

# CROSS-TALK

The Gender Community's News & Information Monthly

#50

\$7.00



**SHOULD THE LAWYERS WRITE THE TS STANDARDS?**

**IFGE IN FINANCIAL TROUBLE?**

**ROLE-PLAYING, GENDER IDENTITY, AND PUBLIC PERCEPTION**

**GENDER EXPRESSIONISM**

**PREPARING TO GO OUT IN PUBLIC**

**A CROSSDRESSED CHRISTMAS STORY**

**MALE INSECURITY AS A CROSSDRESSING MOTIVATION**

**INADVERTENTLY GIVING YOURSELF AWAY IN PUBLIC**

**NEWS ... INFORMATION ... COMICS ... HUMOR ... PUZZLES**

# Before trading in your old equipment go for a test drive first.

You wouldn't buy an expensive car without looking under the hood, would you? Without starting the engine? Without taking it out on the road? Without having it checked by a mechanic? Of course not. Well, neither should you rush into an irreversible procedure like sex reassignment surgery without a period of at least one year in which you will work and live 24 hours a day in your chosen gender.

This period of crossliving (called the real-life test) is part of the Standards of Care of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, and is required by all reputable surgeons and gender clinics, for it has been found that a period of crossliving minimizes the chance of surgical regrets.

Sex reassignment surgery does not turn men into women, or women into men; it merely confirms what already is. Few people see your genitalia, but your gender is evident to everyone. Rushing into surgery before establishing yourself in your new role is taking a needless risk.

The period of crossliving is like a test drive. It enables you to establish yourself in your new role, to experience your new life before making permanent changes to your body.

Think about it: would you rather pay for that new car before you take the test drive or after you have taken it around the block?

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The Gender Community's News & Information Monthly

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LOCALS

SEATTLE  
PORTLAND  
BOSTON  
WASHINGTON

SEATTLE

SAN FRANCISCO

The International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) entered the second half of 1993 with a deficit of \$60,000, according to a fund-raising letter sent to support groups and influential gender community members by the IFGE board of directors.

The letter recounted IFGE's successful outreach projects, such as the publication this year of *The Employer's Guide to Transition on the Job* and *The Media Guide*, and IFGE's booth at this year's annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association. It also updated progress on two new videos aimed at F2M and M2F TSs and an audio tape on hormones for the medical profession. Except for the *Media Guide*, which was funded by a grant from the IFGE-administered Winslow Street Fund, the letter did not indicate how the projects were funded in light of the deficit, nor did it indicate how IFGE had overspent.

In an attempt to raise funds to cover the deficit, the letter stated that many board members "contribute our time, travel around the country at [their] own expense ... and still find the means to make a monetary contribution." The letter did not indicate what other steps the board was taking to rectify the situation.

IFGE's "Coming Together-Working Together" convention is still scheduled to take place in Portland, Ore., next March, and *Tapestry* editor-in-chief Vivian Allen told **Cross-Talk** in a telephone interview that the next issue of the IFGE magazine will be published as scheduled.

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The "Texas 'T' Party", the annual weekend sponsored by Boulton & Park Society (B&P) in San Antonio, has announced another change of venue for the February event.

The announcement, in the B&P newsletter *Gender Euphoria*, indicated that the management of the Seven Oaks Hotel sent a letter on September 17, indicating that a second convention, the same weekend as the Party, would create a shortage of rooms. B&P quickly arranged for the event to be moved to the Holiday Inn near the San Antonio airport, while keeping the registration fees at previously announced rates.

While B&P has dismissed any consideration of taking legal action against the Seven Oaks Hotel -- despite a statement in *Gender Euphoria* that the management's action breached a signed contract executed in May -- they have moved their regular monthly meetings away from that location as retaliation. The Seven Oaks was the original venue when the "Texas 'T' Party" was created six years ago, and the event was moved back there this year

after a change in management at a larger area hotel resulted in difficulties for event organizers. Dates for the weekend event remain unchanged.

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TransEqual, the human rights organization credited with negotiating with Canadian government officials and legislators to add civil rights protection for the gender community in that country, has "passed the baton" to the TSs and TGs now protected by law, and is "packing it in", according to TransEqual director Laura Masters.

Although TransEqual was "among the most successful activists in the field" of human rights legislation, according to Masters, a combination of apathy and antipathy leveled against the organization by its peers in recent months made it necessary to transfer what "clients" they had to lawyers or directly to human rights agencies.

Masters said that every piece of legislation needed for gender community members to file human rights complaints with governmental agencies now exists. She says that such complaints can be filed on the basis of discrimination based on sex in housing, employment, commercial establishments, etc. She pointed out that since such complaints are required by law to be handled confidentially, there is no danger of an individual "outing" himself or herself in the process.

Masters, in a telephone interview with **Cross-Talk**, said she would continue as an individual to be an activist in the area of Canadian human rights.

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The Arvada, Colorado based Institute for Gender Study and Treatment has added a fee-based telephone information service to its programs of weekly support groups and semi-annual seminars.

Gender InfoLine will provide general information on all aspects of gender conflict and crossdressing, according to Institute executive director Tomye Kelley. Kelley said the service was created after frequent complaints expressed by members of the gender community of an inability to find clear, understandable and readily available information on the subjects of crossdressing and transsexualism.

"A second complaint has been the feeling of embarrassment in doing a library search on the subject, asking for library assistance or checking out literature that deals with SRS or crossdressing," Kelley said. "Clinicians are frequently not informed in this field and the client often discovers he is training his therapist -- and paying for the privilege."

The service will be available 36 hours per week, from 9:00am to 5:00pm Monday through Thursday

and 9:00am to noon on Friday (Mountain Time). Cost for Gender InfoLine will be \$2.99 per minute with a \$15.00 minimum fee, and can be charged to MasterCard or Visa.

Gender InfoLine's number is (303) 431-9793.

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Longtime gender community businessman Vernon [REDACTED] has opened a new "transformation center" to allow anyone a more complete opportunity to partake in crossdressing to a more complete extent.

"This transformation is like nowhere else in the world," Porter said. "This new complex comes complete with a beauty and barber shop, wig and makeup area, and a dressing facility complete with shoes and clothing." Porter said the new center includes areas for socializing and educational seminars, classes, and clinics.

[REDACTED] intends to offer overnight guest accommodations as well in order to make the new facility "all inclusive for the crossdresser and his family".

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A new journal dedicated to transsexual feminism has published its first issue and is now looking for editorial submissions.

*TransSisters*, published by post-operative TS lesbian Davina Anne Gabriel, released its first issue in September. Its stated purpose is to "provide a forum dealing specifically with the issues of transsexuality and feminism." Gabriel says she hopes to promote dialogue between the transsexual and feminist communities and foster understanding and consciousness between the two communities.

The first issue contained an interview with transgendered lesbian activist and author Leslie

Feinberg. The second issue, which was scheduled to be released in November, will be entirely devoted to the issue of the attendance of post-op M2F TSs at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival.

Gabriel is accepting submissions of articles, poetry, interviews, reviews, artwork and photography relevant to the issues of transsexuality which express a feminist perspective. She may be contacted at 4004 Troost Ave., Kansas City MO 64110.

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An ambitious schedule of events has been released for the annual "California Dreamin'" weekend hosted by Powder Puffs Of California (PPOC) at the end of April each year.

This year's event will attempt to bring most of the gender community organizations in the state into the program by adding participation from San Diego's Neutral Corner and San Francisco's ETVC and nearby Diablo Valley Girls (DVG), according to preliminary schedule information released in October.

Among the planned events are a train trip to San Diego for a dinner hosted by Neutral Corner, couples seminars hosted by ETVC/DVG's Donna and Julie Freeman, a full track of TS seminars moderated by Born Free's Gina Ann Barnette, and a "chapel of love" for those wishing to repeat their wedding vows *en femme*.

Speaker at the Saturday night banquet will be attorney Phyllis Randolph Frye. The theme for the banquet will be "The Dapper Flapper Night", featuring roaring '20s outfits.

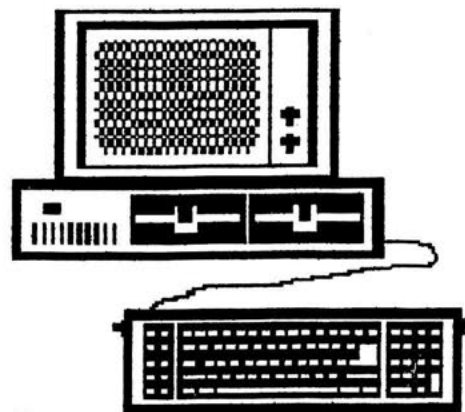
The weekend overlapping April and May (April 27 through May 1) will again be the dates for the event.

# C R C O N N E C T I O N S B B S

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## KYMBERLEIGH'S CLIPBOARD -- Kymberleigh Richards

This past summer saw the second annual International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy (ICTLEP) take place. That gathering included the release by the ICTLEP's Health Law Project of a new "standards of care" document for the transsexual community. Phyllis Randolph Frye and Martine Aliana Rothblatt sent me a copy of their new standards, as they did to most of the better-known individuals in the gender community.

My first reaction was that ICTLEP's principles, including the statement that "persons have the right to express their gender identity through changes to their physical appearance, **including the use of hormones and reconstructive surgery**" (emphasis mine) potentially gives the "surgery on demand" contingent an unneeded boost. My second reaction, based on a full reading of the ICTLEP document, was that a very important factor -- one that has been a concern of the caregivers in the TS community from the start -- had been removed.

The ICTLEP standards make absolutely no reference to a real life test (RLT).

I have always been concerned that there are a lot of "wanna-be" TSs out there who **think** they want to have SRS, but don't want to go about it in a manner that preserves their mental health. Don't get me wrong: Transsexualism is not a mental disorder in and of itself, and contrary to popular belief, the American Psychiatric Association's *Diagnostic and Standards Manual (DSM)* has never listed it as one. But because of the radical changes required, both hormonally and surgically, to effect the desired changes in a transsexual, the caregivers have -- reasonably -- always wanted assurances that they were not doing their patient physical **or** mental harm, by allowing them to undergo difficult to reverse hormone therapy and irreversible surgery.

I believe that Ms. Frye, Ms. Rothblatt, and all the other well-meaning attorneys who worked on these standards have been so immersed in what they know best -- preserving the individual's rights and protecting the caregivers from legal action -- that they have overlooked the very important FACT that every caregiver connected with the TS community knows.

These physical changes are so drastic and complete that there is a high possibility of psychological impact -- an impact that the patient may not even be aware of.

I speak from experience. A dozen or so years back, I believed that I was a TS, and entered into therapy with the Gender Dysphoria Program of Orange County. I undertook a RLT as part of my participation in that program, and I noted that Bill Heard (my psychologist then and friend today) kept very close tabs on my mental well-being during that RLT. My friend Gerald Leve (the endocrinologist affiliated with that program) has always told me that he works closely with the psychologist of **any** TS patient because of the potential mental changes that can take place during the delicate process of changing the body's hormonal balance.

The bottom line is that, after extending my RLT from one year to 18 months, then to two years and beyond, I realized -- **31 months** into the RLT -- that I was not a TS. Bill Heard continued to monitor me as I resumed a "male" existence, and concluded that I was most likely correct in my thinking that SRS was not something I required. (Having reapproached the subject from a crossdresser perspective and reached a point where my life as a transgenderist has now exceeded the length of my aborted RLT, I am even more convinced now that I made the right decision back then.)

What if the ICTLEP standards had been in place then? With a minimum of counseling for my mental health and the signing of a few legal releases, I would have probably had SRS long before the experience of living full-time made me realize that something about my intended course of action was wrong. I would have made a colossal mistake and, for all I know, might not still be around today.

Those who follow my editorials know that I do not believe the Benjamin Standards are perfect. I am still concerned that some "wanna-be"s may try to circumvent the process, and I believe the ICTLEP standards could make it possible for them to do so if the "wanna-be"s find caregivers who subscribe to them rather than the Benjamin Standards. But at the same time I feel that the safeguards proposed by the lawyers may also be long overdue, and I believe the time may be right to add the legal protection for the caregivers they propose.

What the "surgery on demand" contingent has never given me a satisfactory answer to is the question of **WHY** they distrust the medical profession on a matter that is, after all, medical. They have never explained why they oppose an RLT; why they oppose psychological monitoring

pre-surgery; why they consider SRS to be no bigger a deal than a nose job.

Yes, the Benjamin Standards have their shortcomings. But replacing a set of standards written by the medical profession with a set written by the legal profession is not the answer, because the new set has its shortcomings as well.

What I would like to see is a combination of the two, addressing both the concerns of the caregivers and the concerns of the patients. I doubt that the medical profession would object to an additional level of legal protection. But I doubt they'd find that additional protection sufficient to abandon the ethically required concerns of their profession that the Benjamin Standards address.

I hope that ICTLEP will abandon their current approach of distributing their standards as a wholesale replacement of the Benjamin Standards, and acknowledge that the two documents are best used in tandem.

Now **that** would serve everyone's best interests.

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## COGITO ERGO FEM -- Anne [REDACTED]

Role-playing seems to be an inherent part of crossdressing, but what are the roles being acted out? I used to think that if you were a crossdresser that the role you were acting out was that of the female, but now I think very differently. I think for some of us that is exactly the case; however for others nothing could be further from the truth.

There is an art gallery not far from my abode with a banner in the window proclaiming "Antimasculine: not the same as, but overlapping with feminine." Well, that ain't true. Feminine behavior is not antimasculine behavior, nor do they overlap; only a man would think they do (where masculine and feminine overlap you have **human** behavior). Back to my point, what are the roles we act out? Feminine, antimasculine, exotic sexual being, and the list goes on. There are many reasons why a person crossdresses. Variety, role fulfillment, role relief, sexual arousal, sexual teasing, and again the list goes on.

For many years I thought I was a man playing at being a woman, but my subconscious was leaving clues all over the place to tell me that I had it backwards. Of course, the clues are crystal clear in hindsight. I can't help but think of how apropos

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editor and other reader feedback.  
Details, page 6.**

that line from *Victor/Victoria* was: "A woman pretending to be a man pretending to be a woman." That was the truth of my life for a very long time. Again, truth is stranger (and more complex) than fiction. My pretense was not deliberate, but subconscious, and then there are the biological ... facts.

