

CROSS-TALK

The Gender Community's News & Information Monthly

#42

\$7.00



NEWS & COMMENTARY
"HOW-TO" COLUMNS
PROFESSIONAL INSIGHTS
FEATURE ARTICLES

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NEWSLETTER REPRINT SECTION
EVENTS CALENDAR, HOTLINES
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CROSS-TALK

The Gender Community's News & Information Monthly

APRIL 1993
(ISSUE #42)



NEWS & COMMENTARY:

NEWSWIRE: March on Washington expanded to include gender community ... EuroFantasia '93 planned for May ... Tri-Ess opts to keep summer board meeting in Denver ... Fall harvest to move to Iowa ... New Zealand human rights group ceases operation ... Cynthia Phillips resigns from Tri-Ess board ... pp. 2-3

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GENDER TRANSIENT AFFINITY UPDATE: A project to catalog our community's terminology and slang ... p. 28

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REGULAR COLUMNISTS:

Valerie Driscoll on the basics of highlighting ... Bev [redacted] shows you how to determine your femme clothing sizes ... Lynette [redacted] tells how to get a credit card in your femme name ... Roger Peo discusses female-to-male crossdressers ... Cynthia Phillips answers a letter about the "ups" and "downs" of a crossdressed relationship ... Ricky [redacted] tells how he acquired his nickname ... pp. 10-17

NEW FEATURE THIS MONTH!

NEWSLETTER NETWORK: A section devoted to articles of interest reprinted from the newsletters of gender community organizations nationwide. This month, Sarah of IXE takes a tongue in cheek look at the quest for new terminology; Tri-Ess chairman of the board Jane Ellen Fairfax answers the most common questions from newly out-of-the-closet CDs; Cynthia [redacted] of Sigma Epsilon asks "what if the crossdressing situation was reversed?"; Shirley [redacted] & Patricia [redacted] of Delta Chapter discuss how couples should go about setting the limits for crossdressing; Jennifer M. of NWGA parallels studies of gays and the gender community ... pp. 31-37

FEATURE ARTICLES:

"DEALING WITH HARASSMENT, CONFRONTATION AND VIOLENCE": The conclusion of Gianna Eveling Israel's article on avoiding bad situations gives advice on how to handle situations ... p. 18

"DEAR SIBLINGS": Billie Jean Jones asks "What's wrong with being a TV?" ... p. 20

"AN OPEN LETTER": Lauren Hotchkiss shares a letter she wrote to tell friends and loved ones about her lifestyle ... p. 22

"A WOMAN'S WORK CAN BE DONE BY A MAN": Charlene Day reports on the recent "Entertainment Tonight" report on CD models ... p. 23

"WHY WE DO THE THINGS WE DO": The conclusion of Pieranna [redacted]'s series on reincarnation as an explanation for transgendered behavior ... p. 26

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LOCALS
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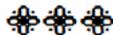
SAN FRANCISCO

The 1993 March on Washington has been expanded to include gender community interests, according to March organizers.

The April 25 political gathering is designed to make the need for civil rights legislation covering gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered rights known to federal lawmakers. The statement of purpose for the March calls for the repeal of all laws that criminalize private sexual expression between consenting adults, an increase in funding for AIDS education, research and patient care, an end to all forms of racial, ethnic, and sex/gender discrimination in the areas of family diversity, custody, adoption, and foster care. The March also demands "an end to discrimination and violent oppression based on actual or perceived sexual orientation/identification (or) sex and gender expression."

The event will actually be held over a week-long period beginning on April 21, and will include a number of gatherings and lobbying sessions. A Transgender Action National Meeting will take place on the Friday and Saturday before the actual March on Sunday. There will also be a drag revue on Friday and Saturday night.

For information on the March, telephone (202) 628-0493.



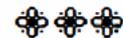
A weeklong European version of the oldest surviving American gender community event is scheduled for mid-May in Denmark.

"EuroFantasia '93", sponsored by FPE-NE, will take place in the town of Ebeltoft, approximately four hours from Copenhagen, during the week of May 8 through 15. The advance program schedule calls for a "Femininity School" over a five-morning period,

covering comportment, makeup, hair and clothing. The luncheons are planned to include seminars rather than keynote speakers. Panelists will include International Foundation for Gender Education managing director Merissa Sherrill Lynn, International Gender Transient Affinity director Phaedra Kelly, and noted gender community physician Sheila Kirk, M.D.

A "Fantasy Disco Night", amateur entertainment revue, and Ebeltoft nightlife sampling is also on the schedule, as well as a full day without seminars for the purpose of sightseeing or shopping trips.

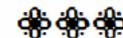
Information on EuroFantasia is available from Box 442, N-4301 Sandnes, Norway.



The summer meeting of the Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess) will take place in Denver, as originally planned, although the annual "Holiday En Femme" convention has been moved to Los Angeles.

According to Tri-Ess chairman Jane Ellen Fairfax, a consensus of the board of directors felt there was no need to shift the June meeting to an alternate site as the anti-gay amendment approved by voters in November has been blocked from taking effect until a hearing on its constitutionality can take place. Besides, said Fairfax, the majority of the board do not live full time *en femme* and thus it was doubtful that any behavior that could possibly be interpreted as "homosexual" would take place.

The board meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 25, although Fairfax indicates that if the agenda appears heavy, she may convene a Friday evening session as well.



The Mid-American Gender Group Information

LARGE SIZE SHOES DIRECT TO YOU!

LaFemme Footwear, a leading large-size ladies' shoe manufacturer's representative is now selling **DIRECTLY** to the gender community at unheard-of low prices! We have the widest variety possible of shoes -- pumps, boots, ankle straps, sandals -- in sizes ranging all the way up to **SIZE 15**, and up to **5"** heels!

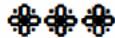
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Exchange (MAGGIE) has decided to move the 1994 "Fall Harvest" to Iowa, after several years in its original home of Kansas City.

Iowa Artistry has agreed to host the 1994 event, following three years of sponsorship by event founders Crossdressers and Friends. The 1992 event was considered to be a success, with only minor operational difficulties to be resolved for future Harvests. Media coverage of the 1992 event was hampered by the local newspaper not providing coverage; however, it was reported that one Kansas City television station did include a story in its evening newscast.

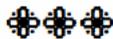
Dates for Fall Harvest 1993 in Kansas City and 1994 in Iowa City will be announced in the near future.



The Minorities Trust, New Zealand's only non-profit charitable organization devoted to the human rights needs of the gender communities on that continent, has indefinitely ceased operations with very little hope for resumption in the near future.

In the February issue of the Trust's publication *Transcare*, director Leone Neil related that a recent series of events has caused a severe scaling-back of operations, including the closing of the Trust's operating account. Neil lost her civil service position last year, shortly after the Trust's home -- in which she lived -- was condemned, forcing her relocation to smaller quarters. This required the abandonment of all but the most essential material, including a significant amount of the Trust's archives. Neil also suffered the loss of a photocopier last winter, making distribution of *Transcare* more difficult, and cancelling the ability to provide back issues of the publication.

Neil says she is no longer able to meet any financial costs involved with operating the organization, and indicates that the magazine will cease publication after the February 1994 issue unless circumstances change for the better.



Well-known gender community spouse Cynthia Phillips has resigned from the Tri-Ess board of

directors, citing personal reasons.

Phillips, who was co-director for wives' and partners' concerns, has also resigned as coordinator of the upcoming Spouses/Partners International Conference for Education (S.P.I.C.E.), which is scheduled to be held July 9 and 10 in Dallas. Linda Peacock, who has assumed sole directorship for wives' and partners' concerns, will act as coordinator for the S.P.I.C.E. conference as well.

Peacock has also agreed to assume responsibility for the "S.O. There!" column in **Cross-Talk** beginning in August. That column had consisted of edited versions of Phillips' writings in the Tri-Ess wives' newsletter since August 1991. She had also written several of the columns from late 1990 and early 1991.

Wildside Quiz:

Which one is the G.G.?



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THE ADVENTURES OF KAREN

by KAREN ANN





KYMBERLEIGH'S CLIPBOARD

-- *Kymerleigh Richards*

Since I changed the focus of this column from a "Crossdresser On The Town" focus to serious editorializing some 19 issues back, I have commented on a variety of subjects and occurrences within our community, and on more than one occasion have found myself at odds with Merissa Sherrill Lynn, the founder and executive director of the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE). Every time that I have done so, the popular response to my editorials have indicated that my writings were closer to the majority opinion of the community (which, as you might expect, dismayed Ms. Lynn). However, this month I find myself completely agreeing with her editorial in *Tapestry* #63, the key portion of which is reprinted here. The editorial is entitled "We May Not Be Going To Portland In 1994!" and centers on the difficulty Northwest Gender Alliance (NWGA) has had in finalizing arrangements with a hotel for the 1994 IFGE convention:

"What went wrong?

"The upper echelon management of the hotels we selected sent down the word that we were welcome to use their hotels, but all restrooms, even those in our meeting areas, were strictly off limits. What that says is 'We will take your money, but we won't respect your most basic of human needs.' They knew in advance such a condition would be a deal-killer, so I feel justified in assuming they simply did not want our business. I'm not going to cry bigotry, or assume their actions were influenced by the recent flap over Proposition 9 (a bill that would have made it legal to discriminate against people who were gay, or perceived to be gay). Whether or not you cry bigotry is up to you. Rather, I'm going to assume their actions were based on a very common problem. They didn't know us, and like most people they were afraid of the unknown.

"Here's what their fear cost them. For starters, it cost them \$70-100,000 in business. It cost them some of the finest, most respectable and most trouble-free guests their hotel is likely to have. It cost them good business ... In other words, because they wouldn't give us a place to pee, they lost out current business, they lost our future business, and they lost our respect.

"Please understand, they could not legally prevent us from going to the bathroom. To do so would make them vulnerable to a lawsuit. I do not choose to push that course of action. We might win a lawsuit, but at what cost? *(continued, next page)*

COGITO ERGO FEM

-- Anne [REDACTED]

I could probably write the following statement anytime in the next decade or so and the controversy would still be raging: "_____ just doesn't describe what I am!"

OH GOD, NOT ANOTHER "TERMS" ARGUMENT!

OK, not another terms argument.

Recently I started seeing a therapist; there were some things that I was having difficulty resolving on my own and so sought professional help. Of course, the central problem revolved around gender identity. I had developed what I called the TV/TS spectrum and put myself in the TV domain. Then I noticed that sometimes I felt as though I belonged in the TS domain. And then those feelings would disappear. So then I came up with the notion of anchor points -- the place where one belongs -- and although there may be some fluctuation, under normal circumstances one always returned to the anchor point.

But I kept fluctuating over to the TS part of the spectrum. So I started to observe what was going on in my life that correlated to these shifts. The answer? Stress. Whenever life got stressful, Anne stepped forward to save the day. Several years ago, my job had me under a great deal of stress (although at the time I was not as aware of it as I ought to have been) which continued for over a year. During that time I became convinced that I was TS. I prayed, God answered. I was to have been a woman.

Then I was laid off. Pffft! Back to being Mr. Odd. So I thought, "WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!" It was then that I postulated the question, "Does stress create or reveal these feelings of womanhood?" And that is the question that had me stuck on a fence, and for which I was consulting a therapist. What I learned was: This is not a question that can be answered by logic. It must be answered by emotion. My answer was, "Stress reveals the underlying woman."

You will note that I have managed to avoid the use of the word "transsexual". And rightfully so, because "transsexual" doesn't describe what I am.

"OH NO, NOT ANOTHER GENDER COMMUNITY LEADER COMING OUT OF THE TS CLOSET, WHO WILL NO DOUBT TRASH US POOR INNOCENT TRANSVESTITES!?"

OK.

Actually, everything I have said regarding transvestism holds true. The recent change in the

name of this column is more than just symbolic. But, back to our show.

Why don't I like the term "transsexual"? Well, it's because the word implies that there is something odd about and focuses on my sexuality, when in fact it wasn't my sexuality that was the problem, it was my psychology. I wasn't trying to decide who I wanted to f---, I was trying to figure out if I am a man or a woman. It was my heart that needed attention, not my ... ahem, you know. I don't acknowledge my transsexuality, I acknowledge my womanhood. And there is all the difference in the world.

But, is womanhood a clinical diagnosis? No. Is transsexualism? Yes. But then, it could be said that I have a psychosomatic discontinuity. The causes? Probably organic in nature. The cause is not particularly relevant in terms of deciding what to do with the rest of my life, but is in terms of understanding the condition, and gaining social tolerance.

It used to be you could call someone with seizures an epileptic (I used to be one). Now one says that the individual is suffering from a seizure disorder, or that they have had a tonic-clonic or absence

episode. The terms haven't gotten simpler, but they sure have gotten more accurate. I think I'll tell people I have a mind/body disunity, and that the mind wants to achieve unity and so, at the very least I crossdress. At the most I undergo hormone therapy and have SRS. And there is some area in between.

In response to a letter in *Vox Populi*: No, transvestism and transsexualism are not mental disorders, but that does not mean that neither the TS nor the TV cannot find therapy useful. As was stated, society does not embrace us with open arms, and the perceived or real social rejection leads to all sorts of mental problems including depression, anxiety, paranoia, thoughts of suicide and the list goes on. For these mental disorders psychotherapy is very beneficial and should not be dismissed out of hand.

A more pertinent question is this: My insurance through my employer specifically excludes transsexual surgery under *(continued, next page)*

YOUR EDITORIAL COMMENTS ARE WELCOME,
and may be sent by mail, fax, or "Cross Connection"
e-mail. Please see the next page for details.

KYMBERLEIGH'S CLIPBOARD ... continued

Our dignity? Our self-respect? The goodwill we have worked so hard to develop with other hotels? The price is too high.

"Confrontation rarely works. Economic clout works. Therefore, I would prefer we conduct ourselves with pride, with dignity, and use our economic clout in a good way ... give (our convention money) to someone else, but only on the condition that we are treated with respect."

Although I am not certain what the current situation is in Portland (the report of NWGA's board meeting of February 3, which took place after *Tapestry* went to press, made reference to both the Marriott and Hilton hotels bidding for the convention), this unfortunately reminds me of the early planning for the first "California Dreamin" weekend, late in 1990. The sales staff of the first hotel we contacted was initially eager to have us hold the event there. When we heard nothing from them after the promise of a quote within a few days, we called them and were told that the upper management "didn't want that type of event in our hotel". We subsequently opened negotiations with another hotel, which not only welcomed us with open arms, but has remained the host hotel for subsequent events (later this month, they will host the third "Dreamin", and this November will also be the venue for the Tri-Ess "Holiday En Femme").

Thus I must wholeheartedly agree with Merissa that economic pressure is the best way to get the message across.

Our community has, demographically speaking, a high number of professionals and businesspeople within it. It is likely that some of the people who make decisions on where business meetings, professional gatherings, and conventions are held are a part of our community. I feel that we must divert this type of mainstream business away from those establishments that disdain the use of their facilities by the gender community. Although I realize that in most cases it will be impossible to specifically identify their treatment of our community as the reason (to avoid a difficult situation for the person making the decision), if it happens enough times AND organizations like IFGE are notified, in confidence, that this has been done, we can then go back to the offending hotel(s) and indicate to them that they have lost x amount of business as a result of their treatment of our community. THAT might possibly have an impact.

I agree with Merissa that economic clout must be used against those who refuse to keep enough of an open mind to find out what good business we make. I believe it is now time to increase the pressure derived from that clout beyond simply moving our own community's events.

the classification of elective, cosmetic surgery; now, for some people this may indeed be the case, but for others SRS may be as critical as open heart surgery for someone with severe cardiovascular blockage, however, is it? I think this is only answered on a case by case basis, and insofar as this is the case, transsexualism certainly belongs in the DSM.

