

# CROSS-TALK



SEPTEMBER 1990

(ISSUE #19)

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## THIS MONTH:

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ONLY A PROBLEM IF YOU LET IT ...

This past month, I found myself torn between the journalistic duties of an editor and publisher and my responsibilities as a leader in the transgendered community. I received an editorial letter from a reader who complained that the monthly "On The Scene" nights at the Queen Mary had changed focus, from being an evening at which both the "old guard" could mingle with newcomers who were taking their first hesitant step into the community, to a sexual battleground of sorts where you couldn't take two steps without a gay male forcing unwanted attention on you. Well, that editorial does not appear in this month's "Cross-Talk". I did, however, make certain the letter was read by Robert, the owner of the Queen Mary ... which opened the door to a dialogue between us regarding the realities of our need for a "safe" place to meet versus the facts of life where bars are concerned. Any bar, be it gay, lesbian, straight, or any mixture of the above, is going to attract people who are looking for companionship. Whether or not that includes sex is always going to be up to the people involved in the relationship ... and that is not something Robert can regulate, nor should we be asking him to. But if someone approaches you at the Queen Mary, makes advances that you find unwelcome, and refuses to take "no" for an answer, you CAN do something about it. Go tell Robert you're having a problem and he will do what he legally can. If you're too shook up to talk to Robert alone, find me and I'll go with you. Or tell Buddha, John, or Richard. Or get Melisa to find someone to check out the problem. Robert really does care about us. Where else would you be escorted to your car when leaving? Not at Peanuts, that's for sure! Not even at Club 22 or Palms ... where at best we're only welcome in small groups ... and certainly not in the mainstream. Please help keep the Queen Mary safe for all of us. If we lose this valuable resource for our community, we might once again become divided into disconnected factions. We've come too far in the past couple of years to let that happen now.

\*\*\*\*\*

To the right of this column appears an article about the formation of a new Tri-Ess chapter for the Los Angeles area. While I was obviously unaware of the preliminary actions toward this vote when I wrote my column last month (even Tri-Ess Board members don't always know what's going on, it appears), I did, as a national Tri-Ess member, join in the unanimous vote to form Lambda Alpha, and I will support the new chapter by my presence each month, just as I had pledged to do for Alpha last month. It is my hope that this will make unnecessary the call to "heal old wounds" that I had made in my column last month, and that the question of past leadership difficulties in the old Alpha chapter will not become an issue here. Please make plans to join us September 8, whether you are a Tri-Ess member or are just interested in finding out about it.

\*\*\*\*\*

As you know, the Valley Girls have always tried to find something out of the ordinary to fill the odd fifth Saturday that occurs four times a year. This month, we decided to try taking over a whole weekend, for those that are up to it.

Christine [redacted] has put together a great weekend trip for us, in Laughlin, Nevada. She's arranged a \$49.00 per night double occupancy room rate at Circus Circus' "Colorado Belle" hotel for the weekend of the 28th, 29th, and 30th. There are five restaurants on the hotel grounds, plus breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets ranging from \$1.99 to \$6.00 (depending on which meal). We will also have access to all the casinos in Laughlin (inexpensive trolleys are available to ferry you between them) ... as well as the hotel's own casino featuring "21", craps, roulette, keno and slots ... and evening entertainment at very reasonable prices. We're told it's about a five hour drive from L.A., so if we can leave in the early evening, we should be there and checked in by midnight Friday, enjoy ourselves all day Saturday, and leave late Sunday morning. For information about the hotel's accommodations, call them directly at 1-800-458-9500. Call Christine to make reservations and arrange for carpools at (213)

(CONTINUED, PAGE 19)

LOCAL TRI-ESS MEMBERSHIP VOTES TO FORM NEW CHAPTER

(kmr) -- After considerable discussion about the image problems created by the previous leadership of Alpha Chapter, those members attending the August 4 meeting voted to form a new Tri-Ess chapter, rather than expend energy correcting past difficulties. The new chapter, to be chartered as Lambda Alpha, is in the process of contacting all Tri-Ess members in the region to inform them of the new organization. It is believed that many members had abandoned Alpha because of problems with some of the chapter's past leaders. For this reason, Lambda Alpha will also attempt to contact many of the inactive Tri-Ess members in the Los Angeles metropolitan area as well. Lambda Alpha will hold its first meeting September 8, under the guidance of interim leaders Janyne [redacted] and Sharon [redacted]. It will then adopt Alpha Chapter's old schedule of meeting on the first Saturday of the month. Tri-Ess National Director Carol Beecroft, who was present at the vote establishing the new chapter, said that unless Alpha reestablishes itself within a three month period, its charter would be revoked.

GENETIC FEMALE ARRESTED FOR VIOLATING CITY RESTROOM LAW

(AP) -- A genetic female has been arrested in Houston for violation of a city ordinance prohibiting the use of restrooms designated for the opposite sex. Denise Wells, who was attending a George Strait concert at the Summit Arena on July 8, entered the men's room after the line at the women's room proved unbearably long. When she emerged, she was stopped by a police officer, given a \$200 fine, and escorted out of the arena, abandoning the third row seat for which she had paid a ticket broker \$125. Wells' sister, Valerie Davenport, who is also her lawyer, says she has received nearly 60 offers from women willing to testify on her behalf, saying that they, too, have sought relief in the past by using the men's facilities. Davenport says she plans to argue "necessity as our first line of defense", and will also argue that her sister did not, in fact, violate the ordinance. Davenport's argument is based upon the specific wording of Houston City Ordinance 72-904, which states "It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly and intentionally enter any public restroom designated for the exclusive use of the sex opposite to such person's sex ... in a manner calculated to cause a disturbance." Wells claims she "wasn't disruptive", and that she had followed another woman (who was escorted by her male date) into the men's room, cupped her hands like blinders around her eyes as she passed the urinals and entered stalls. She says that the other woman did likewise, and that she was "embarrassed to death". The status of the case of the other woman, who was also cited and escorted from the building, was not available. Since 1985, Houston's plumbing codes for large gathering places have required additional "sanitary facilities" for women, correcting earlier problems that resulted from theories that more men than women attended sporting events and conventions. However, the Summit, built in 1975, is not subject to retrofit, and according to Summit operations manager Henry Thomas, men's restrooms redesignated as women's were overcrowded as well on the night of the incident. "We have no place to put them" when the facilities are swamped, Thomas said. Because Wells' case is based upon the specific wording of the 1972 ordinance, dealing with intent, transgender organizations both regionally and nationally are watching the outcome with great interest.

["Femme Forum" provided additional material for this story.]

PLEASE TELL A FRIEND ABOUT 'CROSS-TALK'

DAD MAKES DAUGHTER LIVE AS A BOY

("Sun") -- A youngster who was born with both male and female sex organs was subjected to a life of abuse from a drunken father who insisted on having a son. Nikki [redacted], now a pretty 24-year-old woman, was raised as Shaun because her father refused to listen to experts who urged him to watch the hermaphrodite child to see which sex she most behaved like. Jim [redacted] was so determined to have a boy that he forced Shaun to undergo shock treatments and hormone therapy, and strapped down his breasts when they began to develop. The confused kid attended school dressed as a boy, where he was taunted because of his feminine traits. "I avoided games because I didn't like changing in front of the other boys. I knew I didn't look the same," recalls Nikki, who is presently saving money to remove what remains of her male genitals. Shaun tried to act as masculine as possible around the house, enduring visits to a speech therapist in an attempt to lower his girlish voice, daily hormone pills coupled with tight t-shirts to bind his breasts, and shock therapy from a psychologist while being forced to view gay porn movies. Nikki's nightmare finally ended at the age of 14 when her father died. She now lives with her bodybuilder boyfriend and works as a factory quality control worker.

FI HAUNTED BY MARILYN'S GHOST

("Sun") -- Female impersonator Jimmy [redacted], whose exact likeness to Marilyn Monroe when snuggled into a tight sexy dress won him the starring role in a new television special about her life, says he's haunted by her ghost. While filming the special at the Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood, where Marilyn often stayed, [redacted] says he was visited by her ghost while he was putting on his makeup in preparation for a scene in which the image of the late blonde star was to appear in one of her old dressing-room mirrors. The TV crew in the basement found that every time they zoomed in on the mirror, the hotel's fire alarms went off and the elevators stopped running, trapping Jimmy on the eighth-floor ... and, "strangest of all, when they took (the alarm) off the wall, they found (it) was broken. It should have been incapable of ringing at all," says hotel executive Greene. [redacted] says the hotel incident is just one of many unusual happenings connected with his eight-year-old Marilyn act. Once, in Dallas, Joe DiMaggio, the former husband of the famous legend, appeared on Jimmy's television screen as he was leaving the room to go on stage. Her famous 1962 rendition of "Happy Birthday" at President John F. Kennedy's birthday bash appeared on his home TV on another occasion, while he was reading about her life. Nonetheless, Jimmy says that singing, acting, and wiggling like Marilyn makes him feel like the reincarnation of the sex goddess, even though he was only three years old when she died.

FARMER OPTS FOR MINI & HALTER

("National Examiner") -- A Chinese farmer who has walked around naked for the past 24 years was finally convinced by his doctors to wear clothes ... and chose a miniskirt and halter top! Jinya, who suffers from "clothesphobia", actually began to shake and break out in a sweat at the mere suggestion of dressing. Doctors say the rare condition sometimes causes "seizures and convulsions if the patient is made to dress before he's ready." Dr. Yang Kelian, the psychiatrist who spent 13 years counseling the paranoid farmer, says [redacted] is physically fit and has a strong heart. He says the turning point in his patient's therapy came when he persuaded [redacted] that it was unacceptable to attend National Day celebrations in the nearby village in the buff. "He wanted to attend the celebration so badly that he agreed to try wearing clothes," Dr. Kelian said. "But only a miniskirt and a halter top." The doctor claims that because the skirt was lighter on [redacted]'s body than trousers, there was sufficient air circulation to keep the clothing from bothering him. Kelian calls it "a major breakthrough" in his patient's counseling.

SEX-CHANGE WOMAN PREGNANT

("Globe") -- A woman who underwent sex-change surgery 13 years ago now claims she has been artificially inseminated and is pregnant. 43-year-old Erika White, whose first name was Ted before her 1977 operation, told a nationwide cable TV audience on WVOR's "9 Broadcast Plaza" that her husband's sperm was used to impregnate a donated egg, which was then surgically implanted in her abdominal wall. She claims she was approached by a team of doctors last year as a candidate for the unprecedented operation because the surgeon who performed her sex-change operation discovered she was born with "an ovary and a half". White told television viewers the experimental operation was underwritten by the prestigious Chubb Medical Foundation, but a spokesman denies this. The doctor she identified as having performed the artificial insemination also denies any involvement. Even the self-proclaimed mother-to-be's estranged husband, Tony, claims no knowledge of his sperm being used: "If she was impregnated, it wasn't by me." For her part, Erika says she's packed 37 pounds onto her already stout 5'7", 144-pound frame during the first seven months of her pregnancy, and claims to be suffering "morning sickness, cramps, and backaches".

