

CROSS-TALK

The Transgender Community News & Information Monthly

#71

\$7.00



**FIGHTING AMONGST OURSELVES OR AGAINST IGNORANCE?
THE HISTORY OF FEMALE IMPERSONATION**

**BREAKING SOCIETY'S "GENDER RULES"
THE REAL MEANING OF BISEXUALITY**

**DECEIVING OURSELVES ABOUT LIFE
BATHROOMS, ON THE ROAD**

**UNDERSTANDING THE PINK TRIANGLE
NEWS ... INFORMATION ... COMMENTARY ... HUMOR**



FROM SANDY THOMAS

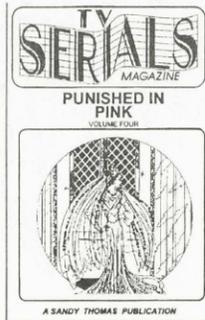
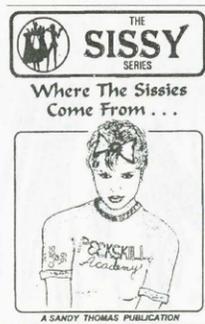
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CROSS-TALK

The Transgender Community News & Information Monthly

SEPTEMBER 1995
(ISSUE #71)



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KYMBERLEIGH'S CLIPBOARD

CAN WE AT LEAST AGREE TO DISAGREE?

by Kimberleigh Richards
Publisher & Managing Editor

Announcements, newsletters, and correspondence arrive here daily by e-mail, fax and the Postal Service, and I am frequently struck by the different approaches that are taken to try to resolve the issues and concerns of our community and its residents.

Two transgender political organizations have announced

"We must learn to work together despite our philosophical differences and make our varied opinions a rainbow."

plans to protest a black tie Human Resources Campaign Fund event to be held this November in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, saying that they "plan to hold the largest protest the HRCF has encountered". This action is necessary, they say, because of broken promises regarding transgender inclusion in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which HRCF had a major role in writing and which is now pending before Congress.

Reports received from other parts of the country tell of discussions taking place at the grassroots level to effect change by quietly lobbying elected officials; the common factor in these efforts appears to be a desire to present our community as "normal" rather than as a "radical rabble-rousing faction".

Kate Lesley, who publishes *Tales of Crossdressing* in the U.K., writes me regarding the scene there, and says that British transgendered people are rather non-political. She says a large percentage of the community there is closeted, and those who are "out" are concerned more with having fun (crossdressers) or hormones and the operation (transsexuals) and thus discussions of "community politics" are either disdained or ignored by the majority.

The newsletter *Swan's Bauble* includes a reply to my editorial in issue #69, maintaining that **Cross-Talk** represents only a "narrow view of our lifestyle" ... hinting that censorship takes place here so that only a specific minority of the transgender community is given validity.

Letters to the editor -- some publishable, most not -- both criticize us for only paying "lip service" to the issues and accuse us of presuming that we know what's best for

everyone and refusing to acknowledge opposing views. There appears to be a common thread in these examples: "I'm obviously right, therefore you must be wrong." So I need to ask: **How do we decide who's right and who's wrong, anyway?**

Do we operate under the premise that the squeaky wheel gets the grease or do we work behind the scenes to effect change? Do we ignore the so-called issues and concentrate on what we, as individuals, want? Do we automatically presume that only one view is correct and attack everyone and everything that represents a different philosophy?

I believe that all of the above must be present, in the proper proportions, in order for change to happen for the benefit of all. When those we trust to help us instead betray us, we must both publicly protest *and* quietly lobby to undo the damage. If one faction's philosophy offends another's, we have both the right and responsibility to make our displeasure known, but we must do so in a way that acknowledges the validity of their position. If we feel we can give constructive criticism, we should; and if that criticism is given, we need to accept it without taking it personally. And we must strive to balance our individual needs and desires against those of the community as a whole.

Most of all, we must learn to work together despite our philosophical differences and make our varied opinions a rainbow encompassing the spectrum that is the transgender community. What goes unremembered as we attack each other, taking our potshots and clinging to our positions in the face of any and all arguments, is that we have a common opponent. We would do better to concentrate our efforts to overcome the opposition to our lifestyle by the general public than to fight amongst ourselves.

Those who would oppress us are unaware of our differences, so all this in-fighting has *absolutely no impact* on our goals, other than to make one faction or the other feel momentarily superior.

And if you don't like that conclusion, you can always send me more e-mail, faxes, and letters. Because I'm always interested in hearing your opinion, even if I don't agree.



The NewsQueen

by Paula Jordan Sinclair

Ah, September! Ms. Sinclair welcomes the end of summer because it frees her from the confines of her air conditioned house and allows her to venture forth free from the worry that her makeup will run down her face like the melted Nazi in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. But she is certain she is not the only crossdresser who rejoices as the ninth month rolls around. September -- and the start of the school year -- means that Ronald Hull, principal of the Unadilla Elementary School in Oneonta, N.Y., will be able to dress as a woman again. As the past year drew to a close, Hull appeared at a school assembly in full drag, much to the delight of the students and teachers. It seems he had challenged the students to read a total of 700,000 pages, and in return he would dress as a woman. The children spared no effort to get Hull into a dress, and so they read more than a *million* pages.



Fifth grader Andrew Halfpenny of the Sanborn School in Andover, Mass. also is looking forward to the end of school with the right attitude. When asked to design the ideal spring celebration, the boy said it "would be like Mardi Gras. Everybody would cross-dress and play soccer."



Crossdressing and soccer? Now there's an odd combination. But enjoying odd things is the privilege of youth. How else can one explain that boys across the country from middle school to college are wearing barrettes?

"It's really cool," a Berkeley, Calif. sixth grader said. "I wear lots of different colors."



Cool or not, a seventh grader in New York is suing his school for making him wear a skirt, bra, and wig as punishment for talking in class.

Caleb Guerrier said that after teacher Pauline Williamson made him don the feminine clothing, she joined in as the other students made fun of him.

The boy and his parents are seeking \$22.5 million in damages.

Ms. Sinclair notes that this took place in a religious school where, evidently, the teacher decided that prayer in the classroom isn't as good for student behavior as good old fashioned petticoat discipline.



September also means that we are closer to the long-awaited opening of *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything ... Julie Newmar*. The film, starring Patrick Swayze, Wesley Snipes, and John Leguizamo as three drag queens stranded in the middle of Nebraska, was supposed to hit theaters in the summer, but was pushed back to the eighth of this month. When you finally see it, keep these behind-the-scenes tidbits in mind:

* Many leading male stars wanted to be in the film, and actually auditioned in drag for the roles. Thirty eight actors alone auditioned for the role of Vida Boheme, a drag diva of major proportions, played by Swayze. As always, the producers are tight-lipped about who they passed over.

* Leguizamo was a natural for the role of Chi Chi, a wannabe glamour queen, but Swayze had more trouble portraying Vida, even though he was a willing student of Coco LaChine, the reigning Empress VII of the Imperial Court of New York.

* What Swayze may have lacked in natural ability, he more than made up for in commitment to the role. "When I moved to New York as a dancer, all my close friends were gay men," he said. "I also knew a touch of the drag world. I had three friends who were dancers and drag queens. They were the most caring, compassionate people I had ever met. I wanted to honor their memory."

* Unlike Johnny Depp who kept some of his feminine costumes from *Ed Wood*, when *Wong Foo* was finished shooting, Snipes took all of his wigs, makeup, false eyelashes, and corsets and threw them into a casket. "I had to bury Noxeema Jackson," he said, "because this was the hardest role of my life, and I promise there will not be a sequel."

* Mostly because of problems caused by unseasonably hot weather while on location in Nebraska, the shoot went nine weeks over schedule.

* The movie is laden with jokes based in camp culture, gay life, and classic movie dish. Screenwriter Douglas Carter Beane is convinced that at least half of the jokes will go over the head of the average moviegoer.



Another one of the problems the producers of *To Wong Foo* faced was the success of *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. Now fans of last year's big drag hit can get their fill of Priscilla with two new books.

The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert is the original screenplay by Stephan Elliott. In addition to providing translations of dialogue that was obscured by the actors' accents, the book also has a large number of black and white photos from the film.

Making Priscilla: The Hilarious Story Behind "The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert", written by the film's producer, Al Clark, doesn't reveal any really trashy secrets. But it is nonetheless full of interesting tidbits, like the fact that the only real opposition to the film came from

Nathan Sanders, publisher and editor of the ABBA fan club magazine in the U.S. He urged over a million fan club members to boycott the film.



Now that *To Wong Foo* is here, those who enjoy "anti... PAtion" can still look forward to *Birds of a Feather*, the remake of *La Cage aux Folles* starring Nathan Lane and Robin Williams.

Lane, who portrays the lovely and talented Zaza, had a campy reaction to seeing himself in drag.

"It's a scary thing seeing yourself as a woman," he said. "I'm naturally glamorous, of course, but put a wig on me and it's heart stopping! I have one number in a very sexy Grace Jones outfit. In another, Gene Hackman plays a very conservative senator, and when we have him over to dinner, I dress up like the young Barbara Bush. Unfortunately, that's the outfit I look best in."



As expected, all of these films have prompted claims that there is a resurgence of drag. In July, *New York* magazine carried a cover story by drag impresario Charles Busch entitled "Every Man a Queen." In it he makes the point that "there aren't too many real ladies selling flamboyance anymore ... perhaps in the absence of outrageous real women, drag stars pick up the slack. Maybe that's why we are getting so much attention today." Busch adds a warning: "All I can say once [*To Wong Foo*] opens, you better keep Bob Dole out of the theater. If he thinks Hollywood has been 'mainstreaming deviancy' ... Dole is going to have a conniption when he sees Patrick Swayze in that fabulous two-piece lime-green ensemble."



Of course, Dole hangs around Washington, Kansas, and New Hampshire a lot and so may not be aware how mainstream drag is. For example, every Tuesday night is drag night at Tommy Tang's, a Thai restaurant in West Hollywood. Both patrons and staff do drag for the evening.

"Actually, it's not much of a stretch for us," says owner Sandra Tang, wife of Tommy. "Our audience is the same as it's always been, but in wigs. All of my food servers except one have been drag queens, on their days off anyway." In addition to some well-known drag queens, the restaurant attracts a mixed bag of crossdressers. According to an observer, one night's clientele included "a Valkyrie, a Phyllis Diller, many vamps, and a couple of girls who are very, very late for the prom."



Dole could label this a "Communist conspiracy," and he would not be too far off the mark, judging by these items from the world's last two remaining Communist nations.

In Havana, last year's May Day parade featured, of all things, a contingent of drag queens. Until recently, drag was something people did in the privacy of their homes or in the homes of friends. But now it seems to be warmly embraced by most of the Cuban population. Last May, a group of gays and lesbians from the United States attended an outdoor drag cabaret in a Havana suburb. The whole neighborhood came out for the show.

The same kind of thing is happening in China. Although there is a long Chinese tradition of men playing women's parts in the opera, the "decadent" tradition was ended under Chairman Mao. But in some cities with close ties to the West, drag is emerging in a different venue -- night clubs.

Tony Xi, 21, is one of the new drag performers. His gig at the Club Louis 18 earns him ten times what he made as a hotel worker. Unpolished yet convincing, Xi learned much of his technique from smuggled Madonna videos. He is aware that his craft has its roots in classical Chinese opera. "That is real art," he said. "This is just for fun."



But things are not wide open in China. Officials there have banned fashion shows featuring male models dressed as women. An official called the practice "disrespectful to

the art of fashion." We doubt the editors of the American magazine *W* meant any disrespect recently when they showed a man dressed as a woman sashaying down the runway at a famous designer's show.



Meanwhile, drag queens in the Netherlands have their own national television program, *De Travestie Show*. The Dutch gay newspaper *De Gay Krant* said that "transvestites are all the rage in The Netherlands. On a typical Saturday evening, Amsterdam is positively bursting with drag queens." To put all of that talent to good use, program hosts Robert Brink and Dutch-American drag queen Nicky Nicole introduce and chat with four drag debutantes each week.



In the United States, transsexuals are moving onto talk radio.

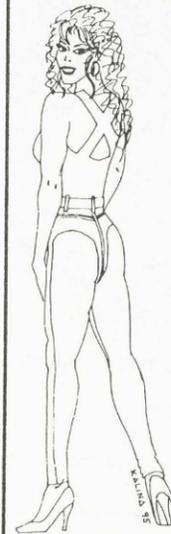
Cheryl Ann (Cassandra) Costa has teamed with Frances Brown, a genetic female, to present *Working Girls with Frances and Cassandra* every Saturday night on WMET-AM in Gaithersburg, Md. In a little more than a year on the air, the pair has earned a faithful audience with their humorous talk about sex, dating, childrearing, and Cassandra's sex change. "We're the racy edge of talk radio," Costa said.

In Houston, transsexual Sarah DePalma co-hosts *After Hours* on WPFT-FM in Houston from midnight to 3 a.m. Saturday mornings. She, along with Jim Carper, address callers' concerns about gay and transsexual issues. "There are a lot of listeners who are young and who don't realize there are transgender organizations to help them," DePalma said.



Finally, transvestites in Turkey are joining with gays and prostitutes for self-protection.

Aysel Firmali, who operates a brothel in the western Turkish city of Izmir, launched the organization campaign



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-- apparently just in time. "Already I have gotten threats," he said.



Of course, violence against transgendered folk is not confined to Turkey; we have the same problems in this country. Sometimes the perpetrators are even brought to justice.

That happened recently in Falls City, Neb., where a second man was convicted of the New Year's Eve, 1993 murder of female-to-male transsexual Brandon Teena and two of her friends.

Marvin Nissen had already been found guilty of one count of first degree murder and two counts of manslaughter. Nissen testified against John Lotter, who was found guilty of three counts of murder. Nissen said the pair had intended to kill Teena to keep him from pressing rape charges against them, But when they found that Teena was staying with two friends, they decided to kill all three so there wouldn't be any witnesses. After killing Teena, the men had planned to cut off his head and hands with an axe and dispose of them so the body couldn't be identified.

Lotter could be sentenced to death, and Nissen faces a maximum of three life sentences.



The rest of this month's police blotter section is nowhere near as grim.

Our first case concerns Bruce Jensen, 39, of Bountiful, Utah, and his wife of more than three years, Leasa. It seems that Leasa is actually a 34-year-old man named Felix Urioste who tricked Jensen into matrimony by claiming to be pregnant with Jensen's twins. Later, Urioste said the twins were stillborn.

After that, the marriage was described as celibate. Jensen discovered that he had been tricked only after police in Nevada arrested Urioste on suspicion of unauthorized use of 33 credit cards in the couple's names. Urioste told the whole story to police, who in turn told Jensen that his wife is a man.

Urioste has been charged with defrauding Jensen of as much as \$60,000 and Bountiful police have received dozens of phone calls from the media inquiring about the story.



There is a second item in the "that was no lady, that was my wife" file. Imagine the surprise of the unidentified Yakima, Wash. man who got into bed only to discover that the figure in bed next to him in the sexy teddy was not his wife but James A. Reil, 40! Reil has been charged with burglary, but there was no word on what he was trying to steal.

By the way, the man's wife was in another room watching television.



"Roderick Williams, clad in a dress, allegedly pulled a gun

from his purse in front of his home Tuesday and fired five shots at the car of the tax collector's husband." That was how the Worcester (Mass.) *Telegram & Gazette* described the strange incident that took place in West Brookfield recently.