I'm sure that my change in gender status will come as a surprise to some and not to others. Transsexuals always seemed to assume that I was one too. Although the term doesn't, as I said, describe what I am it seems to do so better than transvestite. Maybe they sensed something that I missed (or denied). I don't know, I thought it odd. In retrospect, looking back at more than twenty years of writing, the clues are there. As you know, some time ago I changed the name of this column to *Cogito Ergo Fem* because I felt uncomfortable writing a column entitled *TAG, You're It ...* since the T in TAG stood for Transvestite and I was becoming aware that I was not that. I think that I am intelligent enough, and objective enough to be able to differentiate the concerns of both communities and be an articulate spokesperson for either camp; however, I choose to discontinue filling that role for the TV community as I think my credibility will be too easily challenged. Instead, I will simply write what about those things that concern us on a human level, focusing on the specific effects that they have on all transgendered people.

We are not one united community, and the sooner we recognize that, the better off every one will be. This is nothing new, and I have said it before. Each segment of the spectrum needs to have their own advocacy groups working for their interests, and on those issues that there is common ground and

interest those disparate groups should work together. And women's rights is one area in which we all have a (trans)vested interest.

So, say a final goodbye to the old TAG and hello to the new and improved Anne [REDACTED]

A NOTE TO OUR EDITORIAL PAGE

READERS: It has been suggested that in addition to accepting letters to the editor via "Cross Connection" e-mail, we establish accounts on CompuServe, Prodigy, and America OnLine for this purpose. If you are a subscriber to any of these national online services, please let us know if you would be interested in participating in our *Vox Populi* column via these services.

Cross-Talk continues to accept your letters by "Cross Connection" BBS e-mail at (818) 766-TVTS (766-8887), by mail at P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365, and by fax at (818) 347-4190. Letters received may be edited for length and clarity.

Vox Populi does not appear in this issue due to the lack of reader comments received by deadline.



WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE that **Cross-Talk** is now being printed by Arena Press in Mendocino County, Calif., using recycled paper and soybean oil-based inks. We believe we are the first national gender

community publication to become environmentally friendly, and we are happy to say that we will not need to further raise the price of **Cross-Talk** to do so.

One of the owners of Arena Press has a sibling who is a F2M TS in transition. We are extremely happy to have the opportunity to utilize a business with personal ties to the gender community.

Cross-Talk is published monthly as an information and entertainment resource for the gender community. For subscription information, please see page 40. For information on advertising, please call (818) 776-8503.

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TECHNICAL SUPPORT: Trish [REDACTED], Chrys [REDACTED].

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Last month, Ms. [redacted] hinted about rumors that some very famous [redacted] liked to wear women's clothes from time to time, and she doesn't mean Bette Davis. Now comes a revelation that shocks even her (Ms. [redacted], not Miss Davis, who was probably shocked a little)...

According to a new biography published in February by Putnam about J. Edgar Hoover, the founder of the FBI was a gay transvestite.

There had long been rumors that Hoover was gay and that his orders to FBI agents around the country to collect sexual tidbits about the rich and famous were motivated as much by his own prurient interests as by his need for power. But until the news about Anthony Summers' book, we had thought Hoover was just your garden variety homosexual. We had no idea he was one of us!

In *Official and Confidential -- The Secret Life of J. Edgar Hoover*, Summers quotes Susan Rosensteil, a New York socialite and wife of a Hoover friend as saying that at a 1958 party given by Roy Cohen (another closet case homophobe) Hoover pranced around a Plaza Hotel suite in drag.

"He was wearing a fluffy black dress, very fluffy, with flounces, and lace stockings and high heels and a black curly wig," Rosensteil remembers.

But more shocking is Summers' claim that Mafia king pin Meyer Lansky had a photo showing him and long-time aide and confidant Clyde Tolson engaging in oral sex. Lansky reportedly blackmailed Hoover into laying off the mob. Could this be why Hoover denied the existence of the Mafia until 1957? But the revelations beg another question: Could the director's preference for lingerie be real reason G-Men got their nickname?



Yet it seems that Hoover isn't the only lawman who crossdressed and dated boys to escape the pressure

of putting criminals behind bars. After his murder, it was revealed that a New Jersey county prosecutor was also a gay transvestite.

Gamal Sledge was an assistant prosecutor for Mercer County, but no one suspected he was gay. One night in 1987, he picked Darryl Davis for sex. Four days later, Sledge's body was found in his apartment, naked from the waist down and bludgeoned to death. Also in the apartment, police found gay pornography, a wig, stockings, and other items suggesting Sledge was a crossdresser. Those details came out at Davis' murder trial. He was convicted.



Also convicted of murder was Michelle/Robert [redacted], 43, the Massachusetts transsexual accused in the 1990 slaying of his wife. [redacted] made headlines earlier when she won the [redacted] stand trial in women's clothes.

The prosecutor presented evidence that [redacted], who had a drug and alcohol problem, married Cheryl [redacted] to be free in starting life over as a woman. After the killing, [redacted] bought hundreds of dollars of clothes and [redacted] up. The defense argued unsuccessfully that Cheryl was killed as she attacked her husband.

A psychiatrist testified that [redacted] was a transsexual, but that the condition had nothing to do with the murder. But transsexualism did have something to do with the feeling of revenge felt by Cheryl's sister. After the verdict was announced and [redacted] was sentenced to life in prison without parole, [redacted] Landry said "I'm just thrilled to think he's not going to get out and he's not going to go to Brussels for his operation."



An upcoming murder trial in Baltimore promises to be just as exciting with charges of mistaking the victim for a real woman and rape by a transsexual.

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Marvin Johnson, 29, who was known to family and friends as Chrissey, was found by police naked, with her feet tied together. She had been stabbed at least 15 times and had been thrown from the second floor of her apartment building to the first. Witnesses say she was still alive when police arrived, but that she died shortly thereafter.

Authorities have charged Allen Horton, a resident of the same building. They say Horton met Johnson earlier in the evening and had taken her back to his apartment. Horton said a dispute erupted when Horton discovered Johnson was not a woman. Police say that Horton stabbed Johnson several times with a kitchen knife.

But a friend of the Johnson family denied the story. He said that Horton and Johnson had known each other for a year, and that Johnson was tutoring Horton in reading. He said that Horton had told police four different stories about that evening; one version had Johnson raping Horton.



Unfortunately, a trial is still a remote possibility in Atlanta where another African-American transgendered person was been killed in December, the sixth in 15 months. The latest victim was Derry Glenn, 38, discovered by police nude but wearing a wig and earrings.

The previous murder took place in November of last year, and the others happened in October and

November of 1991. Two of the killings occurred exactly one year apart.

In 1991 when the murder toll stood at four, police had said that there was no connection between the murders, even saying that "it was not strange that four black crossdressers and/or transsexuals had been attacked in a period less than 30 days." Now they say they are looking into the possibility that the crimes are linked "but so far we haven't found any similarities other than how the victims were dressed."



Crime, it seems, is an equal opportunity pursuit. Transgendered persons are just as likely to be victims as perpetrators.

Two Mississippi drag queens were recently apprehended by police for fraudulently using other people's credit card accounts to purchase thousands of dollars of evening and bridal gowns for use in drag beauty pageants in New Orleans, Jackson, and Memphis.

Police say that Vincent Ivory [redacted] and Charles Ray [redacted] probably ob [redacted] credit card numb [redacted] the trash bins of local merchants. They would then use the numbers to purchase dresses through the mail or in stores after merchants had called in the numbers to see if the cards were stolen. Because the cards themselves were not stolen, the purchases were approved.

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WHO'S WHO in the TRANSGENDERED COMMUNITY
and
INTERNATIONAL RESOURCE GUIDE

Who's Who in the Transgendered Community — Who is Billie Jean Jones anyway? Where can I find large size shoes? Is there a support group in Kansas City? You'll find the answers to these questions and more in the first annual *Who's Who in the Transgendered Community*, which includes • **Bios of VIPs** • **Detailed info on support groups** • **Where to buy goods & services** • **List of counseling resources**. All for just \$15.00 postpaid. Pa. residents add 6% sales tax.

Their haul totaled more than \$13,000.

Brandon, Miss., Police Chief Walter Tucker said "They readily admitted that they would put on shops and wear these dresses."

██████████ and ██████████ were arrested when a store ecame ██████████ s. After all, a girl only needs so many bridal gowns.



The red dress that a robber at an International House of Pancakes in Baton Rouge, La., was wearing recently may have been from the ██████████ and ██████████ collection, but the accessories all white tennis shoes with red socks, a blue purse, and a red bandana over his face. But that patriotic ensemble didn't attract as much as a second glance until the man dropped his purse when emerging from the ladies' room and two guns fell out. He used one of the guns to shoot open a locked cash drawer, and fired five more shots before fleeing with the cash.

Had she seen him in the john, Ms. ██████████ would have known something was up; she always suspicious of a girl whose purse doesn't match her shoes.



We are sorry to bring you this news so late, but Don Baird, a columnist for the San Francisco *Bay Times* has proclaimed 1993 as the Year of the Drag Queen. His justification ...

"When has a drag queen ever had a hit single climbing the charts (RuPaul's "Supermodel")? When has a drag queen ever been featured in *Vanity Fair* (Lypsinka)? When have we ever seen more of them on MTV than we are now? Drag queens are huge this year, making breakthroughs like never before, so why not" name the year after them?

Baird claims the theme would do wonders for attendance at the June lesbian and gay pride parade in San Francisco: "When it comes down to it, why do most people attend the parade anyway? To see drag queens, of course, and that draw has probably been consistent for over two decades."



Baird also could have asked, "When have we seen a celebrity lesbian singer all done up like a drag queen?"

That happened in January at Manhattan's Hard Rock Cafe when k.d. lang appeared in makeup, a party dress, and an upswept hairdo for the "Fur Is a Drag" mock fashion show. She sang her hit single "Miss Chatelaine" with a chorus of traditional male drag queens dancing about her.



Fur may be a drag to some, but drag is a drag to the 15-year-old crossdresser who wrote in for advice to Dr. June ██████████, director of the highly

regarded Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction at Indiana University at Bloomington.

He said he had been dressing in his sister's lingerie for five years. His sister finally caught him and told their mother. "My mother was more understanding than I expected," he wrote. "She said it was OK and offered to buy me female garments. She said I could dress in them whenever I wanted and that I would outgrow my desire ... I feel guilty after I have dressed. Will I really outgrow this desire?"

Dr. ██████████ replied that when crossdressing first appears in childhood, it may be a phase. But when crossdressing appears "after puberty and in adolescence, it is more likely to be persistent." She notes that a transvestite magazine reported that 14 percent of its readers remember their first crossdressing experience before age 5; 40 percent between ages 5 and 10; 37 percent between 10 and 18; and 8 percent after 18. She told the boy something we all know -- he is very lucky to have an understanding mother.



Dear Abby recently handled a question with a unique crossdressing twist. A woman wrote in to say that because she stands 5 foot 11 and weighs 152 pounds "a lot of people have mistaken me for a man."

"I was in the ladies' room a few weeks ago, and a woman got angry with me and asked my why I didn't use the men's room!" she wrote. "I have tried wearing feminine-looking clothes, but I look ridiculous ... I am more comfortable in a pantsuit than in a dress."

Abby tended to sympathize with those who mistook the writer's gender, and suggested that she butch down her image with a professional makeover and accessorize the tailored suits with a colorful scarf or blouse. However, Abby failed to warn the writer to be sure her purse matches her shoes or she will be in big trouble, unless she moves to Baton Rouge.



While we are quoting experts, here's a final bit of wisdom, this one from Dr. Stanley Coren of the University of British Columbia: Left-handed men are three times more likely to have sex change operations than right-handed men.

"The findings support the theory that transsexuals are different before they're born due to conditions in the womb that disturb the normal development of the brain," Dr. Coren said.

All of those who agree, raise your hands ... Ah, got ya!



The ambidextrous Ms. ██████████ urges those who see clippings relating to crossdressing to send them to her in care of Cross-Talk. Remember to note the name and date of publication.

THE BASICS OF CONTOURING AND HIGHLIGHTING

by Valerie

Aha! This is it. When you master the techniques of contouring and highlighting, you will not only look prettier, but you can also look up to ten years younger (or more)!

First, look at your face in the mirror and picture an oval shape outlining the circumference of your face. Shade the areas that extend beyond that oval shape with contouring cream, using a darker color in the same skin tone blending outward into the hairline. For example: A masculine, square jawline and chin can be softened by shading the outer sides of the jaw and bottom sides of the chin. And for those of you with a double chin, shading under your chin and jaw then blending down the neck and under your ears will make you look much younger. Check to see that the color isn't too dark as it may then resemble beard stubble or look unnatural.

Another masculine characteristic is a wide forehead and receding hairline. A subtle shading in these areas will reduce the receding part and help to achieve the ultimate oval shape.

By shading the sides of a wider nose, you can make it look narrow. But if you apply the color down too far, it will make the nose look even longer. Add just a dab to the tip, blend down, and voilD! You have a shorter nose.

Highlight, with a lighter color, the cheekbones, eyelids, or anyplace you don't want a shadow. Just as shading means reducing, highlighting means brightening and bringing out.

If you are applying highlighter to hide bags under your eyes, put it only underneath the puffy area as baggy eyes will look worse with a lighter color on top of them. Another area where skin sags is at the corners of the mouth. Put your highlighter there and around the lips for that "pouty" look ... and don't forget to blend.

We have all admired the beauty of a blushing bride. But if her blush looks like two big red circles on her face, the picture isn't pretty anymore. Whether you use rouge or powder blush, the message is clear: Blend, blend, blend!

Powder blush works best with water-based foundation. It can be applied before translucent powder for a more dramatic look, or after for a softer color. Animal hair brushes are preferred over nylon, and quality ranges from goat hair at the bottom to pony, badger and sable at the top. (Hopefully these animals aren't being destroyed for their precious bristles, else we'll have to start a boycott.) Whatever your choice, dip the brush into your blush, then pat the excess in your hand. Making small circles, start the application at the

hairline just above the ear and slowly move down at an angle toward the tip of the nose. Stop just past the outer corner of your eye ... this should be at least an inch-and-a-half below the eye. Now blend the color in front of the hairline at the temples and forehead, and dot the center of your chin. A brighter, lighter, or iridescent color can be applied just above the blush at the cheekbones, but only if your skin is wrinkle-free. Shiny colors really make wrinkles much more noticeable.

Using rouge or oil-based blush will not only rid you of any guilt feelings over animal sacrifice, but will also take a lot less time. Again, start at the hairline, dip your index and middle fingers in your color and dot the angle over your cheekbones. Go back and forth with a patting motion, then up into the temple area. Finally, blend with the thick end of your latex sponge, and make sure your color blends into the hairline. Now use powder to set it.

What color should you use? Sorry, that's a question no column can answer. Only a personal visit to a professional cosmetologist like myself can help you make the right choice. Just remember that blush should not stand out, but should help to highlight and contour the cheekbones and impart a healthy glow.

[Valerie is a California licensed cosmetology instructor and owner of Hair To Wear Wigs in Torrance, California. You may write her with your questions at 1716 Andreo Ave., Torrance 90501; or if you live in or plan to visit the Los Angeles area you may call her at (310) 320-5015. Questions of general interest will be answered in this column.]