GAY MONK PRAYS FOR FEMALE BODY

("Sun") -- A gay monk in Australia has traded his brown robe for a colorful skirt and blouse, and is now praying to God for a sex change. Brother Paul [redacted], who now answers to the name Janine Rose, says that eight years in the monastery has only made his intense feelings to be a woman stronger. "I knew I was gay when I entered," the mixed-up monk says. "I thought joining a religious order was the answer." But the Society of St. Francis monastery turned out to be full of homosexuals, and while Paul tried to abstain, he became overwhelmed by the temptation. While church officials paid for psychotherapy in an attempt to end his overpowering urge to be a woman, he ultimately decided to leave the order and face the real world as Janine. But he hasn't yet come up with the cash needed for his operation. Says the crossdressing ex-monk, "I pray to God every night for help ... I plead that he will let me become a woman."

FROM GAL TO GUY, TO GAL, TO GUY

("National Enquirer") -- Jerry [redacted] was born a woman ... and since then has had not one but THREE sex changes! "My life must seem bizarre to many people," admits the 51-year-old Jerri, as she was then known, married a handsome serviceman and had two daughters with him. Then, deciding her marriage was a total lie, she divorced, has a series of affairs with other women ... and men ... before having a third child in 1969. When her son was six months old, she started hormone treatments, grew a beard, had her first operation and changed her name to Jerry. In October 1981, though, after a relationship with a woman Jerry had hoped to marry broke up, he began wondering if he had done the right thing twelve years earlier: "I stared at my hairy body in the bathroom and asked myself 'What have I done?'" [redacted] began dressing as a woman again, stopped taking male hormones, underwent electrolysis and went on a waiting list for breast implants. But in April 1988, after her son died from a kidney problem, Jerri, convinced that her son would have received better care if she had been a man, decided she would be more comfortable living as a male. A couple of months ago, she legally changed her name back to Jerry and restarted bi-weekly male hormone injections. [redacted] has caused a regrowth of facial hair. [redacted]'s doctors say he's the only documented case of someone who has completely changed sexual identity three times for substantial periods of his life, but this time he claims "I am a man for keeps."

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IFGE is conducting a search for books, journals, research material, reference material, instructional material, and audio/video tapes for a gender community archive. Welcome contributions will include newsletters (past and present), legal case histories, news clippings, "how to" books, lecture transcripts, or anything else of historical, academic, or literary interest. Send any contributions to IFGE Library, P.O. Box 367, Wayland MA 01778.

Quote of the Month: "I had very long hair, which I refused to cut. When I first came to New York, it came down to my tits. I looked like Rita Hayworth." Richard Gere, reminiscing about his early days as an actor. ("Fame")

If you've always wondered what line of work you could get into where being transgendered wouldn't matter, try selling Tupperware! At their recent convention at the Long Beach Convention Center, one of the highlights was David [redacted] of North Hollywood, who says he does "about his Tupperware parties in drag. He appeared at the convention's Saturday night costume party wearing a '60s waitress outfit (with six layers of crinoline under the skirt), with a turquoise wig, a black-and-white zebra apron, red lipstick and black high heels. He topped the whole ensemble off with a giant Doritos bag and told attendees his name was "Dora Ritos". ("L.A. Times")

The community's latest research project concerns the possibility of EOE rights for crossdressers. If you have either been hired, fired, or discriminated against because of your crossdressing, a brief summary of the circumstances is requested; if you are self-employed, the researcher would like details of your own hiring practices. All personal detail will be held in confidence, and the researcher, Marilyn Cristi, asks that you set conditions for further correspondence. She may be contacted at P.O. Box 33496, Cleveland OH 44133. ("IFGE Update")

Long-time friend Elaine [redacted] (of IXE) has begun marketing a new creation designed for those with flat hips who find padding uncomfortable to wear. The "HipSlip" adds the appearance of 2 to 4 inches of additional hip area measurement, without lumpy hip pads. You can get additional information from Geiger-CMC, 8105 VF Trail, Indianapolis IN 46214.

Did you catch the episode of Tim Conway's new "Funny America" television show in which he dressed as a waitress, complete with wig and red lipstick? Turns out they filmed that segment at a Cincinnati restaurant, where the local newspaper quoted a few of the patrons served by "Patti". One family said "We thought something fishy was going on, but he was a great waitress so we didn't say anything." Another lady, upon coming across "Ms." Conway, said she thought "O.K. If that's the way he wants to dress, fine." ("Innerview")

If you shop at Forgotten Woman, the large-size womens' fashion store in Beverly Hills, you're in good company.

That's where Arnold Schwarzenegger bought the skirts he wore in the movie "Total Recall". The clerks are reportedly still giggling about seeing the Hollywood he-man shimmying around the dressing room in a micro-mini! ("National Examiner")

Meanwhile, here in the Valley, Akeem Olajuwon, the seven-foot-tall Houston Rockets' center was shopping for sport clothes lately. After extensive searching, he found a tank top to fit his oversized frame at the Camp Beverly Hills store in Woodland Hills. But what the clerks there didn't tell him is that his black, scoop neck tank top is actually a tank dress! ("L.A. Times")

17-year-old Paul Wilson of Hermann, Missouri, probably wouldn't care about such mundane details as what gender a piece of clothing was designed for. Wilson is the first ever male winner in his state's 4-H Fashion Revue, winning top honors with a double-breasted wool suit. Wonder if there's any significance in that particular choice of style? (AP)

Last month, we reported on the discovery of a Ken doll dressed in Barbie's clothes. Turns out there was a simple explanation: Toys R Us clerk Ron Zero has confessed to redressing the doll, claiming the store's late-night stockers "always (do) crazy things like that" ... including posing the dolls in such scenes as Barbie spanking Ken, and hanging dolls in the aisles. Zero was fired after acknowledging his crossdressing prank. ("Daily News")

British researchers claim they have found a "maleness" gene in the course of their cancer research. Scientists at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund announced that according to their results, a specific gene in the Y chromosome that tells the developing fetus to form male sex organs may be lacking in some "only partially masculinized" people. Similar research is being conducted at the Whitehead Institute in Massachusetts. (ETVC newsletter)

After a few sessions with an electrologist, you might begin to wonder if there isn't a quicker and easier way to permanently remove facial hair. Now plastic surgeons have developed a technique as part of reconstructive surgery for people born with severe facial defects or burn victims that is now being tested for use as elective cosmetic surgery. The new procedure, essentially a face transplant, replaces an individual's dermal and epidermal layers with those from a donor. Because bone structure determines facial appearance, the new procedure does not alter one's looks; however, because testosterone will stimulate the growth of hair in the new skin, the procedure is only appropriate for post-operative transsexuals. (IXE newsletter)

Jim Bridges, well-known in the community both locally and internationally for his cosmetic makeovers, has enlisted financial backing for a new project of interest. Jim has proposed a time-shared facility for the community, to be located in Long Beach, with private accommodations for those wishing to vacation in Southern California "en femme". The facilities will also include day guest services and on-site entertainment events that will be of interest to both the traveler and the local community. Jim hopes to have the club operational by this winter; for details, send your name and address to The Club, P.O. Box 3156, Lakewood CA 90711 and you will receive further information on the project as it becomes available.

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SEND THEM A COPY OF THE SUBSCRIPTION FORM ON PAGE 17 ... DO IT TODAY!

### STANDARDS OF CARE

by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

One topic which is often questioned by transgendered people are the "Harry Benjamin Standards." While transsexuals are often more familiar with them than are crossdressers, these standards apply to all persons with gender discomfort. Just what are these standards and how are they generally used?

First, some history. More than a decade ago, clinicians who worked with transgendered persons formed the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association (HBIGDA). In the late 1970s members of this professional organization decided that, due to the invasive nature of the treatment of transsexualism, a formalized set of minimal guidelines were necessary. Such guidelines would provide uniform criteria to guide clinicians working with transgendered persons. The initial Standards of Care were published in 1980. They are concerned with persons who are diagnosed as gender dysphoric. The "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders" published by the American Psychiatric Association (DSM-III-R) has several categories of gender dysphoria but the ones most closely connected with these standards are those describing transsexualism.

The Standards of Care are based upon significant clinical experience with transsexual clients. They are guidelines describing who should recommend hormone treatment and genital reassignment surgery. In addition, they describe under what conditions such recommendations should be made. It is here that many people object to the time limits. They feel that "my situation is different" from all the other persons who identify as transsexual, so exceptions should be made. Usually this means shortening the time for "the real life test" and/or the recommendation for hormone therapy.

I have told countless clients, "It is not possible to be objective about your own situation." The purposes of the Standards of Care and the services of a clinician are to prevent a person from taking irrevocable steps which they can regret later. The most difficult part of the whole process is making the diagnosis of transsexual. It cannot be made quickly even though the person emphatically states that they are transsexual. I am sure many of you have heard the "horror stories" of persons who have obtained genital reassignment surgery and then discovered to their dismay that it was not right for them. A careful investigation into such cases will usually show that the person and/or the clinician did not follow the Standards of Care.

Genital reassignment surgery and even hormone therapy are serious procedures which must be used cautiously. Side effects are many and some are irreversible. While there are always ways to circumvent the Standards of Care, to do so exposes the person to unnecessary risks. Experience of many transsexuals has validated this conservative approach to be the safest.

[If you have a topic you would like Dr. Peo to write about, or have a rebuttal, please write him directly at P.O. Box 4887, Poughkeepsie NY 12602 or call (914) [redacted]

All communications are confidential. This column may be reprinted in any non-profit organization's newsletter so long as Dr. Peo's name and address appear in the reprinted version. All others must obtain written approval.]

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### DR. JOHN BROWN IMPRISONED

(ATEC) -- Dr. John Ronald Brown of Chula Vista has been found guilty in San Diego of four counts of practicing medicine without a license. He was sentenced to three years in prison and ordered to pay \$10,000 to a 30-year-old Orange County transsexual due to gross negligence.

Brown has performed over 500 gender reassignment surgeries in his 40 years of practice. He is well known in the gender community but has always been the subject of much controversy, with some of his former patients swearing by him ... and others swearing at him.

Brown's license was revoked in 1977 because of gross negligence, and he was unsuccessful in a 1983 bid to regain it. In 1985 he was convicted in San Francisco of practicing without a license for performing the same kind of operations, and was at that time ordered not to continue. Since that time, Brown has been practicing in Mexico.