It seems that Williams, 62, who is also known as Rhoda Williams, had mailed an obscene letter addressed to the town "Tax Collector," one Susan Henry. Her husband, William Henry, drove to Williams' mobile home to confront him about the letter. According to witnesses, the two men began shouting, and then Williams pulled a .22 caliber pistol from his purse and fired five shots, hitting Henry's car. He has been charged with assault with intent to murder and several weapons offenses.

The dangerous nature of men in dresses -- or men clad only in skirts -- may be what prompted New York City police to take firm action during this summer's Gay Rights parade in Queens.

Deputy Police Inspector Arnold Dansky said that he had to ask three marchers who had decided to go topless to cover up or be arrested. The three complied.

Wait a minute, a reporter later asked Dansky, didn't a New York judge rule that women can appear topless in public?

Oh, but these weren't women, Dansky replied; they were drag queens.

But drag queens are *men*. Men go topless in public all the time. What was the problem?

"Yeah, well, they kind of had big chests," Dansky said.

Crossdressing angered a group of lesbians recently. No, it's not what you think. They were upset that a woman was portraying a man, specifically Leigh Crow performing as Elvis Herselvis.

After performing a soulful rendition of "Love Me Tender," Crow is approached by a small group of lesbians. You're portraying a man," one of them says. "Why are you bringing this into our space?"

"Fuck you, baby," Crow replies.

Later to a reporter, Crow explains that she identifies as a woman, but the crossdressing expresses her male side. "I've been dressing this way all my life, every since I was a tomboy.

"It's just amazing that clothes are such a sexual-political statement," she said, "that such lines can be crossed just by getting dressed in the morning."

Speaking of Elvis, a six-day academic conference entitled "In Search of Elvis: Music, Race, Religion, Art, Performance" was held last month at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi. We mention this because Charles Reagan Wilson, a

historian and noted scholar of Southern culture, said that "Elvis blurred the boundaries between white and black, male and female."

Does this mean Elvis will become known as The Queen?

Think too long about blurring the lines between male and female and the Chevalier Charles-Genevieve-Louise-Auguste-Ande-Thimothee D'Eon comes to mind. And, as chance would have it, the French nobleman is the subject of new biography, *Monsieur D'Eon Is a Woman: A Tale of Political Intrigue and Sexual Masquerade* by Gary Kates.

Kates, a professor of history at Trinity University in Texas, sometimes lets trendy 20th-century analyses get in the way of the well-known story, for example worrying about "the sex-gender regime," about "appropriate gender roles for elite women," and about gender "isolated, deconstructed, and reconfigured." Kates doesn't settle on one reason why D'Eon spent so many years trying to convince people he was a woman. But Kates is certain that D'Eon was a transvestite in only the most general sense.

Because D'Eon was French, don't expect the book to sell too well in Australia. It seems that Aussies are upset with the French for scheduling nuclear tests in the South Pacific and so they are boycotting everything French.

Of course, you know what that means. Crossdressers with a fetish will have to forego their French maid uniforms until the diplomatic problem is settled.

This past month, Ms. Sinclair received crossdressing clippings from several loyal readers: Telzey Adams of Berkeley, Calif., Joanne Silverman of Westchester, N.Y., Sharon Ann Stuart of Cooperstown, N.Y., and Anonymous of Chicago. You can join the hall of fame by sending clippings in care of *Cross-Talk*. Remember to note the name and date of publication.

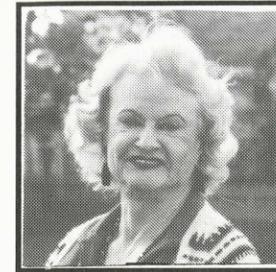
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VIRGIN VIEWS BY VIRGINIA

BISEXUALITY: WHAT IS IT?

by Virginia Prince, Ph.D.

Communication is difficult if words used by the speaker or author do not bring the same connotations to the hearer's or reader's mind. So the first order of business is to see to it that we are on the same "wavelength".

Just what are we talking about when we use the word "bisexuality"? At first glance that would appear to be

"It really seems to me that the natural state of modern homo sapiens is simply to be sexual."

obvious, but is it? There are at least three conditions in which the word might be applied to the mid-point:

1. The anatomical aspect of sex, running from a sperm making creature (male) to an egg making creature (female). Anyone having characteristics from both these extremes might well be called "bisexual", i.e. two sexes, and in biology the term is used in precisely that way. Of course, for humans the proper medical term would either be "intersex" or "hermaphrodite" depending on the nature of the variation, chromosomal in the first case and anatomical in the latter.

2. Someone who lives part of the time as a man and part of the time as a woman and is able to pass and be accepted in both roles. Here a more appropriate term would be "bigenderal" since what is doubled is the life style and not the anatomy. The more technically correct term would be "androgynous" or "gynandrous" (man-woman or woman-man).

3. Someone whose sex object choice was unlimited by social constraints so that he/she was equally at ease having sexual relations with members of either his/her own sex or with someone of the opposite sex.

In the first case there are individuals with anomalous anatomical developments, usually perceptible at birth, sometimes developing later. True hermaphrodites -- persons who have both functioning ovaries and testes -- are very rare in medical annals. But various types of hermaphroditic development are not too uncommon. Thus genetic males may be born with a condition known as "hypospadias". This is an abnormal development where the underside of the penis and of the scrotum do not

completely grow together so that an opening is left which might be misinterpreted as a vaginal opening by some non-medical person officiating at the birth. This condition is often accompanied by a micropenis, or the testicles still being undescended, a condition known as "cryptorchidism". Both of these conditions tend to suggest that the baby is a female rather than an abnormally developed male.

Genetic females may come into the world suffering from various hormonal conditions that cause hypertrophy (overgrowth) of the clitoris such that it resembles a small penis.

Such individuals are frequently misassigned at

birth to the sex opposite that of their chromosomal sex, namely male. Such people are therefore termed pseudo-hermaphrodites. The problem may also be internal, with the development of an ovotestis ... an unfinished gonad incapable of producing either normal eggs or sperms. In some cases of true hermaphroditism, individuals may have an ovary on one side of the body and a testicle on the other. There are many genetic and hormonal varieties of abnormal sexual development, but all of them to some extent could be called "bisexual" in the sense of having some characteristics of both sexes.

Then the second case: Here the word is used in what is really a general sense rather than the sexual; one of either anatomy (1) or of choice (3). People generally termed transvestites or crossdressers enjoy wearing the clothes of the opposite gender (not the opposite sex). The history of such persons usually begins at or before puberty when they find both sexual and psychic satisfaction in wearing their sister's or mother's clothes. As time goes on and they become older and more proficient in their crossgender activities -- and if they are not too ruggedly masculine in size or appearance -- they yearn to be able to go out in public, "pass" as a woman and be accepted as one by other people.

In due time, having arranged things so that they get the opportunity to live in public as a woman for short times, they get pretty good at it. Now since part of their life is spent as a man and part as a woman, some of them consider that they are bisexual. Since they do not separate sex from gender, they think that "female" and "woman" are two words for the same thing. Likewise "male" and "man".

Therefore, they reason (and people who know about them often do too), that living as both man and woman they are, in effect, living as both male and female, and so they are said to be "bisexual". Of course, they are *not* bisexual because of their cross-living (though they may be in their sex lives), because their activities are not sexual. They are probably better described as being "bigenderal".

The third case refers to those who can cohabit with either the opposite sex or with members of their own sex, and this is the most commonly understood meaning of the word "bisexual". This is the use implied from Kinsey's 0 to 6 sex-object-choice scale. ("0" meant exclusively heterosexual and "6" meant exclusively homosexual. Numbers "1" and "2" were increasingly homosexual and "4" and "5" were increasingly heterosexual.) On this scale, a true "bisexual" would be a "3" ... an individual who had as many sexual relations with his or her own sex as with the opposite. As a practical matter, I doubt that there are any -- or at least, very few -- that would fulfill this requirement. Most so-called "bisexuals" in this sense would either be a "2" on one side or a "4" on the other. That is to say, that they are either basically biased heterosexually or homosexually but sometimes cross the line with greater or lesser frequency, thus distinguishing between "4" and "5" on the one hand and "1" and "2" on the other.

Such behavior is not just of anatomical or physiological origin. It is simply an indication that mankind is basically

just "sexual" where pleasure is involved. Limitations to either preferential "0" or "6" behavior is simply the result of socialization. Heterosexual reproductive sex is, of course, biologically determined. But one who is able to "work both sides of the street", as it were, is simply someone who has been able to override the social prohibition against erotic and affectional experience with a member of the same sex, and which designates heterosexual contacts as being "normal". By exclusion, therefore, homosexuality was considered to be abnormal, perverse and immoral.

These ideas come down to us from ancient times when kings needed more soldiers and high priests needed more believers to support the church. Therefore sexuality was seen as solely a reproductive mechanism and anything that contravened that purpose was designated as both illegal and immoral because it was non-reproductive. Today at least 95% of all orgasmic experiences occur for recreational purposes. That being the case, any behavior that provides that pleasure is valid and reasonable. Those persons who find themselves able to override these ancient restrictions do so without much difficulty and have more fun in the process. They should not be persecuted for doing what, for most purposes, comes naturally. Neither should those of us who choose to cross the gender line in search of satisfaction and fulfillment.

It really seems to me that the natural state of modern *homo sapiens* (not prehistoric humans) is simply to be sexual. That is, to use our biological and physiological talents in whatever way and with whomever we wish as a partner simply for the pleasure, intimacy and relationship that it brings. Such freedom is a psychosocial achievement and is in no way biological, and therefore anyone able to do this should not be tagged with a word that says he/she *is* something but should be described as *doing* something or behaving in a particular way.

The original Kinsey, Pomeroy and Martin study made it clear that the words heterosexual and homosexual as defining nouns were not appropriate because they only refer to the sex of the partner. And "bisexual" is patterned after the other two and none of the three indicates anything about the constitution of the person so labeled. That is, to say that "so and so" *is* a homosexual (or heterosexual) is incorrect. All these two words define is a "preference" for one sex or the other as a sex partner. In the same way, I would point out, there is no such person as "a bisexual". Really it is a non-word in human sexology. It's use among biologists is something else again because there we are back to our first case -- the anatomical presence of organs or structures characteristic of each sex in the same individual.

So we have looked at the three common uses of the word and it should be apparent that most of the time when we hear it or read it we cannot be sure what the speaker or writer had in mind. As a matter of fact he or she may not be too sure what they mean themselves. Words are very

slippery things and a very good percentage of the time they do not arouse the same understanding in the recipient as they do in the sender. Sometimes we become aware of this slipperiness in our inability to firmly hang on to an idea, send it clearly to someone else and be sure that they can both understand our meaning and hold on to it securely. Bisexuality is surely one of those slippery words.

I really don't believe there is any such thing as "a bisexual" (noun). On the basis of the anatomical, the proper word is "hermaphrodite" or "pseudo-hermaphrodite", both of which are rare and not behavioral. And since the usual context for the use of the word "bisexual" has to do with what people do, it obviously doesn't apply here. On the other hand when we are talking about behavior such as sex object choice, we are talking about the behavior and not about the nature or characteristics of the individual, so we can't say such things as "he or she *is* a bisexual". We can only say that he or she exhibits some degree of bisexual activity. The degree of it can vary between 1% and 99%, so it is a degree of an activity and not a condition. The only possibility of the word being used to describe a condition would be for a person who had "exactly" the same number of heterosexual and homosexual experiences and such a person may not exist. Even if he or she did, the very next contact would unbalance the equation and the person would no longer be a Kinsey 3, but a Kinsey 2 or 4.

Finally, it is important to realize that any individual may, from time to time, exhibit characteristics which may be more commonly found in the opposite sex. These may be behavioral patterns, clothing, occupation, interests, mannerisms, etc. The motivations for doing so and the satisfactions gained from them may vary from one person to another, but the ability to do these things and portray and experience some of the life of the opposite sex is not in any sense bisexual.

Thus in my lexicon the term "bisexual" as a noun has no meaning. As an adjective such as "a bisexual activity" -- meaning that the activity could be performed by either sex -- it is probably valid. We would be better off and be better able to communicate the various ideas discussed above if we would just let the word become obsolete and forgotten.

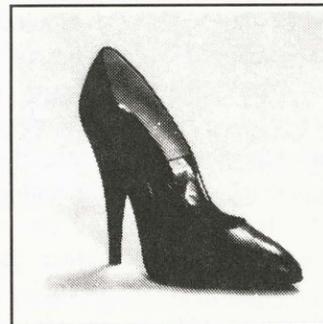
[Virginia Prince is a co-founder of The Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess) and the former publisher of Transvestia magazine. She may be contacted at P.O. Box 36091, Los Angeles CA 90036.]

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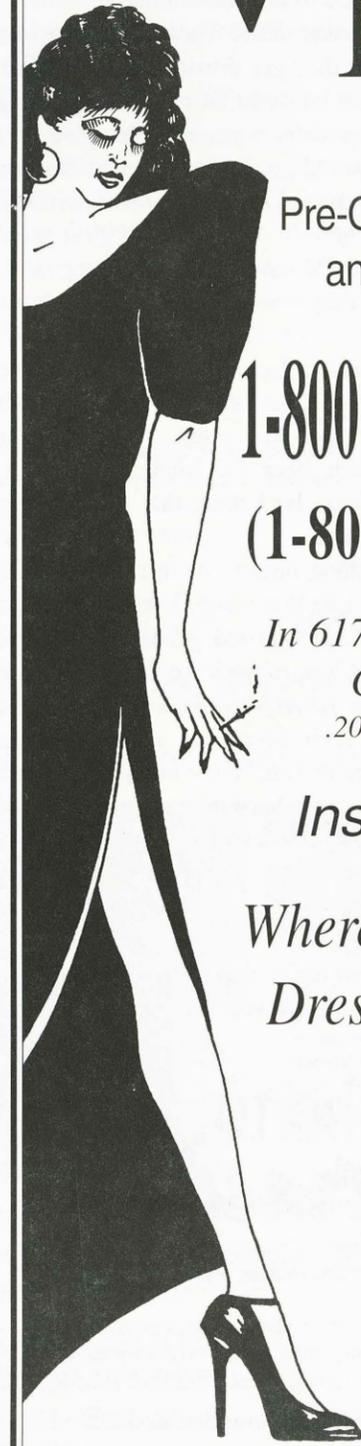
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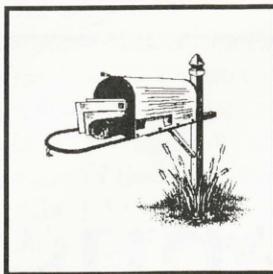
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Vox Populi

Letters to the Editor

Re: Bud Light commercial (HotBuzz, #69): While many people -- including my wife -- thinks these commercials are great, I find them a disservice to our community.

Why do the "girls" look so masculine? They're so desperate to get reduced-price beer, they get dressed up for "ladies' night" at the bar. Let it not be said that real beer-drinking men would get dressed up to look passable! Imagine how much in lost suds sales would go down the toilet if these men ever came into the bar looking really feminine. Why, *real* men would switch brands if they saw "girlie-men" selling their beer ... they could never show their face down at the local bar again if they ordered one of those "sissy beers".

So the beer company, fearful of losing its buyers, comes up with these characters who will put on a wig and dress but won't do anything else to look like women. After all, the point is that they get their beer for winning a contest; never let anyone in television land think that they are gay or *enjoy* wearing these outfits.

