



# News & views

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# Renaissance

## TG Accident Victim Denied Treatment Dies from injuries

Washington, D.C.

A male-to-female transgendered person was fatally injured in a traffic accident in Washington, D.C., on Monday, August 7, 1995. *The Washington Post* identified Tyrone Michael Hunter as 24 years old and a "transvestite." Hunter's friends stated she liked to be called Tyra, and had lived full-time as a woman since she was 14. Hunter worked as a hairdresser and was well-liked in her neighborhood.

Tyra Hunter was a passenger in a car when it was hit broadside in the middle of an intersection in Southeast Washington by another car at a four-way stop. Tyra and the car's driver were both pulled from the demolished car by neighborhood residents. Ten minutes later, D.C. Fire Department personnel arrived on the scene. As a crowd of people gathered around the scene, a male fire-fighter began treating Hunter for her injuries, until he cut open her pant leg and saw male genitalia.

At that point, according to eyewitnesses quoted in both *The Washington Post* and *The Washington Blade*, the firefighter stood up and backed away from the victim. One witness quoted him as saying, "This ain't no bitch," as he began joking with the other fire department personnel at the scene. Another witness at the scene heard one of the firefighters say, "Look, it's got a cock and balls." Other witnesses also reported that as Hunter lay injured, bleeding and gasping for breath, her treatment was temporarily discontinued while the firefighters made jokes about her. After people at the scene began complaining about the cessation of her treatment, the other firefighters resumed treatment of Hunter. She was later trans-

ported to D.C. General Hospital where she was pronounced dead.

In response to questions raised by eyewitnesses, Hunter's family, friends, and the Washington, D.C. activist group GLOV (Gays and Lesbians Opposing Violence), Chief Otis Latin of the D.C. Fire Department held a meeting in his office on August 11, which resulted in no immediate action. GLOV issued a press release demanding an independent investigation, suspension of the D.C. Fire Department personnel involved, and diversity and sensitivity training for the D.C. Fire Department.

The D.C. Fire Department announced it is continuing its investigation while refusing further comment. A gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender task force, *Together In Tyra's Memory*, formed to take additional action. The group is composed of: GLOV; the D.C. Coalition of Black Gay Men, Lesbians and Bisexuals; the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation of the National Capital Area (GLAAD-NCA); Capital City National Organization for Women (CapCity NOW), Log Cabin Club Republicans - DC Chapter; the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance (GLAA), Queer Nation; and Transgender Nation of Washington, DC; with the assistance of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, National NOW, Todd Moseley of ANC-1C(06) and GLAAD's National Field Director, Donna Red Wing. Additional transgendered groups endorsing the *Together In Tyra's Memory* coalition include the Washington-Baltimore Alliance, Tran\*Quility, the Transgender Support Group of Baltimore, and It's Time, Maryland! A meeting is planned with Chief Latin.

*continued on page 18*

## Call For Scholarly Papers

If you are a scholar whose area of expertise is transgenderism, you may be interested in submitting a paper for a session that will be held at the North Central Sociological Associations' annual meeting April 12 through 14th, 1996 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Emilio L. Lombardi of the Department of Sociology at the University of Akron is the man to contact if you would like to present a paper. There

are no set criteria concerning topics but the papers should examine the transgender movement or transgenderism at a societal level. Papers must be original pieces of scholarly work and must be submitted before October 30, 1995. You can contact Emilio L. Lombardi at the Department of Sociology, University of Akron, Akron, Ohio 44325-1905. His phone number is 216 [redacted] and he can be reached by email at <EmilioLombardi@Uakron.edu>.

# Chapter & Affiliate Information

# Renaissance News & Views

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Articles, opinion pieces, and letters to the editor are always welcome. Ideas for articles and opinion pieces should be sent to our editorial office care of Renaissance, PO Box 530, Bensalem, Pa. 19020-0530. Or use email to <bensalem@cpcn.com>. Complimentary and irate letters to the editor may be sent to the same address.

Renaissance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing education and support to the transgender community and the general public.

## Local Calendar

### September

- 2 Ren. South Jersey
- 2 Ren. LSV meeting
- 9 Ren. Delaware
- 9 NEPTGA, Allentown
- 14-17 Paradise In The Poconos
- 16 Ren. GPC
- 23 Balto. Affiliate

### October

- 7 Ren. South Jersey
- 7 Ren. LSV meeting
- 7 Ren. Delaware
- 7 NEPTGA, Allentown
- 14 Ren. GPC
- 21 Balto. Affiliate

## Chapters

### Delaware

**Wilmington, Delaware:** meets second Saturday of each month. Write for info to: PO Box 5656, Wilmington, DE 19808 or call 302-995-1396.

### New Jersey

**South Jersey/Shore Area:** Write Renaissance South Jersey, Box 189, Mays Landing, NJ, 08330. Meets first Saturday of the month at the Atlantic Mental Health Center, 2002 Black Horse Pike, McKee City. Doors open 7PM. Call 609-641-3782 for details.

### Pennsylvania

**Greater Philadelphia:** Write Renaissance GPC, 987 Old Eagle School Rd., Suite 719, Wayne, Pa. 19087. Meets third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia. Doors open 8 p.m. all year 'round. Call 610-975-9119 for information.

**Lower Susquehanna Valley:** Write Renaissance LSV, Box 2122 Harrisburg, PA 17105. Meets on the first Saturday of the month. Call 717-780-1LSV (780-1578) for location and meeting times.

## Affiliates

### California

Burbank area: Powder Puffs of California, PO Box 1088, Yorba Linda, CA92686, or email to <ppoc@aol.com>

### Connecticut

Bridgeport/New Haven area: connecticutView, c/o Denise Mason, PO Box 2281, Devon, CT 06460. Monthly newsletter and activities.

### Georgia

**Atlanta:** The American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS), PO Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033-0724 or call 404-939-0244, or email to <aegis@mindspring.com>. Information resources & referrals.

**Atlanta:** Atlanta Gender Explorations (A.G.E.), PO Box 77562, Atlanta, GA 30357, 404-939-2128.

### Louisiana

**New Orleans:** The Gulf Gender Alliance, PO Box 870213, New Orleans, LA 70187-1300.

### Maryland

**An affiliate is forming in the Baltimore area.** Write Tran<sup>o</sup>Quility, c/o Colleen N. , , Baltimore, MD, 21218-3912.

### New Jersey

**N. Central Jersey:** Monmouth/Ocean Trans Gender, (MOTG), write PO Box 8243, Red Bank, NJ 07701 or call 908-219-9094.

### New York

**Manhattan:** Metropolitan Gender Network (MGN), write 561 Hudson St., Box 45, New York, NY 10014, or call 201-794-1665, Ext. 332.

**Long Island:** New York GIRL & Partners, PO Box 456, Centereach, NY 11720, Call 516-732-5115 for info.

### Oklahoma

**Central Oklahoma:** Sooner Diversity, part of the Central Oklahoma Transgender Alliance (COTA). Contact, Rachel , P.O. Box 575, Norman, OK 73070.

### Pennsylvania

**Lehigh Valley/Pocono area:** Northeastern Pa. Transgender Alliance, NEPTGA, meetings on the second Saturday of the month in the Allentown area. Call for directions and more information, 610-821-2955.

*Interested in having your group join the Renaissance family? Write to Co-director of Outreach/Community Relations at the Wayne address above or send email to <RenInfo@cdspub.com>.*

# News Beat & Reminder



by Angela Gardner

September already? Where'd the overly humid, hurricane plagued, long hot summer go? I didn't stop dressing for the summer but I really started to get annoyed at all the extra planning—"Ok, tonight I'm wearing loose silk pants, not shaving legs and shaving the arms up to the shoulder so I can wear the short sleeved top. Then tomorrow I'll shave my legs and wear the short shorts. I can shave my arms all the way up and do my chest so I can wear the Spandex tank top. Then, the day after that I'll electric razor the burgeoning stubble off my legs and wear the dress with the elbow length sleeves and only have to shave my lower arms. Summer sheer stockings and I'm all set." Boy, women think they've got it tough. When my female friends grouse about having to shave their legs twice a week I have to bite back the laughter. Thankfully, fall is here and the wonderful world of tights, opaque hose, jeans and leggings has returned. I'll be able to save the close shaves for those special, intimate moments. Right, like I have any of those. Oh well— here's the rest of this month's whirling whip of words...

## Oops!

It's hard being a know-it-all. Life keeps teaching you something new and you have to say, "Oh, sure, I knew that." Of course you didn't know that or you wouldn't have made an ass of yourself in your previous misstatement.

As a know-it-all editor I changed Stella [redacted]'s Letter-To-The-Editor

in the last issue. Miss [redacted] was talking about her gown made of "slipper" satin. I thought she had mistyped and I changed it to "slippery." Oops, sorry. It really is "slipper" satin. It's a heavier grade of our favorite fabric and probably got its name since it was used to make slippers first and sexy gowns second. It isn't thin like lingerie satin. Stella was kind enough to assume I had made a mistake in typing. Actually it was a mistake in assuming. Sorry Stella. I stand corrected.

## Ho Ho Ho

While I'm correcting things let me correct a misconception. It has been bruited about that the GPC Holiday Party might not come off this year. Well, I don't know what Grinch started these rumors but it just ain't so. The Holiday Party tradition continues in 1995 with a gala holiday buffet dinner, cocktails and dancing to a transgendered DJ on the third Saturday of December. It all happens at the Unitarian Universalist Church on the Mainline. The Unitarians have welcomed us with open arms and they are looking forward to having us on December 16th. Dinner will be served in a lovely room complete with fireplace and holiday decorations. Then those who wish to cut a rug may do so in a room set aside for our DJ, Miranda. Conversations and other social intercourse may be carried on in the palatial lobby area as well as in the dining room.

Look for a flyer soon with all the details like price, directions, menu, et cetera. And don't forget, free parking.

## Attack Of The Drag Cowgirls

A while ago I mentioned the Cowboy LaCage Club in Nashville. Marisa Richmond, the lovely leader of the **Tennessee Vals**, has filed a report on how the club is doing. According to her, their March opening was delayed till June, but despite the late start they're packing them in. The place is located in downtown Nashville at the corner of 4th and Broadway and it's catering to the tourist trade. The hefty \$15.75 cover charge keeps the locals out till Sunday nights when they have a "Local Yokel" special that gets you in at two-for-one with a Tennessee ID.

The club does three shows nightly; at 7PM it's Country Legends, 9 PM brings Hot Rock 'n Country and at 11PM it's a Celebration. Not all of the acts are musical, even though you'll be treated to the usual country suspects – Dolly, Loretta and Winona, they also include drag comedy acts. Doctor Ruth puts in an appearance, and while I don't know for sure, they might have a Minnie Pearl around somewhere.

Marisa says, "All of the local media, gay & straight, have been glowing in their reviews, and a few weeks ago, I even saw some tourists sitting at a table next to me in a restaurant with the club's ad. So it is getting a **lot** of positive attention and does seem to be doing quite well."

Now I've seen it all. A C&W female impersonator club in the heart of Nashville (the buckle on the Bible Belt). All I can say is, ya'all go girls!