### IMPERIAL COURT BEGINS XIX REIGN

(kmr) -- Gregg and Charity were installed as Emperor and Empress of the Imperial Court of the San Fernando Valley at the Coronation ceremony August 11. The ceremony, which begins the XIX Reign of the Court, was held at the Beverly Garland Hotel in North Hollywood, and also included the awarding of \$5,000 in scholarships to gay and lesbian college students, and \$1,500 to Virginia Uribe's "Project 10" for gay and lesbian youth.

Two nights earlier, the Imperial Court of Denver hosted a roast of the retiring monarchs, Emperor Howard and Empress Julie. It was followed on Friday night by a bus tour of Valley bars and nightclubs, to familiarize visiting dignitaries from throughout the U.S. and Canada with the local culture.

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## F · A · S · H · I · O · N · S

INNOVATIVE CLOTHING OF THE NINETIES

# OPINIONS & COMMENTS

## UP ON MY SOAPBOX

### THE ESSENTIAL EILEEN

by Eileen [REDACTED]

I've been feeling very "existential" the last few weeks. Oh, just the standard stuff: Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I coming from? Where do I go from here?

It's all tended to drive me toward writing a very un-soapbox-like column.

Part of what got me into this mood where the pair of letters Kymberleigh received from a dissatisfied subscriber. One of the complaints was directed at another contributor's article on passing in public. The correspondent didn't seem to think that the material was relevant, since (s)he neither dressed "to fool anyone", nor thought, apparently, that any of "Cross-Talk's" readers were capable of such.

As I was saying, it caused me to look inside and try to sort out what it all might mean ... and whether my feelings might be similar to those of anyone else in our Community.

Similarly, an occasional stray inquiry about where my head was at, or from what philosophical base I reason, started me wondering if it would be appropriate to write a background piece.

Thanks, once again, to Anne [REDACTED], for making the first move and nudging me out of my timidity.

Starting at the beginning, I am one of those souls whose earliest memories, about age four, involve an awareness of my feminine inclinations. Like many others in our community, my feminine element developed sporadically during my growth to adulthood, as the pressures of academia, social life, and learning several trades consumed my energies.

I am married, in a union which has survived more than 21 years, to a spouse who ... fairly typically ... is reluctantly supportive.

We both consider ourselves to be Christian, in the original sense of the term.

We have children. It is believed that they do not know about my feminine component.

Politically, I find myself most nearly in agreement with the Libertarian philosophy. As a result, you may safely assume that I do not generally favor applying the force of civil law to my religious convictions. I do believe that the state has every right to act in RESOLUTION; in fact, much of what is a matter of law now, actually belongs in the realm of the former.

I do not have an opinion on EVERY subject, and those I

(CONTINUED, PAGE 14)

## VOX POPULI

### THE NEED FOR A NEW TERM

by Kymberleigh Richards  
Editor & Publisher, "Cross-Talk"

I recently had the opportunity to speak before a graduate class in human sexuality at Cal State Long Beach on transgendered behavior. I found the students (as I expected Masters' candidates to be) articulate, with intelligent questions and very little ignorance. But I must admit to having difficulty with one question put to me that evening:

"What do you call yourself?"

That is a difficult question for me because I don't really identify anymore with either "TV" or "TS" ... the best-known terms in the transgendered community. I don't believe that I am a "transvestite" anymore, since I live full-time as Kym. Nor do I consider the word "transsexual" a valid description for myself, since that implies orientation toward sex reassignment surgery. (While I realize that both Benjamin and Doctor have in the past used terms such as "secondary transsexual" to describe a TS who is not surgically inclined, I disagree with that concept.)

Many in the community subscribe to the use of Virginia Prince's word "transgenderist" to identify an individual who chooses to live full-time in a gender role opposite to their physical sex. I believe, however, that EVERYONE in our community ... no matter

## TAG, YOU'RE IT ...

### ROLE MODELS

by Anne [REDACTED]

Julian Bond hosts a show called "ABF" which deals with issues of the Black community of this country. I was flipping through the channels when I stopped to watch this show. They (Mr. Bond and his guests) were discussing the reasons that the prison population is so disproportionately black compared to the general population. In large part the cause was due to a lack of positive role models for young black men, or perhaps I should say boys (not intended in the pejorative). This got me thinking about our community. What role models do we have? Who was the first person you remember that was openly crossdressed? The operative word here is 'openly'. I would have to say ... and whoever said hindsight is 20/20 is crazy ... the first person was Jim Bailey, the "illusionist". Most of us would probably have some similar answer, some professional female impersonator. If not Jim Bailey then perhaps Charles Pierce. Who, specifically, is not terribly important, it is what they do that bears significance.

But, wait a minute, these role models are men. We know that, they make a point of letting us know. It's part of their act.

Who are our positive role models?

Virginia Prince? Merissa Sherrill Lynn? Christine Jorgensen? Renee Richards? Sheila Kirk? Why not Mariette Pathy Allen? Gloria Steinem? Morgan Fairchild? Elizabeth Taylor? Sandra Day O'Connor?

My role models, Anne's role models, have always been women. Now, don't get me wrong, there are members of our community that I admire for having the courage to be openly what they are, and "damn the torpedoes". But it is not the Anne part of me that admires them.

Because we are dealing with something of a split identity, perhaps it is appropriate that we have two sets of ideals. One set teaches us what women are, the other teaches us what we can do. But.

It seems to me that many members of our community deal only with one set of role models. And depending on who you are talking about that set can be one or the other. Personally I find those without female role models distasteful, and those without male role models disconnected from reality.

Do we use role models only for the superficial? Do we only care about women so we can copy how they dress

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which of the infinite points in the spectrum of transgendered behavior he or she most closely identifies with ... is a transgenderist. It is grossly unfair to use this term to describe only one narrow part of the whole spectrum.

I also considered using the word "androgyne", but that doesn't do the job either, since it implies having gender characteristics that make it unclear whether the individual in question is male or female ... and I definitely look like a girl these days!

I thought about, but discarded such complex phrases as "non-surgical transsexual" and "full-time transvestite", since they don't really answer the question. Instead, the phrasing leads to a more complicated series of questions to more clearly define what I am. I have concluded that there is a need for a new term to properly describe someone who lives full-time with a gender role opposite to his or her physical sex.

I talked with Anne Blackwood about this neologic dilemma. She suggested a word, rooted in Latin (as "transvestite" is): "transvitae", translated as

(CONTINUED, PAGE 20)

# THE WAY OF THE WEREWOMAN

by Phaedra Kelly

Androgyny, from two Greek words meaning man (andro) and woman (gyne) was the earliest recorded term from a settled race for what we call today transgender. Even earlier nomads and tribalists had terms for it such as e La Ha (Cocopa Indian) and Heemahnah (Apachianata tribes), the term Berdaches presumed to be of either old French or Spanish origin and a slang term for whore, was applied by the Conquistadors on their meeting Native American transgendered.

There are as many ancient terms for vampires and werewolves. All the variants on shapechanging, be they to/from animal or across the gender borders can be found, in the roots of all the races and faiths of the world ... where ever there is humanity the two kinds of shapechanger exist side by side.

Given which fact, it is not so unusual that they should share some characteristics and similarities, even overlay some of their method. Their histories touch each other closely, as they touch all things between them. Yet seldom is a comparison consciously undertaken.

We live now in a society which blinds itself to its own ignorances with a superficial sophism and technocratic mystique. In our so-called civilized world, minorities are feared and reviled more than ever before. Where once persecution had a blatant motive in superstitions, and punishment for difference was swift and emphatic, the fear of now is unstated and ignored in itself with the result, that difference is punished by isolation and within an illusory freedom to be, a genocidal suffocation by conveniently and often hypocritically elastic mores.

In democracy, another old Greek word which for its egalitarian suggestion, in probability, was inspired by the human dualism of androgyny, each individual has a right to opinion. But there is no onus put upon the individual to rationalize that opinion.

Most critics, be they of the modern human vampire, or of transgender will premise their critique with "I think ..." which, for anybody needing to answer ought to be the core of the challenge, when the remainder of the critic's statement reveals that they don't think.

At best, they grunt their way through a series of poorly coordinated brain motor functions index linked to a limited series of value judgements. But for being at the unfortunate end of this kind of "thought" daily, if only through a media centered on undermining all we believe and hold dear, such minorities as ours are obliged every moment to think, and think deeply.

In challenging our own cognition and monitoring our behavior patterns, we share (the vampire and the werewoman) a whole separate pantheism closer to that eclectic one beloved of ancestral tribal Shamans, and an awareness of the properties, uses and applications of time and space akin to Quantum theory.

The vampire seeks to live forever through death, the androgyné succeeds in living a natural span as a cyclical continuum, defying death and age, through life itself.

A prepubescent child, despite what Freud liked to call polymorphous perversity or the naive physical experimenting of an infant, is an asexual and looks, thinks and behaves in a dual fashion. No matter the haphazard experimentation of social science of late, an infant is an androgyné quite naturally. At the other end of the human scale of age, the post menopausal elderly achieve (or relearn) a methodical dualism of thought and action, a justice and wisdom, and also take on a dual look; many old men could be mistaken for old women and vice versa in their looks.

Only the middle aged suffer a frenetic urgency to identify themselves as one thing or another, only the middle years invented sexuality, and all the worst weaponry of the sex war.

These may be reasons why it is those beyond infancy and before elderly, who rape children, grannies, animals and each other while protesting their age groups' own actions, and who round on the transgendered and the vampire for, in their two different ways, transcending that hectic barrier of a midlife. They, while denying the dualism documented as native to all humans, and the majority of other species too, simultaneously envy it in others.

What was once penis envy, then vaginal envy, has become what in truth, it always was, androgyny envy. Everyone would like a holiday in someone else's body, and those who can construct it from their own mind, soul and body despite, and often because of the hardships others make for them for it, have acquired a sensual "je ne sais quoi" outshining that of ordinary mortal man or woman.

Both vampires and transgenderists can charm anybody/thing, of any age or gender. As importantly, but less obviously accepted, both can remain aloof to the charms of others if they so choose. True independence in an illusory self deceiving world, is poorly rewarded.

In the seventies I began to look into the depth and width of androgyny envy in society, beginning with the most obvious effect of the cause, murder. An extreme behavior which reveals in detail what happened in a mind, and because most murderers are caught and all are reviled, is seldom as readily denied by media and society.

After half a decade of collecting, collating and examining information on all types of murder, I was forced to accept (against a scientific integrity which feared it was too swift and easy a finding) that all murder is in some way originated by and related to a human terror of inner, personal polarity of gender identity (i.e., androgyny envy).

