

# CROSS-TALK

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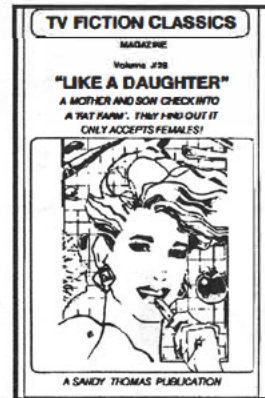
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# CROSS-TALK

The Gender Community's News & Information Monthly

**MARCH 1993**  
(ISSUE #41)



## THIS MONTH:

### NEWS & COMMENTARY:

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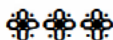
**SAN FRANCISCO**  
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The annual Tri-Ess "Holiday En Femme" has been moved to Los Angeles from Denver in the aftermath of the approval by Colorado voters of an anti-gay amendment to that state's constitution.

Although Amendment 2 -- which would prohibit the state or its localities from passing laws that specifically guarantee homosexuals protection against discrimination -- was blocked from taking effect by Colorado state judge Jeffrey Bayless' granting an injunction January 22 pending a lawsuit to determine the amendment's constitutionality, Tri-Ess Executive Director Carol Beecroft made the decision to move the annual convention "in order to provide for the safety of our members who wish to attend the Holiday."

Tri-Ess thus joins a growing number of businesses and organizations that have chosen to boycott Colorado, as well as thousands of tourists who have cancelled planned vacations. Many entertainers, such as Madonna, have publicly stated they will shun the state until the amendment is lifted.

The summer meeting of the Tri-Ess board of directors will still take place in Denver, according to chairman Jane Ellen Fairfax.

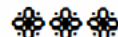


A preliminary schedule of events and workshops has been released for this summer's "Be All You Want To Be" weekend in Chicago.

Among the announced activities are a city sightseeing tour, trip to a dinner playhouse, a 1920's flapper costume party, and a special summer version of the Tri-Ess Chi Chapter's "Putting On The Ritz" dinner dance. A workshop on the basics of crossdressing is also planned, as are panel discussions on fantasy dressing, women's issues, and sexuality. Among the professionals and gender community leaders taking part will be Dr. Richard F. Docter, Ariadne Kane, Dr. Sheila Kirk, Mariette Pathy Allen, Merissa Sherrill Lynn, and Jane Ellen Fairfax.

The event, which will be held the weekend of June

9th through 13th, has been presented for eleven years by a cooperative effort of Chi Chapter, Paradise Club, Crossroads, and TransPitt.

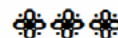


The International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) "Coming Together, Working Together" convention has adopted a multi-track approach this year, according to a preliminary workshop schedule released in January.

The multi-track approach differs from the traditional scheduling used by most gender community events in that it specifically creates and promotes workshops geared toward a smaller segment of the larger community. For example, the crossdresser "track" includes workshops on the history of crossdressing, the transgenderist alternative, and the impact of crossdressing on the family. Additional tracks include M2F transsexuals, F2M transsexuals, and group development.

Some workshops, such as Sr. Mary Elizabeth's seminar on religion and the gender community and Naomi Owen's program on legal rights, are being promoted across multiple tracks where interests merge.

The convention takes place this month in Philadelphia.



The Metroplex CD Corporation board of directors has voted to dissolve the governing body, with the feeling that the non-profit corporation had served its purpose and was no longer necessary.

Metroplex CD was formed in order to allow the Delta Omega chapter of Tri-Ess in the Dallas-Fort Worth area to create "open" area support groups not affiliated with that national organization. In the past two years, it has formed the "Help Me ... Accept Me" support group and a partners support group, among other projects.

Delta Omega, the largest of the Metroplex groups,

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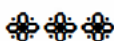
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will now set up its own bookkeeping and bank account, and funds will be transferred by the corporation after 1992 taxes are paid.

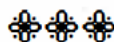


Another addition has been made to the crowded calendar of weekend events in the gender community with the announcement by the Greater New York Gender Alliance (GNYGA) of a "Moonlight in Manhattan" weekend next month.

The event, which will concentrate primarily on socialization in the Big Apple, plans an all-night tour of Manhattan nightspots on Friday night and a gala dinner dance benefitting a local AIDS victims charity on Saturday night. A limited schedule of workshops, mostly conducted by vendors, has also been announced for Saturday morning and afternoon.

Organizers have arranged for a special per-room (rather than per person) rate with the hotel, and have structured the costs of the event so that registration can be kept below \$100 per person.

GNYGA is composed of the directors from six gender community organizations operating in the greater New York City area.



The schedule of events at the third "California Dreamin'" weekend in Burbank is becoming more finalized, according to chairman Joan Goodnight.

Although the topics for a planned series of workshops by the national Tri-Ess organization has not yet been received, Goodnight has confirmed the participation of chairman of the board Jane Ellen Fairfax and WACS co-director Cynthia Phillips. Keynote speaker will be Renaissance co-founder and *Ladylike* publisher JoAnn Roberts, who will also conduct workshops on outreach and illusion.

Workshops are also planned by local gender community members Susan Howard, Danielle Alexis, Kymberleigh Richards, Janyne Cresap, Dr. Richard Docter, Justine Sahnjay, and Kathy Helms. The local Alpha chapter of Tri-Ess will host the Friday afternoon luncheon, and local group CHIC will host the Thursday evening dinner.

The event, which will take place April 28 through

May 2, is sponsored by the Powder Puffs of Orange County (PPOC) organization.

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## THE ADVENTURES OF KAREN

by KAREN ANN







## KYMBERLEIGH'S CLIPBOARD

-- *Kymerleigh Richards*

Like the famed NBC news commentator Edwin Newman, I am a semanticist. I debate over the proper use of words with practically everyone I know, both inside and outside the gender community.

It is for this reason that I was caught up in the debate over the misuse of the term transgenderist, why I agonized over the possibility of adding bigendered to our lexicon, and it is for this reason that I find myself compelled to editorialize about a term that none of us ever thought would require discussion about: Support group.

As long as I can remember being involved with the gender community (more than a dozen years), I have felt -- as most others have -- comfortable with referring to the many organizations that comprise our community as support groups. Not long ago, however, I received a call in my capacity as the president of the Alpha Tri-Ess chapter from one of my members, informing me that two recent newcomers "were extremely disappointed" with our group and would not be returning in the future. When I queried as to the reason, I was told that the newcomers said they were looking for a "REAL" support group.

A real support group? Isn't that what we provide: Support for those members of our community who need a place to "come out" and be with others like themselves?

No, I was told. A support group is where a group of people with a common problem sit around under the guidance of a helping professional, talking about their problems, sympathizing with each other, secure in the knowledge that while their life isn't perfect because of this "gender issue", in time they'll work it out.

What you have, I was told, is a social club. It's not support, it's an excuse to get dressed up and get together and chat. You're not solving any problems for anyone.

I mentioned this conversation to the *grande dame*, Alpha Chapter founder and Cross-Talk associate editor Virginia Prince (who is more of a semanticist than I), and once I had suggested that we make our purpose more clear in future conversations with potential new members, she lamented that the professionals had, by redefining the term to specifically fit what they were providing, co-opted the original broader meaning for our purposes.

This reminds me of how irritated I have become that the so-called "contact" publications -- which are nothing more than (continued, next page)

## COGITO ERGO FEM

-- Anne [REDACTED]

**Fruit:** *n.* The edible product of a plant or tree consisting of the seed and its envelope.

**Fruit:** *n.* A blanket term.

No term used to define the various members of the transgendered communities will fit any individual very well. "Fruit" covers everything from apples to zucchini but it doesn't describe, except in a very vague way, what they are. "Fruit" does differentiate the object from "rock" or "mammal", and that is what a blanket term would do for the transgendered communities. A blanket term wouldn't differentiate us from ourselves, it would differentiate us from the population at large.

Bigender, ambigender, transgender, contragender, femmiphile, gendervert ... makes no difference what you call the greater communities so long as everyone knows what the term means. A rose is a rose is a rose, but what if you don't know what a rose is? R-O-S-E is a meaningless string of letters. Someone describes a rose. Ah, that's what r-o-s-e means. Someone shows you a rose. Ah! So that is a rose. The term must have meaning, then the meaning must be communicable.

By now -- unless you are a new reader -- you are used to me using the term "transgendered communities", but this does not include all crossdressers, only a particular type, and it does include transsexuals even though there are logical arguments supporting the contention that they are not transgendered. I think my readers know what I mean when I use that term and so in my lexicon "transgendered communities" has meaning. If it didn't before, it does now. Should we concern ourselves with finding and adopting a general term that sets us apart from the general population? Yes. Only we know who and what we are; any label given to us will have some baggage attached to it by the bestower. Should we worry about whether or not this blanket term has any connection to more specific terms? No. Fruit/apple, where is the connection? Fruit/raspberry, where is the connection? There is none, except that linguistically apples and raspberries are fruit ... but the terms "apple" and "raspberry" are not derivatives of the term "fruit", so why should our blanket terms and specific terms be etymologically related?

I know that long-time readers may see this position as a reversal for me, as I once proposed the term "transvitate" for what is now called a transgenderist, my argument being that we already had the terms "transvestite" and "transsexual". However, I also used the term transvestite long after it went out of fashion in favor of crossdresser, and I dropped it because I



## KYMBERLEIGH'S CLIPBOARD... continued

borderline pornographic photos of people who crossdress mainly to attract a sexual partner (a drag queen, not a crossdresser, semantically speaking) -- have corrupted the use of transvestite, transsexual, and crossdresser and made it exponentially more difficult to do legitimate outreach. (Not to mention that these publications have given us the lovely term "she-male".)

The trouble with being a semanticist in this community, as I have noted in the past, is that our dictionary keeps changing as the different sub-communities that make up the larger gender community grow dissatisfied with whatever term is generally used to describe them and either create a new term or attempt to change the meaning of an existing term to include them. This happened in the '60s when the membership of FPE, wanting a term other than transvestite to describe themselves and their organization, adopted Virginia's term

## COGITO ERGO FEM ... continued

finally realized that while it was a perfectly good term, it had become associated with "drag queen", and that was common usage applying pressure and causing change. I now believe the best term is the one that best describes the condition.

I do not refer to myself as a transsexual, I prefer to think of myself as a woman with a plumbing problem. I describe myself as having a mind/body disunity, although I am going to change that to a brain/genital incongruity. I believe that the future of terminology is in specific descriptions of phenomena. When I was an adolescent I had "grand mal" and "petit mal" seizures. Today I would have "tonic/clonic" and "absence" seizures. "Grand mal" and "petit mal" literally translate to "big sick" and "little sick", and believe me, neither is small.

Each community of each phenomenon will find a tag for itself. The problem arises when each of those communities try to reach a consensus on what to use as an umbrella term. Perhaps we should do what Cadillac did and arbitrarily throw some letters together and come up with the name for their then-new car, Allante. The point I'm trying to make is that the term is not so important as what it means and that we all come to a consensus on that definition.

I'm a pflugstruegel, a brain/genital conflicted pflugstruegel.

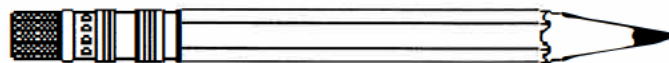
[Anne [redacted] may be contacted directly at P.O. Box 1251, Beverly Hills, CA 90213.]

femmiphile. It was also Virginia who coined the term transgenderist, only to have several vocal members of our community (including myself, briefly) attempt to force a broader definition of that word to include all members of the gender community -- only to have Virginia attempt the creation of the term bigendered to once again remove non-transsexuals from the definition.

I feel myself digressing, so I'll close the discussion by pointing out that the original terms (however unfairly convoluted from their original meanings) are still around, just as the phrase "support group" will no doubt be around twenty years from now.

For now, Alpha is clarifying itself by using the phrase "socially-oriented group providing support" to avoid any future confusion.

But I wish we didn't have to.



## VOX POPULI -- Letters to the Editor

Re: "Cogito Ergo Fem" (January): Anne Blackwood details a fairly empathetic description of Ms. Venus Extravaganza in the movie *Paris Is Burning*. Venus, a pre-op transsexual, works and dies as a prostitute who faced the many dangers of sex industry work (AIDS, tricks gone sour, etc.). Conversely, Ms. [redacted] goes on at the end of her column to talk about "the boys who would be girls" prostituting in her neighborhood and wraps her column with a discriminating bow of reference for her neighborhood: the "Drag Queen Zone".

I would like to discourage this type of armchair empathy. Rather than trashing transgendered sex industry workers, can we not pull together as individuals and offer community outreaching options to our less fortunate? One significant option is encouraging them to seek support with a counselor or group dealing with their issues -- whether that be drugs, low self-esteem, etc. Elitism is no longer fashionable. Perhaps we can all take a moment to help our (transitory) neighbors -- especially boys who would be girls.

I also did not find Lynette Tavener's humor in any way funny. Avoiding "masculine behaviors" in no way equates avoiding AIDS. Has the gender community turned from silence to joking in the face of illness, poverty and death affecting our transgendered brothers and sisters, family and friends?