I'd like to see RuPaul selling beer -- or fast food, or the telephone company -- on TV. You won't, because Madison Avenue doesn't want to send a mixed gender message to potential customers. Think how funny it would have been if Ru, Frank Marino, Jimmy James, and Kenny Kerr walked into the bar, asked for their beer, and in their lowest voices all at once said "Thank You." How many guys would have their hackles up over these hot-looking "babes" only to find at the end of the commercial that they were men? Those same men, remembering how embarrassed they were by that commercial, reaches for another brand in front of their friends instead.

You run that risk by showing a clever spot like that in America. After all, you might find your company slogan has

changed to *The Queen Of Beers*.

In England, Levi's shows a hot new ad showing a sleek-looking woman getting into a cab, and the next thing you hear is an electric razor as the camera shows the woman shaving her face. In that country, they expect to sell a lot of jeans -- and get a lot of free advertising -- with this spot, but the company has no plans to show it in the United States. Some American guy might not buy Levi's because that commercial pokes fun at gender stereotypes.

We as Americans are so far behind the times (and have no sense of humor) when it comes to advertising and how men and women are portrayed. A male ego is not something to be fooled with, because his ego is directly tied to his wallet.

Cheryl Easton
Brockton, MA

I think the ad is cute and funny. At least it's accepted by all my co-workers; now, if they were to run into a *real* CD they would probably be more accepting (if not more impressed).

Debra
Address withheld

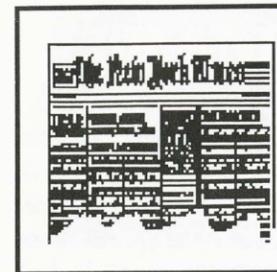
Re: "Why Do I Bother?" (Kymberleigh's Clipboard, #69): I would not subscribe to an erotic crossdressing magazine. If others enjoy such, there are plenty of other publications available to them.

The transgender community is working hard to educate the mainstream that each of us has a "condition" that we have to deal with and that in every other way we are normal human beings. If erotica was a part of every publication on the subject, then the mainstream would never take us seriously.

Michelle Johnson
Vancouver, BC, Canada

Vox Populi is the transgender community's "town square" for the exchange of opinions and ideas. If you have a response to any editorial, news item, or article appearing in *Cross-Talk*, please feel free to contribute. We suggest keeping letters to 400 words (one page typewritten or 2000 characters ASCII). *Cross-Talk* reserves the right to publish only those portions of a letter specifically addressing the issue. Personal attacks will not be published.

You may write us at P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365; fax us at (818) 347-4190; or send e-mail to *Cross-Talk* via Cross Connection ... voxpop@xconn.com via Internet. We also accept DOS ASCII files on disk at our P.O. Box.



Cross-Talk Newswire

News of the worldwide
transgender community

The American Educational Gender Information Service has announced that it now has an FTP site at which more than 60 gender-related files have been housed.

Files include the Standards of Care and articles about them, lists of resources, articles, and several chapters from a novel. Files can be downloaded as text or WordPerfect 5.1 format files, or as self-executable zipped files which, when run, will unpack into all files present at the site.

The AEGIS FTP site address is [ftp.mindspring.com](ftp://ftp.mindspring.com/pub/users/aegis/ftp) in the /pub/users/aegis/ftp directory. The same site will serve as host for the distributed electronic version of the AEGIS quarterly newsletter.

○○○

The Canadian human rights organization TransEqual has closed down its Internet and Fidonet information centers, signalling the abandonment of their short-lived "Electronic Outreach Project", as well as a decision to discontinue their involvement in individual human rights cases.

○○○

Newswire is compiled from transgender community newsletters, Internet news feeds, and press releases. News items may be mailed to P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365, sent by Internet to newserv@xconn.com, or faxed to (818) 347-4190.

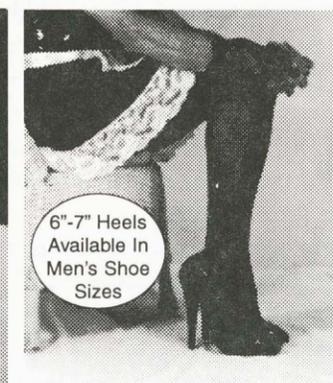
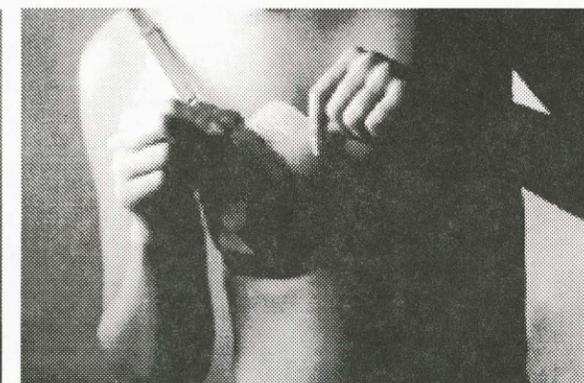
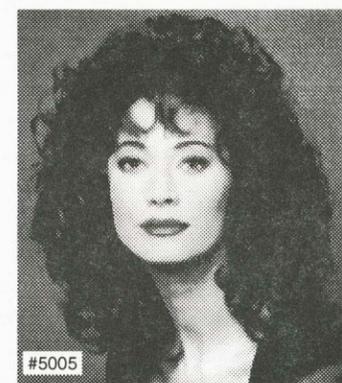
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THOUGHTS ON "THE GENDER RULES"

by Marla Louise

Within the transgender community, there is a subtle social hierarchy.

On top is the transsexual, that individual who wishes to change (or has changed) both her gender role from that assigned her at birth and also her genitalia and thereby (in theory) change her physical sex.

Below her is the transgenderist, that individual who probably has changed her body some, but more importantly has permanently changed her gender role from that assigned by society at her birth.

Below these two is the transvestite. Within the transvestite category, I see two major subdivisions. The first is the

bigendered transvestite, whose person encompasses both genders; i.e., this individual flows between the two genders being a member of each gender as his or her needs require. The second category of transvestite I would call the "exploratory" transvestite. This individual does not give up or leave the birth gender role but is willing

to perceive and break society's rules enough to go exploring in the other gender. They may do this for many reasons. One of the most obvious is sexual ... but that certainly isn't the only reason.

And finally, below all of these are the gender straights: Those who live in their birth gender role and never leave it even to explore.

Why is the hierarchy in this particular order? It seems to stress one's willingness to change their body. I don't support any hierarchy but I would like to present a view for a different hierarchy so as to muddle the issue ... an aspect which might reorder the priorities; a look at these categories with respect to society's gender rules.

Society has some very strict rules about gender, as we all know. Normally they remain unwritten but I'd like to try to spell out three of them ...

Rule #1: One's gender (role) is assigned at birth, and once assigned, cannot be changed.

Rule #2: One's gender is defined by the shape of one's genitalia.

Rule #3: There are only two genders and every member of society must be a member of only one and *only* one gender.

A note about these rules. Many members of our society believe in these rules. Not a lip service belief, but a belief so solid that they perceive no difference between the belief and reality. For those individuals, these rules are no more breakable than the law of gravity.

What do these three rules have to do with the transgender

categories? Let's first look at the biggest category, straights. Straights follow all three gender rules. They probably do so for one of two reasons. Either they believe in the gender rules and cannot even conceive that one can break them, or if they do not they find that their person works well within the rules so they find no reason to break them.

What happens if we reject the first rule but either believe in or decide to follow the other two? We have that group of people known as transsexuals. Their actions reject rule #1 by rejecting their birth gender, but they still follow rules #2 and #3. They change their genitalia to match their gender and they follow the two gender system, taking on

one, and only one, gender role. Their life path only rejects their original gender role. Like the straights, they believe in #2 and #3 because they find that their person works well within those rules.

Next is the transgenderist. She is breaking rules #1 and #2, but still follows and believes rule #3,

for she still assumes and identifies with only one gender role.

Finally, we have the bigendered transvestite. For the bigendered transvestite to exist, she must reject in her soul all three rules ... for to believe in any of them would prevent her from being. Even the exploratory transvestite must be willing to separate the rules from belief enough to break these rules in order to explore.

What does this all mean? I suggest that the assumed progression from straight to transvestite to transgendered to transsexual is not the only hierarchy. There is another hierarchy based on rejecting society's gender rules and belief in them. Depending on whether rejecting society's rules is good or bad, we can now construct a different progression in the transgender world. For there is just as justifiable a progression from straight to transsexual to transgendered to transvestite as vice versa.

Another observation: Bigotry is one of the tools society uses to enforce its rules. A bigot is someone who believes in a social rule to such an extent that he is willing to reject, degrade and/or harm another member of society who does not follow that social rule. As such, the bigots in straight society try to degrade all of us. This does not mean that *all* straights are bigots, but it does mean the bigots must believe in at least *some* of the three gender rules to such an extent that they are willing to try to enforce those rules on others.

In a similar way, I have run into a number of TS bigots.

(continued on page 33)

Society has some very strict rules about gender.

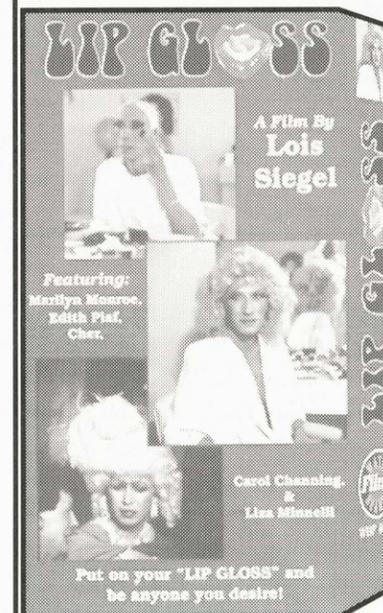
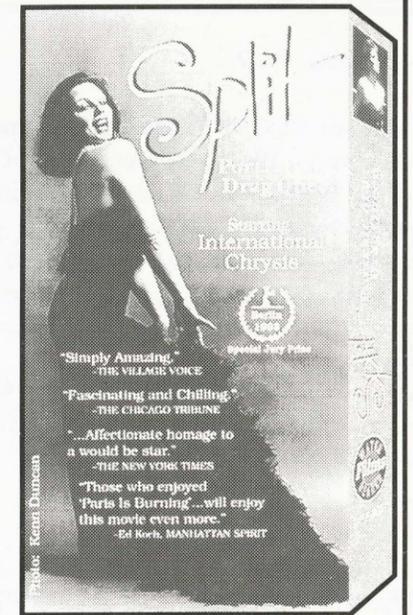
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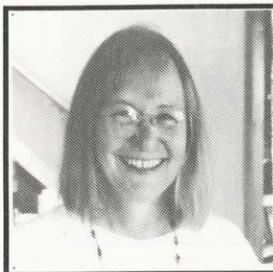
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T NOTES

UNLIVED LIVES

by Anne Vitale, Ph.D.

Back in issue #67, while making a commentary regarding the February 1995 conference at California State University Northridge, I said that "routinely, lives go 'unlived', marriages and families are torn apart and careers lost." My intent was to express the seriousness of gender identity disorder relative to what appeared to me to

"Life seems like being in an intolerably long line at the bank. Everyone else gets to the teller window but you."

be a dress-up party atmosphere at the conference. The remark led several people to ask me to elaborate.

When I say "unlived lives", I am speaking of the inherent frustrations of "waiting". Waiting for life to begin. Yes, one seems to be alive. Yes, one seems to be doing what everyone else is doing. However, the "doing" seems to be hollow. Life seems to have more of a spectator quality rather than real time actual involvement. Life seems like being in an intolerably long line at the bank. Everyone else gets to the teller window but you.

For most gender identity conflicted individuals the waiting starts very early. Little boys wait to be allowed to enter play with the girls as a girl. They wait for a pretty dress or a doll to mother for their birthday. Unknowingly, they start the long, long wait for the problem to go away.

One of the most universal appeals gender conflicted children make to end the waiting is to pray for God to intervene. It is heartbreaking to think of all those innocent children out there at this very moment hoping for a miracle we know will never happen.

And then there are the adolescent years of waiting. This is the time in life when the boys watch in wonder as their female counterparts start to develop into young women. However, for the gender conflicted, this a time full of false hope. The hope is that deep within their apparently male bodies lies their true female sex. Now surely the mistake will be corrected; they too will develop into young women. Instead, this beautiful experience not only passes them by, they must endure the indignity of becoming masculinized and -- perhaps for the first time -- realize that the problem may never go away.

The only relief comes from crossdressing and very private fantasies of becoming female.

When the gender conflicted individual enters his early twenties, the efforts to relieve the waiting takes a more practical turn. If he can't be a woman, perhaps he can become a man. Perhaps if he joins the armed forces.

Perhaps if he gets married. Perhaps if he has children. Perhaps if he starts lifting weights. Perhaps ... perhaps ... perhaps.

There are other biological complications. Foremost amongst these is the normal need for intimacy. At first being with the right woman eases the tensions of

non-participation. The problem, of course, is that he almost invariably falls in love with the woman he wants to be. And often as not, starts living his life through her. This pseudo-life is characterized by secretly crossdressing in her clothes ... even going so far as going shopping with her and encouraging her to buy clothes that he himself wants to wear.

It usually doesn't take very long to for the wife to rebel and the individual to realize that marriage has complicated the problem. Now he is waiting to become a wife as well as a woman. Can waiting to become a mother be far behind? Usually not.

By now you most certainly get the picture. As time goes on, as the decades pass, investment in a life that is not truly being lived has a strong tendency to increase. For some, suicide seems the only way out. These are the people we usually never get to hear about. In some cases a reluctant resignation settles in. In others, there is an increase in attempts to beat the problem once and for all. Perhaps more children. Perhaps a new career or making more money. Perhaps a different, more permissive wife. Perhaps he can settle for being "only a crossdresser". Denial settles in and the years go on and on. A life unlived.

This is an all too familiar scenario. I can't, of course, make a specific diagnosis of transsexualism of everyone who fits this pattern, but there is an excellent chance that if this sounds like the "life" you have lived to date, you are most certainly in need of professional help.

The answer need not mean that you have to change your sex. It does mean, however, that you have to face the fact

(continued on page 33)



WOMAN TO WOMAN

REACHING THOSE WHO NEED SUPPORT

by Linda Peacock

[Editor's Note: This column originally appeared in Cross-Talk #25 (June 1991) and was written for The Dixie Belle, newsletter of the Sigma Epsilon Chapter Tri-Ess, when Linda was president of that chapter.]

I feel that we have made great strides in helping many CDs to come out of the closet and fulfill their feminine needs. We offer love and friendship and support, as well as great fellowship. We are continuing to reach outside of the transgender community to educate and bring more understanding to the world about our members, and in

"We need to stress the positives of crossdressing, the sharing and friendships that develop."

doing so alleviate the fear that lack of knowledge brings. However, I am concerned by our apparent inability to reach out to more wives. Those of you who regularly attend meetings know that usually there are only three or four wives in attendance, and it is always the same wives. This does not mean that we are the only supportive wives, because I personally know of many who support, but cannot or will not, for whatever reason, come to the meetings. And there are many wives who are not supportive, or who would like to be but are frightened. How can we reach them? It is a very difficult thing to do because we cannot force them to accept their husband's needs, nor to understand why. The only course of action that I can think of is twofold: First, we must offer their husbands a safe, supportive atmosphere in which to express their inner feminine selves. By doing this it is likely that their inner pressures will be reduced, and perhaps their resulting calmness and serenity will become apparent to their wives as a positive change.

Second, we must try by gentle means to educate wives. Many wives are willing to participate from afar by reading our newsletter, or reading letters their husbands receive

from other crossdressers. Therefore we need to make sure that the material provided in newsletters, correspondence and other material is appropriate and useful for helping significant others learn.