Looking at the mythic vampire, whose soul is not their own but in the keeping of the Christian's Devil, it would seem that by being the undead they have effectively abandoned the other self, and become a kind of monist. But escapism like that would be expected, once the myth became the property of a Judeo-Christian pantheism, in which there is good and evil and all people are thought to be born inately evil with

(CONTINUED, PAGE 20)

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Box 11563, 3715 32nd Ave.  
Denver, Colorado 80211  
1-303-456-6378

## SOLVING A "HAIRY" PROBLEM

by Valerie [REDACTED]

Before you can achieve the best look possible with makeup, all facial hair should completely be removed. This may sometimes irritate the skin, especially when it is sensitive and you must shave really close. Try using a water soluble cleansing cream or gel and rinse with warm water. If you must shave often, and use an electric shaver, alternate between it and a manual razor. (Ed. Note: As recommended in the June "Odds & Ends" column, the "Sensor" cartridge-type razor and "Edge with Lanolin" shave cream tend to give good results with little irritation.)

Some tips for a more effective and more comfortable shave with a manual razor:

Keep your razor clean and wipe with rubbing alcohol before use. Also, allow your shaving cream or gel to soften the beard for about two minutes before you shave.

Start at the cheeks and work your way down without stroking each area with your razor more than twice. Rinse with warm water, then with cold. (To help conserve water, fill the washbasin before you start and use that water supply for dampening the skin pre-shave cream and for clearing your razor during the shaving process. Then you won't feel so guilty using more water to rinse twice!)

Aftershave tends to be loaded with perfumes. These irritate the skin, so use witch hazel or other mild astringent instead. Follow this with a moisturizer ... pat it on; rubbing is too harsh on the skin!

Use powdered alum or a mud mask to stop bleeding on small cuts. Be sure to use alcohol on your skin before using tweezers to pull out ingrown hairs!

(By the way, if you drive a lot or are otherwise out in the sun a lot during the day, a sunscreen is very important to keeping your face soft and healthy. Coopertone makes an excellent SPF 45 that is both waterproof and hypoallergenic.)

Remember, hair growth starts well below the surface layer of the skin so you may still have a dark shadow after shaving. Next month, I'll discuss how to conceal that shadow properly.

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## THE ELEMENTS OF STYLE

(from "Beauty Handbook")

There's a new approach to fashion now. Less is more, individual style is the key. Clean and uncluttered in fluid shapes, the latest designs play up your femininity without being too overt ...

**NEW AGE LOOKS:** Spirituality is the driving force behind this major fashion trend. The start of a new decade has indeed triggered a whole new sensibility that is, without a doubt, reflected by the freshest fashions. White, for instance, is the newest no-color color to emerge onto the style scene. Symbolic of purity and new beginnings, snowy ivory and all of its counterparts like ecru and beige, capture the feeling of freedom that abounds, while emphasizing the return to all that is natural.

**PEEK-A-BOO:** The latest way to wear white is in sheer shirts and crocheted sweaters. Lace is also back in vogue. No longer relegated to elegant evenings, this ultra-feminine fabric is making a comeback in shirts and blouses as well as skirts. Black is also top priority in the latest look of see-through. Adding drama and a touch of elegance, dusky tones bring out the sexy side of these current fashions. If the shirt is slightly opaque, the sweater knitted with room for a view, wear a camisole, bustier or tank top underneath. While fashion borders on the sensuous, there's no need to make a public display of your hidden assets.

**ATTENTION, PLEASE:** Making a major impact now ... nautical inspired jackets, shirts and pants in a lineup of navy blues and whites. Embellished with braid and brass buttons, the military-style jacket moves from the office to lunch dates with ease; creamy trousers add the right amount of color contrast. T-shirts done up in French sailor stripes and crisp white blouses also command attention.

**SUITS AND SUCH:** Walking shorts, worn with color-complementary hose or none whatsoever, lend a working alternative to skirts when paired with a long jacket that reaches to your fingertip. Skirts are also a key component now ... the hippest variety ride high on the thigh, revealing lots of leg. Colors go the gamut in the suit story, ranging from pale blues to rich plums, from black and white to subtle earth tones.

**GOING GRAPHIC:** While prints are always powerful, dots and stripes add graphic relief to the warm weather selection. Polka dots look fresh on sheer chiffon dresses and blouses. Stripes ... pin-thin or wide awnings ... liven up pants, T-shirts and man-tailored blouses.

**COLOR PERFECT:** Neutrals, in a palette of rosy pinks, beiges and creams, are one of the newest color stories now. Warm earth tones are also central to style, reflecting the high interest in global consciousness and fashion influences from the 70's. Black and white is, of course, always right, while blue, in all shades from powder to marine, is one of the most directional colors to date.

**ADD-ONS:** With style so spare, elegant accessories are accenting everything now. Pearls in all lengths and sizes are winding 'round wrists and necks; earrings dangle long, to the shoulder. Handbags, particularly handle bags, constructed like the old-fashioned purse from the '60's, also enhance fashion's new attitude of femininity.

## Gender

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# THE GENDER COMMUNITY: A POLITICAL AND SOCIAL DISCUSSION

by Wendy Parker  
(Part 3 of 10)

## SCISMS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

Goals of the Nineties should include repairing, once and for all, the divisive schism of mistrust and discomfort that exists among several groups that have essentially the same overall political and social goals; goals of economic freedom and choice of lifestyles. The three groups consist of the Gay community, the Cross Dressing community, and the Transsexual community. There has been an "uneasy alliance" that has traditionally existed between these groups. The TS resented the TV for not being as public with their desired expression of femininity and not experiencing the social ostracism and the job discrimination that a TS suffers, sometimes finding herself in a newly created economic "pink ghetto". On the other hand, strictly heterosexual TV groups have been somewhat exclusive and discriminatory towards Gays, Bisexuals, and suspicious of the TS and his or her needs in their newly acquired role of the opposite sex. The Gay community as a whole have felt that their tastes and goals were entirely different than that of the Gender community. After identifying gender preferences long ago and working hard to overcome society's unjust discrimination by coalescing political power in the Seventies and Eighties, Gays perhaps feel that the Gender community is not of their concern. They have only recently worked out some divisive differences within their own community involving some opposing goals of Gay men and Gay women.

A major goal of the 90's should be: How to bring together the visible "T" community with the invisible "T" community. Walt Kelly's Pogo once said, "We have met the enemy and he is us". There are two major problems here, namely apathetic detachment and dogmatic infighting.

There is a kind of malaise by many in this invisible community regarding Gender community involvement. The social crossdresser will go out for a weekend adventure in the safe haven of a social club, perhaps quietly resentful of the almost certain scorn of the general public, but too fearful or unconcerned to do anything to change those views. With this attitude so prevalent, the question I pose today is: Does the "Community" we so casually refer to even exist or is it merely wishful thinking on our part? Are we just a collection of individuals focusing on our own selfish goals or do we have a larger altruistic agenda? Then of course there is the question of bringing together the visible community, with all its petty bickering and disruptive philosophic posturing. How can we hope to educate the general public as to who we really are with so much energy wasted on infighting among splinter groups? The public regards us with a good deal of suspicion based on archaic stereotypes promoted by media, mistrust, and misinformation. How will we reach great numbers of unhappy, isolated people making their own lonely discovery of true gender expression? Without access to support groups or knowledge of educated professionals, many are so consumed by guilt or shame they begin to consider suicide as a serious alternative, especially among

teenagers. In 1989, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services task force on youth suicide estimated that Gay teenagers may comprise as much as 30% of the total number of youth suicides. I feel that gender related issues are often lumped in with this figure. Don't we have an obligation to those people as well as ourselves?

The conflict that exists among various groups leads to lots of silly finger pointing in an "US vs THEM" attitude. IFGE is a solution for the 90's in that it is trying to find a common ground among Gays, Crossdressers, and Transsexuals to present a united front on issues of mutual concern. One such example of polarizing and ideological semantic time wasters is the "label" game. One gender group has recently complained that IFGE couldn't speak for the transsexual because it was run by, quote, "Male Crossdressers". This kind of short sighted ignorance overlooks a built-in irony in the community. "Male Crossdressers" will be visible a lot longer than transsexuals because it is the transsexual's main goal to be absorbed into society and disappear, often attempting to erase all previous history. In either case, we need to help each other and it is precisely this kind of dissention that impedes helping others in coming out. Who is there to help and offer peer group support? Outside of the need for the professional counseling community, there is also a need in the 90's to address issues related to the legal rights of the community and to work to erase a public stigma concerning this particular "mode of expression". We should expect that most post-op TS's will eventually disappear from our ranks because of their intended

(CONTINUED, PAGE 14)

## Announcing!

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Our newest book will be published 4 times per year, you'll have the latest in fashion & beauty plus new items & a comprehensive events calendar for the TC community. The Crossdressers Quarterly is available by single copy or subscription. Also available is the 1990 edition of the International Shopping Guide as well as a limited number of the Original 1989 Guides a true collectors item. Don't be left out, Order now!

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# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EVENTS CALENDAR



## VALLEY GIRLS EVENTS:

- Sat., Sep. 22 - House Party at Mykee's house in the Hollywood Hills, 7 PM - ??? Call Kymberleigh at (818) [redacted] or Mykee at (213) [redacted] to [redacted] and arrange carpools. Bring some refreshments to share, please!
- Fri., Sep. 28 - Weekend in Laughlin, NV (through Sun., Sep. 30). Details in "Kymberleigh's Clipboard".
- Sat., Oct. 27 - Halloween Party (tentative). Details and location TBA.
- Sat., Nov. 24 - House Party at Mykee's. See Sep. 22 listing for details.
- Every Sat. - Informal "after-hours" social at Sitton's, Tujunga & Magnolia in North Hollywood, starting at 2 AM.

("The Valley Girls" is a socially-oriented transgender group promoting friendship through socializing; in addition to scheduling our own events, we support the activities of other organizations throughout Southern California.)

## OTHER LOS ANGELES AREA EVENTS:

- Sat., Sep. 8 - Marlayna & Melisa's "On The Scene" night at the Queen Mary, 10 PM - 2 AM. Theme: "Ladies In Red".
- Sat., Sep. 15 - P.P.O.C.'s "Las Vegas Night". Call (714) 779-9013 for information.
- Sun., Sep. 16 - Sunday Afternoon "Tea" Dance, 4 - 7 PM, at the Queen Mary. Admission \$2 at the door: Proceeds benefit Pioneer Home AIDS hospice.
- Fri., Sep. 21 - "Girls' Night Out" dance party, 9 PM - 1 AM, 13201 Saticoy St., North Hollywood.
- Sat., Sep. 22 - Marlayna & Melisa's "Fantasy Fashions" night at the Queen Mary, 10 PM - 2 AM.
- Fri., Sep. 28 - Tasha & Marlayna's "Cherchez La Femme Night", 10 PM - 2 AM, at Act One, 8612 Garden Grove Blvd., Garden Grove.
- Fri., Nov. 9 - 21st Annual "Universal Ball", at the Mayflower Ballroom in Inglewood. Ticket information TBA.
- Sun., Dec. 23 - Southern California Christmas Dinner, 4 - 7 PM, at the Queen Mary (sponsored by "Cross-Talk"). Details TBA.

