

The Fishbowl Syndrome

by Jessica Charlene Brandon

It's the third Saturday of the month, meeting time at the Woods. You've anxiously waited for this wonderful moment ever since the last get together. Perhaps the meetings are the only opportunity you have to dress up, go out and mingle with members of the transgendered community. You've spent hours primping and preparing for the outing and, once you've declared yourself ready, you step out of your house, apartment or motel room and suddenly, you're under the microscope, naked for the entire world to see.

People stare and do double takes as you pass them by. Confusion is mirrored in their eyes because they're not quite sure about what they've seen. Because of the allocation of chromosomes at birth, you stand out in a crowd. Maybe you're too tall, even in low heeled shoes. Your body might be too bulky, or your facial structure beyond any sort of decent feminine enhancement, no

matter how much make up you use. The world sees you for what you are ... a man in a dress. To some you're a curiosity. To others, a screaming abnormality.

You feel the eyes of society boring into you like a laser through steel and you cringe, openly uncomfortable as nameless terrors eat into your soul. You turn your head away from other motorists while driving or when stopped at a traffic light. You wear sunglasses in the faint hope they might conceal the truth. And summer meetings! They bring out the worst sort of dread because the sun sets late, leaving you exposed to the light of day for longer than you'd like. Paranoia grips you like a vice as you realize your scariest nightmare: the entire world has read you.

Does this grim scenario ring a bell with you? Did you feel this way when you first started going out? Are you affected by what I call, "The Fishbowl Syndrome," whether

in small degrees or large? Perhaps some of you reading this could care less about outside perceptions, but I tend to worry, and worry a lot over how the world sees me, what it thinks of me, if it accepts me when I'm garbed in a dress instead of attire deemed more suited to my gender. It's a situation that bears investigating for those who might have similar concerns.

To use myself as an example, not too long ago, there used to be only one person on the face of this planet whose sensibilities I cared about. There was only one person I never wanted to embarrass or have experience shame over something I might've said or done. That person was my mother. But since she died I thought I would become desensitized, that I could dress when and where I wanted and not care what anybody thought. Unfortunately, I was wrong. As it turns out, I do indeed care how the outside world

(continued on page 26)

Yes, It's The Swimsuit Issue At Last!

Finally you hold the much promoted & ballyhooed swim-suit issue in your hands. Go ahead, skip all the important stuff on the front page and jump ahead to the center fold cheesecake. Eight bathing beauties and your Editor grace two pages suitable for framing. Thanks to JoAnn Roberts for her layout skills and thanks to everyone who sent their photo.

If you like this one let us know and this summer get out there. A simple one piece, a bikini, maybe something retro like a forties or fifties suit. Have that picture taken and send 'em in. Just think, a year from now, another swimsuit issue!

What's Inside

Roger's Notebook	3
Holiday Frolic	5
News Beat	6
Bathing Beauties	12
Hot Buzz	14
Vis a Vis	16
BookNook	19
Shopping with Jackie	21
Plusses and Minusses	22
Puzzle Page	23
Letter	25

Chapters & Affiliates

New Jersey

South Jersey: Meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Atlantic Mental Health Center, Inc. 2002 Black Horse Pike, McKee, N.J. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Call (609) 435-5401 or write Renaissance SJ, PO Box 189, Mays Landing, NJ 08330. Chapter leader - Terri Risley; Assistant Leader - Phil Muniz

Pennsylvania

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

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

Affiliates

MOTG: Meets on the fourth Saturday of the month. For information contact Terry M., PO Box 8243, Red Bank, NJ 07701

Metropolitan Gender Network: 561 Hudson Street, Box 45, New York, NY 10014 (201) 794-1665 Ext. 332.

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

Renaissance News

© 1994 Renaissance Education Association, Inc., Box 60552, King of Prussia, PA 19406
\$2/copy, \$16 per year, 12 issues
215-630-1437

Editor-in-Chief:

Angela Gardner

Managing Editor:

Gary Labowitz

Contributing Editors:

Dina Amberle

JoAnn Roberts

Administrative Assistants:

Rachel and Beth Marshall

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

And, don't forget about...

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

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

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

Pen Pal Program: If you would like to be a pen pal contact Maryann Kirkland at P. O. Box 1242, Newtown, PA 18940. Attn: Dept. PP.

If you are a transgendered person with children and would like to network with other transparents, contact Elsa Larson at: Transparent, C/O Renaissance LSV, Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105.

For TS information and peer counseling in South Jersey call Kelly Harris at 609 641-3782.

Events Calendar

Renaissance GP

Renaissance LSV

Renaissance South Jersey

MOTG

Jan: TG Discussion Groups

no news provided: regular meeting

no news provided: regular meeting

Jan. 22: Alison Laing
Feb. 26: Dr. Roger Peo

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

ROGER'S NOTEBOOK (#84)

by Roger E. Peo, Ph. D.

I teach a basic human sexuality course to undergraduate college students. One of the hurdles I face is getting them to see beyond the surface appearances. A typical example is that if I use a video in class that is more than two years old, all they see is that it is "old" and not the situations presented in the video. My wife is a historian who appreciates that what has happened in the past can inform us about today. The old saying, "Those who do not know history are bound to repeat it." certainly applies here.

Recently, I began to read the translation of Magnus Hirschfeld's book *Transvestites: The Erotic Drive to Cross-Dress*. The original version was published in 1910 and summarized years of investigation into the phenomenon of cross-dressing. The first 120+ pages contain 17 case studies, which portray both male-to-female and female-to-male cross-dressers. These accounts also contain descriptions of marriages where one of the partners is a cross-dresser. Many of these narratives contain extensive descriptions of the person in their own words. With the minor exception of a few of the situations and articles of clothing,

these words could have been written today, nearly 100 years later!

Dr. Hirschfeld then goes on to discuss these cases, spending significant time explaining why these conditions are not homosexual or fit any of the other sexual disorders that had been described by other sexologists of that time. It would seem that then, as now, people equated cross-dressing with homosexuality. He also goes to some length to point out that these cross-dressers do not have any "mental defects" nor are there any in their family.

There are some differences in diagnostic criteria today. Some of these cross-dressers would more properly fall into the category of transgenderists or transsexuals. Regardless of these technical distinctions, it seems clear that little has changed in nearly a century. In fact, if observers like Dr. Hirschfeld were available throughout time, we probably would have had similar descriptions.

What can be learned from this work? First, it seems clear that cross-dressing, as we define it

today, has been around for at least 100 years. Also, we can infer that it exists in different cultures, at least those similar to ours. It also seems to suggest that we aren't a great deal closer in our understanding of why there are some people who have the need to cross-dress for non-erotic reasons. However we can learn from this historic study that attempts to understand are not new.

It is unfortunate that it took so long to have *Die Transvestiten* translated into English. I know that this text has often been cited in other books and scholarly works. It was only after I was able to read the words myself that I was able to realize how clearly Dr. Hirschfeld described situations that we still find today. I highly recommend this work for both the clinician and for the transgendered. Each will find much of interest in its pages.



You may contact Dr. Peo at P.O. Box 3445; Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 or by phone at (914) 452-8405. All communications are kept confidential.

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



- COUNSELING
- WORKSHOPS
- EDUCATION

Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

BOARD CERTIFIED CLINICAL SEXOLOGIST

P.O. Box 3445
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

(914) 452-8405



What's Hot for 1994 at CDS?

• Videos •

The Straight Dope On Hormones
Coping With Crossdressing: the Video
Cosmetic Surgery Options
Art & Illusion Tricks & Tips
Basic Makeup Application
Speaking As A Woman
What Is Femininty?
LadyLike Department

• Publications •

1994 Who's Who & Resource Guide
The Cross & The Crossdresser
Art & Illusion: A Guide to Crossdressing
The Art & Illusion Companion
Speaking As A Woman
Sacred Cows Make The Best Hamburger
Transsexual's Survival Guide to Transition
Transsexual's Survival Guide Vol. II
Coping With Crossdressing

•Coming Attractions •

Identity Management for the TS
Crossing The Lines of Gender

Meanwhile...

Our publications and videos are always in stock.
Ask your local vendor or get them direct from...

CDS

PO Box 61263

King of Prussia, PA 19406

610•640•9449

Holiday Frolic at the Inn

by Angela Gardner

On December 4th the ladies of Renaissance gathered again by the pool at the Great Valley Sheraton Inn for the GPC Holiday Party. One hundred and twenty guests, resplendent in their holiday finery arrived at this year's event. The pool side cocktail hour was not quite as crowded as last year since the party planners moved the bar to the far end of the pool and the ladies were not squashed in next to the crudites. Another factor that gave the party goers more room was the lack of a dance floor. Last year the dance floor took up a large area near the front of the room and until the dancing started people avoided that area. This year that space was given over to tables and the crowd was able to spread out and thankfully, every one avoided falling in the pool.

Some of the ladies and their escorts spread out into the Sheraton's lounge where a soft, jazz rock band was playing. The mellow sounds and the pleasure of a real wood fire crackling in the fireplace made for a romantic interlude before the troops ascended to the second floor dining rooms.

Just before we were called upstairs to dine I came upon two women and a man standing in the doorway to the pool area, gawking at the attendees. I had to ask them, "What's wrong? Haven't you ever seen men in dresses before?" We chatted amiably for a while and I left them talking to some of the other girls who were getting ready to go up and dine. I would have to say, this year's party got less in the way of stares and whispers from the hotel's other patrons than last year's event. (See Dina's article, "Fascination: If Looks Could Thrill" in the January, 1993 issue.) I doubt that the hotel guests were the same people who were there last year so maybe the diminished interest indicates that society is becoming more accepting.

After dinner everyone returned to the pool for a door prize drawing and then everyone adjourned to the hotel lounge again or drove a mile through the rain to the Ship Inn in nearby Exton where they whooped it up to the sounds of local piano man, Hal McKay.