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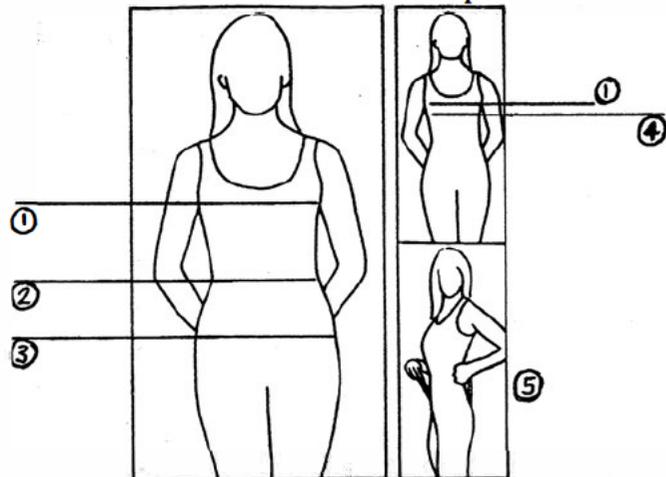
by Bev

Unfortunately, not all crossdressers have a wife or girlfriend who is the same size or even close enough so that one could guess the right size. So finding clothes that fit may present a rather serious problem. Buying different sizes of clothing until one finds the correct size can be not only frustrating, but downright expensive. To make matters worse, women's clothing sizes have been known to vary widely, depending on the source. A size 8 dress from a designer in NYC can be a size 14 in a ready-to-wear dress. Several NY fashion designers use a "perfect" size 8 model. Fortunately, the fashion industry has been changing, taking their lead from Sears -- for years the only well-known company using a recommended national size standard.

The new sizes are much more consistent, and fashion catalogs will be more consistent (but be sure to check their size tables to be sure!). Department stores, in particular, will be much more careful to size according to the standard.

But before you can use size charts to determine your femme size, you need to take your body measurements ... and you need to take those measurements the same way as a genetic female would so that the numbers will make sense once you starting looking on size charts.

To get the most accurate measurements, have someone else take your measurements, holding the measuring tape straight and snug. And be sure that you are wearing all the padding (breast forms, hip pads, etc.) and a waist cincher -- if you use one -- that you will be wearing when you are "dressed". The reason? Women's measurements invariably are taken in the areas that crossdressers pad or cinch!



#1: *Bust.* Measure around the body across the fullest part of the bust, keeping the tape level and firm.

#2: *Waist.* Measure the smallest part of the "natural" waistline (note that this is HIGHER on women than it is on men!) keeping the tape level and firm, but not tight.

#3: *Hips.* Measure around the fullest part of the hips, keeping the tape level and firm, but not tight.

#4: *Under the bust.* Measure around the body under the bust, keeping the tape level and firm.

#5: *Lower torso.* Measure from the waist at the center of the back, down through the crotch and up to the waist at the center front.

Now, how do you use these measurements?

For bras, take the under bust measurement (#4) and add five inches to get your body size. If the total is an odd number, select the next highest size. For example, if your under bust measurement is 29, your body size would be 34.

To find your cup size, subtract the bust measurement (#1) from the body size you just calculated. Do not round up this figure.

If your bust measurement is:	Your cup size is:
up to 1 inch larger than body size	A
up to 2 inches larger than body size	B
up to 3 inches larger than body size	C
up to 4 inches larger than body size	D

This continues on all the way to H cup (bust 9" larger than body size!), but for our purposes, we'll stop at a D cup.

Use the body size for slip sizes, and measure length from the front strap attachment to the point on the leg where you want the slip to reach. For half slips, use your waist measurement (#2) and measure from the waist down to the point on the leg where you want the slip to reach.

Panties can be sized either by waist (#2) or hip (#3) measurement. A catalog will always tell you which. If you run across numerical sizes either in a catalog or in a retail store, the most-used standard is based on the hip measurement: 5 (32-34"), 6 (35-37"), 7 (38-40"), 8 (41-42"), 9 (42-44"), or 10 (45-46").

For girdles, panty shapers, and briefs, order by waist size (#2). For proportioned garments (average or long torso), take the lower torso measurement (#5) into account:

Order average lower torso if measurements are:			Order long lower torso if measurements are:		
Waist in.	Avg. hip in.	Lower torso in.	Waist in.	Full hip in.	Lower torso in.
29-30	39-40	29-29½	29-30	41-43	30-31½
31-32	41-42	30-30½	31-32	43-45	31-32½
33-34	43-44	31-31½	33-34	45-47	32-33½
35-36	45-46	32-32½	35-36	47-49	33-34½
37-38	47-48	33-33½	37-38	49-51	34-35½
39-40	49-50	34-34½	39-40	51-53	35-36½

All-in-one styles are based on bra size and cup size (as you calculated above). But make sure the hip measurement fits as well! Again, for proportioned garments, use the lower torso measurement as it relates to your waist and hip measurements. If you cannot find a style that matches both your bra size and hip size, you may want to match a long-line bra with a shaper panty girdle.

Now that we've finished your lingerie sizing, let's take your measurements and apply them to the charts for wearing apparel. Misses' sizes are for an average figure with average proportions. If you padded for a natural look rather than an exaggerated one, this will probably be the right chart for you. Note that the same sizes are available in petite, average, and tall lengths.

NEW MISSES' SIZES

Petite: 5'4" and under	Average: 5'4 1/2" to 5'7"						Tall: 5'8" to 6'			
ORDER SIZE	XS	S		M		L		XL		
Misses	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	
Regular Bust Fits A & B Cup	32 1/2- 33	33 1/2- 34	34 1/2- 35	35 1/2- 36	36 1/2- 37 1/2	38- 39	39 1/2- 40 1/2	41- 42 1/2	43- 44 1/2	
Full Bust Fits C & D Cup	34- 34 1/2	35- 35 1/2	36- 36 1/2	37- 37 1/2	38- 39	39 1/2- 40 1/2	41- 42	42 1/2- 44	44 1/2- 46	
Waist	24 1/2- 25	25 1/2- 26	26 1/2- 27	27 1/2- 28	28 1/2- 29 1/2	30- 31	31 1/2- 32 1/2	33- 34 1/2	35- 36 1/2	
Regular Hip	35- 35 1/2	36- 36 1/2	37- 37 1/2	38- 38 1/2	39- 40	40 1/2- 41 1/2	42- 43	43 1/2- 45	45 1/2- 47	
Full Hip	36 1/2- 37	37 1/2- 38	38 1/2- 39	39 1/2- 40	40 1/2- 41 1/2	42- 43	43 1/2- 44 1/2	45- 46 1/2	47- 48 1/2	

Women's sizes fit mature, more fuller figures. You may find that your measurements work better on this chart. Women's sizes are available in petite and average lengths.

ORDER SIZE	X		1X		2X		3X		4X
Women's Women's Petite	14W 14WP	16W 16WP	18W 18WP	20W 20WP	22W 22WP	24W 24WP	26W 26WP	28W 28WP	30W 30WP
Bust	37 1/2- 39	39 1/2- 41	41 1/2- 43	43 1/2- 45	45 1/2- 47	47 1/2- 49	49 1/2- 51	51 1/2- 53	53 1/2- 55
Waist	30 1/2- 32	32 1/2- 34	34 1/2- 36	36 1/2- 38	38 1/2- 40	40 1/2- 42 1/2	43- 45	45 1/2- 47 1/2	48- 50
Regular Hip	40 1/2- 42	42 1/2- 44	44 1/2- 46	46 1/2- 48	48 1/2- 50	50 1/2- 52	52 1/2- 54	54 1/2- 56	56 1/2- 58
Full Hip	42- 43 1/2	44- 45 1/2	46- 47 1/2	48- 49 1/2	50- 51 1/2	52- 53 1/2	54- 55 1/2	56- 57 1/2	58- 59 1/2

To measure height, stand against the wall with your shoes off and place a ruler across the top of your head to the wall and mark. Measure from the mark to the floor.

Regarding shoe sizes: A woman's shoe size is usually one to one-and-a-half numbers higher than the equivalent in a man's shoe. If you wear a size 9 man's shoe, try a size 10 woman's shoe. A B-width shoe is considered medium for women; a D-width is medium for men. If a shoe is not available in the correct women's width, try a size one-half to a full size larger (i.e., for a 10D size, try an 11B). Pantyhose sizes vary by manufacturer, but fortunately they always provide a chart on the package where you can find your size based on your height and weight. If you wear a garter belt and stockings, this chart will give you a general idea of

size ranges (but it may not necessarily be an exact science):

Legs	Height	Weight
Petite (8-10 1/2) short length	up to 5'3"	up to 120 lbs.
Shapely (8 1/2-11) average length, slender	5'2"-5'9"	95-140 lbs.
Classic (8 1/2-11) average length, full	5'2"-5'9"	120-170 lbs.
Tall (9 1/2-12) long and/or full	5'6"-6'3"	160-200 lbs.
Statuesque (9 1/2-12) extra long, extra full	5'5"-6'3"	180-260 lbs.

If your height or weight fall in more than one leg type on this chart, choose the type that best describes your legs. (Be honest, now ...!)

With your sizes figured out, the next time you walk into a store or boutique, you'll know just what size your "wife" or "girlfriend" wears, or -- if you have the courage -- tell the salesperson it's for yourself!

I would like to thank *InnerView*, the newsletter of Cross-Port in Cincinnati, for their recent article on sizing, which filled in the gaps in places the Sears catalog didn't cover adequately.

[Bev Anderson is the proprietor of *Femme Development Services* in Studio City, Calif. You may send her questions about fashion c/o **Cross-Talk** or by e-mail to "Bev" via the *Cross Connection* BBS. If you live in or plan to visit the Los Angeles area, you may call her at (818) 752-9266 to make an appointment for a personal consultation.]

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compiled by Lynette

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And then ...!

"Excuse me, but I think you've got your husband's bankcard? No? Oh, I see. Your name is really Mr. Boris Horatio Mind- Boggler. Certainly ... errr???"

Well, not the best situation for passing is it? So how can you get a bankcard (read credit card) with a suitable or even your femme name on it? Perhaps make your own in the backyard? Tricky, messy and not the done thing in the best of circles. But, don't despair. It is possible.

TIP 1. When you apply for your credit card simply insist that only your initials without a courtesy title are on the card. This is possible with Visa and MasterCard and highly likely with most of the others if they are approached tactfully.

TIP 2. Another generally quite easy way is to obtain an additional card that is linked to your main account. This card can be in your femme name. Usually the only information required is the person's name and signature. You see, the bank

doesn't care too much about who the person is because you sign and take full responsibility for the use of the additional card, which, by the way has the same account number as your own card. So, just ask your bank for an application form for an additional card tied to your own. You *should* know the girl you're going guarantor for pretty well. But be prepared to give her maternal grandmother's maiden name or some other security check device.

TIP 3. If you use method two above you may encounter a few problems. Firstly, the signatures that you must submit (your own and the additional cardholder) clearly cannot be the same, so you must develop a different signature for your additional card holder. (smaller, neater, etc.) You'll need to be pretty good at signing this signature too, if you don't want to get strange looks from sales staff. Secondly, some banks require the additional cardholder to turn up and collect the card, but this can usually be avoided by insisting that you pick up both cards saying that it is inconvenient for the other party to attend. Simply say "I am taking responsibility for both cards so why can't I take both with me?".

TIP 4. Under stressful circumstances, DON'T -- like I did once while dressed femme -- sign your male name for the other card. I only survived that one with " Oh! that's the company name! Sorry".

There are other ways of getting a credit card -- simply go in and explain the situation to an understanding manager. If your name change is legal and you use it exclusively you will have no worries.

CAUTION: If a security check is carried out because a salesperson refers your card to the boss it may pay to have some form of identification which can prove that the card is in fact on your account. Your male card with an identical number on it and your drivers license would get you through. With one bankcard I have, I once had to go to the phone and answer the security question -- "What is your maternal Grandmother's name?" which was the security required when I got the card. My correct answer cleared the \$2500 transaction immediately.

The above procedures are not illegal, as far as we are able to ascertain, providing of course that you intend to pay your bankcard off! So rush into your bank or credit union now and pick up your application form. And as a final tip, DON'T MIX UP THE CARDS AND HAND OVER THE WRONG ONE -- EVER!

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UNDERSTANDING FEMALE-TO-MALE CROSSDRESSERS

by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

In this column I will be writing about a minority within a minority -- the female-to-male crossdresser. There has been disagreement both in the gender and professional communities about whether there can be any behavior called female crossdressing. Among the arguments against such a phenomenon is the assertion that women (in our society) can wear any type of clothing they want, so crossdressing is a meaningless term for them. It has also been observed that few women have any kind of fetishistic behavior. Since fetishistic behavior is often strongly linked to crossdressing, this is supposed to "prove" that women can't be crossdressers, at least in the same sense as men.

To be precise, I define crossdressing as the wearing of clothing socially "reserved" for the other gender for sensual, erotic and/or social reasons. Sometimes a crossdressed person will strive to emulate the other gender well enough to be accepted in that gender role.

With that definition, some people would suggest that women who wear articles of masculine clothing and yet are obviously women are not crossdressers. The fallacy with such a statement is that we do not usually know the reason why the woman is wearing such clothing nor do we know if she is sensually or erotically aroused.

Often men link women's clothing with female sexuality and eroticism, but do not realize that women could have similar feelings about men's clothing. Just as the average woman does not understand why a man would want to become feminine, the average crossdresser can not understand why a woman would want to emulate masculinity. Also, the male-to-female crossdresser often dislikes his masculine costume and can't wait to shed it so it is hard for him to understand why such clothing might have sensual or erotic connections for a woman. (Most women do not experience the clothing they normally wear as sexually exciting. Many women, given the choice, would not wear some of the clothing they are expected to wear.) Further, history has documented cases of women who successfully masqueraded as men. Generally their true sex was discovered only when they were injured or after death. It is speculated that the reason for the disguise was to permit them to engage in activities that were restricted to men. Of course it is possible that some of these women were transsexual or lesbian. Regardless, they were also crossdressers.

I have talked to and corresponded with female-to-male crossdressers. Except for a change

in pronoun and the types of clothing preferred, the sentiments seem the same.

So, the female-to-male crossdresser does exist, probably in many fewer numbers than the male-to-female crossdresser. Why don't we hear more about them? Perhaps women's freedom to wear a wider variety of clothing may give some the latitude they need. However, I suspect a larger reason is that there is no place for them in the transgendered subculture.

Since the gender community is primarily a male environment is it possible that ignoring (or denying) the existence of women who crossdress is chauvinistic? In other words, crossdressing is a male phenomenon (even though they are imitating women) and women are not allowed to participate! This denial and the generally second-class citizenship of women can isolate the female-to-male crossdressers.

[You may contact Dr. Peo at P. O. Box 3445, Poughkeepsie NY 12603 or by phone at (914) [REDACTED]. All communications are confidential. This column may be reprinted in any non-profit organization's newsletter if Dr. Peo's name and address appear in the reprinted version. All others must obtain written approval. A copy of any reprint is requested.]

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THE "UPS" AND "DOWNS" OF A MARRIAGE

by Cynthia Phillips

Dear Cynthia: Just to tell you a little about us, we have been married for 20 years and we have two children, one a boy of 14, and the other is a girl of 6. Both of them did not know about Jane until maybe a month ago when one of my son's best friends walked in on (Jane) 50% dressed. Wanting to spare our son's feelings, we chose to tell him instead of him finding out from his best friend. Well, we sat down and told our son and gave him every book and article we could think of to help him. (He just sat there and didn't say anything.) It was so traumatic for both of us. Then he wanted to talk to another crossdresser other than his dad. So I talked to our outreach director from our club and he was more than willing to come over and talk to him. He did, and I think it helped a whole lot. I think he did this just to see if there were others out there like his dad and that his dad was not crazy. Everything has been okay. He doesn't talk to us about it and we don't push him. We just do the same thing we have been doing when he did not know about it to show him that things have not changed. He did tell me though that at least he won't be lied to anymore and he will not hate his father. He also stated that he doesn't want to see (Jane), so we promised that would never happen. We will just have to go one step at a time and see what goes on. My six-year-old girl still doesn't know and we choose not to tell her. I feel she is just too young to understand.

Anyway, when we first got married, (Jane) was a heavy, abusive drinker. Later down the line when I found out about her crossdressing, I found that (Jane) was trying to suppress that side of herself, objected to it, and would not want to talk about it. She finally went to A.A. and has been sober for four years now.