--Gianna Eveling Israel

Regional Director, American Educational Gender Information Service, San Francisco, CA

**A NOTE TO OUR EDITORIAL PAGE READERS:** It has been suggested that in addition to using "Cross Connection" e-mail for letters to the editor, we establish accounts on CompuServe, Prodigy, and America OnLine for this purpose. Your comments are welcome. You may also still fax letters to the editor to us at (818) 347-4190.



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SAN FRANCISCO

One thing the NewsQueen loves about this business is all the secrets she learns. Some have died with the principals involved (such as a late governor of New York State). And some, alas, she must take to her own grave. But others she is pleased to share with her loyal readers. It is now time for one of those revelatory sessions.

The principals in this case are all (happily) still among the living, as is Miss [REDACTED]. But since the motion picture in question has completed its first-run engagements, she feels at liberty to divulge the transgendered plot twist of *The Crying Game*, a box office sleeper directed by Neil Jordan and introducing Jaye Davidson. This is the secret that even real movie reviewers had promised not to reveal. The film is about a deserter from the Irish Republican Army (Stephen Rea) who falls in love with the "girlfriend" of a British soldier Rea has killed while he was still working for the IRA. But when Rea learns that Jaye Davidson is really a man in drag, the relationship surprisingly continues.

"I wanted to make a love story that is beyond sexuality," Jordan said. "When I wrote it, I thought it was pure fiction." But he learned otherwise while interviewing actors to play the role of Dil, the "girlfriend."

"They were all going with men who had met them as women," Jordan said. "Two were coming to the point where they would say, 'Honey, I'm not a girl.' The other two had already passed that point with the men they were living with and the men just said, 'well, okay.'"

Finding one actor to play the role was difficult. Jordan had considered B.D. Wong (M. Butterfly) and Mario Van Peebles was interested, but neither was

just right. He even went to the London club scene where drag abounds, but that didn't work out either. The crossdressers he saw there "projected a parody image of women, which was not what I wanted."

Finally, he met Jay Davidson, and cast him in the role of Dil. (Jordan had Davidson add an "e" to his first name to keep the plot twist secret.)

Other than passing as a woman (Davidson is a transvestite, not a transsexual), he had never acted before. Nevertheless, Jordan cast him in the key role.

"Even dressed ordinary, he is constantly mistaken for a woman," Jordan said. Davidson even fooled a doctor called to the set when he wasn't feeling well. "The first question the doctor asked was, 'Are you on the pill?'"

Audiences don't catch on much faster, Jordan said. But when they do realize that they are seeing what is essentially a homosexual relationship between Davidson and Rea, they don't react negatively.

"I think this seduces audiences," he said. "They get to like Dil as a woman. The males see her as a sex object and share Rea's passion for her."

●●●

The movie *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues* isn't due out until August, but publicists at Fine Line Features aren't keeping it a secret that role of the Countess is played by John Hurt. He co-stars with Angie Dickinson.

We have seen the publicity still featuring this pair, and it isn't a pretty sight.

●●●

With these drag role popping up, it came as a surprise to learn that Charles Busch, the New York actor who has steadfastly played female roles since his

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off-Broadway play *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom* opened in 1985, will play a male role in his next play. The work, tentatively entitled *A Name For Himself*, probably won't abandon crossdressing altogether. Busch says he will play a young electrologist living in Greenwich Village "who has all these strange people who come to him to have their body hair removed." We can't imagine that at least one of these clients isn't a drag queen.

Busch has no real explanation as to why he abandoned his leading lady image, at least for the time being.

"I don't quite know what happened to me," he said. "I'm not doing it out of some vague notion of respectability. I just have this need to express myself in my own gender."

Another reason may be the plethora of crossdressed actors, including (even) John Hurt. "When I started doing it in '84, I was kind of exotic. Now I'm just one of many. I sort of like being special."

He hopes to open the play in New York in the fall.

●●●

Roseanne and Tom Arnold have hit on a way to make their first child feel special and exotic. As they recently announced that they are trying to have a baby, the potential father said they have already chosen the name for the potential youngster, regardless of whether it is a boy or a girl -- Shoogie Babette LaRue Arnold.

When a reporter said, "It sounds like you guys are planning to have a drag queen," Tom replied, "I guess we are."

●●●

The Arnolds could avail themselves of services of Serena Sabak to tell them if Shoogie Babette LaRue is en route, now that the *Weekly World News* psychic has some time on her hands after completing her predictions for 1993. They included the prognostication that "one of Hollywood's leading hunks crushes millions of female fans when he undergoes sex-change surgery and emerges with the body of Dolly Parton -- and the face of Marilyn Monroe."

●●●

That supermarket tabloid shattered more lives several months ago when it reported the claims of historian Dwight Landers that Annie Oakley was actually a man.

Landers claims that the real name of the star of Buffalo Bill's Wild West show was Philip Arne Oakley Mozee.

"He was a clever man who realized that he'd be much more successful if he pretended to be a woman," Landers said. "He was short and slight of build, but tremendously strong for his size. And he was a crack shot, an absolute expert with a rifle. As a man, he might not have seemed so special -- but as a woman he was a sensation."

Landers said he examined birth records in Darke County, Ohio, and saw that Philip was born in 1860, but that years later, the name on the record was changed to read "Phoebe Anne." He also said that there were no local newspaper reports of Phoebe Anne competing in local sharpshooting contests, but Philip got plenty of mention.

"Philip dropped from sight in 1885, the year Annie Oakley first began performing in the Buffalo Bill show," Landers said. Annie avoided romantic entanglements by claiming to be married to her manager, Frank Butler. "But actually, he was married to an Indian woman and had six children." After 17 years with the show, Oakley retired and moved to New Mexico, and presumably resumed his life as a male.

"It must have been quite a strain for him to pretend to be a woman, what with having to wear dresses and act feminine and all," Landers said, in all seriousness.

●●●

Talk about surprises, imagine how a mother in Fostoria, Ohio, felt when she discovered that her 10-year-old daughter's pen pal wasn't another little girl after all, but a 42-year-old man serving a 50-year prison sentence for the murder of his 16-year-old girl friend.

According to officials at the Connecticut Correctional Institution at Somers, Conn., inmate Michael Jarrett has carried on correspondence with at least two other young girls besides the Ohio lass. He had placed ads in *Hopscotch* magazine, passing



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himself off as a fourth-grader named Micky Jarrett seeking a pen pal.

The girls' parents were not suspicious of the letters to their daughters because Jarrett used a fictitious street address in Somers and the local post office forwarded the mail to him. The postmaster said that in addition to a large amount of personal mail, Jarrett received dozens of magazines, including *Good Housekeeping* and *Seventeen*.

Jarrett's letters, written in a childlike hand, came to the attention of prison officials through the prison grapevine. They say that he broke no law, but did violate prison regulations by writing to minors without their parents' permission.



The joke would have been on Jarrett if he had corresponded with Tracy Davis' 11-year-old "granddaughter." For two years, the Pennsylvania woman disguised her grandson, John, as a girl to elude authorities and the boy's mother in a custody fight with a strange crossdressing twist.

John's kidnapping by his grandmother was featured on the episode of "Unsolved Mysteries" televised on Thanksgiving. Shortly afterward, Davis turned herself in to authorities, but only after she arranged to have a camera crew from "Inside Edition" standing by at the Philadelphia FBI office to tape her arrival.

Davis had claimed that the boy's mother — her daughter — was unfit because she used drugs and left the boy alone much of the time. She also said he had been sexually abused. But family members said Davis had an obsessive love for her grandson and wanted to

raise him by herself.

Newspaper reports contained no indication that she dressed John as a girl for any reason other than as a disguise. But those of us who are wise in such matters can read between the lines.



Isadora Duncan, a syndicated newspaper sex therapist, read between the lines of a letter sent to her by a 23-year-old woman "who always wears a jock strap when doing anything athletic."

"I just love the way it fits and feels when working out, running, or whatever," the woman wrote. She wondered if there are "actual benefits from wearing one instead of regular panties?"

A woman who knows crossdressing when she sees it -- regardless of the gender of the person or the garment in question -- Isadora replied, "I tend to mistrust the 'feels more comfortable' justification as I do with men who wear women's panties ... I am not putting down the frisson of crossdressing nor the freedom for anyone to wear whatever feels appropriate, but if one opts for the undies of the other gender, I think there is something additional to 'comfort' going on here and that the wearer just isn't coping to."

It does seem, Isadora said, that women wearing jock straps is spreading. "A gym-attending female friend informs me that she has seen female jock wearers several times lately," Isadora said. She asked her readers to explain the phenomenon with "a reason or two that I can believe."

We'll keep you posted.



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Robert J. [REDACTED] of New Bedford, Mass., came up with one very good reason to justify wearing women's clothes at his murder trial -- he is a transsexual "in transition."

Neither the prosecutor nor the judge had any objections to [REDACTED], who prefers to be called "Michelle," dressing as a woman while he stands trial for the 1990 strangulation slaying of his wife, Cheryl. [REDACTED] has claimed self-defense.

Defense attorney Joan McDonough assured the court that [REDACTED]'s appearance probably wouldn't vary much from what he wore to a pretrial hearing two days earlier, a sweatshirt and jeans. His hair is now below his shoulders and his nails are long. "As long as its tasteful, I'm not going to make an issue out of this," said John Moses, a prosecutor for the Bristol County district attorney's office.

While in jail, [REDACTED] ran a write-in campaign for Bristol County sheriff last fall under the banner of the "New Woman Party." He received a few votes.



Finally, here is a deadly serious item. For some time it has been known that transsexuals are at greater risk of breast cancer, possibly due to their life-long

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hormone therapy. But transvestites can get breast cancer too, even if they don't take hormones. In fact, any man is a potential breast cancer victim, especially after middle age.

British researchers recently studied the disease in Great Britain. They noted that there are some 170 cases annually in the British Isles. Most strike men over 60, and nearly two thirds of those men survive at least five years.

The researchers noted that more men could be cured if they didn't wait an average of 18 months after finding a lump to seek treatment.

"Men wait longer either because they are unaware of the possibility that they can get breast cancer, or because they are embarrassed at having what is normally thought of as a female problem," said Dr. Ian Fentiman, deputy director of Imperial Cancer Research Fund Breast Cancer Unit at Guy's Hospital in London.

"As with women, the earlier this cancer is treated, the better the chances of a cure," he said.



Although some years ago [REDACTED] was in the peak risk period for breast cancer, Ms. [REDACTED] performs monthly breast self-examinations. She [REDACTED] quite concerned when she detected several small lumps, but her doctor assured her that they were only caused by a shift in the metal pellets in her weighted breast forms. Take a moment to examine your own real breasts for lumps, and also take a moment to send Ms. [REDACTED] clippings related to crossdressing in care of Cross-Talk. Please note the date and name of publication.

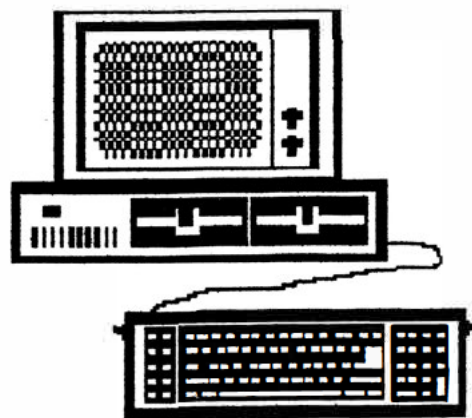
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# FOUNDATION BASICS, CONTINUED

by Valerie

*Dear Val:* I have read every article you've written about foundation and I still don't get it! I still can't seem to find the right foundation color ... I either get it too dark or too light. And I have a feeling that there's some trick to choosing the right foundation for my skin tone. And even when I do manage to get a color that looks somewhat okay, it always looks splotchy when I put it on. What's the magic trick for foundation?

-- Danielle, New York

*Dear Danielle:* You've put your finger on one of the biggest problems in cosmetic application: Choosing the correct foundation. As I'm sure you know, there are several consistencies that can mean the difference between a smooth complexion or a splotchy one. Basically, you have water-based or oil-based. Liquid, creme and cake foundations are water-based. The cake type will give the best coverage but they will all drip off your face if you perspire.

Oil-based foundation has excellent coverage and should stay on all day or all night without a touch-up. For instance, imagine you are dancing -- or just sitting -- in a very hot, humid room and you start to perspire. When you blot your face, you will soak up moisture, NOT makeup. On the other hand, water-based foundation will mix with your perspiration and either come right off or creep into the wrinkle lines and drip down your face and neck. I used to shy away from oil-based since I had oily skin, but now that I've found a good quality product, I'll never go back to water-based.

The only skin type I don't recommend using it on is very very oily skin. It's been a misnomer that you mustn't use oil-based if your skin is slightly oily, but consulting a cosmetologist or dermatologist will give you the best answer as to what is right for you.

Consulting a professional who sells cosmetics will aid you in choosing the best color. Occasionally the face, neck and chest will have different tones: If you blend foundation down the neck to the chest, pick a color in between but a little closer to the chest color. You may need to use a second, different tone for the face: Again, pick a color in between the neck and face. If your neck and face are the same color, apply sample colors in two-inch dots on the face and check the color in the daylight.

Although it may be tempting to choose your foundation and blush colors based on a color analysis (and we'll discuss that in a future column), these are really more determined by your skintone than your "season". What you want to do when choosing a foundation color is find the shade that blends between your face and neck (and sometimes, as I said

before, your chest), but always a color that is closer to the lighter of your two skin tones.