## "SEX-OP-COP"

That was the beginning of the screaming headline in the *New York Post's* July 27th issue. Sometime before I saw that stunning bit of journalism, I had already been roused from my beauty rest by an early morning call (that same day) from a producer of *The Lionel Show*. Now I always thought Lionel was Weesey and George's son but no, it appears he is a morning radio personality in New York City on WABC. He doesn't have quite the profile of Howard Stern but he does a show on a major radio station so

*continued next page*

## News Beat...

when I was asked to comment on the gender reassignment of Hoboken Police Lt. John Aiello, I quickly gargled the morning from my throat and put on my transgender expert hat. (A lovely little straw number with a turned up brim and floral applique.)

Several days after the 27th, Jessica Brandon gave me a copy of the *Post* article. It seems Ms. Aiello (now Janet) had adopted an aggressive attitude toward possible blockage of a promised promotion, and any other negative impact to her career, by telling the Chief of Police that she'd sue Hoboken to within an inch of its treasury if they said anything about him becoming a her. Now this is not the best way to transition on the job, but since she works in a macho police department maybe the warm fuzzy approach of taking it slow and going through a long education and sensitivity training process won't cut it (so to speak).

Since I didn't know anything about the case I told Lionel and the listening audience the difference between a TV and a TS and answered his questions about gender issues. He seemed a pleasant chap who didn't make any cheap jokes about Ms. Aiello and we talked for about twenty minutes. It's a pity I didn't see the article before the interview. If I had I would have blasted the *Post* on the air for consistently referring to Ms. Aiello as "he." They also played the whole thing for the most sensational effect they could

get. Way to go *NY Post*. Bet you get a Pulitzer for that one. Not.

### First Sonny Bono, Now...

Meanwhile, on the Left Coast, another change has been set in motion. Oddly enough it involves another TG who wants to be a public servant. In this case it is the desire of Miss Kitty Cole to become the Mayor of Palm Springs. Miss Cole, a stunning platinum blonde, went down to register her intention with the Board of Elections dressed in a very, very short white satin (could it be slipper satin?) thing that may have been a dress, or a short set with very short shorts. As they say in some of the seedier hangouts, "Her legs go all the way up."

The seven foot (in heels) queen said that she wants the job as a way to boost tourism. Now, some towns have built expensive aquariums to attract tourists. Kitty figures tourists will flock to Palm Springs to see the drag queen mayor and... who's to say she's wrong? I mean, if Nashville can have a successful Country Western drag club why can't Kitty be mayor? If she gets elected maybe it will start a trend. All over the country towns looking to cash in big on tourist dollars will stop building aquariums, which cost millions of dollars to build and maintain, and start electing drag queens to top government posts. Makeup and couture can run into a few bucks but heck, even if they dress their glamorous new mayors in designer duds that's still cheaper than building giant fish tanks.

### Speaking Of Drag Queens

Local transgendered blues woman Terri

sent a piece from Philadelphia's *City Paper* about a local entrepreneur who has come up with an idea that taps into the recent popularity of men in dresses. Drag queen phone cards. You know those prepaid cards you can buy to make

long distance phone calls? Well, Phon-Lynx, a company based in Northeast Philly has started issuing glossy, collectible phone cards featuring pics of some of the "biggest names" in drag. Featured queens include New York girls Walt Paper, Candice Cane, Sophia Lamore, Richie Rich and Adora. Well, I have heard of Richie Rich (more club kid than DQ) and Walt Paper, but who the hell are those other girls? I'm only goin' to buy these cards if they get some big names like Lypsinka, Linda Simpson or... Miss Charles. The company's owner said that RuPaul had been approached but was waiting to see how well the concept does.

Interestingly enough, the company also produces phone cards with pictures of Philadelphia's best known drag queens, the Mummies. I guess it was a natural progression to go from marching bands who wear feathers and glitter to drag queens who wear sequins and lace. If you'd like more info on Drag Queen Phone Cards you can call Phon-Lynx at 800-698-9950. Go on girl, give 'em some attitude.

### Tula, Traitor?

The darling of the transgender community, the lovely Tula (aka Caroline Cossey) has stirred up a controversy, at least on The Internet. Ms. Cossey posed for a magazine ad for Sauza Tequila. She wears a brief, little black outfit with white letters across her chest that spell out, "She's a he." Under her photo it says, "Life Is Harsh. Your tequila shouldn't be."

Well, from the reaction in the transgender newsgroups you'd think Tula had committed a mortal sin. (One tasteful poster actually called her a whore.) The gist of it all is, she got a lot of negative reaction from the transgender community for appearing in an ad that (seemingly) puts down transsexuals. Let's get a grip girls. Tula has to make a living somehow, and I'm sure she was approached since she's one of the most beautiful, and visible, transsexuals in the country. (Heck, maybe the world.) Because of her celebrity status, I'm sure she was offered a large amount of money to look beautiful. It's

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not anybody's job to make a moral judgment about what Tula has done but if someone feels like they should, let them imagine themselves in her place turning down a hefty fee.

As one voice of reason (Dallas Denny of AEGIS) pointed out, Tula has done an enormous amount of good for the transgender community. Let's not tear her down for one action that more than a few of us would do given the opportunity. Besides, I'm sure that since she is so beautiful most of the people who saw the ad either had no idea what it meant or just couldn't believe it. Besides, it's all showbiz. What a clever segue to...

### Show Biz Bits

What's up with *Wong Foo*... you ask? Well, girls get ready. It's coming this fall. *Entertainment Weekly* gives us all the dish in a recent issue and for those who haven't heard, I pass along some of the behind the scenes info.

For one thing, it seems many of Hollywood's manly men were anxious to audition in full drag for a chance to be in this flick. Among the hopefuls were James Spader, Robert Sean Leonard, Stephen Dorff (who got his chance at glamour in *I Shot Andy Warhol*, which should be around sometime next year) John Cusack and Robin Williams. Robin threw in the towel and admitted he just didn't have the glamour thing happening. It does seem as if he has developed a real taste for acting in a dress. He makes do with a male cameo in this flick.

The screenwriter, (a young man named Beane) who was amazed that

major studios were interested in his drag queen tale, settled for \$500,000. He signed with Amblin Entertainment, got the check and quickly quit babysitting to pay the rent. Of the amount they paid he said, "They easily could've gone to a million, but at those prices, things get ugly. The studio wants to fire you and get a name for rewrites. I didn't want this to turn into *Waterproof-Makeup World*."

The picture was screened in the heart of conservative country, Orange County, California, and the audience loved it. Making projections from the screening audience's reaction, Amblin suits are expecting the picture to be big box office through the holidays.

I have been writing about another picture that has taken its time getting into theaters, *Dr. Jekyll and Ms. Hyde*. It seems that the release date was pushed back to August 25th. Since I'm writing this before that date, so we can get the newsletter into your hands with all possible haste, I have no clue whether they actually got Tim Daly turning into Sean Young onto the silver screen as planned. I'll have more info next month.

Kym Richards at *Cross-Talk* magazine told me those dragged up denizens of the Great White North, The Kids In The Hall are supposed to be working on a KITH movie. Production is underway in Toronto, according to Kym, but I haven't been able to ferret out anything on the project. It's possible that it never, as they say in the biz, "got it's legs" but on the other hand it may just be operating in secret so no one steals the plot and makes a

knock-off with the guys who didn't cut the mustard for parts in *Wong Foo*. Anyhow, more on this as details come available. Film at eleven.

One guy who knows decadence when he sees it is good old Don Johnson. Donny has been trying to get another cop show on CBS to bring him back to the heights of popularity he enjoyed with *Miami Vice*. Well, it's not so rosy in Johnson-land. The show, called *Off Duty* was supposed to feature Melanie Griffith and Antonio Banderas. Why would a guy on the rise like Banderas want to hook up with a has-been like Don? Well, he wouldn't. Antonio and Melanie jumped ship and all Johnson could come up with as a pilot for the show was a "rambling, babbling promo tape" on which he assures the "Tiffany Network's" executives that his show will be "racy." To prove it's gonna be titillating, Don told the execs there would be a transvestite in the script. While it's nice to know he's caught onto the media buzz about girls like us, it's unfortunate that we have to be the "racy" component. I mean, why can't we just be the downstairs neighbor or Johnson's character's therapist? Ya know, we're just plain folks. I don't think we'll have to worry about unfair portrayals, though. It sounds like *Off Duty* won't be on-duty in the Fall.

And that cats and kittens brings us to the end of another racy column of TG talk. See you again next month.



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# Talk Show Chaos

I was not particularly surprised when I read about the murder of Scott Amedure. Amedure was the guest on the *Jenny Jones* show taped in early March (but never aired) who told a neighbor that he had a crush on him. The studio audience presumably reacted with shock. Jonathan Schmitz, the neighbor, reportedly said on the program that he was flattered but was heterosexual. Three days later, after receiving a note from Amedure, Schmitz allegedly went to his home and killed him with a shotgun. Schmitz surrendered to the police, saying that he could not live with the embarrassment the show had caused him. The story received substantial attention in the press, but regrettably, the homophobia surrounding the murder was barely mentioned. What is it about our culture that made this man feel so threatened by homosexuality that he would murder another man who publicly expressed sexual interest?

The murder has focused attention on the excesses of the talk shows. Even *TV Guide* ran a cover story entitled "Are Talk Shows Out of Control?"

The daytime talk shows have surpassed the soap operas in the amount of sexuality information (and misinformation) they bring into American homes on a daily basis, and they seem to become ever more sensational and exploitive. In the past year, I have witnessed several "surprises" related to sexuality issues, designed to embarrass the guests and titillate the audience. I have wondered about the emotional damage these shows might do to the people who volunteer the most intimate parts of their lives in front of a studio audience.

More than twenty talk shows air daily, and the number seemingly grows by the month; two cable stations now offer talk shows all day. These programs have become so familiar to us that their hosts are known by their first names. Who has not heard of Phil, Oprah, Geraldo, Sally, Rolonda, Ricki, and Jenny?

Sexuality issues are a major fare of these programs. During just one week in April, talk shows covered such topics as "sex maniacs, teenage prostitutes, women abused by their daughters, matchmaking, jilted lovers, man-stealing friends, marriage versus cohabitation, mismatched couples, and bigamy.

On April 12, one could have watched "Nice Guys versus Bad Boys" on *Leeza*, "Sex Ruins Friendships" on *Jerry Springer*, "Men Jealous of Lovers' Friends" on Maury Povich, "Cheating Newlyweds" on *Sally Jessy*, "Domestic Violence" on *Rolonda*, and "Doctors with AIDS" on *Oprah*.

Talk show treatment of these issues is often lurid and exploitive. For example, a recent *Jerry Springer Show* called "I'm Proud to Be a Virgin" had a young teenager interviewing young women, who were hidden behind a screen, about becoming his first lover. The questions and answers increased steadily in lasciviousness. For an additional humiliating twist, the young man's best friend had accompanied him on the show, unaware that one of the young women behind the screen was his eighteen-year-old virgin sister.

"Experts" are routinely brought in toward the end of these broadcasts, in order for these shows to appear "responsible." Sometimes, these experts are highly qualified professionals; other times, I've been appalled by the advice I've heard these people give.