I think that issue and getting rid of the drinking helped me to listen better about (Jane) and the whole issue of crossdressing. I've only been really

supportive for about 7 months now so you could say (Jane) was in the closet for 20 years.

When we went to our first meeting, that is where I made my 180-degree turnaround. I just could not believe all the couples that were out there and had the same story to tell. And so many people that we met were loving and caring. They just all made you feel better about yourself and the situation you were in. It made you feel not alone anymore.

We have fun with it now. I'm not always positive about everything, but I hope that feelings will be behind me one of these days.

Everything has opened my eyes from saying "you're weird and crazy" to "there's nothing wrong with this." He's the same person I chose to love and marry 20 years ago. He's right underneath the makeup, high heels and wig. It's only the outside that changes. The heart and the person are still inside. That's where it makes you feel a little bit better about it all. And I found it helps to have correspondence with the other crossdressers and their wives. That helps a lot. It is people like that, that are so caring, that they care enough to take time to sit down and write to you and talk about everything that has happened since their findings.

And the biggest thing I really found in (Jane) is that there is more loving and understanding about my feelings than there has ever been before in the 20 years of our marriage, and that is a good feeling.

Always, Nancy

Dear Nancy: Thank you for your letter. It's always gratifying to hear from someone that has gone through the "downs" and is now going through the "ups" in their marriage. As Linda/Jim told me before we got married, "you will never be bored." That was quite an understatement!

It is always a hard decision to make regarding telling the children. We have found, however, IF you do decide to tell them, the earlier the better. After they start puberty they usually have enough new problems of their own, without adding this to them.

We have been married thirty-five years in January, and it has been a relationship I wouldn't take a million dollars for. We've had our problems too, throughout the years, but because we have always been able to communicate, we've always come out on the "up" side of the experience.

Love, Cynthia

[Cynthia Phillips may be reached at (210) 438-7604 or by writing P.O. Box 17, Bulverde TX 78163.]



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HOW I GOT MY NICKNAME

by Ricky [redacted]
Illustrated by Rita

"He can't be serious", quoth the editor. I mean, how can a transvestite with a beard be serious? Of course our friendly neighborhood editor didn't tell me this until we had gotten to know each other thru the mail and he saw me in my unshaven state, but I've got to admit he has a point.

But before I haul out the razor let's start at the beginning. If a man in woman's clothing has a odd ring to it then a 6'2", 250 pound wolf in sheep's clothing is surely fair game for some hearty guffaws. If there is one thing serious about the situation it is that I have enjoyed bras, panties and garters for the last 20 years, and I still do, but I only enjoy this

between my ears. I mean, just what did I look like under all that hair? As I looked thru the directory I felt a pointed thought take shape: "Maybe you could look like her" (him?) (them?). When I strolled thru Lane Bryant, "wouldn't it be nice to know if this thing will fit before I pay for it?" scratched at the base of my neck. When the night became late in my motel room "damn, it would be nice to take a walk in a skirt" began to claw somewhere above my right eye. But the next morning, when I crawled blearily out of bed, the thought became "I'm gonna kill myself if I get my hands on anything sharp when I feel like this", and the beard was safe for another day.

That is until the weekend before Thanksgiving when, with the kids gone for the night, curiosity overcame me. Before sanity could return in the morning my wife hauled out the scissors, soap and razor and the deed was done. Well started anyway. Along the way we made some discoveries. Like it takes a long time to get rid of a beard that has had all those years to take root. Like 2 hours. Like the first shave after 15 years hurts! like razor burn is not any better than it was when a teenager I knew was trying desperately to shape what he then called a beard. Like the beard I had now was rather blue immediately after a close shave, and the young man who could miss shaving for 2 days and never notice was gone forever. Like I had to shave my chest or wear turtlenecks. Like I'd be damned if I would shave my arms too. Like it was a Dumb Idea to start this at 10:00 on Friday night. Like my wife doesn't use the kind of makeup I need and that the body paint pencils just won't cover a beard.

Talk about your learning experiences. I won't go into detail about the other things I learned about trying to procure makeup in a small town that would cover a blue shadow, or the gyrations involved to get another night alone to get the pictures that all this was being done for, or the funny looking stranger who stared back at me in the mirror. Suffice it to say that Saturday night all was ready and Ricky made her first appearance in full regalia. It is difficult to describe the experience. Since the beard made the use of makeup rather unnecessary I had never experimented with it before. I can only try to describe the warm glow as I sat there, dressed in my favorite bra and best blouse while my wife curled



apparel in the privacy of a motel room or other secluded setting. When I dress it is for the feel of the clothing and the intrinsic pleasure it brings, and this pleasure is largely separate from the rest of my life. I make no distinction between Ricky and Ralph, and outside of costume parties no one has seen Ricky except my wife. When you add this to the fact that I am in serious contention for the laziest person in the world it becomes obvious that shaving is an activity that holds little fascination for me. Besides, the beard hides my double chin and keeps small children from running off screaming.

But all things change. Last year I discovered Tri-Ess and as I got to know others with the same peculiar hobby a tiny devil began to rattle his pitchfork

my hair, painted my face and generally worked me over. There was a deep, warm glow to simply sit there and be fussed over, an intensely pleasurable feeling that every man should know. In a sense this was the culmination of the feelings that make me dress, and to be totally accepted for awhile is a beautiful experience.

Even the pulled hair, curling iron burns, and exasperated demands to "Keep your eyes open until the mascara dries!" could not dampen the excitement and pleasure. Finally all was complete and I looked in the mirror. It was kind of a shock to see my sister in there. Now I know that one of my stature should not expect Miss America to return his gaze in the mirror, but anyone but my sister! Please! Oh well, I guess we are what we are, or at least what our makeup makes us seem.

Anyway, out came the camera, the flash, the backdrop and the commands to "keep your legs together, you're supposed to be a lady" and "straighten your shoulders, if you're going to wear a bra you may as well show off your attributes." Somehow those 36 exposures ran thru my wardrobe and poses from serious to whimsical. I'll let you in on a secret. I'll never get a ride if I hitchhike with my skirt pulled up on one leg. The 10 days before the pictures came back were an eternity, and then I learned something else. I was so excited about my first pictures as Ricky that I forgot everything I knew about photography. They were undoubtedly the most technically bad pictures I have ever taken, and I'm glad that they were processed by a computer because they were embarrassing. But still, in all they did provide an excuse for Ricky to

sit under the ministering hands of her hairdresser and makeup artist a second time, which made the situation easier to bear.

This time I retained my former professional instincts, set the equipment up properly, and zipped thru another 36 frames all too quickly. The results were technically better, but I fear Ricky will never be able to hide her hairy arms or blue shadow without enough makeup to keep Max Factor in business forever. A head and shoulders shot provides a view of a matron that will now be known to the world as Ricky, for better or worse.

Ah, but now comes the problem. The morning came once again and I found that I could not convince Miss America to replace my reflection, even with lucrative offers of multi-year contracts and promises of anonymity. The thought of looking at that face every morning while employing a razor took on it's old horror, and the fun of watching the double takes diminished as I ran out of people who hadn't seen me lately. Much to the dismay of our friendly neighborhood editor I regret to announce that I have given the razor to my wife for her legs and the phiz is once again hirsute. Sorry 'bout that.

But I still am serious. Really I am ...

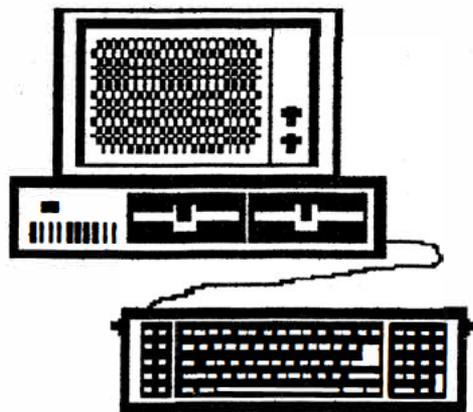
[This column originally appeared in Cross-Talk #15 (May '90). We are happy to welcome Rita to our staff, who will be providing the illustrations for Ricky's column each month.]

IF YOU'D LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE AN ARTICLE TO "CROSS-TALK", please first send a #10 SASE to P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365 for our style sheet and guidelines. Thanks!

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DEALING WITH HARASSMENT, CONFRONTATION AND VIOLENCE

PART TWO

by Gianna Eveling Israel

In the conclusion of this article, we will discuss ways to minimize sexual harassment.

BUILDING IDENTITY. Creating strong healthy relationships builds strong inner character. An individual who has and asserts an air of self esteem and mutual respect is less likely to be victimized. Do not get lost within society. Always have friends available to talk to in times of need. If you are having difficulty building self esteem and healthy relationships, a counselor or therapist may be able to help. If you find yourself becoming a victim of sexual harassment in the workplace, speak to your supervisor. If that doesn't work, file a complaint with your state's Labor Discrimination Agency.

EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING. Transgendered individuals commonly find themselves targets of discrimination while looking for work or in the workplace because their transgendered status is revealed or apparent. Sadly, legislation covering gender and sexual harassment in most municipalities does not extend to transgendered individuals. The bottom line is, if you find yourself the victim of transgendered discrimination in the workplace or in the hiring process, you basically have two options: To fight the discrimination, or to go find employment where you are appreciated for your abilities. There are many individuals who have found work or are currently working in positions where they find themselves treated with respect. The same guidelines or lack of guidelines exists in housing. Once again, if you are living in a situation or developing a rental situation, you would be best served by living where you are going to be accepted for who you are or even better yet, left alone to live your life in peace. It is always a good idea to research a future housing or employment situation.

LIVING ON THE EDGE. In our day-to-day living (and night, too!), we can put a lot of forethought into our activities. This will help to reduce the risk of being harassed. Opt for a more conservative appearance in your day to day living. Always stay alert on today's potentially dangerous streets. When going out at night, make every effort to go in groups! If you must travel alone at night, go along well-lighted streets. However, at times, well-lighted streets can have groups of individuals (predominantly youth) hanging out. At times such as these, if unable to cross the street to a better situation, carefully try walking alongside the street off of the sidewalk. Put a distance between you

and questionable people on the sidewalk without being obvious.

Secure your purse by opting for larger bags or backpacks which are more difficult to steal. For many, getting your purse stolen while beginning crossdressing is almost an initiation rite! Some individuals hide their money and/or keys on their body rather than risk having these items potentially stolen alongside their purse. As well, money or a wallet positioned in a back pocket is sure to be stolen.

IF YOU ARE BEING THREATENED. Rule number one: If you are standing and mobile, keep moving. If you can run away, do so. Otherwise, if you are unable to escape your assailant(s), movement may buy the time to possibly talk/negotiate with them. You have three self-defense approaches: aggressive and nonaggressive resistance along with distractive techniques.

Aggressive resistance is solely designed to open up a getaway opportunity so you may find defensive assistance if need be. It is not an opportunity to return to the incident site and become a perpetrator of violence yourself. Aggressive resistance includes: Yelling, screaming and even fighting.

Research shows that in weaponless assaults, 85% of individuals who fight and yell get away. Most assailants are looking for passive, cooperative victims, i.e., Aggressive, vigorous refusal to be assaulted is the most effected resistance reported by both attempted assault victims and deterred assailants.

Distractive techniques include talking and negotiating with assailants. While many times talking may not actually stop the assault, it may help minimize the number of traumatic events during the assault process. An assailant's fantasy is generally fed by weak, victimlike responses: screams, struggling, crying and pleading. Strange behavior can at times act as a deterrent however it must be convincing to create an escape opportunity. Vomit, defecate, fake a heart attack or seizure, or act crazy or bizarre.

If there are no aggressive resistance or getaway alternatives available during an attack, your next option is nonaggressive resistance. Once again, you can talk to your assailants, if you feel your only option is to submit. Remember: submission does not equal consent. Take time to observe your

assailant(s). Do they have any scars, tattoos? What is the individual(s) height, weight, hair and eye color, and approximate age? Is there anything memorable about their physical appearance? If the attack happens in an assailant's car, leave something there that will connect you with the vehicle during an investigation: a piece of fabric, your own hair, a button from your clothing preferably something small and unnoticeable, (i.e., not one of your shoes!)

AS INDIVIDUALS AND A COMMUNITY WE ARE NOT HELPLESS. As the transgendered, not only do we have a responsibility to ensure our individual safety, but we have an educational responsibility to ourselves, our community and to society. As individuals who have advanced degrees in sexual and gender maturation, we can move on to educate. It is important that all men and women become aware of the positive attributes and equalities expressed through individual gender and sexual expressions.

Transgendered individuals can be personal educators. We can identify for ourselves what masculinity and femininity mean to us. We can share our stories with others when we feel safe doing so. Branching out into mainstream society and just being the positive transgendered person you are provides positive "publicity." Finally, we can refuse to accept second-class citizenship and other abuses by reaching out to help others we see being abused.

Continued public education through speakers bureaus, articles, and other efforts are imperative if we wish to see positive social change. Participating in speakers bureaus and other organized efforts can provide an increased sense of self and community awareness, esteem and empowerment. I am particularly delighted when I hear local colleagues and interns expressing insight into gender issues after their organization has received a presentation from a speakers bureau. It is a result of the hard work of these and other

organizations that many individual lives are beginning to experience and appreciate the fulfillment of gender identity.

Life is the opportunity to open hearts and share the gifts the Universe has bestowed, that they may continue on... not being lost.

[Gianna Eveling Israel specializes in providing individual and small group counseling and education for those dealing with transgendered issues. She is also Western Regional Director for the American Educational Gender Information Services. She may be reached at (415) [REDACTED] or by writing P.O. Box 424447, San Francisco CA 94142-4447.]

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DEAR SIBLINGS:

by Billie Jean [REDACTED]

I am the transvestite, Billie Jean [REDACTED] I am nearly invisible. I am not your "sister" or your "brother." When people look at me they tend to see either a man or a woman. Occasionally they see a male in a dress or a female in pants. Seldom, if ever, do they see "me." Instead, they see through my transvestic self and believe they see a male or female. They do not realize I am watching them through the cracks; that I know they can't "see" me, the essential me that is always "inside" operating the levers of whatever construct I am operating.

Being invisible is a game I play with the rules. Most people play by the rules. That's why they can't see the game -- they don't know it's a game. The name of the game is either-or. It is a binary construct; a reality but not the truth. The rules go something like this: It is either this, or that. However, in virtually every known binarism, in every case of either-or, there exists an "other:" An exception to the rule of either-or. Often this is stated as a "third," such as "The Third World," or "The Third Sex." Phrases such as these seemingly tend to confuse people who play by the rules of either-or. Especially when their educational source has not prepared them for the complexities of truth as opposed to the simplicity of reality. This is why most people who play by the rules believe there is only male and female and that masculine and feminine are synonyms for male and female; anything else is a "perversion." Not so.

Male and female are biological classifications, masculine and feminine are cultural classifications. Within the biological classification categories for Homo Sapiens, one finds two "other" classifications: True Hermaphrodite (very rare), and Pseudo-hermaphrodite (rare but not uncommon). One often finds that these "other" classifications are lumped into a single category -- hermaphrodite -- the "third sex." This is extremely unfortunate because pseudo-hermaphrodites, those without "equal" parts of male and female, constitute a very broad range of biologically mixed sex attributes -- but, there are not common words to describe what you call a *Fetally Androgenized Female* or a *DHT-Deficient Male* (to use only two examples). The biological facts are -- just the facts, ma'am -- that there are seventy (70) sex chromosome classifications in addition to XX (female) and XY (male). Further, sex chromosome combinations are only one part of a six-step process of sex differentiation all Homo Sapiens go through (this subject is explored more thoroughly in issue #10 of

my newsletter *TV Guise* -- which has been renamed *GenderFlex*.)

When we get to the cultural classifications of gender, we arrive with no understanding of biology and are "taught" the "difference" between boys and girls, moms and dads, aunts and uncles, men and women. In other words, the truth of biology is "explained" (or covered up) by the "reality" of cultural rules of either-or. In large measure these rules are fabricated, taught, enforced and reinforced until we individually believe the rules of the game are the Truth. Not so.