We need to stress the positives of crossdressing, the sharing and friendships that develop. We need to try to

calm the understandable fears they may have and concentrate on showing the beauty of the person within. The person within is always the same, whether dressed femme or non-femme ... the inner self does not change. The clothes simply help to focus and project an aspect of that self that is not often shared. A

crossdresser is simply expressing a need within himself to get in touch with a more feminine part of himself and the very real feelings and emotions associated with those traits which have often been deeply suppressed. Although these needs may seem different from other men's needs, and the outward manifestation of those needs may appear very different from standard male behavior, I cannot believe it is wrong. Many modern psychiatrists and psychologists that we listen to suggest that most men need to get in closer touch with the emotions that it is not considered manly to express.

If a woman loves the inner man, then she is loving the whole person, whether she realizes it or not. To be able to share the entire person is, in my mind, a privilege which I do not take lightly.

[Linda Peacock is the Tri-Ess director of wives' and partners' concerns, an IFGE board member, and chair of the SPICE board of directors. She also publishes the quarterly newsletter for spouses and partners The Sweetheart Connection, and may be reached by mail at P.O. Box 24031, Little Rock AR 72221, by e-mail to kmhj27a@prodigy.com or by phone at (501) 227-8798.]

SALES OF Ricky Hunt's Hey Dad ... Do I Have To Watch The TV? directly benefit S.P.I.C.E., the Spouse/Partner International Conference for Education. For ordering information, see page 37.

THE ETERNAL TRIANGLE

by Victoria Lynn

Have you ever noticed that ours is a nation of symbols? Actually, ours is a world of symbols and for the most part, they are symbols we take for granted. Everything from the Stars and Stripes to McDonald's Golden Arches. We see them so often that we don't notice them any more. We in the crossdressing community (whatever the heck that is) really don't have any symbols of our own. Sure we could argue that the "yin-yang" of Taoism is pretty appropriate, but we didn't invent it. It is, to coin a phrase, "older than dirt." Still, it is kind of nice. There is one other symbol that you see a lot of lately. The pink triangle. Before you get into a huff and say, "Well, that doesn't apply to me, I'm not gay, etc., etc.", just bear with me for a minute. It may apply to you a good deal more than you think.

About sixty years or so ago, the National Socialist German Democratic Workers Party (aka Nazis) took it upon themselves to decide that a large segment of the Earth's population was undesirable, or for that matter, unnecessary. Within this group were, of course, Jews, political troublemakers, habitual criminals, incompetents, Gypsies, priests and, you guessed it, homosexuals. Still doesn't apply to you? Read on ...

Picture this, a sunny summer day in Munich (nice city, good beer). The year is 1938. The invasion of Poland is a year away and no one has bombed any major city in Europe into rubble ... yet. You're sitting in your home with a few friends. All of you are crossdressers and each is dressed up in his/her Sunday best for a nice afternoon of "girl talk." Suddenly, the door bursts open and your worst nightmare is about to come true. Several large, unfriendly lads in black leather trench coats barge into the room and inform you that you are all under arrest. The charge? "Why, you're homosexuals, of course."

You stand, straighten your skirt and announce "*Au contraire!* We are all fine, upstanding heterosexuals with families, wives, etc. and studies have shown that most crossdressers are not in fact gay." Your accuser takes careful note of your argument and then, while laughing, knocks several of your teeth loose.

You see, he is a creature of habit and fond of sweeping generalizations. He is of the opinion that if you wear "men's clothes" you're "OK." If you wear "women's clothes" you're (pick one) **a**) queer, **b**) a degenerate, **c**) sick, **d**) all of the above. So, off you go to the local police station.

Presuming that you have survived this long, you later find yourself standing at the main gate of one of the Reich's charming little country spas. Places with names like Dachau (nice village, beautiful flower festival). In the preceding days (or weeks, or months) someone has been

kind enough to sew some adorable little pink triangles on your uniform blouse. They don't go with the color scheme and this is not the kind of blouse you had in mind, but you're in no position to argue.

After getting processed and becoming accustomed to the routine, several options will present themselves but none

Do you believe that the gay community's pink triangle has no meaning for us?

will be particularly good. You can starve to death, be worked to death, die of some disease, or dive onto an electric fence and get it over with. In any case, it probably won't matter as some thug in a uniform will probably shoot you or beat you to death long before that. Why? Because you're wearing this little pink triangle which, as far as you and the sociologists are concerned, doesn't apply to you anyway!

The point of this history lesson is that symbols work both ways. On the one hand they can be a source of pride. On the other hand, a stigma. The gay community has taken the stigma away from the pink triangle and turned it into a source of pride, a rallying sign and a means to pay homage to those who fell when the triangle was created. Many crossdressers, even those who are not gay, take pride in wearing the triangle to show support for those that are, or simply to help promote understanding of all alternative lifestyles.

We've recently heard a lot about gay people in the military and the backpedaling that President Clinton seems to be doing on the issue. If you think this has nothing to do with you, walk into a recruiter's office and tell him you wear women's clothing. You may not get a pink triangle sewn to your uniform but the mentality is still there. It's either gay or straight, folks. Except for West Point uniforms, there are no shades of gray in the Army.

If you think the mentality of Munich in the '30s couldn't exist in the United States today, cut out some pink triangles, sew them to your suit and wear them to work. Want to lay odds on how many minutes go by before you get a comment? How about odds on how long you last before they let you go? Try mowing the lawn in a skirt some day. You won't even have to sew triangles on it.

(continued on page 33)



HotBuzz

by JoAnn Roberts

"A person reveals his character by nothing so clearly as the joke he resents." - G. C. Lichtenberg

The really **HotBuzz** for this month is the transgender backlash against the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), a gay/lesbian/bisexual lobbying organization. The HRCF actually worked against us for transgender inclusion in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act before Congress. Finally, this community has found a focal point for solidarity. The HRCF has become a common foe and that may yet unite us. I'm sure there's more on the HRCF controversy elsewhere in this issue, so I won't belabor the point.

The newly aroused political ire of the transgender community has inspired several activities that deserve mention. The International Conference on Transgender Law & Employment Policy (ICTLEP) has declared International Transgender Employment Days as September 3 & 4, 1995. ICTLEP is calling for local organizations to commemorate openly transgender employment victories, and document transgender employment discrimination. ICTLEP has distributed a press release along with a form to collect employment info. If you have had an employment victory or if you have lost a job because you are transgendered, you need to contact Phyllis Frye of ICTLEP at (713) 723-8368.

Of course, all this is leading up to the Transgender Lobbying Days, October 2-3, 1995, as I told you last month. So, I don't want you should forget, I'm telling you again, like your momma would. You'll put it on your calendar and you'll call Riki Anne Wilchins, (212) 645-1753, Karen Kerin (802) 223-4756, or Phyllis Frye at the number above, and you'll tell them you'll be there. Won't you?

I have a message for any community organization hiding behind the skirts of their 501 (c)(3), claiming they can't get involved in lobbying because they'll lose their federal tax exemption. *Wimps! Wussies! False!* Federal law allows 501(c)(3) organizations to engage in lobbying activities and spend up to 20% of their operating budget. Sure there are caveats, but the only real zinger is that we are not allowed to endorse or oppose candidates.

Working for transgender inclusion in ENDA certainly fits within the framework of allowed activities. So, get out there and do some real work.

Okay, the serious stuff is out of the way for now. Let's do some fun stuff ... like white eyeshadow. Yes, ladies, the shade of the '60s has returned, but the whites today are not frosty or pearlized. The "now" white is matte, sheer, and nearly invisible. They are translucent and can be worn over other colors to lighten them, swept over the browbone to make your eyes look bigger, or use it as a liner just above the lashes to whiten the eyes. Try these: Prescriptives Pure Light; Bobbi Brown Essentials White #1; or Cover Girl Snow Blossom.

Fall fashions (yes, dear, we talk about Fall while it's still summer) are looking wonderful. None of the nonsense of a few years ago remains. What we're seeing are solid designs that are wearable yet decidedly feminine. The jacket dress is a staple, as is the tweed suit with straight skirt. Of course, suits are really "in" this Fall with either pants or a straight skirt. Just the thing to walk the Hallowed Halls of Congress (don't forget your flats).

Leather in also "in" for Fall and the look can be simply a single piece, like a black leather skirt, or head-to-toe. Of course, Fall means boots, too, and the rule for this season is: The Shorter The Skirt, The Taller The Boot. Those of you who own thigh-high boots will need a license to wear a skirt that short.

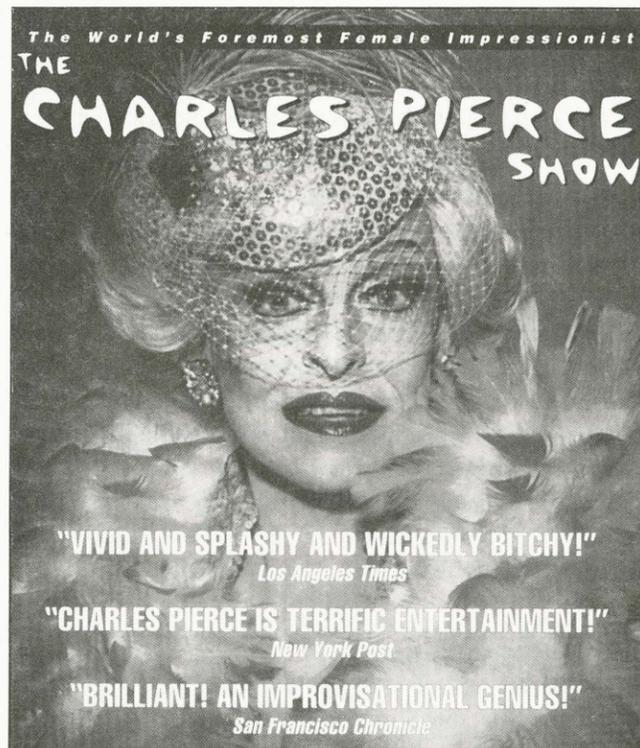
Or, you could dress like Madonna. In the latest video from the lady who reinvents herself every time she changes lingerie, Madonna has captured that ineffable D&S/B&D look with spike heeled thigh-high boots and shiny vinyl bodysuit, plus a few well placed ropes and chains. The words to the song, *Human Nature*, are almost inaudible, but who cares? Funny, just a short time ago, MTV banned a Madonna video because it showed a crossdresser and mild B&D. What is this country coming to? Sex! That's what. Can't get away from it, so why fight it? Jesse Helms was reported to have been apoplectic at the thought.

Thigh-high boots seem to be all over. For example, if you missed the M*A*C ad with RuPaul in red vinyl corset and thigh-high boots, tough. According to Joann Lupis, M*A*C publicity exec, the ad was a one time deal. According to Lupis, "M*A*C doesn't advertise." However, if you have Net access to the Web, you may still see La Ru at <http://www2.pcy.mci.net/fashion/index.html> ... That's the newest fashion site on the Web, @fashion.

Summer weather can be a real killer if you're going out dressed. Makeup has been known to melt off people's faces. So, how do you beat the heat and stay looking fresh? Try these tips ... Apply an oil free foundation with a sponge (I recommend a silicone based foundation), then set with a loose (not pressed) powder ... Use an oil-free eyeshadow base before applying eye shadow ... Use matte powder shades, not creams ... Use liquid eyeliner, not a pencil ... Apply one coat of mascara, let dry and powder, then apply a second coat of mascara on tops of lashes only ... Use a powder blush and choose warm brown-beige tones ... Outline and fill lips with a lip liner pencil first, then cover with a long-lasting formula lipstick. Matte is better than glossy. The trick in all of this is to avoid any product with an oil or waxy base.



You don't have to be rich to look nice, although it helps. But with a little bit of savvy shopping in the right places, you can look like a million bucks. Check out thrift shops, outlet stores, and off-price stores like TJ Maxx. Not only do they have great clothes at great prices, they're buying larger sizes, too. Don't neglect Sears and J.C. Penney. Finally, if you're really shy, you can buy almost everything you need -- except shoes and a wig -- by mail through the new Hanes One Place outlet. Call 1-800-522-1151 for a catalog.



This 60-minute program, taped from a live performance at the Los Angeles Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in 1982, features the best of Pierce's work perfected over three decades. Included are unforgettable, hilarious impressions of Bette Davis, Mae West, Katharine Hepburn, Carol Channing and Joan Crawford.
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It's happened to all of us. You just finish applying your nail polish and you bump your nail into something. Arrghhh! I hate that when that happens.

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You'll really nail down the "now" look with 3-D nails. The latest fad to hit fingertips are three dimensional sculptured nails, like at the Chanel show. The models' nails were quilted to match the signature Chanel style handbags.



And you thought working in the fashion industry was fun? Not for three executives of Carole Little. Two of the three were shot to death over the last 18 months and the third was shot at and had her house bombed.



"Clothes Make The Man", the saying goes, and, as we all know, make the woman, too. (Gawd, were there enough commas in that sentence?) But clothes can do so much more than that. They can make you look authoritative, romantic, creative, trustworthy, even intelligent. Decode the secrets of dressing with a new book, *Dress Code*, by Toby Fischer-Mirkin, from Conde Nast, PO Box 10214, Dept. 205013-020, Des Moines, IA 50336. The cost is \$17.50 plus \$2.50 shipping and handling. Residents of CA, CO, GA, IA, IL, KY, MA, MI, NJ, NY, and OH must add applicable sales tax.



Mademoiselle asked and they answered. The question put to several men was, "If you could be a woman for a day, what would you be most curious about?" The answers ranged from, "I've never understood why women need so many pairs [of shoes]," to "What they spend so much time doing in the ladies room?" to "Do women really have a more nurturing instinct?" to "What would it be like to go to a bar and get hit on by guys using ridiculous come-ons?"



I keep saying this 'cause it's true: You never know where you're going to find a positive transgender role model. Like, we're sitting down to watch a pay-per-view movie 'cause we're *really* bored and there's nothing else on the telly. I had no idea the film *I Like It Like That* had a transgendered character in a major role. The story is about the trials and tribulations of a family in the Bronx. The main character is a young Hispanic woman who has a dork for a husband, a budding dope dealer 8-year-old son, a whiny daughter, and a brother who is a transsexual. I'm

not going to go into the storyline in detail, but there are several scenes with her sister/brother (she constantly refers to "my sister Alexis") that are poignant and relevant. The film should also be in the video stores, so snag a copy to view if you can.



These days, even the bad guys are sensitive. On *Lois and Clark: The New Adventures Of Superman*, two thugs are talking and one of them, an Asian, is recounting the mystic powers of a pair of bracelets that make one nearly invincible.

The other thug, an American, says, "Look, if you want to wear women's accessories, that's your business ..." I think that's a pretty understanding attitude. Later in the episode, Lois Lane crossdresses as a male to enter a men-only private club. Gender-crossing is everywhere, as well as homophobia. After snagging some important data from the club, Perry White is seen hugging the crossdressed Lane. A passerby raises an eyebrow and White protests, "She's a girl! She's a girl!"



I want to give some credit to the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE). One of my criticisms of IFGE has been a lack of communication with members and the community. They're trying to correct that with a new quarterly newsletter and frequent press releases about relevant news and events. The newsletter is just okay, but I'm sure it will get better under the stewardship of the new editor, and, no, I won't tell you her name. You'll have to hear it from IFGE. I understand that she's almost as picky as I am about design and layout, so that should mean a new look and feel for *Tapestry*, too. (Fooled ya! Thought I was gonna take a potshot, dincha!)



So, those are my opinions, but, hey, what do I know? I'm politically incorrect, according to the HRCF. Comments? E-mail them to cyberqueen@cdspub.com. Copyright 1995 by Creative Design Services. All rights reserved.