## NATIONAL EVENTS:

- Sept. 20-23: "Paradise in the Poconos" weekend: Write Creative Design Services, P.O. Box 1263, King of Prussia PA 19406 for information.
- Oct. 12-21: "Fantasia Fair": Write P.O. Box 11254, Lincolnia Station, Alexandria VA 22312 for details, or call Kymberleigh for a brochure.
- Nov. 1-4: "Fall Harvest Weekend and Moonshadow Ball": Write CAF, P.O. Box 4092, Overland Park KS for information.
- Nov. 14-18: Tri-Ess "Holiday En Femme" national convention, Houston TX: Details were included in the latest issue of the "Femme Mirror": if you did not receive yours, write Jane Ellen Fairfax at P.O. Box 1105, Alief, TX 77411-1105.
- 1991:  
Feb. 22-24: Third Annual "Texas 'T' Party", sponsored by Boulton & Park Society. Write P.O. Box 169652, San Antonio TX 78280, or call (512) 657-2540 for info.
- Apr. 8-14: I.F.G.E. "Coming Together" convention,

Denver CO, sponsored by Gender Identity Center. Details from P.O. Box 367, Wayland MA 01778.

May 1-5: "California Dreamin'" weekend, co-sponsored by "Cross-Talk" and P.P.O.C., at the Burbank Holiday Inn. Details TBA.

## ON-GOING LOCAL SUPPORT GROUPS:

Androgyny meets every Tuesday. For details call (213) 467-8317.

Crossdressers Heterosexual Intersocial Club (CHIC) meets on the second Saturday of each month. For security reasons, only members may attend. Write for membership information to P.O. Box 562, Duarte 91010.

Lambda Alpha Chapter, Tri-Ess meets on the first Saturday of each month. The next meeting will be held on September 8 to avoid conflicts with the Labor Day weekend. Call (818) 303-3858 for time and location.

Pansocial Center workshop, rap and social is held on the first Saturday of each month. For directions, call (818) 989-3700 or (213) 873-3700.

Powder Puffs Of California (P.P.O.C.) meets on the third Saturday of each month. For details call (714) 779-9013.

## OTHER SUPPORT GROUPS (NATIONAL):

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Beta Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Mississippi:  | (601) 982-7678 |
| Boulton & Park Society, San Antonio TX: | (512) 657-2540 |
| Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Chicago:           | (708) 364-9514 |
| Chicago Gender Society:                 | (312) 434-5445 |
| Cross-Port, Cincinnati OH:              | (513) 851-6174 |
| Delta Omega Chapter Tri-Ess, Dallas:    | (817) 261-3253 |
| ETVC, San Francisco:                    | (415) 763-3959 |
| Gender Identity Center, Denver:         | (303) 458-5378 |
| Heart of Texas Gender Alliance, Austin: | (512) 892-6454 |
| NWGA, Portland OR:                      | (503) 774-8463 |
| Renaissance, Philadelphia:              | (215) 640-9449 |
| Sacramento Gender Association:          | (916) 362-8131 |
| Tiffany Club, Boston:                   | (508) 358-2305 |
| TGIC, Albany NY:                        | (518) 436-4513 |

## LOCAL NIGHTCLUBS & BARS:

"Queen Mary", 12449 Ventura Blvd., Studio City, is open every night except Mondays. A female impersonator revue is featured in the front lounge Wednesdays through Sundays. Socialize with the local TG community in the back bar. "Buffalo Fridays", after 7pm, feature a complimentary buffalo wings buffet.

"Club 22", 4882 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood, is open seven nights a week, catering to the lesbian community; however, crossdressers (in small groups) are well-received. Happy Hour 3-7pm daily; Live DJ Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights; Complimentary buffet Sunday afternoon & evening.

"Peanuts", 7969 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, is open to crossdressers on Friday, Saturday, and Monday nights (featuring a drag revue on Fridays and Mondays). Live DJ all nights.

"Palms", 8572 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, is primarily a lesbian bar, but crossdressers (and other lifestyles) are also welcomed seven nights a week. Live DJ on Friday & Saturday nights.

"Library", 2815 E. Main St., Ventura, is open to the gay, lesbian, and transgendered lifestyles on Saturdays, Sundays, and Thursdays. Live DJ.

"Oil Can Harry's", 11502 Ventura Blvd., Studio City, is open to all lifestyles on Saturday nights, featuring dancing and other activities.

## SENDING A DISCREET MESSAGE

by Ricky Hunt

I saw another one today. I was driving along a country road and over there on the left, by the well kept farmhouse was another of those rather weird examples of modern art known as the "Moonie". Have you ever seen a moonie? No, I am not talking about some earnest and well scrubbed youth in the airport lounge selling flowers for the Korean Messiah, but rather the mushroom shaped and gaily painted depiction of someone's legs and nether regions that are sprouting on lawns all over like, well like mushrooms. Perhaps these decorations have not made it to your part of the world yet, but it is Only A Matter Of Time. (Read that pretentiously, as befits the Capitals.) From a distance a Moonie looks like an overgrown mushroom sprouting on the lawn after a night's rain in the heat of summer, but as you approach near enough to make out the detail it resolves into the classic Moon Position as seen out the rear window of a '55 Chevy after the prom and before the cops return the offender to his parents' custody. A uniquely American art form to say the least. But why, you might ask, am I describing Modern American art when you expected a dissertation on transvestism and the ramifications thereof? Well, keep your panties on and I will endeavor to explain. You see, the mushroom outline of a moonie is most pronounced when the figure is wearing a skirt, so there are many moonies out there with brightly colored skirts exposing various amounts of slip and panties. I suppose it depends on how liberated (or kinky) you are as to how much you want your moonie to let it all hang out. But while the moonie that inspired this dissertation had only a modicum of exposed white frills and no evidence of more private undergarments in view, it had markedly hairy legs and combat boots. That's what I said ... a skirt, hairy legs and combat boots. Just why is an obviously prosperous farmhouse in the middle of nowhere sporting such an ornament on the front lawn? Why not a pair of pink flamingos or a lawn jockey? I might expect a duck with counter-rotating propellers for wings or even a plaster deer, but hairy legs and combat boots below a skirt? Then it hit me. Remember a while back when there was a bit of controversy about finding a discreet logo that would identify the bearer as one of your sisters without trumpeting the message to the world? I, along with many others, was a bit leery about anything like that because it would inevitably become public knowledge and the glaring light of day would enter our unwilling closets. Sure I would like to know my sisters, but a P.O. box is safer. I had a devil of a time not stopping to ask, but I feel sure that one of my sisters must live there, and she had solved the

(CONTINUED, PAGE 19)

"TRANSVESTIA" REPRINTS ANNOUNCED  
CHANGE OF OWNERS AT "GEN X"  
"FEMANINE"/"LADYLIKE"/"TAPESTRY"by Kimberleigh Richards  
Well-read (but overworked) Editor

One of the best publications (and probably the first) in the history of the transgendered community was Virginia Prince's "Transvestia". Back issues of this pioneering magazine are prized possessions for many, and their contents are so timeless that they are rereadable indefinitely. Sandy Thomas has obtained the copyrights to all 100 issues, and plans to create a new fiction series by reprinting stories from the older issues. Along with the copyrights came hundreds of back issues of the original magazines, which Sandy is selling for \$7.00 an issue (5 for \$30.00), plus \$1.00 per book shipping (up to a \$4.00 maximum). The issues she has available are #78, 79, 88 through 93, and 95 through 98. She suggests listing second choices when ordering as supplies of some issues are limited. Sandy has also acquired the copyrights to the old Transvestia/Chevalier fiction series, and is in the process of retypesetting the stories for eventual republication.

&lt;&lt;--&gt;

In a move designed to strengthen "Gender Expressions" as a source of information to the community, Janet Lynn Christon's Electronic Media ARTS has assumed production and distribution of the magazine, replacing Siobhan Donovan and Bisley Enterprises. Christon will continue as editor in chief of GenX, and has also engaged the services of a new printer to solve the difficulties in production quality evident in the past. She also plans to introduce a pre-paid reader service card in the next issue. All existing GenX subscriptions will be honored, as will all advertising contracts.

&lt;&lt;--&gt;

I have to hand it to Tania Volen. When she announced a companion newspaper for "The Transvestian" a couple of years ago, I was a bit skeptical that she could tone down the overtly sexual content enough to create a significantly different publication. Well, the ninth issue of "Femaline" arrived around the first of the month, and I am IMPRESSED.

In "Femaline", I see a cleaner set of personal ads, with tasteful photos, well-written, discreet copy, and a fairly well-organized layout in which it is not difficult to figure out what paragraph goes with which picture.

The latest issue also includes a number of articles, most of which try to address issues and concerns within the TG community. I refer specifically to Patricia Wodjowski's column (discussing hormones) and Denise

(CONTINUED, PAGE 22)



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CONSIDERING A WIFE'S ACCEPTANCE

by Rosalyn [redacted] (from "Rosebuds")

Although this is a personal commentary, and not research based, I present it in the hopes of gathering comments and ideas from other wives and couples. What is it that can make a wife who has felt accepting and positive about the influence of crossdressing on her husband, move to the point of a negative attitude? I am an educated person with a background in sexuality issues, family problems and counselling. My husband's expression of his crossdressing was initially seen as positive to his self-esteem and to our relationship. It was hoped that sharing of intimate feelings and open communication would strengthen our relationship, and it did at first.

It is true that I did not have all positive feelings and my husband in his "femme" persona did take some getting used to. I came to feel comfortable being with Robyn and to grow to love her as I loved my husband. This was the start of a relationship with my "best girl friend". I enjoyed shopping for her and seeing her joy at trying on feminine apparel. I get a kick out of sharing items from my wardrobe with her. I welcomed her into my bed at times and found her a source of nurturing and comfort at times. This may all sound like a crossdresser's dream. What then soured my feelings? Slowly, and at times not so slowly, this girlfriend that I invited into my life took over. She wanted to do my cooking, mother my children and even share my role in bed. Hanging in my husband's closet are Robyn's clothes and his male clothes; in my closet are only female clothing. I do not have another identity or role to play. My best friend not only wants to share my life, but to take over my roles, clothing and my husband. You might occasionally really enjoy sharing your home and family with a friend you love, but if she came in and took over what you saw as your roles and rights, would you feel like inviting her back?