Whether the guests won a door prize or not, everyone received a gift from the chapter in the form of a holiday basket of goodies. Chocolates, candy canes, ceramic Santas, holiday salt & pepper shakers and

(continued on page 20)



**Sandi's
Hair,
Nail,
Body,
Salon**

2579 Huntingdon Pike
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

947-7301
Beeper 618-4918

Private Appointments Available

**PERMANENT
PROFESSIONAL
HAIR
REMOVAL**

...because this
unwanted problem
could unnecessarily
last forever

**JOAN BENCAN
ELECTROLYSIS**

408 New Rd. (Rt. 9), Northfield

645-8618

FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION


**CREATIVE PSYCHOTHERAPY
ASSOCIATES**

BOARD CERTIFIED SEXOLOGIST


Individual, Family, Marital, Divorce & Sexual Counseling

Judith D. Dean
Ed. D., M. Div., M.S.

Suite 110
55 Princeton-Hightsown Rd.
Princeton Junction, NJ 08550 (609) 275-6556



**Theseus Counseling
Services**



ARI KANE, M.ED.
GENDER SPECIALIST
DIPLOMATE, AM. BD. SEXOLOGY

*FOR NORTHERN
NEW ENGLAND*
126 WESTERN AVE.
SUITE 222
AUGUSTA, ME 04330
207-623-2327

*FOR GREATER
BOSTON AREA*
233 HARVARD ST.
SUITE 302
BROOKLINE, MA 02146
617-277-4360

MC/VISA ACCEPTED



by Angela Gardner

Welcome to 1994! Especially welcome to all the new Chapter Leaders. Everyone has their work cut out for them in this new year. Linda from LSV will be working on her new agenda of significant other support.

Jackie and Audrey have a job of chapter building to do in South Jersey. For some time now attendance at meetings in South Jersey has been reasonable to high but the membership numbers for that chapter have remained the lowest in the organization. As co-leaders of the chapter Jackie and Audrey have pledged to make outreach their number one agenda item and sign up more members to fill the ranks. National has pledged to do what it takes to help them bring the chapter up to full speed. Go on girls!

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter leader has an even larger task. She's got to top what she did when she was chapter leader in 1991. Will she be able to take the chapter in bold new directions? Will she explore exciting new possibilities for transgender support? Will she have another lingerie party? Does she have the stuff to get anything done for the chapter since I'll be cracking the whip over her to make her write the Vis A Vis column for the news-

letter. Yes! Dina Amberle is now taking care of the Vis A Vis chore and the GPC leader job. Give her a No Doz and a cup of coffee.

Again, welcome to one and all in their new positions and congratulations. With Beth Marshal at the helm of the national organization (a position that will make good use of her years of Renaissance experience), and the help of everyone in national and the chapters, we can't help but attain new heights in 1994.

OK, that's enough of the cheerleader stuff. Let me change out of this skimpy uniform, put my pom poms away and get down to the news!

GARDEN STATE

GENDER COALITION

GOING STRONG

Hey, did ya notice that the G.S.G.C. is a truly exciting group? It's a coalition of four Renaissance groups; M.O.T.G., Metropolitan Gender Network, Renaissance South Jersey and the Greater Philadelphia Chapter. Stir in Gender Identity Anonymous and two, count 'em, two Tri-Ess chapters: Chi Delta Mu and Sigma Nu Rho, and you get G.S.G.C.

One agenda item from their

November fifth meeting was a report on the revision of Sigma Nu Rho's by laws that allows significant others to join as full members and hold office. Way to go Sigma Nu Rho. (Oh no, I'm rhyming already.)

Other important business conducted was a unanimous vote to draft a letter to the Clinton administration protesting the banning of "sex change surgery and related services" from the Clinton Health Care Plan.

The Coalition will be drafting a mission statement that will include "Building amicable relations with other groups," taking on joint projects, and promoting outreach. Seems like they've proved that it can be done. Keep up the good work. Oops. I'm cheerleading again. Moving right along....

Transgraph Enterprises

4 Shoppers Lane Suite 147
Turnersville, NJ 08012
(609) 227-5845



Extrawild

almost waist length,
super seductive,
easy to care for,
call for color
availability

\$119.00



Tina

Soft, curly,
feminine look
easy to care for
ready to wear.
call for color
availability
Over 35 inches
long!

\$169.00



Sabrina

30 inches of long
flowing curls, brushable.
This style offers a lot of
possibilities.

\$119.00

Summer Special

Order any wig
shown here
and get a full
wig care kit FREE!
a 25.00 value!

PHONE UPDATES

Somewhere around January 8th much of the 215 area code becomes the 610 area code. It's a phone company plot but we've tried to help you be prepared by changing all the area codes in this publication that need changing. Don't worry, if you dial 215 by mistake the phone company will either put your call through or give you one of their friendly recorded messages telling you to wise up and use 610.

So, that number again in the Greater Philadelphia Area is 610-630-1437. Call direct, don't call collect. By the time you read this we should not only have the new area code but the calls should be taken by the phone company's Answer Call System. This will probably result in more messages getting a return call. Our old answering machine had seen some hard service and every now and then it would eat a message or two. This meant some poor caller thought we were jerks who didn't return calls. Well, jerks we may be but at least we'll be returning more calls.

PLEASE BE

PATRONIZING!

When you see an ad in the Renaissance News it's there because the advertiser is offering goods or services to the transgender community and they want you to give them your business. If you need a new wig, try one of the shops that advertise in the News. Need a therapist who understands transgender problems? You'll find four or five advertising right here. One of them could be the one you need to help you answer important life questions.

From beauty services like wigs, makeup, hair and electrolysis to therapy, addictions counseling, clothing and a place to get a late night snack, these businesses all welcome your patronage. When you call or stop in let them know you read about them in the Renaissance News.

This month we welcome two new advertisers and one old friend who has decided to return to these pages. Donna's Hair Studio and Boutique in Trenton is offering services to the TG community again. The problem had been having someone on her staff who could stay late to cater to TG client needs. It was too much for Donna herself and Eric Lee has become more involved in his lover, Berry Lyndon's female impersonation career. (Berry is on her way to being Miss Prelude in the Monday night New Hope competition.) Who would step forward to take care of Renaissance girls in search of two tanning beds, Egyptian body wrapping, nail care, wig styling and more? Fortunately, an operator who worked for Donna before is anxious to get back into helping the TG girls. She actually works at another salon but Laura will be coming in to do beauty stuff for girls who make after hours appointments. Call Donna's at 609-883-0002 and tell them Renaissance sent you. How about a transgender birthday party at the salon? Donna's will do it.

Our first new advertiser is Michele Lacrete, an electrologist in Edgewater, New Jersey. She'll be offering hair removal to any one in the Edgewater area or anyone who wants to drive in from around the world. Call her at 201-886-8198 and....right! Mention Renaissance.

Michele also does waxing, (Ouch!) and pedicures.

On the psychological front, a new choice for counseling is found in Dr. Ron Goldstein. Dr. Goldstein is a professor at Bucks County Community College and is very knowledgeable in transgender matters since he has sat through presentations on transvestism and transsexuality a few times each year for the past several years when Renaissance speakers have talked to his classes. Dr. Ron can be reached in his private practice at 215-547-9417.

ART CAN BE A DRAG

Since artists often try to shock their viewers into thinking about the way the world is and why it is that way some of them, like Marcel Duchamp, have played with gender in their painting and photography. One such artist is now on exhibit at the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania here in Philadelphia. Artist Stuart Netsky explores our ingrained notions of sexual roles and domestic life in the context of the AIDS epidemic with his exhibit titled "Time Flies." One installation, called "What Should I Wear" is Netsky's chance to blend gender roles with photographs of himself in a series of fashion photographs. He is the subject of each photo and is dressed in men's and women's designer clothing. The entire exhibit is done with ironic humor, something that Miss Gardner has long been a fan of.

The exhibit runs till January 16th. The artist will be there to discuss his work on January 5th. The Institute is located at 118 South 36th Street in Philadelphia and you can call them for further information at 215-

898-7108.

A LITTLE BIT OF FRENCH PASTRY?

Those Can Can girls in the Follies Bergere over there in Gay Paree had gone and closed up shop last year. Many a man's eye misted over when it was learned that the Follies were closing the doors after many years of titillating entertainment. Now, just when we thought that we'd have to be content with the Rockettes, the Follies Bergere is back and in their new show they offer titillation for those of us who like to see a nice looking man in a dress. The new show is sprinkled with female impersonators as well as the called for number of beautiful women. The high point of the show has a drag queen riding around the stage on a bike singing operatic arias. But you ain't seen nothin' yet. The grand finale features eight poodles on stage. Very apropos since I've always thought male poodles with those hair cuts were kind of in drag anyhow. You won't find no poodles at Radio City so if you want poodles and drag queens book that next Concord to Paris.

CHANNEL SURFING

Not the English Channel, the

television channels. I didn't see the TV on any episodes of Laroquette this past month but I didn't catch them all. I could have missed her. I had to be content with Dick Van Dyke's new show on CBS, "Diagnosis Murder." Dick is a doctor who solves mysteries. Boy, that's original.

The November 19th episode featured Dick in one of those other original ideas, the "Let's have Dick play himself and several other relatives" shows. One of the relatives is a female cousin. One of the characters calls her "a gentle delicate flower" but she actually looks more like Herman Munster in a dress. Make that several dresses including a wedding dress. Too bad Dick didn't leave the veil down. Oh well, it's worth a look when the re-runs role by so check your newspaper for feature times.

HOWARD'S OFF

THE HEAT

It has been reported and in gruesome detail I might add, that Howard Rollins is now a former star of "In The Heat Of The Night." The details were all there in the November 23rd issue of the Star. Howard was busted again for drunk driving and this time he was wearing a blue tank

top with white culottes and a long, blonde Shirley Temple wig. It's bad enough that Howard would wear blonde hair with his skin tone but he must have really been plowed to have a two day growth of beard. I won't even mention the glitter eye shadow.