During my years at SIECUS, I have appeared regularly on daytime talk shows. And sometimes I have felt exploited and misused by the producers. On the *Montel Williams Show*, after being told that I was coming on to talk about safer sex in the 1990's, I was asked to provide advice to two young adults who have thousands of partners each year but refuse to use condoms. On this same program, the host told people to avoid dentists so as to prevent becoming infected with HIV! For a *Rolonda* show, I was told I would be speaking with some young people who had had intercourse and some who

by Debra W. Hafner, M. P. H., Executive Director, Sexuality Information And Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)

were virgins. The virgin turned out to be a beauty pageant winner from Texas whose performance for the talent contest of the beauty pageant had consisted of delivering a speech on virginity; the sexually active teenagers were six young men from Chicago who belong to the We Like to Freak Club, an organization of boys who have had more than a hundred sexual partners. On that show, a young woman revealed to her mother that she thought she was pregnant and that the producers had taken her for a pregnancy test.

My latest adventure was on the late-night program *Last Call*. The subject was the teenage chastity movement. Before agreeing to appear, I had spoken with the producer about the other guests and the format of the show. She had said I would be participating in a serious discussion with a representative from the True Love Waits campaign. The other guest and I were in for quite a shock when Stuttering John, Howard Stern's sidekick, came bounding onto the set—unannounced to us—to question us about our personal sexual experiences. The show concluded without us after the second segment, when we refused to respond to John's outrageous tirades. After I left the set, I angrily asked the producer why she had not told me about Stuttering John. She answered, "Because you wouldn't have come."

I have decided to stop appearing on television talk shows. SIECUS staff will appear only on news programs where we are assured that the coverage will be balanced and thorough.

I would like to ask you to consider to do the same. The presence of experts on entertainment talk shows legitimizes the sensationalism and exploitation. Inevitably, the experts are given less than five minutes to clean up the emotional damage or the chronic misinformation.

Now, I know some of you are thinking, But if we don't go on, who will? I

*continued on page 16*



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I hate to kick a guy when he's down but I must report that I have recalled a long-repressed memory: yes, I was sexually harassed by Senator Robert Packwood.

It was a long time ago and there I was – an eager young staffer on a work-study internship from Mistress Dominique's Obedience and Secretarial School. As my recently cleared memory recalls the incident, I was bent over and fishing in a bottom file cabinet for some important legislation on funding for Swiss Cheese research (the Senator was a member of the Foreign Relations Committee) when I felt a presence behind me. A small presence – but a presence nonetheless.

He offered me a letter of recommendation and said he had a lot of friends in powerful positions – like Clarence Thomas – if I would just play ball with him. When I resisted his advances he exasperatedly asked me, "What kind of a girl are you, anyway?" I began to respond by saying, "Funny you should put it that way, Senator..." but I never got a chance to finish my thought and when he started to chase me around the desk I put those five inch spikes into high gear and ran out to the next office down the hall.

Thankfully, Senator Kennedy was very kind to me in my distressed state. After a few drinks he pointed to a well-dressed young man who had joined us and asked me, "Have you ever met my nephew, William Kennedy Smith?"

### Ho-Hum, Just Another Drag Queen

Playwright and actor Charles Busch wrote a lengthy and excellent article about the current fascination with drag in *New York Magazine's* July 17 issue.

The article by Mr. Busch, who is most famous for his crossdressed roles in his own plays like "Vampire Lesbians of Sodom," was titled "Every Man A Queen: The New Feminine Mystique."

The thrust of the piece was that drag is being picked up and used by the mass media to such a degree that one can wonder if it will cease to shock audiences any longer. While no one expects to see it become a popular movement, drag is 'hot' right now in the trendy circles of fashion, entertainment and club culture. Its death knell will probably come as soon as it starts to show up on 'What's Hot Lists' for 1996. By then, the tragically hip will have found a new 'thing' to glom onto.

Busch interviews a lot of the 'new' stars of drag such as Lypsinka, Sherry Vine, Lady Bunny and Mistress Formika. An icon such as RuPaul is probably too big now to even approach for an interview. She's gotta work, girl. But from these interviews we begin to learn why these performers have captured the attention of the talent scouts.

Unlike other drag performers such as Jim Bailey, Jimmie James, or any of the dozens of stars of 'La Cage', these girls have created their own personas rather than impersonating established stars. Author Busch has several well-received productions behind him and more to come; Lypsinka became a cult hit in her live stage act "As I Lay Lip-Synching" which toured nationally and in Europe.

Sherry Vine starred in "Eyes of a Supermodel Psychic" and other productions in New York City. People come to see them do their thing - not recreate Barbra Streisand or Cher. The same dynamic is at work in the

success of RuPaul. In fact, we'll probably be treated to RuPaul impersonators, so popular has she become.

And lest anyone think that a skinny, young, out-of-work actor can now slip on a dress and camp it up to become the toast of Broadway, better think again. It's interesting to read how this new breed of drag artists use references to classical works such as *Carmen* and Wagnerian operas; or blend serious popular works by Tennessee Williams with melodramatic drag theatrics; or use a silly story about killing a cat as an allegory on overblown media coverage of celebrity wrongdoers. There's more to their acts than just a guy in a dress. And to the question of whether overexposure in the media will dull the shock value of drag, sometime drag performance artist John Kelly answers, "To question that belittles it. Can drag surprise anymore? Can an actor surprise anymore? There are no limits, if one is willing to go beyond the obvious."

If there is one touch of bittersweet irony in the article, it is in regard to establishment Hollywood's approach to the "new drag." Despite the scores of established drag performers in New York City alone, when it came time to cast the multimillion dollar film *To Wong Foo... they chose established non-drag performers Wesley Snipes, Patrick Swayze and John Leguizamo.* [Ed. note: Actually, Leguizamo has drag in his bag of characters.] Some of the drag artists have bit parts in the film, but as RuPaul's own manager says, "When a movie about drag is finally made, the real drag performers become dispensable... they never invite the queens who inspire them to the party."

One can hope that this popularization of drag will help open the public's mind about crossdressing – at least insofar as more people will have seen it in *legitimate* venues. But doing drag is a separate thing from crossdressing as *we* know it. The public may accept guys in drag as entertainment, but guys in dresses who really want to be accepted as women may remain a threatening idea to many people – even if *Wong Foo* out grosses *Batman*.

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## OK, It's Not As Easy As I Thought

The *Born Free* newsletter from Southern California published an article by a crossdresser's significant other named Shelley. I didn't see the original but caught a reprint of it in *Gender Euphoria* from San Antonio's Boulton & Park Society.

Shelley relates a story of going to a local theater in San Diego where cross-dressed patrons are admitted free to midnight showings of *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. Since her crossdressing male companion was going en femme, Shelley would attend as an F-to-M crossdresser to see if the free admission policy works both ways.

The theater did smilingly let her in for free, but Shelley also found out that crossdressing and assuming a different gender identity requires more than the surface change of clothing if it is to be attempted successfully. Although she was the "masculine" half of the couple, she instinctively waited for the doors to be opened for her, followed rather than led the way into the theater, and took the seat before her "ladyfriend" was seated.

In Shelley's own words, "What started out as merely a lark took on a deeper meaning... to discover just how difficult it can be to attempt to assume the role of your opposite gender... is not the easy job I admit I thought it would be."

Sometimes females complain that male crossdressers are just "guys in dresses" – that they make no effort to achieve any feminine sensibility to match their clothing. Shelley found out that changing one's gender attitudes and conditioning can be rather difficult. She might admit that she was just "a girl in a pair of trousers" not because she wanted to behave incorrectly for her crossdressed role, but rather because it requires one to think about so many details of behavior, gesture, speech, etc., that it is easy to slip up and remain rooted to the "natural" instincts of our born genders.

Crossdressed men often stick with their masculine sensibilities while dressed. It isn't that we don't want to try to be women. It's just that it's hard

work and – as Shelley found out – there's more to crossdressing on either side of the gender line than the uninitiated care to imagine.

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## You Give Us An Inch...

An unidentified author wrote an article called "Walking Away" that appeared in *La Femme Silhouette* newsletter of Alpha Omega sorority in Cleveland OH. The essay dealt with spousal relations and crossdressing and the often times selfish and self-destructive manner in which we seek "acceptance" from those we love.

This was a very personal "confession" by the anonymous author, but she tells a tale that we have either lived through ourselves or heard others tell. It is a tale of selfishness that masquerades behind 'self-expression' and any of us who have or had relationships where crossdressing is out in the open can relate to the theme of the piece – even if the details or the degree of the offenses are different.

As the author states at the outset, "I didn't want to hurt anybody. But I sure did. I'd take a little understanding and acceptance and steamroll right ahead as though I'd been given the world on a silver platter." And here's a comment that is true completely aside from the relationship angle of the piece. "When it came to my crossdressing, I had blinders on." And how many of us can identify with that insight?

The author tells the usual tale of wearing the spouse's clothing – even when asked not to do so with certain items. And when she wore the forbidden item(s), she didn't take great pains to hide the fact – almost daring the other party to make an issue of it. And if things came to a head and the crossdressing partner purged her femme possessions, she made sure to lay a heavy guilt trip on the other party.

Sure, it all sounds so easy to analyze as an outsider to the relationship. "Take it easy," "Don't push it," we might tell this person. But the irony is that many of us have a tendency to keep pushing to the tension point. If we have some level of acceptance, we need to take it to a higher level. "If they gave me an inch, I took a mile and

a whole lot more. And through all this stupidity, I was struggling with my own guilt about being a crossdresser at all," the author tells us. And here is another insight that most of us can identify with: "After all, I didn't really want to blame me for what was happening."

Crossdressing in a committed relationship is akin to having a permanent house guest sharing your living quarters. The crossdresser can think that the 'house guest' can do no wrong while the partner sees 'her' as an intrusive - possibly ill-mannered - nuisance. Acceptance cannot be demanded. It must be earned. And both partners must work at defining a balance on which each can agree.

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## Of White Satin Gowns & T-Shirts

In the July issue, I requested feedback from young crossdressers – and old queens – as to what fashions fascinate their crossdressing desires.

Rachel [redacted] of our Oklahoma City affiliate, Sooner Diversity, responded in a letter that was published in the August issue. [Ed. note: See Rachel's article this issue.] Rachel is a Generation X-dresser and put forth a well-formed case for the fashions of today. She said that naturalness and comfort in fashion is as sexy for the young crossdressers as the fancier and more restrictive fashions are for the older crossdressers. In short, she sees attractiveness in today's fashions that I find decidedly anti-glamorous.

I also received two responses from older crossdressers who professed their love for the fashions of their youth. Stella [redacted] of Silver Spring Md., said she has a soft spot for the form-fitting satin gowns seen in musical films of the '30s. Reader Susan S. of Philadelphia also mentioned the '30s as a fashion inspiration. Susan recalled that the stories of J. Edgar Hoover's crossdressing antics reported his appearance in a "flapper" outfit – just what one might expect of a CD who grew up in the Roaring 20s.

My own favorite period is the "Mod" '60s look of teased hairdos, tight dresses and stiletto heels.

*continued on page 18*

# Men In Skirts: Fashion Statement?

by Angela Gardner

The other day I came across an Internet newsgroup called *alt.fashion*. When I started scanning through the postings I was surprised to find a number of guys making fashion notes. Some were writing about the standard male attire that they enjoyed but there was one thread (apt name for a discussion in a fashion group) that addressed the issue of men in skirts. The debate was over why a man shouldn't wear a skirt if he felt like it, and then it expanded into what kind of skirt was appropriate. From there it was a short step to some guy posting a message about how, if you are going to wear a skirt, you should get rid of the ugly hair on your legs. Another guy suggested that it should be okay for a man to wear not only skirts, but stockings, dresses and heels.