A person whose self-identity is threatened is bound to feel negative. My expression of this negativity is seen as a threat to my husband's crossdressing and his self identity. This closes off the paths of good communication. So the problem of self identity is driving us apart ... not leading us into a more open and intimate relationship. It is very difficult to get out of this spiral. Since we both feel threatened, this leads to a kind of verbal shoving match. I wonder how other wives feel about this. Is there room for expression of the husband's feminine side and for the wife to retain her identity as the primary woman in the marriage?

[Note: While this article was being scanned, Cynthia [redacted]'s wife, Toni, took the opportunity to read it and had her own comments to share:]

No, there isn't. Not unless the crossdresser is very careful to acknowledge the wife's role as the primary woman and then to follow through in actions to prove that that is how he perceives her. Sadly, that rarely happens ... I would dare suggest that's a damn cold day in hell when it occurs. And if you wonder why wives

(CONTINUED, PAGE 20)

GENDER ALTERNATIVES LEAGUE ANNOUNCES FORMATION

(kmr) -- Claiming that [redacted] gender community is "ready for a change", Cynthia [redacted] has announced the formation of a new organization to be called the Gender Alternatives League (GAL).

GAL's main purpose, according to [redacted], will be to promote freedom of gender expression. She proposes to do this through educational and political activism, and to try to bring all members of the community together, regardless of labels or lifestyle differences. GAL also intends to join forces with any other groups trying to achieve the same or similar goals.

GAL's first announced project will be to remove the labels of "mental illness" and "abnormal" from the DSM-III-R and other medical references. [redacted] maintains it is the resultant stigma that [redacted] the exclusion of transgenderism from protection under recent civil rights legislation.


After publication of a lengthy editorial in the Tri-Ess national magazine "Femme Mirror", [redacted] says she has started to receive letters of support and monetary contributions from the community. She has called for a member of each transgendered organization to become a part of GAL's board of directors.

[redacted] may be contacted at P.O. Box 3392, Napa CA 94558, or by telephoning (707) 257-1973. A commentary on GAL's philosophies will appear in next month's "Vox Populi" column.

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You get to sit and relax when you pee  
You can wear a skirt  
You can have a great hair style  
You can grow long nails

You will get taken out to dinner  
You can wear lipstick

Men will open doors for you  
You get to grow boobs  
You get to be a ditz  
You won't have to shave your face

The BAD news:

You will never find anything ever again  
You have farther to fall  
There is always a line  
Pants are more practical  
It will take you 1 1/2 hours to get ready  
You will live in constant fear of breaking one  
It's "unladylike" to eat so much  
You will never find your shade  
They will pinch your bottom as you go through  
You will get elbowed (ouch)  
It won't matter  
You will have to shave everywhere else

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**GENDER QUESTION OVERSHADOWS  
WEST HOLLYWOOD ASSEMBLY RACE**

("Renaissance News") -- Is Elizabeth [REDACTED], a candidate for the Republican nomination for the 45th State Assembly District, a woman, a transsexual, or a transvestite? That's the transgender mystery facing officials in West Hollywood, with both Bob Davis, her GOP opponent, and Tom Larkin, co-chair of the Lesbian and Gay Republican Task Force claiming that [REDACTED] is, or at least was, a man. Larkin charges that [REDACTED] "was an Alan [REDACTED], later became Lania Elizabeth [REDACTED] and Elizabeth [REDACTED]." He also says [REDACTED] in the mid-1980's, [REDACTED] ed a local synagogue in drag. He's been qu [REDACTED] calling the candidate "a six-foot, four-inch transvestite." "Basically, we're 'outing' her," Davis said, using the term that describes the practice of forcing gays and lesbians out of the closet. "She's a person who is definitely trying to harm gay people, who's got this (gender) condition and certainly took advantage of the right to do with one's body as one wishes." [REDACTED] has refused to respond directly to the charges from Davis and Larkin. But she did say that she was sorry about the "gender-bashing attack" that is an attempt "to make sexuality an issue." She added that she supported "bread and butter" gay rights issues.

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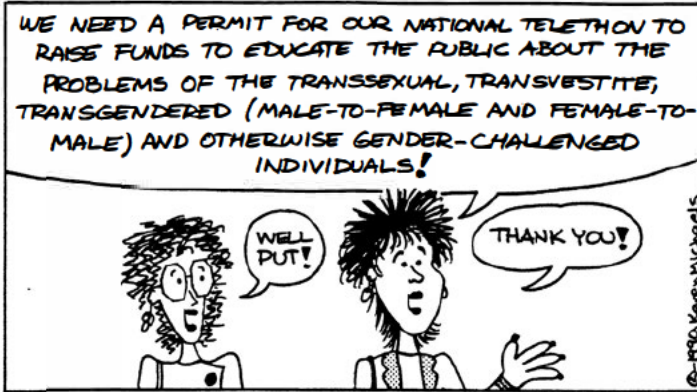
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THE ADVENTURES OF KAREN

by KAREN ANN



GENDER COMMUNITY ... CONT'D

split with the past. Therefore, the "Male Crossdresser" will naturally fall into long term leadership positions except for the few brave post-op souls who choose to remain visible and committed to common long range goals of the community. If we are to become a community, we have to be a group of caring individuals working toward a common goal. What we have now could be more closely described as a collection of cliques, factions, and personality cults. A goal in the 90's is to focus all that energy to try to eliminate prejudice and ignorance in the general population.

(This article is based upon a speech Wendy Parker gave at the 1990 IFGE "Coming Together" convention, and is being presented in monthly installments. Next month's segment will discuss cooperation & pride and the issues of homophobia.)

SOAPBOX ... CONT'D

do have are subject to revision ... given sufficient contrary evidence. Furthermore, I have been known to quite willingly share my opinions with ANYONE imprudent enough to ask. My view of crossdressing teeters between it being an artform ... and being a crutch, with which a person may more comfortably express such personality elements as society considers appropriate only for the opposite gender. I concede that other motivations are possible: I just haven't found, as yet, a need to deal with them. While I love fantasies, I don't think it does our Community any favors to indiscriminately meld them into the realities with which we must deal. I perceive my mission ... if such can be said to exist ... to be that of pointing out where I think that such commingling has taken place. My hope is for a world wherein everyone feels secure enough that no one need feel that they must hide a portion of their being out of fear of persecution. I seek to promote a social environment in which each person may appear and act as masculine or feminine, or any blend of the two, as they feel is appropriate for themselves. May it quickly become so.

P.S. Ordinarily, the "late breaking news" blurb at the end of my August column would have been saved for an April issue. However, in view of the governmental maneuvering to lump us into the same classification as child molesters, rapists, and other sociopaths as exempt from the protections of the recently passed handicapped rights bill ... added to the spate of attempts to restrict citizens' access to a variety of products, e.g. spray paints ... it seemed an appropriate opportunity for satire. For the benefit of those who might have taken it at face value, let me backpedal a little; so far as we know ... up to the time of this writing ... no one with any real authority in any state or Federal agency has made any serious proposal to regulate heel heights for women's shoes. There is a serious side to this. The fact that something like this hasn't all ready happened doesn't mean that it can't. There are individuals who, if they could wield such power, would do just what was stated, or worse. We have as much reason to be vigilant in guarding against encroachments upon our liberties as any one else does. Moreover, we will just as surely suffer, if we fail to do so. One last thought ... if someone else's liberties can be infringed, so can our own.



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# OUTLAND

BY BERKELEY BREATHED



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# BE YOUR OWN PHOTOGRAPHER CONCLUSION

by Christie [redacted]  
(from "Fiesta!" newsletter)

In choosing the outfit you will be wearing, you should strive to make every pose the very best you can. It is extremely frustrating when the picture of you in a thrown together, wrinkled, raggedy looking outfit turns out to be the only one in which your face looks like a Hollywood starlet.

To get proper focus, I've found that propping a pillow up where you will be sitting, or a chair where you will be standing, and focusing on this will do the trick. It is quite aggravating to shoot a whole roll and come to find out that you're nothing but a grey blob while the wall behind is crystal clear.

Some cameras will even allow the use of a pneumatic cable release in conjunction with the camera's timer. In this way you get all the time you want to primp and pose. Then, when ready, give the pneumatic bulb a squeeze and toss it out of the scene. Voilà! You now have 10 seconds to put on your best seductive look. There are also infrared devices available, that allow remote triggering on the timer.

When choosing the location of your photo session, try to find a nice, attractive area of the room. You want to have something behind you to avoid a monotonous blank appearance, but on the other hand, if the background is too busy, it will distract from the portrait.

Don't be afraid to try different areas of your house or apartment. Move around! Get shots in all sorts of positions ... sitting, standing, laying down, whatever your mood suggests. Relax!! There is no sense shooting an entire roll of yourself in the same seated position. Put on your favorite music. Dance a little. Try on all sorts of different outfits. Get into your fantasy life ... be all sorts of different women ... be a businesswoman, a coed, a rich bitch, a hooker. Have a couple of stiff drinks or some smoke, anything to get you relaxed and feeling like a lady. Remember, no matter how good you look, if you are not really feeling your femininity, you are not projecting it. Passing in front of a camera is just as hard as passing in a shopping mall ... the camera doesn't lie.

A few words on processing. Many photo companies are fully automated nowadays especially the big chains, so the chances are good that no one will ever see your photos. There is, however, a chance that an "inquisitive" clerk may on occasion peek. If you are concerned about privacy, use a fake name when you take your film in to the drugstore or Fotomat. They don't care as long as you have your ticket stub. You may be wise to avoid the mail order "discretion assured" processing services advertised in some TV magazines. While most of these are probably legitimate, photos sent to some of these people have been known to turn up in some very surprising places. A third alternative would be to do your own processing. Black and white film developing and printing is a very simple procedure and can be gotten into without a major investment. Camera stores can provide books on

(CONTINUED, PAGE 20)



## A PROFESSIONAL MAKEOVER CAN WORK WONDERS:



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# HEY, BABY!

by Jennifer [redacted]  
(from "Cactus Flower")

Imagine yourself all dressed up in casual manner going out in public and just minding your own business at a shopping mall or outside for a pleasant stroll. You are not being read, hassled, heckled and everything seems to be going OK and then all of a sudden some guy appears next to you and says "Hey Baby!"

This is one of those situations for those of us who either pass well or just have the ability to contend with it. There will be times when those love-starved, over-testosteroned men will keep pursuing us attempting to add another notch on their gun or a trophy on their mantle. To these folk a simple "no" will not do in their eyes. As they continue chasing after our skirts, no matter how flattering it may seem, it can be quite an annoyance. Our options are to either withdraw, isolate ourselves, stay within a "safe" environment or face the situation as any other genetic female would.