It is easy to disprove the "truth" of sex equals gender. Any adept "transvestite" (crossdresser, transgenderist, drag queen, gender bender, male or female impersonator, etc., and not forgetting the transsexual) disproves sex = gender when they deconstruct one gender and construct another. Every person who has been mistaken for their "opposite" sex disproves sex = gender.

As long as Homo Sapiens wear clothing, gender presentation can tend to confuse biological classification (our entire clothed life is a drag). Since we live in a culture that is very gender-specific as regards clothing, decorations, mannerisms, and posture, it is quite easy to "change" genders. We can't "change" our sex (of which we may not be entirely sure of the degree of) as easily, and, in fact, can not do so "completely" (genetically), nor reverse years of biology (hormonal effect on brain and other tissues), nor easily reverse years of cultural conditioning. Transsexual passages do alter hormonal effects, and surgery(s) can provide anatomical "changes."

But that is not a point I want to dwell on here. I am a transvestite. Some times I am a male-man (biology + culture), sometimes I'm a male-woman (biology + culture). Other times I am what I am (whatever that is). I am not a "man in a dress" (culture + culture) when I am a male-woman, neither am I a "woman in a suit" when I'm a male-man (nor is a female who crosses genders as a man).

The distinction is quite clear to me that biology and culture are different, and yet, when I read the various gender journals from around the country, more often than not the distinction is blurred. Writers who use phrases like "male behaviors" and "male way of doing things" are describing cultural attributes in limited biological terms. This distresses me because it perpetuates the same ignorance "crossdressers" claim they suffer from. If the

so-called "heterosexual crossdresser" feels imprisoned by social rules (cultural roles), which the CD knows are not the truth by fact of deconstruction of the masculine and construction of the feminine, why do these CDs fail to use this knowledge and experience in use of language? Laziness? Ignorance? Bull-headed insistence on being "right?" Perhaps.

Whatever the individual reasons and rationalizations used to "defend" their inaccurate use of the language, a great deal of potential educational outreach is lost in addition to perpetuating the same stereotypical misunderstandings regarding sex and gender.

Let me characterize, in biological terms, some significant "female behaviors": Capable of producing ova (eggs), capable of conceiving and birthing a child; capable of producing milk after birthing a child; capable of menstruation; tends to

walk with a wider arm swing to avoid hitting hips; generally sits too urinate; produces estrogen compounds on a monthly cycle. Some significant "male behaviors" in biological terms: Capable of producing sperm; capable of fertilizing ova; generally stands to urinate; tends to roll shoulders when walking; produces androgens on a daily cycle. When I read someone's writing describing "male behaviors" or "female behaviors," I tend to imagine biological behaviors. When I read about someone's "female clothes" being preferred to their "male clothes" I wonder if their clothing has got together and made "baby clothes" while in the closet. But it's not so funny when I consider that sloppy use of language produces sloppy (mis)understandings, and most likely leads to atrophy of cognitive ability.

My comment on limited cognitive abilities comes from my belief that blurring distinctions does nothing to prevent mental atrophy; whereas coming to an understanding of distinctions, and coming to understand paradoxes such as male-woman (or female-man), exercises the mind, leads to expanded consciousness and increases cognitive abilities.

I am a transvestite. The reason I'm usually invisible is because people think they see me. Some people ask me: "Are you a boy or a girl." And I answer: "I'm both," because I don't usually have the time to explain what a male-woman is. And even if I did, they have no educational background to understand that sex is different from gender; that there are more sex classifications than male and female; more gender classifications than feminine and masculine; more flexibility in the universe than their rigid understanding allows.

Dear Siblings, if you all want to "pass" as women and not be "read" as a man, go ahead and keep the self-deception game going so you can be crushed by the culture when others recognize you have deceived them. Or, Dear Hearts, step into the light of day and take your right to fulfill your own unique potential you were born with -- stop trying to pour yourself like Jell-O into a mold. Become yourself, not someone else, otherwise the rules of the game will remain the same.

And, the next time a sibling crossdresser tells you that you are not "acting" feminine enough as you sit sprawled on a chair in full crossed gender presentation, tell 'em this in your best *basso profundo*: "I'm a transvestite, can't you see?"

[Billie Jean [redacted] can be reached at 3430 Balmoral Dr. #10, Sacramento CA 95821. Copies of her newsletter, mentioned above, are \$2. Copyright 1992 Billie Jean [redacted].]

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AN OPEN LETTER

by Lauren Hotchkiss

Telling friends and family is one of the most difficult aspects of the coming out process. Because of this I decided to share a letter which I used to give information to my friends and family members concerning my lifestyle. I felt that publishing it might be helpful to others that are struggling with the same or similar issues.

I realize that what I am about to tell you may come as somewhat of a shock. Perhaps you have always known that there was something a little different about me, but never knew quite what it was. All my life I have kept a certain very important part of me hidden, at times even from myself. I have reached a point in my life, however, where I feel that it is best for myself and those around me to be completely open and honest about who and what I am. I hope you will do your best to understand and remain open-minded as you read what I'm about to tell you; I am a crossdresser.

I know that it may be hard for you to accept that I am not the person that you believed me to be, and that you might find it difficult at first to interact with me since finding out about this aspect of my life. I can appreciate and respect your feelings, for if there is one thing that I have discovered during my period of self-acceptance, it is that some things take a while to come to terms with.

There have been many changes in my life, not all of which I would have chosen had I been given a choice beforehand, but which have contributed greatly to my own personal growth. Though recently I have needed to leave some things behind, still I feel that the path that I am now on is the right one for me. Never before have I felt such a sense of appropriateness as I have experienced during this period of transition; not only in terms of my own personal growth, but also in the opportunity it has afforded me to be a part of a supportive community in which I can at last fit in, and which is actively working toward our acceptance by the rest of society. Perhaps as people learn to accept that we are all both masculine and feminine, and begin to integrate rather than divide the two, we will find the peace and unity that God intended as our birthright, and no longer feel the need to strive against one another.

I cannot tell you "why" I am doing what I am doing, for there is no answer to that. Opinion is divided in the professional community as to whether the cause is hereditary, environmental, or due to physiological or psychological factors. In any case, most tend to

agree that there is nothing psychiatry can do to "cure" transgendered behavior as it is not a mental illness. Studies have shown that transgenderism is not something that will go away with time, nor have efforts to give it up ever proven to be successful. The need, therefore, is for understanding and acceptance. For myself, I can only say that for the first time in my life I feel that I am following my true path, and feel more at peace with myself than I have ever felt before.

It is, I suppose, a challenging path for a person to take, and one that is difficult for many to understand, as crossdressing is not necessarily indicative of homosexuality, bisexuality, or the desire for a sex change. Though often confused, there is a difference between sex and gender, and I have found, after much soul searching that my personal need is to express myself in a lifestyle that is less restricted than that usually accorded to my biological gender.

I do not profess to be a woman, however I have always felt a strong need for feminine expression. Femininity has always come naturally to me, while masculinity was something that I had to "learn", and which always seemed forced. Though to all outward appearances I was a man, I never felt like one.

I feel that I was born into the body that I have for a purpose, which I believe is to accept and integrate the male and the female within myself, and to work for the acceptance of my community by society.

I know that you may not find it easy to understand the things I am doing, but please try to realize that I am, at last, expressing who I am needing to be. I hope that in time you can appreciate that you have not lost the person that you once knew, but rather have gained, in me, a person who is on the road to discovering inner peace.

I care about you, and I hope you care enough about me to accept me for the person that I am inside, and not judge me by my the lifestyle I have chosen and the clothes I choose to wear upon my body.

In God's love,

Lauren

EDITORIAL COMMENTS? Write us at P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365, fax us at (818) 347-4190, or send e-mail to "Kym Richards" through the "Cross Connection" BBS at (818) 766-TVTS. Letters received may be edited for length and clarity.

"A WOMAN'S WORK CAN BE DONE BY A MAN."

by Charlene [REDACTED]

That is the quote of Lypsinka, who was featured on a recent showing of "Entertainment Tonight".

Exotic new faces are prowling the fashion world of high heels, long legs, pouty lips, and long hair. A high fashion designer named Kalinka has some male crossdressers modeling her fashions. She says, "I am looking for someone who can look fantastic and who can walk". She is proud of her crossdresser models, but admits part of it is for the shock value in a jaded fashion industry.

Of Winston Austin she comments, "He is the right man for the job".

The crossdressers get mixed reviews from the female models. One says, "If a man wants to wear a dress, let him wear a dress". But, another feels "it is an insult to women. I don't think I have to compete with men".

Lypsinka and Charles Busch are subjects for high fashion photographer Francesco Scapulo who opines that they are very professional and know

what they are doing.

Lypsinka doesn't feel that it will last too long because the fashion world is very fickle ... "more fickle than Hollywood".

A fashion world insider says "There is no substitute for the real thing. (To which the television commentator agreed.) A man's hips are too narrow and his legs are not shapely enough".

I think that last remark is just sour grapes.

Score one for job equality.

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THE SHOPPING MAVEN

by JoAnn Roberts

Product: *Every Girls Companion -- Make-up & Beauty*

Source: JMPG, P.O. Box 7217, Burbank, CA 91510-7217

Cost: \$14.00, includes S&H from JMPG

Rating: C

Every Girls Companion -- Make-up & Beauty is the latest foray of JMPG into the crossdresser's publication market. The book is 48 pages long and covers basic makeup techniques including proper use of tools and corrective techniques. The book begins with an extensive discussion of makeup theory and a long section on tools. Next, it goes into shaving and then onto selection of makeup products by type. Contouring and shaping is followed by corrective techniques for nose, eyes, and lips. All of this occurs before getting down to applying makeup. The actual discussion of application of the products takes just seven pages. The remainder of the book is taken up with a few charts, and a section called "Afterthoughts" which includes an interesting Question and Answer format. The last page is a "blank" face under which you can write the names of your product choices. So what did I think of this obvious competitor to my publication? I should have realized right away that I would not like this book. I mean, I am a stickler for proper grammar, punctuation and spelling. I mean, look, right there in the title, "Girls" should have been "Girl's". Every Girl's Companion. You know, possessive case. It is hard to get good proofreaders these days.

But, what about content? Well, this book has been advertised as "... the most comprehensive make-up book available to crossdressers." I don't think so. There isn't anything in this book that's new or hasn't been written about elsewhere. I also found the writing boring. How many times do I need to be told that my brushes need to be cleaned? The anonymous author thinks I need it a lot; he or she repeated it at least three times in various parts of the book.

Another advertising point of this book was its "easy to follow graphics" that was supposed to lead me "step-by-step" through the makeup application process. Somebody should have told the graphics designer about that. In the section on makeup application, there were twelve graphics: one for foundation, eight for eyelining, shadow and mascara application, two for blush and one for lipstick. Not a very good step-by-step. The really

important contouring and highlighting instruction is missing altogether, as is a good discussion on how and where to apply that most abused cosmetic, blush.

Some topics weren't given enough discussion. Wigs are given short shrift. Some pages were wasted. The author used three pages to point out makeup brushes: one photo of the brushes, one numbered drawing of the brushes, and a full page for the legend of the drawing.

The Q&A section has some good tips but some questions are absurd like: "Can I freshen my makeup at the dining table when out on the town?"

In addition, the "color" charts are confusing. The first chart says if I'm a blonde I should use brownstone, olive frost, mint jade, slate, classic burgundy or chocolate eyeshadow for daytime. The next chart says if I have brown eyes, I should use blue-grey, sage green, plum or lilac eyeshadow, So what color do I use if I am a brown-eyed blonde? (I am.) And what color exactly is brownstone or classic burgundy?

Overall, there are some interesting ideas here but there just isn't enough information in the total package to justify the cost. I give it a C and cannot recommend it. Word is that JMPG is considering a complete line of these "companions." If this is any measure of what future companions will be like, they couldn't do worse than to stop here.

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NATIONAL PUBLICATION REVIEW

by Kymberleigh Richards

I am pleased to report that *Tapestry* #63 is showing signs of the recovery I indicated was possible in my last review (*Cross-Talk*, January '93). This issue contains several excellent articles on the subjects of self-esteem and self acceptance, potential therapy problems, self discovery, and the spiritual growth process that often accompanies the transsexual process. In addition, there is a thorough discussion of the differing legal requirements by states for registering electrologists.

Of course, there are also articles that can only be described as "self-serving", but as this IS the official magazine of IFGE, this is not only forgiven, but rightfully expected. Nancy Cole offers a sequel to her article "In Search of a Community" (which appeared in our pages last month); Tri-Ess chairman of the board Jane Ellen Fairfax offers a response to that article, and there is also an article proclaiming the rebirth of the much-maligned Congress of Representatives. I find it unfortunate, though, that both Sheila Kirk's regular column on medicine and the "Legal Briefs" column consist of reprinted keynote speeches from recent national community events. I, for one, find these speeches lose much in the transition to print, especially when (as has happened here) remarks relating specifically to the event at which the speech was made are allowed to remain, distracting the reader.

The greatest improvement is to the "Mailbag" feature, much of which is devoted to responses to articles that appeared in issue #62. This kind of topicality goes a long way toward the increased involvement of our community's membership in the discussion of important issues. But -- proving old habits die hard -- one letter taking up the

equivalent of almost one page extolls the importance of IFGE and *Tapestry* in one person's road to self-discovery. Come on, people: Including this kind of letter in what would otherwise be a serious forum for the exchange of opinions can only be described as self-indulgent! Better to invite such letter-writers to submit a longer, stand-alone article about their search for identity that we all might learn from!

All in all, though, a considerable improvement over what IFGE had been publishing only a few issues ago.



Now that Billie Jean [redacted] has become an occasional contributor to [redacted] pages, it seems only fitting that I should include a brief look at her (roughly) bimonthly newsletter *GenderFlex*, the most recent issue of which appeared in my mailbox a couple of weeks ago.

If you haven't seen this eclectic gender community publication (which is now on its 15th issue over a three-year period), you are in for a shock: This newsletter is unlike ANYTHING you've ever seen, either from your local group or from any national publisher. I can best describe it as being the equivalent of my monthly "Kymberleigh's Clipboard" column run amuck over several pages and covering multiple topics simultaneously, followed by a mix of serious articles, whimsical articles, reports on regional events (sometimes with photos, sometimes with interviews, never with any specific preconceived direction). In fact, *GenderFlex* frequently has no apparent preconceived direction ... other than Billie Jean's column, there is frequently no contributor common to two consecutive issues!

All of which makes this newsletter a fascinating addition to our segment of the alternative press. The most recent issue contained the results of a survey taken at last year's Michigan Womyn's Music Festival regarding the Festival's anti-TS policy; three of Selena Anne Shephard's odd prose pieces (if you have read some of her less-odd material here in *Cross-Talk*, you get the idea of how bizarre her *GenderFlex* pieces are); a behind the scenes look at the ETVC Cotillion (with photos); and a satirical look at the "advantages" of being TS rather than TV.

Should any of this possibly interest you, look up Billie Jean's address at the end of her article on page 21 and send her \$2. She doesn't carry advertising, so your money is most likely appreciated.

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WHY WE DO THE THINGS WE DO, CONCLUSION

by Pieranna 

We have seen the damage that spiritual incompleteness and fracturing has inflicted on the individual, and on society as a whole. Men have had the propensity to be overly aggressive and women have been much too passive. Only now have we begun a trend toward spiritual oneness and sexual equality with the emergence of the "sensitive male" and the development of the secure female capable of taking charge of her life and being allowed to do so. But the imbalance has cost us dearly, and taught us some very hard lessons. To name just one consequence, most of the wars on this planet might have been avoided if excessive masculine aggression had been tempered by feminine reason and understanding.