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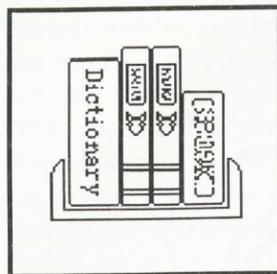
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Alternative Presses

by Kimberleigh Richards

Dr. Peggy Rudd is the author of two of the most important books that our community uses to help the spouses and partners of crossdressers cope and accept. Now she has added a third book to that shelf of resources.

You know there is something different about *Crossdressers: And Those Who Share Their Lives* (PM Publishers, 1995) before you even open it. Unlike Dr. Rudd's previous two books, which were softbound with blue cover type, this volume has a bright pink, hard cover featuring a photograph of an attractive crossdresser from Georgia which has also been reproduced in rosy shades.

Inside, there are many, many photographs of crossdressers and their partners, but unlike Mariette Pathy Allen's work of several years ago, the focus is not so much on biographies as it is on the phenomenon of crossdressing in a relationship and the efforts by couples in such to make it work for them. But the book has a fair share of these "personal histories", and the overall message is one of love, compassion, and acceptance.

Dr. Rudd has worked hard over the better part of the last decade to counter the popular misconception that crossdressing automatically spells the end of a marriage or close friendship. Looking back at the history of such organizations as FPE -- which later evolved into Tri-Ess -- this has always been a concern for the CD, and quite honestly, trying to convince some wives can be about as difficult as getting the toothpaste back into the tube!

Peggy Rudd is precisely what anyone who finds himself in this difficult position needs to help defend his behavior. She is a genetic female, married to a crossdresser herself, and holds a doctorate in Education. Along with the mainstays *My Husband Wears My Clothes* and *Crossdressing With Dignity*, this book belongs in the library of any woman who is involved with a man who relates so well to femininity. Fortunately, her books are widely available through transgender community businesses, bookstores focusing on alternative lifestyles, IFGE's mail order bookstore, and from the publisher directly.

PEGGY J. RUDD, Ed.D



CROSSDRESSERS:
And Those Who Share Their Lives



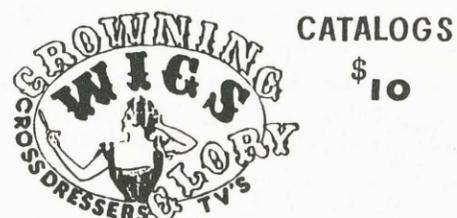
I belatedly discovered that the 'zine *Tantrum* published an interview with San Francisco club fixture Bambi Lake ("The Intellectual Transsexual") a couple of years ago. However, publisher Alvin Alfred Orloff overlooked my tardy inquiry and sent me a copy anyway.

I'm glad he did, because the interview is quite engrossing. Bambi, for those of you who don't already know of her, is a very versatile entertainer, with credentials that include stage productions, Berlin cabarets, and punk rock bands. And the interview covers all of those varied genres and more, going on for eleven pages (which is a full quarter of the 'zine)! Did you know that she threw the opening party for the movie *Vegas In Space*? That she was partially responsible for David Bowie shedding his glam image in the mid-70s? That the beginning of her transgender voyage began with a comment from some female high school classmates? You will ...

Alvin says he is working on a full length memoir of Bambi to be published next year (and he has already promised us a review copy). In the meantime, you can order a copy of *Tantrum* #3 for \$4.00 cash from Box 6, 3288 21st St., San Francisco CA 94110.

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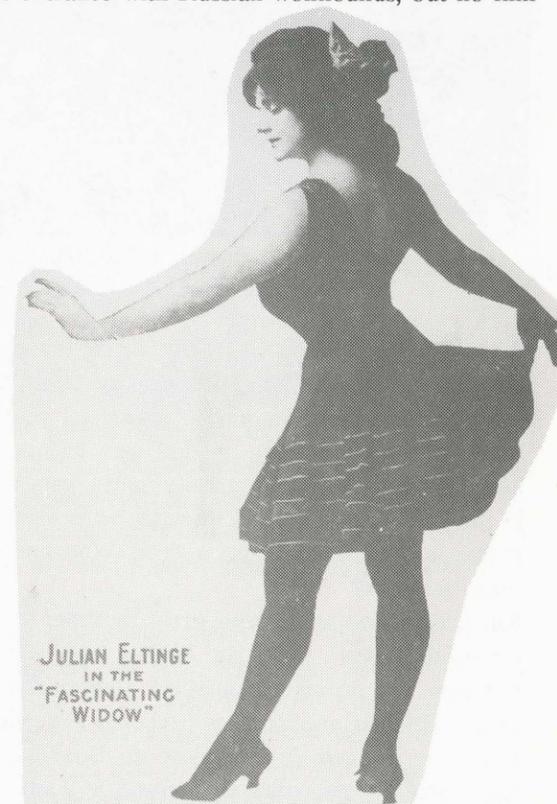
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BACK THEN

by Charles Pierce

Kymerleigh has asked me to dig into my archives of photos and memories and come up with a brief history of drag on stage and to bring you a few names of the famous female impersonators ... *back then*.

Julian Eltinge -- the daddy of all femmeimps -- made a few films in the early '30s but are never seen today. More of Julian at another time. Then there was Francis Renault. We have photos of Francis, who used to do one-man (or lady) concerts in New York City at Carnegie Hall -- making his entrance with Russian wolfhounds, but no film on him.



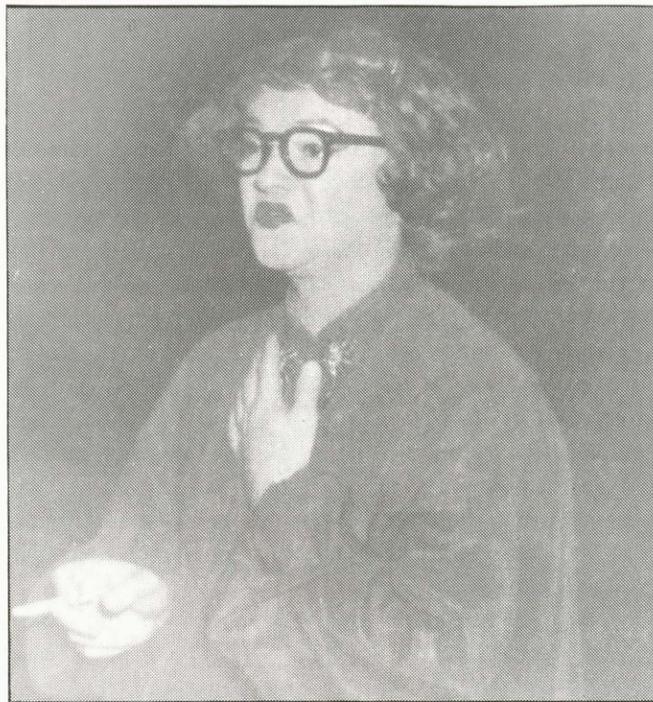
Both Julian and Francis are gone, as is Lynne Carter who toured around with his night club act in the '50s and '60s ... being booked into the Sahara Hotel in Las Vegas, a surprise to us all at the time. T.C. Jones made a big splash on Broadway in "New Faces of 1956", was on *The Ed Sullivan Show* as a guest and went on to play Las Vegas, too. T.C. did not, shall we say, "deport" himself correctly for that very straight community, and his engagement was cancelled. There is the famous story of T.C. playing in "New Faces" and taking off his wig during the cast bows. Telly Savalas had more hair! A lady in the audience turned to her friend and said, "Look! It's a bald headed woman!" Another well known female impersonator in the '40s was Karyl Norman, billed as "The Creole Fashion Plate" ... and his picture, in drag, was used on the cover of many pop songs of the period. Believe it or not, Karyl used to do a blackface "Aunt Jemima" type act with two black dancers.

Harvey Lee was a mainstay at the world famous Finnochio's in San Francisco where he performed for many years. During his career he collected pictures, recordings and articles on the female impersonators of the world. He retired to Little Rock, Arkansas and we wrote back and forth at least twice a month. When he was in San Francisco he showed me a room in his apartment with the files, posters, etc., of his collection, probably the best on impersonators that I had ever seen. He died from complications resulting from a fall and although he had left instructions that his collection was to go to the University in Little Rock, I heard through a mutual friend that his relatives trashed it and his years of collecting went out the window, so to speak.

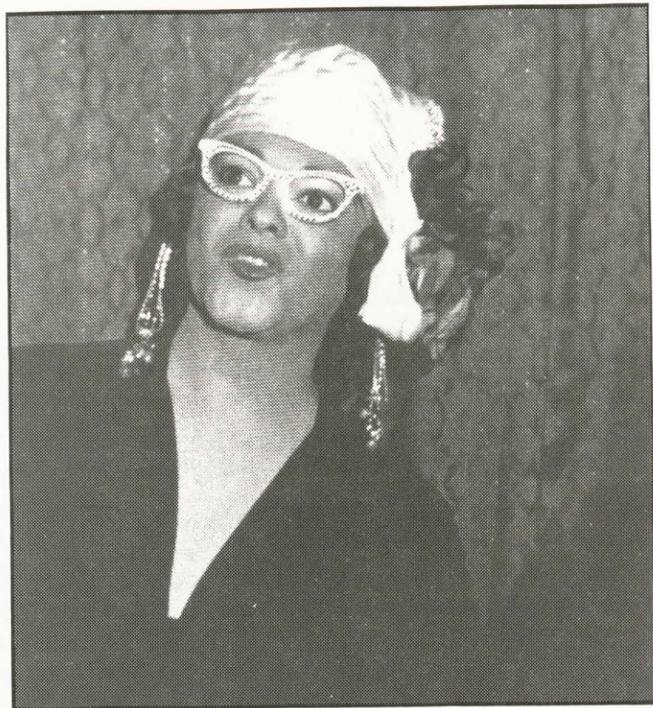
I must not neglect to mention several of the other incredible performers at Finn's (as Finnochio's was dubbed by the "in" set in San Francisco). LaVerne Cummings ... beautiful, with a sexy sounding voice and for years, while performing, LaVerne used his own shoulder length hair in his act. LaVerne is now retired and still lives in San Francisco. There was Lucien, billed as "The Sophie Tucker of the West Coast" and Sophie used to pass on some of her stage wardrobe to Lucien. He was a crowd pleaser with lots of jokes. He, like Lestra LaMott, is gone. Lestra was the Mistress of Ceremonies and after introducing an act would dash off stage and don another gown. His gowns, he made himself, were made of Dennison crepe paper! They were so expertly made that quite a few of them are in museums. Elton Paris used to



When drag was drag ... Francis Renault



T.C. Jones as "Bette Davis" (left) and "Louella Parsons" (right). Both pictures were taken at The Red Carpet on Miami Beach in 1959, when T.C. and I worked the same bill.



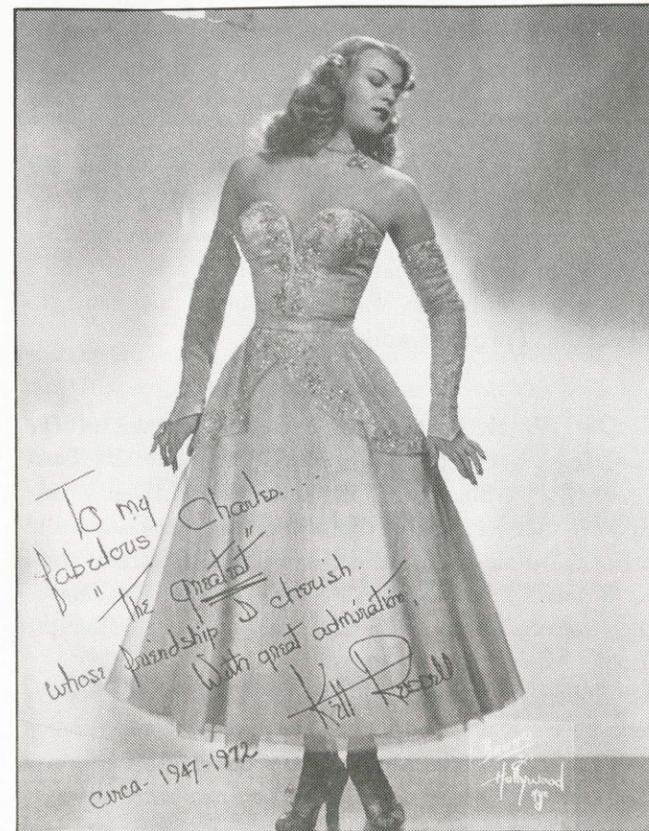
Harvey Lee as he looked in a 1956 publicity photo, accompanied by Nikki, his Borzoi beautiful.

dress in camp fashion and entertain by starting out in a high singing register then dropping to bass. Walter Hart was another impersonator who played for years at Finn's. Many of the entertainers in that club had been there so long they had bought their own homes, cars and property in the Bay Area. They did three shows a night and at one period in time, seven nights a week. Who says getting into drag isn't work?

Kitt Russell was an amazing artist. In drag, he was so very beautiful. Wives would get furious with their husbands watching Kitt do his act on stage. Before The Call of the Drag, Kitt had appeared as a chorus boy with Gertrude Lawrence in *Lady In The Dark* on Broadway. Little did Kitt know he was soon to become a "Lady" in his own right. An agent in Cleveland suggested to Kitt that he work up an act as a "Femme Mimic", which he did and scraped up enough money for a lavish wardrobe. Somehow he got his hands on \$2,000, so no wonder his wardrobe was lavish! Kitt toured the smart supper clubs of the '40s and as the years went by settled in as M.C. at The 82 Club in New York City. He also produced the shows there.

The 82 Club had its own band, line of chorus boys and girls (some real, Kitt told me) and wonderful acts that Sinatra, Garland, Bogie always made a point in catching when they hit New York City. By the way, the maitre d' at The 82 Club was "Butch", a grandmother in a tuxedo who would never be caught dead in a dress: Yes, those were the crazy, fun days ... *back then* ...

Kitt Russell retired in the '70s to go back to South Carolina and take care of his parents. After they both passed on he contemplated returning to performing but



discovered he had diabetes and leg problems. In one of his many letters to me he revealed that back in the '20s and '30s, impersonators such as Eltinge and Renault would use Calamine lotion on their arms, shoulders and bosom to make them lily white and rouge between the fingers to make them appear longer!

I think those are enough names from "back then" for the moment. I haven't told you about Jackie Jackson who was "The Show Girl" in the Jewel Box Revue, now retired and living in Miami, or Les-Lee, or Ricky Renee. They went to Europe in the '50s and (I think) are still slapping on the makeup and falsies. Ricky was the "lady" in the restroom in *Cabaret*, the film. There was "Titanic" -- so very popular years ago in the clubs, and Kim August who played the barfly at Joe Allen's bar in *No Way To Treat A Lady*. Rod Steiger, who was in drag himself, did away with poor Kim's character and it was never revealed that Kim was a man! Those were the years when Hollywood hired impersonators to play impersonators long before Dustin Hoffman broke that mold with *Tootsie*. (Why Kim was not revealed as a man is still a mystery to me. Maybe Kim auditioned for the role in drag and the producers didn't know the difference? Kim, if you're reading this deep in the heart of Michigan let us know.)

Lynne Carter did a film, long forgotten (along with the title) and Kitt Russell was trying to locate a film he did called *Project X*. My dearest Kitt had a heart attack last year and was gone before the paramedics arrived, so he An has joined some of the truly great female impersonators of all time, up there at "The Big Makeup Table In The Sky".