I've had to concoct all sorts of lies and excuses to remove these horny wolves from me. Sometimes I may even feel guilty having to resort to such tactics just to be left alone so I can go about my business. But self-preservation prevails and my own safety has higher priority. I've learned from others' experience that if I were to tell the truth about what I am it would just cause me a lot more problems, so an excuse is a much easier and safer way out of the situation.

I've had to resort to a lot of creative thinking and am

(CONTINUED, PAGE 21)

# I.F.G.E. RELEASES DETAILS OF 1991 CONVENTION

("IFGE Update") -- The International Foundation for Gender Education has announced full details for the 1991 "Coming Together" convention, to be hosted by the Gender Identity Center of Denver.

The convention will be held from Monday, April 8 through Sunday, April 14, at the Regency Hotel in Denver. Special rates have been arranged with the hotel, beginning Friday, April 5 continuing until the day after the convention. The additional days are designed to accommodate those who wish to arrive early and stay late.

The fee for full convention registration has been set at \$230.00 per person or \$390.00 per couple. In addition, three-day, two-day, and per diem registration fees have been set. Discounts are also being offered for early registration.

Convention sites have also been announced by IFGE for the 1992 convention (San Antonio TX, hosted by Boulton & Park Society, Heart of Texas Gender Association, and the Delta Omega & Tau Chi Chapters of Tri-Ess) and for 1993 (Philadelphia, hosted by Renaissance Education Association). Specific dates will be announced after the 1991 convention.

For registration information, write IFGE "Coming Together" at P.O. Box 367, Wayland MA 01778.

THANKS FOR READING "CROSS-TALK"!

# NEW REGIONAL "YELLOW PAGES" MAKES DEBUT

As part of "Cross-Talk's" expansion into the national community, the "Yellow Pages" has been redesigned to become a totally regional resource guide.

The new "Southern California Yellow Pages" will be published twice a year, in March and September. Subscribers with any previous version of the "Yellow Pages" will find it accurate through next spring, provided all updates were added (the September edition will contain only those resources that have appeared either in the April edition, or in the June and July issues of "Cross-Talk").

Those subscribers with a "\*" code after their number (on the top line of the mailing label) will automatically receive the new edition of the "Yellow Pages" later this month. Subscribers in Southern California will have the option of adding the new version to their subscription at their next renewal. The March 1991 edition will be made available to existing subscribers (non-") at a nominal cost.

The redesigned "Yellow Pages" lists only businesses in the Southern California area that welcome the transgendered community as customers. If you are in need of sources outside the Los Angeles Metropolitan area, we suggest the CROSSDRESSERS INTERNATIONAL SHOPPING GUIDE, available from John Moran Photo-Graphix, Dept. CT, P.O. Box 7217, Burbank CA 91510, for \$7.50 (plus \$3.00 postage & handling). National mail-order sources are listed in the GUIDE TO WOMEN'S FASHION CATALOGS, available from Blue Swan Communications, P.O. Box 9925-B, San Diego CA 92109, for \$7.95 (including postage).

In the meantime, if you aren't already a "Cross-Talk" subscriber, you can use the form below to correct that oversight. You can also order the "Yellow Pages" with your new subscription ... which has the additional benefit of not having to worry about most of what we just said.

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**TS ACCUSED OF RAPING GIRLFRIEND**

("National Examiner") -- A handicapped hairdresser says she was raped by her girlfriend ... a busty brunette she didn't know was a pre-operative transsexual. "I really thought my friend Andrea was a girl," the 33-year-old victim told police in Miami. "I never suspected for one minute that her breasts were fake, that she wore a padded bra." But the long-haired, 31-year-old transsexual swears her ex-gal pal knew all along that she was still a male undergoing therapy and hormone treatments. Andrea Reynolds claims her accuser made sexual demands under threat of public revelation of the truth about her pending sex change. But her alleged victim sticks to a story in which her "girlfriend" fondled her, then tore off her clothes and "got on top of me." Reynolds was found guilty of attempted sexual battery and faces a four years-to-life prison sentence.

**TOP MODEL REVEALS HER BOYHOOD**

("Sun") -- A beautiful model who has travelled the world to appear in exotic photo shoots has returned to her homeland of South Africa for a stretch of relaxation ... having reached the pinnacle of her modeling career after overcoming the obstacle of having been born a boy. 24-year-old Lauren Shipton says she would have never taken the career path she has, except for the sex-change operation she had at the age of 17. Before then, the sexy blonde says, she "had a lot of girlfriends ... we used to go around painting our nails, putting on makeup, and doing feminine things together." She says that even from an early age, people reacted to her as a girl, which made her more determined to become a woman as she grew older. Post-surgery, she moved to Los Angeles and joined a modeling agency. Shortly thereafter, fashion spreads for the French and Mexican editions of "Vogue" shot her to the top of the cutthroat modelling business. Lauren says most of her boyfriends have never suspected that she had ever been anything but a woman.

by Jennifer  
(from "Girl Talk")

[Disclaimer: The following is neither an advertisement nor a recommendation, merely my experience with a product. Should you elect to try it and find yourself allergic, or have any unfavorable results, I take no responsibility or accept any liability ...]

I must share with you a success story that I have found through trial and error over the last five years. That is... keeping your nails on! This article may not apply to all of us, as I don't profess to be an expert in nail care. I don't own a manicure shop (although sometimes secretly wish I did ...), and I don't work for the company whose product I'm going to tell you about. I just know enough of you who I've seen crawling around on the floor looking for a nail; or pushing on your nails periodically so that they don't pop off.

This information also may not apply to you ladies who unfortunately have natural nails that are too large to accommodate over-the-counter products such as Lee or Vet 'N Wild.

I also have a selfish reason for relating this information, and that is ... it seems fewer and fewer stores are carrying the product. What product, you say? Joneé Long Nails adhesive. For those of you not familiar with it, Joneé is not an instant glue so it may take a little more time to apply, but on the upside, it takes a lot less time to take off which sometimes is VERY important.

Let us assume you just purchased a new set of nails:  
1. First of all... don't even think of using the tabs that come with them... just throw them away. If anyone has had success with them, YOU can write an article!

2. The best glue in the world won't keep a nail on if the nail itself doesn't fit your natural nail. I know you would like to put them on in the car just outside the store, but don't. Take some time to file them so that they fit. Or, if they have too much of a curve, take that curve out by placing the nails in hot water to soften, then remove and hold in a flattened position until they cool. Nails that don't fit are not only more prone to popping off, but are uncomfortable, and can sometimes be quite painful if worn overnight.

3. The theory that if you let your natural nails grow a little longer to give the glue more surface area is a fallacy and actually works against you. Closely clipped nails hold the fake ones (nails) best, as there is less interference at the end of your natural nail, allowing the press-on to lay snugly and the glue to be most effective.

4. Once you have each nail fitted to the designated finger, lay them out in a line in front of you

(CONTINUED, PAGE 21)

**REMEMBER,  
'CROSS-TALK'**

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KYM'S CLIPBOARD ... CONT'D

925-2372. (There is also a combined airfare/hotel fare available from either LAX or Burbank Airport via StatesWest Airlines. Call me if you want details.) Advance payment is not required, but we have to let the hotel know by the 13th how many are coming, so please decide soon.

\*\*\*\*\*

As I write this column, it is becoming obvious that this issue of "Cross-Talk" will be arriving in your mailboxes late. There are several reasons why this has happened.

First, we had difficulty once again with the scanner that translates our longer articles into computer text, and that caused a delay in finishing this month's news file.

Second, I have in the past had to use personal funds to make up the difference in publishing and mailing costs that have often exceeded the income from subscriptions and advertising. Unfortunately, August was a "slow" month and my personal finances were also stretched to cover a short period of unemployment this past month. With our new national marketing efforts, I expect that I will not have to make up the difference in the future.

Third, in order to more efficiently control mailing costs (we have three times as many pages as we did a year ago, and that extra weight has increased postage substantially), "Cross-Talk" is now being sent under a discounted rate requiring extensive advance preparation of each month's mailing. This has required additional time for me to reorganize the mailing list to Postal Service guidelines.

I'm back on track now, though, and this delay should be a one-time occurrence. (Lucky it all happened at once!)

\*\*\*\*\*

Because of the regulations regarding our new postage rate, it will become necessary for some "Cross-Talk" policies regarding subscription processing to change. Subscription renewals not received by the third weekend of each month may be subject to a delay due to a requirement that the entire month's mailing be sent at the same time. This means that if your renewal is received after the mailing has gone out, we will have to wait until the next month's mailing to continue your subscription.

PLEASE! Renew your subscription promptly. I have included a sample label in this issue which explains how to determine when your subscription is scheduled to end. Take note of the date on your label, and be prepared for the renewal notice!

The same requirement on the timing of a mailing applies to address changes where the Postal Service has not been notified of your new address. Please let me know as far in advance when you are moving, so there is no delay or interruption in your subscription! Thanks for your help ...



*Kimberly*

TAG, YOU'RE IT ... CONT'D

(sly dig: I doubt it). I guess that depends. Do you dress up just to dress up, or do you dress up to express a different aspect of your character? If it's the former, well ...

Let's take a leap to another perspective. Who are the general public's role models for transvestism? Jim Bailey? Charles Pierce? No. The public doesn't necessarily associate female impersonators with transvestism. And of course the public is not a monolithic slab with only one view. But, I dare say if you were to ask randomly for definitions of transvestite, you'd get a description of a drag queen. Oh, maybe not so much now as ten years ago. Donahue and Geraldo have had some impact (Gasp!)(I seen about them hermaphadorts on Donahue, but I never seen one up live). I think the prevailing sentiment (though it's hard to tell from "the land of make believe") is that anyone (read: man) who wants to be castrated (actually or symbolically) must be queer (I'll admit to odd). Of course that mentality ignores the fact that testicles are useless with out ovaries to play with. Well, I won't go off on that tangent.

What the hell am I getting at? OK, I'll tell you. There are two levels at which we must choose role models: 1., Personally, and 2., Publicly. Who we choose for ourselves effects ... and is effected by ... how we perceive ourselves. Who we choose for the public effects how they will perceive us. For instance, if we personally choose Angelyne, well ... interesting choice, but not very mainstream and rather trashy, but if instead we choose Jane Pauley ... you see what I'm saying. Same thing applies to our public choice.

Consider this too, if every woman you met was a prostitute what kind of image would you have of them? If the public only encounters drag queens ...? Maybe we ought not let that happen.

[Anne ██████████, founder of TAG (Transvestite Action Group), may be reached at P.O. Box 1251, Beverly Hills CA 90291.]

