *News & Views* carried an excellent article titled *Family*

*Building By Imagination* by Joanne [redacted] in last month's issue.

Joanne is a transsexual and her lengthy article dealt with the way she handled the loss of some old friends and family members as a result of her coming out to live as she chooses. The thing that set Joanne's essay apart from so many other similar stories was that it was optimistic and showed a level of good humor in the face of adversity that indicates a strong, evenly balanced character.

The thesis of the essay was that a person who finds themselves abandoned by friends and family members can recoup some of that warmth by "adopting" a new family made up of those friends who stick by you, or those you meet along the road of self-discovery. The adoptive family is real in the sense that all parties go into it with commitment. And until you fill in all the familial openings, you can imagine that people you admire are your aunts or uncles or what have you.

One section in particular was indicative of Joanne's good-humored optimism. "Some people would say that by inventing a new family, I am living in a fantasy world. I would respond by saying that I have always lived in a fantasy world in order to survive... so how is this any different?"

I think Joanne's piece in which she mentioned—but did not dwell on—the emotional traumas of her life and then went on to find a new way of making life work for her, is the kind of thing we should see more often.

### Riches To Rags

If you live in the Philadelphia area, maybe you saw the story about Leonard Tose losing his house to foreclosure on his 81st birthday. Tose is the former owner of the Eagles, and now a former millionaire who made his money in the trucking business.

A large part of his fortune was lost at the gaming tables in Atlantic City. He sued two casinos on the grounds they plied him with liquor and "let" him lose millions knowing he was impaired. He lost both cases.

I always liked Leonard Tose. He was a guy who had style. He cut a

striking figure in designer suits and was one of those men who could make a cigarette look like a fashion statement. Tose embodied the phrase "Livin' Large" long before it was invented. I remember, years ago when he owned the Eagles, that his neighbors complained because he liked to land his helicopter on his property.

There aren't a lot of helicopter rides in Leonard's future and he doesn't even have a lawn on which to land anymore. But if you're going to lose a fortune, Tose may be the role model for you. He made it and enjoyed it during the prime of his life. The losses and setbacks didn't start until he was in his seventies. He managed to keep the wolves at bay for another ten years. Godspeed, Leonard, wherever you are.

### You're Not Getting Thinner... The Dresses Are Getting Fatter

The IXE (Indianapolis, Ind.) sorority's February newsletter reprinted an article by Stephanie Stoughton that appeared in the *Virginian-Pilot* newspaper titled *When a Size 8 Fits Like a Size 10*.

According to fashion industry insiders, the sizes on womens wear are roomier than the same sizes of a few years ago. "What we now call a size 8, was a size 12 about seven years ago," according to William Rankin of Dress Rite Forms, a company that molds mannequins for designers.

Despite the war on fat, American women are getting larger. To assuage the fears of clothing buyers, dressmakers have let the standard sizes balloon out along with their customers' waistlines. "If a woman likes two dresses, which would she buy: a size 8 or a size 12?" asked one industry wag. The flip side to this fashion development is that naturally small-framed women have a hard time finding clothes small enough to fit as they should.

I know you're all broken up about those petites who can't find a nice size 3. The question is when is the women's shoe industry going to follow suit and give us a little more room in size 10. Now that would be something worth writing an article about, or celebrating a national holiday.



# Hot • Buzz

## JoAnn Roberts • CyberQueen



*"First deserve, and then desire."*

— English Proverb

First you say you won't and then you will... Lest anyone think I have nothing else on my mind (and some of you doubt I even have that), I'm starting this month's column on a subject other than IFGE... the Texas "T" Party. For those of you who missed this year's T, you might have heard this was the last one. According to a press release handed out at the T and signed by **Linda and Cynthia Phillips**, "... your hostesses are tired!" and so they decided this was to be the last T. However, according to my spy... err... news network (they're everywhere, they're everywhere), the Sam'nEric of the transgender set have changed their collective mind and I'm hardly surprised. The T is a gold mine generating, by conservative estimates, between \$10,000 and \$15,000 profit each event. I sure wouldn't want to give that up if the T were my event. Maybe if the Phillips do throw in the towel, the original T sponsors would consider reviving the event under its original aegis. Stay tuned for the latest developments on the 1997 Tentative T Party.

Okay, now comes the IFGE stuff. Early last month, the Chair of the IFGE Fund Raising Committee, **Sharon Saypen**, sent out a letter asking for donations to help stock the "new" IFGE bookstore.

Excuse me... new? IFGE has been selling books since 1989. I know. I sell them my books. So, what happened to the money they made from selling the books they already had in stock? And, if they can't turn a profit selling what they have now, what makes them think they'll turn a profit with a larger inventory? I don't know about you, but I'm tired of listening to IFGE beg for money every year and every year it's a new excuse. Since its inception, this community has poured close to **\$2,000,000** into IFGE. Over the past year IFGE raised over \$40,000 in membership fees and slashed its employee costs by almost another \$40,000. So, I have to wonder, where is all this money going? It's time IFGE came clean about its financial health. It's time for IFGE to publish its Profit & Loss data and Balance sheets. By law, this is public data. As dues paying members, you and I have a right to know this information. Personally, IFGE won't get another nickel from me until I see some real financial data. How about you?

If your money is burning a hole in your pocket and you just **have** to make a donation, let me make some suggestions (and if you make them before April 15, you might be able to deduct them from your 1995 taxes). Charity starts at home, so give money to your local organization first. That's where it will do the most direct good. Next, send some money to **GenderPAC** c/o PO Box 229, Waltham, MA 02154. Finally, send some money to **ICTLEP** at PO Drawer 35477, Houston, TX 77235. As you read last month, ICTLEP has opened an office and really needs some cash.