Howie, Howie, Howie. How could you commit a fashion felony like that? It seems this is not the first of Rollin's fashion *faux pas*. He has been seen, according to the Star all over Conyers, Georgia in various feminine outfits. All fairly unbecoming to a man of his build. He has been reported at the video store and the yogurt bar in a variety of wigs topping off Spandex tights, bikini briefs and see through frocks. The Star also reports that Howard was a regular in Atlanta gay club, Back Street. He wears leather minis and spiked heels for his club looks.

As soon as Rollins pays his debt to the Georgia judicial system he said he plans to leave the state and return to New York City. Next year at Edelweiss 580 keep an eye out for that drag queen in spandex, a see through top and inadequate beard cover.

SHORT SHOTS

One queen who wouldn't be caught dead with out good beard

Appointment Only

E. Stroudsburg, PA

ELECTROLYSIS BY LISA

**PERMANENT HAIR REMOVAL
DISPOSABLE PROBES**

FREE CONSULTATION
SAMPLE TREATMENT

LISA M. CAPORASO
717-223-9321

(609) 795-9095

BARBARA ANDERSON, M.S.W., PH.D.

LICENSED MARRIAGE COUNSELOR
CERTIFIED SEX THERAPIST
INDIVIDUALS, COUPLES, GROUPS

315 HAWTHORNE AVE.

HADDONFIELD, NJ 08033

cover is glamour girl Ru Paul. In addition to her recording contract, talk show appearances and general media push, Miss Ru put out a Christmas song for the holidays. There she was, right there in the Sam Goody ad next to "Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer." What classic did Ru do? "The Little Drummer Boy." Let me know if you heard it.

Jessica Brandon sent us an item from the Daily News. It was covered in all the media for a few days when some van stealers got away with more than they bargained for. The Ford Econoline was full of tutus. The Pennsylvania Ballet had over \$80,000 worth of costumes in the van and they were to be returned to the American Ballet Theater in New York. It seems the crooks were not crossdressers since the tutus were found a day or two later unsoiled. They kept the van.

A group of dress wearing guys who don't steal anything, except possibly comedy material are on CBS real late on Friday night. It's the "Kids In The Hall." They started on HBO and now they are doing their cutting edge comedy on broadcast television. Like Monty Python, they regularly have guys in the group play female roles in the skits. One female character is Tammy, a pop

singer whose newest release is a song called "I'm Not Gonna Spread For No Roses." Tammy is portrayed by hall kid Bruce McCulloch and he makes a fetching female pop singer in several costume changes. I think Tammy maybe a regular character on the Kids so tune in and check her out.

TRANSATLANTIC

TRANS

Billie out there in Kuwait has been clipping things from the Kuwait Times again. The story she has sent along is a piece from the November 23rd issue of that paper. The headline is "Transformation For Transvestites." Transformation is a chain of TV shops in Great Britain where a girl can get a complete makeover with out bringing anything to the shop but her cash. There are five Transformation shops in Britain, one in Belfast and they are planing to open in Germany and the US this year.

The Belfast shop is being picketed regularly by a Presbyterian minister who has vowed to make the sinful, "abomination in the sight of God" close it's doors. The owner, transsexual Stephanie Ann Lloyd, is not to concerned over the protests and plans to open a shop in Catholic

controlled Dublin so Catholic can protest without having to make dangerous journeys to the north.

Since Northern Ireland is such a dangerous place to be maybe the British army should adopt Israeli methods and send some of the troops to Transformation so they can go undercover as Irish mothers. Just a modest proposal.

Lloyd claims that the chain of shops is not a profit making venture. She is married to millionaire David Booth and she says he supports the venture to humor her.

"I'm not in it to make money...I want to help people like me who would otherwise feel very lonely" says Ms. Lloyd. This statement doesn't quite jib with something Caroline Egerton, the editor of The Transvestite's Guide to London told me about Transformation while I was in England. She said that the prices were very high. A girl might have to learn how it feels to be poor in order to lose their loneliness at one of the Transformation shops. So just like in the good old USA, let the buyer beware. About the only competition that Ms. Lloyd will have is Michael Salem.

If you are looking for a service like Transformation's do some comparison shopping first. The Guide lists several makeover services in

OPEN 24 HOURS

*Informal
Relaxed
Dining*



*Brunch
With A
View*

== 260 South 12th Street Philadelphia, PA ==

Narilyn's Wigs

Large Selection
*René of Paris, Henry Margu, Eva Gabor
and more.*

*Call for appointment
(215) 446-0799*

London so if you're planning to stop off in England on your way to catch a performance of the Follies Bergere in Paris, check the Guide for the best makeover deal.

ALL SWATHED IN TAFFETA

While we're on this international wavelength let me tell you about a British TV magazine that I found out about while I was there. I didn't get to see a copy but I spoke with the editor, Susan Mayfield, and it sounded like they try to do a good job. If you'd like to find out more about Taffeta write to them at

PO Box 65

Leighton Buzzard, LU7 8TJ.

See this issues Letter To The Editor for an international TV experi-

ence.

BACK IN THE USA

We received a letter from Esprit the other day. I always thought that was a brand of sportswear or something but it turns out to be a cross-dresser event that happens out in the Pacific Northwest. They asked us to run ads for their event in the Renaissance News. I have to say sorry, we don't run ads without getting paid. That's just the kind of girls we are. We will however write up the event in this column and since everyone reads Reminder Beat they'll find out all about Esprit anyway.

Esprit is a co-operative venture of the Cornbury Society in Vancouver, Canada, The Northwest Gender Alliance in Portland, Oregon and Emerald City in Seattle, Washington. When I said event, it would be more accurate to add the

plural. March 18th in Portland you can attend A Night At Esprit. May 20th through 22nd you can go to A Taste Of Esprit in Port Angeles, Washington and next year, that's right, 1995, you can attend the real thing, Esprit 95 in Port Angeles.

The ads promise an ocean cruise, a Las Vegas night, high tea at the Empress, classes and vendors plus banquets and dancing. To find out just when and where all this activity occurs contact

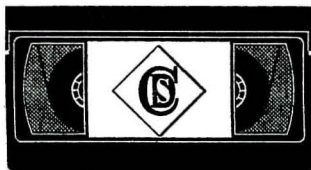
Esprit

PO Box 873

Kirkland, Washington, 98083.

January 26th through 30th the Tiffany Club is holding a convention at the Crowne Plaza in Natick, MA. For more info call the Tiffany Club at 617-391-9325.

If you're into roughing it in a feminine and New Age way then maybe you'd like to attend the



CDS Premium Videos

CDS is committed to producing only the highest quality VHS videos for the transgendered community and that's a guarantee. Here's the lineup for 1994.

• **NEW • The Straight Dope on Hormones** — Delia VanMaris, M.D., provides you with the essential basic information you need about the effects of taking hormones. (Order VCD1) • **NEW • Cosmetic Surgery Options** — This video with Dr. Delia VanMaris discusses the most common cosmetic surgeries and what effects you may expect. (Order VCD2) • **NEW • Coping With Crossdressing: the video** — Three couples candidly discuss their relationships and how they cope with crossdressing. (Order VCC1) • **Speaking As A Woman™** — Alison Laing's most requested voice workshop. (Order VCA1) • **What Is Femininity?** — Alison Laing takes you through the construction of a feminine persona. (Order VCA2). • **LadyLike™ Department** — Noted columnist, Paula Jordan Sinclair, teaches proper feminine grace and poise when standing, walking, sitting and other social situations. (Order VCP1) • **Art & Illusion™ Tricks & Tips** — Here are ideas you just won't find anywhere else. Based on the popular workshop presented by JoAnn Roberts. (Order VCJ1) • **Basic Makeup Application** — JoAnn Roberts lets you look over her shoulder during a complete makeup application. (Order VCJ2).

All videos: \$40, plus \$3 s&h. Ask your local vendor about CDS videos, or contact CDS directly at PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406 — 215•640•9449

Avalon Event, Pink Moon Gathering. You can get in touch with your spiritual side and find out that flat shoes really are necessary in the woods from April 14th to 17th. The gathering occurs in northern Maryland and your shamanic guide will be Angela "Bright Feather" Sheedy. For more of that all important information contact

Avalon Events
Box 5064
Laurel, MD. 20726.

I mention all these events because I read all about them in the Erie Sisters' newsletter, Mirror Images. Pam Dresser did all the work in getting the events together so all I have to do is report it to you. Thanks Pam. Let me pay you back by plugging the Erie Sisters' Riverside Gala '94. Their Riverside '93 was a big success and if you'd like to attend the '94 event the weekend before Thanksgiving write to the

Erie Sisters
2115 West 8th St. Suite 261
Erie, Pa 16505.

In the latest issue of Mirror Images, Pam said the Sisters were investigating non-profit status. Here's an idea to mull over. How about if the Erie Sisters becomes a Renaissance Affiliate? They would automatically be entitled to share our 501(c)(3) status in one fell

swoop. Anyone interested in receiving more of that information for any group can contact me at our King of Prussia address.

MISS GAY NJ IN THE USA

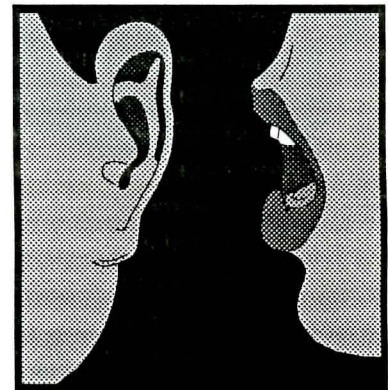
And now this final note. On November 11th they held the Miss Gay New Jersey Pageant at the Cartwheel in New Hope. I called the club for information (Do you sense some kind of communication theme here?), and was told the admission would be four dollars. I went. I paid eight dollars at least. It may have been ten. I got incorrect information. After entering I did get to see Tinsel Garland the hostess of the show have Renaissance's ever present photographer, Cory tossed out for trying to video tape the event. He didn't actually get tossed but he did have to talk with the bouncer for awhile.