Manhood and womanhood are states of mind. Masculine and feminine are roles, biologically determined roles. Nurture may establish some specific behaviors, but gender is biologically determined and society can only distort things so much, because beyond that point societies breakdown and die and the artificially determined behaviors die with them.

Masculine and feminine are not determined by genitalia -- though usually there is an apparent correlation -- they are determined by brain structure. (All right, so I'm going out on a limb with that statement. I haven't the resources to prove it, but I know I am right.) Sexual orientation is not determined by genitalia, ditto the first statement. Sexual practice, is however, another question altogether, and gets into role playing too, though of a different nature. When I speak of sexual practice I don't mean straight or bent, I mean B&D, S&M, missionary, water sports, what have you. In the sexual practice sense "role" should be taken in terms of game rather than life.

What kind of roles do you play? What combinations?

I have read in a number of places, including an interview with Dr. Stanley Biber, that most TSs retain their original sexual orientation even after SRS, but for some that orientation changes. A while ago -- during one of my rare visits to the Queen Mary (not the boat) -- someone asked me, "Do you want to meet some one?" I said "yes". He asked, "Man or woman?" I replied "If you'd asked me a month ago I would have said woman, but now I would say man." This fellow was in the company of another TS who shall remain nameless. I went on to explain that the masculine part of me is attracted to women, and since the mask I had been showing the world was composed of that part of me I had sought women as partners. Now that I have dropped that mask (though it has not completely fallen away) or perhaps I should say that the woman is emerging, and I find that she has different needs than he. One looks for a person to compliment them in partnership, not someone identical nor opposite. I, as a woman, do not want another woman as a partner because we are too much alike (which is not to say that I am not sexually interested), but I look for a person whose

strengths and weaknesses dovetail with mine, and I am much more likely to find that in a man. The other TS concurred.

Some time after this foray (and I don't mean June ... check your Rocky and Bullwinkle credits) I got together with a friend to whom I had sent an Xmas card with my *femme* picture on it; you know the kind. He wrote back and said, "Nice dress, nice hair, nice photo. Why have you kept it hidden so long?" Now, this fellow -- I'll call him "John" -- happens to be gay and this fact effected his perspective on the matter. Now, John was the first male with whom I had discussed my gender situation. I was not surprise when the focus of his questions was of a sexual nature. (John's recognition of his sexuality paralleled my recognition of my womanhood.) He did ask one question which I found very pertinent, and it was in response to my explanation of changing sexual orientation. His question was, "Can't you find those complimentary qualities in another woman?" I hedged my "no" because I couldn't objectively say so, but my gut response was that I could not. It is still a question that I am mulling over.

The other night John had a party. Of the dozen people there I knew to some degree or other all but four. Of the remaining eight, three had known about my crossdressing for many years, although I only knew that one of them knew and had only recently found out that the other two had known equally long. When I'd had my discussion with John I told him that from then on he would see me only as Anne, and so he was not surprised when I showed up at his party *en femme*. When I made my entrance a couple of jaws dropped, but after that initial response every thing was hunky dory. (I should point out that the friends of mine that were there are all friends of other friends of mine who also know about my gender situation.) It's a credit to these casual friends (acquaintances?) that they were able to recover quickly and go on as though nothing unusual was occurring.

Later on, during the party after the first wave of departees left, the discussion turned philosophical. At this point there were four men and three women left. Now, as you know, I have a lot of opinions on a lot of subjects and I am not shy about expressing myself, but (there it is, that inevitable "but") whenever I tried to express my opinion the men talked over me. (Ask your wife or girlfriend about this.) Now, I had heard women complain about this treatment so it came as no surprise, but this was the first time it had happened to me since I was a child (the youngest of four). Was I not the same person? Had I not been wearing a dress, would I

not have been allowed to speak? This was part of the down side of being accepted as a woman.

I have never cared for the way Gloria Allred comes across in the media. She is very aggressive and tough. Upon reflecting on the dynamics of that conversation, though, Gloria's behavior suddenly made sense. For a woman to be taken seriously -- for a woman to be heard at all -- she must be twice as aggressive as a man, and I know this for a fact because that is what I'd had to do to be heard in that conversation. This is not right. This is a symptom of the way our society devalues women and the role they play in it. This devaluation also limits the scope of what women can contribute, and it denies half our culture's resources.

Because we of the transgendered communities are involved in role-playing and specifically changing gender roles (whether transiently or permanently) we should be more aware of the problems of those we ape (or are). We should understand how that effects people both personally and culturally. We should be active in eradicating this misogynist attitude, not just for our own sake, but for society's sake.

It would be a mistake to excuse one's disinclination to act by saying women have made great strides, the fact is that we have only traveled by baby steps because of the hobble skirts with which society has clothed us. The attitude that gave us "America, love it or leave it" is wrong. Just because something is good doesn't mean it can't or shouldn't be better. Take a good look at yourself; you'll be taking a good look at your society.

[Anne [REDACTED] may be contacted at P.O. Box 1251, Beverly Hills CA 90213.]

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**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Due to unforeseen technical problems, we have been unable to access most of our InterNet NetMail since the beginning of October. While we expect these problems to be corrected by the time you read this, it is possible that much of our e-mail will have been lost in the meantime. If you have sent us NetMail and did not receive a reply, please contact us again.

**There were no letters to the editor received for publication this month.** If you have a response to any editorial, news item, or article appearing in **Cross-Talk**, please feel free to contribute. Virtually all letters received will be published, subject to editing only for clarity, spelling/punctuation, and brevity. You may write us at P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365; fax us at (818) 347-4190; or send e-mail to "Kymmer" at the Cross Connection BBS, (818) 841-8887. You may also send InterNet NetMail to "kymmer@xconn.com", accessible from CompuServe, America OnLine, or any InterNet-accessible BBS.



LOCALS STUNNED

FROM ATHENS, GREECE  
TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

SEATTLE

SAN FRANCISCO

With drag so popular nowadays, is it any wonder that real women are being mistaken for drag queens -- and loving it?

Singer Lonnie Gordon, whose single *Bad Mood* is on the top of the *Billboard* dance chart, all but expects to be mistaken for a drag queen.

"Don't get me wrong, I am **all** woman!" she said. "But when you get on stage, you've got to give 'em something larger than life. And you know I am giving the boys and girls **serious** drama: eyelashes for days, wild wigs, the works. And that's what drag performers do; they give you all the glamour you can eat. They take you to the outer limits of fantasy."

□□□

Helene Masiko -- who performs at AIDS benefits in Philadelphia as Zelda Wolfgang -- has the drag queen act down so well that a columnist in of the city's gay newspapers actually believed that "he" was the "ultimate drag queen ... a combo Peggy Bundy/diner waitress -- the epitome of white trash and tackiness."

Masiko called the newspaper to set the record straight (so to speak) because "my vagina was screaming for a retraction." She noted that she has a husband and kids, and, in fact, her husband shared the stage with her at a recent benefit as Elvis.

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Sometimes even an expert can be fooled, especially if she isn't wearing her glasses.

When Joan Jett Blakk, the Chicago drag queen who campaigned for president in 1992 on the Queer Nation ticket, was at the lesbian and gay March On Washington earlier this year, she was mobbed by adoring fans. Unfortunately, she didn't have her glasses on, and didn't recognize some of them who also happened to be quite famous.

"A lovely woman grabbed my arm and told me what a cool thing I was doing running for president. I was thinking, where do I know her from. I knew she looked familiar. So did the drag queen next to her in the turban."

Later, Joan learned that the woman was Mary Wilson, formerly of the Supremes, and the "drag queen" was Eartha Kitt!

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Joan has already said she will run for president in '96. But the recent emigre to San Francisco will fill her time in the next few months with a try for the Golden State governorship. It should be quite a race for during her 1992 White House bid she was visited by Democratic candidate Paul Tsongas who

bought some of her campaign buttons reading "Lick Bush in '92" for his daughters. She also made an appearance on the floor of the Democratic National Convention.

And as if her political aspirations aren't enough, she hopes to enliven the San Francisco scene with a talk show focusing on serious issues for the lesbian and gay community.

Watch for it. And watch for a documentary of her presidential campaign.

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And there is something else new in San Francisco, a new 'zine reporting on the local drag scene.

According to an editor, *Girlfriend* "shamelessly cashes in on today's drag queen mania and provides interviews, reviews, gossip, and an up-to-date look at the nightlife scene."

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It probably isn't surprising that real women are being mistaken for drag queens especially now that queens are giving the real girls beauty tips.

The October issue of *Elle* features beauty advice from two of New York's major drag queens -- Lady Bunny and Lahoma Van Zandt. And what tip did Lady B. impart to the G.G.s? How to turn a pimple into a beauty mark with liquid eyeliner.

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The confusion isn't being helped by fashion designers. At their spring ready-to-wear show in Milan in October, designers -- including Galliano -- put models in what one fashion commentator called "strumpet styles straight out of the red-light district." Or, as Ms. [redacted] sometimes feels, straight from a transvestite support group meeting.

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Then there are the women who shop in transvestite boutiques to get the real thing.

In October, Roseanne Arnold spent \$500 at Lydia's TV Fashions in Sherman Oaks, Calif. Among her purchases were a pair of silicone breast forms.

As Kym Richards notes, "What? They're not big enough already?"

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Of course the best endorsement of drag so far came when Washington, D.C. Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly proclaimed Sept. 15 "Miss Stonewall Pride and Stonewall Education Day" in the nation's capital.

The Miss Stonewall Pride pageant raises money to educate the lesbian and gay community that drag queens began the modern gay rights movement in 1969.

Mayor Kelly's act is believed to be the first time an elected official has ever endorsed a drag event.

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While Ms. [REDACTED] thinks this is significant, some of her readers evidently believe that the true measure of the acceptance of drag is the number of times a character on the cartoon show *The Simpsons* crossdresses. It seems that every male character on the show has either dressed up as a woman or fantasized about it.

This is about as important as Bugs Bunny impersonating Carmen Miranda. Interesting? Yes. Significant? Hardly, given that these are **cartoon** characters whose attraction lies in their ability to separate themselves from reality. Besides, as far as *The Simpsons* are concerned, we would expect that creator Matt Groening, who brought us the odd gay couple of Akbar and Jeff, would resort to drag from time to time.

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Of more significance, perhaps, is the appearance of crossdressing as a minor plot element in several new movies. It seems that screen writers have been smitten with *The Crying Game* bug. To wit ...

In *True Romance*, Christian Slater tells Patricia Arquette, "I can't tell you how relieved I was when you took off your dress. You didn't have a dick!" (Perhaps, faithful NewsQueen readers will think that Slater was confusing Arquette with her brother who is a drag queen.)

In *Striking Distance*, Sarah Jessica Parker asks Bruce Willis, "Are you really a man?"

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Speaking of movies, Ms. [REDACTED] may have omitted one from her recent catalog of new films featuring crossdressing. In a magazine from New Zealand she read about "a fascinating major movie that features crossdressing in a big way soon to be released around NZ. It is called *Just Like A Woman* and features *Educating Rita* star Julia Waters and a Tony Curtis look-alike who plays the major role of the crossdresser."

Anybody out there heard of this film?

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Capitalizing on the popularity of drag, Dakin Williams, the brother of playwright Tennessee Williams, portrayed Blanche DuBois in a Key West production of his brother's play *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

Williams wore a pink plaid dress, white long johns, two glistening strands of pearls and a curly blonde wig to portray the tragic heroine who depends "on the kindness of strangers."

Audience reaction was mixed; but Williams thinks his brother would have enjoyed his interpretation.

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As tyros move into drag, experienced hands are moving away from glamour.

Jim Bailey, whose has done impressions of everyone from Barbra Streisand to Patsy Kline, has a role in the San Francisco production of the play *Jeffrey*.

And as if that isn't enough, Charles Busch, who has become famous in New York for his movie diva mannerisms -- the grand Norma Desmond gestures, the Katherine Hepburn vocal tremolo -- is playing a raggedy domestic in a new, all male, production of Jean Genet's *The Maids*.

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But once bitten by the drag bug, it's hard to let go. Just ask Tim Curry, who 20 years ago founded a cult with his "sweet transvestite" in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

When producers of an episode of HBO's *Tales From the Crypt* asked Curry to play three roles, he turned them down because two of the parts were as women.

"I still get more attention for that part (in *Rocky Horror*) that I'd like," he said. "But I finally told myself, 'that was 20 years ago. Lighten up!'"

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Drag may play well in San Francisco, the District of Columbia, Key West, New York, and "televisionland" but it is still considered strange behavior in Iowa, so much so that a teaching assistant at the University of Iowa has received a letter of reprimand for failing to warn students before he showed them the drag queen documentary *Paris Is Burning*.

"The person was not reprimanded for showing the film, but for not complying with our expectations that students be warned about contents," a university spokeswoman said.


After viewing the film, most of the students said that the queens were persons of lower intelligence and that they all looked like men in dresses.

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Ms. [REDACTED] hastens to point out that not everyone in Iowa is dragophobic. For example, the Gay and Lesbian Resource Center in Des Moines serves the entire community of sexual minorities, including transgendered persons. But with this summer's Midwest floods, the center is asking for our help.

Before the flood, the five-year-old center received donations totaling \$4,000 a month. But the economic troubles brought on by the surging waters have cut the contributions by nearly two-thirds. The center itself was not damaged by the floods.

Readers who want to help keep the center alive and continue its services to Iowa's sexual minorities can write to Michael Current, Executive Director,



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□□□

Drag definitely doesn't play well in Sicily, where it often comes into conflict with **machismo**.

When Vincenzo Mandanici learned that his 33-year-old son Giuseppe was working the streets as a transvestite prostitute, he was so ashamed that he paid a local hit man the equivalent of \$700 to gun down his son as he plied his trade. After a month-long battle for his life, Giuseppe died and his father is charged with murder.

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Unfortunately, it isn't news when transgendered persons turn to prostitution. But there was news in Cleveland, Ohio, recently when police arrested a 12-year-old boy for prostitution.

Police said the boy had been soliciting male clients for four months before he was propositioned an undercover police officer. They said the boy told them that he believes he is a "woman trapped in a man's body," and that he had no other way to meet sex partners.

The boy's mother said he had been arrested before on curfew violations.

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The sad story from Cleveland may not have been surprising to *Time* magazine readers who in June read about a prostitution ring operating in Moscow using 11-year-old boys masquerading as young girls.

The article was accompanied by photos of the boys getting dressed and made up by their pimp and with their clients.

*Time* now admits that the whole thing was a hoax perpetrated on them by a freelance Russian photographer.