Ricky Renee, circa 1950.

[Charles Pierce is a world-famous female impersonator in his own right, and has appeared in countless stage shows, movies, and television programs. Please let us know here at **Cross-Talk** if you would like to see more photos from his archives and read further memories of the grand tradition of female impersonation in future issues.]

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The Diva Of Dish

by Angela Gardner

Ah, summer! I'm reminded of an old song, and since I have the mental capacity of a five year old, I am forced, forced I tell you, to paraphrase the lyrics: To the tune of *Dancin' In The Street* ... "Summer's here and the time is right for meltin' in the heat." Yes, it isn't a time of great enjoyment for heavily made up and bewigged CD. Fortunately I had some practice with heat and humidity back in June at the "Be All." Thus prepared and eased into the one hundred degree range I have continued to dress through the summer months, even in the daytime, but I will be happy when the cool fall weather returns, and I can shave less of myself every time I go out. Ouch! Pass the iodine, please.

But, enough of this bandage (and bandaging cuts) ... it's show time!



BUSCH IS BACK IN SKIRTS: All those years in dresses way off-Broadway have paid off for our first lady of the theater, **Charles Busch**. Fresh from his first in-pants role in a show at Philadelphia's Wilma Theater, Busch is stepping into the platform shoes vacated by real girl Alison Fraser in the off-Broadway musical, *Swingtime Canteen*. This is historic casting since it's the first time a guy has played a woman's role off-Broadway. Oh, yeah, we've had men in dresses running around New York theater (on and off stage) for years (mostly way off Broadway) but this is the first time a producer has said, "Give the role that was written for and performed the first time by a woman, to a man." Those weren't his exact words but close. Charles won't be playing a drag queen or crossdresser. In this show he gets to be a real live girl. Talk about non-traditional casting.

The show, as you may gather from the title, is a World War II nostalgia fest. Charles will be wearing one of those Andrews Sisters type outfits. Good luck Charles, break a leg, or at least a nail.



RUPAUL CONQUERS PUBLISHING: *Lettin It All Hang Out* (Hyperion) is the title of the new book by the living legend of drag. She does it all; singing, modeling, writing. What's left? Will she give birth? Stay tuned for all the details.

Promos on the book say the blonde bombshell is promoting her positive thinking drag queen philosophy: "If a man over six feet tall can make a success of himself wearing

pumps and a platinum wig so can you! You better work, girl!" The book is chock full of info on Ms. Charles' rise to the top and all the encounters and dish you'd hope for. At \$19.95 for the hardback I'll be waiting for the soft cover version. I hope they include photos.

Another Ru note, an adoring fan has put a page on the Net for her gorgeousness. Point your Web browser to: <http://www.cyber-dyne.com/~tprebble/rupaul/index.html> and revel in the Ru. Meanwhile, I think it's about time I got a platinum blonde wig and changed my name to RuPaul Lite. I'm gonna work!



CD ON TV: Keep your eyes open for episodes of *The Hardy Boys/Nancy Drew Mysteries*. Why, you ask? **Janet "Blondezilla" Williams** has made some history in a vein similar to that achieved by Charles Busch. She was hired to portray a female police officer in an episode of that show shot in that hot bed of crossdressing, Toronto. The show is slated to run all over Canada and in the U.S. on the Disney Channel. Check your listings.

Ms. Williams is featured throughout the show but her big scene comes at the end as the Hardy Boys come running down the stairs in the station house and she gives them a stern look. Her acting was limited to looks since it was a non-speaking (as we say in the biz, "extra") bit. Pretty cool though.

Keep up the good work, Blondezilla, and tell your agent you want to talk next time. Another good way to get more money is have your agent tell them you'll do the drag bit but it's so much work to get in makeup and costume you'll need triple scale pay to even think about it. Don't let the producers know you're having the time of your life.



PSST! WANNA BE IN SHOW BIZ?: A hard working production company is trying to get up the capital to produce a film with a crossdressing theme. We all know how hard getting money to produce a film can be, so Elizabeth Street Productions has sent out a letter to groups in the TG community asking for investors in a film called *This Can't Be Macy's*.

It's "a contemporary comedy based on a middle-aged couple who own a clothing store for crossdressers" that will "... portray one man's struggle to own his own business but more specifically represent the gender community than other films in the past." It's a comedy. If you'd like to send them a giant check, contact Bill Moser at Elizabeth Street Productions, 13516 Haynes St., Van Nuys CA 91401. Their phone number is (818) 902-9621. Fax is (818) 902-9818.

Good luck as a producer, Bill. Make sure I get tickets to the premiere.



LAST MINUTE MUSINGS: I recently had a chance to catch a screening of *The Queen*, the 1967 documentary

about a drag beauty contest in New York. It was fun watching the film and remembering 1967 in my own western Pennsylvania reality. If I had seen this movie back then I would have had heart failure from the excitement.

Now it's a page out of history that remains very similar to the modern day pageant experience, except for the outfits. And, oh girl! That hair.

One line from the movie stands out as the perfect comeback to anyone trying to get you to tell them your male name. If someone asks your name, you give them your femme name and they say, "Oh sure. What was your name before?" Say, "Honey, there was no 'before'."

Remember, if you have e-mail capabilities, you can send me your comments, suggestions, and good recipes for cookies to bensalem@cpn.com and I'll get it almost instantly. They're more likely to get mentioned that way, since I can always lose a piece of paper. (My desk looks like an explosion in a paper factory.) Electronic mail is easier to work with as well as quicker. Providing I check my e-mail.

That's it for another thrill packed month. Don't let pancake cake.

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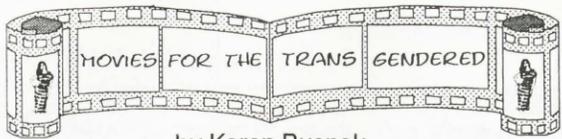
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by Karen Rusnak

Sylvester Stallone
in
Rocky VI

"Yo!
I'm
Adrienne?"



They said he shouldn't
go back in the ring...
they were right!

The Italian Stallion
went in and the
Italian Filly came out.

Now she fights her
battles during the
big clearance sale
at her favorite
department store!

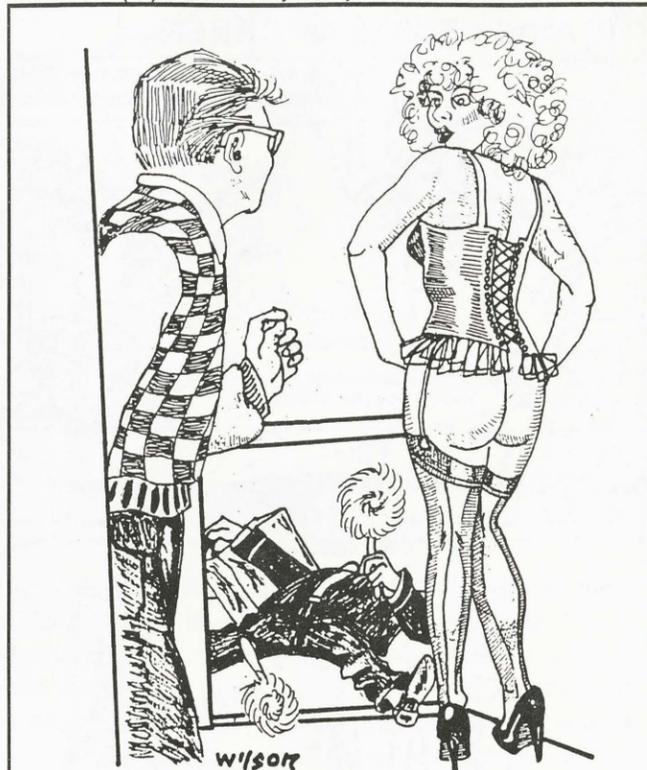
"Two polished thumbs up!"
Siskel & Ebert

"A copy of this fine film
for every school in
America. This is where
health care reform
starts!"
Hillary Clinton

"I laughed, I cried, I
went home and put on my
nextest number!"
Rex Reed

PG (Psychiatric Guidance Suggested)

here in the (un)real world by Nancy Wilson



MIKE-ER- MICHELLE - DON'T OPEN
THE DOOR WITHOUT PANTIES ON!

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PANDORA'S BOX



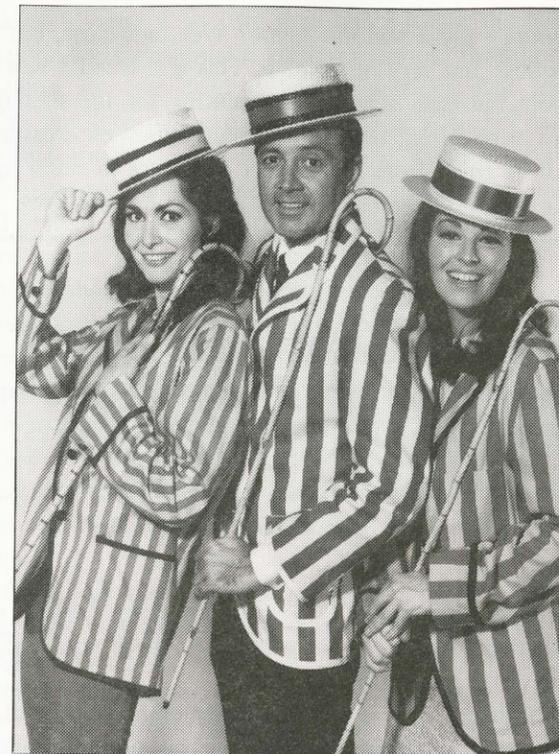
by Amy Sakurai

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GREAT MOMENTS IN TV HISTORY

from the archives of Ralph Judd



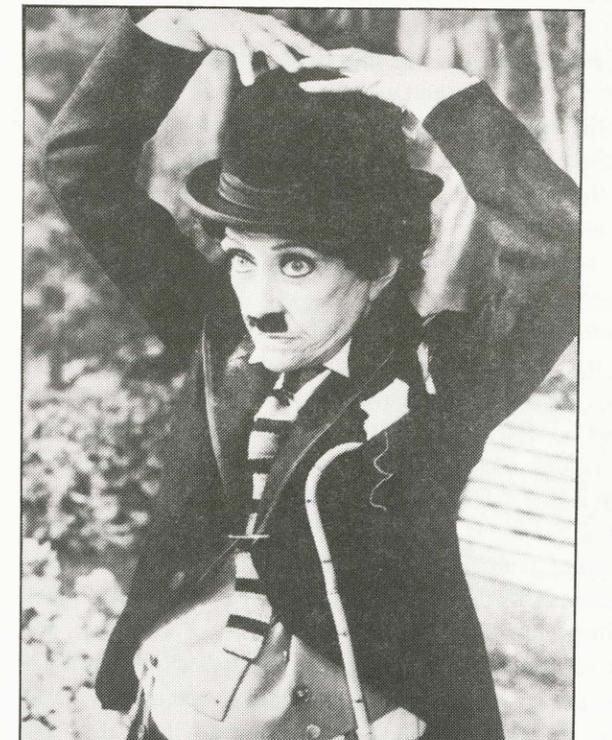
1967: Carol Lawrence, Vic Damone, and Gail Martin on *The Dean Martin Summer Show*, NBC.



9/16/71: Dean Martin with guest star Liberace on *The Dean Martin Show*, NBC.



Airdate unknown (circa 1965): Don Knotts, Carol Lawrence and Danny Kaye in a routine called "The Dancing Pagodas", on *The Danny Kaye Show*, CBS.



Airdate unknown: Gloria Swanson impersonates Charlie Chaplin on *The Carol Burnett Show*, CBS.

THE COMMITTEE WILL MEET IN THE LADIES ROOM

by Helene Hirschberg

Let's face it. Something like this has happened to almost everyone of us at one time or another. You are on a trip far from home, perhaps even on a highway that is unfamiliar to you. Everything has gone very smoothly up to now. You tip the rear view mirror to get a view of your face. Your lipstick is on straight. "As a matter of fact," you say to yourself, "you look great." The new dress feels good on you. In response to that thought, your body experiences a wave of pleasurable feeling. And then that same body sends you another message of an entirely different nature. Ordinarily, it is not a problem, but today -- traveling along enclosed in a car on a strange road -- it becomes one that will not go away. As the car proceeds (perhaps a little faster now under the impetus of a more anxious driver), the prompt becomes more pressing. A number of variable factors that occurred on your previous day will influence just how pressing this need becomes as the time flies. What do you do?

"No problem," I hear you say, "look for a gas station." The chances that you will find one are very good (unless you are driving in the Middle or the Far West, where these facilities might be spaced pretty far apart: I understand in Kansas, in the wheat country, it is perfectly normal to have to drive 50 miles to get a cold soft drink). But where you are there are lots of places that sell gas. As a matter of fact you passed one not too long ago. And it isn't too long before you see another with its welcoming sign. You pull up at the pump, get out and go into the office or store and ask where it is. If it is outside around the back you will need the key which will be given to you by the proprietor. It is usually attached to a metallic object as heavy and bulky as a ship's anchor to prevent you from forgetting to return it.

The most recent development in so-called "restrooms" (a most peculiar use of the English language) is the Unisex facility. Owners and builders have suddenly realized that it now can cost from \$25,000 up to install a toilet facility and -- of course -- twice that if you persist in practicing the separation of the sexes in this regard. I am in the habit of using a particular gas station in my area simply because the owner maintains a separate, clean, facility. Recently, the company that owned it upgraded the entire place, installing new bays for gas as well as a complete soft drink section. I had to ask where the ladies' room was, as it was my very first time in the place. I remember it very well as the first time because I received a free glass that said "NFL" on it as a reward. To my surprise, there was only one facility but it was marked with two cartoon figures: One was male and the other wore a dress like me.

Should I say it was like home? Well, not quite, but it was spotless and very up to date. This is a trend I had heard about but only actually experiencing for the first time. I was very happy that future generations of crossdressers will be freed from the anxiety of having to suffer agonies and fears of being led off to some hoosegow simply

At no time is the dreaded "bathroom problem" more difficult than when you are on the road ...

because they wanted to satisfy a few of their natural functions. And there are people who go around saying that the world isn't getting any better!

Of course, as it is with so many other wonderful things like artificial tomatoes, monorail transportation and three dimensional television, all that is only for the future, and we still have this nagging problem of what to do *right now*, so we had better get back to it. This time, the problem is a lot more serious. You have been travelling on a thruway, expressway or freeway and you have reached a well maintained facility ... but there are lots of people of both kinds going in and out of two doors which are plainly marked. Now what do you do? And what are the possibilities? Well, there are two distinct ones; you have the choice of either. With our strong desires to pass in public and not expose ourselves for what our true biology consists of, I doubt that many of us have ever considered "blowing our cover" and using the men's room. I suppose the appearance of a female figure would generate a measure of excitement (unless you made a really dramatic gesture like suddenly removing your wig). I only mention it as a possibility, not a recommendation. Frankly, I cannot see myself doing such a thing ... but then I am a rather retiring kind of person not given to public displays of any kind. I have never attempted it myself but I am not sure that such an act might promote more or as least as much uproar as being discovered by some hysterical dame in the other place. The only thing in its favor is the fact that you have not broken any law and therefore would be safe from arrest. However, the presence of a bunch of truck drivers in the john at the same time as you made your dramatic entrance might change things quite a bit and not necessarily in your favor. Like everything

else, it is still Ying and Yang, the advantages of two situations as against the disadvantages.