Sweet Savage, the Miss Gay USA of 1993 did some performing, Tinsel told some jokes. They were fabulous. The only stand outs in the contest were Dene Rousseau, who gave a spirited impersonation of Tina Turner in the talent competition and the winner of the contest, a choreographer from North Jersey named Lorena St. Cartier. If it takes

a certain "it" to win a contest then Miss St. Cartier definitely had "it." Her gown, a black velvet number accented with silver sequins was the only dress worth looking at in the evening gown competition and she didn't just do any old lip sync number for the talent competition. She appeared as a Spanish dancer and had the help of two male dancers who at one point removed her skirt.

Congratulations Lorena and good luck in the big contest down south in April. If you think you might like to go I don't know who to contact for information. Oops. Communication breakdown. I'll bet someone at the Cartwheel could tell you but then again, they were wrong about the price of admission when I called.

That's it for this month. Have a happy 1994 if you can and watch this column for upcoming Renaissance events. *Vaya con Dios.*



Since 1969!

Lee's Mardi Gras Ent., Inc.

Lee G. Brewster, President

<i>Bookstore</i>	<i>Boutique</i>
565 10th Ave., 2nd Floor New York, N.Y. 10036	400 W. 14th St., 3rd fl New York, N.Y. 10014

Both Stores Open Monday through Saturday!

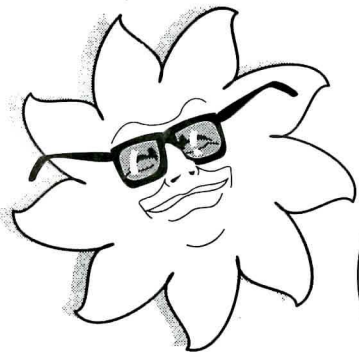
Hours: 12 noon - 6 pm (212) 947-7773	Hours: 11:30 - 6:30 pm (212) 645-1888
---	--

Lady Reflexologist/Aroma Therapist

Will make you feel and look great!
Beauty - Health - Relaxation
Natural facials, foot massage,
scalp massage, bodissage

Powerful Fragrant Essential Oils
Boost circulation
Improve immune system
Calm nervous system
Alleviate painful feet

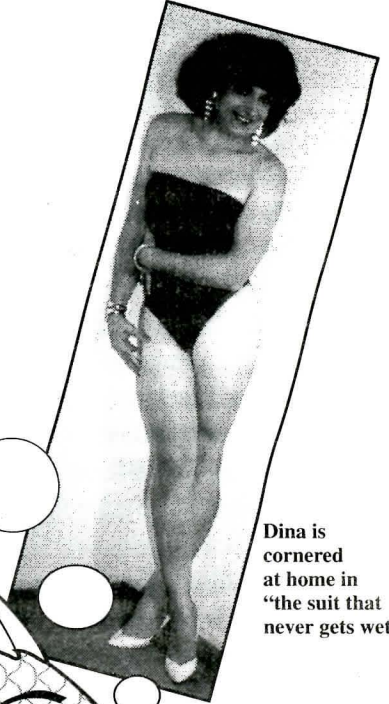
The Natural Way **215-734-2304**



Bathing



Angela hitches a ride to the shore:
"Keep the Chevy running. I can't find my towel!"

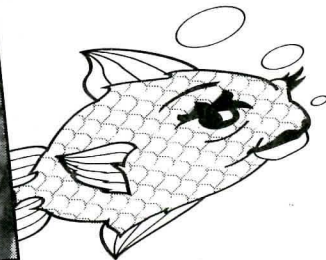
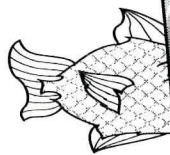
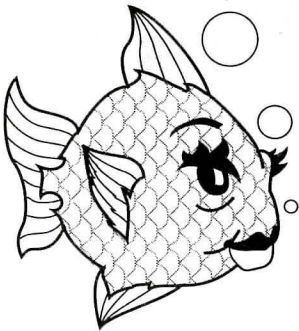


Dina is cornered at home in "the suit that never gets wet."

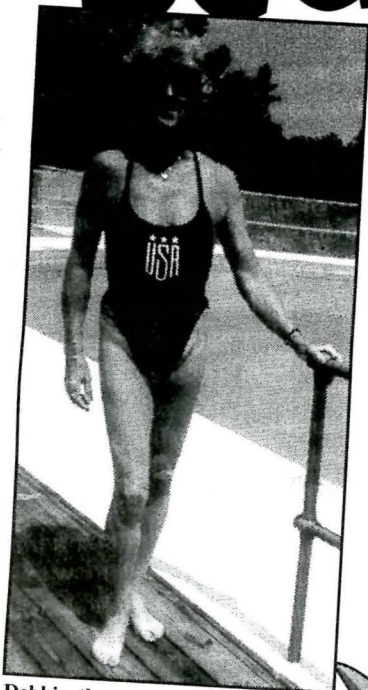
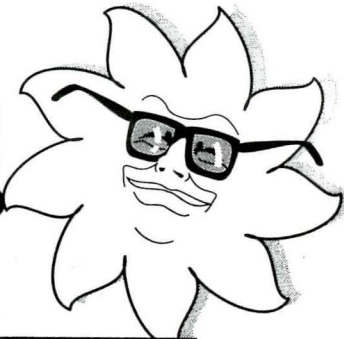
Jennifer gets a shapely leg up in her Johnson City, NY, home.



Jodie relaxes in the sun at Rainbow Mountain, a popular Pocono resort.



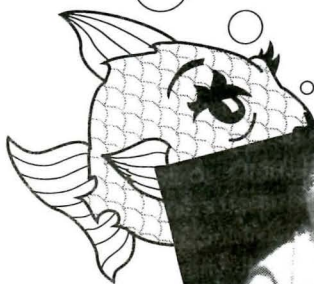
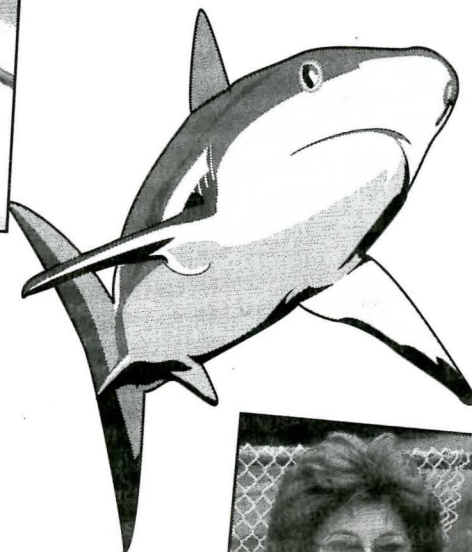
Beauties!



Debbie, the sun goddess, is bronze in the USA by the Rainbow Mountain pool.



Lynda Angelica relaxes in the backyard with a useful accessory for shark infested pools.

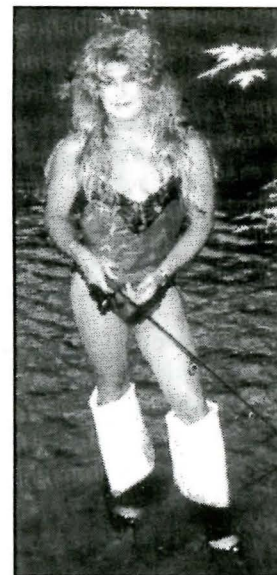
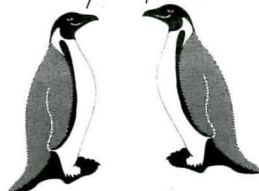


Judy Ann is California sunning. "Waiter, another drink with an umbrella in it, please."



Lorraine "my-legs-are-too-white-to-see" at Rainbow Mountain.

This doesn't look like the Ice Field Lodge!
Who cares? Check out the babes!



Looks like we caught a big one! Stephanie Janel at the ol' fishin' hole.

Hot • BUZZ

JoAnn Roberts

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE look for Spring is short and flirty—which is fine if you're twentysomething, but ridiculous if you're fortysomething. The fashion pundits proclaim the mini is back, but most women (and most transgendered folk) don't have the legs for it. The best advice is dress your age—well, most

of the time at least. Here's a few tips: hemlines above the knees or at the ankles—never midcalf; trousers, not leggings; and makeup, but not too much. Sweater sets look great.

With hemlines headed North, patterned pantyhose are de-rigueur and the runways were full of bizarre combinations. Lagerfeld showed glimmery tights with hiking boots. Bad boy Lacroix previewed sheer hosiery with curlieues. But the hands-down winner of the "fashion is stupid" award goes to the limited edition (thank gawd) Jenny Hozer hosiery with one leg bearing the words "the future" and the words "is stupid" on the other. The best advice here is don't copy any look seen on a runway.

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

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

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

Microfibers continue to revolutionize

Hot • BUZZ

JoAnn Roberts

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



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



Had an interesting experience not long ago with an electrologist who visited Renaissance. She asked me if I'd had electrolysis. I said, "No." She said, "Why not?" Now think about that. If she had to ask, she couldn't tell. But what bothered me was her attitude that electrolysis was *required* for all transgendered people. This same attitude was reflected in a newsletter article by a full-time transgenderist. She said something to the effect that if you're going to go out in the daytime, electrolysis is a necessity. I really hate it when people make statements like that. What's necessary is that you hide your beard effectively. Maybe that means electrolysis, but maybe not. And here's something to consider while considering electrolysis: after removing your beard completely, you'll likely need a facelift. The follicles help support the facial skin. After you destroy them, your face may sag. I've

seen it over and over with people I know. I thought they looked older but couldn't put my finger on why until I ran across this bit of info in a lecture.



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



Rip-Off Alert — Rip-Off Alert — Rip-Off Alert — Rip-Off Alert —

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



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



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



© 1993 by Creative Design Services. All rights reserved. Opinions expressed are those of the author. If you don't like them, go write your own column.