Cyber-this. Cyber-that. CyberQueen! Everybody and everything is getting into the "cyber" act, so it comes as no surprise that cyber-cosmetics have entered the scene. Yes, girls, **L'Oréal** announces **Cybershine**, its latest color line for spring which is all pink and glossy. For you UNIX gurus: <\$rm cybershine >.

Lest you think that cosmetics and the companies that produce them are frivolous, consider this. **L'Oréal** made a take-over bid for Memphis based **Maybelline** to the tune of \$600 million. Maybelline is the all time champ when it comes to mascara sales. Its **Great Lash** mascara in the pink and green container is used by virtually every major makeup artist in the U.S. And, even while it's being snapped up by another company, Maybelline has just introduced **Great Finish** nail polish which claims "Wet to set in 2 minutes flat." Now **that's** a major accomplishment.

**Revlon** isn't sitting on it laurels either. It's just launched two new Spring palettes called "In The Flesh," in both deep and pale tones. Personally I prefer the deep tones. It takes a very feminine face to pull off the no-makeup makeup look.

More on makeup and money... Cosmetic Queen, **Estée Lauder**, is rolling in it. The privately held company went public last November and the market sharks snapped it up. Since then Lauder has reported second quarter earning of over \$58 million. Netscape move over.

Faced with having to replace super-model **Cindy Crawford** on **MTV's House of Style**, it takes not one, but two non-super models: **Amber Valetta** and **Shalom Harlow**. Who?

The HOT BUZZ on shoes for Spring is the return of the **Spectator Pump**. But the newest "specs" bear little resemblance to their sisters of yore. They're clunky and plain ugly. Why can't I just find a nice looking Spectator with a 2 inch heel and no ankle strap?

Do the name **Max Factor** ring a familiar note? How about **Dean Factor**? No? Well, Dean is the 31 year-old great-grandson of Max, he that virtually created the cosmetics industry and the most

# HOT•BUZZ

celebrated makeup artist in the U.S. Factor The Younger has created his own cosmetics line, **SmashBox Beauty**, for release mid-month. Targeted initially at makeup professionals, SmashBox is expected to make it to department store shelves by late Fall. Watch for it.

Perhaps taking a cue from the recent **Renni** awards, **Glamour** magazine handed out **Glammie Awards** to Hollywood films of 1995. Nominees for the *Burt Reynolds Flip Your Lid Award* were **Shelley Long** in the *Brady Bunch Movie*, **Anne Bancroft** in *Home For The Holidays*, **Robert Duval** in *The Scarlet Letter*, **Jim Carey** in *Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls*, and **Sly Stallone** in *Assassins*. And, the winner is: **Wesley Snipes** in *To Wong Foo...* Speaking of drag movies, *The Birdcage*, a remake of *La Cage Aux Folles* with **Robin Williams** and **Nathan Lane** has been a huge hit and is getting great national reviews.

Nationally known for his outstanding reputation as a sex educator, Renaissance board member **Dr. William Stayton**, has been asked to testify as an expert witness in the **ACLU** court challenge of the **Communications Decency Act** which criminalizes "indecent" speech on the Internet. Fear of the CDA has caused some content providers to shut down their web sites, while others sneer at the law. A federal judge has issued an injunction against prosecution by the **Justice Department** until the court rules on the constitutionality of the law. Content providers like the **Safer Sex Page**, the **AIDS Education Network**, **Stop Prisoner Rape**, the **Queer Resources Directory**, **Apple Computer**, **America On-Line** and others have joined the ACLU lawsuit. If the CDA is upheld, many of the web sites with information about transgender behavior could shut down. Congress passed the CDA so they could go home and tell constituents they protected their children from smut on the Internet, knowing full well the law is unconstitutional. It's election year and politicians will do anything to get reelected.

And while I'm on the subject of election year, are you as scared of **Pat Buchanan** as I am? I mean, puhleeze! The best line I've heard about Pat The Hun is: his speeches sound better in the original German. And there's this apocryphal story of the homeless man who approached Buchanan in New Hampshire and said he had not eaten in three days. Pat supposedly replied, "I wish everyone had your self-discipline."

The Republicans decry the moral decay of society and a cosmetics company rises to claim the honor. **Urban Decay** features lipsticks with names like **Asphyxia** and **Smog** that coordinate with their nail enamels with names like **Frostbite**, **Bruise**, and **Mildew**. Spurred by the blood-black success of **Chanel's Vamp**, Urban Decay is the **IN** thing. Bruise, the reddish-purple polish is the most popular at \$9 a bottle. You'll find Urban Decay at, where else, Urban Outfitters, and Nordstrom, or call 800-784-URBAN.

According to the *Fashion Workshop* in the April issue of **Glamour**, definitely **OUT** are shoulder duster earrings and patterned hose of any kind. We can tell the editors at Glamour don't hang with Drag Queens. How could we possible do without dusters and who among us doesn't treasure her **fishnets**? Well, I've got news for them, the Spring fashions on the runway have their share of faux pas, like: frills on everything; clothes so sheer nothing is left hidden; skirts so long you'll trip on the hems; and clothes so bare they're only good for summer.

What's up with Fredericks's of Hollywood? Maybe they've finally caught on that more men buy their clothes and lingerie than women. After all, a woman has to have a near perfect body to even think about wearing Freddie's clothes in public. They only place I've ever seen these clothes are at TV conventions. So, the latest catalog arrives (yes, I get it) and more than 60% of the clothes are now available in "Plus" sizes. Enticed by such offerings, I placed an order. I'm still waiting after almost a month because what I wanted was out of stock the day the catalog arrived.