Now let us take into account the other alternative. In all seriousness let me inform you that what you are about to embark on is more dangerous than trying to pat the head of a diamondback rattlesnake. However, serious thought on the subject has produced a few suggestions that may minimize the peril to some extent. First, if it is very busy do not under any circumstance attempt it, as all the stalls may be occupied and you are not in any position to stand around pretending that you are sizing up the quality of the tilework in the place. Once some female gets a look at your broad shoulders you are done for. The key word in this situation to insure success is *motion*. This manoeuvre can only be carried off if your entrance and exit are accomplished without a stop. Don't offer to hold a baby for a lady who is incommoded at that moment or enter into a discussion with a group of Gold Star Mothers as to the advantages of stockings over pantyhose. Get in and get out so you look like a ghost (and not even a male ghost either). I can't put it any other way.

Aside from your pressing need to do this, there is really nothing I can say to recommend this course of action. I have spoken to many sisters about this. Many of them maintained adamant positions on this subject, calling it a "no-no" (which double negative gives some idea how seriously they regarded it). One sister mentioned a case that actually led to the court sentencing of such an intruder plus a heavy fine; I must confess that upon hearing this I thought the hairs of my wig had stood up some, although this might have been caused by static electricity.

However, following the old maxim that "Whatever Man can imagine, Man can accomplish" I have devoted considerable time to solving this problem. My favorite writer, Jacque Futrell, wrote a story called *The Problem of Cell 13* concerning the escape of one of his characters from an escape proof cell on a bet. He not only gets out but spends the day at a local theatre enjoying a presentation of a Follies Revue, smuggles into his cell a ten-course dinner including the proper wine, and has a complete set of burglar's tools hidden in his bunk when the warden comes to release him. Of course, my project is much more modest ... but not necessarily less dangerous.

Let us get back to our problem and see if we can arrive at some kind of scientific approach. The first thing to ascertain is the state of things behind that door. Is it full or empty? Are there lots of females clustered about the wash stands? How are we going to get possession of this valuable information? We open the door just wide enough to find out, meanwhile pretending we are looking for someone without actually entering. If the conditions are good, if there is only one lady busy at the mirror we use our inertia to open the door wide enough to enter, proceed to an available booth, and enter it. The rest is easy. If the conditions were unfavorable, we would let the door close

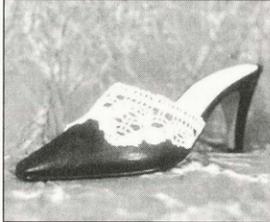
and walk away. If observed by someone, you walk far away and try again in ten minutes.

The mechanics of dealing with yourself is somewhat different now for you, garbed like a woman. It would be a good idea for you to have practiced all the undressing and redressing a few times before this. I do this at gas stations with fledgling crossdressers I take out from time to time. The main thing is not to panic and to take your time. Now when you entered, there may have been one or more ladies there. You may even have a neighbor on either side. You can wait them all out by listening for footsteps on the hard floor and the sound of the closing door. Remember that the door slam may also indicate the addition of a new enemy. However she will not present a problem as she will be occupied in some other compartment. If you are ready to leave you act like a runner in a relay. You take a deep breath, get to your feet, swing the door wide, and go ... looking neither to the left nor the right, and in two seconds you will be out of there and gone.

Let me state again that if your need at that moment is not great enough to embolden you to take this dangerous step and enter this forbidden place, do not attempt it. If you look nervous and frightened you will be spotted. Any uncertainty on the part of someone who gets a good look at you will certainly lead to exposure so don't give anyone a chance to do this.

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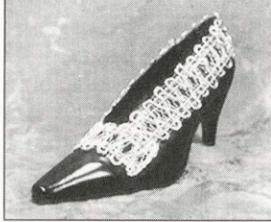
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CUSTOM MADE IN FRANCE

30

31

Carrying some convenient container with you for an emergency will reduce by more than 50% the possibility that you might be forced to use such a dangerous facility as described. I say "more than 50%" because the frequency of this particular need is far greater than the other and your danger can therefore be avoided. It may be somewhat tricky to manage garbed as you are, but it can be done. A sister I know does all her dressing in a car, as she cannot dress at home nor arrive home in female clothing. You can practice this as well, pulling the car off the road in some lonely spot.

My experiences with this technique are varied. I have been able to accomplish it more than several times without getting into any difficulties. Once I was trapped in a booth while a troop of Girl Scouts invaded the place. There must have been a hundred of them (or my anxiety increased their numbers somewhat). Nothing would have forced me to present myself to their view. The sharp young eyes of these little witches, capable of distinguishing the difference between the Southern Spotted Finch and the Northern Spotted Finch from 100 feet away, would have penetrated the disguise of this Northern Painted Cross Dresser without any difficulty. Another time, as I successfully exited a facility plainly marked "Female", a fully uniformed State Trooper exited one right next to me at the same exact moment. We were so close, I could read the number on his jacket! You may be sure I did not attempt to ask him if I

was on the right road to Hoboken.

I hope I have not encouraged anyone to attempt something that may result in dire consequences for them. I have never done this myself -- despite my small successes -- without considering all the possibilities beforehand. Remember you can always plan your trips carefully. If your tank needs emptying every 100 miles, stay off the freeways and thruways and patronize the gas stations where there is only the curious stare of the proprietor to deal with ... not the grim stare of the policeman.

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"THE GENDER RULES" ... continued from page 13

They believe in rules #2 and #3, and are willing to degrade anyone who does not follow these rules! Again, this doesn't mean that all TSs are bigots -- far from it! -- but it does mean that a TS can be a bigot to TGs and TVs and it also explains the bigotry we do see.

But before you TVs start feeling superior, I would like to point out that some TVs also engage in gender bigotry. This may be the worse form of bigotry, for they may be willing to break the rules for themselves, but then they look down on others who reject them completely. Or maybe they are trying to enforce another society rule: "One's reproductive system is sacrosanct."

So what "Society Gender Rules" do you believe in?

[Previously published in the author's "Bird On A Wire" column, which appears in Delta Chatter, Delta Chapter Tri-Ess, Denver CO.]

T NOTES ... continued from page 14

that the only way you will experience life as it appears to happen for others, is to spend at least some of it freely and unashamedly expressing your femaleness. The good news is that there are many people just like you who have found a real life in the mere acceptance of themselves. Let the waiting end.

[Copyright 1995 by Anne Vitale, Ph.D. Dr. Vitale is a psychotherapist specializing in gender related issues. She is an associate of the D Street Counseling Group, 610 D Street, San Rafael CA 94901, telephone (415) 456-4452, e-mail annev@eworld.com. This column may be reprinted in any non-profit organization's newsletter if Dr. Vitale's name and address appears with it. Other publications must obtain written permission from Dr. Vitale. A copy of any reprints must be sent to Dr. Vitale.]

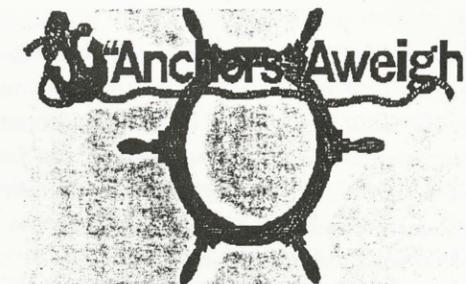
ETERNAL TRIANGLE ... continued from page 16

Your neighbors will get the message and soon, you'll get theirs.

So the next time you see someone wearing a little pink triangle be they a crossdresser, gay, straight, or whatever, try to acknowledge them. If you can't, at least acknowledge the debt you owe them. And while you're at it, acknowledge all the people who entered the gates of government sponsored hell wearing a little pink triangle. Although you may not have one sewn to your shirt, you wear one on your heart. You can wear one on your blouse or dress if you want to, but ladies, take a moment to thank God that you don't have to.

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PARANOIA

by Jennifer L. Adams

"They're out to get me ... they're *all* out to get me!" Sound familiar? That plaintive voice deep inside your head is at it again. Sometimes it's the gremlins, those nasty creatures whose job it is to screw things up in the worst way at the worst possible time ... like at the very last minute, *just* when you absolutely *have* to be done, to go, not be late. *That's when they most love to strike, of course. They*

know when you're most vulnerable. They always seem to know the perfect moment; perfect for them, rotten for you.

Oh, sure. On the surface. Just a minor thing. I'm blowing it all out of proportion, you say. Hardly worth mentioning. Oh?

Well consider this: *It gets to you.* They have you looking over your shoulder when instead you should be paying attention to where you're going. You know they're there. Even if it's been a great day, with no sign of them anywhere at all. Then they hit. Maybe it's the mascara brush ... a tiny slip (*oops!*) and there's the beginnings of a third eye planted squarely on your left cheek. *Great.* Okay, calm down, wipe it off, you're gonna be okay. Keep telling yourself that. But no. They strike again. *Bam!* Too much blusher. You can almost hear them laughing aloud, now, at your stupid clown face. "*Oh, bleep!*" you exclaim, choler rising, as if the expletive itself could exorcise them. But they love it. They revel in it. They *live* for it ... for your anger, your frustration.

They love hair too, of course. Never grows where you need it and does where you don't. Whether home-grown or bought, no matter. Either way they'll getcha.

Grew it yourself? Fine. Many will envy you your good fortune, and the gremlins take *that* as a royal invite. Got the frizzies? Tough. That length is all wrong and you can't do a thing with it? Tough. Your roots are beginning to show and you can't begin to match the color? "Ha, ha", say the gremlins. Then you find out that super new hairdresser who came *so* highly recommended is the same award-winning gardener and hedge trimmer who's introducing the buzz cut as the latest feminine fashion statement starting with ... *yes!* You! Oh, joy. The gremlins did it; blame those gremlins.

At least your bristles (when they grow out) will stand up on top. "*Oh!* You learned your craft at Fort Bragg?" you ask your cheery assailant as he fires up his chainsaw. "Geez, I *knew* you looked familiar!" This immediately puts you in the next category ... those who buy hair.

Like, wigs. A major economic decision. Anyway (sigh), at least if you purchase you can choose. The more \$\$\$, the more choice. "Free" enterprise. Aye, there's the rub. For the low, low price of only \$750, she tells us (this is the

ever-so-kind lady on West 57th, near Carnegie Hall, the Russian Tea Room, across from the Hard Rock Cafe ... you know the area as well as the hairy palms of your hand and the bald spots of your pate), we can have this *gorgeous* hairpiece. It is truly a wondrous work, but oops, sorry, a *little* bit pricey. "Oh, that's *quite* all right," she soothes. "Go ahead, try it on, you'll just *love* it." We do. We *do*. She

One part Murphy's Law, one part gremlins, one part paranoia. How does a transgendered person ever pass?

knew we would, she *knew* it. That's her job, to know. *But* we don't have \$750 for this fine, lush masterpiece of human origin.

"Well, then," she continues so sweetly, unperturbed. "We do have *this*." It's not nearly as good, but we immediately spot the difference. The look, the feel. A bit tacky. DOA, actually. "How much?" we venture to ask. Only \$400, she croons. Ooops. We're definitely in the wrong neighborhood, honey. Beating a rather undignified retreat, the gremlins inveigle us into leaving behind our (mostly) empty but treasured CVS coffee cup with plastic spill-guard lid. The one whose rocket fuel gave us the energy to get even *this* far. "Oh, bleep!" Those **@#&%* gremlins again.

The same gremlins, hairwise, who let out the curl from one side, or expose that scraggly bare patch on the wig cap that everyone can see who may happen to view you from *any* angle above horizontal. The same ones who snag your nylons on the way out of your car *just* as you arrive at work. Without a change pair. Who smash your lips against the *!*@#*'d retracting shoulder harness as it automatically strangles what's left of your aching body. Your forehead projects itself into the rear view mirror. *Clunk.* "*Merde!*", you exclaim, recalling a word of high-school French, as your pristine full-length coat snags in the door jamb, suffering fresh, permanent claw marks. The gremlins snicker.

Oh, I could go on and on about them, but why bother? I know they're there. *You* know they're there. *Everyone* knows they're there. Enough already ... let's talk about something else.

Like ... people. You *know* all those other people are looking at you. You *know* they're silently laughing at you. Even if you don't know them, you know that they know. And they know you know they know; that's why they look at you the way they do. That annoying air of amused superiority, with just a soupcon of ennui. Withering. All

the worse. "*Tant pis*," as the French say. "Too bad."

They hear your quickening heartbeat; it sings to them, music to their delighted ears. They smell your fear, sensing your clammy palms, your dry lips, mouth and throat; they salivate. Showing no mercy, they close in. Not overtly, oh no. *That* would spoil the game, if you *knew* for sure. Keep you guessing; they're good at it. Experts. They may pass by as if nothing has happened, as if by some miracle you've escaped notice, as if you weren't even there. *Rats!* They are nothing if not masters of psychological torture. You hear their muffled laughter from a discreet distance. Should you dare to turn and look, they reveal nothing -- it's as if they've been tipped off. Only a subtle sadistic smug air of unconcern at the desperate futility of your travels.

They're everywhere. On the streets, at the mall, loitering in doorways. Bit characters in your life? Hah. No way. Each of them, no matter how insignificant, is intricately woven into the plot ... the plot of your downfall. Sometimes you see men smile, averting their eyes in what can only be embarrassment. Though women may smile and nod, be assured it's merely a clever ploy. Other women scowl and look away (the grizzled veterans). They, of all people, *must* know; you know they know. It's just that they don't bother to hide it anymore at this stage of their lives ... their disdain, their contempt. Your ego shrivels away to nothing. You want to go hide, to disappear. You feel miserable. Your day is ruined. They've done it again; they've won.

"Hi, beautiful!" calls a cheery young man, jaunting past. Huh? You effect a weak smile, but too late, he's gone. Zoom. Did it really happen that way? Was it real? Or was he just teasing, bolder than the others? Then you realize, it hits you -- *Gotcha!* He must have gotcha, he *knows*. Your pace quickens. You *must* get away, escape. Far away. Far, far away. You and the restive airport crowd eye one another warily, uneasy adversaries in this twisted game. A woman next to you asks an apparently innocent question. Oh, it may be the time, your destination, a comment on your sweater ... all clever ruses to initiate contact, to let you know that *she* knows. Oh, yes. She does. You're so flustered, you take the *wrong* seat aboard the plane. Someone else wants to sit there. "Oh! Isn't this 18G?" No. You could've *sworn* it was 18G. You feel like a total idiot.

The gremlins.

You quickly apologize and rise to move. They're oh-so-clever. They don't yell at you, oh no ... *that* would be too obvious. No, they gently usher you over to the proper seat across the aisle -- different row even -- the one you should've taken in the first place (had you half a brain). So gently they treat you, smiling, as if they *expected* you to be too dumb to function normally and find it on your own. Your internal temperature zooms up about seventy degrees, but you smile, apologize: "Oh, sorry. Thank you." They smile, they nod ... but they know. You know they know.

Finally you arrive, safe haven in sight: Your hotel. You go bounding through the entrance, the doorman smiles, holding your door. You smile back. All this smiling! They know! Aack! The security guard smiles. He *knows* who you are; he gives you the eye to make sure you know he knows. *Look out!* He smiles again when you come down to dinner; he remembered, he knows. The waitress at the Chinese restaurant knows, too, but she's discreet about the matter. Probably gonna sucker you for a big tip. You willingly get suckered. The meal is OK. You get through without spilling any wontons on your blouse (God knows how), even though your hand's shaking to beat hell. Have they given up? Should you?

Because they *all* know. It's useless. They all pretend not to know, but you know they do. You've seen it and expected it from the very beginning.