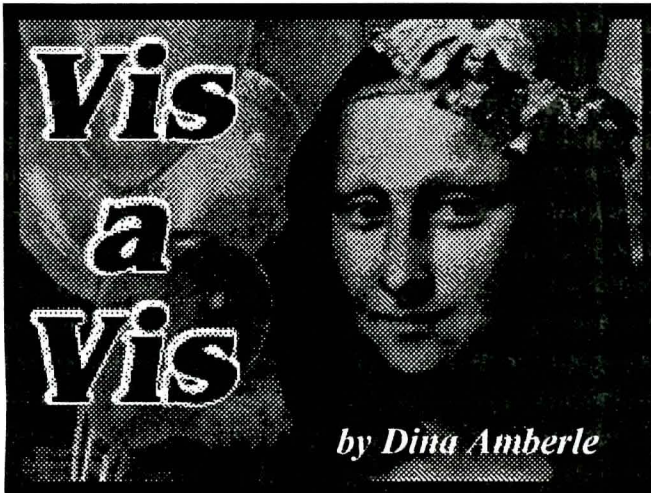
Laine Alexander
IMAGE CONSULTANT
"Distinctly Different"

- **Make-up Application and Lessons**
- **Dressing Sessions and Lessons**
- **Wardrobe Consultation and Evaluation**
- **Shopping Services**
- **Feminine Image Transformation**

My service is a unique combined approach of professional adviser/consultant and sensitive caring friend. It is provided for the serious client only, in a comfortable, discreet atmosphere on an individual basis. Working together we can create and refine, the feminine image you desire.

By Appointment: 215-635-TV58

1657 THE FAIRWAY • SUITE 190 • JENKINTOWN, PA 19046
 (Suburban Philadelphia)



WELCOME TO MY NIGHTMARE

Brenda Davidson, who originated this column, is the recent father of her second child and has surprisingly asked to be relieved of the sheer joy of reading umpteen newsletters from groups around the world each month. So I've been recruited to take over the Vis a Vis column. The incredible thing is that I went along with it. I'm checking myself in for psychiatric evaluation as a result of this decision but until the results come in ... here goes:

DARE TO BE DIFFERENT

This first item isn't related to any crossdressing groups or even about crossdressing at all. One of my heroes died recently. Frank Zappa, the musician and social critic, lost his battle with prostate cancer at the too-early age of 52. Why write about him in this column? Zappa, like many of the people we admire in the arts, dared to be different in a world that demands conformity. Zappa became famous in the mid-sixties during the decade that celebrated offbeat rock musicians. But he was working on the strange periphery of rock and performance art even in the late fifties and early sixties when weird wasn't just weird – it was subversive. It's one thing to be an eccentric artist with a million-dollar record deal but another thing to be a leader of a bunch of street "freaks" as Zappa was in his early days. He dared to be different and stuck true to his vision, eventually achieving success because of, rather than in spite of, his uniqueness. Of course, he wasn't just an oddball celebrity. He had enormous talent ranging from comic rock ditties to twisted jazz to neo-classical

compositions. And, man, could he play guitar. As much as our culture seems to want to pulverize everyone into a homogenized mass, we do reward some of those who stick their necks out and dare to be different. For every success story like Zappa, or Andy Warhol, or John Lennon, there are thousands who never "make it." It's a classic risk/return case: being different has enormous risks but the returns can be equally enormous as well. Not all of us are cut out to be trailblazers. But each of us in this subculture should be able to appreciate the psychic rewards, if not the material rewards, of being different from the norm. How many times have we secretly said to ourselves: "if they could only see me now" as we looked in the mirror at our femme selves? Imagine having the fortitude to go out and be yourself, suffer the slings and arrows of disapproval, because you follow your own vision rather than everyone else's. I can't count myself in that group. But I admire those who do. And Frank Zappa will always be one of my heroes because of LITERATUS INTERRUPTUS?

Linda Peacock, a GG writing in the Southern Belle newsletter of the Atlanta GA Tri-Ess sorority, relates a story about a speech on "Bedroom Issues" given by Janie Hutton at the SPICE conference for spouses in transgendered couples. Janie is a wife of a crossdresser and she spoke of letting her crossdressing husband live out one of his ultimate bedroom fantasies. She told the SPICE gathering that it not only was great for her husband but turned into a fantastic event for her as well. But what was it? C'mon Janie, you can't leave us hanging here wondering. A mind is a terrible thing to tease and the mental images are rushing in to fill the void left by your discretion. Okay, I have my guesses but what about yours? Let's have a contest and see how many bedroom fantasy scenarios we can come up with to complete Janie's anecdote. Drop me a line at the Renaissance address, or see me at one of our meetings, and I'll compile whatever we can all come up with to bring Janie's story to a fitting – shall we say? – climax.

MAKING CHOICES

The article by Jessica Warren that appears in this issue of the News is an honest, thought provoking piece that deals with the pluses and minuses of crossdressing. Maybe it's time we all did some soul searching like Jessica. Crossdressing can be an all consuming "hobby" for many of us and perhaps we are making trade offs in our lives in favor of our crossdressing while we pass on other opportunities that conflict with our dressing

priorities. One major example is relationships with women. Single crossdressers often lament not being able to meet women but at the same time are wary of becoming intimate with a woman who may have bothersome questions like, "How come you shave your body hair?" Or maybe we're more concerned about meeting a woman who will accept our crossdressing than we are about just meeting a nice woman. Jessica's example of the two ladies she met may sound familiar to some of us. The ladies seemed to be open to the crossdressing concept but were obviously more interested in meeting a "real" man. Suddenly Jessica wished she wasn't crossdressed. Jessica pointed out some subtler trade offs as well. Does our pre-occupation with dressing interfere with our work performance by distracting our concentration? Does our crossdressing interfere with family priorities? Have we given up on other outside interests in favor of our cross-dressing activities? These are tough questions to ask oneself and answer honestly. We all make choices, weighing factors of our "normal" lives against our crossdressing lives, and we should be cognizant of those choices and aware of the implications and results of making them.

ME, ME, ME, ME, ME

The MFGE News from Minneapolis carried a letter from Board member Patricia asking for more conversational decorum from some MFGE members. Patricia wasn't too specific about what was bugging her but it seemed to be a reaction to some people whose main interest was talking about themselves and not listening to others. Amen, sister. There seems to be something about the crossdressed male that compels him to talk about the minutest details of his crossdressed self. It can take the form of "where I went shopping," or "my latest adventure *en femme*," or grinding some socio-political axe about transgenderism. During any of these conversations we hear a lot of "I," "Me," "Mine." We've all been guilty of this kind of thing at times but we really should be conscious that it reflects poorly on us if we overdo it. Give the other girl a chance to talk about herself, why dontcha?

ODDS AND ENDS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

In reviewing many of these newsletters from all over—including New Zealand—a few things seem to be fairly common. One thing that I find particularly annoying in

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!
Retail and Mail Order Specialists Spanning the Globe!

Vernon's Specialties, Inc.



TV/TS PROFESSIONALS

- Clothing - Regular & Full Figure to Sz: 32
- Leather & Latex Clothing & Accessories
- Cosmetics & Professional Makeup Lessons
- Shoes & Boots - Size 4 - 14WW/Heels to 6"
- Men's Swimwear, Workout Gear, Resort Wear
- Basics to Exotic Lingerie for Women & Men
- Cosmetology - Wigs - Jewelry - Hosiery - Breast Forms
- Videos, Books, Magazines, Marital Aids/Novelties

Specify Areas of Interest

*We stock everything you need to create the ultimate in femininity
Your one-stop place to shop. By mail or in person*

Catering To All Lifestyles

Send \$20.00 (U.S. Funds) for latest Catalogs & Newsletters
*Visa, MasterCard, Postal & Bank Money Orders accepted.

Come Visit us soon.... Mon: 10am-3pm Tues & Thurs: 10am-6pm
Wed & Fri: Noon - 8pm Sat: 10am-5pm
Special Assistance & Private Appointments - Anytime

386 Moody St., Waltham, MA 02154-5260 (617) 894-1744
* For Visa & Master Card Orders only call 1-800-227-0605

The Gender Journey

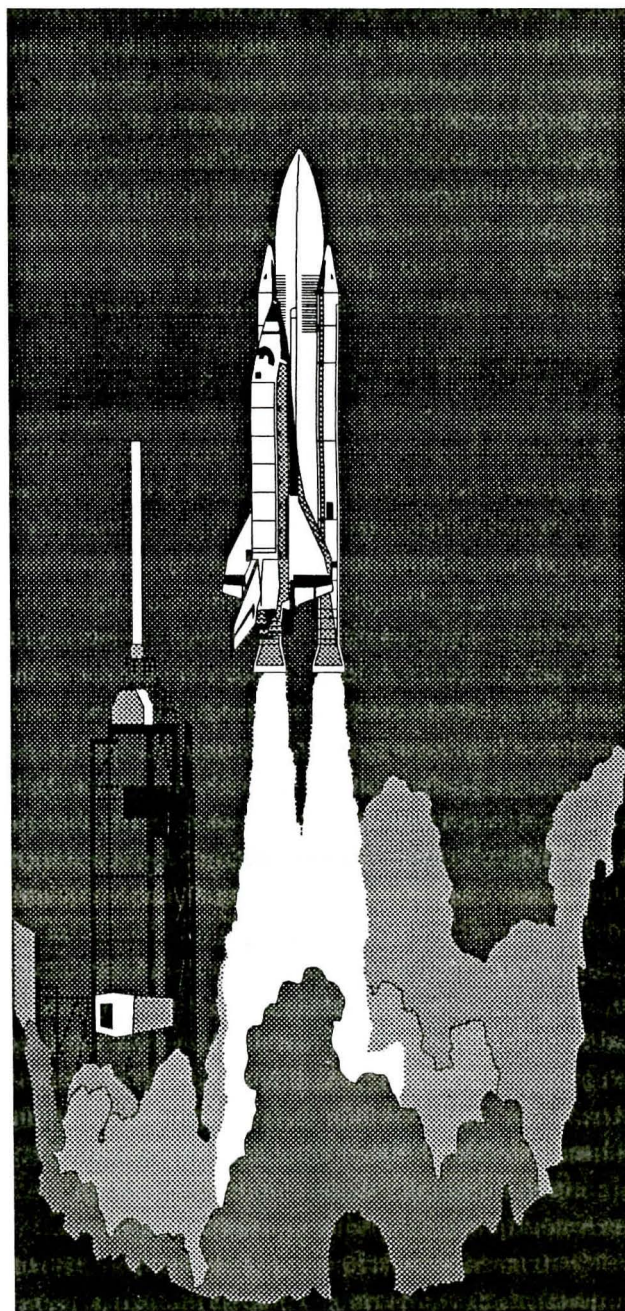
A small-group exploration of the various stages in the life of a crossdresser, with implications for personal identity and human relationships.