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We'll end this column on a lighter note, quoting two observations about the transgendered condition.

The first comes from Sister Paula, a transsexual television evangelist in the Northwest (we think Washington State):

"I was born with my mother's features and my father's fixtures."

And finally, Boy George on the double standards regarding androgyny:

"You see Prince, he's got heels on, he's got see-through polka dot panties, but he's got the guitar and somehow that makes him macho."

□□□

*Ms. [redacted] already has heels and panties (both polka dot and plain); so this year she is asking Santa to bring her a guitar. She also asks that you send clippings about crossdressing to her in care of Cross-Talk. Be sure to note the name and date of publication.*

**YOUR SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.** Write us at P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365, fax us at (818) 347-4190, or send InterNet NetMail to "kymmer@xconn.com".

Suzie's blue eyes got big as saucers.

"What?"

Jack couldn't keep a note of bashfulness from his voice. "Married. We could get married. If you wanted."

"Married! But—"

"You need a place to live and somebody to take care of you, and this way the neighbors couldn't talk."

"We're both—"

"Yeah, but who's gonna know?"

"H-how—I mean, I think you have to show a birth certificate."

"So maybe we won't get a license. I got a friend who would tie the knot anyway. He has a mail-order preacher's degree. He'd give us a real marriage certificate in case we need it."

Red-faced, Suzie looked down at the table, lashes hiding her thoughts.

"If I—if we—W-what would I have to do?"

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## THE MAKEUP MIRROR

### SPECIAL TRICKS FOR SPECIAL SITUATIONS

by Valerie [REDACTED]

Would you like to look ten to twenty years younger? Well, first of all you need to be at least 20 years old (!?!). ... but over 50 is a more ideal age to try for a look twenty years younger.

When applying eye makeup and rouge or blush, think of the word UP. Dark eyeshadow that extends beyond the eye, if not applied in an upward direction, will drag the eyes down and make them look tired and saggy. Blush should start halfway to the middle of your face and extend upward into the hairline above the ear. And just by arching the outer three-fourths of your eyebrows, you can create a perky, more youthful look.

But what if your skin is saggy and everything kind of droops? The old solution was by using surgical tape to create a kind of temporary "face lift". Now there's a quicker, easier to use version which accomplishes the same result. It's a band that pulls

your skin up and back, fitting neatly underneath your wig. The band only takes seconds to put on, although you can still use surgical tape and then use the band to lift the eyebrows and skin even more. These "face lift bands" come in five sizes; if you have trouble finding them where you live, contact me for more information.

Also, if your skin is droopy, chances are your lips are too. To change the downturned lines these lips create, simply line your upper lip a little fuller than usual and **don't** go all the way to the corners. Leave a fraction of an inch on both sides and drop the color sharply into the inside lip, rather than tapering thinner at the ends. Make sure the thickest part of the lower lip is in the center, and connect to the corners where the upper lip color ends. Fill in the "faked" lip line rather than the natural one.

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**Dear Val:** Most of the time, I go out to nightclubs with lots of neon and strobe lights. Since those are the only times I get out *en femme*, I want to look fabulous and glamorous, but my makeup seems to look too garish in the club lights. How can I figure out how to do my makeup so it looks best in that environment? And how much frost and glitter works in that light? -- Robyn, California

**Dear Robyn:** Party girls everywhere know how bad those black lights make us look. The further away you get from them, the better. But when it gets crowded, that's easier said than done. It will most likely be hot also, and water-based foundation running down your face really shows up. Hint: Use oil-based foundation.

Most clubs are very dark, so you can get by with using a bit more color than usual. And try false eyelashes! They're in style now and give your eyes an extra boost of glamour. Glitter can be used as an eyeliner or shadow as long as it's not overdone. Avoid shiny face powder -- you'll look too artificial.

Attract attention to your lips -- use bright colors with gloss to top it off. Lastly, after you arrive, forget about your makeup. Smile a lot and have a terrific time!

This will be my last regular column for **Cross-Talk**. I hope that over the past year, we've been able to give you some good basic makeup advice that you can use as a basis for experimentation to discover what works best for you.

I'll be back in 1994 with articles on skin care and wig care. Till then, have fun!

[Valerie [REDACTED] is a California licensed cosmetologist and owner of Hair To Wear Wigs in Torrance, Calif.]

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## MS. BINTHAR DUNDAT: TIPS ON PASSING

### TEMPER, TEMPER ...

by Lynette [REDACTED]

So you want to get angry, but you're not sure how to do it in a "ladylike" manner. Hot heads and spitfires always get respect. Wouldn't you prefer to be seen as a torrid time-bomb instead of a timid mouse?

**TIP 1.** First, learn just how to get angry. Hand to hand combat is out; you're just not built for it. It's demeaning, dangerous and leaves fingerprints or at the least nail marks. Fortunately, you as a female can employ a number of other harmless but effective devices:

**Pourables.** These include anything that comes in a glass, cup or bowl and are excellent when applied over the head or down the leg.

**Tossables.** These include all tupperware items, especially plastic salt shakers, but definitely does not include the iron (and anyhow you'll probably need that to iron your skirt later ... and also, they don't take too well to flying).

**Flyables.** When thrown, these items should glide through the air in a graceful arc and crash resoundingly against the opposite wall. Most common flyables are plates or shoes (make sure you take them off first, of course) and, in extreme emergencies, plastic chairs, but beware: These are most unpredictable when they bounce. (I had a window to repair last time.)

Finally, **Freeform Fanaticism.** Here you use only your body. Pound your fist on the table so that you frighten the tripe out of everybody (make sure that there is something on the table that will bounce high for special effect), stamp your foot and storm out!

**TIP 2.** Next you have to learn where to get angry. Do you want to cause a scene? Of course! Great outbursts are most impressive in front of an audience. Witnesses will talk about you for weeks if you do it effectively. Luckily, today's environment offers many opportunities:

**At a party.** Wait until after you've eaten. No sense on missing out on the goodies.

**At a restaurant.** The other patrons will be impressed, since only important people fight in restaurants, especially if you do it standing in your stockinged feet on the table top and after an important event like the Melbourne Cup.

**On the telephone.** Private, yes! ... but very effective since you don't have to distort your face muscles while you're carrying on, and you can follow your favorite soap while giving a great performance of your own. But remember, always be the first to slam down the phone.

You may also like to be creative and try on the street, in the kitchen, in front of friends houses, in the car, in a large department store or at the movies.

**TIP 3.** Finally, you must learn when to get angry. Any reason is a good excuse especially if someone restricts your dressing. But how angry? Fortunately it is an exact science and this dilemma is easily solved by looking at the following list:

**Annoyance.** The least virulent form. Hiding your bra, using your last pair of pantyhose, wearing your clothes, etc.

**Pique.** One step up. Not noticing your new hairstyle, suggesting you may need a teeny weeny diet.

**High Dungeon.** Signified by raised eyebrows, storming from the room, and, if you're feeling particularly adventurous, foaming at the mouth. (This stage is actually in-between Irritation and being In A Huff).

**Rage.** Far less subtle than High Dungeon. A proper response to pinching your makeup through to throwing out your first dress.

**Towering Rage.** Much more serious, and reserved for unpardonable behavior such as unveiled criticism ... especially about how you present as a woman.

**Paroxysm.** To be used only in emergencies since it's exhausting. Involves bulging eyes, rolling on the floor, and speaking in tongues. Called for as a response to idiotic behavior (calling you "he" when your out in public), sadistic behavior (laughing at your attempts to walk in your new heels) and lying (telling you you'll pass when knowing quite damn well you won't!)

Well girls, if you want to have a temper tantrum, at least now you've got a guide on how to pass while doing it.

*[This marks the final column in the Ms. Bintahar Dundat series. We will feature some additional articles by Lynette Tavener in future issues of Cross-Talk.]*

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## INADVERTENTLY "MARKING" YOURSELF

by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

There was an article by Deborah Tannen in the June 20, 1993 *New York Times Magazine*. In it Dr. Tannen used the term "marked". Let me use Dr. Tannen's own words to define it: "The term 'marked' is a staple of linguistic theory. It refers to the way language alters the base meaning of a word by adding [something to it] that has no meaning on its own. The unmarked form of a word carries the meaning that goes without saying -- what you think of when you are not thinking of anything special. The unmarked tense of verbs in English is the present -- for example, visit. To indicate past, you mark the verb by adding *ed* to yield visited."

Dr. Tannen then extends this concept to clothing. She observes that there are fundamental clothing styles for men and women and they are different. She comments that most styles of clothing worn by women are marked, that is their attire differentiates them from the "basic woman". Interestingly, though, women can be marked by not wearing makeup, etc. for in our culture the "basic woman" is expected to do so! Men, on the other hand, do not wear clothing that is intended to differentiate them from other men. Granted, there are different styles of clothing for men, formal, informal, etc. but in a given setting most men dress in the traditional form. The time a man's style of dress would be marked is when it is inappropriate for the setting, for example wearing casual clothes to a formal dance.

Dr. Tannen also wrote, "Men can choose styles that

are marked, but they don't have to ... unlike women they have this option." Marking includes hair styles, beards, etc. as well as clothing. In sum, marking is the way in which an integrated appearance provides non-verbal clues about the wearer. "Enough!" you say, "what does this have to do with crossdressing?" Women, because they have

a wide variety of styles from which to choose and which can fit a variety of occasions, learn, subconsciously, how to put together a style that fits, both for her and for the situation. Men don't often get that kind of training. So, when a man crossdresses he may not have the skills to make the pieces of clothing, makeup, etc. seem to be a coordinated whole. He is dressing for the sensuality of the clothing, not the social effect they have. Thus, crossdressers in public may be "read" because their outfit is inappropriately marked for the situation.

Wives and partners can be of help here because they instinctively know what works. Sometimes the result, while "socially correct" may not be pleasing to him because it does not contain all the elements of sensuality he desires. For example, jeans, running shoes and a casual blouse may be appropriate but he would rather wear a miniskirt, black

stockings and 4" heels.

For the crossdresser who chooses never to go out in public, the concept of marking has little use. However, for those who do, it seems useful because it is a way of having a check list.

**When a man crossdresses, he may not have the skills to make the clothing, makeup, etc. seem to be a coordinated "whole". Thus, he may be "read" because the outfit is inappropriately "marked" for the occasion.**

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



## SELF-VALIDATION AS AN ACCEPTANCE TECHNIQUE

by Linda Peacock

I recently had the opportunity to visit a small bookstore in Asheville, N.C., which is run by two lesbian businesswomen. I was astounded at the enormous selection of books by, for and about women; yet, the section on lesbianism was really rather small in comparison to their entire stock. I felt as though I had walked into a fantasy land of validation of my personal womanhood and worth.

I bounded from shelf to shelf, getting more excited with each book I picked up. Some books were written for women escaping the bondage of abusive partners, or alcoholism, or lack of self-value. Although these did not apply to me, they all had the same message -- you, **woman**, are a valued creature, a special individual, with inner strength, spiritual fire within, and **woman**, you have so much to give. Other books said the same thing. Truly, I came out of that bookstore feeling rejuvenated, excited at being a woman, feeling unique and special because I am a woman.

It was as though my womanhood had taken a well-earned vacation. One of the books I purchased was a book of thoughts and poetry by June W. Read, Ph.D.

It is called, *Relationships: One Step On The Path*, and it has been a blessing to read. Her introduction tells us that life is a

journey, and relationships may be seen as one part of the path. She offers her work as support and guidance as we travel.

She begins with words to the male partner, "Do not try to change her. Let her change herself -- as you find your own paths separately and together." I believe that she is telling the man that he cannot change his woman to suit his needs and desires. He needs to let his partner find herself, change herself, if that is what she wishes to do, and that he needs to understand that she has her own path in life, separate from their path together -- just as he has such a separate path apart from their joint path.

He needs to understand that she must live her own life, finding her self-worth, her usefulness in life, for herself first. She cannot simply live life as **his wife**, or **his partner**. She needs to maintain her independence of self and soul. Dr. Read later writes to the woman partner, "Accept him as he is.

Rejoice in his uniqueness, as well as your own." She is telling the woman that she, too, cannot change the man he is, that only he can do that, and she urges the woman to understand this, and rejoice in his uniqueness. At the same time, she reinforces the woman's uniqueness.

As a wife of a gender gifted man, I find Dr. Read's statements to be amazingly true. Possibly the most difficult thing the wife or partner of such a man finds is that it is **she** who must change, **she** who must do the accepting of the man, because he is not going to change, he can't change, for these unusual inner needs to dress as a woman are not going to go away.

The wife/partner may truly see all her expectations, all that she has thought her husband

to be, washed away when the reality of his dressing comes to light. She will experience grief at the loss of her expectations or her preconceived images of her man.

So often, we see what we want to see, rather than what is really there. We create images of what we want or believe should be, rather than look deeply into the other person's heart, and see the real person who lives in there. Our created images blind us to the reality of our partner's being, and as such, we can't accept

what is, denying its existence, and then blaming our partner for not being the person we expected him to be. We fail to see that the blame we so hastily place on him for being what we would rather he not be, is a blame he does not deserve.

He cannot help his feelings, his need to express this feminine side he has. It has been there since earliest childhood, often denied, often purged, only to relentlessly come back to haunt him with guilt, frustration and intense pain. A friend of mine from my support group recently wrote me, "I just hope that the outward manifestations of my pain haven't done irreparable damage to our relationship. I know there have been lots of times when salvaging our relationship just hasn't been worth the pain and suffering for her." This man has never dressed in front of his wife; in fact, as far as I know, he has not dressed since telling her. Yet the simple knowledge that this man is not what she had

Possibly the most difficult thing a wife or partner finds is that **she** must change, because he can't.

expected him to be has blinded her to his reality -- he is a crossdresser -- and she has blamed him for bringing intense pain to her. He simply wasn't the man she thought she married, and that is his fault, in her eyes. So lost in her loss, she is unable to see beyond her pain -- to his pain.

She has become trapped by unrealistic expectations that because she is hurt, he will be able to abandon his gender-gifts and "make it all right again."

Dr. Read also writes, "Uncover your partner gently, slowly, patiently, for much of the interior is vulnerable and scared." My friend's wife hasn't been able to see his vulnerability or fear, or the intensity of the pain he feels, for he is being forced into denying someone he is, and he is so guilty at causing her pain and grief.