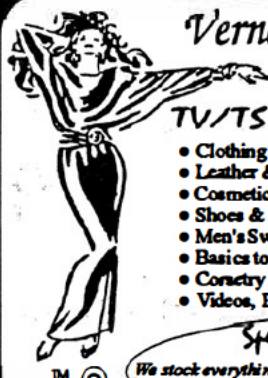
The point to remember here is that you need to pay attention to the skin tone: yellow/olive or ruddy/pink. You can't necessarily base your choice on your race or nationality, either: I've used beige on Oriental skin and yellow/olive on a French-German complexion.

While we're getting slightly ahead of ourselves here, your selection of blush color will be based to some degree on your color palette, but your skintone still has more to do with it, as well as on what clothing colors you're wearing, your eyeshadow palette, and the shade of your foundation. We'll talk about that as we begin discussing contouring and highlighting in next month's column.

[Valerie is a California licensed cosmetology instructor and owner of Hair To Wear Wigs in Torrance, CA. 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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## CROSSDRESSERS' CLOSET

### BUILDING A BASIC WARDROBE

by Bev

This month, we're going to create a "passable" femme image that you can use anytime you're going out in public ... shopping, to dinner, the movies, whatever! **WARNING:** If you're only going to dress for club meetings or to hang out at the local crossdressing bar, you're probably not going to want to hear this (and you might want to turn the page now). But if you want to look more like a "real" girl, read on!

The first rule of thumb is: **DRESS DOWN.** You will not see genetic girls (as a rule) out shopping in 3" heels or very short skirts. You will more likely see tennis shoes and jeans, flat-heeled boots, longer skirts, big sweaters over leggings, or a silk shirt and pants with coordinating flats.

An oversized plaid blazer atop a catsuit might be seen at a luncheon or perhaps a double-breasted, oversized jacket with a slim, above the knee, pleated skirt. This last outfit can quickly change into evening wear with the addition of a sheer blouse and sparkling jewelry.

All these looks can be created with a few basic pieces of clothing, properly planned to mix and match. The key is in choosing the right wardrobe-building pieces. The central element in a closet of wardrobe builders is a suit with an oversized jacket. Choose a solid color, preferably black or white or cream as these colors transform best into evening wear with a few changes and are seasonless basics. Keep in mind that dark colors are slimming and light colors tend to enlarge. The skirt may be either above or below the knee, pleated or straight. For a longer skirt, a back or side slit is very attractive and classic (not to mention

extremely sexy!). With this basic suit, wear a print blouse of coordinating colors for day and a sheer blouse matching the suit's color for evening.

Next, add pieces that coordinate with the color of your suit. Try a plaid jacket using variations of the colors of your suit, such as creme, black or red. Consider a catsuit ... or, if you don't have a catsuit kind of body, leggings paired with a top in a solid, coordinating color. A bright, colorful, patterned sweater, long enough to cover your hips, is very versatile and may be worn with jeans, or the skirt and plaid jacket.

You should also purchase a tailored silk blouse and slacks. These are wearable year-round with a suede jacket and matching boots or a pair of comfortable, matching flats.

Now your basic wardrobe is nearly complete. Add a pair of classic black pumps to the flats and boots we've already mentioned, plus tennis shoes (especially if you're going to throw on a pair of leggings and an oversized sweater to go to the mall), and you have a classically feminine wardrobe that you can build on.

[Bev is the proprietor of *Femme Development Services* in San Diego City, CA. 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.]

**RESULTS OF OUR RECENT READER SURVEY**  
can be found on page 37 of this issue.



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by Sophia & J. Urania

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## CHANGING BACK

by Lynette

One of the hardest things for some members is the change back to the male role before confronting family or friends.

This is relatively easy if you are at a club venue where there are ample changing facilities, but it becomes a problem when out and about elsewhere. This month's tips may help those who happen to need to change and have no really safe place to do it.

**TIP 1.** There is a technique used by models for removing a bra from under clothing without taking the clothing off. If you practice this it is amazingly easy. Here is what you do. First reach under your top and unclip the bra. Then you reach in at the neck opening of your clothing and push the bra straps as far down the arms (off the shoulder) as possible. Now you reach up one of your sleeves, catch hold of the bra strap and stretch the strap down and then over your hand, releasing it back up the sleeve. Finally by reaching up the other sleeve you can catch the other bra strap and by pulling on this you can remove the bra down the sleeve. This operation can be carried out while sitting in your car without anyone being aware of what you are doing. For all you girls who don't have to change this is a neat trick to try on hot days when you've safely back in the car and on the way home.

**TIP 2.** Buy a bottle of sweet almond oil from a health food store and use this as a makeup remover. It will dissolve and remove eye makeup, lipstick and foundation without a tell tale makeup remover fragrance. This fragrance is often overlooked and many TV/TSS wonder why their wives and friends think that they have been playing around with another woman when they arrive home smelling of residual perfume or makeup. Sweet almond oil is widely used in the cosmetic industry and is

exceptionally good for dry skins.

**TIP 3.** Use a male perfume and make sure you leave home in the morning wearing it. Reapply it before you leave for home after changing.

**TIP 4.** If you intend changing in the car select a place where your car can be seen but few people can slow down to see what you are doing. The tip here is to park on a busy -- yes, busy -- street with little or no pedestrian traffic and relatively rapid-moving passing traffic. Few people will then have the time or the inclination to investigate or to look at what you are doing. Conversely, a dark quiet place will attract attention and often investigation to see what you are up to. Parking your car directly under a bright street light is a good spot as the car can be easily seen and the light reflects from the windows while at the same time it throws deep shadows in the car preventing casual observers from seeing what is happening inside and still providing enough light for you to see exactly what you are doing.

**TIP 5.** Don't change in public facilities. This should never be attempted as you are unable to predict when others will arrive to use those same facilities.

Please feel free to write me in care of Cross-Talk with any suggestions for future columns' topics.

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## COMMUNICATION INSIGHTS: A POSTSCRIPT

by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

In the past three columns I have linked the observations made by Deborah Tannen in her book *You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation* to transgender situations. In this final column of the series, I expand this discussion to the transsexual.

In some respects, the transsexual (either male-to-female or female-to-male) has it "easier" than the crossdresser who has to learn both roles if he is to be successful. For the transsexual, one gender role is being exchanged permanently for the other. A transsexual has to modify more than physical appearance and "body english". Most transsexuals have been forced to adapt to the "wrong" gender role to survive. Thousands of hours of socialization have been assimilated at some level of consciousness. This adaptation includes speech patterns and word usage. Successfully switching gender roles whether on a permanent or transitory basis is a very difficult task. As Dr. Tannen observes, there are masculine and feminine styles of conversation. Together these identify a person's gender more accurately than appearance. People, at least in our country, expect different behaviors from men and women. We all

carry a model in our head of how we expect men and women to behave. Comparisons of people to these models are automatic. Uncertainty causes discomfort we no longer know what to expect. If there is a significant departure from our personal models, we look for additional gender clues.

When the transsexual begins to live full time in the other gender role, success will depend, in part, on the ability to use the appropriate style of conversation. We all have to talk with other people as a part of daily living. The transsexual has to change her "mindset" about the way she socially interacts with other people. Society, to some extent, will enforce this change simply due to the appearance of the speaker. If she conveys a generally feminine appearance, feminine patterns are expected. Significant deviation from these may cause unwanted discovery of her situation. By thoroughly understanding masculine and feminine styles, the transsexual can practice the appropriate one until it becomes second nature. The true issue is comfort. Not only must she intellectually know what is expected; she must be able to act automatically in her interactions with others. Appropriate appearance and body language coupled with the expected speech style are critical ingredients for an undetected transition. She must become like the actress who is so in tune with her role that she responds automatically and in character to other actors in a scene. Deviations, even though part of the script, can be uncomfortable for her.

It is particularly helpful in understanding patterns to know what not to do or say. It is helpful to be aware of the early conditioning that has become automatic and subconscious. These typical patterns are deeply embedded in the social roles of men and women. Dr. Tannen's way of describing and illustrating the different patterns makes her book an ideal place to begin to identify them at a conscious level.

Dr. Tannen has done a great service to the transgender community even though she most likely did not intend to do so. Her book becomes, for the transsexual, a guidebook. By clearly describing feminine and masculine conversational patterns she has provided a valuable guide for those who want to change gender roles and/or discuss them with other.

[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 such reprints is expected.]



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## COPING WITH YOUR MATE IN CLOSE QUARTERS

by Cynthia Phillips

This column is primarily for women that travel or plan to attend conventions, etc. with their CDs.

Most of us probably thought when we grew up and married, our years of sharing space with another person of the same gender were over. Those years of living in close proximity with a sister at home, or a roommate in college, or in a small apartment, made us yearn for a time when we had our own home and plenty of space to ourself.

Then we found the man of our dreams ... but somewhere along the way we discovered "he" was a "she".

In most homes today, sharing space with another person who applies makeup and covers the shower rod with drying pantyhose is not a real problem, since most homes today have two bathrooms. This, plus the time most of our mates spend crossdressed is generally negligible, usually in the evenings or weekends. The "space problem" strikes at conventions. We have all had the unhappy situation that occurs when two females have to be at a certain place at a certain time, and only have one bathroom to get ready in! Also the situation exists when two women bring enough clothes for a week and one of them seems to have a fondness for bouffant skirted ball gowns! I have seen the remains of a hotel room after a week of this destruction, and believe me, it is not a pretty sight!

Situations like this can push a relationship past the breaking point, and indeed, a few relationships have broken up over seemingly simple things such as this.

More than one woman has told me after a few days with her mate in close quarters, such as a hotel room, that she certainly never signed up to share a room and single bath with another woman, especially one that had to shave three times a day!

Strangely enough sharing a hotel room is comparable in many ways, to sharing a marriage. Both situations both put us in close proximity with another person, a person we may not know or understand as well as we perhaps should. If we view this experience in a positive, instead of negative light, we may find ourselves viewing our marriage in a positive way also.

The clue, of course, is in recognizing that our partner should be accorded the same courtesies we would want accorded to us. Mutual respect and recognition of each other's needs, is of the utmost importance, both in the relationship, as well as dealing with each

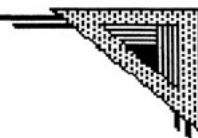
other in a tenuous situation such as a hotel room.

While in an "encounter of the close kind", the first thing to do is work out a schedule for the two of us. We should make an effort to get up at least a half an hour earlier than usual. Bring a coffeemaker so we can have that important cup of coffee when we get up. Since the "genetic female" is the most experienced in female procedures, such as, makeup, etc., we should use the area set up for this first. (However, sometimes the reverse will work. Anyway, you get the idea!) Hopefully, our room has a separate dressing area, however, more than a few do not. If all our makeup and related efforts need to be done in the bathroom, we should not try to share this limited space. This is where space related problems begin to strain a good relationship.

We should leave our mate with a cup of coffee in front of the television, while we complete our transformation. Hopefully, he should be experienced enough to apply his own makeup ... however, a great many of them are simply not able to do a creditable job on their own makeup. Some get a professional to apply it for them when they want to make a formal appearance. The ideal situation here is for us to help him with this, the problem here is that few of us are happy or comfortable seeing our partner apply makeup, let alone helping them apply it. For these reasons, he should make a real effort to learn how to do his own makeup, and not expect us to do it for him. The same goes for dressing. He needs to know what to wear and how to wear it. We might try to avoid asking each other what we should or shouldn't wear. There is nothing worse than two women stuck, each trying to decide what the other should wear! Of course, in some situations, "she" is going to have to be reminded of the correct way to dress. First time "in public" dressers often need to be told the correct way to dress during the day, and that miniskirts and three-inch heels are not appropriate!

Dressing for the evening will be an entirely different situation. Both of us will probably need help to get the look we desire. This is the best time to not only receive, but give hints and help. Also we must remember, we both need those most important ego builders -- compliments. We must remember that often our mate is quite insecure in the way he looks. Since we are used to looking at the male part of his personality, we may find the femme side bizarre, even





laughable. Few men make stunning women, and his attempt at dressing to appear as one, may strike us as unbelievable at best. We should remember that we are looking at him knowing he is male, and it is sometimes impossible for us to see him in a non-judgmental way. His appearance may not be as unacceptable as we believe. We need to realize there are a great many large and even masculine appearing women in the world. We should also realize that his desire to do this is overpowering, and it takes a lot of courage to overcome his fear of seeing less than a macho male in our eyes. This is his most vulnerable point. We can destroy him with a giggle, or the wrong word. It often takes our men years to achieve a feeling of self-confidence with their femme image. A great many of them never do.

Depending on our feelings, we can either be a great help, or a great image-breaker for him. If we have some Ideas for him, we shouldn't hesitate tell him and help him with them.

If we think his transformation is simply hopeless in our eyes, we should keep these comments to our selves. Let's let him enjoy his evening without letting him know how we feel. Sometimes silence is the only compliment we can give. (We won't talk about the males that look better "dressed" than we do!)

When the evening is over, we all have to pay the price for trying to be an attractive female. This is when we have to show our mate that, unlike women in the movies, we don't go to bed with full makeup. And no matter how tired we are, we wash out our hose and undergarments (maybe he'll do it for us)!