Now all of this is very interesting. I suspect some (if not all) of the skirt advocates were transvestites who probably post in the transgendered newsgroups under their femme names and show up in *alt.fashion* as "dedicated followers of." The guy who suggested shaving your legs was definitely into the sensual aspects of that pastime but rather than admit he was a TV he said he'd probably only do it full time if women found it attractive. Therein lies the crux of the matter.

Clothing in our society and in most cultures throughout time and space, has been closely linked to sex and gender roles. Clothing has been used to attract the opposite sex, or for that matter, the same sex for centuries. When the Native American warrior revoked that status and took on the role of squaw man, he dressed in the accepted squaw manner. Dressing that way made him more attractive to warriors who might want a new squaw. The outfit goes with the territory. Nowadays a "business suit" is the standard in the corporate world and has become established as one "look" that can help a guy attract the attention of interested women.

For many years the territory for skirts, dresses, high heeled shoes and all the other pretty clothes, has been female territory. Since men stopped wearing elaborate lace front shirts and fancy wigs a few centuries back, people have not been accustomed to seeing men dressed in a frilly manner. There was a brief resurgence of frilly male attire in the Swingin' Sixties when the British Invasion brought rockers who wore lacy Carnaby Street styles. Girls in micro minis and white go go boots found those guys attractive but for the most part women were, and still are, programmed for attraction to men in certain "masculine" styles. They can't relate to the man in a dress as a sex object. He's not wearing what a man is "supposed" to wear and he doesn't push the right psychological "buttons" in his flouncy skirt and pumps.

People need to find a reason for a man to wear clothing usually associated with females. Since the clothing women wear is seen as having sexual power in our culture, they decide the man in the dress must be trying to attract sexual attention. Whose sexual attention? It can't be the attention of heterosexual women since they don't find the man in the designer dress attractive, so it must be that these fellas in women's clothes are after men. After all, everyone knows that a man will run his car off the road if a good pair of legs in a short skirt goes by.

Of course, these assumptions on the part of the uneducated masses are wrong. The men who adopt women's clothing do so to satisfy needs which they have, and have had since they were children. Needs that may be based on a culturally imposed view of feminine roles and womanliness that is the same as that of the uneducated masses, but a need that is separate from sexual orientation. The cross-dressed man may take pleasure in a compliment to his beauty or femininity from another man but he is not turned on by the male body, unless he is homosexual as well as a transvestite.

The guys posting fashion statements about the desirability of skirts on men are trying to sneak the concept of men in pretty clothes into our culture through a back door. Guys, it won't work. People will still have a question in their mind about why you really want to wear a skirt. They will assume you are gay or bisexual and they will wonder how your wife or girlfriend puts up with it. They can't help themselves, they're just curious human beings. If you are comfortable wearing "pretty" clothes and your friends, neighbors and associates are tolerant then go ahead and make your fashion statement. Don't be upset though if people have ideas about you that they keep to themselves and please, just admit wearing women's clothes make you feel good.



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ADVERTISERS! Why not use a transgendered model/spokesperson? Incentives for first time clients looking for something innovative. Call Second Sex Public Relations 215-476-2018.
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Overstock - UV and Air Dry Acrylic nail supplies, instructions for nominal fee. Call Lynda, Cdtips, at 609-384-6269, x6100.
Prosthesis custom made for a man's chest. Dorothy M. Thompson, 215-744-2726, before 10 AM or after 8PM



# Letters to the Editor

Dear Angela,

I just received my first issue of *News & Views* and was impressed by the extent of coverage as well as the activity within the gender community. Nice job! Keep up the good work! Of course I wouldn't have bothered to write if that was all I had to say. Even a members-only type of newsletter such as ours will find its way out into the mainstream and be rightfully considered representative of our community's views. To this end, I feel your comments regarding the sex lives of "true transsexuals" under the headline: "Italian Tastes Turn TS," as well as your need to delineate (the diversity) within our own community, were out of line with our cause and journalistically unprofessional as well.

Under all the satin and lace, our cause is freedom, plain and simple, and I feel that it's counter productive to draw such lines anywhere. We should be aware of this more than anyone, and should make a conscious effort to avoid judgmental attitudes and statements such as yours: "I suspect the girls getting the men are mostly transgenderists. True MtF transsexuals wouldn't be caught dead using the male equipment they were born with for sexual activity."

To propose that all transsexuals are celibate until they've undergone surgery is preposterous. If I have sex, does that make me a "false transsexual?" ...HOGWASH! To find such an attitude coming from the editor of our community's newsletter scares me, regardless of the levity of the context. Please consider what you're saying. You're drawing individually repressive lines just like all the harmful and needless gender lines we're trying to eliminate. As is the case with every individual's concept of gender, no two transsexuals are the same. No two ever share the same self image. No two have had the same past that makes them unique to themselves and the

world. There is no true or false for you to delineate other than that concerning your own sense of identity, and certainly not within the confines of your capacity as editor of our community's voice.

Sincerely,

Michelle A. [REDACTED]

Dear Michelle,

I am sorry anything I have written offended you. You are correct, it isn't my job to make true or false statements about individuals. I do, from time to time, make sweeping general statements about segments of the transgender community. I make these statements based on observations obtained through my, admittedly fallible, senses. Again, apologies for any unintended offense. I did not mean to imply anyone was a "false transsexual."

The transgender community is full of all kinds of people who self identify in many ways. Many of them are trying to eliminate "harmful and needless gender lines" and many of them are trying desperately to conform to a specific, definable gender. By the definitions found in medical texts and works such as the *Benjamin Standards of Care*, "transsexual" is a term which applies to people meeting certain criteria. People who don't meet those criteria are not *officially* transsexual. How they self-identify is up to them and I accept anyone on their terms. We don't need a blurring of gender lines, we need mutual respect for each other as human beings, no matter what our gender.

I made my sweeping generalization with the input of several transsexuals I have known who had told me they avoided sexual relations (before surgery) because they would not feel "right" to be using the "wrong" equipment. I have met people who have chosen to maintain their male genitalia and live full time in the female role and I respect their choice. Are they transsexual? I don't know. I am more comfortable calling such an individual a transgenderist.

I didn't mean to "scare" you and I am happy that you took the time to write and express your opinion. I hope that you will write any time you see something that moves you. That's what

allows us to best serve the transgender community: dialog.

Dear Angela,

This is in response to the article by Kelly Harris concerning hormones (Vol. 9, #8). Although talking people into not rushing into hormones is one of the most frequent tasks I perform in advising T-people I don't at all agree with the extent of her restrictions.

My question is, if hormones are not meant to help one grow breasts and feminize the body, what are they for? Where pray tell do people get off saying if a person is not planning to undergo surgery they shouldn't be taking hormones. This attitude implies the complete denigration of the person who wishes to be a she/male and retain their male organs. It's not up to Ms. Harris, the *Standards of Care* or anyone else, I think, to draw a line between complete commitment to SRS and casual crossdressing and attempt to discourage anyone who feels most comfortable in between. Every transgendered person is unique. This simple truth is continually missed by the medical community who sees us as suffering from a common disorder with a common treatment.

Each individual is ultimately responsible for their own lives and their own happiness. We should advise people of the consequences of actions they may take in attempting to achieve their happiness. To help people explore their feelings and give accurate information is appropriate. What we should not try to do is channel them into some narrow program with an end goal defined by ourselves or by others.

Very Truly Yours,

Tracy [REDACTED]  
President HTGO  
Honolulu

*continued on page 14*

#### Please Note:

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# Hot Buzz

## JoAnn Roberts • CyberQueen



*Jerry Pournelle once asked Robert Heinlein, "How can I ever pay you back?" Heinlein answered, "You don't pay back; you pay forward."*

The heat is still on all over the country and it isn't just the weather. The transgender community, and more specifically Phyllis Frye (ICTLEP), Karen Kerin (ITA!), and Riki Wilchins (Transsexual Menace) are keeping the heat on the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) regarding Transgender inclusive language in the proposed Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). There's been a number of email exchanges and even a 5-way telecon with HRCF Executive Director, Elizabeth Birch. Birch has agreed to talk with representatives of the community, but the activists urge the community to keep up the leafletting of HRCF local fund raising activities. Most of the local grass-root gay/lesbian organizations are appalled when they learn that HRCF made a conscious decision to exclude transgender people from the ENDA wording they support. If you want more information on what you can do to help, contact one of the following people: Riki Anne Wilchins, 212-██████████, Karen Kerin 802-██████████, or Phyllis Frye 713-██████████.

Meanwhile, Transgender Lobbying Days are still set for October 2-3. Call

any of the 3 people mentioned above for details. You better be there! Okay, okay, so some of you can't be there. But you can still do something to help. Write or call your Senators and Representatives and tell them you support transgender inclusion in the ENDA bill. Barring that, you can send a tax deductible donation to the GenderPAC (RN&V, July '95), care of IFGE, PO Box 229, Waltham, MA 02154. Any amount from \$5 to \$500 will help. Please be generous.

Another milestone was reached last month when President Clinton signed an Executive Order barring discrimination of gays and lesbians in sensitive government positions. The order states that "The United States government does not discriminate on the basis of... sexual orientation in granting access to classified information." It goes on to state, "...No inference concerning the standards in this section may be raised solely on the basis of the sexual orientation of the employee." Now that does *not* cover transgender behavior, but several cases involving transgender people have been successfully resolved with those people keeping their jobs and clearances. So, there is precedence in case you are a transgendered person in a sensitive government job. Good Luck.

The transgender community continues to evolve on the World Wide Web at a steadily increasing rate. More and more, the Web and the Internet are being used as a first-line of communication. I wanted to gauge just how many people were visiting my web site and, with the help of Jamie Faye (ETVC), we installed a counter on my Home Page. By the time you read this, my web site will have been visited over 12,000 times between July 20 and Aug. 20. That's a stunning number. Even more stunning was the information about *where* people were "calling" from; like Croatia, Estonia, Hungary, Slovenia, Turkey, Thailand, and Taiwan, just to name a few, and lots

of calls from military sites and U.S. Government sites, too. The CyberQueen is watching you!

I have to toot my own horn here. (It's one of the perks of writing your own column). The CDS Transgender Resource Guide <<http://www.cdspub.com/>> has been listed in the Whole Internet Catalog, part of O'Reilly & Associates Global Network Navigator (GNN) site. You can check out the Whole Internet Catalog at <<http://www.gnn.com/wic/index.html>> or GNN at <<http://www.gnn.com/>>. The GNN site was recently listed as one of the 50 Best Sites on the Web by *NetGuide* magazine (Sept. '95 issue).

But, CDS isn't the only transgender site on the net. In fact, there are enough sites that Yahoo, the ultimate WWW database, has a separate listing for transgendered sites. That is *way* cool! Up to a month ago, any transgender info was listed under Gay/Lesbian/Bi. You can get to the specific TG list at Yahoo by entering this URL into your browser <[http://www.yahoo.com/Society\\_and\\_Culture/Gender\\_\\_Transgendered/](http://www.yahoo.com/Society_and_Culture/Gender__Transgendered/)>. Case is important, so be sure to type it *exactly* as shown (that's 3 underscores between Gender and Transgendered).