Perhaps it's not just Frederick's that is specifically catering to men. **Victoria's Secret** is being sued by a woman for discrimination. Seems the lady received a Vicky's catalog touting a 10 percent discount off her order, while her boyfriend received the same exact catalog except his offered a 25 percent discount.

**Anne** [redacted] replied to my jibe about Nielson and Stallone: "**Brigitte Nielson** couldn't possibly be **Sly Stallone** in drag. She's too tall ... barefoot. I met her once, when I auditioned for *Cobra*. For some reason she was sitting in on the casting sessions. I had no idea who she was, just thought, 'There's a rather attractive blonde.' Should there be a TS Rocky movie would they call it Rocky XX or Rocky XY?"

Well, it's time I put a little cybertext into this column. The **Community Center (CC)** is the spot of the WWW where any not-for-profit transgender organization can host a home page with basic info about the group. The CC is a project of **3•D Communications, Inc.**, which hosts the commercial sites for **Transgender Forum** and the **CDS Shopping & Resource Center**. You'll find the CC at <http://www.transgender.org/tg/>. The groups already taking advantage of the CC's generous offer are:

**CGS** – <http://www.transgender.org/tg/cgs/cgsmain.html>  
**ETVC** – <http://www.transgender.org/tg/etvc/etvc1.html>  
**GIC, Inc.** – <http://www.transgender.org/tg/gic/index.html>  
**IFGE** – <http://www.transgender.org/tg/ifge/index.html>  
**RGA** – <http://www.transgender.org/tg/rga/rgapage.html>  
**StLGF** – <http://www.transgender.org/tg/stlgf/index.html>  
**TennVals** – <http://www.transgender.org/tg/tvals/index.html>

So, those are my opinions, but, hey, what do I know? I think it's indecent the way some organizations beg for money. It's better to give than receive. Comments? Write c/o this publication or email them to [\[redacted\]@cdspub.com](mailto:[redacted]@cdspub.com).

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*Trois Canard* is a French bistro in the Chelsea section of Manhattan that features, what else... quack... duck. Surprisingly, they also delivered a wide range of food at a relatively high quality level with moderate prices, plus the owner loves having the "girls" around.

Babs received a positive welcome even though she was slightly overdressed on a cold winter eve in her new satin "Liz" outfit. (Nice, but when one overdresses it's hard to "pass.")

We started with a fish appetizer, smoked salmon served on toast with capers. The texture was excellent, smooth and the smoked flavor was subtle, not overpowering, yet distinct. The shrimp cocktail had fresh jumbo

## Dining With Babs

# Three Ducks & A Golden Egg

pieces. The Caesar salad was tasty without being too much.

We made such an impression on the two couples at the adjacent table, they asked us to join them, so we moved our tables together and widened each other's horizons with interesting conversation, as well as increasing the number of dishes sampled for our report. The rack of lamb was very tender, juicy without an abundance of fat. The penne pasta was served in a tasty sauce with tomatoes, cheese and basil. The Mahi-Mahi, Cajun style, was hot and spicy with a good flaky texture. The Beef Bordelaisé was artfully presented, served with carrots and pea pods around a mound of cous cous, or was it good old American grits? Very good to behold and to eat, tender and distinctive.

The roast duck was also served with steamed pea pods and carrots and very crisp, as ordered. There were large meaty pieces with subtle overtones of Grand Marnier.

Although we usually order California wines, they had some modestly

priced French wine of decent quality that were available in half bottles, excellent for the light drinker who wants better than cheap house wine. A Macon-Charmes (Chardonnay) was surprisingly well made and only \$9.00 the half. The Chateau Greysac, a young but balanced Medoc (Cabernet varietal blend) complemented the beef very well at \$9.50 the half.

The background music was audible but not so overpowering as to impair conversation. Pictures and sculptures of three ducks decorated the dining area to remind one of the name. Even the butter was served in the shape of a duck... cute! Quality food, adequate portions at moderate prices and they're gender friendly... mais oui! Our kind of place, plus they accept the Transmedia Card and we got additional savings

**Trois Canards** (French Cuisine), 184 8th Ave (Between 18th & 19th St), Chelsea sec. of NYC, 212-929-4320. Major credit cards, Transmedia Card, Reservations suggested.



## Second Thoughts: The Story of a Transsexual Economist

*Reprinted courtesy of The Boston Globe by David Warsh, Globe staff*

In all of present-day economics, there is no livelier writer than D.N. McCloskey. A former University of Chicago Price Theorist, a distinguished economic historian, ex-editor of a major journal, and a long-time student of the rhetoric of the field, McCloskey is, at 53, a senior figure in the American Economic Association, one of six elected members of its Executive Committee. The University of Iowa professor is also something of a gadfly. Occasional pieces in *The American Scholar* and a regular column for the *Eastern Economic Journal* have been dependable sources of stimulation over the years.

Almost alone among senior figures, McCloskey likes to write in a sociologi-

cal vein: "How to Host a Seminar Visitor, Plot and Genre in Economic Stories," that sort of thing. Those who quickly turned to the latest offering in the November issue of the *Eastern Economic Journal*—Some News That At Least Will Not Bore You—were not disappointed. "No, I am not gay. I am cross-gendered, and at age 53, having been a good soldier for four decades, I am doing something about it. Not to startle you, but I am becoming a woman economist."