I am reminded here of a science-fiction story in which a man was split into two people -- one embodying his "good" side, the other his "evil" side. The good side was gentle, compassionate and wise, but also weak and indecisive. The evil side was strong and resolute, but also brutal and animalistic. Separated from each other, neither of the halves could survive, and were in fact dying, as if some vital ingredient necessary for life had been removed from them. When they were rejoined, the man was saved and performed as a fully functional, cooperative unity. The same could have happened to a woman had she been the protagonist of the story.

I'd like to think of those two halves of the original man not so much as his good and evil sides, but as the masculine and feminine energies of the entity incarnated as that man. The feminine aspect of his soul was possessed of all the qualities we normally call "good", but without the strength of will of the masculine, it was ineffectual. Conversely, the masculine side, lacking the balancing effect of its feminine counterpart and complement, was aggressive to the point of behaving in a manner we traditionally regard as "evil". However, I tend to believe that in this universe there is no such thing as good and evil, not in the traditional sense. Rather, I see the universe as containing a polarity of masculine and feminine energies, which singly are incomplete and create chaos, and which together uphold the natural order of things and create proper unity.

Our only salvation and redemption as individuals and as a race is to successfully merge and utilize the masculine and feminine energies within each of us, and to realize that men and women are not opposites, but simply two variations of the same design. Rather than the traditional concept of good and evil as opposing forces forever battling each other, our eternal struggle has been the unnecessary war between the masculine and feminine aspects within each of us. These aspects need not be at odds with each other or conflict; indeed, they must cooperate with each other, each present to help the other when it needs a hand.

Our eternal struggle has been the unnecessary war between the masculine and feminine aspects within each of us.

And if it is true that human souls live many lives which are as varied as the roles on an actor's resume, then all of us have a joint heritage and common bond regardless of whatever physical characteristics we may possess at any one time. And only in reaffirming this bond and achieving this wholeness within can we come to understand ourselves, and each other. All the world's a stage in the truest sense, and as players we must each perform our part, but we must have at our command the others' lines if we are to know where we fit in. We are all part of an immense, rotating cast.

An interesting thought occurs here, and if true, it would further validate and explain the purpose for reincarnation and the juggling of physical identities. It is entirely possible that more and more entities are being reborn as the opposite sex as a means of developing that part of themselves which may have been neglected and suppressed during the previous lifetime as the other gender. As a direct result of the stereotyping imposed on an entity incarnated in one lifetime as a man, that entity may return by necessity as a woman in order to experience and develop that part of its nature it would have the chance to only as a woman. Should

that entity return yet again later on as a man, it certainly would have no desire to be restricted by sexual stereotyping of any kind.

Perhaps some day in the future there will be true androgyny in the physical world. There will still be males and there will still be females, but that will remain the only distinction between them. They will dress alike, live as they wish, express themselves as they wish, and perform whichever services to society they are able and willing to do and not those imposed upon them, thus realizing their full potential. For now, crossdressing seems to be one of the methods we have unconsciously

psychological connotations and become simply a means of emotional and spiritual expression. It should be realized that the second self is not a second self at all, but a manifestation of half of what you are, and as such it must be integrated into your whole personality and not treated as a role you occasionally assume, or as a disguise. The intention is to do away with disguises. For a man does not need to wear a dress to draw upon his feminine qualities, nor does a woman need to wear pants to express her masculine qualities. As Dustin Hoffman's character says at the end of Tootsie, "I just have to learn how to do it without the dress."

It should be realized that the second self is not a second self at all, but a manifestation of half of what you are.

What he has to learn how to do is regain his androgyny, and achieve his wholeness.

If crossdressing can help achieve this wholeness and

devised to repair the rift. The mistake I feel some crossdressers make is in creating a second persona, a new identity separate and apart from themselves. One danger of this split personality (and I speak from experience) is that a man will tap his buried femininity only while in feminine guise, but will behave in an overly aggressive manner when dressed in male clothing, widening the rift within himself. But if a man sees himself simply as being "me" regardless of what he is wearing, not as a man or as a woman, the clothing will lose its sexual and

counteract the erroneous stereotypes we have created over the centuries, then so be it. If crossdressing can provide an individual with a method of discovering and developing his/her androgyny, and with an occasional "safety valve" and manner in which to express those qualities normally relegated to the opposite sex, then so be it. Crossdressing is a means to an end, and it is the end result which counts. And if we are to accept that reincarnation is a reality, and that all of us have been men at some times and women at others, we can understand how memories of such experiences would be retained deep in our psyches, memories which -- either by accident or by necessity -- occasionally rise to the surface. And we would further understand why an entity previously female and now presently male, for example, would feel the subconscious need to break the shackles imposed by male stereotyping and express sentiments previously expressed, and adorn itself as it once has in order to do so.

In the final analysis, is the individual who crossdresses doing so to uncover his/her latent androgyny, or is he/she subconsciously remembering a former life as the opposite sex? Probably both... but it doesn't really matter. What matters is that he/she is reaching back to a wholeness which already existed long before incarnation in a body of either sex, and which has been forgotten and mistakenly sacrificed. The crossdresser need not ever feel that he/she has reason to feel guilty, or that his/her behavior may be deviant. It could very well be that such is far from the case.

[Originally from Cross-Talk #5 (1989).]

Jim Bridges
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GENDER TRANSIENT AFFINITY UPDATE: THE DICTIONARY PROJECT

by Phaedra Kelly

Perhaps in offering the term Gender Transient (GT) so openly, as something people might choose to adopt -- rather than an edict from on high -- I have myself put off discussion from others about it. But I would be very interested to see it debated seriously.

On the surface, the search for a new designation seems to have similarity of motive to the GT's choices; i.e. to escape the old finite limits for a more liberating infinite range of options. But the length of time that debate is taking without sure resolution and the many varied white elephants being offered up from it suggest that motives have collided with ego wars.

Renaming an entire nations within nations is a heady responsibility ... a historic first which (apparently) everyone and her/his dog would like to claim. GTs (and there ARE others) are -- contrary to some people's presumptions about them -- very non-competitive people who believe that it doesn't matter who does the job first, so long as it gets done.

But perhaps to save everyone embarrassment, we ought to throw the choices in a hat, chuck it up in the air and grab one from the fall, then go with that.

To me, GT seems the logical modern equal to androgyne, an ancient term which was briefly debated (but I seem to have missed why it was thrown out). GT can be taken many ways ... any way, in fact, that the user chooses, and so it preserves our mystery when needed, yet educates and informs when required.

To have been thrown into transience of gender identity might mean a born-TS, whereas to have chosen consciously to put one's gender into transience does transcend gender barriers and could therefore be a term for any of the other stages in our third-gender's development. (Third gender ... what's wrong with THAT term?)

I seem to have thrown a couple more into the hat by accident, but what I would appreciate is the discussion of GT as one of the frontrunners, because I am interested in other's opinions. Yet I have a reason for hoping there will be a resolution to the debate soon.

My present between-missions project is a dictionary. Its working title is *International Dictionary of Transgender Language, Slang and Euphemy*. I have the Turkish Travesti slang gathered from my recent mission, and have also compiled British/Italian gay drag slang from the 1950's, and some TV/TS community slang (but I need more). I am seeking any and all Tran slang; for instance, the "vogue" families have a language all their own. I also intend to include ALL the new term ideas, whether they come to be used or not, with due credit to their originators/authors. This dictionary is being written in sections, with a short discussion of origins with each.

It might surprise you to know that there are enough GTs in the world who have been debating many

subjects between them for decades to have evolved our own slang language. GT has its own section in the dictionary. Our slang has even evolved a name, "Desperanto". Originally called such by Euro truckers, this refers to the snippets of Russian, Turkish, German, French, Romany, Urdu, Spanish and Travesti slang that make up a portion of it. These words are learned hurriedly, for emergency situations (i.e., "Yok!", Turkish for "no!".)

So I am seeking contributions of words. I need to know origin (what kind of community and its locale) definitions and meanings, typical applications, whether in use or defunct (and if the latter, the period of usage).

I am also looking for a willing U.S. publisher -- someone not klutz enough to suggest "translating" the entire work into Americanese spelling, which would somewhat defeat the object of the exercise.

A GT word now defunct was "dollyhead", meaning one who does not put the brain into gear before engaging the mouth or pen. As I recall, we agreed to drop the word in case it offended too many U.S. publishers. Now, now, you can all take a joke, can't you? You've surely heard of British humour!?

[Contributions to the dictionary project may be sent to Miss Kelly at IGTA, 1 Bank Buildings, School Green Road, Freshwater, IOW, PO40 8AJ, U.K. Monetary contributions to IGTA should be sent in care of Creative Design Services, P.O. Box 61263, King of Prussia PA 19406.]

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"Logic is the art of being wrong with confidence."

First things first. I gotta eat some crow here. I received a call from the Director of Operations at the International Foundation for Gender Education, Yvonne [REDACTED]. Yvonne took issue with my comments on [REDACTED] ing the ballots for the election of IFGE directors. It turns out that IFGE did not follow the procedure specified in their By-Laws, since that would have resulted in the conflict of interest I cited in my January column. Yvonne assured me that the ballots were counted by a person who had no stake in the election and that there was no conflict of interest. She also said that the ballots did go out late (her fault) but that they were only a week late. This Queen is properly chastised and contrite: I apologize.

▲▼▲

Wanna beat the signs of aging? Try Clinique's new Turnaround cream. This new product is based on a new class of compounds called "alpha-hydroxy acids." (Yes, you need to know this stuff. There will be a quiz later.) The compounds act to slough off dead cells. Unlike the retinoic acid in Retin-A, alpha-hydroxys cannot make a permanent change in skin-cell structure.

▲▼▲

Can we expect Hillary Rodham Clinton to be a role-model for some crossdressers? Why not. She's "chic" and very classic at the same time. A lot of TVs would do well to copy her style. My personal heroine is Dr. Bernadette Healey, Director of the National Institute of Health.

▲▼▲

While Visine may help to "get the red out," fashion mavens are puttin' the red on the eyes rather than in them. Hot for Valentine's Day was Givenchy's Rubis, Prescriptive's Garnet and Estee Lauder's Voila. CAUTION: Keep red eyeshadow away from lashes unless you want to look like a pink-eyed bunny.

▲▼▲

Someone wrote and asked me about a "bust enlargement cream" advertised in a woman's magazine. Another person wanted to know if the "feminizing" pills sold by a well-known mail order company are effective. My answer to both folks was: "Save Your Money!" So-called mail-order "hormones" are totally ineffective. They're often

just vitamins or plant-based hormones and harmless. If you feel that you've been scammed by phony, mail-order hormones you can call the National Fraud Information Center at 1-800-876-7060 Monday through Friday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

▲▼▲

Didja know that 31% of American women are a size 16 or larger? Or, that they spend 10 million dollars a year on clothing? Many designers are cashing in on the boom while others see the "Plus" market as the Kiss-of-Death. Adrienne Vittadini was the first designer to put her name on a truly fashionable "Plus" size line. Liz Claiborne's "Elizabeth" is another favorite. Donna Karan, on the other hand, only designs up to a size 14 and that's that. The emergence of fashionable "Plus" size clothing is also a boon to crossdressers who are hard to fit. Wonder if that \$10 million includes the money spent by TVs?

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Know anyone in Europe? Later this year a revolutionary new razor will go on sale there for around \$6 a pop. What's so Hot about it? Rather than a stainless steel blade (as is so prevalent in the best razors) this one has a ceramic blade that will last for about 150 shaves before it wears out. Ain't science grand!

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According to sources in the "know," those bathing suits the ladies wear in the Miss America Pageant are constructed like armor-plated corsets. They're also very expensive and almost impossible to obtain, until now. The latest A. J. Lambin catalog is advertising the Miraclesuit by Swim Shaper. This bathing suit is claimed to have three times the holding power of a regular nylon/spandex suit. The style number is D526A and the color is Midnight Black, of course. Price is \$78. Call 1-800-554-9242 for a free catalog.

▲▼▲

Michael Salem, the TV-extortionist mail order baron, got his name in print again, this time in the February '93 issue of *Allure*. Salem is pushing his TVs-in-the-military story again. Salem claims to have received four to five orders a day from GIs in the Middle East during Desert Storm. Salem claims



NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

April 22-25, 1993: "Moonlight In Manhattan", New York City, sponsored by the Greater New York Gender Alliance. Information from Lynda Frank, 330 W. 45th St. #3E, New York NY 10036, or by calling (212) 765-3561.

April 28-May 2, 1993: "California Dreamin'", Burbank CA, sponsored by Powder Puffs of Orange County. Details from P.O. Box 1088, Yorba Linda CA 92686.

May 8-15, 1993: "EuroFantasia '93", Ebeltoft, Denmark, sponsored by FPE-NE. Details from Box 442, N-4301 Sandnes, Norway.

May 12-16, 1993: "Esprit 93", Port Angeles WA, sponsored by Cornbury Society, Emerald City, and Northwest Gender Alliance. Information from P.O. Box 876, Stanwood WA 98294.

May 20-23, 1993: "Paradise in the Poconos", Canadensis PA, sponsored by Creative Design Services. Information from CDS, P.O. Box 61263, King of Prussia PA 19406, or by calling (215) 640-9449.

May 20-24, 1993: "Dignity Cruise IV" to the Bahamas, sponsored by Dr. Peggy Rudd. Information from Dr. Rudd, 1811 Crutchfield, Katy TX 77449, or by calling (713) 347-6563. Reservations through Cruise Ahoy (Attention: Anne), 11211 Katy Freeway #300, Houston TX 77079, or call (713) 556-1513.

June 9-13, 1993: 11th Annual "Be All You Can Be" weekend, Chicago IL. Co-sponsored by Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Crossroads, Paradise Club, and TransPitt. Details from Naomi Owen, P.O. Box 342, Chicago IL 60690, or by calling (708) 364-9514.

July 9 & 10, 1993: "S.P.I.C.E. (Spouses/Partners International Conference for Education)", Dallas TX, sponsored by Tri-Ess' W.A.C.S. (Women Associated with Crossdressers). Details from P.O. Box 7241, Tallahassee FL 32314.

August 26-29, 1993: Second International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policies, Houston TX. Write Phyllis Randolph Frye, 5707 Firenze, Houston TX 77035 for information.

September 16-19, 1993: "Paradise in the Poconos" (see May 20-23 listing).

September 23-26, 1993: Second Annual New Woman Conference, San Francisco CA. Information from NWC, P.O. Box 67, S. Berwick ME 03908, or by calling (206) 676-5870.

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

HotStuff! ... continued

pilots were wearing panties under their flight suits. Okay kids, let's fess up. Were any of you "out of uniform" while serving over there?



I walked into our local Dunkin Donuts (they have great coffee) and there was a sign advertising their new "mini" donuts. To the left of the sign was the upper torso of their television personality. You know, that little guy with the moustache. To the right of the sign was the lower torso of some foxy lady in a red miniskirt and spikes. Where can we sign up for the next ad campaign?



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"CROSS-TALK" NEWSLETTER NETWORK

Reprints from gender community organization newsletters nationwide

NEW TERMINOLOGY!?!

by Sarah

Transvestite. Crossdresser. Transgenderist. Transsexual. Androgyne. Male Lesbian. Gender dysphoric. Berdache. These words and others are some of the terminology used today to describe parts of your culture. Many articles have been written to lambast any attempt to subdivide us by our behaviors. Personally, I think this movement has less to do with the anger at being categorized and more to do with being inaccurately categorized.

Why are our labels so inept? Why are they so obdurate? Why are they so hard to wear? Why do they fail us? Why? Because they are boring! Our terminology is dry, technical, academic historical, and no longer practical in the New Wave culture. We need new terminology that really describes us as we are now. Titles that are on target, politically correct, on the cutting edge, and most importantly -- fun! We need a movement of the masses to begin this revolution. If I may (and who the hell is going to stop me), let me begin by offering some suggestions for relevant terminology.