Some of us can't bare the thought of being with our mates in a situation such as this for any length of time. I remember once hearing a husband ask at the end of a convention, if his wife had a good time. She informed him that watching a group of men dress up as women for a weekend was not exactly thrilling to her!

If you want to attend a convention, but not stay in

the same room as "her", ask around and see if you can find another couple in a similar situation. Perhaps you can share one room with the other female, and the two crossdressers share another. Few of us have the resources to rent two hotel rooms for several nights.

Warning! If you decide to attend one of these crossdressing conventions, plan on being "read". I always am!

**S.P.I.C.E.?** No, this has nothing to do with cooking. These are the initials for the first annual Spouses/Partners International Conference for Education.

The conference will be sponsored by Tri-Ess, but we want all of the genetic women in the gender community to participate in this! It will be for ALL wives/partners throughout our community.

The conference will be held in Dallas, Texas the weekend of July 9th and 10th. We will have free babysitting services for those of you with small children, and we will have a roommate plan for those of you that would like to share a room.

Mates are allowed to come along, but they will not be able to crossdress, and they will not be attending "our" seminars.

The seminars will be led by some of the most knowledgeable people in their field. There will be "tiers" for different levels of comfort, including a "leadership tier" for those that would work with our community.

Registration will be kept at a reasonable cost, and will include all meals, seminars, and many "extras". We have also arranged with the hotel for a reduced room rate.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend S.P.I.C.E. this July.

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

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## THE SEARCH FOR A PERFECT BRA FILLER

by Ricky

I just read a letter in a TV newsletter pleading for more "how to" articles, and I can't say as I blame the novice crossdresser for asking, because when I think back on some of the things I did ...

So anyway, I felt the need to make my contribution, but just what do I know that someone else would want to learn. There's not going to be too much demand for lessons in how to look like Godzilla in a skirt or how to apply makeup to a beard. Then it occurred to me that I could offer some practical advice on bra stuffing.

I must admit I have had a lifelong fascination for the female breast, and being a Tri-Ess member I have always preferred to study the breasts attached to the female form. My first fieldwork in the subject was as a pre-adolescent and was confined to drooling over the pages of a friend's father's *Playboy* that we swiped from its hiding place in the garage. Since my youth was spent during the so-called "sexual revolution" of the sixties I occasionally got the chance to view a breast attached to a living, breathing female, but that was usually out of the corner of my eyes while trying not to stare like a gibbering sex maniac. After all we were liberated and you had to be cool about these things. I fear that during my teens I was scared silly of girls and never got the chance to do more than look until I was married (and no, I will not go into detail about that). So anyway, somewhere in my early teens I began to become overwhelmingly interested in women's clothes even if the woman wasn't in them. My interest centered on the brasserie, because that was the one garment that could only be used by a woman, breasts were the obvious sign of femininity to me. My mother's clothes were the most available, of course, but much too big. Eventually I got up the nerve to order a bra through the mail that would fit me, and it was very tricky being sure I was the first person to get to the post office box each day so that no one else would ask what I had gotten from Sears.

If it's true that people profit from other people's mistakes, this essay should warm the heart of the greediest capitalist on the planet. I started by stuffing washcloths, stockings and other soft objects into the cups. That was fine for a while, but real breasts bounced, they were heavy and wiggled. I mixed heavy objects with the washcloths, but the effect wasn't right. I tried water balloons, which were heavy and

wiggly, but also broke at inconvenient times. Since I wanted REALLY BIG BOOBS, the resultant flood was difficult to clean up. My researches came to an abrupt halt when my clothes were discovered, and I lost all interest in dressing for several years.

I was rather surprised when the urge to crossdress reappeared in my middle twenties, after I was married and had children, but I gave into the inevitable and resumed my researches. The zip-lock bag had been invented by then, and they were O.K. They tended to spring small leaks rather than the gush of a burst balloon, but they crinkled audibly. Besides, a sandwich size bag was just too small. I tried ice bags filled with various concoctions to simulate the bowl full of Jello effect of a real breast, but real Jello didn't work, it got runny when warm. Besides, cold bags of cold dessert against your chest takes the fun out of dressing. Being a cook I tried flour, cornstarch and other thickeners, but they all went thin in a few weeks, and didn't smell too good by then either. Then there were the ice bags themselves. The big screw-on caps would invariably shift and dig into the tender skin of my chest, and no amount of wrapping or cushioning prevented it.

How did I finally solve the problem? Read on, because on the next page is the solution ... About time, too ...

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## THE PERFECT BRA FILLER (AT LAST!)

by Ricky

O.K. In my regular column on the previous page, we had discussed my research for the perfect ersatz breasts back when I was in my twenties. I want to share with you the solution to my dilemma as a separate "how-to" article. After all, that's how I got started on this subject ...

About the time I was having this problem, there was a fad for giant balloons that blew up into a ball about two feet across for kids to play with, and darned if they didn't work just fine. Heavy enough to not cause a flood, they were almost perfect, but water still wasn't the ideal filling. Then I got the idea of using wire-pulling lubricant to fill them. Available at almost any big electrical supply house, this is a waxy slurry used by electricians to pull wires through conduits. It is cheap, doesn't degrade, and has just about the right texture. It even came in squeeze bottles that would conveniently fill the balloons, and I finally had a pair of ersatz breasts that worked. They worked up until the time when I had the money to buy a pair of real breast forms, obviously the ideal solution if you can afford it.

There was one more problem to solve, however. Since natural breasts are solidly fixed to the body, bra manufacturer's have not put much time into research

on keeping the breast form in the cup. Invariably I would begin to feel one of my forms begin to work its way under the band and start to dribble out onto my belly, not a very feminine effect, you'll admit. This was solved by sewing a band of cloth to the bottom of the bra that extended about halfway up the cup. Tacked on the top to the center of the bra it will hold the breast form in place without showing from the front. Using a piece of old towel will also absorb perspiration and make wearing the forms more comfortable on hot days.

I also made a perspiration shield to put in back of the forms by sandwiching a piece of quarter inch foam between two towels, tracing the outline of the form on top and then cutting and sewing it together to insert between me and the form, works well and doesn't show at all if the bra fits right.

There was one last problem to solve, however. When I'm away from home I prefer to sleep in bra and nightgown, naturally. However, good breast forms are heavy and tend to work loose when you sleep on your side, and rolling over on a lump of elastic plastic is guaranteed to wake you up in the middle of the night. So I began the search for a lightweight form. If you have some talent for sculpture, an electric knife and foam rubber will give you a nice filler, even if it takes a few tries to get it right. I found that the easiest and most durable form comes from gluing three or four pieces of one-inch foam together with spray contact cement (most easily found in auto supply stores), then cutting the resulting thick piece to fit. The glued laminations provide just enough structural support to make the cutting easier. Wrap the whole thing in a few layers of old stocking so your chest hairs won't be pinched in the foam and it's done.

The other method is to designate one of your bras for sleeping and perform surgery. The best bra to use is one with a minimum of elastic in it's construction, it makes sewing easier. First you have to lengthen the shoulder straps, because they are meant to support the weight of a breast and without that weight the bra tends to migrate toward your chin overnight. Once that is accomplished, place the bra over a towel. Spread each cup out, one at a time, and pin the edges of the cup to the towel. Sew it to the bra, leaving a two inch opening. Fill the cup with fiber fill from any sewing store and you have your sleeping bra. Use it for a while and adjust the amount of stuffing until you are comfortable. Be sure to leave a small opening to remove the fill when you wash the bra.

### THE PASSING SCENE by Kay





# AN APPROACH TO FEMININE SPEECH AND VOCAL TECHNIQUES FOR GENETIC MALES

by Wendy Parker

**W**e're all concerned about "passing" when we go out. I prefer the term "blending in", because it's more about the comfort level of ourselves and others around us.

One important giveaway is our natural voices. Some disguise them by becoming a "mute" when they go out in public -- the Marcel Marceau approach to life as pantomime. Others opt for the other extreme of vocal surgery rather than take a vow of silence. There's a sensible compromise:

This is a demonstration of techniques and principles of speaking in a more feminine manner including range, projection, modulation, inflection and speech content.

## PITCH AND TIMBRE

The biggest concept I want you to take away from all this is: higher is not better! As a matter of fact, a lower voice in a woman is considered "sexy" and was actually cultivated by actresses like Lauren Bacall and Marlene Dietrich. Women such as Bea Arthur and Tallulah Bankhead had a lower natural speaking range than most men yet they still sounded most feminine! Why?

Because of the quality or timbre (pronounced "tân-br") of sound. For example, a flute and a trumpet can play the exact same concert pitch but have distinctly different sounds (the wave shapes would look different on an oscilloscope due to a difference in the overtone series).

So concentrate not so much on pitch as on the timbre of the sound. You can do this by softening your speech and "placing" your voice in the head rather than the chest.

Vocal "cords" are actually vocal folds of skin and very sensitive to abuse. Therefore, minimize shouting and smoking which will irritate the vocal cords and actually lower your pitch! If you feel you must raise your pitch, first find your median speaking tone by softly humming and raise "that" pitch three or four tones for a new midrange reference point. Any more than that will give an unnatural "Minnie Mouse" squeaky falsetto effect. The fact is that you have lived your life as male a long time. The objective is to learn how to speak a new language called "feminine". Don't mind that you do it with a masculine "accent". You'll still be understood.

A morning warm-up routine:

1) Neck relaxing exercises will relieve tension in the neck and therefore the "voice box" or larynx. Slowly

rotate your head in large circles first in one direction, then the other.

2) You can also relax the vocal cords directly by singing up and down the scale in a kind of "Bronx cheer"; that is, letting the lips flutter (as if you were saying "brrrrrr"). This is best done in a hot shower where the steam will have a beneficial effect on the vocal cords. This is a practice used by many professional singers and vocal coaches.

## MODULATION

Feminine speech should be "musical" and lilting. Like music, melody and rhythm play a large part in "modulating" your voice to a "sing-song" approach. You can widen your range in speech to use three tones up and down from your "new" reference point (Men, by contrast, often only use only one or two tones up or down, almost closer to a monotone).

Like music, rhythm and cadences (or pauses) in speech are important to feminine speaking. Slow your speech down if you tend to speak rapidly and elongate the vowels. Southern dialects naturally sound feminine because women elongate vowels, men tend to shorten them. (Remember the character Blanche DuBois in *Streetcar Named Desire* and how she has "always depended on the kindness of strangers"? Say: "How y'all doin'?" in a breathy, feminine manner ... or "Where y'all goin'?" )

## INFLECTION AND CONTENT

Also try ending sentences with an upwards inflection as if you turned a statement into a question. Women often hedge their bet in making a definitive statement as in: "It's awfully cold, isn't it?" Or "They have a very good team, don't they?" Or "Don't you think?"

Women also tend to use more qualifiers in speech to exaggerate a point. For example: "That's a very lovely dress she has on" or "It certainly is terribly hot today ... isn't it?" In her book *Speaking As A Woman*, Alison Laing refers to a new vocabulary and choices of words. Speaking this new language of "feminine" requires a new or altered use of descriptive adjectives -- such as charming, lovely, sweet, darling, in place of pleasant pretty, nice, great, etc. For example: "Isn't she just a sweet, precious child?" Or "What a charming place you have." Or "What a darling outfit!"

Be aware of your diction and articulation. Women, in general, tend to enunciate their words better giving

special attention to hard, ending consonants like P's and K's. (Try saying: "Picking a chicken is certainly not to my liking".) Men tend to slur their words or mumble a bit more.

Lowering your overall speaking volume and softening the voice always helps. It also never hurts to give just a bit of Marilyn Monroe-type "breathiness" if you don't overdo it. Coughing or clearing your throat can sometimes be a giveaway because this is a sound that clearly originates in the chest. Our objective is to have sounds originate in the head voice so try to minimize this by using shorter coughs, covering your mouth or just excusing yourself and leaving the room if necessary.

## BODY LANGUAGE

Body language is all important to blending in as a woman and enhances the overall believability. In general, be more expressive in gesturing with your hands but keep the body limbs (knees and elbows) pulled inward taking up less space. Men are much more "territorial" and tend to use up more physical space whereas women will usually present a less aggressive, nonthreatening posture, especially when sitting.

*Good conversation is being a good listener.*

Women tend to face each other and make more eye contact whereas men tend to find direct eye contact much more threatening, especially in such a homophobic society as ours. When sitting, women often tend to "lean into" the conversation when sharing something important. Leaning forward in men's conversation would tend to threaten their "space" more. Women are also less afraid to touch each other and make physical contact like touching a shoulder or elbow, especially when expressing sympathy or reassurance. A woman's overall posture is better, whereas sitting men are usually less aligned. A smile is always more feminine -- be polite and courteous always!

## CONTENT OF SPEECH

Content of speech is all important! Women tend to reinforce what's being said in a conversation rather than always bringing the subject back to themselves! Good conversation is being a good listener. Women tend to be more empathetic, quality listeners. The term "active listening" requires more involvement on the part of the listener. Men tend to just tune out and use others' conversation time just to formulate what they are going to say next as if to discount what

others are saying as less important. It's been said that a man's idea of good conversation is "speaking monologues with witnesses".