Somewhat abruptly, Donald McCloskey was on his way to becoming Deirdre McCloskey. Deer-druh, nickname "Dee." "In Old Irish, it means 'wanderer,'" she wrote. And when she turned up at the AEA's annual meeting in San Francisco, it was in a brilliant red dress, a major wig and

lots of gold jewelry. Plastic surgery had changed her face; larynx-shaving altered her voice. Where there had been whiskers there was pancake makeup. The rest of the surgery lay ahead, during a sabbatical year at Erasmus University in Holland that begins later this week. Crossing gender costs about as much as a Mercedes," she said, characteristically, for underneath it all, it was pretty clearly the same old McCloskey.

What's the incidence of transsexualism in the population? John Money, an expert on sexual ambiguity at Johns Hopkins University, says that no reliable statistics are collected. One estimate frequently heard in transsexual circles is that one in every 30,000 persons has the feeling of being a woman

*continued on next page*



# Gender Reflections

by **Barbara F. Anderson**  
**M.S.W., Ph.D.**

## **A Quiz For The Card-Carrying Transgender Individual... or Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About The World Of Transgender Behavior**

Following is a brief history of the world's understanding of transgender behavior and how it has been viewed and dealt with over time. It is in the form of questions, both to get the little gray cells working and to give me material for next month's column, in which you will find the answers.

*The first documented movement for the civil rights of crossdressers and transgenderists occurred in the early 1900's in what country?*

*Homosexuality, Eonism, androgyne, sexual perversion, psychic hermaphroditism and transvestism are early terms for what we now call \_\_\_\_\_?*

*What German sexologist, and himself an openly gay crossdresser, distinguished the concept of "transvestism" from homosexuality in 1910?*

*Who, developing the above theory, further distinguished transsexuals from transvestites?*

*When and where did the first recorded modern attempt to surgically transform a man to a woman occur?*

*What era in American politics so fueled a movement of conformity that anyone violating well-defined gender boundaries was targeted as a threat to national security?*

*Who first used the term "transsexual" and when?*

*In 1953 Alfred Kinsey proposed a wide-ranging study of the actual occurrence of transgenderism in the U.S. What happened to that proposal?*

*Who was luckier. He had his transsexual research generously funded by a private foundation and eventually became known as the "American father of transsexualism."*

*"Ex-G.I. George Jorgenson returns home as blonde bombshell, Christine Jorgenson" was the big headline in American newspapers in what year?*

*Where was the first official gender identity clinic in the U.S.?*

*What was the first crossdressing organization and who was the founder?*

Anyone who knows a majority of the above answers needs to get out more! However, one can learn about the present and prepare for the future by knowing one's past. I am indebted to Gordene Olga Mackenzie whose book, *Transgender Nation* offers much more than a history of the phenomenon of transgender behavior.

Tune in next month for answers!



## Second...

trapped in the body of a man or vice versa; "perhaps a few hundred come out" every year. McCloskey is not alone; but he's in a distinct minority.

McCloskey's intellectual odyssey began in earnest at Harvard College, where his father taught. He remained at Harvard to become in the late 1960s an economic historian under, among others, the great historian Alexander Gerschenkron. His father, a distinguished and well-liked expert on the Supreme Court, may be remembered best for having persuaded his wife to

stop to buy a pack of cigarettes—on the way to the hospital with the heart attack that killed him at the age of 53.

As a young professor at the University of Chicago, McCloskey won tenure with some path-breaking research on the emergence of modern methods of agriculture in England during the Middle Ages, then went on to write a well-regarded textbook of applied price theory, a Chicago specialty. Despite a terrible stutter, he emerged as a gifted teacher. But at a certain point, he had a painful falling out with some of his colleagues, future Nobel Prize-winner George Stigler in particular. "They were treating me as another

Gregg Lewis," McCloskey has maintained, recalling a Chicago professor better remembered as a teacher than an influencer of thought. In 1979 the department refused to promote him to full professor. McCloskey, in a huff, went to the University of Iowa.

What gradually emerged was a project that is still making waves in economics. McCloskey turned against the High Science stance that was found in the best university departments at the time, learned ancient Greek and Latin, boned up on the 2,500-year-old (and largely aban-

*continued on page 18*



## Letters to the Editor

Back in November Dina wrote a piece in **Vis A Vis** about a feud between Phaedra Kelly of International Transient Gender Affinity (IGTA) and one Elga Remes of Latvia. It seems Miss Kelly wrote a piece for IFGE's *Tapestry* in which she said the homosexual community had no identity, no philosophy and no culture of its own. She also said, "As director of the IGTA, I do have an axe to grind against both the homo and the tran community."

Ms. Remes responded in a letter and told the *Tapestry* readers about her problems with Phaedra's Messianic Complex. Dina summed up by (indirectly) calling Miss Kelly a horse's ass. What follows is an excerpt from a letter by Miss Kelly responding to Dina's column. It's been edited for space but there are no typos. All is as Miss Kelly wrote in the original.

### To The Editors

It appears hard to get a word of reply in any magazines which in USA have lately been calling me names. But in the case of the lately come Amberle's comments, she who has inflicted her ant-eater probusus on UK's *TransEssex* magazine recently, could be responded to therein if [RN&V] refuse right of reply.

Quite right, that Amberle knows nothing of the background of the exchange

[*Tapestry*] between myself and Remes. Amberle sits on her donkey (ass in English) in USA, never having been to Eastern Europe, let alone travelled overland through it within its communities, living as a part of it. The latter, I have done, and IGTA has an extensive and continuous network throughout Eastern Europe ever since. You may regard the AEGIS directory for evidence, of some 121 (in the world) groups, organizations, services and professionals met, or otherwise checked out and referred by IGTA's work.