I just finished reading RuPaul's autobiography *Lettin It All Hang Out*, 1995 Hyperion books, ISBN 0-7868-6156-8 (\$19.95). It's an easy read and has lots of photos of LaRu. If you wondered where this drag queen cum Pop Diva came from, this book will answer that question. Interestingly, I got the impression that RuPaul is no simple artiste cross-dressing for the gimmick aspect, but maybe someone with real transgender feelings. I also noted on the inside cover where the publishers list the Library of Congress number and keywords for online searching that the second keyword is "transvestite." Hmmm! For those of you with Web access, there's an unofficial RuPaul Home Page at: <[12](http://</a></p></div>
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# HOT•BUZZ

www.cyber-dyne.com/~tprebble/rupaul/index.html>.



It's Fall and the weather is cooling off. (At least I hope so. I'm writing this in August.) Cool weather allows a lot more latitude in what we wear. The Hot Buzz for this Fall is leather, at least to the fashion conscious, but every self-respecting crossdresser has *always* had leather in her closet, including the latest fashionably high, high-heeled boots.



Eyeliner comes on strong this season and you better know how to use and handle the different types. Pencil/crayon liners are the easiest to use and can be smudged for great effects. Cake liner has made a comeback in recent years. Its applied wet with a brush and lasts longer than pencil. Cake liner give a more accurate line but is easier to mess up. Liquid liner is the strongest and most dramatic type but is really difficult to apply neatly. Colors should be limited to black and dark brown. Leave the day-glo orange liner for Hallowe'en. Here's a neat trick... waterproof liquid liner can be used to make faux tattoos.



First push-up bras, now push-up jeans. Yes, girls, now you'll want to rush out and buy a pair of *Code Bleu* jeans. With a special "lift & separate" design, these cotton-spandex jeans are said to raise the derriere an inch. Most of us need some form of boost in the butt since we just don't have the physique required to really fill out a pair of women's jeans. It seems like *Code Bleu* thinks a lot of genetic women need that help too. Look for *Miracle Boost* jeans at better department stores.



At the other end of the jean extreme are the new jeans from Levi's — Guy's Fitting Jeans For Women. That's right guy cut jeans for women. Call 800-USA-Levi for info. Maybe if enough of us call we can get them to make Gal's Fitting Jeans For Men. Ya think?



While *Code Bleu* is lifting butt, the

*Miracle Bra* isn't resting on their cleavage. The company is running a promotion where the public gets to pick the next *Miracle Bra* model. Ads are running that show three models in their *Miracle Bras*. You go to a local department store and cast your vote. Personally, I like Morgan, the model on the far right.



Locally, the King of Prussia Mall is on its way to becoming the largest mall in America based on retail space. In the process of expanding, mall management has added a Nordstroms and a Neiman Marcus. So, I'm getting mail order catalogs from both stores and the prices give me a nose bleed. Their merchandise is gorgeous, but pricey. On the other hand, I just received a catalog from Spiegel and not only are their prices much more reasonable, the clothes come in sizes that will fit many of us. For example, how about a beautiful two-piece suit just right for talking to your Senator or Representative on Transgender Lobby Day for only \$70 and shoes up to size 13 for around \$50. Call 605-348-8100 to request your free catalog. Who says you can't be pretty *and* political?



The more I read *marie claire* the more I like this new magazine. It's fast replacing *Allure* as my favorite source of fashion info. Some of the ads are simply stunning and you won't see them anywhere else. I am especially taken with the ads for Celine and Bruno Magli in the September issue. The Celine ad shows a gorgeous model in a red leather jacket with skinny black leather belt. The Magli ad shows a model with legs that won't quit wearing beautiful high-heel suede pumps. But I especially enjoy the "directions" section of the magazine where they showcase the hottest looks from the runways and how to duplicate them at a fraction of the cost. For example, Chanel showed a bright yellow boucle jacket for \$3535 (no, that's not a typo). You can get an almost identical jacket from Excursion for a lot less than one-tenth the cost.



So what are the hot trends? Well, its the suit for Fall. Jackets are close fitted with nipped waists (get out those corsets). Skirts range from flippy A-lines to pen-

cil straight in just about any length, so take your pick. The hot color for Fall is Fire Engine Red and any other red that comes close. Also hot for Fall is the jacket dress. This is a wonderful combination piece that usually consists of a jacket over a tank dress, although sometimes the jacket is actually part of the dress. A jacket dress makes getting dressed really simple. One selection and you're ready to go out. Just match shoes and accessories.



The hot color for nail polish is Chanel's Vamp which is almost black. Demand for the polish has been so great that one woman offered \$100 for a tester bottle. Chanel has added two new Vamp colors, a purple-black and a burgundy-black.



Welcome to the Powder Puffs Of California, Renaissance's newest affiliate. PPOC is one of the major organizations behind the California Dreamin event. According to Joan Goodnight, Cal Dreamin is headed north in 1996. Usually held in Burbank, Calif., the 1996 Dreamin will be held in San Francisco in concert with the Educational TV Channel, one of the *best* organizations in this community.



Somebody needs to tell Jeri Lee of Spartacus that *Transformation* magazine does **not** represent the transgender community. As long as Lee insists on using pictures of she-males and transvestites with their genitals exposed, it's *never* going to be representative of this community and it's *never* going to find its way into mainstream bookstores like Borders and Barnes & Noble. *Cross-Talk* has made that leap and, apparently, that really irks Lee to no end. The last two issues of *Trash-formations* had articles that were not much more than thinly disguised personal attacks of *Cross-Talk* publisher Kym Richards. One has to wonder why Lee is using expensive paper and ink trashing Richards.



So, those are my opinions, but, hey, what do I know? I think *Transformations* magazine is the transgendered equivalent of *Hustler*. Comments? Email them to <[redacted]@cdspub.com>.

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# Letters...

Dear Kelly,

The HBGDA *Standards of Care* are a pretty good rule book, but not all of us are playing that game. Specifically, not everyone intends to have genital surgery, not everyone intends to live as a woman 100% of the time or to change identity to female. (I don't, but as a visible woman I bet I log more hours in public than most hundred per centers do.)

Some people do what they must, some do what they can, some wait until they have discharged certain obligations... until the old man dies, until the kids are through college, etc. It would be nice if they could have counseling before starting hormones, but if it's a million dollars, security is important. Electrolysis and hormones are what can be done without making a public disclosure.

The *Standards of Care* didn't exist when Virginia Prince or Phyllis Frye started, but I know many TGs who are also happy to have their male genitalia

and their female identity, who titrate their hormone dose to obtain the best of both worlds, breasts and marriage, one might say. Have to plan to have sex reassignment? That's what's wrong with some of those gender clinics — change jobs, get feminine to match the MCP psychiatrist's image, then get cut, otherwise no hormones!

Back to the electrologist's bad advice. (1) Hormones make face tender. (2) If one's beard grows more slowly, that's two days one has to walk around unshaven till the hairs are long enough for electrolysis. That sounds like a good reason for waiting with the hormones till the beard's gone. What is good about low doses of female hormones is that there is a tranquilizing effect, and it's preferable to liquor in some situations. If one is an over-the-top crossdresser, the hormones will tone down the urge and the risk taking; TVs are hormone driven, male hormones.

In my experience, (I am on hormones and am essentially postoperative) crossdressing was a lot more fun, (riskier too) when I was male. But I don't

have to be that anymore, and I enjoy my life these days. Estrogen therapy will gratify the transsexual, and the transvestite may find the experience unrewarding, as stated in the *SoC*. It is a good diagnostic tool. "Going on hormones" is the beginning of a lifetime habit — not as bad as cigarettes, but about as expensive. I feel that anyone who does the requisite electrolysis and shows sufficient dedication; let them try estrogen a month and see if it helps them, but after most of the electrolysis.

Marion [REDACTED]

Editor's reply,  
Marion and Tracy,

Hormones have certainly proven to be strong for invoking a response to Kelly's column. Certainly, everyone is responsible for themselves and their actions, as both of you pointed out, however, as an information source for the transgendered community it behooves us to provide the best information we can on all issues related to gender.

Tracy asked what hormones were for  
*continued next page*

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CHARGES !**  
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if not to grow breasts and feminize the body. That is their function. The problem is deciding why a person wants to reach that goal. Is their attraction to hormones due to their transvestite fueled desires to be more and more perfect as a female so they will be able to "pass?" Is the need to have breasts an outgrowth of their need to bring their body into line with their already feminine mind? Taking hormones will put your body through irreversible changes and just as smoking cigarettes can increase your risk of getting cancer, hormones increase your risk of liver damage and possibly breast cancer. If you keep your male genitalia your body is a battle ground between testosterone and the estrogens. There are psychological changes that also need to be considered.

While it's up to each person to decide, it's also up to them to be as informed as possible and to make a decision based on a well considered analysis of their motives. Female hormones should not be taken to get rid of your beard so you can pass better when you dress up for a trip to the mall and, they should never be taken without medical supervision.

Dear Angela,

First, thanks for the compliment that all Angelas are sweet women.

I had to write you regarding songs with crossdressing themes. I was glad to see that you picked out, as I did, those songs on the list submitted that were either sexy feminine images, or wishful thinking on crossdressing themes. I was also glad to see that I wasn't the only

one who said, "What about *Lola* by the Kinks, and *Laid* by James?"

Here are a few more for the list. On the wishful side, *True Colors* by Cyndi Lauper (my girlhood idol). Also, *Girls Just Wanna have Fun*, (Ed Note: The remake video is full of drag queens.) maybe that one isn't so wishful after all!

While on the subject of crossdressers in music videos, I would be remiss if I didn't point out that *California Girls* by David Lee Roth is loaded with crossdressers. (It is? Ed.)

Now, for the serious additions, that you overlooked. How about *Walk On The Wild Side* by Lou Reed? The lyrics of the first verse are:

*Holly came from Miami, F.L.A.  
Hitchhiked her way across the U.S.A.  
Plucked her eyebrows on the way,  
shaved her legs, then he was a she,  
she said, Hey babe,  
take a walk on the wildside.  
Hey honey,  
take a walk on the wildside.*

Also, another serious addition to this list is *When You Were Mine* by (Guess who) Cyndi Lauper (I love her!). A part of the song goes: "When you were mine I used to let you wear all of my clothes."

Anyway, those are my contributions to the list of songs. In my mind, Cyndi Lauper takes top honors! (You go girl!) Keep up the good work Angela! I love the name, too! See ya, girlfriend!

Angie

Angie,

Thanks for the additional tunes. I didn't mention the Lou Reed classic since it goes without saying it's number one on the list. As for Ms. Lauper's

number of crossdressing tunes, I don't know. Doesn't she have a funny speaking voice? She dresses kind of wild, too. Kind of like a... well, I won't say it.

Hi Angela,

I know it has been a while since you heard from me but I just came from the Jim Bailey concert at Valley Forge music Fair and I thought you might like a report. I thought there would be lots of TVs there but I seemed to be the only one.

Anyway, the concert was fabulous! Jim Bailey did Judy Garland and sang song after song. The concert lasted about two hours and was worth every bit of the \$20 admission. He got three standing ovations. The crowd really loved him. People in the front rows asked him to remove his wig, which he sometimes does, but he declined. (Good for him!) It was a classy act.

If you use this, would you please send me a reprint? I have let my subscription to RN&V lapse because I got tired of all the political stuff.