BEARDED LADY ... CONT'D

dilemma with a logo that would never be penetrated. After all, there are no standards set for moonies, and it seems the more bizarre the image the better the chance the artist has of selling it. So who is gonna notice one more crazy moonie, I ask you? It seems appropriate too, since a lot of us enjoy the clothes and, for one reason or another can't shave our legs or don't have the time to do more than quickly slip on a bra and dress for a half an hour once in a while. This is especially true when the doorbell rings unexpectedly. If there is a more unsettling period of time than the high speed strip and redressing before you can answer it, I would like to know about it. You don't need knee length leather boots with 5" heels to make it any more exciting do you? So those of you who want to let our portion of the world know what is hidden in your closet, run down to the lumber yard for a sheet of plywood, get out the paint brush and all that leftover paint in the basement, and get cracking. And don't forget the hairy legs and combat boots.

# LOOK!

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## WAY OF THE WEREWOMAN ... CONT'D

potential for good.

in the earliest Shamanic faiths there was no evil as such; all people were born not only good, but as a relation to all other nature, and there were things, spirits, which intervened or inconvenienced, but which could be beaten by endurance and common sense. If they overtook a human, however, that person could become the victim of them.

it was not thought that anybody in their right mind would choose to become a vampire. The human (even to a Shaman, Dracula himself) would be seen as the victim, not the originator of the loss of their own soul. They had made a mistake, or been stupid, or become mad, but had not directly transgressed to give up life voluntarily and were not without salvation.

Putting aside the true message of Christ, which is a discipline worthy of respect, the modern Christian bigots rabid self loathing makes it impossible for them not to identify with another having given part of themselves away, and thus they judge by their own inner fears/desires. So while his victims in sequence may be accepted as victims, Dracula the Christianized myth becomes himself the Devil incarnate, one of the legion of demi-devils in their complex catalogues of deities fallen and other.

What has not changed either in Biblical terms or within all the post Gospel theology, is that God's Holy Angels are pure, total androgynes, all things to all people, as surely are the fallen angels of the Devil.

Humanity, made in God's image is likewise dual and from the healing of two halves (nobody is 50/50 but for sake of discussion) is born a confident true monism, or oneness. The mother/father deity, in Hebrew Elohim, evolves into the One Omnipotent, Jahweh. From self stated separate identity, to healed continuum. But as physical/mental/spiritual conscious animals we are both blessed and cursed with free choice. It's our choice which we should follow, and from the example of attempts to side with one or another extreme it would seem that all things in moderation and nothing to excess shall be the way.

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE)

## VOX POPULI ... CONT'D

cross-living. Thus, an individual such as myself would be a "transvitate" ... a person who has crossed gender lines as part of his/her lifestyle.

The only difficulty with this new word is that it sounds too much like "transvestite", which could create more confusion than it solves. And with many in the community opting for "crossdresser" to avoid the negative connotation of the Latin word. I sincerely doubt that widespread use of "transvitate" would catch on, unless the scientific and medical community were to universally agree on the word.

Perhaps that is the answer. Perhaps it is the doctors, the researchers, the scientists who will have to create a new term to describe what is becoming more and more the logical choice for many transgendered individuals for whom neither surgical modification nor a dual existence is the proper course of action.

There will be those who say I'm overreacting ... that using one of the longer phrases I mentioned earlier is the best solution. There will also be a significant number who want to stubbornly cling to the use of "transgenderist" instead, ignoring my argument about the broader definition of that term more properly applying. And besides, whenever someone tries to coin a phrase or term, there is always going to be disagreement (just as there already is in the "TV" versus "CD" debate).

But still, the question remains. What do I call myself?

## S.O. THERE! ... CONT'D

are angry and sad, then consider what you just read. They are mourning the loss of their roles, their identities and their marriages. When you marry a woman, the basic agreement in the marriage ... so basic that it isn't even acknowledged or verbalized ... is that you will be the man, the husband, and that she will be the woman, the wife. And when you pre-empt that and shove her out of her role, then there is bound to be some major upset. What you have done when you stop treating her as the wife, and stop being her husband in all the nuances of the marriage relationship, is that you have basically deleted the original agreement and substituted something else in its place ... and most often this is done unilaterally on your part. She certainly didn't agree to it! Think about how you treat her now ... is that the same way you acted when you were courting her and trying to get her to agree to marry you? Did you tell her the marriage was to be between "best girlfriends" ... or were you acting like a man and trying to win her as a man?

It takes a very strong and well balanced person to withstand the kind of onslaught that crossdressing brings to a relationship, to retain any kind of personal dignity and integrity in the face of the most intimate negation a woman can experience. And so, if your wife accepts what you do, or even acknowledges and assists you, recognize that this acceptance comes from a person strong enough to handle the blows to her ego that you've dealt her. And if she loves you in spite of it ... then learn this lesson about womanhood, and what it really means to be female.

## YOUR OWN PHOTOGRAPHER ... CONT'D

processing, papers and chemicals. Flea markets are good sources of used enlargers and darkroom equipment. Most bathrooms can be converted into short-term darkrooms simply by taping black plastic over the window and stuffing a towel under the door. Do-it-yourself processing provides the advantage of privacy with a greater degree of creative control, and a significant cost savings after the initial investment. If approached in the right frame of mind, a photo session can be a marvelous time. It gives you a chance to practice your feminine skills such as gestures, mannerisms, makeup, appearance, walking in heels, etc. And as a bonus, you wind up with some portraits of the "girl within" that you'll be proud to show off.

[This article originally appeared in 1981 in the newsletter of the Tiffany Club of New England.]

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NAIL TIPS ... CONT'D

- 5. starting with the left pinkie across to the right. Apply a moderate amount of Joneé to each fake nail, starting at the left and work across the left hand. (Reverse the order if you are left handed.) Of course, only apply the glue to where the nail will come into contact with your own. Then apply a lesser amount to your own nail in the same order. Allow to sit for about 5-7 minutes until the glue becomes tacky.
- 6. Now you are ready to apply the nails. Start with your left pinkie by picking up the nail by its tip and squarely place it on your own, holding it down with moderate pressure for about 5-10 seconds. Repeat this procedure until your left hand is complete. Now skip to the middle finger on your right hand and apply nails to the middle, ring and pinkie. NOW go back and apply the index finger and thumb. This sequence allows you to handle the nails easily and not get glue all over your hands and everything else. Now doesn't that look pretty!

(Precautions: Don't apply your nails before you are dressed. Pantyhose are tough on nails and vice-versa; as are bras, and tight buttons. Don't get your nails wet for at least 2 hours after application. If my hands need washing, I use a face cloth and wash them with that rather than submerging them in water. Don't apply hand lotion prior to applying your nails. Don't lift and try to re-apply if the nail doesn't fit squarely; start over with that particular nail.)

7. This is probably one of the biggest advantages of Joneé. To remove, merely bend the nail back and forth to loosen the bond. After you remove each nail, and PRIOR to removing the next one, remove the glue with a round wooden toothpick by sticking the glue with the point and twist. The glue will cling to the toothpick and you can just wind it up onto the toothpick. Do this immediately after removing the nail from your finger as the glue loses its elasticity quite quickly when it comes into contact with the air. Use the glue that is on the toothpick to remove any residue that is left on your own nail. If all the glue doesn't come off the fake nails, don't worry about it ... it will come off next time you wear the nails with new glue.

The only place I know where to purchase this product is Sav-On Drugs; and it's not cheap (\$1.89 for a 0.8 oz tube) but it's worth it to me. I usually buy 4-6 tubes at a time.

HEY BABY! ... CONT'D

constantly on my toes in an effort to handle all of these situations. Last month alone I've had over sixty dates offered, five marriage proposals and ten offers for one night stands. I'm very surprised and flattered to be receiving this kind of attention from so many men. However, I am not looking for or wanting any kind of a relationship right now because my hands are full dealing with me. I'm sure that most of these folks wouldn't understand that. So here are some of the excuses I've had to resort to. They have worked for me and you may be able to add them to your list:

- \* "I'm a nun and have taken a vow of celibacy."
- \* "It's that time of the month, or I'm pregnant again."
- \* Or, using a deep voice, "I'm a cop investigating rape and molestations in this area."
- \* Or how about the old standby, "I'm married and have a very jealous husband who is constantly watching my every move and he's probably watching us right now." It's not comfortable having to be on the defensive all the time. But I also don't desire to be harmed, found out in the desert or in an alley dead just because some guy didn't understand the word no and found out I wasn't everything he expected. As we all know, we have to take care of ourselves and no one wants to encounter an unpleasant situation. But it is situations like this that make me realize what a "born" female must endure.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO "CROSS-TALK" ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. SEE GUIDELINES ON PAGE 22 ...

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# NAT'L PUBLICATION REVIEW ... CONT'D

Mason's commentary (on why TVs don't answer their mail). There are also several book reviews, and the usual assortment of fantasy-related stories that Tania's publications are famous for.

<<-->>

"Ladylike" #7, freshly off the presses, proves that JoAnn Roberts' commitment to producing a quality, non-sexual magazine for the community is a realistic, achievable goal. This latest edition features a profile of L.I.F.E. member Mary [redacted], an interview with British drag artist Dave [redacted] (by Phaedra Kelly, also a contributor to these pages on occasion), a pictorial feature on the amazing transformations possible with the right makeup and clothes, and a report on our local "On The Scene Nite". I found a feature on one TV's hoodwinking of the press (hint: it involved the use of a bridal gown) both astounding and amusing! Also included are advice columns, a very tasteful full-color photo spread of readers' pictures, and equally tasteful personal ads. (Creative Design Services, P.O. Box 1263, King of Prussia PA 19406)

<<-->>

"Tapestry" #56 arrived just before deadline, containing a report on the April "Coming Together" I.F.G.E. convention, with over a dozen pages of photographs. You will also find several editorials and articles, some based on convention speeches and workshops, an interesting piece of fiction created by a reader as part of her psychology class work, and several of Dr. Roger Peo's columns that preceded his joining the "Cross-Talk" pages. By the way, if you're REALLY into tasteful personal ads, there are 46 pages' worth of them in this issue!

"CROSS-TALK" accepts articles for publication from both subscribers and non-subscribers.

Please use the following guidelines when preparing your articles:

If you have an IBM compatible computer, we can accept either 3½" diskettes or 5¼" disks (double-sided, double-density). Please convert text files to ASCII format before saving and use the file extension ".DOC" when naming the file.

We can now also accept Apple Macintosh text files on 3½" diskettes.

If you are using any other type of computer, word processor, or typewriter, please submit articles already printed out, scanner-ready (using a new ribbon if possible), double-spaced, with good contrast and without handwritten cross-outs or inserts. Handwritten articles are acceptable but should be submitted as far in advance of deadline as possible.

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Deadline for articles is the third Saturday of the month preceding issue date.

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## Tri-Ess Sorority ANNOUNCES

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