She writes, "Don't short change your partner by not giving a chance to understand you. Don't assume you won't be understood and so not share yourself, your ideas or your feelings."

In this, I think she is saying that in an intimate relationship, we each need to put aside the fears, and expose all that we are to our partner, without fear of retribution. My friend, in his attempts to do this, thought his wife needed to know about this other side of him, he trusted her, his dearest friend, and now, in his eyes, she has destroyed his attempts to share all he was with her.

Are there answers for my friend and his wife, and for you and your partner? I think there are, but it will be a painful process -- one in which you, as the woman, will have to change, be the one who will accept and/or tolerate. We need to be sure we don't overlook the good things in our relationship, not be too realistic or demanding.

"We must look inward for our answers, trusting in ourselves." If we are truly sure of our own self-worth, know who we are as persons and as women, then we have the capacity, in spite of the pain, to accept our men as they are. We should be willing to stand up for our rights; yet, we need to understand that he has rights, and special needs, too. We need to learn compromise, compassion, a nudge of understanding. We need to remember that the man in a dress is still the man we married

who wore pants. His outer clothing only covers the body; the soul is still the same, the inner person doesn't change just because it is wearing a dress, anymore than our inner person changes when we wear slacks.

If we value our relationship with this man, despite the hardship of his gender-gifts, we will take the initiative to make it work, even though we know we, the woman, will be doing the changing, the accepting. If the relationship cannot withstand the gender-gifts, perhaps you should continue your separate journey to know self, through counseling, and be willing to make decisions about the rest of your life, and his life, too.

The most important thing, in my mind, is that you do not lose yourself in all of this, that you will continue your growth as a woman, continue your private journey through life.

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

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## THE BEARDED LADY

### A CROSSDRESSING CHRISTMAS TALE

by Ricky

Illustration by Rita

'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the house ...

Wait a minute, I think someone has already used that line. Darn, why can't I think of things like that first?

But anyway, it really was the night before Christmas and the only difference between me and a little kid was about 35 years. I was restless, couldn't sleep, couldn't read, couldn't even watch the tube for more than a few minutes at a time. My wife was planning something special for Christmas; I could tell by the little hints and secret grins she gave me. She was fast asleep (it had been years since she waited up to try and see Santa), and I was feeling rather foolish to be up so late, visions of sugar plums or not.

I was still prowling around the living room, rearranging the decorations for the umpteenth time, when I heard a noise on the roof. Right, a noise on the roof. "I must be going bonkers," I thought to myself. "Next thing I know I'll hear the sound of hoofs. Maybe I'd better get a larger girdle next time; the pressure must be affecting my brain." But it did sound like hoofs, and next thing I knew there was a commotion in the chimney and, as I turned to look, a pair of legs appeared, complete with 3" red high heels, white patterned stockings, and pretty red and green garters with matching bikini panties. The legs began to shake and were soon modestly covered with a red fur skirt -- edged in white of course -- and before my unbelieving eyes the rest of Santa popped out of the ashes and stood before me on the hearth.

Somehow the long white hair had survived the trip down the chimney without a trace of soot, and was exquisite lying on the red fur of the jacket. The bushy eyebrows had been plucked and the long eyelashes were simply astounding. Naturally the lips were a bright cherry red, but the ample breasts, even when compared with that famous tummy full of jelly, were a bit of a surprise. What was completely unexpected, though, was Santa without his trademark beard. Not only that, but not even a beard shadow. I was jealous, and I knew right then and there what I wanted for Christmas, and I was not thinking about my two front teeth.

I don't know why, but finding Santa was a crossdresser didn't bother me for a moment. In fact, it seemed almost logical. There are no nosy neighbors at the North Pole, and you can keep the curtains open or take a walk in the neighborhood without fear of being seen. What with working only one day a year, there is ample time to dress up

whenever you feel like it, and the elves are another species; they could care less what we crazy humans do in our spare time. What other job would allow you to roam the world in perfect security? You could go to work naked as a jaybird (if you could stand the cold air in the sleigh), because no one would ever see you up close. If you were spotted from the ground no one would be able to tell what you were wearing, and we all know pilots have long since stopped reporting UFOs because no one believes the reports anyway. The reindeer can't



talk, and Mrs. Santa either didn't know or didn't care. After all, it would be no trouble to fit a change of clothes into the toybag and let Rudolph take the helm for a few minutes while you were changing. Other than hitting an air pocket while applying makeup, the job was simplicity itself.

Santa began to smooth her skirt and I emerged from my reverie and remembered I was the host here and offered Santa the traditional milk and cookies. Hefting the pack of gifts over her shoulder, Santa followed me into the kitchen, where we talked for what seemed like hours. The same magic that hid the beard shadow evidently worked on clocks too, as the hand of the clock over the stove never moved the whole time we talked.

You wouldn't believe the things I learned that night. I found that there wasn't a Mrs. Santa, the rumors came from a time when Santa had been spotted by an unexpected Arctic exploration team and what was there to do but carry it off as best she could? Santa told me that she missed being able to shop for clothes, but with a factory full of the



world's greatest artisans on the premises, having something new to wear was never a problem. She had even attended some crossdressers' meetings in various cities ... at least those in suburban areas where there was enough parking for the sleigh and reindeer. The hardest part in attending meetings was controlling her "HO-HO-HO" and making it a demure girlish giggle when someone complimented her on the lifelike wig, or commented on the choice of "Sandy Klaus" as a *femme* name.

At last I could contain the question no longer, and had to ask why he had chosen to visit me this night. He said that each year he chose one special letter from the mail for personal attention, and this year my very supportive wife had written one he absolutely had to answer. She had told her that with the budget so tight, I had not been able to indulge my passion for exotic clothing in some time, and she had begged Santa to supply the outfit of my dreams. From the pack Santa drew the blue Victorian corset I had been dreaming of, with matching panties and stockings. Then out came a spectacular Victorian dress, with layer on layer of ruffles. Since the corset laced from the back Santa kindly offered to help as she modestly turned her back while I put it on. With her magic working at full force she awoke my wife, who was soon standing at the kitchen door holding my best breast inserts and the necessary padding for my hips. Together Santa and my wife dressed me ... and with the bustle and hoop skirts, help was necessary.

All too soon it was time for Santa to go, and I stood

holding my wife as the sleigh faded in the distance. As I waved goodbye with my new lace handkerchief I could hear the rustle of my skirts as I moved. How else could this tale end but by saying "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night"?

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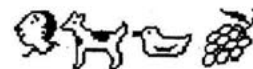
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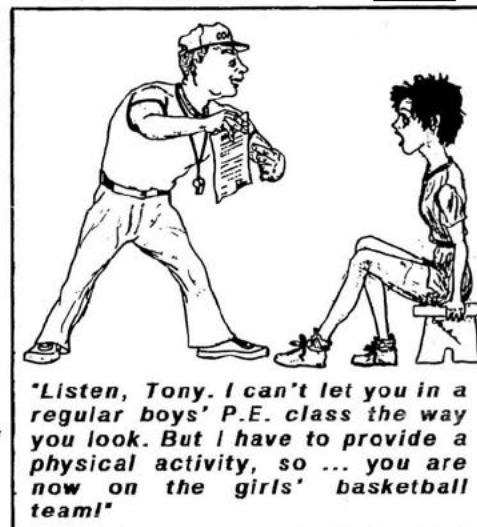
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## VIRGIN VIEWS BY VIRGINIA

### MEN ARE BASICALLY INSECURE

by Virginia Prince, Ph.D.

Some time ago when I was searching for a word to replace femininity, which no one seems to be able to adequately define, but which everyone uses just as though they knew what it meant, I came up with the word **nurturance**. This term encapsulates all the qualities which one attributes to women. That search and result naturally led to the question, "What word really incorporates masculinity equally well?"

I decided that for men there was not just one word but two and they are **insecurity** and **aggressiveness**. This is not surprising when you consider all the activities that males must perform in the reproductive process.

In the first place he must contend with other males for selection by a female. It is one of the human males's conceits that he thinks that male animals and humans fight over the females or access to females as it is sometimes referred to. Actually, the rule in the animal world is that of female choice, that is the female, selects, which male she will mate with. She has to be choosy because (1) she has relatively few eggs to use during her reproductive life and (2) she has a much larger investment in her eggs and has to make each one count. Therefore she wants to mate with the best male to insure that

most of her genes will be perpetuated. Human males don't like to give that much importance to females, so they make out that the males are fighting to see which male gets to mate with the female. Actually she is letting them fight it out on the theory that the best male will win and he is the one that will make the best father for her offspring.

Then there is the reproductive act itself in which the male must take the lead in getting the female into a receptive mood and a receptive position. Once copulation begins he is in the controlling position and enforces his will on her even if she is willing. So this is aggression too. So much for aggression. It is part and parcel of the male psyche whether animal or human. If it were not the species would have died out long since.

So what about insecurity? If a male can't make a good enough impression on a female for her to select him as her mate he is just left out of the

sexual sweepstakes. In fact, in many mammalian species there are a lot of males who never get the chance to breed at all and there are bands of such single males lurking around the edges of the group. As I indicated above, humans, being thinking creatures, can alter their behavior and if there were situations in which the number of eligible females was much smaller than the number of available males the males would craft a solution of their own and that would be homosexuality. It is well known that in such situations such as in prisons, armies, etc. that males turn to each other for

sexual relief. But the penis is so much a part of the male's self-image that to be impotent is about the most destructive thing that can happen to a man. He is, in effect a nobody. He can't carry out his role with females and his awareness of his inability to be an effective male eats on his self respect, pride and confidence.

Interestingly enough, no man can control penile behavior. A wise man once said, "A man cannot look down and command his flesh to rise". Others have said that "the penis has a mind of its own." Both statements say that a man cannot really control his own sexual destiny. Therefore no man can be certain that he will be able to perform tonight as he did

several days ago. This uncertainty is the root cause of male insecurity. He knows what society -- and particularly females -- expect of him sexually and if he cannot perform he is as good as dead socially. This is why impotence in a male is such a devastating problem.

Females don't have any similar problem. They may be sterile and thus unable to conceive, but while this may be very disturbing to both the male and female who want a child, it is not a visible infirmity and in any case is not evident until several months have passed and she has not gotten pregnant in spite of successful matings. Females can worry about whether they are pretty enough or socially desirable enough but never about sexual performance. There is the expression about the "ever ready vagina." That is, it doesn't have to do anything except receive the penis and about the only physiological condition that can interfere with

**Males make out  
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the best father.**



that is the condition known as "vaginismus" wherein the vaginal walls are constricted and refuse to relax enough to permit penile penetration. Of course there are cases of psychological frigidity wherein the female has such a low opinion of herself that she can't let herself go enough to permit and enjoy intercourse but nevertheless such a person could still be subjected to rape.

So aggressiveness and insecurity are as much a part of the male psyche as nurturance is of the female makeup. However, the latter is honored and approved of while the former is not. So one of the payoffs to crossdressing is escape from those masculine expectations which are no problem to non-thinking animal males but which do concern human, thinking males. If you can think about your own biological characteristics but, being a somewhat idealistic person, do not admire them in yourself what can you do about it?

Attempting to deny them or control them may not be easy so there is another solution and that is to simply leave them behind. Take a vacation from them. Isn't that what we do when we crossdress and thereby cross the gender line into a way of being where aggressiveness is neither expected or approved of and where masculine insecurity simply cannot exist? Think a bit about what your *femmeself* has that your *boyself* does not have and then the reverse. What is there about your *boyself* that is not about your *femmeself*?

I think that once you answer that last question, you will find the ideas put forth in this article make sense.

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Thank you for your participation. Mail the completed survey to *Cross-Talk*, P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365.

## THE WHITE CHRISTMAS

by Phyllis Randolph Frye

**D**ecember of 1977 was a bleak month for my spouse and me. I had been unemployed for nineteen months since I was last fired for being "a dress wearing freak". Her job wasn't generating what we needed because during the time that we were both employed, we had accumulated much debt. (Several years later, her profession enjoyed a substantial pay raise, but that was later.) We had used all of the savings while trying to learn how to downgrade our standard of living.

**We felt very alone because neither of our families would have anything to do with us.**

To make it worse, I had been unable to get unemployment compensation. My last employer did not fight it, but I had a homophobic Texas Employment Commission referee who chose to write up my interview in such a way that I was blocked from benefits. (We eventually won and got the benefits, but that was later, too.)

We felt very alone because neither of our families would have anything to do with us. (Her mom eventually came around and became a great ally, but yes, that was later.)

The fight to change the ordinance was not making much headway. At the time Houston had a crossdressing ordinance. I'd already been lobbying against it for about a year. Every day, I never knew if I'd be arrested. Every day, my spouse never knew when she left for work if I'd make it home from job hunting, lobbying and such. (The ordinance was overturned in 1980, but -- of course -- that was later.)

Christmas was going to be meager. We had shoes, but they were not winter shoes. We had some warm clothes, but they were a bit tattered. It was depressing as hell.

About the only things we did have were each other, our faith in God and our church family. Even though she and I loved each other (and still do) and were best friends (and still are) those years of hardship bonded us together. We felt that our faith was being tested, much as in the story of Job, but no matter how bad it got we always tithed (and still do) 10% of our gross. Our church family helped to keep the loneliness and the isolation at bay. We were with the Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection and we sang in the choir. (Today when I sing the Hallelujah Chorus, I get it all mixed up. In junior high, I memorized it as a tenor and in college I learned the bass line. There at MCCR I sang soprano and in later years I did the alto line. Now when I hear it I just kind of sing it all.)

Each year at MCCR, as in most other churches, they have a White Christmas offering where people bring canned and non-perishable goods each Sunday in December, wrapped in white paper, and place them at the altar. The poor families are given this the day before Christmas.

As I sit here keypunching this out, I am starting to cry again, because they brought the food to us. We were the White Christmas family that year. It was really quite wonderful. We separated the eight boxes of food into category and took out ten percent. We then went to another transgendered person who had been living on the street because she'd also lost her job and gave it to her. We three cried a lot. With the money we saved from not having to buy food for several weeks, we bought some warm shoes and each a warmer coat.

As you all know, my spouse and I did survive and now are prosperous. The other transgendered person I referred to was an engineering graphics designer. She got a job several months later washing cars. Eventually, she made it back and got rehired in her previous profession.

I shall never forget.

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Back issues of *Cross-Talk* are now available. See page 23 for information.

## SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTIONS AND TG BEHAVIOR

by Lynn [REDACTED]

After a panel entitled "Transgender Costuming" at the recent World Science Fiction Convention in San Francisco, a group of us found ourselves out in the hall continuing the discussion. It didn't take us long to recognize that we were all some shade of TV/TG/TS, and this led me to write this article about transgender and S/F. Science fiction, as a literary genre, has long explored the issue of gender and sexuality. *Steel Beach* by John Varley, one of the books nominated recently for S/F's highest award, featured a protagonist in a future society in which changing your sex was about as difficult as having your car repainted; simple, but you wouldn't do it every day. In *I Will Fear No Evil* by Robert Heinlein, the dean of American S/F writers, an old man's brain is transplanted into the body of a young, brain dead woman. One semi-underground fanzine-based subgenre in the S/F field, called "slash", which witnessed an overflow audience at its WorldCon panel, focuses on stories of homosexual relationships between, for example, Captain Kirk and Mr. Spock. (Curiously enough, slash is written predominantly by, and for, straight women.)

Partially in reflection of all this, S/F fandom has a long standing tradition of tolerance of gender and sexual diversity within its ranks. The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, the world's oldest and largest such organization, includes many "out" gays as well as TV/TG and pre- and post-op TS members. Combining these factors with fannish interests in costuming and role playing, a typical science fiction convention, on the local or national level, offers a number of comfortable, safe and inexpensive opportunities for the expression and exploration of transgendered interests.

A typical S/F "con" consists of a number of events and activities, generally organized over a three to five day period, with different program tracks running at the same time. This programming traditionally includes panels on various aspects of science fiction and fantasy as well as current developments of interest in various fields ranging from science to new fabrics for costumes (the recent WorldCon had a terrific presentation on the DC-X, the single stage earth to orbit rocket). Panels generally consist of writers and/or experts in the subject as well as fan (the S/F world's plural of fan), and include a generous Q&A period.

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The aforementioned transgender costuming panel, attended by about 50 congoers, included three women who normally costume as men and two men who costume as women. These costumes, by the way, may range from space fantasies (*Barbarella*) to current media related ones (*MST 3K's* Tom Servo) to medieval costuming (there's a great degree of overlap between S/F and the Society for Creative Anachronism.) S/F cons also have a longstanding tradition of what are called "hall costumes" that people wear just for fun literally in the halls during the convention.

Cons also include a dealer's room, always known as the "huckster's room", wherein you can buy anything from a first edition Jules Verne to a suit of chain mail to the ever popular Vulcan ears. The major event of the con for many people is the Masquerade which generally occurs on a Saturday night. This is specifically a costumers' event and

Science fiction, as a literary genre, has long explored the issue of gender and sexuality.

some fabulous work, as well as humorous pieces are modeled on stage and awards are given for various categories—one of the funniest I've ever seen was "Bjorn Borg", a *Star Trek: The Next Generation* character with a twirling tennis racket built into the wrist.

Gaming rooms, art shows and an accompanying art auction, ice cream socials, costume displays and workshops, computer tech demos, continuous S/F movies, Regency dancing (!), "Tilk singing" (folk singing on S/F themes), Japanimation festivals and a multiplicity of room parties round out the typical con.

There are a few "professional" cons, generally focused on *Star Trek*, but these are roundly despised by most of the S/F community because of their owner's intensely mercenary and exploitive attitudes.

Next year's World S/F Convention will be held in Winnipeg and the year after that in Glasgow, Scotland with a subsidiary North American convention in Atlanta, Georgia. A delightful fictional look at the world of an S/F con is found in Sharyn McCrumb's *Bimbos of the Death Sun*, a paperback murder mystery set at a typical S/F con.

[Lynn [REDACTED] is a member of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, which hosts the area's yearly convention, including all of the events described above.]



## GENDER EXPRESSIONISM

by Billie Jean

Without a doubt I am a biological male, father of two, and a person who selects and presents gender attributes from and to the culture-at-large. I am comfortable with my biological structures. I am also comfortable when I guise some of my physical self to pierce the veil of gender separation that artificial separation of people into opposing pairs sometimes called male and female, which we recognize by our cultural rules of femininity and masculinity.

While male and female may represent the

### Why aren't males who crossdress considered as expressing an aspect of masculinity?

extremes of biological sex differentiation, they are but two classifications. In the middle, we can find the true hermaphrodite, and in each direction close to this middle area, we can find a variety of psuedohermaphrodites, and branching further from the middle, we can find the majority of people who are not classified as ambiguously sexed, but may have blurred distinctions of one degree or another.

And so it is with gender. One can find a variety of so-called males and females that express gender attributes opposite of their biological classification, as well as a great variety of intentional and unintentional gender-blending/bending.

Okay, so that's the gobbledy-gook. So, what's the point? Allow me to spread a little more stuff on this cracker and we'll get there -- maybe.

Often I hear gender alternative persons say, "I'm expressing my femininity", or "... my masculinity". As if a female who "transgenders" herself has to be expressing "masculinity", and a male has to be expressing "femininity". Who made these rules?

Perhaps more importantly, who enforces these rules?

In virtually every social group incidence that I have involved myself with crossdressing/gendering males, I find I'm expected to go along with the program of "Expressing Femininity". There seems to be an almost reverent (although spiritually bereft) attitude of conformity to stereotypical imagery -- trading one rigid set of rules for another. And guess what? The people involved in enforcing these definitions are basically white males, some of whom decry the "loss of femininity" as practiced by females who wear pants, flats, and minimum makeup. Would they be of the same stock as those white males who first imprisoned females and males with gender specific rules?

Why aren't males who crossdress considered as expressing an aspect of masculinity? (Hey look, here's the point!)

Why do some people encourage me to sit on an icky toilet seat with my feet "pointing the right way" when I can stand and pee free?

If females feel okay about expressing themselves in traditional masculine ways, garb, deportment and activities, while defining it as "feminist", why don't males?

What right does a male have to define "femininity", anyway?

It all seems like B.S. to me.

Oh, don't get me wrong, I have a great time in the woman's world of Genderland. Oh yes indeed, I do. Crossing that artificial barrier between boys and girls that was denied me as a child, I have reclaimed something lost in childhood: the experience of playing with forbidden fruits. What a sham it is to deny children the experience of learning. I can rejoice in the fact I have kicked open a door with my spiked heel and danced in the light of day, in the light of night with skirts flaring

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around stockinged legs as I twirl and giggle. When I express myself, I am me. When I am happy expressing myself, I am realizing my potential; when I deny my potential, I am irritated. My potential is to be all I can be, which includes a dynamic interaction of complementary forces some would describe as masculine and feminine. Sometimes I present myself as a combination, sometimes as a man, sometimes as a woman.

A couple of transsexed people have said that in order to be a woman one must have a vagina. Many female women have said that in order to be a woman one must menstruate and experienced childbirth. There are millions of sterile women, many of whom do not menstruate, who would disagree. There may be millions of woman worldwide who have male chromosomes. But they have always lived as girls and women. There may be as many men who have female chromosomes. So, there are no definitive definitions, but there does exist the right to expand the definitions.

Last week I wore hose, heels, panties, a garter belt and sheer robe with a week's worth of stubble on my face while I did my taxes. I was expressing my masculinity, see?

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**#44 (June '93)** features JoAnn Roberts' speech on gender roles and civil rights, why attitude is important when out in public, a comparison of masculine vs. feminine traits, the dangers of peer pressure, and warnings to "wanna-be" TSs.

### CROSS-TALK



### CROSS-TALK



**#45 (July '93)** contains Kymberleigh Richards' insights on living three years as a TG, reasons why "open" groups are vital to the community, why there's no "cure" for crossdressing, how to handle telling a spouse.

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## PREPARATION

by Joan Fry

**W**e have, in past issues of **Cross-Talk**, discussed attitude and being prepared as two important factors in "going public". Now I think we should discuss preparation.

The day you decide to dress and go out is **not** the time to start preparing yourself to get ready. To dress properly you must perform some tasks every day. It is like brushing your teeth; preparation must become habit. Anyone who has lived with a female knows there are certain things that she does on a daily basis, some every other day, and other things as needed.

Actually one little task should be done several times a day, and that is putting cream on your hands, arms and elbows. I also put a few drops on my eyebrows and ear lobes when I do my hands. I carry cream in my brief case and in my car. I always have it available. Even when you are **not** wearing makeup you should use a cleansing cream and moisturizing cream on your face every day. **Never**

but once you have them in shape it only takes a few minutes a day to keep the nails in beautiful condition. I have spent plenty of money on manicures, false nails, acrylics and everything else you can think of for your nails, and decided about two years ago simply to take care of my own. You can wear long nails as a man if you keep them neat and well shaped. You let about 1/4" to 3/8" of the white tip grow out and keep them at that length; no one will say anything to you. I have been wearing my nails that long for two years and have received several complements.

It is important to file your nails -- never cut them. Besides the Diamond Deb nail files, the beauty supply houses carry large black emery boards which are great for shaping the nail for about 50 cents. There is another item I dearly love: It is a heart-shaped emery board with four grades of emery. The violet is coarse, orange is less coarse, the pink is fairly fine and the yellow is for polishing.

**The day you decide to dress and go out is *not* the time to start preparing yourself to get ready. You must perform some tasks every day.**

use soap on your face; it contains wax and closes the pores. The way I do it is to use cleansing cream in place of shaving cream and soap. It will make your skin really soft. Prior to bed I use the moisturizing cream again. All you need in the morning is cold water on your face. Do not be afraid to rub; it is good for the complexion. In a month your facial skin will be soft to the touch.

Cream should also be used daily on your legs, especially the knees, and definitely on your feet. This will save you many pairs of stockings over the years. I have very dry flaky skin so it takes extra care. I rub the rough parts of my feet with a pumice stone especially before I put on hose. The stone will keep all of the rough skin smooth. In Florida, where I lived until recently, you run around barefoot quite a bit and develop calluses on the bottom of your feet. You can purchase Diamond Deb nail files at most beauty supply houses for \$4.00. There are many different degrees of coarseness you can purchase. The large very coarse file is great for rubbing off the calluses. A couple of daily rubs will keep the calluses from developing again. The files will last a lifetime. You may want to get several degrees of coarseness when buying your files, as you will find each is good for different purposes.

Proper care of your fingernails is also a daily task,

These hearts can be purchased at the drug store for \$1.50. Use the heart for your daily touch-up, and keep your nails smooth.

As the nail grows out, use the pink to clean and smooth the top of the nail. Use the violet or orange to shape it. The color will be determined by the amount of shaping you have to do. Use the yellow to make the top very smooth, ready for another coat of colorless nail polish. You can find bargain colorless for 59 cents in most drug stores. I find the inexpensive works as well as the \$3.00 per bottle polish.

Once you get your nails in the shape and condition you like, it becomes very easy to take care of them. The two keys to not breaking nails are: (1) Run the fine part of the emery heart over each nail daily. This will get rid of the snags; and (2) Keep colorless nail polish on the nails at all times. I recommend at least two coats for strength. For those that worry about what people will say about good looking nails, don't worry about it. My secretary was the only one that ever said anything and I just told her my wife was taking manicuring at adult education and practiced on me; nothing was ever said again. I have been wearing polish for at least two years. Several ladies have told me how good looking my nails are; they all showed me their beat up nails that have not been taken care of.



If you keep your nails in good condition, you will always be ready to put on colored nail polish when you dress. I have stuck to one color that can be worn with any outfit. I also use the matching lipstick. This cuts way down on the amount of inventory you need to maintain.

A major part of preparation is facial and body hair. Some girls I have seen wearing short wigs have had neck hair growing. This would not be too bad except ... it was the wrong color! Be sure your neck hair is cut shorter than the wig you are wearing. Another giveaway is the hair growing out of your ears. As you get older it gets more prominent and is a dead giveaway. Also, nasal hair. The best way to care for this is with cuticle scissors using your big eyes 5X power magnifying mirror, which can be purchased at most large drug chains for \$13.00 (It is a godsend). While you are checking the nasal hair check your eyebrows. You do not have to remove them completely, but they should be shaped and there should be a pretty good distance between them. The mirror will allow you to remove the unwanted eyebrows before they are visible to the naked eye.

If you do this on a gradual basis no one will ever know. I have been plucking mine for several years and absolutely no one has ever noticed ... and I have mine pretty well thinned out. Using the

magnifying mirror you will find you have hairs growing on each outside part of your eyes. Pluck these right out; they look awful and you will never miss them.

If I'm just going out for the night I shave very close with the cleansing cream, but if I'm going to be dressed for a few days to two weeks, I pluck the muzzle of my face. At first it does hurt, but each time you do it the whiskers are thinner and pop out easier. Several years ago I had six months of electrolysis which did absolutely nothing for me. Plucking is the same thing without the electric shock. Plucking is also free. You can do it at your leisure. I did it while driving my car. When you are down to just a few whiskers use the 5X mirror, and you will find another few hundred to be plucked.

The face and head are naturally the most noticeable parts where hair is a problem, but body hair can also be very difficult to maintain. In fact for some of us it is almost impossible, but it can be cared for.

Body hair does not all grow at the same rate of speed. Some hairs grow rapidly and the next hair could grow at a much slower rate. I recommend all of your body hair be shaved. When it starts to grow in, use an Epilady (or similar product); I still do. I have been told by several sisters it hurts too much to use. This is really not true. If you shave all of the

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hair off and use the Epilady every day you are only taking out very few hairs, so there is little feeling. This includes the chest area. The only area I recommend not to use the Epilady is the stomach; it is too tender and it will hurt.

Every once in a while you will want to shave your body hair. I have found you can do it quickly and efficiently. Wet yourself down in the shower, lather one arm with soap then take the razor and shave in one direction, **do not lift the razor from the skin**, just push the razor back in the direction from where you started. The backwards motion will clean all of the cut hairs out of the razor. You should be able to use this system on all parts of your body. It is just a simple back and forth motion. Do not lift the razor until the whole arm is shaved. It is efficient and quick. (I do not suggest you do this on your face.)

The Epilady system furnishes you with a rough rope mitten to rub your skin with, briskly. The motion breaks tiny pores and prevents in grown hairs and black heads. Once you have removed all of the hair from your chest use your 5X mirror and examine the area. You will find many hairs just starting to grow. I suggest you just pluck them out with a tweezer. After a week or two you will only have six or eight a day to pluck, and your chest will be smooth. Remember, you are plucking these hairs before they are visible to the naked eye. I have been doing this for quite a few years and only find three or four hairs starting per day; it becomes easier and easier as you get into it.