Reneé Chevalier once said "you can always tell a GG (Genetic Girl) at a crossdressers meeting -- she's the only one listening!" In Deborah Tannen's book, *You Just Don't Understand* (Morrow Press), she says the reason women are more "quality" listeners is that they learn at an early age to place a higher emphasis on quality conversation more than boys. Men's speech asserts independence and status in order to be on top of the pecking order. In a mixed group of men and women, men tend to dominate and interrupt the conversation statistically 80% of the time more than women!

As young girls, women tend to place more importance on intimate chats and sharing personal secrets with a "best friend" or confidant.

Dr. Tannen points out in her studies that boys play in bigger, hierarchical groups with specific pecking orders, whereas girls develop closer friendships in smaller groups and use conversation to "connect" and bond through language. Girls often show a stronger verbal ability than boys and recent studies on brain development reinforces this theory.

Women usually want their men to be as good a listener as their "best girlfriends" and focus on the emotional intent of what they are saying. Even though wives desire this "best friend" kind of talk with their spouse, a study shows that they seldom think of their husbands as "best friends". Men often list their wives as their "best friend" while women usually refer to another woman that way.

Tannen also points out that women usually have a better developed verbal ability and like to use conversation to share problems and elicit sympathy whereas men prefer to use conversation to negotiate, solve problems or raise their status. It is a confrontational versus sympathetic approach.

The "men in dresses" conversation syndrome is usually bragging about how rich or powerful one is. It is not a feminine approach. Men often talk about business and status with other men and women talk about people and relationships with other women. Conversation content changes in a "mixed" group. As I mentioned, studies show that men interrupt, switch topics, and interrupt 80% more than women who tend to have a more personal approach with more constant, reassuring listening noises or responses (like "uh-huh", "yeah", or "Oh, I know just how you must feel"). These comments show more involvement in the conversation and more empathy.

The key thing to notice in men's and women's conversational approach (outside of business) is that men are problem solvers and women are looking for



(or giving) sympathy.

Phrases like: "Oh, that must be just awful" or "I understand this must be a difficult time for you" signals involvement and concern. The key for all of us is to become a better and more sympathetic listener!

## MENTAL ATTITUDE

It is not always easy to erase years of "body language memory" but something you can try is to close your eyes and in a quiet moment visualize and "hear" yourself saying things in a graceful and melodic manner. You can approach this as "theater of the mind" where you watch yourself interacting in a social situation with others in a feminine manner. In this way one can almost "mentally" raise your chest voice to the head resonance without really changing pitch. (In opera, this is known as projecting "into the mask".)

## PHYSIOLOGY

It stands to reason that if you are a "tall girl", as many genetic women are, your vocal cords quite possibly are proportionately longer and perhaps a little thicker. Many taller women have naturally longer vocal cords and therefore a slightly lower pitch or vibration. You remember from high school physics that a longer string has a lower pitch and a shorter string has a higher pitch. A thicker string of equal length has the same pitch but a different quality or timbre of sound. During puberty, male hormones causes the vocal cords to thicken and, like the thicker string on a guitar, sound "different" than a thin string of equal length (and tension).

## ROLE MODELS

It is most helpful to have a feminine vocal role model to emulate. If you have a friend or a favorite actress or personality whose speech delights you, tape them and mimic or "track" along with them. My personal favorite is Sigourney Weaver (a tall girl with a lower, sultry voice). I tape segments of dialogue from video rentals and repeat dialogue along with them. (I love to use my practice tape in the car when I'm all alone!) The braver souls might try taping their own voice and listen to the comparison. (Try not to be too judgmental or hard on yourself).

**VOCAL SURGERY** Vocal surgery is not preferable and should only really be used as a last resort. The

results are not always satisfactory nor are they guaranteed!

There are basically two different types of surgical practices:

1) A surgeon can cut off part of the vocal fold to "shorten" it. Like the shorter string, this only "cuts off" the lower frequencies and does not add higher frequencies. In effect, this only "shortens" your overall vocal range by eliminating lower tones so that you can't accidentally "slip" into a lower voice.

2) A few surgeons can actually "thin" the vocal fold using laser surgery. Like the "thin" string, this changes the overall "quality" of sound. For the more serious "surgery junkies", a combination approach can be used.

If you are already crossliving full-time, you don't tend to use your lower tones anyway and it forces your "body memory" to simply get used to using the upper register. (They say if you don't use it, you lose it.)

Don't confuse a "tracheal shave" with "vocal surgery". A "trach" shave reduces the size of the "Adam's apple" only and is considered a cosmetic surgical practice for those with large Adam's apples. This is

*Approach this as "theater of the mind" where you watch yourself saying things in a graceful and melodic manner.*

considered a safe and routine practice by cosmetic surgeons.

## REASSIGNMENT THINKING

Finally, the whole secret is in a shift of mental attitude or what Mary Winters calls "reassignment thinking".

Try to have a positive outlook on life and cultivate good self-esteem. Be confident, non-defensive, open to life and interested in the other people around you. You might even try quietly singing by yourself around the house.

Be happy with your lot in life and love yourself a bit. (Caution! This attitude is contagious and may rub off on those around you.)

Enjoy life, and others will enjoy (and accept) you. Love and good luck with your "new" voice!

*[Wendy Parker is the author of a popular vocal instruction book for professional singers. Thanks to Shannon Michaels of IXE for creating a computer text file from Ms. Parker's notes.]*



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# THE CHALLENGE OF THE RELATIONSHIP FOR THE TRANSGENDERED INDIVIDUAL

by Lauren Hotchkiss

Beyond the obvious challenge of living a lifestyle for which we have not been trained or conditioned, there comes the further difficulty of integrating a relationship with a significant other into our lives.

For some of us, the situation arises during the relationship, and so we must try to work with our spouse to redefine a relationship which began on a different basis. Others of us must contend with the prospect of initiating a relationship with this consideration in mind. This can be a somewhat intimidating prospect because of our fear of being rejected due to our choice of gender status.

Though we are consistently moving forward toward the goal of self-acceptance, and are learning to become more comfortable with ourselves, still we are challenged by the real and imagined judgments of others. This fear of judgment can be particularly intimidating when it involves a person or persons for whom we care a great deal.

It is often difficult for people outside of the gender community to perceive the difference between sex and gender. They often assume that if one is transgendered, it must also mean that they are gay, or at best bisexual. This is, however, not necessarily the case.

Recent polls have shown a substantial majority of our community is heterosexually oriented, with the remainder divided between gay, lesbian, bisexual and asexual orientations.

What I have found interesting, in talking to persons of many different segments of the gender community, is that the same relationship challenges present themselves despite differences in sexual or gender orientation.

I wonder whether part of our motivation in crossdressing stems from the fact that we are perhaps subconsciously trying to transform ourselves into the mate that we have never found. We have been so conditioned to believe that we must look outside of ourselves in order to find someone with whom we can become complete, though constantly disappointed in the attempt, that we have lost sight of the fact that wholeness comes from within. Because of this misconception, we have found it necessary to create this second person within ourselves, and manifest them externally, in order to fill a self-perceived void.

What, though, are "masculine" and "feminine" but outmoded sociosexist concepts that no longer have any purpose. Perhaps at one time they were necessary for humankind's survival, but that time is now long

past. I feel it is time to leave behind this gender role separatism so that we can open ourselves up to the next level of our evolution.

Perhaps one day the time will come when we will no longer have to think in terms of "crossdressing," or of expressing the "appropriate" gender, but in just being ourselves.

It occurs to me that perhaps in order for the transgendered person to have a successful relationship, it requires finding a partner who is in touch with his or her own bisexuality (at least on an energy level); someone who is attracted to a person who is capable of manifesting both the male and female essences of their inner self.

Although these are interesting points, I certainly don't claim to have any "answers," nor can I claim to be any kind of expert, not having been able to save my own marriage. I did not then have the consciousness to do what I needed to do to be at peace with myself. I've dated a couple of times since my separation, but somehow it just hasn't felt right for me yet; perhaps as much due to the after-effects of my divorce as it is to fear of rejection due to my gender orientation.

One thing that I have noticed that has shifted in me though, is the desperate "need" I once felt around "having" to be in a relationship in order to be happy. Yes, I sometimes feel lonely, but I feel that it is preferable to living a lie. I don't want to again be in a situation of having a partner with whom I must pretend to be something that I am not, nor do I want to prematurely get into a relationship that is not right, out of desperation, and repeating the same mistakes.

Because I often present myself androgynously, and use feminine gestures even as a man, women often perceive me as gay. I have wondered lately if I use this as a defense to keep me from getting involved. I'm not sure. It's an area I'm still exploring.

Though I am not currently putting any energy into putting myself into situations where I might meet a potential mate, I am keeping an open mind toward what the future may hold for me.

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# DEALING WITH HARASSMENT, CONFRONTATION AND VIOLENCE

## PART ONE

by Gianna Eveling Israel

Recently, while in my office between two client sessions, I received a telephone call which was extremely disturbing. The caller relayed the information that yet another transgendered individual had become victim to the violence which often and unnecessarily follows being an individual of gender or sexual minority. Apparently, the individual had been followed through her center city neighborhood by an individual who chased her into an dark passageway, raped her, brutally beat her, and then left her to die with her dress pulled over her head and her undergarments gathered around her ankles. This is just one of many examples that go unacknowledged within our society, and even at times within our very own gender community.

Transgenderphobia is a term I have constructed to describe individuals who have an unfounded fear of or prejudice toward transgendered individuals. Similar to gays, lesbians, women and people of color, transgendered individuals have been victims of insults, prejudice, abuse, violence, and even murder. Why are transgendered individuals so feared by most segments of today's society? Some maintain that being a transsexual person or crossdresser is unnatural or a threat to the family or conventional relationships. As a paraprofessional counselor in private practice, I would like to pass on my observation that while divorce and being disowned is indeed a risk, I have noted time and time again that transgendered individuals who crosslive part-time or even full-time often make every effort to maintain strong healthy relationships with their present partners. Indeed, some are quite successful at this endeavor. I have also noted that even after divorce, many transgendered individuals move onward in creating strong, healthy alternative relationships with new partners.

Regarding children, (yes, transgendered individuals often do have children), it has been my observation that most transgendered parents make, at least an average, often even an extraordinary effort in raising their children. Perhaps, the large amount of personal reflection and growth necessary to fathom and successfully develop a transgendered identity, brings about experiences, insights and wisdom not necessarily experienced by some non-transgendered individuals. Some of the necessary attributes for developing a stable transgendered identity include refining one's own understanding of individual gender, sexual and personal growth issues in addition

to developing and renewing familial and community support/resources after commonly losing old structures. These self-actualizing elements would prove valuable in any parent.

The real objection to transgendered individuals is undoubtedly the challenge they bring to the conventional conception of gender roles. The naturalness of those roles, and the relationship of those roles within society, is thus brought into question. Patriarchal or male-dominated societies such as ours exist in an vacuum where gender roles are strictly defined, allowing no option for alternatives or individuality. Men are cast into and expected to strive after the male mystique, being autonomous, proficient go-getters, disconnected from feelings and community. Men in relationships with other men are expected to play a competitive role, rather than develop healthy individual and group male-bonded relationships. Male-oriented bonding which does take place, whether on group or individual levels, must always reflect the denial of male sexuality and feelings. The exception to this rule is the expression of male power over other groups. A notorious example of this would be the boisterous group of construction workers who encounter a shapely female and uphold their masculinity through sexually harassing comments and animallike noises. "Howd'ya like to get some of that!"

Sadly, the male mystique established through patriarchy sets most men up for a letdown. The majority of men spend their lives under the control of a special class of men, usually the wealthy or upper management. Basically, this means that while 10% of the men are fulfilling lives of male empowerment the remaining 90% under their control are living out dull, unfulfilled livelihoods. Commonly, this 90% represents those who live with the burden of spiraling debt, maintaining a home and family, all while working dead-end jobs constantly undermined by bitter competition. Under this sentence, most of today's men are left disempowered within their role and identities as men ... certainly, a far cry from a male mystique or empowerment.

Alternative gender and sexual roles are often perceived by men as an additional threat to their masculine identities. Men as a group are trained to act out in anger and violence as if there always exists some "competitive enemy." Examples of role models of masculinity range from early childhood cartoon characters featuring "buffed-up" and violent boy



toys to adult movies featuring John Wayne and Rambo. I personally can recall a variety of movie clips where women, gays, lesbians, drag queens and transgendered individuals were the innocent victims of indiscriminate violence. A society which provides license for men to act out through violence and anger is a key reason why groups of men go out on fag-bashing expeditions and why young vulnerable transsexual women are found slain in dark passageways. All the while, these acts go unseen and unspoken of, although violence itself victimizes both victim and perpetrator.

As a counterbalance to the male mystique, a woman's role within a patriarchal society is one of objectified sexuality and servitude. The more patriarchal the society, the more women take on roles of servitude. In some Asian cultures where women are objects of service, women are expected to crawl on their hands and knees or speak indirectly when approaching men. Several Latin cultures have so imbedded machismo into the male mystique that law enforcement agencies routinely turn their backs when a husband murders his wife.