Held at the Wayne Counseling Center (where Renaissance Gr. Phila. meets) with Dr. Lee Etscovitz, Renaissance National Librarian, former Professor of Human Behavior at Drexel University, and currently Director of Human Dimensions, an organization specializing in gender education.

\$25 per person per two-hour session. Meeting times flexibly arranged. Write: Human Dimensions, PO Box 471, Willow Grove, PA 19090 or call 215-657-1560.

Confidentiality Assured

many of the letters is the abundance of first person articles about shopping trips or excursions to bars, complete with a rundown of what the author was wearing. [See "Me, Me, Me" above]. Thank god we don't publish that kind of claptrap in our own News. The other thing that is enlightening is that attendance at many clubs is fairly small. True, they are often in smaller "markets" but our attendance of 70+ at a minimum is really something to be proud of compared to many well-established groups. The Tiffany Club Rosebuds newsletter carried a small critique of the famous Bud Light commercial. Author Cheryl Nicole seemed upset by the lampooning nature of the suds-happy drag queens in the spot. Now, it may be very un-PC to say this but: it's a funny commercial. Pointing out that the guys don't look very good in drag is stating the obvious. In fact, that's the point of the whole gimmick. And it isn't an attack on crossdressing either. Please lighten up, girls... The NY Gender Alliance is planning for the 1994 Moonlight in Manhattan fling in April. I see in the small print of the brochure that they will not allow crossdressed participants who sport facial hair. Whoa, ladies... Do you mean to tell me that a drag queen with facial hair might look too weird in New York City? New York City?! Hell, he might get his own talk show ...



Romania's Lingerie

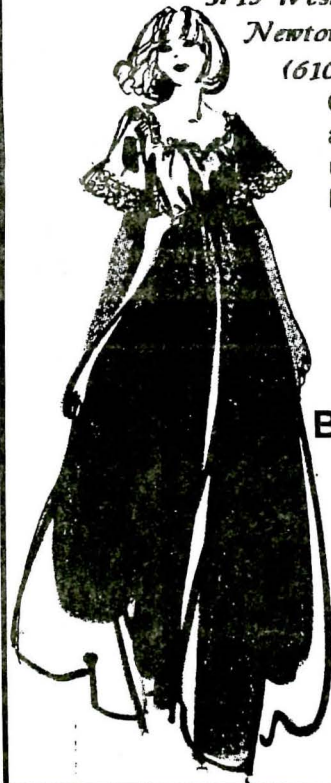
3715 West Chester Pike
Newtown Square, PA 19073
(610) 325-0177

Call to be form fitted
and measured for
undergarments and
lingerie

Bras - Panties
Girdles - Slips
Waist Cinches
All in One
Beautiful Lingerie
etc.

Sizes - Small to
Queen 4X
Bras - 32 to 52

*Home and Office
Parties Available*



DONNA'S HAIR STUDIO 1 AND BOUTIQUE



Mrs. Tu 9-5 W Th F 9-8 Sa B 4

TANNING • BODY WRAPS • NAILS

181 SCOTCH RD TRENTON, NJ 08628 883-0002

Book Nook:

A Review From The Renaissance Library

by Erica

What? Who am I? Where am I? What are these urges and feelings? This can't be normal...or...is it OK? Yes girl, it's OK. Believe it!

From start to finish Jennifer Stevens' *From Masculine To Feminine And All Points In Between* describes so very well the range of behaviors in the transgender community. Included are variations of crossdressing and crossgender tendencies from the shy, stay at home, private neophytes to the occasional, secretive crossdressers and others further along Stevens' 11-point scale, ending with pre- and post-operative transsexuals. Stevens, herself a lifelong practicing "T," has gradually and intelligently planned and proceeded along this 11-point progression herself but, most important, the theme throughout is that there is no point along the scale or at the end of the scale that's "right" or "better." One's place or point on this Scale of Feminine Expression and Practices is always an individual issue that is related to inner peace, self satisfaction and healthy self fulfillment. Points A,B,C are correct for many while points F,G, etc. are correct for others.

The book is divided into eleven chapters. The beginning ones deal with current, generally accepted definitions of terms including TV, TS, CD, TG and most of the important ones you encounter. Distinctions between sexual identity and gender identity are well defined. Again, there is no right or wrong place to be. Self happiness and inner peace with comfort and control of the issues put forth are of paramount importance. The reader can find herself along the author's scale and can become more and more at ease with herself, her emotions and her place in her all so new, "feminine world."

The second half of the book becomes just about the best, "How To" guide on dressing and passing in public that I have come across. Specifics on clothing, shopping, voice, body language, significant others, family and friends are all well written and right on target. Her final two chapters describe the details and realities of going full time along with the pros and cons of hormones, the sex change operation itself and the consequences.

Jennifer Ann Stevens has written an outstanding, up to date guide on femininity (published in 1990). Accurate, easy to read and sensible, this book is right on the money for just about anyone who chooses to develop a healthy feminine image. It's a book most of us will want to own, read and re-read over the years for continued support and guidance. I give it my highest recommendation.

From Masculine To Feminine And All Points In Between by Jennifer Ann Stevens. Paperback, 135 pages. Published by Different Path Press, 4 Standish St., Provincetown, MA 02657. The book is available in the Renaissance library.

Erica is a member of IFGE, Connecticut Outreach Society and Long Island Feminine Expression. She is a contributing editor to the C.O.S. and L.I.F.E. newsletters.

LadyLike Chat Line

Call & Leave a message or call and listen to other TV's just like you!

900
976-0300
Ext. 210

\$1.95 per min.
18 or over • Touch Tone Only

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

(FROLIC: continued from page 5) other *chach ka* filled the baskets of cheer and though the candy will be long gone, the holiday ceramic pieces will serve as a reminder of another special holiday party for Renaissance members and friends.

The Sheraton staff loved us and in a special gesture the party planning committee gave the wait staff gifts of mints and candy canes. Who was in this generous group of people? Michelle Lynn has been working on the party all year along with the more than able assistance of Joanne White. Maryann Kirkland took care of the door prizes and as Chapter Leader, gave her blessing to the whole event. GPC member Ginny came down from Quakertown to help load and decorate the souvenir baskets. Thanks for putting your time and energy into the party ladies.

Michelle put so much energy into the party that, as we reported in the last

issue, she has resigned from the party planning biz and is happy to pass the baton to another sucker, ah, lucky individual. The lucky '94 party planner is yours truly. I have already contacted a couple of facilities to get their menus and have started to investigate entertainment options, including the possibility of a live band.

The date we're trying to set up is December 10th. If we get it, LSV and South Jersey can have their regular first Saturday meetings next December and not miss the party.

Drop me a note at the Bensalem address and let me know if you would like the party to be in downtown Philadelphia (in the hotel used for the IFGE Convention), or out in the suburban areas. After two years at the Sheraton Inn we'll be moving on to conquer new lands and we want to know what you'd like to try.

NEED A BACK ISSUE?

Selected back issues of the Renaissance News are now available for \$2.00 per copy. Send requests for specific issues to Renaissance, P.O. Box 60552, King of Prussia, PA, 19406. Attn: Beth Marshal. Include a check for \$2.00 per issue ordered plus another fifty two cents for each issue to cover postage. If the issue you have ordered is not available we will send your check back. You may also ask Beth in person about specific availability if you attend one of our meetings.



"— Electrolysis. I've been through it. I can help you through it."

Jenell A. Ashlie
professional electrolysis

365 Rural Ave.
Chester, Pa. 19013

215-872-2091

AB COUNSELING

Murray D. Gegner, Ph.D.

BOARD CERTIFIED SEX THERAPIST
CERTIFIED ALCOHOLISM THERAPIST
LICENSED MARITAL — FAMILY THERAPIST

HOURS
BY APPOINTMENT

210 N. RUMSON AVENUE
MARGATE, NJ 08402
609-822-6571

SELMA BLAKER

609-428-8448

Wig Service Shop

Specializing in the Sales and Service
of all Human & Synthetic Pieces

Barclay Towers
1200 East Marlton Pike, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
Hours 11AM to 4PM, Mon. to Sat.

SHOPPING WITH JACKIE

by Jackie Thomas

Like houses, we have to build ourselves from the "foundation" up. If you are a size eight or ten, talk among yourselves. If you are a larger size, pay attention. Foundation garments are expensive, of many types and styles and available almost anywhere. One thing you should be aware of is that a "generic lady" (whatever that means) who gains a little weight, gains it in the thighs, buttocks and lower belly, from the belly button down. We trans types tend to get a belly, above the belly button without thigh or buttock problems. Foundation garments tend to put most of the shaping power in areas we don't need. The other area of concern is that these garments are made to fit hips that are eight to ten inches larger than the waist. So if you want support or shaping and order a size thirty two waist garment, the hip area is made for forty to forty two inch hips. (Which we generally don't have.) As a result, the waist fits nicely but the rest of the garment is a bag that doesn't hold anything. Also, the garment is cut to the natural waist

above the hips. So when you put it on, it cuts across the waist and pulls in the bottom of your belly. The top of your belly hangs out over the top of the garment. It feels bad and looks even worse.