One complaint I have heard from many wives and girlfriends is they do not like the stubble when leg and body hair is growing in. This system eliminates the problem. Even if you decide to let the hair grow in there will be no stubble, because the hairs were not cut; rather, they were removed at the root.

I have heard from many of you girls that you cannot remove your body hair because "everyone will notice". Mine has been gone for a long time and the only one who knows is my wife. I have been in the hospital several times and am continuously going to doctors, and no one ever says a word. I wear short pants and open shirts all of the time and no one notices. Either people do not pay attention or they don't care. Which ever it is it is OK with me.

Start one of the above programs; once you feel comfortable with it, you can start a second program. You will soon have all of the above working and they will become habit.

#### HAVE YOU HAD A "REAL-LIFE" ADVENTURE THAT OTHERS CAN LEARN FROM?

Please send it for consideration to **Cross-Talk**, P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365.

(Submissions on MS-DOS or Macintosh disk preferred; otherwise please typewrite.)



## NATIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

**February 25-27, 1994:** 6th Annual "Texas 'T' Party", San Antonio TX, sponsored by Boulton & Park Society. Information from P.O. Box 700042, San Antonio 78270, or by calling (210) 980-7788.

**March 12-20, 1994:** International Foundation for Gender Education "Coming Together-Working Together" convention, Portland OR. Information from IFGE, P.O. Box 367, Wayland MA 01778.

**April 27-May 1, 1994:** "California Dreamin'", Burbank CA, sponsored by Powder Puffs Of California and Neutral Corner. Details from P.O. Box 1088, Yorba Linda CA 92686 or by calling (714) 779-9013.

**May 19-22, 1994:** "Paradise in the Poconos", Canadensis PA, sponsored by Creative Design Services. Information from CDS, P.O. Box 61263, King of Prussia PA 19406, or by calling (215) 640-9449.

**October 4-7, 1994:** "Dignity Cruise V", steamboating aboard the historic Delta Queen. Details from Peggy Rudd, 1811 Crutchfield, Katy TX 77449 or by calling (713) 347-6563.

**September 15-18, 1994:** "Paradise in the Poconos", Canadensis PA. See May 19-22 listing.

(Please send information on national gender community events to **Cross-Talk**, P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365.)

**EDITORIAL COMMENTS?** Write us at P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365; fax us at (818) 347-4190; or send e-mail to "Kymmer" via the Cross Connection BBS at (818) 841-TVTS. Our InterNet address for NetMail is "kymmer@xconn.com".



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## NATIONAL PUBLICATION REVIEW

by Paula Jordan

For several years now, Labor Day in Greenwich Village has not meant the end of summer, but a prelude to Halloween as drag queens gather for the annual Wigstock Festival. This year's event achieved a milestone of sorts when a photo of four queens primping and sipping soda was spread across four columns of *The New York Times* metro section.

No fewer than six films now are in production or recently have been released that have crossdressing or drag as central to their plots, and this total doesn't include *The Crying Game* and *Orlando*. Two of the films are actually about drag queens, one directed by Steven Spielberg and the other by Stephan Elliott.

And then, of course, there is RuPaul, who made a special guest appearance at Wigstock this year.

Drag, it seems, is everywhere. Another in-your-face counter-culture happening has become a pop culture event. While we have yet to see a pair of drag queens on the cover of *Newsweek*, that is probably in the offing. Drag queen invisibility (if you'll pardon the oxymoronic phrase) is over. But, as lesbians are asking after their spate of media visibility, does all this heat provide any light? RuPaul may make sexually suggestive comments to Joan Rivers about how two young help him tuck his "business," but most viewers probably still believe that he eventually will fly to Brussels for the permanent tuck administered by a surgeon. In a society obsessed with sex roles and gender stereotypes, movies and *New York Times* photos can't begin to explain why some men get a thrill from manipulating gender images.

And, sadly, neither does *The Other Side: 1972-1992*, Nan Goldin's collection of drag queen photos published earlier this year by Scalo in

association with the D.A.A.D. Artists-in-Residence Programme, Berlin. The failing of *The Other Side* is particularly sad because, as Goldin's publicist says, drag queens "have been a part of her extended family for the past 20 years."

In her preface, Goldin tells of her first encounter with a group of Boston queens in 1972. "I was immediately infatuated ... It was the beginning of an obsession that has lasted 20 years." She explains that through her photographs she "wanted to pay homage, to show them how beautiful they were. I never saw them as men dressing as women, but as something entirely different -- a third gender that made more sense than either of the two."

Perhaps it is Goldin's infatuation, her obsession, that is at the root of her failure to shine more light on the phenomenon. She is too close to her subjects, too much of a friend, to ask "why do you do this?" They do it and that is good enough for her. The subjects of her beautiful and sympathetic photographs -- sometimes touching in their tenderness, sometimes funny in their camp -- run the gamut from transsexuals to drag queens. Yet Goldin neatly assigns all of them to membership in this "third gender." By dropping only the scarcest of hints at the motives that drive them, she glosses over the wide gulf that separates wanting to look like a woman from wanting to become a woman.

But the most lamentable confusion of motives comes when Goldin casts her nondiscerning eye on two very different categories of crossdressers. Images of drag queens with bright blue hair or lime green feather boas at New York's Gay Pride Parade and Wigstock Festival are followed by photos of "ladyboys" working in the sex bars of Bangkok. The New York queens stare out of the photos defiantly. They retain the in-your-face attitude that sparked Stonewall. "You got a problem with the way I'm dressed?" you can almost hear them saying. They carry their gender roles like chips on their shoulders. But the ladyboys in Bangkok are saying something entirely different. There is a pleading in their eyes and a vulnerability on their lips. They hope to pass as women in a society that will not allow them to be gay men. Goldin pays homage to their beauty, all right, but her homage is little different than the homage paid by sex tourists who keep the bars in business.

Another weakness is that among the 90 photos shot in Boston, New York, Paris, and Berlin, only nine are of African-Americans or Hispanics. Motives for crossdressing -- and crossliving -- are often very different in minority communities.

On one level, one could argue that Goldin's photographs, both in the book and at exhibitions in the United States and Europe, contribute something to understanding the manifestations of gender roles, if only by (continued, next page)

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## THE BEST OF "CROSS-TALK"

### OH, NO! NOT BUBBA!

by Janyne [REDACTED]

If you follow motorcycle racing you've heard of Bubba Shobert. Between the years 1982 and 1988 Bubba Shobert has owned the Camel Pro Series, winning three straight Grand National Championships, and has won more mile events than any rider in history. He also can road race and is the second winningest rider in G.N.C. annals.

Bubba Shobert is as tough and gritty as any flat tracker who ever rode the circuit. Shobert's career may have been cut short by a tragic and foolish accident caused by another rider.

A gentleman by the name of Dave Despain has produced a video entitled *Bubba Shobert, Champion*, which was reviewed in the March 1990 issue of *Cycle* magazine. According to the review, the video gives the viewer insights into Bubba's private life and his past. Despain talks with friends and relatives from Bubba's home town of Lubbock, Texas, and the reviewer goes on to say "You even learn of his penchant for crossdressing".

Now that got my attention. As a crossdresser and a motorcycle rider I am as comfortable with an accelerator pump as I am with a spectator pump. Having done a little drag racing (no drag jokes, please) and a lot of motorcycle racing, I got to thinking about the possible reaction to one of the "good ole boys" dressing like a good ole girl. It boggles the mind: Can you imagine what would happen if this spread to the NASCAR circuit? Something would have to be done about those tacky fire suits they all wear. Jocks (Bras?) from other sports might come out of the closet. I know I'll be watching NFL huddles for shaved legs. In baseball we have the drag bunt (sorry), and I've seen some cute basketball outfits: With

#### NATIONAL PUBLICATION REVIEW .. continued

provoking thought and discussion. But sadly, voyeurs seldom thirst for knowledge. And that is what Goldin is, a voyeur -- a loving, talented, and sympathetic voyeur, but a voyeur nonetheless.

The standard of depicting and explaining is not an impossible one to meet in a book of this sort. New York photographer Mariette Pathy Allen did it superbly in her 1989 work *Transformations: Crossdressers and Those Who Love Them*. She used her subjects' own words to explain this element of their personalities.

Alas, Goldin's subjects are not allowed to speak for themselves, and so the reader is left with only the slightest insight as to what it is like to be on the other side of the gender divide.

[Beginning next month, this column will be replaced by a monthly review of alternative press 'zines of interest to the gender community.]

sheer-to-the-waist hose and the right shoes ...? Oh, never mind.

Having reached a point in my own life where the word "sissy" is viewed with respect, I enjoy seeing the machismo in the world crumble. I can possibly believe a motorcycle racer dressing up, and maybe a guy from Lubbock, Texas ... but never a guy named Bubba.

What could he use for a femme name ... Bubbette?

[Reprinted from Cross-Talk #16, May 1990.]

ADS WE'D LIKE TO SEE by Rebecca Ann Petersen

## BUTT'S ARE US

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If you see a news article relating to the gender community, please send it to us at P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365. Thank you!

*A real Christian is the person who can give his pet parrot to the town gossip.*

Hey kids, what time is it? Yeah, it's that time, the Holiday season, a good excuse to get out those sequins and beads. Check out the gold and silver glitter pantyhose from Victoria's Secret. Every time I call in an order, they give me the current sales spiel, even if that means three bras for the price of two. Hey, they're not stupid. My money is as good as the next girls'.

Love that RED nail polish but hate the stains it leaves behind? Try these tricks -- buff nails smooth before applying any color -- coat with a clear polish first or use a neutral base coat, then apply color. If you still have stains after removing the polish, soak nails in undiluted hydrogen peroxide for one minute, massage cuticle oil into nails.

Sometimes to "glam-up" my makeup, I'll add a glimmer of gold lipgloss to my lip color. Maybelline eliminates that extra step with their new Mono-Tri Part Lipstick (\$4.50). Try rich-red with gold or mauve-chocolate with silver.

Speaking of Maybelline, the one staple cosmetic that 98 percent of women use almost daily is mascara. Mascara-like products date back to the Egyptians and the pyramids. But mascara as we know it was invented by a man, T. L. Williams, in 1917. He named the product after his sister, Mabel, creating -- you guessed it -- Maybelline. Still the most popular mascara after all these years is Maybelline's Great Lash mascara in the green and pink tube.

I've touted the usefulness of loose powders for some time now. Many makeup artists have recently discovered yellow-tinted powders to tone-down ruddy skin. But finding yellow powders has been difficult. . . until now. Yellow powders are available from Bobbi Brown Essentials, M.A.C. C-Series, Estee Lauder Champagne, and Il Makiage Camouflage.

Powders are it this month. Here's another trick with loose powders. Use it as a blush. Most crossdressers and women haven't the foggiest notion of how to correctly apply blush and the look this season is subtle, not bright. Lea Siegel, makeup artist for *Glamour* magazine uses loose powder for dark skin tones as a very subtle blush. The powder blends better and the color range is much broader.

Last time I gave out an "800" number it turned out to be a Navy Base Exchange (Excuse me, do you have any ladies suits in blue serge?) But, let's try another. Fashion Bug Plus fits women's sizes from 14 to 28 and they've upgraded their image lately. These clothes look very nice. Call 800-FB-FITS-U for info. That's 800-323-4878.

Eyeshadow usage rules are pretty simple: anything goes except blue eyeshadow. But one problem with all color is that they fade and crease due to oils from your eyelids. The very latest shadows contain oil absorbing ingredients to eliminate creasing. Check out Clinique's Beyond Shadow, Lancome's Maquiritche CremePowder Eyecolour, Revlon's Day Into Night Shadow Stick, or Ultima II's Eyesexxy. Your other option is a shadow base that does the same thing then use your own shadow over the base. Try Ultima II's Fade Not Crease Not Eyeshadow Base.

Well, it's a short column this month 'cause it's Christmas and all and the editrix says this is my present. (Ha!) Have a wonderful Holiday season. Stay frosty!

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# GREAT MOMENTS IN TV HISTORY

by Ralph [REDACTED]



3/28/83: When the character Laurie (Swoosie Kurtz) plays on the soap opera has a sex change operation, she bases her characterization on Sidney (Tony Randall), only her daughter Patti (Kaleena Kiff) isn't completely sure what to think, on *Love, Sidney*, NBC.



4/29/63: Deputy Barney Fife (Don Knotts) deals with the amorous advances of a Mayberry native (Howard Morris) on *The Andy Griffith Show*, CBS.



8/28/81: The Governor (James Noble) and his aide Clayton (Rene Auberjainois) find themselves in a predicament when they rush to help a sick friend, unaware that the friend is in a house of ill repute about to be raided by the vice squad on *Benson*, ABC.



1/14/71: Reuben Kincaid (Dave Madden) appears as a fairy godmother in a Fellini-esque dream sequence on *The Partridge Family*, ABC.

You can fax **Cross-Talk** at (818) 347-4190 with letters to the editor, address changes, or suggestions and comments.





## CLEOPATRA

by Paul ■

*Call me Cleopatra: I'm deQueen of denial!*

There was a letter to the editor in "Styles Of The Times" (*New York Times*, May 2, 1993) that commented on an article written about Angie Xtravaganza and the fate of many of the drag performers in *Paris is Burning*. The writer notes that transvestism is an emotional disease that can lead to aberrant behavior, and berates the *Times* for decrying the decline in moral values in other areas, but printing an article that is accepting of this behavior.

While I may understand that crossdressing comes from deeper roots, and does not always cause aberrant behavior, we have all seen cases where crossdressing does lead to aberrant and self destructive behavior.

As crossdressers, most of us learned a long time ago to live a healthy fantasy life. If our needs couldn't be fulfilled in public, we could at least fill our needs in dreams, seeing a stylized world where we would be free to express ourselves, be accepted and appreciated, even loved by people who knew our darkest secrets.

This fantasy world becomes an interesting mix of sex, sensuality, acceptance and understanding. Which is more important, the 8" heels and 24" waist we have in fantasy, the fact that someone else takes responsibility for our actions and dresses us up, or the fact that people accept us?

All of these factors come in to play, a mix of fetish, freedom and acceptance.

It is only as we expose our fantasy life to the real world that we start to break out the relative importance of these aspects of our desires. For example, to many of us who have spent years dressing, the divine fetishistic sensuality seems less active. We no longer see the mere act of wearing pantyhose as a hot turn-on. Some of us even have a twinge of regret that the reality of underwear is nowhere near as fulfilling as the dream.