Our own country has not yet overcome the degradation of women. From cradle to grave, women are treated as social and physical inferiors. Education in schools often provides more attention to boys because they are boys. Law enforcement routinely minimizes complaints of abuse, sexual harassment and rape. During the 1991 confirmation process of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, the American public was given a clear view on how employer sexual harassment cases are handled when brought into the light. Law Professor Anita Hill was accused of either being a "scorned woman" or having "created fantasies." Sadly, her senatorial judges, all male, subverted the inquiry process with protestations that bringing such matters before the Senate and the media was despicable. Sexual discrimination does not end in the work place. A recent CNN report stated that seventy-five percent of divorced women live in poverty.

Within most societies, female sexuality is seen as dirty. The majority of sexually oriented swear words dishonor female sexuality, body parts, and the sexual role of being "taken." Women are permitted and expected to have feelings and be "womanly," yet are consistently victimized for expressing feelings and womanliness. This is one reason why some women, repeatedly victimized for having a female sexuality, never develop a healthy sense of self, thus allowing subtle victimization to continue. After all, "this is the life of being a woman." One is left to wonder why anyone would wish to make a life transition into the opposite sex, particularly into a female identity, when

being "male" is so honored. During the beginning of my own gender transition, I particularly noted that I was constantly queried why I wanted to take on a second-class citizenship and be sexually objectified. Now, after having lived as a transgendered woman a number of years, I can recollect numerous times (aside from transgendered issues), when I have been treated as a sexual object or expected to be "less than" as a result of my womanly weaknesses. Another phenomenon experienced by transgendered women I have counseled is the "You'll never be a woman" line. Granted, transgendered women cannot have menstruation or bear children, but -- given a societal reality check -- feminine identities and feelings expressed by transgendered women are equally legitimate to those of biological women. There is indeed a certain niceness in being soft, attractive and even pretty. Much less enjoy the self empowering merits of calmness, nonaggression, and developing community rather than always acting out of aggressive competition. It would seem that once again, natural law applies; biology does not mean destiny. At society's present level of ignorance and indifference, I foresee a continued rocky existence for all of humankind. Men will continue to feel dissatisfied with their masculine identities, women will continue to be discriminated against and treated as unworthy, and those who venture outside traditional gender and sexual roles will still be candidates for harassment, aggression and victimization.

In the second part of this article, I will discuss ways to minimize sexual harassment.

*[Gianna Eveling Israel specializes in 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 Service. She may be reached at (415) [redacted] or by writing P.O. Box 424447, San Francisco CA 94142-4447.]*

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## A TRAN'S NOTES

by Maggie

Everyone who writes a column, regardless of the topic, finds herself with a sheaf of thoughts and ideas that for one reason or another don't lend themselves to a full-length treatment. Herewith, some odds and ends from my notebook.

I read an article in our town's weekly paper not long ago about a local drag queen who had died suddenly. I didn't know her personally, although I'm sure I ran into her on the street a few times -- apparently, she was pretty hard to miss. The article was rather long and unusually sympathetic, but the gist of the piece was that this tran was a lovable eccentric who didn't bother anyone particularly, and had become rather popular with some of the locals through her flamboyance and occasionally odd and kooky behavior.

I had two responses when I read this article, one right behind the other. The first was, "Gee, it's nice to see something about a tran that isn't a rank-out or a crime story." The second was, "Thank the Goddess that I'm inconspicuous." I think that I would drop dead on the spot if I ever thought for one moment that I was beloved as the town wacko, just because I was trying to express my inner self in public.

I have never consciously tried to hide my identity. If it is necessary for me to tell you that I'm a genetic male, I will without hesitation. I've had to do it on my medical papers *ad nauseum*. But if you don't have to know, I'm not going to say anything, one way or the other. (Just take me at face value, and leave it at that.)

When I go on about the importance of keeping a low profile, it's this kind of stuff that I'm thinking about.

I did a column in the now-defunct *International TranScript* some time ago about shopping etiquette for trans, geared toward helping you to be comfortable in regular stores. One thing I've discovered in my escapades is that there's a surprising number of stores that are very supportive and helpful to trans. I made several contacts before I went out full-time, identifying myself as a tran so that no one would look askance at this guy coming into a lingerie shop. To my amazement, I never got a cold shoulder, or a negative response of any kind.

Now, I admit, this is Greenwich Village we're talking about, but I'm willing to bet that there are little mom-and-pop specialty shops in most towns that trans know about and frequent, making friendly alliances with the management in the process.

It would be a wonderful idea if one or more of our major organizations could get together and create a "Tran-Friendly" decal that these merchants could put in their windows, the equivalent of the hobo's mark denoting the best places to stop for a handout or a day's work. Properly promoted in the tran press, this mark would signify to prospective patrons that the owners accept our lifestyle, at least for business purposes, and are friendly and helpful. Any comments?

Something very interesting is happening in the world of what Mr. Bush used to refer to as "weird" talk shows. We all know that Phil, Oprah, Sally, Geraldo, Montel, *et al.* have been using trans on their shows for quite some time. Many of our own leading lights have appeared on these shows, and on their many local equivalents. Increasingly, the focus of the programs has been on our special needs and problems, rather than on our perceived "shock" value.

That's wonderful in and of itself, but what I've been noticing is that the audiences on these shows, who are usually a pretty good representation of my old friends Joe and Jane Sixpack, seem to be much less confrontational toward the trans on the panel than they used to be. They ask real questions, suggesting that they're really trying to understand us.

It appears to me that through our regular appearances, we've made a difference. Maybe I'm reading too much into this, but I think not. This really is the decade in which we break through.

I recently had my first public speaking engagement, and it was quite an experience. A new group, the Metropolitan Gender Network, has recently formed in New York City, and I was asked to speak at their third meeting. To tell the truth, I'd been looking for an opportunity to do something like that, so I jumped at the chance.

The meeting was held in the community room of a Unitarian Church in Murray Hill. About fifteen people showed up (not bad considering it was Mother's Day), running the gamut from barely emerging closet cases to pre-ops. The group was remarkably refreshing in that there wasn't any of the class or caste consciousness that seems to crop up all too often in our community.

I spoke about my life, drawing on the articles I'd written for *LadyLike* a couple of years ago, and was gratified to be greeted (continued, next page)



by Kymberleigh Richards

What was originally intended to be a national shopping guide for our community has undergone a transformation and finally appeared as *Who's Who in the Transgendered Community*, published by JoAnn Roberts' Creative Design Services.

I should caution the reader that this review is going to have a (slight) bias since I served as the western editor for this book. But since I've already communicated my negative comments directly to JoAnn, I won't withhold them here.

*Who's Who* is comprised of four information sections: an alphabetical listing of people who have made significant contributions to the gender community, a listing of gender community organizations (including reviews of their publications and sponsorship of national events), a listing of businesses serving the community, and professionals who specialize in gender issues.

What makes this really work is a set of indexes that use the last ten pages to cross-reference all four information sections by name, location, and category. For instance, looking up the title *InnerView* in the periodical index gives you the page number for Cross-Port's listing in the groups section. Similarly, if you look up "California Dreamin" in the events index gives you the listing for PPOC. The indexes also allow you to locate businesses, professionals, and organizations nearby to you without having to search the main sections for addresses.

Now, the unfortunate shortcomings.

All the Tri-Ess chapters have been grouped together over five pages using such listings as "Tri-Ess, Alpha". I would rather see the chapters' Greek names used to alphabetize, with a section of the index cross-referencing the Tri-Ess chapters. The national Tri-Ess listing appears in the middle of the chapter listings, and does not appear anywhere under its legal name of The Society for the Second Self.

Many of the businesses listed have only minimal information, leading me to believe that they were not intensively surveyed for their services to the community. I also question (again) whether a national listing of retail stores is going to be of use to a majority of readers. My personal preference? Assemble a listing of businesses willing to serve the national community, as a whole, by mail order, and let the local organizations compile the listings of local stores. They are in the best position to keep a current local list, anyway.

Cross-Talk is conspicuously absent from the business section, which resulted in its absence from

the indexes as well ... but JoAnn has already apologized for THAT faux-pas.

These are relatively minor complaints to what has been a major undertaking by CDS. JoAnn openly admits in the introduction that many individuals were overlooked ... and even I realized a few who should have been included after the book had already gone to press. (Hopefully, the readers will suggest additions, as JoAnn has requested.)

The first edition reflects the effort to create a new national resource. The second edition should be even better as the community builds on this strong foundation.



*Canadian CrossDresser* (#22) contains a great real-life story for those of you who have ever fantasized about modeling as a female. Regular contributor Vikki made the transition to living full-time (pre-op TS) by applying for a modeling agency's scout position, but when she went in for an interview, they presumed she was there for a modeling job! To her credit, Vikki was honest and up-front about her situation ... and to their credit, the agency hired her and trained her as a model! Good luck, Vikki!

CCD also features an interview with Michelle DuBarry, who was recently crowned Empress VI by Toronto's Trillium Monarchist Society, and a reprint of a recent article from the *Toronto Star* about Wildside's Canadian CrossDressers Club.

**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 TRAN'S NOTES ... continued

with rapt attention. When I started to explain my recent medical problems, a gasp went up in the room, which startled me a little. I finished to an ego-boosting round of applause. More significant, though, was the comment I got from one of the group's leaders: "I thought I had my life pretty well figured out, but after listening to you, I realized how much I still have to learn."

The point? Like anything else in life, the act of gender transformation is a never-ending process. Don't ever think that you've got it all figured out, because something will happen to show you how wrong you are.



## MOVIE REVIEW: "THE CRYING GAME"

by Charlene

The reviews in the newspapers have cast an air of mystery about this film and it has been described as a romantic thriller. Which it is.

Since I am writing about it, you may have guessed that crossdressing is involved. That is part of the mystery, but it goes farther and deeper than that. The film starts out with the capture of a British soldier in Northern Ireland. The members of the IRA vow to kill him if one of their people is not released within 24 hours. During his capture, the soldier asks one of his captors (Fergus) that if he is killed that Fergus go to London and tell his girl friend that he loved her very much.

Without giving away too much of the plot, Fergus does go to London and eventually meets the soldier's girlfriend. He is enchanted by her. He can't tell her

about his IRA connection or the death of her boyfriend and he becomes even more involved with her. Things really become confused when he discovers that "she" is really a transsexual. After that, things get even more complicated when some IRA members show up.

I will leave the rest of film to you to see and enjoy. Jaye Davidson does an outstanding job as the love interest. If you hadn't been tipped off at the start you wouldn't know that "she" wasn't a female. Many of you CDs will be jealous to see how good "she" looks and performs. It's not just tricks with the camera.

The script is well written and there are some humorous scenes to contrast against the darker aspects of the story. I think it is a "must see".

## SPECIAL REPORT: TRANSSEXUALS CLAIM POOR TREATMENT FROM MINN. CLINIC

by Paula Jordan

Transsexuals enrolled in the Gender Dysphoria Program of the University of Minnesota's Program in Human Sexuality (PHS) are complaining of treatment they receive, a view shared by Dr. Sharon Satterfield, the former director of the PHS clinic.

Satterfield and several transsexuals claim that PHS therapists had committed a host of ills, including violation patient confidentiality, using "bait and switch" therapy techniques that withheld hormones, abused or neglected patients, forced patients to divorce their wives or husbands before surgery, refused to treat patients on medical assistance, and use a patient as a guinea pig without the patient's consent.

Dr. Eli Coleman, the current PHS director, denied all but two of the allegations, saying that divorce was sometimes required of married transsexuals prior to surgery for legal reasons. He said PHS does not accept medical assistance. Many state medical assistance programs exclude transsexual therapy.

Mistreatment at PHS had prompted at least one complaint to the Minnesota Board of Psychology. That complaint alleges that a therapist was used as a research subject without the patient's consent.

Satterfield also made these allegations to the university's Patient Care Committee.

Because of these alleged actions, some of Satterfield's TS patients found it "psychologically devastating" to enter the PHS building for treatment, said Mira LaCous, a transsexual. So Satterfield was

seeing them at the university's family practice clinic. That was until Dr. Edward Ciriacy, chairman of the Department of Family Practice and Community Health ordered the transsexuals back to PHS. Satterfield charged that Ciriacy was discriminating against transsexuals, a charge he denies.

"We're in the business of educating people as family physicians," he told *Equal Time*, a lesbian and gay newspaper in Minneapolis. "Our clinics are for primary care. Treatment of transsexuals is a sub-speciality operation." But, he said, the clinic can treat them for "ear, nose, and throat" ailments.

Coleman defended the PHS staff, saying they are "sensitive to the amount of distress and the care that these patients need and are requesting. The staff is very committed to and are working in a very caring and sensitive manner."

"Disagreements occur and we try to handle these very sensitively and make sure the patient knows what options they have," he said.

LaCous said that Coleman has met with a group of transsexuals and has promised to start a transsexual advisory board at PHS.

Coleman said that the need for service is high and that he is an advocate for better services for transsexuals across the board, even though, he admits, PHS cannot satisfy all "social and mental health needs."

The Program in Human Sexuality has been in existence for 20 years.