Best Regards,  
Ellen

Editor's reply,

I'm glad you enjoyed Jim Bailey and I hope you're happy in your new job as his publicist. I'm sorry you let your subscription lapse because of our political coverage. It's our job to bring the community all the news that may have an impact on them and politics, as odious as they can be, usually have an impact on us all. Get another subscription and I promise we'll put all the political articles in blue ink so you don't read one by accident.



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## Talk Show...

used to think that, too, until I realized that in one or two segments, no matter how good educators are, we do not have the time or opportunity to get our message across; we are not given a chance to correct the vast amount of misinformation that has been put forth. Similarly, counselors and therapists do not have time to address the emotional issues that have been raised and exploited. Five or ten minutes on a talk show is not therapy, nor is it ample time to educate the viewing audience on the issues. What would happen to the shows formats if all sexuality professionals refused to participate—at least unless certain conditions were met. At minimum, I hope you will assess whether the topic is important, whether the coverage will be balanced, and whether the guests will be adequately briefed on the content and their role on the show.

I would also like to ask you to consider developing a policy not to refer clients or students to appear as guests on these shows. The *SIECUS Mary S. Calderone Library* regularly receives calls from producers looking for guests

to talk about their experiences with infidelity, fetishes, betrayal, celibate marriages (a frequent request last year), and other such issues. Staff always respond that we can't help them. I feel strongly that such shows have the potential to harm individuals, and that it is not appropriate or ethical to help the producers find guests to exploit.

On the other hand, I think it is incumbent upon us to try to educate the producers of these shows, who have a tremendous opportunity to educate the American public responsibly about sexual issues. They have the skills, resources, and talents to help create an improved climate for sexual health.

To that end, I suggest that the talk shows reevaluate their role in promoting sexual health and sexuality education in America. I hope that they will make a commitment to providing information on the many sexuality-related topics that Americans need and want to know about: safer sex; HIV prevention; talking with children about sexuality; maintaining romance and intimacy in long-term relationships; growing up gay, lesbian, or bisexual; sexual abuse; sexuality and aging; the sexuality needs of people with disabilities; and so on. They could also provide a forum for debate on the public

policy issues surrounding sexuality, such as welfare reform, health care reform, gay men and lesbians in the military, HIV prevention, and sexuality education. The shows could make a commitment to include information about and hotline numbers for places that can provide additional information. They could highlight stories about adolescents who are making contributions to their communities or the larger society. Producers and hosts could make a commitment to educating themselves about the sexual health needs and problems of their viewers. Guests could be helped to develop the skills needed to engage in consensual, nonexploitive, honest, pleasurable, and responsible relationships.

One of our most important roles as sexuality professionals is to assure that people have the information and skills to make responsible sexual choices. The media are uniquely situated to assist us in that goal. Let us hope we can help them to do it better.

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## Transgender Community Should Follow SIECUS Example

by JoAnn Roberts

I am calling on the transgender community and the professionals who serve the transgender community to heed Ms. Hafner's request not to refer members of the community to these talk shows. In the late 1980's, it was worth the risk of discovery to go on these shows and let people know there is a community out here. We knew the talk shows were exploiting us and we exploited them back by insisting on having the names and addresses of our organizations broadcast at the breaks. We did a good job back then and lots of people found us.

Now producers want more and more bizarre examples of transgender behavior. "Plain vanilla" crossdressers

and transsexuals don't create the ratings they want. They're not interested in our issues either. I once suggested to a producer of the *Maury Povich Show* that we do a show on the *Gender Bill of Rights*. She never called back. The risk/benefit analysis does not weigh in our favor anymore. But, perhaps even more importantly, we don't need the talk shows to get our message out. In the last five or so years, the transgender community has made its presence known through a variety of media. We get local newspaper coverage in a positive light. Our community's publications, like *Cross-Talk* and *TV-TS Tapestry*, are available in mainstream bookstores. We're a major presence on the Internet. For all of

these reasons, we *must* decline to be further exploited by tabloid television.

The producers of these television shows are cagy. They call not one organization, but several at a time. I can always tell when a Ratings Month is approaching. I get calls from several sources all requesting the same categories of people for the same shows. Therefore, we must make a community-wide effort to reject these requests unless the show and the producer is willing to seriously discuss the issues of interest to our community, not their audience.

It is in our own best interest to follow the SIECUS example.



# BOOK NOOK

The Transsexual Phenomenon by Harry Benjamin (paperback 300 pgs.) New York: The Julian Press, Inc., 1966. (Reprinted through the cooperative efforts of The Human Outreach and Achievement Institute of Boston, MA and The Renaissance Education Association of King of Prussia, PA). By Lee Etscovitz, Ed.D., Renaissance National Librarian

I just finished reading Harry Benjamin's *The Transsexual Phenomenon*, but I wish I had read it twenty-nine years ago when it was first published, when I was puzzled and troubled by my own transgendered feelings and behavior. The intervening years have not dimmed the findings and insights of Dr. Benjamin. On the contrary, his descriptions of transves-

tism and transsexualism are just as relevant and helpful today as they were when he first collected his thoughts on these matters. And thanks to the cooperative efforts of Human Outreach and Renaissance, we have the opportunity to read what has been out of print for quite a while.

In an overall sense, Dr. Benjamin captures the fundamental struggle of the gender dysphoric, a struggle which is still relevant, when he says: "Unfortunately, our conventions and our laws have no understanding, no tolerance for those in whom nature or life (nature or nurture) have created a dissonance in their sexuality. Such individuals are frequently condemned and ostracized. Among them we find transsexuals (and) transvestites..."

Dr. Benjamin was assuredly ahead of his time with the publication of this ground-breaking book. He discusses transsexualism, transvestism, and homosexuality and presents his now famous classification table showing degrees of intensity of transgendered feeling. The discussion of surgery is

prophetic, in that he foresaw many of the current surgical developments and possibilities. He also deals meaningfully with legal issues, issues that still plague us.

The transsexual autobiographies which are included in the book add significantly to the overall presentation. Dr. Benjamin discusses and presents both male to female and female to male cases. Several photographs accompany the text.

I highly recommend this book as a serious, and sympathetic discussion, of the major issues and aspects of transgendered behavior. Out of this work and other contributions by Dr. Benjamin came the establishment of guidelines for the treatment of transsexualism. The significance of Dr. Benjamin's contribution to the field of gender dysphoria and its treatment is reflected in the gender organization founded in his name, The Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association.





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# More Bad Blood

*Last month we printed a letter from Sarah DePalma about two transsexuals who were turned down as blood donors because of their transsexuality. Here is another report from Sarah on that situation.*

Two transsexuals in Houston, Wendy [redacted] and Denise [redacted], were told they could not donate blood because they were on a "do not accept" list. The reasons given for this were:

- 1) Transsexuals were a high risk,
- 2) Transsexuals are homosexual (Yes, that's what the doctor said!),
- 3) Transsexuals sleep with same sex partners and therefore are in the same category as gay males.

One of the people involved in this saga has faxed me the letter which I will provide to you in a moment. The letter is from the Medical Director of Blood and Transfusion Services for St. Lukes Hospital in Houston. Please note where his letter was sent. Anyone wishing to make their feelings known should contact that address. Also pay close attention to his second paragraph. His reference to "gender re-

lated criteria" is incorrect. The questions asked pertain to sexual orientation, not gender. Also, note how the two terms are used. It is clear the good doctor does not understand the difference between the two terms (sexual orientation and gender) which may explain how this mess arose in the first place.

I urge you to contact the FDA and ask some pointed questions. Remember, doctors are often called to testify on all sorts of issues. Would you want the FDA involved in a case related to transgenders if they are as ignorant as this doctor clearly is?

July 6, 1995

Food and Drug Administration  
Blood Bank Practices Laboratory  
1401 Rockville Pike  
Suite 200 North, HFS 370  
Rockville, Maryland 20852-1448  
Fax: (301) 594-6431

Dear Sir:

*I am writing to seek your guidance pertaining to donor eligibility. We have been approached by two individuals that are very interested in donating but give a rather unusual donor history. Both donors are currently involved in the process of sexual transformation. They are both anatomic males on estrogen therapy who are in a pre-*

*surgical phase prior to transsexual surgery. Neither admits sex with another man since 1977.*

*Since several donor medical history questions are gender related, we seek guidance on correct medical history questioning and your view as related to advisability of these individuals for current and future donations. During the transition period prior to surgery, which gender related criteria should be chosen (male vs. female) and following transition should the recognition of the change of sexual orientation then preclude the necessity of the previous gender related questions?*

*The additional questions that arises from this particular event is potential deferral of persons in the process of or having completed sexual transformation as blood donors. Should some predetermined time be assessed prior to eligibility of these donors? If so, what time frame should be assessed?*

*We seek your guidance and advice from a regulatory perspective. Your help on this issue will be much appreciated.*

Sincerely,

[Name Withheld], MD.

Medical Director

Please do contact the FDA at the address listed at the beginning of the letter. That's where the work needs to be done.



## Vis A Vis...

The obvious theme running through these four viewpoints is that we all have a fondness for the fashions that were current during our formative years. We may all make concessions to the present day in our fashion choices

but the styles we select are probably our personal reflections of those elements that first attracted us to women's clothing. And now I can begin to appreciate why crossdressers may age... but their fashions remain fairly consistent throughout their lives. We're trying to capture the youth and beauty we grew up admiring - even if we

stretch and wrinkle it as we get older.

We're all familiar with the stereotyped image of today's middle-aged crossdresser in too-tight, too-short mini-dresses. But will we also see the middle-aged crossdressers of 2015 sporting the casual grunge look of t-shirts and Birkenstocks? If we do, remember you read it here first.



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## Together In Tyra's Memory Coalition Press Release

### Local Activists Come Together In Tyra Hunter's Memory. Coalition To Meet With Fire Chief

Tyrone Michael Hunter, known to friends and family as Tyra, was critically injured in a car accident on Monday, August 7th at 50th and C Streets, SE. The accident occurred at approximately 3:30 p.m. Numerous witnesses report that when Fire Department personnel working on Tyra discovered she was biologically a male, they temporarily stopped treatment, and made disparaging remarks and jokes about the victim. Tyra was apparently semi-conscious during this time. Tyra died a short time later at D.C. General Hospital.

No one should be denied adequate emergency services — not Tyra Hunter, not transgendered, gay or lesbian people, not African-American or poor people — no one. District resi-

dents should not be neglected, humiliated, degraded or denied prompt emergency treatment by Emergency Medical Services.

The community has come together, in Tyra's memory, to protest the neglectful care she received. Given the delay of the Fire Department's investigation of alleged wrongdoing, we no longer have faith in the integrity of their internal process. As a concerned community, we demand:

1. The results of the Fire Department's investigation by Monday morning, August 21.

2. The creation and implementation of a mandatory sensitivity training program for Fire Department employees, modeled after the Metropolitan Police Department program, which includes transgendered, gay, lesbian and bisexual issues.

Coalition members will meet with fire chief Latin on Friday, August 18th. The group will discuss the above demands, as well as other issues pertinent to Tyra's alleged mistreatment, and will be available for comment following the meeting. To ensure the fairness and accuracy of the Fire Department's investigation, the community coalition will vigilantly continue to monitor the situation and draw attention to further alleged inadequacies.