In third world climates of financial doom and gloom, where food is at a premium before all else, and war and repressive governments and crime syndicates loom, its bound to be the case that some groups are not always what they seem. It demands patient, careful, through and complete investigation inside and out, to determine which, plus some experience and knowledge of the country, and its socio/political profile. IGTA does this.

...Since Amberle is obviously anal fixated by her endless use of childish euphemy for the glutinous maximus, perhaps she should look over her shoulder for her next drop earrings? Instead of poking her nose into matters that she doesn't understand. But I won't lower myself to be unkind towards her in her own arrogant manner, when her continued posturing at others expense appears likely to bring some or other lesson home to her via Karma, sooner than later; as "straight gays" are about to find out, pride comes before a fall.

For the record, I and IGTA deal only in fact, well documented and provable by many sources in the case of history, and hard work in other cases.

Let the record also note that we have passed Miss Kelly's comments along to Dina (who did indeed have her photo in *Trans Essex* magazine) and while she is shaking in her pumps, she does keep glancing behind to see if any crystal earrings have materialized. Now, on to other less labyrinthian and obscure letters.

Dear Angela,

We just received the new issue of *News & Views*. I was intrigued by your story about getting a new credit card for Ms. Gardner. On this, I have just one question.... What took you so damn long? I have six credit cards with my femme name on my "Sugar Daddy" accounts. While none of them are for department stores (Amex, MasterCard, Visa, Discover, Amoco, and Exxon), I can use four of them when I go shopping, go out to dinner, or all six for when I just need to buy gas. Just remember, we run into debt, we crawl out of it. Don't let it tempt you too much! In the future, when you get a new credit card, just ask for additional cards for your "family." It's no big deal as long as the responsible person on the account can be legally verified and the bills actually do get paid.

On the other item, I have heard the song *Walkin' Around in Women's Underwear*. The local rock stations play it every December. The artist is Bob Rivers and Twisted Radio and the album title is *I Am Santa Claus*. (Atlantic Records, 82548-4). Look for it next winter—it is absolutely hysterical. It is in the same vein as *Out of the Wardrobe* by the Kinks.

continued on page 22

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# BOOK NOOK

*Men In Dresses: A Study of Transvestism/Crossdressing*, by Vernon Coleman (paperback, 113 pages) Trinity Place, England, European Medical Journal, 1996.

Reviewed by Lee Etscovitz, Ed.D., Renaissance National Librarian.

Reading Vernon Coleman's *Men In Dresses* is like attending a Renaissance meeting: you get a chance to meet a lot of people who share many of your feelings and concerns. The book is easy reading and not very long. It is actually a report of survey results: "This European Medical Journal Special Report On Transvestism-/Crossdressing is based on questionnaires which were completed by 414 British males during July and August 1995 and on written communications from over 600 other British males during the same period."

The author adds comments on his collected responses in terms of each of twenty questions which comprise the questionnaire he used for his research. Some of those questions are:

1. How old were you when you first started wearing women's clothes?
2. Why do you do it?

3. Has being a transvestite ever lost you a job or a relationship?

4. Do you live in fear of people finding out that you are a transvestite?

5. Does your partner know of your transvestism?

The author gives an initial summary of the results of this research effort: "There are many myths and misconceptions about why men crossdress. This survey shows quite clearly that most crossdressers are neither homosexual nor aspirational transsexuals. Crossdressing is not an illness and most transvestites do not want to be 'cured.' Transvestism is a valuable remedy for stress."

Dr. Coleman has written 70 books on a variety of subjects, mostly within the broad area of health. At the end of *Men In Dresses* he reveals whether or not he himself is a transvestite. Since the book is based on a survey of British subjects, some of the terms are a bit different from our usage. For example, the term "knickers" is used throughout the book in reference to an article of feminine clothing that we in America refer to as "panties." "Suspenders" is a garter belt.

The author does not really say much that is new to any of us in the transgender community, though I do believe that this book would be enlightening to the public at large. It is good outreach material. But the author does help the transgendered reader, especially the transvestite, reflect on his/her own personal situation in terms of some basic areas of general concern. The reader could actually turn to any one of the twenty questions and read the responses and commentary, depending on which question is of interest.

Overall, I am glad I read the book, for although it did confirm much of what I already know, it gave me some personal insight. It was also fun reading. In keeping with my initial comparison to a Renaissance meeting, you never know what you might gain from *Men In Dresses*. Perhaps you will see a reflection of yourself, and that is always interesting.



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*Tina Eckhardt*



## Second...

done) tradition of rhetoric, and announced that—despite all the mathematics—economics had more in common with history and literature than was commonly thought. Intellectual “arbitrage,” he called it, referring to similar ideas about the elusiveness and conditionality of human knowledge that were being pursued in universities under the deconstructionist banner by English professors such as the late Paul de Man, philosophers such as Richard Rorty, historians of science such as Bruno Latour. “Economics is an extraordinarily clever way of speaking that can do a lot of good,” he wrote at one point. But now it sits scowling outside the conversation of humankind, offering expert opinion with a sneer. One way to bring it back into the conversation is to persuade economists that they are not so very different from poets and novelists.” Economists are still debating exactly where among the branches of human inquiry their field fits best.

McCloskey is given credit for having sparked a certain amount of self-examination with two books: *The Rhetoric of Economics* in 1986 and *If You're So Smart* in 1990. He has risen steadily in the estimation of his peers, to a position very near the top of his profession. But a principles text he was writing with another dissenting economist, Arjo Klamer, came down with a case of vertigo and remains incomplete. *Second Thoughts*, a volume of

essays by economic historians that McCloskey organized for the policy-oriented Manhattan Institute, failed to attract much attention. And increasingly, the relatively brief preoccupation with methodology was seen to have run its course in economics.