Is there a solution to the problem? Sure! Otherwise why would I bring it up? You have to start with a waist cincher or corset that will go up high and end just under the bust line. These items are available all over at prices that can scare you. A good corset can cost upwards of two hundred dollars. I don't know why but they are expensive. I recommend a garment called a Health Belt to start with. I'll plug Lane Bryant this month. They sell a Health Belt for eleven ninety nine, sale priced at nine ninety nine. It has three rows of support and has hook "n" eyes up the front. Since it also fits hips eight to eleven inches larger than the waist you have to order it smaller than your waist. For example, if your waist is thirty four inches I would order a waist size of twenty eight or twenty nine inches. This will really suck in your gut and

give you some of that hour glass shape that looks good under nice clothes. There is enough stretch to handle the smaller top area under your bust. It's a good ten dollar investment. If you add a hip and butt padded girdle to this you will really have a shape and I promise you your shaped skirts and dresses will fit better, look better and so will you.

By the way, if you don't have a Lane Bryant catalog, call them at 1-800-477-7070 or drop them a post-card at

PO Box 8301

Indianapolis, IN 46283-8301.

You'll get a catalog every week. (Or so it seems.) Lane Bryant is also good for shoes in larger sizes (usually up to size twelve) and other under and outer wear.

Drop me a line at PO Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA and I'll try to answer your questions in this column. Share your sources with me and I'll pass them along to the readers also. We don't want to keep on reinventing the wheel.

So, until next time....happy shopping!

*For that one of a kind dress,
for the once in a while woman...*

Sewing by
The Occasional Woman
custom creations•costumes•alterations

LORRAINE ANDERSON

215•352•0248

TV/TS? FETISH?

DOMINANT/SUBMISSIVE?

Nancy Ava Miller, M. Ed.
— Sex educator/dominatrix/author —
for those with unique desires
Support groups, literature, S&M/B&D/fetish
counseling, intelligent fantasy conversation, etc.
(908) 284-8040

Love, Nancy

Pluses And Minuses To Crossdressing

by Jessica Warren

[Reprinted by permission of J. Warren. This article previously appeared in "Rosebuds" and "The Pinnacle."]

I often wonder if I am hurting myself with my crossdressing. In our urge to present crossdressing in a good light, most of us automatically take the position that crossdressing is a harmless pastime. But is it?

Analyzing my own past, I wonder if I have missed opportunities due to my crossdressing. If I had no desire to crossdress, would I be more zealous at work and perhaps more successful? When I lost my job last year due to a layoff, was I selected to be one of the laid-off because I was less ardent in my work? Did I spend too much time at work thinking about what to wear or where to go?

I am single and presently uninvolved. After breaking up with my last girlfriend, who knew nothing of my transgendered behavior, I indulged my desires to crossdress. I have enjoyed myself a great deal, but I wonder about my other desires. Having a successful, happy and loving relationship is one of my deepest desires. Is my crossdressing inhibiting me from achieving that relationship? Am I avoiding a relationship because I don't want to explain why I shave my body? Why I dress as a woman? To avoid being humiliated by someone I'm attracted to? Out of fear of being vulnerable? These are tough questions, and only I can answer them.

Am I spending so much time involved in the transgendered world that I rarely find myself someplace where I am likely to meet eligible women? There are very few at crossdressing events. Let's face it, the women I'm attracted to are looking

for a man, so I am not likely to find them while dressed. I had a perfect example of this at just such an event. While dressed, I ran into an attractive woman I know, who has seen me both ways. She had brought her roommate. She asked me to show her roommate my male picture. They both made complimentary remarks about my male self, but it made me feel odd. Here I was with two pretty women who thought I was handsome, but since I was dressed as a woman, they weren't interested. [Ed. Note: If they made complimentary remarks how do you know they were not interested? Why not ask the roommate out for coffee with your male self?] So I ask myself, am I going to find it difficult to meet the kind of women I'm attracted to because I'm a crossdresser?

While married crossdressers don't have this problem, I can imagine crossdressing presents problems for a successful marriage. The wife expects her husband to fulfill a certain role and there is conflict when he doesn't fit the image. I see many crossdressers who indulge themselves to an extent where they lose sight of their spouse's feelings and desires. Relationships are based on mutual respect and require compromises. So I'm left wondering if crossdressing can be harmful.

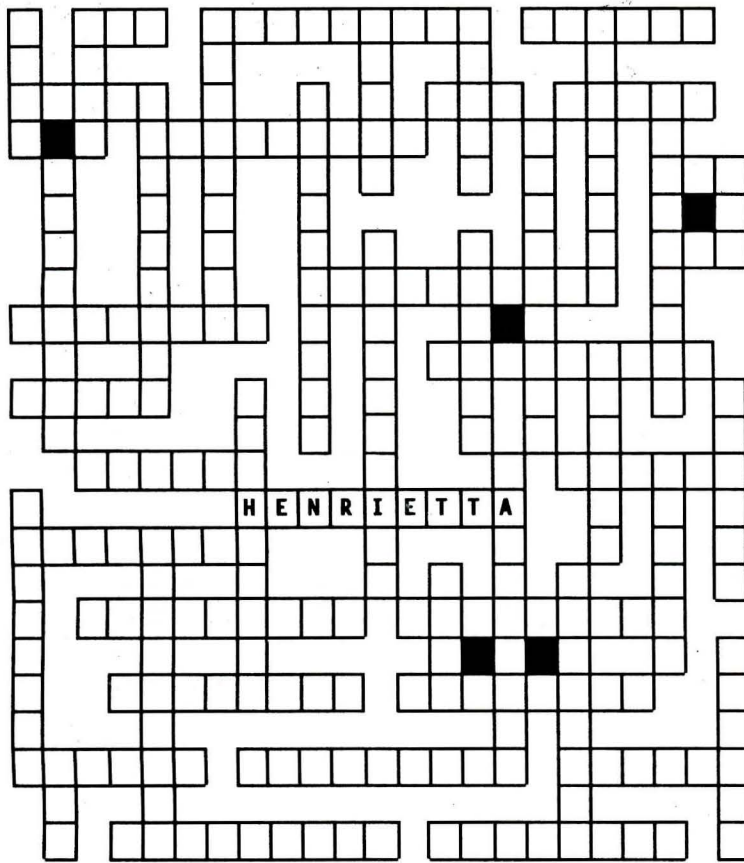
It is easy to overdue things. As the saying goes, too much of anything can be bad for you. We all need perspective and a sense of priority. If a relationship is truly important to you (whether you are married or not), then you must weigh that against your other activities. If they are getting in the way, then you may need to step back your level of involvement in that activity. This ap-

plies equally to a workaholic who lets work get in the way of his or her personal life also.

I don't mean for this article to seem very down, but I think there can be serious consequences from crossdressing, consequences most of us don't think about. Ask yourself, am I hurting myself or my loved ones by over-indulging my urge to crossdress? If the answer is YES, then perhaps you should cut back a bit, or re-weigh your priorities.

I hope you don't think I consider crossdressing bad. I don't. I truly feel I am a better person for my crossdressing. I am more in touch with my feelings and am willing to express them. I have met more people from other walks of life, sexual orientations, and genders than I would have if I did not crossdress. I have learned to be accepting and tolerant. I don't judge people by their looks or choice of sexual partner. I have better insight into women's perspectives in our society.

To me, crossdressing is a mixed blessing. It is harder to deal with society, which doesn't comprehend the activity, it makes my life more difficult as I laid out above, and yet it makes me happy and allows me to be a more well rounded person. In a way, being a crossdresser is like being able to see a color on the spectrum that other people cannot, or being able to hear sounds above the range of normal hearing. We have the opportunity to experience things missed by the rest of society. So I am glad I'm a crossdresser, but I periodically take stock of myself to make sure I am not hurting myself. I hope everyone finds happiness with their crossdressing or transsexual behavior, and in the other aspects of their lives.

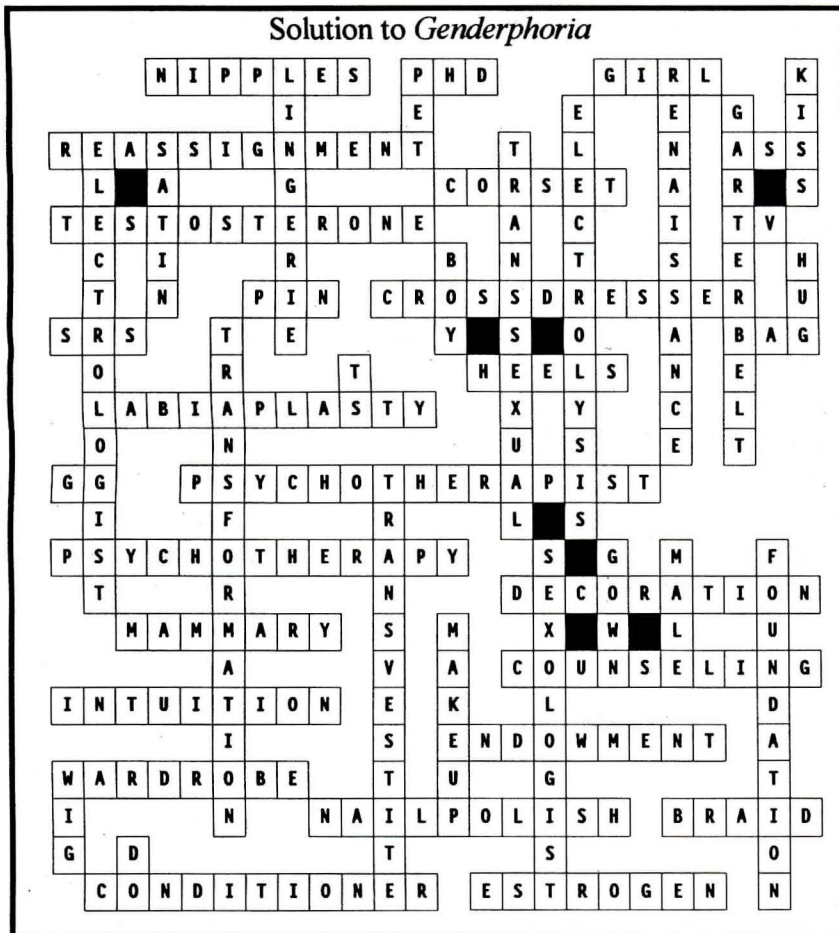


WOMEN'S NAMES 1

Fill in the blanks with the names listed below.