## WHY WE DO THE THINGS WE DO, PART TWO

by Pieranna

Most people who are religious agree on one point, regardless of their denomination -- that each human being possesses a soul, some part of the personality which transcends the physical. In Eastern faith, this soul, or entity, being non-corporeal, cannot be defined in physical terms. It is neither male nor female, as these are physical characteristics, but it is androgynous, and as such is both masculine and feminine -- these being spiritual characteristics. When an entity is born, it does so within a physical body, and therefore must incarnate in either a male or female body. In the course of its many lives, it incarnates in bodies of both sexes. Thus, it is restricted, in a physical sense, to being either one or the other of the sexes in any one life but this does not affect its androgyny, its internal balance of masculine/feminine energies. At least, it should not. But somewhere along the line of human history, it was decided to equate masculinity with the male and femininity with the female.

The words masculine and male were made synonymous, as was done with the words feminine and female. Consequently, physical and spiritual qualities were thrown together into one

lump sum, when one didn't necessarily have anything to do with the other. Males were expected to display only those qualities that could be considered masculine, and the reverse situation was inflicted on females. The effect on the androgynous entity was unhealthy; it was forced to neglect half of its total being and was therefore crippled, resulting, on an individual basis, in the abandonment of the entity's inherent wholeness, and on a larger scale, in a schism between the physical sexes.

If one looks at nature, one realizes that this kind of segregation between the sexes occurs only in the human species. Most animals, apart from exhibiting certain sexual behavior and characteristics, do not present a discernable difference between males and females to the observer. In fact, in the case of certain animals, it is sometimes very difficult to ascertain their sexual identity without a glance at their genitalia.

Not so with men and women. It is not enough that they already have certain obvious and inherent

physical differences. Their genitalia are used as a basis to prescribe their emotional and spiritual differences as well, when there shouldn't be any difference at all. The distinction between them must be made, literally enforced, to the point of absurdity. The male must have his own code of behavior and dress to make sure no one can possibly mistake him for a female, his life meticulously planned to the smallest details of expression and activities in which he can partake. The same is done with the female. And it is stretched to the point where the sexes are alienated from each other, as though they were two different species existing side by side but each living in its own specialized world. The only common ground they have is the bedroom, where the activity they share is in reality the only one in which their physical differences and characteristics come into play and have any relevancy at all. Thus we find that until recent times, men have been expected to live up

*Somewhere along the line of human history, it was decided to equate masculinity with the male and femininity with the female.*

to often impossible expectations, performing like puppets a kind of programming which has been instilled in them, and women have been relegated to little more than second-class citizens unable to compete in a man's world.

All of this has been said before, and to anyone who has even remotely done some thinking on the subject of gender related issues, none of it is new. To the crossdresser, it is old hat. The crossdresser has already discovered the reality that within him/her there are emotional and spiritual qualities which society has always maintained rightly belonged to the other sex. But having been conditioned by everything in the environment around him/her, he/she subconsciously suppresses those qualities in daily life, and then finds those neglected qualities yearning to be expressed in some manner. Adopting the clothes of the opposite sex somehow enables those qualities to reveal themselves freely, as though some block has been removed. The crossdresser temporarily suspends the surface disguise and all the excess and

unnecessary baggage that goes along with it -- and only when the physical condition has been transcended and the handicap removed can the entity within the male or female body achieve its original and natural state of androgyny, of wholeness.

Thus, crossdressing may have its sexual motivations on the surface, but the main thrust behind it has nothing to do with physical sexual condition as we know it. And if dressing in the clothing of the opposite sex is wrong solely on a sexual basis, then those who judge it to be wrong are doing so with severely limited criteria. We say a man is dressing as a

*Being male or female is simply a temporary physical condition that our true nature has nothing to do with.*

woman because he puts on a dress, but this statement falls apart when we realize that this is so only in the sense that the dress is the accepted garment assigned to women. It could have been the other way around; women could have worn the pants throughout history and men have worn the skirts. In some instances, this exactly has been the case. Clothes are merely an invention, another of society's many ways to segregate the sexes and assign methods of expression,

and when a man puts on a dress, he is not dressing as a woman; he is simply putting on the type of clothing which allows a woman to freely express her femininity and can allow him to express his suppressed femininity as well.

If the entity in fact lives many physical lives, as is held by the doctrine of reincarnation, we see that there is more to the concept of androgyny than Ying and Yang. Since the entity can and does incarnate sometimes in a male body and sometimes in a female body, we realize that being male or female is simply a temporary physical condition, and that our true

nature has nothing to do with, and should not be limited or restricted by, such condition. Being male or female means being equipped to perform a specific sexual function, for that is the manner in which physical

beings must reproduce on this planet. Being a human soul, on the other hand, means being equipped to be as spiritually and emotionally complete and whole a person as possible -- admittedly a difficult undertaking in a world in which we are so forced to adhere steadfastly to the physical and the material.

[To be continued. This article originally appeared in Cross-Talk #4 (1989).]

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## THE SOLDIER WITH TWO SEXES

by Janice

The Official Records and Correspondence of the Way of the Rebellion has various references and notations in the index volume to a Captain Sue Mundy. Only in one place is there an indication that this notorious leader of a guerrilla band in Kentucky in the Civil War was even more than she seemed. By cross-reference to her, one Jerome Clark is mentioned. And Jerome Clark is actually who she was. This little-known story, as far as it can be determined, may make fascinating reading to the subscribers of this magazine.

In Kentucky in the year 1845, Marcus Jerome Clark was born and nothing further is known of his life until, under the name of Jerome Clark, he joined the Confederate Army at the age of sixteen. His first war experience was at the battle of Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River in Tennessee. Afterwards, he joined General Morgan's Raiders and was wounded and cut off from the rest of the army at Cynthiana, Kentucky. Instead of trying to rejoin Morgan after his recovery, he took up Guerrilla warfare in Kentucky. In short order he made such a name for himself as a fighter that he was able to organize his own band. Following the usual custom of the time, he gave himself the rank of Captain.

By the age of nineteen, Clark was a battle-seasoned and highly respected warrior. Several guerrilla bands were operating in Kentucky at that time, including the most famous of all, William Clarke Quantrill, from Bleeding, Kansas. Other irregulars also fighting were bands under Frank and Jesse James, and Cole Younger and his brothers. These men, of course, went on later to even greater notoriety. According to Collins' exhaustive history of Kentucky, Clark's band was "to be relied upon equally with the best of any guerrilla band, Quantrill's not excepted."

Guerrilla leaders usually acted independently of each other, but on occasion they cooperated for a few days on a larger venture. On one of these forays, Quantrill led a raid on a tollgate just west of Bradfordville, Kentucky. When the rear of his forces was heavily attacked by Federal Cavalry, Clark led a countercharge which drove off the troops. In the fight, however, his horse was downed and he was pinned beneath it. As Union soldiers rushed back for the kill, he was rescued by Frank James and Frank Younger. Jerome Clark was respected and accepted as an equal and able fighter by these men.

One major reason for his success as an irregular was that he left nothing to chance where possible. He did his own reconnaissance and espionage in order to learn the location of Federal troops, supplies, enemy plans, tempting targets, and those who were trying to capture him. He did this as Sue Mundy, a pretty young woman, and no one penetrated his deception. One of his men has left this account of him as Miss Mundy: "... a quiet, soft-spoken dandy, with his hair in love-knots six inches long, a hand like a school-girl, and a waist like a woman ... As a spy he came and went as a wind that blew. So many were his shapes and disguises, so perfectly under control were his speech and bearing, that in some quarters his identity was denied ... His smooth, open, rosy-checked face made almost any disguise easy of encompassment. His iron nerve carried him easily through many self-imposed difficulties that without it extrication could not have come through a regiment of cavalry."

Clark allowed his hair to grow to the respectable length for women of that day, as was also done by many others including Generals Custer and Pickett. One of his contemporaries has written, however, that "beneath an exterior as effeminate as a woman of fashion, he carried the muscles of an athlete. His long hair in battle blew about as the mane of a horse. The dandy in a melee became a Cossack; in desperate emergencies a giant." His success in the creation of Sue Mundy is the reason Northern Army dispatches customarily referred to him by his feminine name. Most of the time they did not know whom they were fighting, what the leader looked like, whether he was man or woman, or even if Clark and Mundy were the same person. For this reason the reports of informers were usually discredited.

In Union dispatches of November, 1864 there is a report by a major who had surprised 15 guerrillas pillaging in Bloomfield, Kentucky. Three of them were captured and reported as killed while attempting to escape. This was the usual and accepted fate for such men. The leader, though wounded, managed to get away. The major, in his report, stated that "Sue's fine pipe fell a trophy to my men." For the next four months, Clark's band and Union forces were in almost continual contact. Federal troops were not always the defenders of property. In January, 1865, (continued, next page)

# NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

**March 14-21, 1993:** International Foundation for Gender Education "Coming Together-Working Together" convention, Philadelphia PA. Details from IFGE, P.O. Box 367, Wayland MA 01778.

**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 Firenza, Houston TX 77035 for information.

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

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

## THE SOLDIER WITH TWO SEXES ... continued

Clark and 60 guerrillas attached 18 Home Guard (Kentuckians loyal to the Union) who were plundering stores in Bloomsburg and killed all but one. Almost every day Union officers reported skirmishes with the forces of Captain Sue Mundy. Once, Clark was attacked so suddenly by Union cavalry after he had captured a wagon train that he only escaped by fleeing barefoot through the snow. Finally, on March 12, 1865, a force from the 30th Wisconsin surprised the guerrillas near Webster, Kentucky. Clark personally killed one Union soldier and wounded three others. He refused to surrender until the Northern commander promised that he would be considered a prisoner of war and not an outlaw. At Louisville, two days later, the Union courtmartial repudiated this promise and sentenced him to be hanged. On March 15 at four o'clock in the afternoon, at the age of twenty, Jerome Clark/Sue Mundy was hanged. Just before his sentence was executed, he asked for pen and paper in order to write a farewell note to his fiancée! This note is described as "a very touching letter."

There does not appear to be any doubt that Jerome Clark, who has been reported as "the soldier with two sexes," was a transvestite, although such things were unknown to his contemporaries. Who knows? With his abilities and associates he might have become even more famous than Belle Starr, had his life not been cut short. He certainly appears to be in the tradition of Chevalier D'Eon and worthy of an honorary membership in FPE.

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## ADS WE'D LIKE TO SEE by Rebecca Ann

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Two or more people actively engaged in pursuit of a definite purpose with positive mental attitude constitute an unbeatable force.

Ms. Roberts (that's me) must apologize for the relatively somber tone of her last column. There were lotsa things competing for her attention during the holiday season, not the least of which was a house full of college freshpersons. No dressing for awhile for this DQ. However, the bright spot in all this was the receipt of that drop-dead-red suit I mentioned in a previous column as a Christmas present. I had no idea my family was reading this column. I must remember that for my birthday column.



Speaking of drop-dead-red, that's the color on everybody-who's-anybody's lips these days. But, honey, it's not just any old red. It must be one that's not too blue and not too brown. Check out YSL Poinsettia, Ultima II Click, Chanel Dragon Red (my fave), L'Oréal True Cherry, or Lancôme Flamant.



According to those who say they "know" these things, the nail of the '90s is short, almost shovel-like, with rounded corners and tips extending just to finger's end. What?? Not this girl! Give me blood-red talons any day. After all, long lacquered nails are signs of power and wealth and if you aren't actually powerful and wealthy, you might as well look as though you are.



Another nail trend is called layering - that's combining sheer coats of different colors. I don't know about you, but this Queen of Prussia isn't dressed unless her nails are done, but blood-red polish can be a real pain to remove, especially if you're only going to be dressed a short while. So, layered pink and beige polish can make nails look and feel finished, but is easy to remove without stains.



Fantasy is always HotStuff and the hottest stuff in

the modeling scene are Sci-Fi and Fantasy females. These new-age kits are nothing like the old Aurora figures of the 1950s. Of special note are model kits of Elvira -- Mistress of the Dark, the Maria Robot from Metropolis and Catwoman from *Batman Returns*. Then, there is the Warrior Statue Series from SQ Productions. These five female heroic figures stand six and a half inches tall and are similar in style to Frazetta and Boris depictions of warrior women. Each figure is \$35 or you can have the set for \$150. If you're interested in the figures or similar artwork, send \$1 to SQ at P.O. Box 4569, Toms River NJ 08754.



According to *Vogue*, Paris corsetieres (that's custom corset maker to those of you who don't speak French) have never been out of work. Here in the U.S., we have our own corsetiere, BR Creations, in Mountain View, California. If you want that perfect fit in a corset (and every TV must have at least one real corset - the Queen has two) then write to BR at P.O. Box 4201, Mt. View CA 94040. If you just have to have one right now, give Paddy a call at Wildside. They stock the finest corsets from England.



Moving over to the continent, we have word of EuroFantasia '93 from friend Jenny Sand who is organizing this first pan-European gathering in Denmark. The eight-day affair is patterned after the Outreach Institute's Fantasia Fair. The information received here notes that Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Executive Director of the International Foundation for Gender Education, will open the event with a keynote address. (Hmm! I wonder who approved that travel expense?) Anyway, the rumor mill has it that Outreach Institute exec Ari Kane is steaming about being left out of the fun. EuroFantasia happens May 8th through the 15th. For information, write to Box 442, N-4301 Sandnes, Norway.



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Moving back to the USA, my good friend and Executive Director of AEGIS, Dallas Denny, tells me that Eugene Schrang, M.D. visited the Atlanta based organization to discuss the latest techniques in reassignment and cosmetic surgery. Dr. Schrang is a protege of Dr. Stanley Biber, and practices in Wisconsin. We've been hearing very good reports about him.