The public portion of the latest chapter in McCloskey's saga began in October, when word of his transsexualism began spreading around the Iowa City campus. (Apparently there was a brief experiment with transvestism last summer.) After some hurried consultations with the university administration, McCloskey says, he decided to fight rumor with timely disclosure. He wrote letters and messages to hundreds of friends and colleagues, prepared his column for the *Eastern Economic Journal*, dealt with inquiries from Iowa newspapers. (Sophisticated Iowa pretty much declared it the McCloskeys' own business.)

His wife of 30 years discreetly but firmly divorced him; his two grown children were shocked. For them, McCloskey has written, “This has been hard, very hard. They thought they knew Don. I can only say that I also thought I knew Don, and was equally startled when I figured out he was in fact Deirdre. ...”

Then commenced a further two-month ordeal in which the economist was pursued through the courts in Iowa City and Chicago, not by his wife and children nor by his mother, but rather by a protective younger sister, Laura, and an old University of Chicago friend of her brother whom she enlisted, economist David Galenson.

Their fear, detailed in their testimony, was that McCloskey was suffering from manic depression and that eventually he would rue greatly what he was about to do. They were unusually successful. Twice the economist was led away in handcuffs—once from his

home in Iowa City, again from a session of a meeting of the Social Science History Association in Chicago at which his work was being discussed. Each time he was freed after brief periods of restraint.

The McCloskey who turned up in San Francisco seemed in pretty good shape, somewhat haggard but calm and centered. Martha Olney, an economic historian at the University of California at Berkeley who had been sheltering McCloskey, announced that she would join him and Klamer in the enterprise of the text. McCloskey participated in her sessions—on convergence among open economies in history, the nature of markets, feminist thought, and industrial history—with none of the grandiosity or hyperactivity that is the usual sign of mania. Her rancor toward George Stigler was intact, “a man who didn't know the meaning of the word love,” but otherwise Deirdre was about as forward-looking, just-minded and funny as had been Don. Significantly, the stutter was, if not entirely absent, at least greatly reduced. “I'm happier,” she shrugged.

What's the moral? Well, the inevitable comparison is with Jan Morris, the writer. For her first 45 years, the Britisher made her way as James Humphry Morris and grew up to be a distinguished correspondent who, among other things, cabled the news of the conquest of Mount Everest to a waiting world on the even of Queen Elizabeth's coronation. With children grown, Morris flew to Casablanca in 1972 for an operation that changed her sex—and hardly missed a beat in her writing reconnaissance, completing her *Pax Britannica* trilogy, keeping up a steady stream of high-toned (if not universally well-received) personal essays and travel books ever since.

Can Deirdre McCloskey continue to make her way as a writer? “A foolishly sentimental poem has the same irritating effect on the reader as does a foolishly libertarian piece of economics.” Who could ask for a better sentence than that? *This story originally ran on page 45 of the Boston Globe on 01/14/96. Thanks to Diane*



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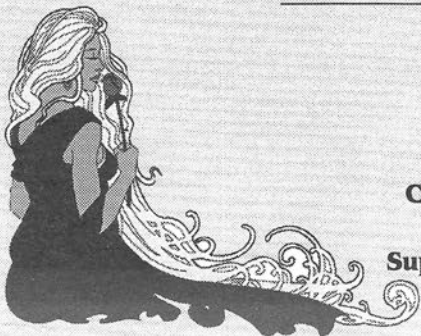
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Ms. Lee Etscovitz, Ed.D.

# Making Sense Of It All

Dear Mom and Dad,

It is not easy for me to write this letter, for you have never really seemed willing to listen to me. But maybe a letter provides just the right combination of closeness and distance that we need for communication. Of course, up till now I have not even been able to hear or see myself for who I really am, so how much can I really blame you for our relationship and for our lack of communication? The older I get, the less I can honestly and responsibly do any blaming. I am at the point in my life where I now feel I am truly responsible for what I do and think and feel. So I want to tell you some things that I now accept and respect about myself.

Mom and Dad, you brought a son into the world, a son, however, who was always seen by both of you as a dreamer, a boy who you, Dad, wanted to be more of a man, and a boy who you, Mom, wanted to be close to you. As you know, I did try to be a good son to both of you, though at times I felt a bit torn apart by your conflicting expectations of me. In any case, I did go to school, I dated girls, I participated in sports, worked in your garage, Dad, and have held good jobs in teaching and selling. But somehow I have never really been happy.

I realize you both helped me with therapy, but I remained troubled. Well, at last I have found the source of my problem: it is what is called "gender confusion," and it just won't go away. The truth is that all my life, ever since I was six years old, I have always preferred to be among girls, just being with them and playing house with them. Oh yes, I played with cars and trucks and guns and was in the Cub Scouts and had some boy friends. But the older I got the more I found myself wanting to be just like the girls. That is why, given my being born a male, I have been confused and unhappy, con-

fused about my gender.

This confusion has taken quite a toll on my life. Self-recognition in a case like this can be very difficult, let alone accepting what one finally recognizes to be the case. I have always felt ashamed of my feminine feelings, for being somehow different from the other boys. As I look back, I wonder how I ever got through school, for I was so preoccupied with my inner concerns and my inner unrest that I had difficulty concentrating on my studies. But somehow I managed to graduate at each step of the way. Of course, concentrating on earning a living has also been difficult, but again, I seem to have managed.