- Adele
- Adrienne
- Anita
- Brenda
- Carlotta
- Caroline
- Catherine
- Charlotte
- Christine
- Constance
- Dominique
- Doris
- Edith
- Eileen
- Elizabeth
- Erica
- Esmeralda
- Evangeline
- Eve
- Gabrielle
- Genevieve
- Geraldine
- Gertrude
- Henrietta
- Hilary
- Ida
- Ina
- Inez
- Isabel
- Jacqueline
- Janice
- Josephine
- Kathleen
- Lorraine
- Marcella
- Margaret
- Marguerite
- Melody
- Mia
- Millicent
- Nellie
- Nola
- Opal
- Priscilla
- Rachel
- Rae
- Regina
- Stephanie
- Sue
- Victoria

Solution to Genderphoria



Solution next month

Barbara A. Susinno R.N. CPE.

Jessica Lynn Porter CPE.

Main Street Electrology

Members and Supporters of Renaissance

Gold Disposable Probes
Open Tues thru Sunday
Day & Eves appointments
Multi-Pin Galvanic and the Blend

(908)341-7524



802 Main St # 4/A Toms River, N.J.

WILDSIDE

TRANSFORMATIONS
BOUTIQUE AND
TV HOTEL

(AS SEEN ON THE
DONAHUE SHOW)

Home of the
Toronto
CrossDressers
Club

Call or write for
free brochures
Catalogue \$10.00
plus \$3.50 P&H
We accept Cdn.
or U.S. Funds
New address:

161 Gerrard St East
Toronto, Ontario
CANADA M5A 2E4
(416) 921-6112 24 Hrs



Fantasy Island

3427 Kensington Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19134
(215) 426-6776

*SPECIAL PURCHASE WIG SALE
PRICES IN EFFECT TIL 12/31/93*

ORDER FORM
Make checks payable to:
Fantasy Island

COLOR SELECTION:

BLACK	STRAWBERRY BLONDE
CHESTNUT BROWN	GOLDEN BLONDE
AUBURN	WHITE BLONDE
PLATINUM BLONDE	

<input type="checkbox"/> Payment Enclosed	Price	\$ 49.95
<input type="checkbox"/> Charge my Credit Card	PA Res. Sales Tax	\$ 3.00
<input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MC <input type="checkbox"/> AMEX	S/H	\$ 4.95
	Total	\$ 57.90

Expiration Date: ___/___/___

Account no.: _____

Signature: _____

Color Preference: _____

LETTER

Dear Angela,

I read, with great interest, your account of your trip to England in Renaissance News. I had a similar experience (except for the bad hotel) on a recent trip to Germany that I thought you might like to hear about.

I have traveled to Europe many times over the last five years on business but have always resisted the urge to make any excursions *en femme*. I guess I was afraid that if I did I might run into less accepting attitudes and possibly run afoul of the law. Something I definitely do not want while traveling in a foreign country.

While planning my most recent trip to Germany I called the I.F.G.E. and got the name of another TV in Germany and wrote to her. I got a nice letter back giving me lots of information and advice about passing, shopping, ladies rooms, laws, etc. in Germany. As it turns out the situation for TV's in Germany is about the same as it is here in the States. The good news is there are no laws against crossdressing in Germany and the people (at least in Munich where I was staying), were pretty indifferent toward me if not accepting.

I spent an entire day downtown in Munich shopping. I rode the subway to get there, shopped for clothes in the big department stores (I bought myself a nice white blouse), tried on dresses (and finally figured out the funny German sizes), had lunch in a department store restaurant and then spent the afternoon poking around the antique shops in the Aldt Stadt (Old City), looking for souvenirs. I had no problems with anyone. Of course I did get a lot of funny looks and Germans seem a little more inclined to stare at you than here in America but no one said anything to me or treated me any differently than any other woman.

One neat thing about Germany that my friend (in Frankfurt) advised me of was that Germans are not hung up on the ladies room issue. She advised me to just go in, use it and act nonchalant about it. I did and she was right, no problems.

It was a great trip and the thing that made it work out so well was writing ahead of time to someone who lives there and getting advise on what to do, just like you did. It sounds like you had a great time on your trip also. When I read about your plans to go and then your experiences on the trip I just had to write and share some of mine with you.

I really enjoy your column in Renaissance News each month. It's the first thing I turn to when I get my new issue. The Renaissance News is my only link with the TV community right now so I really look forward to each issue. Keep up the good work!

Best Regards,
Ellen Bush

Editor's Official Reply

Dear Ellen,

Thanks for sharing your German adventure with me and I hope you don't mind me sharing it with the readers. Communicating with someone in the know is definitely the way to go when traveling anywhere. Even here in the little old Delaware Valley.

Your address is right down the road from our Greater Philadelphia meeting site. Do you attend the meetings? Your letter says the News is your only link. If you haven't been to a meeting yet, come on down. We're even friendlier than Germans and I promise no one will stare. See you in January!

Sincerely,
Angela

MICHELE LACRETE, R.E.
California Licensed

DAY, EVENING &
WEEKEND HOURS

— ELECTROLYSIS —

MEDICALLY APPROVED METHOD OF PERMANENT HAIR REMOVAL

Individual, Sterile, Disposable Probes

Experts in Face, Eyebrows, Bikini Lines, Legs and Beards

WAXING AND PEDICURES AVAILABLE

PROFESSIONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL - FOR WOMEN AND MEN

10% Off First Treatment - Senior Citizen Discount

FOR FREE CONSULTATION
CALL: 201-886-8198

10 BEVERLY PLACE
Off River Road
EDGEWATER, NJ 07020

TELEPHONE (215) 547-9417

RONALD GOLDSTEIN, PH.D.
LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST

BUCKS MEDICAL CENTER
SUITE 12

OFFICE HOURS
BY APPOINTMENT

1723 WOODBOURNE
ROAD LEVITTOWN, PA 19057

(FISHBOWL, continued from page 1) perceives me. More so than I should.

I can't dress for meetings in my block and leave the house in full view of my friends and neighbors. I have to get ready in far away motels and even then, said motel must have ground level rooms for quick access to my car because I couldn't bear to walk through a central lobby *en femme*. And, if that wasn't enough, I sometimes have to literally force myself out of my room because I needlessly fret over being seen by absolute strangers who have their own lives to lead and probably wouldn't give me a second glance if I were dressed from head to toe in sequins.

Is "The Fishbowl Syndrome" at the root of this particular evil? Well, it is for me. Everytime I attend a meeting I go through a multifaceted, clandestine operation the C.I.A. would be proud of, plotted out weeks in advance and carried out with pinpoint precision,

just for the temporary pleasure that comes from putting on a dress. Perhaps this is because I've been out of the closet for only a couple of years and it takes time to develop one's confidence, to achieve that particular sort of mind set that allows fears like mine to bounce off without harm to one's psyche.

Think about it. Are some of you out there harboring similar fears? Or are you confident enough in yourself that you simply don't give a damn what the world thinks of you when you're dressed? We all have our own comfort levels when it comes to this unique lifestyle and while I believe that constant exposure to society is the only way to build up that needed emotional armor, there might well be others among us who will never be able to fully insulate themselves from the terrors, real or imagined that come from being seen in their femme

identity.

Fantasyland



Mail Order: Fantasyland Products, Box 682, Owen Sound, Ontario, CANADA N4K-5R4
 Store address: 274 8th St. E., Owen Sound.
 Store Hours: 8-5:30, Fri. til 8:30, Closed Sun.
 Phone orders: 519-371-1215 w/major cr. card
 FAX (24hrs/day) 519-371-2975 w/cr. card

HOME OF: *Fantasia Fashions* (manufacturing with the TV in mind). *Sugar 'n Spice Creations* (little girl)
 DEALER ENQUIRIES WELCOME.

\$80 = FULL DELUXE SET OF CATALOGS
16 CATALOGS = 800 PAGES: Containing Wigs (2), Shoes & Boots (3), Clothing (2), Lingerie (3), Silicone Breasts, 'Femme' (3)
 Publications: "How To Books" with VALUABLE HINTS!, Corsetry, Maids Wear, Little Girl Fashions, **PVC Custom CUT-ALL SIZES AVAILABLE!**
WE CROSSER SIZE! — REAL FEMALES WELCOME!

TV'S LOOK NO FURTHER BEGINNERS MOST WELCOME
 BEST SELECTION IN CANADA

• UNDERSTANDING • DISCRETE/QUICK • EFFICIENT

INTERNATIONAL MAIL ORDER: Shipping— Canadian: COD; U.S. and International: add \$6.50 post. Payable in Canadian Funds. International Money Orders can be purchased at your Post Office.

**TRANSFORMATIONS, PRIVATE SESSIONS, PHOTO SESSIONS, BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS
 FOUR PUBLIC ROOMS (A BONA FIDE RETAIL OUTLET) FOUR PRIVATE ROOMS (SO ASK)**

Classified Ads

Classified Ads are \$3.00 for 3 lines for 3 months. Service ads only.

Private, professional counseling for drug, alcohol, gambling, sex & food addictions. Insurance accepted. Mary Reynolds DDV, CAC 215-744-4777. 2/3

Furniture, Appliances, Household goods, Records, Antiques, Toy trains and other goodies - Bought and Sold - Beth Marshall - 215-259-4945 - Leave a message

Need professional typing or resumeservice? Call Bonnie Allen, 215-256-9820. All work done on PC. Reasonable rates.

Need the police? Dial 911. Need computer help? Write ECC, P. O. Box 911, Havertown, PA 19083

*Your Ad
 Goes Here*