Heels on wheels: CD who sneaks out to drive the car.

Girl scout: CD who picks up women.

Boy scout: CD who picks up men.

Fembot: CD who talks computers.

Legal lesbian: Married CD.

Mom 2, the sequel: Married CD with children.

No fun: Fundamentalist CD.

Target: CD in public and not passing.

Mailbag: CD who only writes to others.

Future unemployed: CD who told someone at work.

Getting under the skin: Wears lingerie only.

Feet first: Shoe fetishist.

Hanger hangup: Still in the closet.

Enemy within: Unaccepting wife.

Pearl of great price: Accepting wife.

Lost tribe: Unaccepting family.

McCarthy's legacy: CD who disappears from family and friends.

Dream stuff: Female wardrobe.

Freddy Krugers: Fake nails.

Gender birth: First time out in public.

That time of the month: Dresses only occasionally.

Opportunist: Dresses whenever possible.

Solo act: Only goes out alone.

Wearing the apron strings: Only goes out with the wife.

Herdin: Only goes out with other CDs.

Matriarch: Leader of a CD group.

Fashion reporter: Editor of a CD newsletter.

18th century lady: Must wear wigs.

Furries: Uses own hair.

Statuesque Beauty: Very tall CD.

Half way there: CD with natural feminine looks.

Curse of the Gods: Very masculine looks in a CD.

Doe and buck: Wealthy CD.

Thief: CD thief.

Lady Lush: Alcoholic CD.

The other transition: Suicide by a CD.

Casper: CD who disappears.

Cosmic surgery: Cosmetic surgery for gender purposes.

Bye Bye Bob: Nose job.

Cheryl Tigress: Tall, blonde, Californian CD.

Hunting big game: Shopping at store for large ladies.

Doll clothes: Size 10 and below clothing.

Under deep cover: Beard cover.

Under growth: Beard shadow.

Gender Alopecia: Shaving your body.

The competition: CD who looks better than wife.

The only half: Divorced CD.

Biting the apple: Dressing for the first time.

Ring master: Counselor for gender condition.

Living stereotype: Gay CD.

The silent one: Wife at CD meeting.

Gender Patrol: CD police officer.

Boats: Size 12 plus shoes.

Out on Patrol: CD out on Halloween.

Virgo: New age CD.

Flaming Shaman: Berdache.

BaD girl: CD into B&D.

Home Maid: CD into acting like a maid.

50/50 mix: Wearing both male and female clothes together.

"Porgy and Dress": CD pornography.

Sibling rivalry: Gay and CD distrust of each other.

Baby face: CD who completed electrolysis.

Predators: Rip-off vendors to CDs.

Admirers: People who date CDs.

Date with a doctor: CD who has scheduled SRS.

Off the table: Post-op CD.

Bride of Frankenstein: Too much makeup.

Slut: CD slut.

Sears towers: Tall CD in high heels.

Second hand Rose: Wardrobe by "The House of Salvation Army".

Invisible woman: Passes full time.

Barbie doll: Non sexual CD.

Amnesiac: Post-op who denies ever having been male.

Baby dolls: Hormonally induced breasts.

oxic spill: Too much perfume.
Christmas tree: Too much jewelry.
American Beauty rose: Dressing like your mother.
Kitchen queen: Dressing only at home.
Plumber: SR surgeon.
Keyboard manicure: Typing article for CD newsletter.
Dominatrix theory: Belief that all CD want to be dominated.
Anaconda: CD who loves to wear corsets.
X-ray technician: CD who wears lingerie under male clothing.

[Reprinted with permission from IXE (Indiana Crossdressers' Society) newsletter.]



EMERGING FROM SECRECY

by Jane Ellen Fairfax

For years you've played a game of "I've Got A Secret" with the outside world -- perhaps even with your loved ones. You're a crossdresser, a man who has discovered a feminine side of his personality, and who enjoys expressing that softer side by dressing in feminine clothes and learning feminine thought processes. Having for years carried a burden of guilt, you're ready to claim the human dignity to which you feel entitled. Proud of your added dimension, you hunger for the freedom to be yourself. Emerging, however, means a lot more than simply opening a closet door. As you reach out to people like yourself, you will encounter a world of unsuspected chutes and ladders. If you are to keep climbing, you will have to find answers to some questions.

Question #1: I'm afraid to leave my house en femme. What if my neighbors see me? What if I get arrested?

Answer: In most areas, crossdressing is not illegal. A few states even issue feminine I.D. cards in your masculine name! To make doubly sure, a simple phone call to the police department will usually clarify matters. If stopped for a traffic violation, you should be absolutely cooperative with the police officer, and truthful about your crossdressing if you are asked. Fear of being observed by neighbors can be eliminated sometimes by dressing at the meeting place of the support group or at the home of a friendly crossdressing sister. As time passes you will probably find that this fear will melt away.

Question #2: I'd love to attend my local support group. But I look awful! What will all those beautiful ladies think of me?

Answer: "All those beautiful ladies" probably started where you are. In most groups you will find some beginners exactly like you. Because we tend

to compare ourselves with an ideal of femininity, most of us look better than we think we do. Your local support group can probably provide the names of sympathetic business people to do your colors, makeup, and hair. Having these done prior to your first meeting should enhance your confidence. When the compliments start to come, you're off and running!

Question #3: I'm shy. How can I break the ice?

Answer: Talk to the president of your support group. The group may have a Big Sister program or an individual support program where you can meet people while dressed as you are comfortable. If you offer to help on group projects, you will probably feel appreciated. Before long, you'll find yourself an integral part of the group and wonder how you got there.

Question #4: I feel a lot of peer pressure to go out in public to gay bars and female impersonation shows. Am I wrong to feel uncomfortable?

Answer: Not at all! At one time the bars and shows were about the only places one could go while crossdressed. Now they've become a stereotype for crossdressers: Just as invalid as the stereotype society sets for males. Feel free to enjoy the shows and bars, or not to. Gently and without being judgmental, you should turn peer pressure aside. Simply be yourself. As in making friends in the outside world, look for people with whom you share interests; you will find many of them. Nor is going out in public any sort of Nirvana. You should feel free to proceed at your own pace. A frightening public experience is the shortest return route to the closet.

Question #5: Speaking of scary experiences, how should I react when people read me when I'm out in public?

Answer: First, you should reach the insight that the problem is not yours, but theirs. People who react negatively to you are blinded by conventionality and chained to a false standard that is being slowly dismantled. Many unpleasant encounters between crossdressers and hostile readers end in discomfiture for the reader. If a hostile person violates your civil rights, he will probably find, to his dismay, that the law is on your side. In the right setting, you might take the opportunity to educate. In any case, hold your head up high. You have every right to your feminine self-expression.

Question #6: Maybe I'll be read less if I pass better. I'm 6'2", 220 pounds. How important is it to pass?

Answer: Many crossdressers make passing the lodestar of their lives. It is a dark star. Rather than try to fool people into thinking you're something you're not, you should prefer them to accept you for what you are. To do this you should cultivate the truest feminine image, both visual and spiritual.

Macho behavior and crossdressing don't mix. You should dress mostly in "your" colors, in attire appropriate to the setting, your age, and your feminine self-concept. In this way you will decrease stress and point yourself on the road to self-actualization.

Question #7: After all those years in secrecy I can hardly wait to get out in public. How can I make up for lost time?

Answer: Although your frustration is understandable, you should slow down and evaluate where you are. Neither going out in public nor living full-time en femme is the main goal of the crossdresser. You don't develop the feminine by killing the masculine. Much more important than passing milestones is integrating the masculine and feminine traits into your identity. Combining the most wholesome aspects of masculinity and femininity will broaden and modulate your personality, and make you into the best person you can be.

Question #8: Since I've loved things feminine all my life, am I not a transsexual? Isn't it best for me to stop living this lie ... the sooner the better?

Answer: Early self-labeling is the most destructive trap awaiting the emerging crossdresser. For every true transsexual there are five or six crossdressers who mislabel themselves as transsexuals. You will, unfortunately meet people who, out of greed or egotistical self-interest, will be eager to fasten that label onto you for life. Once labeled, you will have a tough fight to free yourself. The stakes are your family, your job: The rest of your life. You have plenty of time to get in touch with your feelings and make friends. Proceed slowly. Let no one define you; you are who you are.

Question #9: My job is a very sensitive one. If people at work found out, I'd be a goner. How do I handle security?

Answer: With security issues it is usually best to proceed with caution. What you tell your crossdressing sisters about your work or identity is up to you. You may wish to avoid appearing en femme near your place of work. You should keep separate your crossdressing and professional circles. Every time you appear in public en femme, you take a small risk of discovery. Only you can determine how much risk is acceptable.

Question #10: Should I tell my friends and relatives about my crossdressing?

Answer: This is an individual decision. A reasonable standard is to tell those who need to know.

Question #11: How can I make my wife comfortable going out in public while I am crossdressed?

Answer: Your wife is probably worried about social and professional consequences. While friends and associates may not recognize you en femme, they

will recognize her. Then they will look closer at you and the jig is up! Also, your wife's unease may signal the need to renegotiate the place of crossdressing in your marriage. You should remember that your wife has had to make many adjustments because of your crossdressing. For this reason you should always be alert and sensitive to her needs.

Emerging from secrecy is an intensely personal decision. Several threads run throughout the process. You should strive to integrate, moderate, and avoid labels. Keep in touch with your feelings, and be sensitive to the needs of those around you. Above all, proceed slowly and with care. Your reward will be years of happiness and fulfillment.

[Reprinted with permission from "Femme Forum", Tau Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Houston, TX.]



WHAT IF ... ?

by Cynthia Silva

What if...? We ask ourselves this question hundreds of times every year. What if...? about our personal lives, What if...? about our jobs, What if...? about many things.

Let's take a look at an interesting situation and ask, What if...?

What if you were not a crossdresser, but a plain, single macho male. You have met the Light of Your Life, the Girl of Your Dreams and you know she is the one you are going to marry. For her, you are her Knight in Shining Armor, the Man of Her Dreams and she knows that you are the one she will marry. Both of you are on Cloud Nine, the sun is shining bright, all is right with the world, heaven on earth and nothing can shatter your life together. Well, maybe a few things can make the road a little bumpy, both of can work them out.

What if she gets a worried look and tells you that she has something you should know. She tells you that she is a transvestite, a crossdresser, she likes to wear male clothes and be a macho male.

She indicates that she does not want to take hormones, does not want THE operation and is heterosexual. Just loves to dress in male clothes and be masculine for awhile. You flippantly answer, this is no problem, women wear men's clothes all the time. She gets you to sit down and explains her feelings. She loves to wear masculine cut clothes, pads her waist, ties her breast down, wears men's underwear, men's dress shirts with a tie, men's suits, a beard and after shave cologne. Wears the padding, men's pajamas and the beard to bed. She belongs to a national fraternity for heterosexual

females who enjoy dressing as men. What if you have been married for days, or months, or years and the Light of Your Life, the Girl of Your Dreams, tells you that she is a transvestite, a crossdresser, she likes to wear male clothes and be a macho male. The same scenario as above, but you are now married.

What if you have been married awhile, went out one Saturday morning and would not be back until about 6:00 p.m. Your plans do not work out and you return early in the afternoon. You walk in and find a man in the living room drinking beer, or what ever, and watching television. You get real upset, storm in and stop short. This "man" turns out to be your wife. After you calm down, she explains that she is a transvestite, a crossdresser, she likes to wear male clothes and be a macho male. The same scenario as a couple of paragraphs back.

What if you understand, somewhat at least, and you both get ready for bed. She comes in wearing the waist padding, men's pajamas, and a beard.

What if you understand, how would you feel going to meeting with her, finding 30 "men" standing around and learn that only 4 of you are gendered males (GM).

What is your reaction?

Do you say no way in the first situation and break off. You want nothing to do with a "man". You are not "gay"!

If you are married and discovered that she is a crossdresser, would you throw her out and contact a divorce attorney?

Would you go to bed with another "man" and try to visualize "him" as your lovely wife instead?

Would you accept the circumstances, try to work it out, try to understand her feelings and desires?

Would you be comfortable at the meeting with all of those "men"?

As I started out, "What if...?"

Maybe after you mull over the above scenarios, you may begin to get an understanding of what our significant others feel, goes through, puts up with, etc. How much they put up with because they love us.

What if you came home and did not dress glamorously, but put on a pair of shorts, tank top, flats, touch of lipstick and wig. Went out and helped prepare supper, clean the house, do the laundry, or any other domestic house wife type chores. Did this every night, helped on Saturday around the house and did more housewife chores. How much do you think your wife would love the help? You BOTH can dress glamorously for a special Saturday night supper. After Sunday church, you BOTH dress glamorously and enjoy yourselves.

I think if we observe our significant others more closely, we would learn that one does not have to be dressed glamorously to be feminine. Dressing feminine does not make one feminine any more

than dressing as a macho male makes one a macho male. Some of us are really nothing more than macho males trying to look like a glamorous female.

What if we talked with our significant others and learn what she thinks and feels. I am certain we could improve our relationships.

Who knows? Try it!

What if...?

[Reprinted with permission from the "Dixie Belle", Sigma Epsilon Chapter Tri-Ess, Tallahassee FL.]



DRAWING THE LINE: A PRESCRIPTION FOR DIVORCE

by Shirley Kay & Patricia Kennedy

Shirley Kay:

"A relationship is a 50/50 partnership. You are an equal partner, therefore you have a right to 'draw the line' on behavior which is unacceptable to you. Make it clear to your partner that his behavior is unacceptable and that you will not tolerate it. Make clear what the consequences will be if the unacceptable behavior continues and then be fully prepared to back up your words with action."

Unfortunately the above speech is what a large number of women hear when seeking professional counseling in regards to their partner's crossdressing. I have even heard it espoused by facilitators of some of the Wives Only Groups I have attended across the country. At first glance it seems to be a straightforward approach to problem solving with some valid points. However, in most of the cases where I've seen it applied by a wife in real life the results have not been positive and usually resulted in divorce.

It is true that any relationship is a 50/50 proposition, the ideal situation being one where the two parties involved deal with each other as complete equals. It is also true that both partners have every right, if not an obligation, to express to their mate their dissatisfaction with some aspect of the relationship and how that behavior is affecting their life. Communication is a positive thing; if used correctly, it can lead to understanding, negotiation, and hopefully a solution which addresses the needs of BOTH partners.

The negatives begin to appear when the "drawing the line" approach to problem solving is done arbitrarily. "Drawing the Line" tends to focus only on ONE person's needs and wants and ignore those of the other partner. Arbitrarily drawing the line on your partner's crossdressing (or some aspect of it) ignores a very basic fact -- your partner's urge to crossdress is never going to go away! The desire may not always be as strong; it may

be suppressed for a time, or it may go underground so it "appears" your demands are being met; there are many variables. The overwhelming fact that remains, however, is that regardless of the lines you draw and the threats you make, the desire to dress *en femme* will remain and will eventually be satisfied in one manner or another. It is very hard for us to understand the urge and see the position it places our men in. Most crossdressers have no desire to put their employment, family, and friends at risk but they also have needs which must be met and have little idea how to balance the two. This is where you must learn to communicate and work together and not against each other.

The need for a genetic woman to "draw the line" on their partner's crossdressing is usually caused by fear and/or ignorance. By refusing to accept the behavior we may feel we are in fact protecting ourselves and our families. It is hard for us to understand how our partner can continually engage in an activity which could jeopardize our entire way of life and the mutual well-being of the family.

Some helping professionals stress how important it is for a woman to fully realize the amount of "power" she has in the relationship. They stress how important it is for the woman to realize how much leverage she has and the power this gives her in controlling her partner's crossdressing. I have actually been in a Wives Group where the facilitator has actually encouraged women to draw lines, set limits, and use this so called "power" in order to protect the family from the consequences of her partner's "abnormal behavior".