But that is about all I was doing as the years progressed: managing to get along but not really enjoying life and not really accomplishing the things I had once envisioned doing. So now, with many years behind me, I have at last seen the truth about myself. Better late than never, as they say. I guess hearing all this is enough to make you turn over in your graves. Unfortunately, or maybe fortunately, you are in your graves, both of you. I wonder if you are still arguing over me. I used to feel guilty thinking I was the cause of your marital difficulties.

Well, now that you both are resting, perhaps in peace, I find myself finally telling you something that probably makes you a bit uncomfortable. But tell you I must, if only for my own sanity in the world of the living. I cannot tolerate any longer my own living death. I suppose that, if you can somehow hear and understand what I am saying, you are shocked. But think of it this way: at last you have given me the opportunity to tell you my deep, dark secret. I am no longer ashamed of who I am.

Maybe you think I am a coward for waiting until both of you cannot really react to me. But all the time that you

thought I was a difficult child, you in turn were not easy parents, the way you carried on about me. I always felt something was drastically wrong with me, leaving me with little solid ground to stand on. But now I feel the ground beneath me to be solid and exciting. Unfortunately, and I do mean it is unfortunate, you are in that ground, perhaps the only time you have stayed quiet and listened to me and, hopefully, accepted me for who I am. If you are uncomfortable, then I am sorry, for I do love you. Maybe some flowers from me from time to time will sweeten the bitterness of the truth I have just shared with you.

But is it really bitter for me to be happy, wanting nothing more from you than love and acceptance? I think not, and I can only wish for you the eternal happiness that I am beginning to experience while I am still living. May you rest in peace, and may I live in peace.

Love,

Lee

P.S. Hope you like my new name.



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# Shopping With Jessica

by Jessica Brandon



Greetings, girlfriends! I just thought you'd like to know that I recently hit the local lottery for twenty million dollars, every cent of it up front. My first act as a millionairess is to treat all my loyal readers to a big spending spree at **Neiman Marcus**! And so, with that in mind, I have only one thing to tell you... **APRIL FOOL'S!!**

Okay, now that I've gotten that nonsense out of my system, let's get down to business. Back in October when I launched this new shopping column, I promised to relate some tales of derring-do in the stores, and I figure this is as good a time as any.

Since I can't dress a fraction as much as I'd like because of time constraints, I do all my shopping for women's attire in my male guise, and, as I've mentioned here before, it's no big deal. To salespeople, cash (or credit) is King (or Queen), and you wear the crown! What you buy is of no consequence to them, as long as you can pay for it.

**Example One:** In May 1994, prior to a meeting of the Greater Philly Chapter of Renaissance, I arrived at the hotel I was going to stay at for the evening without an outfit to wear, just my wig, makeup, jewelry, lingerie and a pair of white pumps with a bag to match. To this day, I still can't figure out how that happened! So, after cursing myself for being absent-minded, I hopped in my car and motored over to the nearby King of Prussia Mall, and straight to **Penney's**, my favorite place to shop for clothes for tall gals.

As everyone who follows this column knows, I have a blatant fetish for

suits, so that's what I sought. I found a beauty—purple with black pinstriping and a slim, short skirt. Mondo cool, and on sale to boot!

I couldn't decide what color top to go with it, so I asked a saleslady for assistance. When I casually told her the suit was for me, she didn't blink an eyelash, and picked out a sharp white silk shell that was perfect. After ringing up my purchase, the saleslady gave me a nice smile and told me she hoped I enjoyed the suit. Not bad, eh?

**Example Two:** In last month's column, I talked about a pair of black leather pumps I bought from a shoe store in New York City (No, not Lee's Mardi Gras) that set me back \$125. This was **Tall Shoes of Fifth Avenue**, at 3 West 35th Street, which carries shoes up to size 14 WW. Finding this place quite by accident, I sauntered in for a look-see. The store was fairly well packed since it was midday. While I waited for a salesman (there were no saleswomen present), I looked over their large selection of footwear.

When the salesman asked if he could help me, I inquired about black leather pumps, 13 Wide. Without pause, he rushed in the back and brought out four different styles. After deciding which pair I liked most, I popped the big question: could I try them on? The guy got me a pair of knee high stockings and invited me to do just that. So, there I was, wearing baggy male clothes and three inch pumps, acting as casual as could be. Heck, one of the shoppers, a middle aged black lady, said they looked sharp on me. So I bought 'em.

**Example Three:** While wandering through a mall in New Jersey, I went into **John Wanamaker's** (now **Hecht's**) to check out **Clinique's** skin care supplies for men, which were on sale. After making my purchase, the saleslady asked if there was anything else I wanted. Figuring, what the Hell, I asked if she could help me buy makeup—telling her up front that it was for myself. The only "look" I got was one of examination as she tried to determine what shade foundation would work best with my skin type.

To make a long story short, she spent a solid half hour with me, selecting foundation, powder, blush, eye-shadow, eyeliner, lipliner, lipstick, the whole nine yards. She took her time to make sure everything was the right color for me as per my specifications. What's more, she gave me lots of useful advice in how to apply it all. To her, I wasn't a weirdo or anything; I was a customer, and she sought to give the best possible service. When all was said and done, I felt special and thanked her for the time she spent.

So you see, gang, shopping for women's clothes in your male guise isn't the mind-numbing horror some of you might imagine. As long as you know that you are a customer willing and eager to spend your money, it shouldn't matter what you purchase. I guarantee you'll be treated well. After all, you hold the trump card—money. If you're not given good service in a store, for whatever reason, take your business elsewhere. Salespeople are driven by commission and they'll move heaven and earth to earn it, no matter what.