Back to the really important stuff -- there are many ways to make your lipstick last and now Princess Borghese adds another to the list -- foundation built right into the lipstick. The downside is the cost: \$20 a tube. But, like Oscar Wilde, I have only the simplest of tastes: only the best.



Diversity is the watchword for the decade and it means including everyone. You can see the "diversity" influence even in cosmetic lines. For example: Cover Girl has extended their New Shades of Beauty cosmetics for all skin tone types, especially darker skin. Now if only we could get our community leaders to embrace diversity, that would be something.



If *Cosmo* and *Allure* (you must read these to stay on top of things) are a little too "fluffy" for your tastes, pick up a copy of *Leans*. This magazine, published by the widow of the jet magnate, is short on the fashion scene but long on useful and thought-provoking features for the more serious woman. Well ... I may read it, but I'll never take myself seriously.



Most of you know about the Sexy Shoes catalog and if you don't, look around, they've been advertising almost everywhere. Here's another shoe resource, StatSHOEesque in Florida. They say they specialize in "high-fashion" shoes in sizes from 9 to 14, narrow

to wide. Call (305) 452-9816 for a free catalog.



To make your lashes look thick and lush, smear (yes, smear) eyeliner pencil into the base of the lashes and follow with two coats of mascara. Separate the lashes between coats with a special lash comb.



Just a reminder to save your money -- those home electrolysis units don't work. I just saw one advertised in a fashion mag for \$20. Save that Jackson and spend it on two pairs of those wonderfully sexy microfiber pantyhose I told you about.



Have you ever wanted to be a model, or at least be able to do the catwalk like superstars Christy Turlington and Cindy Crawford? So you can. Here, courtesy of *W*, are the, ah ... right steps. (1) Cross Step: One foot crosses completely over the other; (2) Pivot: When your crossover foot hits the ground, twist it toward the inside giving a swing; (3) Bounce: Usually on the front-end of the Pivot, but just a little; (4) Arm Swing: At the end of the runway, hands are firmly placed just below hips; (5) Hip Swivel: Roll out the hip just a tad at the shift of weight, then roll back in the other direction; (6) Head: Hold your head perfectly still while your body sways beneath it; (7) Gaze: Eyes straight ahead, aloof and above it all. Got that? Okay, now ah-one and ah-two.



Just to keep you trivia buffs sated, here's a bit-o-Trek trivia you won't find just anywhere. The typeface used on the saucer of the Enterprise for "NCC-1701-D" is Eurostyle and the Trek designers copied it from Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*.



I hope that I'll get to meet a lot of you during the IFGE convention here in Philadelphia this month. Unlike some other editors, I love to meet the people who read my stuff and I always have time to chat. So, if you see me at the convention, stop and say "Hi!"



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# THE MANY ROADS TO HAPPINESS

by Patricia [REDACTED]

I am constantly amazed when I attend meetings within the gender community by the degree of conflict that exists between those with different perspectives. It seems that each one of us feels that our choices are the only choices and all others are less than adequate. This theme is expressed time and time again and I feel that it undermines all of our intents, like shooting ourselves in the foot.

The gender community is composed of a number of groups of people ranging from the occasional crossdresser to the post-operative transsexual. We are all different but we share some commonality. One, we all live in a country that assures us life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Two, we all express a first hand knowledge of the male/female components of our personality. Three, each one of us wants to have the freedom to be the person we chose to be.

While each one of us has a different idea about what our ultimate goals are, every one of us desires to be happy. The list of factors which make up happiness are different to each of us. Some want to live full time as a woman, others want to have reassignment surgery, while others are quite satisfied to simply crossdress when the opportunity presents itself. But all of us want to be accepted by our friends, family and the public. We require this acceptance as much as we require air to breathe. The acceptance factor is present in everyone's list of happiness criteria.

Each one of us has chosen a path to walk. The path is neither right or wrong, but our own. My definition of happiness is only valid for me. If I am to impose my criteria on someone else, I am violating their right to choose their own path. My path may change as I grow, but I can't predict the nature of that change, so I must constantly adjust my course to meet my own personal needs. This is the nature of life.

The multitude of paths which exist within the gender community are varied and intricate like a finely woven pattern or a river delta. Each path ends in happiness for the individual that chose the path. Not every path ends in sexual reassignment surgery, or the closet. And each path is unique, and meets the specific needs of the individual. To deprive any one of the right to choose their own path is to deny them their constitutional rights.

Each one of us, throughout our lives, compile a set of standards by which we evaluate those around us and ourselves. These standards become a prejudice which invades all aspects of our lives. We are very familiar with the blatant ones such as race, religion, or sexual preference, but the prejudice goes much deeper, it colors how we view our peers. It is all too easy to jump to the conclusion that my idea of happiness is better than yours. In fact, my idea is better than yours, but only for me. Your idea of happiness is the ideal for

you. If I judge your ideals by my criteria, I am comparing apples to oranges. The results are useless, yet in doing so I may hurt you, causing you to question your own worth. There is little value in such an action.

I make my choices for me, not for anyone else. You make your choices for you. If we all recognize other's right to choose for themselves and accept that these are their choices, then we all are closer to meeting that list of unique criteria which constitutes happiness for each of us. Furthermore, by showing acceptance within our own community, we can bring about acceptance of society as a whole. It is absolutely necessary, that we, of the gender community realize the value of personal choice and respect that choice in others. Anything less than this undermines our cause and our lifestyle.

I hope that each of us finds that place of happiness and that we all bask in the feelings of satisfaction. We can all respect the others flavor of happiness, and accept that we are not all alike. My flavor of happiness is chocolate!

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

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# *AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER*

This is the third issue of "Cross-Talk" to be published in magazine format, and the first since we tabulated the results of our subscriber survey that was included in the January issue. I want to share the results with you.

Since less than 10% of you returned the survey, I will not be making any significant changes based on these results. However, if these results are indicative of our entire readership, I am confident that we are on the right track.

With only a few exceptions, respondents rated all our regular features either neutrally or with some degree of positive interest. "Newswire", the editorials of Anne Blackwood and myself, "National Publication Review", and the "how-to" columns "The Makeup Mirror" and "Crossdressers' Closet" all scored higher than 60% positive. "Newswire" and the two editorials scored higher than 80% positive.

The two cartoon features "The Adventures of Karen" and "The Passing Scene" also scored higher than 60% in reader enjoyment.

Of the features in the former "Transvestia", the highest score went to "real-life stories" among features respondents felt should be included in "Cross-Talk". Both Virginia Prince's column "Virgin Views" and photographs were also rated high.

Regarding photographs: The vast majority of those who would like to see them in our pages preferred photos of gender community events, rather than reader photos. Most were willing to accept a modest increase in subscription prices to accommodate this.

An astounding 93% said they would prefer a mix of original articles and reprints from gender community organization newsletters, as opposed to original articles only.

Better than 70% favored the continued publication of the "hotlines" and events calendar. One respondent suggested including gender-related BBS numbers.

Of the suggestions for improvements, the most-repeated were: Interviews with gender community personalities; More articles from helping professionals; and product reviews. We will be working to implement these suggestions in future issues.

Both Sandy Thomas and I surveyed readers regarding fiction. The consensus was that "Cross-Talk" is too serious a publication to include fictional stories, and that there were many other outlets for those who enjoy same. Thus, for the time being we are discontinuing the publication of short stories in "Cross-Talk".

However, I will need your help to accomplish some of the additions that you have indicated an interest in. If you attend any of our community's national events and have photographs you wish to share, please forward them to us. Please note that we require the signatures (legal names) of anyone appearing in the photo authorizing us to use their picture. For this reason, photographs cannot be returned and no photo will be published without this signature release. Also, if you have any "real-life" stories to share (but please, no "how I passed at the mall while shopping"-type tales), please feel free to send those for consideration as well.

Thank you for your support!

-- Kymberleigh Meghann Richards



# 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: (Chryst) 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. [REDACTED], 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

Avon, CT: Michelle Kay, 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

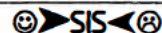
Trotwood, OH: (Fran) Senior citizen, living in SW Ohio, retired. Interested in most outdoor sports, writing and photography. Out of the closet once, years ago, but now in a small community and spouse not supportive. #1489

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

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.

Subscribers are entitled to a free 50-word reader profile in this section. Please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for a profile form if you cannot locate the form you were sent previously.

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- >> Listings followed by % are for groups known to be sexually-oriented; listings followed by # are for primarily TS-oriented groups; listings followed by a 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:

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Chi Delta Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, NYC: (201) 663-0772 a  
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 a  
Montgomery Institute, Augusta: (404) 603-9426 #  
M.O.R.E., Ft. Lauderdale: (305) 966-2138  
Mu Sigma Chapter Tri-Ess, Arkansas: (501) 972-1826 a  
Phi Epsilon Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, Central FL: (407) 677-9540 a  
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 a  
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  
Crystal Club, Columbus: (614) 777-0648  
Crossroads, Detroit: (313) 537-3267  
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 a  
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 a  
Eta Tau Chapter Tri-Ess, Austin: (210) 438-7604 a  
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 Comm., 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 a  
TS Peer Support, Houston: (713) 333-2278 #  
Tau Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Houston: (713) 988-8064 a  
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 a  
American Transsexual Education Center: (213) 469-4709 #  
Androgyny, Santa Monica: (213) 467-8317  
CHIC, Los Angeles: (310) 420-2580 a  
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 a  
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  
Khusra, Pakistan: 05921 6158  
Transline Hedesthia, New Zealand: (09) 763-523

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# We Are The Transgendered

by Dallas Denny



*We are the transgendered.*

*We are your sons and daughters, your fathers and mothers, your cousins, your aunts and uncles, your grandparents, your grandchildren. We are your stepfathers and step sons, your stepmothers, your stepdaughters. We are your adopted children and your adoptive parents, and we are the parents who have given you up for adoption.*

*We are your neighbors and friends. We were your dorm-mate in college, your fraternity brother, your sorority sister. We were in Cub Scouts with you, in Brownies, in the Air Force, the Marines.*

*We are your bosses, your employees. We work next to you in the assembly line. We drive your cabs, your buses, your taxis. We fly your planes, we sail your ships, we drive your locomotives. We deliver your paper, stock the shelves in your groceries, ring up your purchases. We style your hair. We press your suits. We design your suits. We cook your food in restaurants, and we bring it to your table. We build your cars in Detroit.*

*We have stood on the moon.*

*We were at Shiloh, and at Gettysburg. In the Great War, we fought in the trenches, and we flew against the Red Baron; now we live in our old age in Veterans Hospitals. We were at Iwo Jima, and were in Korea and Viet Nam and Kuwait. We remember riding with Genghis Khan. We saw Jesus Christ.*

*We fill your schools. We are your principals, your teachers, your students, your librarians, the ones who sweep the halls. We write your textbooks.*

*We are your politicians, your farmers, your physicians, your priests, your nuns, your generals. And we are the privates in your armies, your prostitutes. We languish in your prisons. And we are guards and wardens of your prisons, too.*

*We are the little boy with the red hair who mows your lawn every summer. We are the cop who gave you a ticket last year. We are the little old lady in the next pew at church.*

*We stand on your left side, and on your right, before you, behind you. We came before you, and we will come after you.*

*We are black, we are white. We are young, we are old. We are fat, we are thin. We are poor, and we are rich. We are healthy; we are ill. We are straight. We are gay. We are male. We are female.*

*We are the transgendered. We have always been with you.*

*We will always be with you.*

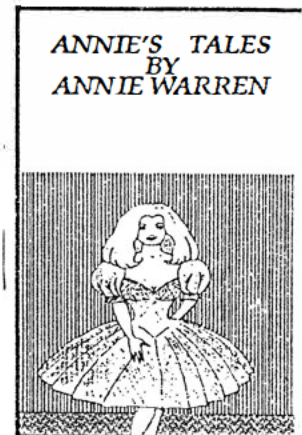
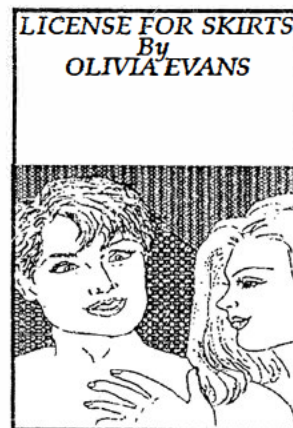
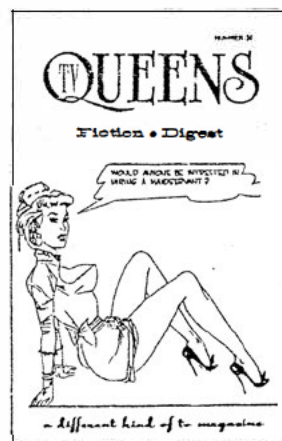
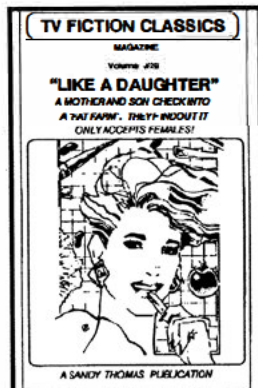


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