Many crossdressers are still closeted, with no real-world input whatsoever. They cannot tell their family, doctors, or anyone. The gap between their fantasy world and the world of reality becomes wide.

This divided personality, torn into two worlds, can

have serious effects. Like an addict who pursues pleasure at the cost of other important things like dignity, family, connections, career and more, some crossdressers enter into aberrant and self-destructive behaviors as they see the collision of their inner world and the "real" world.

Crossdressing is often defined as an obsessive-compulsive behavior. This simply means that we are compelled, with no logical reason to pursue it. I have never heard a satisfactory logical reason for why we must crossdress, merely the powerful statement that I feel very bad if I don't. Crossdressing brings us pleasure, not doing it brings us pain. Our challenge is how to manage the balance between pursuing the pleasure and attending to the everyday duties of life.

This balance is the same issue for all people with obsessive-compulsive behaviors, including alcoholism, overeating, bulimia, shopping, gambling, and so on. The actions bring both

pleasure and shame, and as we pursue the pleasures the shame eats away at us and helps make us self destructive.

It is only as we expose our fantasy life to the real world that we start to break out these aspects' importance.

Many of us have a well grounded life, and never worry about the issue. Some of us have tried to learn from recovery programs about how to overcome shame by being honest and accepting in our everyday life, working to process our feelings, understand them, expose them to reality.

Others of us are not so lucky. The cloud of denial hangs around us, and we believe what we need to believe, redefining our reality to meet the situation, hiding our problems under a cloak of "pleasurable" activities. We become isolated, alone. We lose touch with reality, and our actions further alienate those around us.

It becomes so painful that we reach out for help -- and push away all of those who would try to help us. We have learned to dissimulate so well that the thought of removing our shroud of lies, of taking away the few weapons we have, even though we know they most often blow up in our face, becomes intolerable.

We end up abandoning our reality, caught between the fantasy of being a macho male and of being a sexy female and unable to work to see who we are

underneath these two abstractions.

We know we need help, but to ask, to accept it would be a violation of our most basic defense mechanisms, the ones we think help us stay stable in the crazy battle between our fantasies. To abandon strategies that took years to build, to look our real self in the face, to admit to all of the denials, all of the lies, all of the hurts, all of the twisted realities is not easy.

I am enamored of a quote from May Sarton: "We have to dare to be ourselves, however frightening or strange that self may prove to be."

What a challenge to just be yourself. Not the idealized man that you think others expect of you or the idealized woman that lives in your fantasies, but yourself. Most of us don't feel good about ourselves. We feel shame that we are different, damaged, odd, wrong.

Nothing that you can ever create can be better than you are as a person. Your simulated selves, the ones in conflict can only be shadows, parts of you, not nearly as full and effective as your true and total self.

But still we fight. We fight to retain our simulated selves, our learned behaviors, and we betray our own spirit, the unique person we are. That spirit may be a bit strange, not like all the other boys on the team, or a bit frightening, full of power and energy, but it is who we are, and denying that can lead us into very destructive and compulsive behavior.

If you are not working to integrate the parts of yourself, then you are working to disintegrate yourself, and this can lead to serious danger. Learning to accept the dualities and conflicts in our soul, learning to balance all our needs and desires is crucial for happiness.

It is accepted that recovery is a never-ending process, a continuous learning and balancing to create a well harmonized individual. But as recovery progresses, one day at a time, with a trust in a higher power, we feel more and more connected, more and more centered. We can find peace inside of ourselves.

When we are at war with ourselves, we are at war with the world. We must find peace, avoiding aberrant and dangerous behavior, or we shall destroy ourselves and the things we love.

For more reading, get the book or tape *Catching Fire: Men in Recovery* by Merle Fossum (Hazelden Press). Mr. Fossum leads us through the issues that people raised as male have to deal with in the recovery process. For dealing with shame, socialization and spirituality, *Catching Fire* is an excellent starting place.

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

## STAR\*CROSSED

by Denise [REDACTED]

Before Jaye Davidson's brilliant performance as an unlucky transsexual whose life is turned inside-out by the IRA in *The Crying Game*, crossdressing was a long-established tradition in the film industry. Can you name the movies these famous actors and actresses bent genders in?

1. Playboy **Michael Caine**?
2. Sophisticated **Cary Grant**?
3. British comedy duo **Dudley Moore** and **Peter Cooke**?
4. Former Mr. Universe and famed Republican **Arnold Schwarzenegger**?
5. Comedian turned actor **Robin Williams**?
6. Mild-mannered nebbish **Jack Lemmon**?
7. Flamboyant '50s sex symbol **Tony Curtis**?
8. Renowned penny-pincher **Jack Benny**?
9. Respect-seeking **Rodney Dangerfield**?
10. Late-night fixture **Arsenio Hall**?
11. Ladies' man and sometime comedian **Eddie Murphy**?
12. Diminutive **Linda Hunt**?
13. Famed supporting actor **John Lithgow**?
14. Musical-ly inclined **Julie Andrews**?
15. Actor's actor **Dustin Hoffman**?
16. Endearingly termed **Debra Winger**?
17. '70s sitcom star **John Ritter**?
18. *Monty Python*ers **Eric Idle** and **Terry Jones**?
19. Director and Muppeteer **Frank Oz**?
20. Politically incorrect **Vanessa Redgrave**?
21. Comic **Dana Carvey**?
22. Disney favorite **Kurt Russell**?

(Answers, page 32.)

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

A number of our readers have suggested the addition of the crossword puzzles that were featured in the now-defunct publication *TV Girl Talk*. However, an exhaustive search for the creator of those puzzles, Donna Kay, has been unsuccessful, so we are now turning to you, our readers, for assistance.

If you know the whereabouts of Donna Kay, or correspond with her, please have her contact us regarding her puzzles. We also understand that her address appeared in some issues of *TV Girl Talk*, and if you have an issue containing her address, please send us a copy.

The subscriber whose information results in our contacting Donna Kay will receive a free two-year subscription to this magazine.

Thank you for your assistance.

## **HOUSE OF REPS PROTECTS SEXUAL MINORITIES FROM HATE CRIMES**

by Paula Jordan

The U.S. House of Representatives has approved a bill that would give judges the authority to levy more severe sentences on people convicted of federal hate crimes against lesbians, gays, and other sexual minorities.

A hate crime is one in which the defendant intentionally selects a victim, or in the case of property, the property which is the object of the crime.

The bill, which was approved by a voice vote in September, directs the U.S. Sentencing Commission to create guidelines that provide for harsher penalties in the cases of federal crimes committed because of a victim's "actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation."

By including the words "actual or perceived ... gender or sexual orientation", the bill appears to

open the door to protecting transgendered persons who are often victimized because of how their attackers perceive their sexual orientation or gender. It is also the first time the House has acted to protect the civil rights of gays and lesbians.

While passage by the House came relatively easily, a more difficult time is expected in the Senate where last year Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) used a procedural rule to single-handedly kill a similar bill. But Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) noted that this year passage may be made easier by the debate on gays in the military. "We had a lot of conservatives saying that they don't believe in discrimination against gays but the military is different," he said. "Even if there is hypocrisy, people are bound by what they say around here."

The Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act was sponsored by Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.).

## **TOP 10 REASONS WHY CROSSDRESSERS GET NO RESPECT**

*(from the home office in Middlesex)*

by Naomi

10. Crossdressers get no respect when their belts are wider than their skirts are long.
9. Crossdressers get no respect when they purchase their makeup from Ace Hardware or Jiffy-Lube.
8. Crossdressers get no respect with names like Bunny, Dolly, or Madonna ... and they look like Morgana.
7. Crossdressers get no respect when they use the ladies' room when they're not supposed to, and the men's room when they shouldn't.
6. Crossdressers get no respect when they have a monthly change of name.
5. Crossdressers get no respect when they purchase their underwear at a Tupperware party.
4. Crossdressers get no respect when they have computers but can't figure out how to use the spell-check or grammar-check.
3. Crossdressers get no respect when they sober up by switching from hormones to steroids, or vice versa.
2. Crossdressers get no respect when they wear T-shirts that say "Baby" with a big arrow pointing down.
1. Crossdressers get no respect when they belong to Hair Club for Men and still insist on wearing Raggedy Ann style wigs made from used Astroturf.

*[Reprinted with permission from The Chi Tribune, Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Chicago, IL.]*

**There's NO good reason not to subscribe to "Cross-Talk".**

**Imagine ... 40 pages of news, information and commentary on subjects of interest to the gender community ... delivered in a plain manila envelope, every month, direct to you. Now imagine a savings of more than 40% off the cover price.**

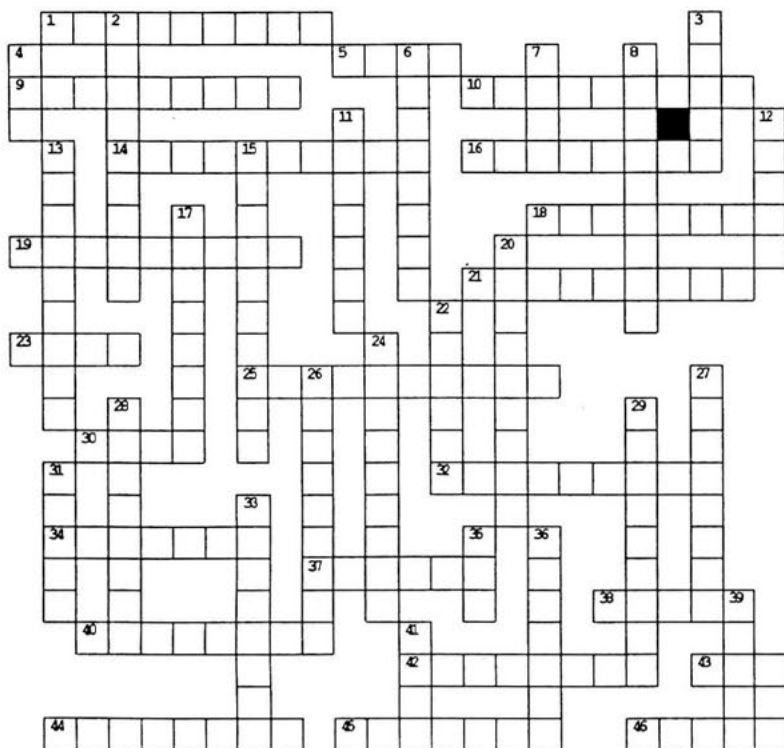
**What are you waiting for? Use the form on page 40 and order your "Cross-Talk" subscription TODAY!**

*(O.K., maybe there is ONE good reason: Not being able to have it delivered to your house because of inquisitive family members or snoopy roommates. But we figure that's why God invented P.O. boxes.)*



# PUZZLE PAGES

A pair of word puzzles for you



Designed & contributed by Sami Rae

## ACROSS

1. Unfeminine.
5. Circle.
9. Decoration.
10. Tall shoes.
14. Purse.
16. Driving chemicals.
18. Hair puller.
19. Uplifting sup[port.
21. Dissatisfied state.
23. Moth fibre.
25. Short stockings.
30. Precious stones.
32. Leg coverings.
34. Cleaner.
37. Sex.
38. Fasteners.
40. Slippers.
42. Sewn-on fabric.
43. Male/female characteristic.
44. Lid definer.
45. Mammaries.
46. Open end garment.

ANSWER NEXT MONTH

## DOWN

2. Self supporting garment.
3. Foot wear.
4. Game piece.
6. Decorative strand.
7. Woman's glory.
8. Advisor.
11. Second skins.
12. Rouge.
13. Surgery.
15. Abrasive stick.
17. Girl's best friends.
20. Lid darkener.
22. Home of the femur.
24. Hair to stay.
26. Medium stockings.
27. Item of makeup.
28. Dr. Harry
29. One-piece stockings.
31. Chest.
33. High-priced store.
35. Underwire "\_\_\_".
36. Undergarment.
39. Filmy.
41. "Holy" fabric.

## WHAT'S ON THE TV TONIGHT?

Cartoons by Christine-Jane

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

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

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

## FUTURES EXCHANGE

A FANTASY OF CROSS-GENDER by Sarah Wood

Charles Merchant, a life-long transvestite, awakes - in the body of his attractive personal assistant, Jenny Page . . . from there, Sarah weaves an intriguing and well-written story, beautifully illustrated by the talented Emma

TO ORDER, send \$5.00 US for *What's On The TV Tonight?* or \$8.00 US for *Futures Exchange* to:

**KRIS Publications**  
239 Preston Road, Rear  
Wembley, Middlesex HA9 8PE, U.K.  
Add \$2.50 per book for airmail shipping.

**ALSO AVAILABLE:** *Hell -- It's Heaven*, Christine-Jane's non-crossdressing cartoon book on the afterlife, with lots of cute angels and devils. \$9.00 US to the same address.