As for shopping en femme? Hopefully, in a month or two, I'll be able to report on what will be my very first adventure into the stores as Jessica. Then we'll see just how driven salespeople can really be! Until next month, be smart, buy smart and look smart! Happy shopping, sisters!





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# Letters...

Well, otherwise things are good down here. Take care of yourself and don't watch too much TV during all the snowstorms... being a couch potato is hell on the figure. In fact, it's about time I pulled out my old Cindy Crawford exercise videos. Talk to you later!

Marisa Richmond, Tennessee Vals

Dear Marisa,

I got a letter from someone else about credit cards. (They didn't want to appear in print.) I already have a VISA in my femme name and a TransMedia Card (I love that name) also. The point of the story was that we should be open in asking for our femme cards and not try to skulk about. I tried skulking my way into an AMEX card for Angela several years ago and couldn't come up with a Social Security number and they didn't even respond to my request.

Dear Angela,

Interesting articles continue to appear in *News & Views*, Dallas Denny's Standards of Care article among them. I support the principles and concepts of the Standards of Care. To me, it makes good sense for therapists and a team of medical professionals to render recommendations along the way, and then in favor or in opposition of sexual reassignment surgery. Profoundly deep psychological issues are at stake as well as physical adjustments which need to be well monitored. How well is the adjustment of the (trans) gendered person

into their new world actually going? A good helping professional is there to render a professional opinion, not to act as gatekeeper, denying surgery on a whim. The alternative of individuals making a totally independent decision, doesn't seem right.

I'm looking forward to Dallas Denny's recommendations concerning new Standards of Care.

Erica, New York Girl & Partner

Ed. Note:

AEGIS will be publishing *Recommended Guidelines for Transgender Care* later this year. Watch for it.

Dear Angela,

As *Renaissance* enters its tenth year, perhaps it is time to consider what it is that keeps the National organization, and indeed most of the chapters and affiliates, dynamic, vigorous and relevant.

During my first year as Executive Director of IFGE, I have had the opportunity to visit and see many other organizations in action. While we can, in general, be proud of all the fine work being done by these organizations, I have seen none better than *Renaissance*.

As I read about the new 1996 leadership of *Renaissance* (and the recycling of others) as well as the development of new chapters and affiliates and the renewal of others, I realized it is the tireless efforts of a large team of people, all dedicated to the goals of *Renaissance*, that makes this miracle continue.

While *Renaissance* has its share of national leaders, we have never become a cult organization built around a single personality or a select few. Most Chap-

ters operate with a team of leaders and decisions are made by building consensus, respecting dissenting opinions and working hard to maintain a high sense of respect for diversity. I wish I could bottle this philosophy and sell it as a tonic for those who need a lift in their sense of community.

Lest we get complacent, let us be vigilant in keeping up these principles and continue to expand our outreach, education and support to the totality of the transgender community, the professional community, and the public.

Congratulations and good luck in moving into your tenth year. I look forward to celebrating your tenth anniversary with you.

With loving care to you all,  
Alison Laing, Exec. Dir., IFGE

Dear Angela,

Thank you for your sleuthing to discover that the television show called *The Ugliest Girl in Town* was not just a dream of mine. Now I'm wondering if that time Claudia Schiffer and I tried on the new Versace line together was only a dream. Anyway, I was happy to learn that I am not nuts.

Jenny M.

PS: Lee Etscovitz may have a hard time following her excellent first article in last month's newsletter.



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## Affiliate News

By Dina Amberle

Until we get late-breaking news releases from the affiliates, we'll just run through what's been reported in the various newsletters, which are now a month or so old. But here's what's been happening in Renaissance affiliates across the nation...

**Long Island Femme Expression** (LIFE) was reporting about its recent affiliation with Renaissance in their January newsletter. President **Maggie** said she sees affiliation as a chance "to allow our light to shine a little brighter and over a greater distance." The same January newsletter (*Life Lines*) had a recap of 1995 social activities with photos, and they look like an active and fun-loving group.

**The Chicago Gender Society** had a schedule of events for February that included one meeting and three so-

cials. A St. Patrick's dinner is planned for Sat., March 16, as well. President **Stephanie Young** announced that she would not stand for re-election in 1996 so that she can give more time to It's Time Illinois!, a TG activist group. And in a brief income statement, the Chicago ladies reported they ran their 1995 Holiday Dinner at a \$120 profit!

**Sooner Diversity** in Oklahoma City reported on one benefit deriving from their Renaissance affiliate status: inclusion on the new Renaissance web site with their own page for *Sooner News*. The reporter for the Sooners is very optimistic about their Renaissance affiliation and their inclusion in the **Central OK TG Alliance**, a revolutionary umbrella group concept that includes a couples' group, Sigma Beta, and a TS group affiliated with AEGIS.

The **Monmouth Ocean Trans-Gender** (MOTG) group in Red Bank, N.J., announced that their March meeting set for the 23rd would be a field trip to a local beauty supply store.

The leadership arranged for the store to open after hours for the MOTG gathering. This on the heels of a Lin-gerie party at the February meeting. But lest you get the impression that those Jersey girls are a bit frivolous, you should know their January meeting featured a counselor speaking on Self-Discovery and Gender Issues.

Our other affiliates—Powder Puffs of California, ConnecticutView, AEGIS, Gulf Gender Alliance, Metro Gender Network, and NY Girl & Partner—haven't been forgotten. We didn't see their most recent newsletters so we don't know exactly what they're up to. If you're an officer in one of our affiliate groups, remember to send us your newsletter or press releases on upcoming events, attention Dina Amberle.



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