#### An update

The Fire Chief admitted that there were inappropriate remarks made, but did not admit to [emergency] care being suspended at any time, this in spite of eyewitness accounts to the contrary. Tyra's injuries were so severe that it was unlikely she would have survived anyway, but to spend your last moments on earth being mocked...

# Gen-X Fashion Sense

By Rachel [REDACTED]

Are you a twenty something TG, but look like a fifty something frump? Do Boy Scouts offer to help you across the street, when you went to the same school as their siblings? Did all of your clothes come from Woolworth's? If so, you've got a problem, a problem lots of younger TG's have: They don't know how to dress! Either it's all evening gowns, or dowdy dresses from the clearance rack. I freely admit, once, I was like this. It took a lot of advice, trial and error, and my own observations to change it. If you wanna pass, you gotta blend. It's that simple. Now this article isn't about how to pass, it's about how to blend. If you don't blend, you draw attention. Dress like a hippie at a Republican convention? Wear tight leather at Wal-Mart? Either way attracts attention, and you have to know when you want that attention. If you want it, great. We all love it sometimes. Most TG's just don't want to be "read." So why dress in a way that makes people look and see between the lines?

Part of blending comes from dressing, looking, and acting your age. That doesn't necessarily mean you have to go out and find short shorts, skimpy halters, and big heavy boots. Nor does it mean you have to wear a conservative suit or Donna Reed dress. Dress how you feel! I don't think anybody really *wants* to look like Donna Reed, they just can't help it! One of the ways to do that is to just watch the other girls. Real girls that is. You can't know what's up without paying attention. Read magazines like *Allure*, *Glamour*, and *Cosmo*. Ignore the stuff on runway show fashions and the comeback of '60s hair and makeup. Those are nearly useless, because they don't ever apply to the average person like me and you. See what's hot in makeup styles and colors. Don't be afraid to experiment. If you practice at home, and if it doesn't work, the only person who knows is you.

Read the advice on makeup and clothing and carefully decide what might work for you but most impor-



Rachel with well-shaved pits

tantly, what won't. Weigh 190 and play football for Penn State? You might logically decide that baby Ts are not an option. On the other hand, a nice blouse can work wonders. Always

*continued on page 21*

## Kelly's Korner: *Thoughts On The TS Hotline*

By Kelly Marie Harris

*Ms. Harris is not a therapist. The views expressed in her column are her's and not necessarily those of Renaissance or the South Jersey Chapter of Renaissance.*

I have been a member of Renaissance for a number of years. As with most of you, when my newsletter arrived I would read it from cover to cover. After some months, I became disillusioned because most of the articles were on transvestite concerns and TS issues were left out in the cold. Now, I'm not the only person that feels this way because others had told me the same thing. This has also been used as an excuse not to join Renaissance. At the May National Board meeting I opened my big mouth and made mention of this lack of coverage. It was agreed that a transsexual column was needed and I was appointed/

asked/volunteered to write a monthly column based on the questions and concerns that are discussed on the TS Hotline. I will write every month (or, until burnout sets in again) on something that you want to see addressed. Write me a note c/o the newsletter or call me on the hotline at 609-641-3782.

Again, I am not a mental health professional. I am not an expert. I am a person who has been through the "tunnel" and I care! My "job" is to give you some kind of direction to follow. I believe in the *Standards of Care* and I believe in following them. I have to laugh when somebody tells me, "Oh, I know what I want, I don't have to follow the Standards." First thing I wonder about is what is this person trying to hide? Remember, if you don't suffer from gender dysphoria before you have a "sex change," you will after!

### How To Find a Mental Health Professional

It would be great if we could go to the phone book and look for a specialist under "gender dysphoria." We can't, so now what? If you don't know someone to ask for a referral, you could call a local support group. Or, you could do like I did, sit down with the phone book and start making cold calls. Since the possibility of talking with the doctor are slim, you'll have to go through the receptionist. most of the time the receptionist will ask, "Why do you want to see the doctor?" At this stage in your transition you are most likely too paranoid to say the words out loud, much less to a total stranger. What I suggest is to ask, "Does the doctor work with the gender dysphoric?" Now, if the person on the

*continued on page 22*

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# Gen-X...

know your limitations. Wander around the clothing store; read the catalogs. And by that, I mean the catalogs that show people around your age. Work in a customer service field like I do? Look at the people you deal with. Notice the details! For example, see the sleeveless blouse, matte lipstick, hair easily pulled back and not over styled. It's all in the the details. What wins contests from classic cars to the Academy Awards? The details. *Pay attention to the details.*

The next question is what's going to look good on younger girls? Well, just about anything! What kind of styles do you like? What really catches your eye? If you answer knee-high boots and hot pants, the key word is **STYLE**. We all know it's fun to play for a while, but really! Wanna look like the young woman you are? Wear shorts (not too short), around halfway up the thigh is great. Jeans of any kind except the really tight ones. You want to feel somewhat comfortable, and tight is bad. Looks terrible, feels worse. Ts of any kind and various colors are cool unless they say "Bear Whiz Beer" or "Who farted?" Bodysuits! A few of us can wear 'em, be careful of the length. Skirts are great - above the knee or a mini unless you're trying to be dressy. It's a judgment call at that point. Blouses and shirts of all kinds abound. Polos, button up, sleeveless, are all great. Don't wear sleeveless unless you

shave your armpits. Still want to wear a nice feminine dress? Oh, there are all kinds out there.

Retro is really in right now. If it looks like it's from the Sixties or it makes you look vaguely pregnant, it's hot. Georgettes, rompers, sun dresses or jumpers with Ts (Ts in general are in right now), and denim. Denim is always cool, and there's a lot to choose from. Just be careful about the length and cut if you're above 5'6". Most regular dresses are made for women up to 5'7", and may be too short or have the waist too high. Look carefully and keep your receipts. For Winter, sweaters of all kinds are always appropriate, although I hate holiday patterns. Nice blouses with little ornamentation are good. Natural is in right now. Vests look very good, even sexy, when they accentuate curves. Jeans or slacks are always good. Skirts are usually longer in the Winter but again, it's whatever you fancy. Dark tights are very good with skirts, look good with long skirts, sexy with short skirts and you don't necessarily have to shave your legs. Black is almost universal. Experiment with contrasting colors, but be warned! Never, ever wear bright colors on your legs unless you really like attention!

This short article is by no means exhaustive, it's meant to give a few pointers to determine your style, and some styles to try out. Specific articles on determining what fashions work with what bodies can be found online. You can look good without drawing too much attention to yourself. After all,

when people look at you carefully, they will notice the details and that is where you "pass or fail." I hope I've given some of you younger girls advice on getting hip in the 90's. Mind you, for the older girls, most of this advice is still valid. It doesn't matter what age you are. Above all, observe and learn, wear what is natural for you, and try and be yourself!

Rachel can be reached via Email at [redacted]@aol.com>.



### Qwik Fashion Tips From Rachel

1. Never attempt to "pass" approaching a hill, curve, or in a "No Passing" zone.
2. Never, I repeat, NEVER attempt to pass for anyone but yourself. It is difficult at best, and usually illegal....
3. Act your age, NOT your dress size....
4. Spikes are NOT appropriate for every occasion.
5. A wig is a wig is a wig...
6. **Nobody** has breasts THAT size.
7. The only person who should ever dress like Donna Reed is Donna Reed. Do YOU want to look like a rerun??
8. Red is NOT the only color of lipstick.
9. Throw away the blue eye-shadow, pul-eeze...



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# Coming Events Calendar

## September

14-17 CDS Paradise In The Poconos.  
4 days/3 night getaway weekend  
for crossdressers and partners.  
Call 610-640-9449 for info or  
email <poco@cdspub.com>.

27-30 Southern Comfort Conference  
in Atlanta, Georgia. Write: PO  
Box 77591, Atlanta, GA 30357.

## October

5-9 Tiffany Club Fall Fling on Cape  
Cod. Write: TCNE, PO Box  
2283, Woburn, MA 01888, or  
call (617)-891-9325.

## October

15-22 21st Annual Fantasia Fair (the  
oldest continuous running t-  
event in the world) sponsored  
by the Outreach Institute for  
Gender Studies and held in  
beautiful Provincetown, Mass.  
Contact: FanFair Registrar, PO  
Box 941, SE PA 19087.

28-29 Fall Harvest sponsored by  
MAGGIE, Mid-America Gen-  
der Group Information Ex-  
change. Write: PO Box 9433,  
St. Louis, MO 63117.

## October

31 Henri David's Hallowe'en Ball  
in Philadelphia. The largest  
Hallowe'en party on the East  
Coast. Call: 215-732-7711

## November

15-19 Holiday En Femme, the Tri-Ess  
National Convention in Calgary,  
Canada. Contact Phi Sigma  
Chapter, Box 81115, 755 Lake  
Bonavista Dr SE, Calgary,  
Alberta, Canada T2J 7CP

**Got an event you want publi-  
cized? Let us know and we'll list  
it in this recurring calendar.**

## TS Hotline...

other end of the phone says, "What's  
that?" you know this office has no idea  
how to handle your case. At this point,  
unless you want to pay the doctor  
while you educate him, say "Thanks,  
but no thanks." I found a doctor who  
had not worked with any gender dys-  
phoric patients and admitted as much.  
He was willing to work with me though

as I went through the transition and it  
worked out very well.

One thing to remember is you prob-  
ably will have other issues to be dealt  
with. Some of these issues may take  
precedence over the gender issues! So,  
don't get upset if your doctor doesn't  
start talking about your reassignment  
in the very beginning. Have faith, they  
haven't forgotten why you're there.  
Don't go running off looking for some-  
one else that will only talk gender is-  
sues. If you do get to talk to the doctor

during your cold call phone search,  
don't try to get free advice. Just make  
the appointment and wait until you're  
in the office. The *Standards of Care*  
state it will take between three and six  
months to get a recommendation for  
the next step. Don't be in a hurry!  
What ever you do, don't give up.

[Ed. note: Renaissance News ran  
Survival Guide, the only regularly  
featured column by a transsexual,  
from mid-1989 to late 1991.]



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# TS MENACE Menaces NOW Convention

BY RIKI WILCHINS

A horde (a pride, a covey?) of gendertrash activists and friends descended upon the unsuspecting NOW National Conference (July 21-23) to be visible, educate, run around in black Menace t-shirts, make friendly noises & friendly faces, and ask the National Conference to pass the NJ-NOW State Conference resolution recognizing the rights and needs of transgender and transexual people (reprinted below). Present were folks associated with ICTLEP, IFGE, da' Menace and organizations from over 8 cities across the US. Included were local Ohio gender activists from Akron and Columbus who showed up to support the action and work their attractively cross-dressed rear-ends off!

250 signatures (later amended to 150) needed to be collected for the resolution to be introduced on the Conference floor. It is worth noting that one of the earliest signatories (collected by M-to-M Tonye Hawk who arrived a full day early to do set-up)

was Ms. Ellie Smeal, past-president of NOW! Out of about 700 attendees, your GenderGang signed up almost half, giving up only when it was clear that introduction was inevitable. They then concentrated on collecting signatures for a resolution introduced by the Lesbian Rights Task Force, which called for depathologizing Gender Identity Disorder and the right to medical care *on-demand* for all people to achieve and maintain their own expression of gendered identity.