Young children can be the most insidious; smiling, giving you that innocent "you look sorta like my Mommy" look. The innocence gets you; you can't help smiling. *Ha!* Don't be fooled ... it's only a trick, they *know!* But you smile back. Young men come on with that attack mode you used to fear, as if ... as if .. they're gonna jump you. You let it pass, you walk on by, somehow intact. Funny, they seem to be doing that to *other* women, too. Maybe they know something about *them* ... Older men smile when they didn't before, almost wistful for times past. Appreciation? *Ha!* Don't let 'em fool you ... *they* know; they must. Men pass on the sidewalk, overtaking you, stealing glances backward ... they know. That jerk in traffic, next lane over; he's staring so hard he's gonna lose control, smash into



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somebody and you'll get the blame simply for being there, for being ... well, you know.

And those women? Those smiles are meant to fool you into accepting a false sense of the kinship reserved for women only. But they know ... they *must*. The young and the beautiful -- those you'd strive to emulate, the *lucky* ones -- give an honest assessment. The direct gaze, sizing you up. *Almost* fooling you into believing they judge you an equal, saying nothing verbally, showing nothing; impassive, cool. As if you were the competition. But *surely* they know ... surely ...

The days may be long past of being called "sir" to your face. Because people are much more subtle now, so subtle it's uncanny. How are you supposed to absolutely, unquestionably *know* they know anymore? It's not fair; you can't. And they know it. They're sneaky. They've been getting sneakier and sneakier month by month. The better you thought you were doing, the sneakier they got! They've gotten so sneaky you wouldn't even *suspect* they knew, unless you already knew it from before, which you did. There's no getting away from it. It's maddening; no, it's *not* fair!

Even the gremlins are getting sneakier. They mostly leave your makeup alone now. That would be too obvious. And even the hair. No, now they'll pull a Columbo on you, when you least expect it, going for other things. Clasps that break

at awkward moments, buttons that disappear, nails that chip and break. Even clothing stains, which come from then actions of others as much as yourself ... and you're helpless to prevent the damage. That's how gremlins work. Seems the smarter you get about them, the smarter *they* get; always one step ahead.

But you know they're there, just beyond your ability to pin them down or catch them in the act. Just below your subliminal threshold of perception, just beyond your ability to prove or disprove convincingly. They lie in wait, eternally, unforgiving, to show you up as the fool you deep down think (or fear) you really are.

Fear? Could *that* be what they live on, your fear? Oh, my goodness!

I'm afraid so.

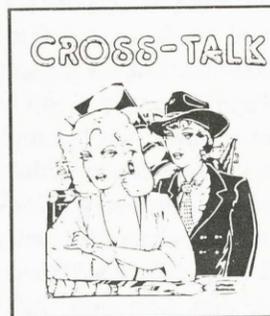
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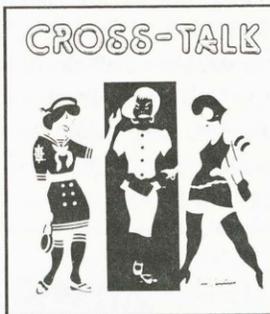
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 CD Network, Rochester: (716) 251-2132
 Chi Delta Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, NYC: (201) 439-9618 @
 Connecticut Outreach Society, Hartford: (203) 657-4344
 Cross Dressers International, NYC: (212) 570-7389
 Cross Expressions, Binghamton: (607) 862-3203
 Enterprise, Boston: (617) 983-3264 #
 Eulenspiegel Society, NYC: (212) 388-7022 #
 Expressing Our Nature, Syracuse: (315) 475-5611
 F2M Fraternity, NYC: (908) 298-8797 #
 Gender Identity Support Services, MA: (617) 720-3413 #
 Gender Talk North, New Hampshire: (603) 924-8828
 Girls' Night Out, NYC: (212) 794-1665 ext 202
 Images, Hartford: (203) 779-9708 #
 Imperial Queens of New York: (212) 580-9858
 Int'l. Foundation for Gender Education: (617) 894-8340
 Lambda Chi Lambda Chapter Tri-Ess, Utica: (607) 547-4118 @
 Long Island Femme Expression: (516) 283-1333 @
 Metropolitan Gender Network, NYC: (718) 461-9050
 Monmouth Ocean Trans Gender, Central NJ: (908) 219-9094
 Northern New Jersey Group: (201) 663-0772
 Philadelphia TS Support Group: (215) 567-7879 #
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 Renaissance Greater Philadelphia Chapter: (610) 630-1437
 Renaissance LSV Chapter, Harrisburg: (717) 780-1578
 Renaissance S. Jersey Chapter: (609) 435-5401
 Sigma Nu Rho Chapter Tri-Ess, Trenton: 1-800-480-3152 @
 Silent Passage, Rhode Island: (401) 438-7417
 Tiffany Club, Boston: (617) 891-9325
 TransGender Educational Ass'n, Arlington: (301) 949-3822
 Transgender Support Group of Baltimore: (410) 837-5445
 TransGenderists Independence Club, Albany: (518) 436-4513
 Transpitt, Pittsburgh: (412) 231-1181
 Tri-State Transgendered Club, Cumberland: (301) 453-3538
 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 Exploration: (404) 875-9846 #
 Black Rose, Arlington: (301) 369-7667 #
 Carolina Trans-Sensual Alliance, Charlotte: (704) 551-8838
 Eclipse, Tampa: (813) 546-3089 #
 Eden Society, Pompano Beach: (305) 784-9316 #
 Enchante, St. Petersburg: (813) 972-2617 #
 Fantasia, Orlando: (407) 425-4527 #
 GDA North Carolina: (704) 642-1914
 Gender Information Network, Gainesville: (904) 332-8178
 Grace & Lace, Mississippi: (601) 362-6335
 Gulf Gender Alliance, New Orleans: (504) 523-4203
 Kappa Beta Chapter Tri-Ess, Charlotte: (704) 358-3838 @
 Louisville Gender Society: (812) 944-5570
 Metro Area Gender Alliance, Arlington: (301) 949-3822 #
 Montgomery Institute, Augusta: (404) 603-9426 #
 Montgomery Institute, Gainesville: (904) 332-6638 #
 M.O.R.E., Ft. Lauderdale: (305) 966-2138
 Mu Sigma Chapter Tri-Ess, Arkansas: (501) 523-2466 @
 Phi Epsilon Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, Central FL: (407) 677-9540 @
 Phoenix, Asheville: (704) 253-9882
 Serenity, Hollywood: (305) 436-9477
 Sigma Epsilon Chapter Tri-Ess, Atlanta: (404) 552-4415 @
 Starburst, Tampa-St. Petersburg: (813) 633-9653
 Tennessee Vals, Nashville: (615) 664-6883
 Virginia's Secret, Richmond: (804) 222-6796

MIDWEST & VICINITY:

Alpha Omega Chapter Tri-Ess, Cleveland: (216) 556-0067 @
 Beta Gamma Chapter Tri-Ess, Minneapolis: (612) 870-8536 @

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 Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Chicago: (708) 364-9514 @
 Chicago Gender Society: (708) 863-7714
 City of Lakes Crossgender Comm., Minneapolis: (612) 229-3613
 Cross-Port, Cincinnati: (513) 474-9557
 Crossdressers & Friends, Kansas City: (913) 791-3847
 Crossroads, Detroit: (313) 537-3267
 Crystal Club, Columbus: (614) 265-7488
 Gemini Gender Group, Milwaukee: (414) 297-9328
 Gender Dysphoria Support, Kansas City: (816) 241-1411 #
 Indiana Crossdressers Society, Indianapolis: (317) 786-3425
 Iowa Artistry, Cedar Rapids: (309) 755-2310
 Minnesota Freedom of Gender Expression: (612) 220-9072
 N.G.D.O., Detroit: (313) 842-5258
 Paradise Club, Cleveland: (216) 586-9292
 Quad-City Society for Sexuality Ed., Davenport: (319) 324-9641
 St. Louis Gender Foundation: (314) 997-9897
 Sunday Society, Chicago: (312) 252-7024

SOUTHWEST/MOUNTAIN REGION:

Agape, Dallas: (214) 424-1234 #
 Alpha Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Amarillo: (806) 359-7714 @
 Alpha Rho Chapter Tri-Ess, Salt Lake City: (801) 553-8141 @
 Boulton & Park Society, San Antonio: (210) 980-7788
 Central Wyoming TG Support Group: (307) 473-2429
 CrossDressers International, Tulsa: (918) 582-6643
 Delta Chapter Tri-Ess, Denver: (303) 595-5874 @
 Gender Identity Center, Denver: (303) 202-6466
 Gulf Coast Transgender Community, Houston: (713) 780-4282
 Help Me ... Accept Me, Dallas: (214) 416-6632
 Metroplex CD Club, Dallas: (214) 264-7103 @
 Second Image, Austin: (512) 515-5460
 Sorority, AZ: (602) 293-3456
 TS Peer Support, Houston: (713) 333-2278 #
 TS Support Group, Las Vegas: (702) 594-7884 #
 Tau Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Houston: (713) 347-8747 @
 Texas Ass'n. of Transsexuals, Houston: (713) 827-5913 #

PACIFIC NORTHWEST:

Emerald City, Seattle: (206) 284-1071
 Ingersoll Gender Center, Seattle: (206) 329-6651
 Northwest Gender Alliance, Portland: (503) 646-2802
 Salmacis Feminist Social Society, Eugene: (503) 688-4282
 Trans-Port, Portland: (503) 774-8463
 Transsexual Lesbians & Friends, Seattle: (206) 292-1037 #

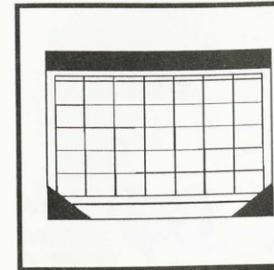
THE WEST COAST (CA & HI):

Alpha Chapter Tri-Ess, Los Angeles: (213) 876-6141 @
 Amer. Transsexual Education Center: (213) 389-6938 #
 Androgyny, Santa Monica: (213) 467-8317
 Androgyny-East, Riverside: (909) 360-5584
 Born Free, Riverside: (909) 278-0958
 CHIC, Los Angeles: (310) 420-2580 @
 Diablo Valley Girls, Concord: (510) 937-8432
 Educational TV Channel, San Francisco: (510) 549-2665
 FTM, Oakland: (510) 287-2646 #
 Gender Expressions, Los Angeles: (310) 869-4241
 Hawaii Transgendered Outreach, Honolulu: (808) 923-4270
 Neutral Corner, San Diego: (619) 685-3696
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[Listings continue on next page.]



EVENTS CALENDAR

September 14-17, 1995: "Paradise in the Poconos", produced by Creative Design Services, P.O. Box 61263, King of Prussia PA 19406. Information via Internet: poco@cdspub.com or by phone: (610) 640-9449.

September 27-October 1, 1995: "Southern Comfort", Atlanta GA. Details from P.O. Box 77591, Atlanta 30357, by e-mail to sc95@aol.com, or by phone at (404) 633-6470.

September 28-October 1, 1995: "Mardi Gras '95", Port Sydney ON, Canada, presented by the Monarch Social Club. Details from P.O. Box 386 Mississauga A, Mississauga ON L5A 3A1, or by phone or fax to (905) 279-7723.

October 5-9, 1995: "Fall Fling", Cape Cod MA, sponsored by the Tiffany Club of New England. Information from TCNE, P.O. Box 2283, Woburn MA, or by phoning (617) 891-9325.

October 15-22, 1995: 21st Annual "Fantasia Fair", Provincetown MA, sponsored by the Outreach Institute of Gender Studies. Registration information from Fan Fair, P.O. Box 941, Southeastern PA 19399-0941.

October 26-29, 1995: 6th Annual "Fall Harvest", St. Louis MO, sponsored by Mid America Gender Group Information Exchange (MAGGIE) and hosted by St. Louis Gender Foundation. Information from StLGF, P.O. Box 9433, St. Louis MO 63117, telephone (314) 358-0410.

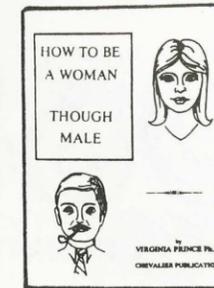
February 10, 1996: 7th Annual "Gala Ball", Cedar Rapids IA, hosted by Iowa Artistry. Write P.O. Box 75, Cedar Rapids 52406-0075 for details or telephone (309) 755-2310.

(Please send information on national transgender community events to Cross-Talk, P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365. Listings must be accompanied by a written authorization by an officer of the sponsoring organization or be listed in their group newsletter. Information will not be accepted via e-mail.)

HOTLINES ... continued from previous page

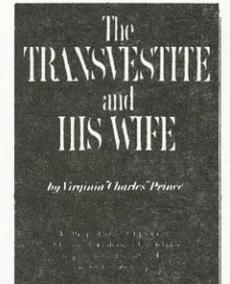
F.A.T.E., Vancouver: (604) 254-9591
 Gender Mosaic, Ottawa: (819) 770-1945
 Illusions Social Club, Calgary: (403) 486-9661
 TransEqual: (905) 688-0276
U.K./REP. OF IRELAND:
 Beaumont Society, London: 071-756-1782
 Crosslynx, Glasgow: 041-221-8372
 Gender Dysphoria Trust, London: 0323-641100 #
 Grampian Gender Group, Scotland: 03398-83695
 Liverbirds, Liverpool: 051-709-4745
 New TransEssex: 0268-583761
 Scottish TV/TS Group, Edinburgh: 031-556-4049
 Transvestite Self-Help Group, London: 071-289-5240
GERMANY:
 FPE Frankfurt: 069 4950446
 Transvestitengruppe, Berlin: 030 2082157
 Viva, Muenchen: 089 134681 #
AUSTRALIA:
 Australia TG Support Association: (07) 846 3787
 Chameleon Society, Australia: (09) 293 8338
 Elaine Barrie Project, Australia: (03) 369 2613
 Seahorse Society of NSW, Australia: (02) 569 6239
OTHER OVERSEAS:
 De Stichting Reborn, Netherlands: 010-4503469
 Ice & Fire, Moscow: 287-7096
 Khusra, Pakistan: 05921 6158
 SETA, Helsinki: 358-0-135-8302
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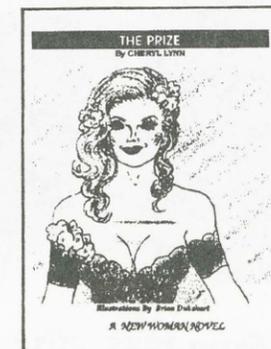
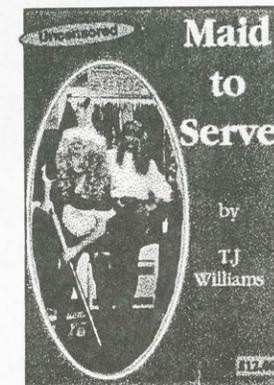
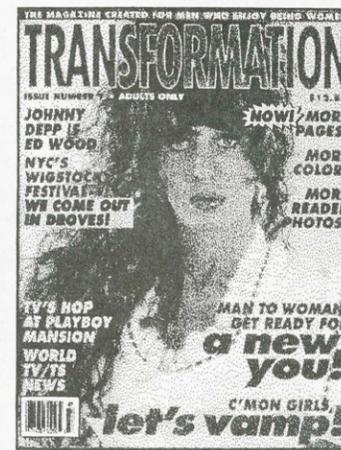
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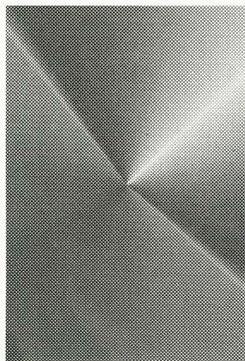
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