This type of assertiveness is dangerous for two reasons. First, it focuses only on the negative and second, it immediately puts the other person on the defensive by making him feel controlled or manipulated. When faced with the ultimatum of choosing between a spouse's uncompromising demands and the need to crossdress, your partner may in turn start to draw his own lines. What can result is a power struggle where one partner is squared off against the other with the crossdressing

becoming a bigger and bigger wall in the middle. Each partner is afraid to cross the imaginary line they have drawn fearing they will be taken advantage of or perhaps appear weak. If allowed to continue, this stalemate can eventually leave all room for communication and compromise gone, with divorce appearing to be the only solution that can meet everyone's needs.

Drawing the line should be a mutual activity. The line between acceptable and unacceptable behavior should be the result of communication and negotiation on the part of BOTH partners. The solution or the line should be acceptable to both people, it should be agreed upon and honored. That line should represent a mutual comfort zone for all members of the family. As time goes on the line will shift as the couple grows. This shift should be the result of communication, mutual understanding, and renegotiation. Only by establishing this boundary through the efforts of both parties can "Drawing the Line" be a valuable tool for making a relationship work.

Patricia:

The preceding article brings out some very important points, the main one being that the crossdressing should be dealt with by couples in the same manner that they resolve most of their other family problems, through negotiation and compromise. But I felt I had to offer a few thoughts to the wives that may read this concerning the perspective of the crossdresser.

As a crossdresser I have often felt that circumstances have placed me in a no-win situation. That is, while I may love someone very much and want to spend the rest of my life with her, my crossdressing nature seems to get in the way.

I have spent an entire life attempting to rectify this situation. I have sworn off crossdressing, thrown away all my clothes, and promised myself never to do it again. For weeks, maybe months, I have been able to uphold my promise. Then "it" creeps into my life, maybe through a dream or a comment made in conversation, and I am headed down the rollercoaster again. I sit fighting all urges, attempting to control the compulsive desire, knowing from past experience I will lose the fight. That crossdressing nature returns again stronger than before, the only solution is to dress. Fighting this battle for a life time is certainly a prescription for insanity. I had to recognize that the crossdressing will never go away. The point is that if I can't make it go away because I want it to go away, then how is an edict from a spouse going to make it go away? If "it" goes away then so do I.

Well, where does that put me? Right back in the initial conflict. By myself I must learn to accept myself and then learn to cope with the

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rossdressing in such a manner that it does not destroy my life. Then that special woman enters the picture and the entire process begins again. You see, she hasn't been through the process, she doesn't know the hours of agony, the tearful nights and the fight to convince myself that I am OK. No amount of words in the English language can relay this message to her. So, now I am stuck again. If she draws a line on acceptable behavior I am stuck with more frustration than one person can bear. I don't have a whole lot of control over this! Sometimes I can go awhile without the need to dress, and other times dressing occupies my every thought. You explain it! They say normal men think about sex every 15 minutes. Imagine thinking about crossdressing every five minutes.

There are three solutions to the situation. First: commit suicide. Second: do not marry; that is, deny that aspect of your life. Third: keep trying to find a partner that is willing to help you learn to balance your life and be happy together. I prefer the third approach. It is the most difficult; it requires honesty with self and intimacy with her. True honesty is difficult; it demands thought, and the ability to be objective in an area which is inherently subjective. This is the hardest road but it is worth it, I am convinced.

This is what our spouses bring to us, a sobering light, one that helps us remember what is important to us, but one that allows us to shine in our own special way.

[Reprinted with permission from "Delta Chapter Chatter", Delta Chapter Tri-Ess, Denver CO.]



BORN TO BE GAY?

by Jennifer [REDACTED]

Just about all us wannabes at some time have worried about or have been suspected of being gay. It took most of us a while to realize where we belonged in the spectrum of gender identity and sexual preference, namely heterosexual crossdressers. Even transsexuals may initially misunderstand being attracted to other men. As a part of the unconventional spectrum of either gender or sexual preference, it is important that we understand the homosexual community, both gay

and lesbian. It is equally important that our spouses and good friends also understand what distinguishes heterosexual CDs from homosexuals. Such understanding on all sides should help in supporting each other against the common foes of hateful bigotry and discrimination. Mutual respect and united opposition to such foes benefit us all.

The Kinsey Report 40 years ago stated 10% of white men and 6% of unmarried younger women were homosexual. Probably both percentages have increased since then. The major change is, gays have (as we have) come out of their closets. Again as we have, coming out meant gays could talk to each other, find support, rebuild their confidence and self-esteem. I do not mean to equate our problems but only point out common ground. Homophobia is defined as any negative attitude, belief, or action directed against homosexual persons. The antipathy toward gays is supposedly based on moral judgment and religious faiths, holding homosexuality to be a sin. The Bible is quoted as the basis (also true for crossdressers). Another common basis for homophobia by both heterosexual men and women is to reassure themselves that they are not gay. Arousing their own insecure fears for latent homosexuality can lead to hostility and gay bashing. An interesting theory is that homophobia stems from perceived femininity in men and masculinity in women instead of having distinct roles and behavior. The more feminine a gay man is, the greater the reactive homophobia. As crossdressers, we try to appear as feminine as possible, thereby risking this type of hostility despite our conventional sexual preferences.

The irrationality of homophobia is best illustrated by the accusations of childhood molestation and concern about gay teachers. The fact that child molesters and pedophiles are overwhelmingly non-crossdressing heterosexuals is ignored.

Unfortunately, the disease AIDS provided ammunition for homophobia. Gay men are the largest group afflicted with the deadly HIV microorganism. The homophobes seize this as a form of divine or moral punishment for intolerable behavior. The 17% drop in new AIDS cases last year reflected not a decrease in gay men but an informed change in their behavior. Speaking for the medical profession, AIDS brings out their frustration in the inability to provide a cure, and,

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unfortunately, more intolerance of male homosexuality. The increase in AIDS among heterosexual non-drug users takes some pressure off the gay community although many will blame them as the original source. The focus should be on sexual behavior and not sexual identity or preference, including bisexuality. By the way, homosexual men and women prefer the terms "gay" and "lesbian" to "homosexual", avoiding focusing on just the sexual aspects.

The February 24, 1992 issue of *Newsweek* featured the roles of genetics and upbringing ("Born or Bred?") in determining sexual preference. They reviewed the scientific information newly available; a study of identical male twins concluded that if one is gay, the other is three times more likely than would fraternal twins who share some but not identical genes. A similar study of lesbians has not been reported yet. (These studies would be better if only those twins raised apart were observed.)

Some lesbian activists proclaim they made their choice -- a more political than scientific statement.

Advances in genetic diagnosis and manipulation raises some ugly possibilities. Could prenatal genetic sampling reveal homosexuality, providing a choice of abortion or altering the genes to eliminate homosexuality? Fortunately, these are only dim possibilities at this time, but the increasing scientific basis for gender or sexual preferences should provide some comfort and less guilt for all involved. The CDs have, on repeated surveys, been found to be more heterosexual than the general male adult population. This should give spousal reassurance that their CD husbands are not on the way to becoming gay or sexually "rearranged" and that crossdressing, like sexual preference, is not a conscious choice. Although fantasies do occur among CDs, reality is never far away and in control.

The role of the psychiatric and psychological therapy professions should be kept to helping CDs, TSs, and gays to love themselves and adjust to their apparently inborn status. Certainly, no effort should be made to change their status, only to help them to better live with it. The psychiatric profession recently removed homosexuality as an illness or emotional disorder, but this is not universally accepted by all practitioners. Just as we CDs do, gays and lesbians seek and deserve acceptance and they should be allowed to lead their lives as they wish, not harming others. And so it goes ...

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Please send it for consideration to **Cross-Talk, P.O.
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READER PROFILES

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

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

Palm Springs, CA: Ayme, 36, M2F TS, living and working as a woman for the last two years. Tall, attractive, feminine, sexy. Confident and comfortable in any social situation. Interests in Macintosh desktop publishing, music, dining and dancing. Seeks male or female friends. Try the desert lifestyle anytime! #1187

Redondo Beach, CA: (Diva) I'm looking for musicians to form a crossdressing rock/alternative band! #1201 D.P. Moore, P.O. Box 207, Redondo Beach CA 90277

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

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

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

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

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

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

swimming, boating and water sports. #1457 Michelle [redacted], P.O. Box 679, Avon, CT 06001

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

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

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

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

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

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NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL HOTLINES

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

NEW ENGLAND REGION:

CD Network, Rochester: (716) 251-2312
Chi Delta Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, NYC: (201) 663-0772 @
Connecticut Outreach Society, Hartford: (203) 371-6292
East Coast F2M Group, Cambridge: (413) 584-7616 #
Eulenspiegel Society, NYC: (212) 477-6588 %
Expressing Our Nature, Rochester: (212) 629-5750
Gender Identity Program, NYC: (212) 969-0888 #
Girls' Night Out, NYC: (212) 794-1665 ext 202
Harriet Lane's TV Set, CT: (203) 237-1968
Int'l. Foundation for Gender Education: (617) 894-8340
Long Island Femme Expression: (718) 446-6753
Metropolitan Gender Network, NYC: (201) 794-1665 ext 332
My Choice, Baltimore: (410) 732-4546
Outreach Institute, N. Portland: (207) 775-0858
Pink Flamingoes, Boston: (617) 536-5639
Renaissance Education Ass'n.: (215) 630-1437
Renaissance Greater Philadelphia Chapter: (215) 946-8887
Renaissance LSV Chapter, Harrisburg: (717) 780-1578
Renaissance S. Jersey Chapter: (609) 641-3782
Rhode Island Society, Newport: (401) 847-1035
Tiffany Club, Boston: (508) 358-2305
Transgenderists Independence Club, Albany: (518) 436-4513
Transpitt, Pittsburgh: (412) 781-0257
Transsupport, Portland: (207) 676-5870
Washington-Baltimore Alliance: (301) 277-5475
XX (Twenty) Club, Hartford: (203) 646-8651 #

THE SOUTH:

American Educational Gender Info. Service: (404) 939-0244
Atlanta Gender Explorations: (404) 962-3118 #
Black Rose, Arlington: (301) 369-7667 %
Carolina Trans-Sensual Alliance, Charlotte: (704) 551-8838
GDA North Carolina: (704) 982-1028
Gender Information Network, Gainesville: (904) 332-8178
Grace & Lace, Mississippi: (601) 982-7678 @
Montgomery Institute, Augusta: (404) 603-9426 #
M.O.R.E., Ft. Lauderdale: (305) 966-2138
Mu Sigma Chapter Tri-Ess, Arkansas: (501) 972-1826 @
Phi Epsilon Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, Central FL: (407) 677-9540 @
Reality, Orlando: (407) 425-4527 #
Serenity, Hollywood: (305) 436-9477
Starburst, Tampa-St. Petersburg: (813) 685-9254
Virginia's Secret, Richmond: (804) 741-1187

MIDWEST & VICINITY:

Central Illinois Gender Assoc.: (309) 444-9918
Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Chicago: (708) 364-9514 @
Chicago Gender Society: (312) 434-5445
City of Lakes Crossgender Comm., Minn'pls: (612) 229-3613
Cross-Port, Cincinnati: (513) 474-9557
Crossdressers & Friends, Kansas City: (913) 381-8887
Crossroads, Detroit: (313) 537-3267
Crystal Club, Columbus: (614) 777-0648
Gender Dysphoria Support, Shawnee Mss'n: (913) 371-0658 #
Indiana Crossdressers Society, Indianapolis: (317) 894-8109
Iowa Artistry, Cedar Rapids: (319) 842-2654
N.G.D.O., Detroit: (313) 842-5258 #
Quad-City Society for Sex. Ed., Davenport: (319) 324-9641
St. Louis Gender Foundation: (314) 567-8615
Sunday Society, Chicago: (312) 252-7024

SOUTHWEST/MOUNTAIN REGION:

Alpha Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Amarillo: (806) 359-7714 @

Bluebonnet Coalition, San Antonio: (210) 656-4163
Boulton & Park Society, San Antonio: (210) 545-3668
CrossDressers International, Tulsa: (918) 582-6643
Delta Omega Chapter Tri-Ess, Dallas: (817) 261-3253 @
Eta Tau Chapter Tri-Ess, Austin: (210) 438-7604 @
First Saturday, El Paso: (505) 434-5144
Gender Crisis Help Line, Tucson: (602) 293-3456
Gender Identity Center, Denver: (303) 458-5378
Gulf Coast Transgender Community, Houston: (713) 780-3553
Heart of Texas Gender Alliance, San Angelo: (915) 944-1381
Help Me... Accept Me, Dallas: (214) 404-1926
ReCast, Dallas: (214) 641-4842 #
Second Image, Austin: (512) 778-5460
Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess) Wives: (210) 438-7788 @
TS Peer Support, Houston: (713) 333-2278 #
Tau Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Houston: (713) 988-8064 @
Tri-Plex Gender Association, Waco: (817) 867-1077

PACIFIC NORTHWEST:

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

THE WEST COAST (CA & HI):

Alpha Chapter Tri-Ess, Los Angeles: (213) 876-6141 @
American Transsexual Education Center: (213) 469-4709 #
Androgyny, Santa Monica: (213) 467-8317
CHIC, Los Angeles: (310) 420-2580 @
Diablo Valley Girls, Concord: (510) 849-4112
Educational TV Channel, San Francisco: (510) 549-2665
Hawaii Transgendered Outreach, Honolulu: (808) 923-4270
Neutral Corner, San Diego: (619) 685-3696
Powder Puffs of Orange County, Anaheim: (714) 779-9013
Rainbow Gender Association, San Jose: (408) 984-4044
Sacramento Gender Association: (800) 585-7742
Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess) Nat'l.: (209) 688-9246 @
Swan's Inner Sorority, San Jose: (408) 297-1423

CANADA:

Canadian Crossdressers Club, Toronto: (416) 921-6112
Club Met, Montreal: (514) 528-8874
Entre Femme, Quebec: (418) 529-1132 #
Gender Mosaic, Ottawa: (613) 749-5203
Illusions Social Club, Calgary: (403) 486-9661
Monarch Social Club, Ontario: (416) 949-6602

U.K.:

Beaumont Society, London: 081-756-1782
Gender Dysphoria Trust, London: 0323-641100 #
GenTrust, London: 071-730-7453
Liverbirds, Liverpool: 051-709-4745
New TransEssex: 0268-583761
Rose's, Sheffield: 0742-342870
Scottish TV/TS Group, Edinburgh: 031-556-4049
TV/TS Support Group, London: 071-729-1466

GERMANY:

Transidentitas, Offenbach: 069.800.10.08
Transvestitengruppe, Berlin: 030.882.23.70
TV Club Hamburg: 040.250.13.13

OTHER OVERSEAS:

Belfast Butterfly, Rep. of Ireland: (0232) 322 023
De Stichting Reborn, Netherlands: 31104503469
Seahorse Society of NSW, Australia: 02-569 6239

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decreases the effectiveness of hormones, slows healing after surgery, and may act in conjunction with estrogens in the formation of blood clots.

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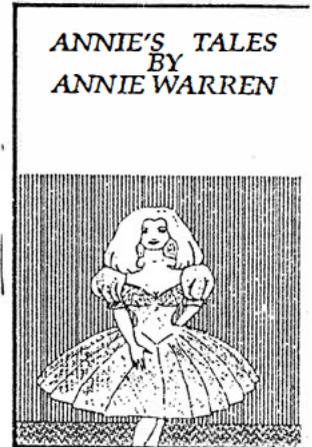
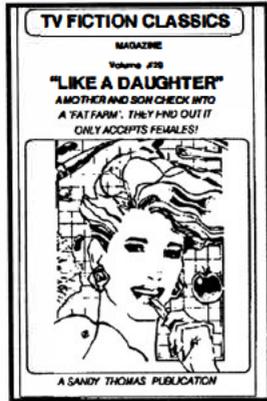
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