Expecting controversy, NOW staffers scheduled the NJ transgender resolution last. It never materialized. The resolution would have passed without dissent by conference acclimation, except for 2 delegates (that's not a misprint: only 2!) who demanded debate. Unfortunately, the Conference never got beyond debating the first few resolutions before ending Sunday afternoon: the remainder were tabled to the National Board for a vote when they meet in session in September.

In addition, the head of Now

National's Membership Committee wrote us a note saying she considered this an important issue and requesting an info packet to be mailed to all 50 state NOW chapters for discussion and education. And Ms. Smeal, accompanied by the current president's righthand, stopped by the NJ-NOW folks to promise to shepherd the resolution through the September board meeting.

On the last day, a march was held from the conference center to the Ohio State Capital Building. In the parade, near the front, was the transgender contingent. They entered the square early and mounted the steps facing the Capital Building, so as marchers entered they saw 12 transgender activists and friends, most in black Menace t-shirts, standing in line behind a 3-foot long "Transgendered and Proud and We Vote" banner with their right fists in the air. You could have heard the cheers all the way to Cincinnati.



## TransActions In Action

by Jessica Brandon

On the afternoon of Wednesday, July 19th, I had an opportunity to attend a meeting of TransActions, a new group whose goal is to address the issues of the transgendered community in the Philadelphia area. The organization is led by Maggie Heineman of The Fight The Right Network and Mecale Little of ActionAIDS. The group included representatives from every segment of the community, including yours truly representing Renaissance.

Topics discussed at the meeting included the controversy surrounding the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the importance of unity among all transgendered people in order to avoid the sort of divisions that exist in

the gay and lesbian community, the overall meaning of the term "transgender," gender expression, and the lack of laws that would help transgendered people.

There was one other topic covered which stirred a great deal of interest — a local event to recognize and celebrate the transgendered community. Ideas were bandied about regarding this event, though it's still in its infancy. One possibility was to hold the event during the Labor Day weekend in a public venue, even though, as one attendee pointed out, Labor Day weekend is when Wigstock happens in New York City, thus posing a possible scheduling problem.

I found the meeting to be an extremely educational experience as I got

the chance to interface and share opinions with other members of this wonderful collective of human beings who make up the transgendered community. These were people who fight, and fight hard for the sort of rights "normal" people take for granted and it was an honor to have been among them.

If you are interested in attending a meeting of TransActions contact Mecale Little at 215 [REDACTED]. Meetings are held at the Action AIDS office 1216 Arch Street, 4th floor, Philadelphia. Or send Email to Ben Singer at <bensinge@gandalf.rutgers.edu>.

*Postscript*

TransActions held a picnic on Labor Day at Judy Garland Park in Philadelphia. Attendees listened to several transgender speakers



# Another HRCF Protest Planned

It's Time, Texas! (ITT), in association with Transsexual Menace, announced today that it has begun planning for a protest to be held at the Dallas/Ft. Worth black tie event on Nov. 4, 1995 by the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF). "Not only do we plan to participate in this nationwide protest against the HRCF, but we plan to hold the largest protest the HRCF has encountered," said Sarah DePalma, chair of It's Time, Texas!

This protest stems from actions taken by the HRCF to exclude transgenders from the Employment Non Discrimination Act (ENDA). After a year long effort by transgender political organizations to produce a transgender inclusive bill, the HRCF succeeded in having transgenders removed from the legislation.

The actions of the HRCF follow the same pattern seen a year earlier when Chai Feldblum, the drafter of ENDA, acknowledged that transgenders were purposely omitted because the HRCF felt inclusion might cost them twenty votes. Transgender groups retaliated by securing twenty votes from legislators who agreed not to vote for ENDA unless transgenders were included.

In this most recent incident, the HRCF knew transgender inclusive language had been drafted in the autumn of 1994 in response to a request from the ranking Republican Senator on the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, Jim Jeffords.

According to Reg Jones, "The HRCF approached me in my capacity as an aide to Senator Jeffords to introduce ENDA in the same format as last year's bill that did not address transgender concerns, and the HRCF rejected any amendment to include transgenders." The HRCF later asked Reg Jones to recant his statement which he refused to do.

In response to this blatant discrimination, It's Time, America!, Transsexual Menace, and Transgender Nation agreed to join forces and stage informational protests and pickets at HRCF fund raising events throughout

the nation. Protests have already taken place in New York City, Atlanta, Houston, and Philadelphia.

The goal of the Dallas protest, according to Ms. DePalma, is to show the HRCF everything is bigger in Texas, including the ability to organize and stage effective protests. "We staged an effective protest in Austin when the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby excluded us from hate crimes legislation. I expect this will be many times larger and much more organized," she said. "We are making arrangements for car caravans from Austin, San Antonio, Houston, and Fort Worth. Add this to our numbers in Dallas and our presence should be considerable."

Transgenders point out their exclusion by the HRCF:

1. Violates the spirit of the 1969 rebellion at Stonewall where transgendered individuals fully participated in the beginning of the inclusive gay/lesbian/bisexual rights movement.

2. Violates the first demand of the Platform of the 1993 March on Washington which specifically demands passage of a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender civil rights bill.

3. Violates the unanimously passed resolution of the Board of Directors of the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association (NLGLA) in January of 1995 which, "strongly urges members of congress to include the transgendered in the ENDA and any successor or amended bills." (NLGLA is the only gay legal association affiliated with the American Bar Association.)

The three transgender political organizations issued three demands to the HRCF.

1. The HRCF must immediately cease their opposition to transgender inclusion in ENDA.

2. The HRCF issue a press release stating they would immediately become transgender inclusive.

3. The HRCF issue a statement recognizing transgender inclusion in the Queer rights movement.

Ms. DePalma went out of her way to make this point clear, "It's Time, Texas,

and transgenders around the country are utterly committed to this struggle. We understand that gays and lesbians generally are not aware of what their political organizations are doing. Our mail, and personal comments made to us, bear this out. Our goal is to make the HRCF understand that if they continue on their current course they will become generals without an army."

## *This Just In:*

As we neared press time an email dispatch from Ms. DePalma informed us that she, Phyllis Frye, Karen Kerin, Jessica Xavier, Tere Fredrickson, and Elizabeth Birch of the HRCF participated in a conference call. As a result of that conversation, the HRCF has offered to fly all of the above (plus Riki Wilchins) to Washington, D.C., on the weekend of September 16 in preparation for a second meeting with transgender rights leaders, the HRCF, and Senator Jeffords of Vermont, who is the sponsor of the transgender inclusive version of ENDA. The purpose of the second meeting is to discuss transgender inclusion in ENDA 1996 and the best strategies for accomplishing that goal. This meeting is expected to take place October 2 and 3 during *National Transgender Lobby Days*.

This does not mean planned protests have been called off. On the contrary, the future success of these talks may well hinge on maintaining the pressure on the HRCF. Transgender activists caution local protest planners to be wary of local HRCF representatives who may not be aware the national HRCF is talking with us.

National Transgender Lobby Days now become even more vital. The HRCF has offered to provide training on how to lobby a legislator. They may well form an opinion of the political strength of the transgender community by the actual number of people we can turn out for an event of this type. If there is any way possible for you to participate in lobby days, please know that you are needed and welcome. Contact Sarah DePalma, Phyllis Frye or Riki Anne Wilchins if you would like to lend your support.



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# Ask The Dermatologist

Send your questions to  
"Ask The Dermatologist" c/o  
Renaissance News & Views.

Dear Dermatologist,

I have lots and lots of ugly body hair. If I want to go out in the summer months I have to shave everything in order to wear cute, and cool summer fashions. Sometimes, like for a convention, when I am going to dress for a few days in a row I will pluck my chest hair so that I don't have to shave and my chest looks fine without having to use beard cover makeup. Problem is, every time I pluck my chest I get at least one ingrown hair. It causes a red, raised thing that I think you doctors call a lesion. I don't want to dig into it so I usually let it stay there and try to dress around it if it is visible. How can I, 1: Stop them from becoming ingrown? 2. Get the hair out without damaging myself and causing a scar?

Angry Red in Austin

Dear Red,

If you are plucking a luxuriant growth of hair on the chest, and getting only a few ingrown hairs, your technique is pretty good! If you pluck the hair straight out in the direction of the hair follicle, you should not get many ingrown hairs. Twisting motions may damage the shaft, and cause the new growing hair to grow into the skin in-

stead of up through the course of the hair follicle. The body treats an ingrown hair as it would any other foreign material - such as a splinter. Bacteria get involved, and the body mounts an inflammatory response. If you can see the hair close to the surface, you can sterilize a needle and tease it out, much as you would a splinter. An antibiotic liquid or gel can be had on prescription from your dermatologist. The best two are Erythromycin and Cleocin. I prefer these to ointments, because ointments tend to block pores. If you cannot see the hair, I would simply apply the antibiotic. Some hairs will grow out on their own. If they do not, a dermatologist will have to remove them.

Dear Dermatologist,

I have heard that all of the shampoo advertising that talks about healthy, shiny hair is a lie. I keep my own hair long and in the past I have used all of the special shampoos and conditioners that cost so much. I recently saw a talk show where an expert hair person said that hair is dead! Is this true? If it is dead, does anything you put on it help?

Confused Coiffure

Hair is indeed dead, but it need not be lifeless! Hair is made of the protein, keratin, just as are the top layer of the epidermis and the nails. A hair may look like a single entity, but it is really composed of parallel strands of keratin linked together by Sulfur-Sulfur (disulfide) bonds. "Permanent waves" work by breaking some of those bonds, producing a wave. A second solution, which restores some of the bonds, locks in the wave. Straighteners work by massively destroying the bonds under high pH. Similarly, adjusting the pH with a shampoo can add body to hair. So can conditioners, which again work very lightly on the disulfide bonds. In choosing a shampoo, it is important to avoid those with a high concentration of detergents, which can make the hair brittle and lead to split ends. One of the better conditioners, which can be used with almost any shampoo, is Lonil conditioner. If you choose a gentle, conditioning shampoo, and follow it with a conditioner, you should have every girl's dream of luxuriant hair. While hair is biologically dead, it is chemically quite alive. With care, you can enjoy better beauty through chemistry.



## Proposed Anti-Discrimination Bill Includes TGs

Baltimore, MD — Free State Justice Campaign (Maryland's statewide gay and lesbian civil rights organization) and It's Time Maryland (Maryland's first transgendered political action group) have agreed to work together for the passage of a single bill that would amend the Maryland State Human Rights Code to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

For the past nine months, both groups have been discussing ways to work together. Heated discussions at FSJC meetings were followed by educational and private lobbying efforts, which led to a round of negotiations,

resulting in an agreement to work together on a common bill. Both groups recognize the importance of working in harmony with each other toward a common goal; passage of the Anti-Discrimination Bill of 1996.

"We have an agreement that affords an opportunity to effectively protect the transgendered citizens of Maryland against discrimination. It's been a rocky road, and now the real work begins," said Jessica Xavier of It's Time Maryland.

"With this agreement, FSJC can concentrate on furthering its goal to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation and help eliminate

discrimination suffered by transgendered individuals at the same time," commented Bob Healy of FSJC.

Acts of discrimination committed against gay males, lesbians, transgendered persons and bisexuals are similar in nature and are often perpetrated by the same persons. Inclusion of protection for transgendered persons in FSJC's bill has been endorsed by several organizations, including the Maryland Lesbian and Gay Law Association and the Interfaith Justice Coalition.