## ANSWERS TO STAR\*CROSSED (p. 32):

1. Caine played the murderous transsexual killer-cum-psychiatrist in *Dressed To Kill*.
2. Cary Grant played both sides of the dress code in *I Was a Male War Bride*, where the post-WWII bureaucracy was set up **only** to import foreign wives to the United States.
3. Cooke and Moore starred together in *Bedazzled*, with Cooke, as the devil, trying to be nice by giving the hapless Moore seven wishes, one of which goes drastically wrong and lands them both as nuns in a convent. (Actually, **all** the wishes go drastically wrong ...)
4. Schwarzenegger was a high-tech crossdresser trying to get to Mars in *Total Recall*. Only when the costume fails at a customs checkpoint do we actually get to see Arnie, for a brief time, in a dress.
5. In *The World According to Garp*, Williams dressed in drag in order to get into the woman-only memorial service for his assassinated mother, a revered feminist icon.
- 6 & 7. One of the all-time classics of the genre, Lemmon and Curtis are the frustrated musicians, who desperate for a job, get dragged (ahem) into an all-girl band in *Some Like It Hot*. (Did you consider Curtis' roles in *The Great Impostor* and *Operation Petticoat*?)
8. As the maidenly *Charley's Aunt*.
9. The sight of Rodney Dangerfield in a dress with bad makeup -- and worse legs -- was enough to make me nauseous in *Ladybugs*.
- 10 & 11. As two potential princesses in *Coming To America*.
12. Hunt won an Academy Award for her performance in *The Year of Living Dangerously* as the local boy guide to foreign reporters. I didn't know she was a woman until the closing credits.
13. Lithgow was the football star turned TS in *The World According to Garp*.
14. Andrews played a female masquerading as a male playing a female impersonator in *Victor/Victoria*.
15. As the anything-for-an-acting job Michael Dorsey/Dorothy Michaels in *Tootsie*, Hoffman -- after alienating the entire New York AND Los Angeles acting scene with his inability to take direction -- lands a job on a soap as the new female hospital administrator.
16. Winger (although credited as "Elmo, as himself" in the credits) played a guardian angel with that name in *Made In Heaven*.
17. One of a number of hells Ritter faced in *Stay Tuned* was as a French nobleman escaping Paris during the French Revolution by crossdressing. (Ritter also played a police decoy in skirts a couple of seasons ago on the television series *Hooperman*.)
18. Anyone who said "any *Python* film", take a bow. Actually, I was thinking specifically of Idle as the TS member of the Judean People's Front in *Life of Brian*, with Jones as Brian's mother, who

## WORD SEARCH by Barbara Jean Jasen

H	U	H	V	W	E	H	H	Z	M	O	Q
J	E	S	E	Z	L	Y	B	R	U	S	H
D	Y	U	S	R	E	Z	E	E	W	T	P
L	E	L	M	E	S	L	A	B	A	S	Q
I	S	B	A	R	A	Z	O	R	R	H	E
P	H	E	S	E	S	R	Y	F	S	O	X
S	A	G	C	M	U	E	R	I	L	S	W
T	D	N	A	U	V	M	L	I	M	O	I
I	O	O	R	F	D	O	E	T	N	U	T
C	W	P	A	R	P	V	P	J	W	G	Z
K	Y	S	Q	A	R	E	D	W	O	P	S
F	Z	D	H	P	F	R	H	P	X	U	C

BLUSH  
 BRUSH  
 CONCEALER  
 EARRINGS  
 EYEBROW  
 EYESHADOW  
 LIPSTICK  
 MASCARA  
 PARFUME  
 POLISH  
 POWDER  
 RAZOR  
 REMOVER  
 SPONGE  
 TWEEZERS

(Answer next month.)

dons a fake beard to attend a "men only" stoning, which is attended only -- of course -- by women in fake beards. Idle also played a nun in *Nuns On The Run*, and Michael Palin (another *Python*) played a nun in *Jabberwocky*. (What have Britons got against nuns?)

19. In any Muppet movie, Oz is the voice and motion behind Miss Piggy.

20. Redgrave was Richard Raskin/Renee Richards in *Second Serve* (a television movie).

21. Carvey played a housewife in the Richard Pryor movie *Moving*.

22. As a wrongly accused cop in *Tango & Cash*, Russell disguises as a hooker to get away from his pursuers.

[Reprinted with permission from The Primrose, Chicago Gender Society, Chicago II.]

Crossword puzzle on opposite page reprinted with permission from Renaissance News.



## A CHRISTMAS LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

It is customary, at this time of the year, to give thanks for all the blessings that have come into your life during the preceding twelve months. Since so many of those blessings have, for me, come from **Cross-Talk** and from my involvement in the gender community, I think it is appropriate to share with you the things I am thankful for as we enter 1994:

I am thankful for our ever-increasing readership, who by their continued patronage prove that there is not only room for, but a need for, a news and information oriented monthly magazine in the gender community.

I am thankful for our network of retail sales outlets and distributors, who have made it possible for **Cross-Talk** to grow in the past year from a 24-page newsletter with about 300 readers to a 40-page magazine with over three times as many readers.

I am thankful for our advertisers, who have frequently made the difference in our cash flow that has kept the printing and postage bills paid.

I am thankful for the continued friendship of Trish Anderson, sysop of "Cross Connection", who not only keeps me linked electronically to the community, but provides the technical resources to make this magazine look as good as it does every month.

I am thankful for the friendship and support of JoAnn Roberts, who not only contributes her monthly column and converts Macintosh files into DOS for me, but also offered to buy our back cover ad space at a time when her check made the difference between printing an issue on-time or delaying it.

I am thankful for the rest of our regular contributors for managing to get their columns in on time every month (even if I sometimes have to call to remind them to do so).

I am thankful for others who have contributed articles in the course of the year, thus keeping us from only making the same voices available every month.

I am thankful for Anne Newkirk Niven at Arena Press, who took us on as a client on very short notice and, with the help of her husband Alan and their staff, continue to work miracles by printing this magazine as quickly as possible month after month.

I am thankful for my friend Karen Anne Michaels who -- in addition to creating one of the most entertaining comics in this magazine -- has given her time every month to help stuff, label and stamp envelopes so that our mail subscribers will receive **Cross-Talk** in as timely a manner as the Postal Service permits.

I am thankful for the support of such people as Teri Lynn Clemons (my favorite gofer) and Chrystine Julian (keyborader of articles that wouldn't scan).

I am thankful that -- for the first time since 1990 -- we have managed to avoid serious technical problems with the computer and publish a full 12 issues of this magazine.

I am thankful for the many friends I have made during my three years as president of the Tri-Ess Alpha chapter that will end this coming March, and for the many friends I have made as a member of the Tri-Ess national board of directors.

I am thankful for the friends I have made throughout the U.S. and in other countries through this magazine.

I am thankful for Sandy Thomas' involvement at the beginning of this year, especially for making me realize the true potential of this publication.

And I am thankful for my best friend Terri Marcovecchio, who has always been there when I needed her. I love her more than she will ever know.

See you all in 1994!

*Love, KyMBERLEIGH Meghann Richards*





## HOTLINES

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

### NEW ENGLAND REGION:

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

### THE SOUTH:

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

### MIDWEST & VICINITY:

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

### SOUTHWEST/MOUNTAIN REGION:

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

### PACIFIC NORTHWEST:

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

### THE WEST COAST (CA & HI):

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

### CANADA:

Club Met, Montreal: (514) 528-8874  
Entre Femme, Quebec: (418) 529-1132 #  
F.A.T.E., Vancouver: (604) 254-9591  
Gender Mosaic, Ottawa: (613) 749-5203  
Illusions Social Club, Calgary: (403) 486-9661  
Monarch Social Club, Ontario: (416) 949-6602

## TV-TS Confidential

### FOR THE GENDERED PERSON

We have a new magazine with a different approach in content.



Twenty or more pages of informative subjects, make-up tips, electrolysis, reader comments, personal progress, name changing, fashion tips, personal ads, and documentaries. A subscription of twelve issues is \$36.00, Canadian and overseas, \$5.00 extra. \$4.00 for single copy.

Send check or money order to Abby M. Greene, PO Box 6211, West Franklin, NH, 03235. (No sales tax in NH)



## READER PROFILES

To respond to an ad without an address: Seal your correspondence in a stamped envelope and write the subscriber number IN PENCIL on the front. Then place the envelope(s) in a larger envelope and mail to **Cross-Talk**, P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365. If you are a subscriber, please write your subscriber number with your address on the larger envelope and your forwarding will be free. Non-subscribers, please include \$1.00 per letter to be forwarded.

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

**Bakersfield, CA:** Chrys, employed in marketing, and consider myself a writer. I regularly write for trade publications and have had numerous pieces published in **Cross-Talk**. I am currently working on an epic-fantasy (dragons, magic potions, etc.). I like long walks and long talks and would enjoy corresponding with those with similar interests. #1144 Chrystine [redacted], P.O. Box 60089, Bakersfield CA 93386-0089

**Daly City, CA:** Brenda, 44, single, living in Bay Area. Novice dresser, not out in public yet. Looking for friends and tips. Would love to hear from you. #1452 Brenda [redacted], P.O. Box 2361, Daly City CA 94017

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

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

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

**Redondo Beach, CA:** Diva, looking for musicians to form a crossdressing rock/alternative band! #1201 D.P. [redacted], P.O. Box 207, Redondo Beach CA 90277

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

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

**Santa Clarita, CA:** Bonnie, 40+, love tennis, golf, shopping, cooking, being Bonnie. Been out in public three times dressed and love it. Mother dressed me as a girl when I was a young boy (she always wanted a girl). Will write to all. #1248 Bonnie [redacted], P.O. Box 801416, Santa Clarita CA 91380-1416

**South Pasadena, CA:** Christy, an educator and professionally involved with human diversity issues, especially the Berdache tradition. I'm going through my transformation, electrolysis, counseling and such, and am very interested in developing friendships with women, caring professionals and persons like myself for companionship and support. #1122 Christy [redacted], P.O. Box 3402, South Pasadena CA 91031-6402

**Sun Valley, CA:** Laura, 43. I am an electrologist, pre-op and full-time TS, 5'8", 128 lbs., blonde, blue eyes. Love: Christ, my two dogs, hang gliding, walks, company, Bible study, baking, movies, and hugs. Looking for more friends to visit and have over for dinner at my house. #1486

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

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

**Yucca Valley, CA:** Elizabeth, 54, currently residing in Southern California. Work as a Supply Specialist. Interests include painting and bicycling. I've been away from our lifestyle for a number of years, so my experience level is re-learning it all. Would love to attend some of the national events in the future. Relationships none, divorced. #1506

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

**Avon, CT:** Michelle [redacted], MWM, hetero, 5'10", 170 lbs., blue eyes, dark brown hair, '50s, very passable. Member Tiffany Club, co-founder of Connecticut Outreach Society (COS), participant P-Town outings, program chairlady of COS, director/founder of COS Couples Club. Wife is accepting and started COS wives support group. Interested in corresponding with and meeting other honest, caring, passable CDs or couples. Interests include theater, music (jazz, classical and oldies), travel, cross-country skiing, swimming, boating and water sports. #1457 Michelle [redacted], P.O. Box 679, Avon CT 06001

**Atlanta, GA:** Free yourself of conventional notions of correspondence. I'm interested in the creative process and artistic exchanges. Mystic linguistics: Let's transform and expand our miss language. Cut-ups, memorable slang, "She's gonna ..." (assertive feminization scenarios), everyday "snapshot" conversations and making up outrageous *femme* names encouraged. Hetero perspectives only. No passing interests. #1560 Kevin, P.O. Box 1925, Atlanta GA 30301-1925

**Honolulu, HI:** Alana, Asian hetero CD, 5'10", in 40's. Member of Tri-Ess. Love fashion, professional sports, shopping, travel and girl talk. Welcome friendship, correspondence, or meeting with other CDs or understanding women in order to enhance my feminine image. Will answer all letters. #1558 A. [redacted], P.O. Box 22891, Honolulu HI 96823-2891

**Heyburn, ID:** Patience [redacted], 41. I have been attending some of the monthly meetings of the Salt Lake City group and really enjoyed them. I have been a small business owner working with industry, but I have a dream of going back to school and getting into counselling. I am single, enjoy life, and love and appreciate the feminine person I really am. #1305

**Shreveport, LA:** Jeri, 51, MWM. Travel throughout the South and only have an opportunity to dress when I travel. Would like to correspond and meet other CDs throughout the South. Attended Texas "T", enjoy all sports and music, and enjoy going out dressed when travelling. #1546 Jeri [redacted], P.O. Box 38048, Shreveport LA 71133

*Aurora, MN:* Lynda, SWM, mid-30s, craftsman in design and building equipment, 20 years of all types of mechanical maintenance. Loves photography, martial arts, reading and writing science fiction. Degree in Art. Spend about 50% of my time *en femme*. Would love to correspond with anyone wishing to receive mail from a caring person. #1329

*Kansas City, MO:* Barrie, married, age 46. Hobbies include photography, writing, playing several sports, collecting antiques. Go to movies, dinner, dancing, shopping as Barrie. Member of Tri-Ess, RCGA (Omaha), and Sigma Nu Rho. Travel in Midwest. Love to hear from sisters. Let's exchange photos. I answer all correspondence. #1203 Barrie [REDACTED], P.O. Box 412948, Kansas City MO 64141

*Roslyn Heights, NY:* Jane, 34, married, Northern Italian. 5'7"/135 lbs. LIFE and Tri-Ess memberships (2 years). Also subscribe to *Renaissance News*. Interests: Travel, photography, sportscars, nature, skiing, gardening, music, dance, theater, swimming, art and earth sciences. Go out dressed day and night; dress flamboyantly as a guy when not working (Danskins, stirrups, parachute pants, jumpsuits, accessories). Travel throughout the US regularly. Lived in and love California, which I visit as often as possible. I am anxious to correspond with other TV sisters who would be interested in doing the same. #1348 J. [REDACTED], P.O. Box 484, Roslyn Heights NY 11577-0484

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

*Portland, OR:* Michelle, 33, SBM, TV, hetero, 5'9"/160 lbs. Fun, sensitive and sincere, attractive, never been married (but lucky, have five sisters). I enjoy a full feminine figure, and love all things feminine! Have enjoyed crossdressing in the closet all my life: It's time for a change! Looking for CDs/TVs to go out with and help me pass in public. Would enjoy meeting other thirty-something CDs and TVs for social outings *en femme*. #1529 M. [REDACTED], P.O. Box 9310, Portland OR 97207

*Irving, TX:* Bernice, Texas girl, mature, not old. Come to California often. Do gatherings frequently (Texas "T", California Dreamin', Esprit, Be-All, Southern Comfort, Fall Harvest, Law Conference, Holiday En Femme). Enjoy all T-community members. I am approaching a TG/TS status. A slow writer, so would appreciate phone number and time if possible. #1450 B.J. [REDACTED], P.O. Box 140932, Irving TX 75014

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

*Merry Point, VA:* Samantha Louise, 76 (going on 50), MWM, retired engineer. Interests: Amateur radio, Rotary, sailing, woodcarving. Attended "Holiday En Femme" in Chicago, "Coming Together" in Houston, "Southern Comfort", "Fall Harvest". Member of Virginia's Secret, DCEA, IFGE, Tri-Ess. Editor of "Secrets", newsletter for Virginia's Secret. Out of the closet since June 1991 and making up for lost time. #1416 T.W. [REDACTED], P.O. Box 73, Merry Point VA 22513

*Seattle, WA:* Rose C'est La Vie, neophyte CD, seeking friendship, guidance and amusement. Divorced, 40, and just now learning the art of dressing. Interests include art (read art history, collect Northwest art), baseball, literature and music. I am a lawyer, taking a landscaping class, and write short stories. #1521 J. [REDACTED], P.O. Box 2346, Seattle WA 98101

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