

Renaissance News



Volume 3, No.6

Vision — Integrity — Quality

June, 1989

Night of Illusion: a GALA event

It's that time of year; time when the weather is delightful, when school is over and, when a girl's fancy turns to thoughts of glamorous prom gowns. But what can we do? Here's an answer. How better to show off your finery than at a glittering drag show.

Renaissance, in conjunction with the Gay And Lesbian Arts (GALA) committee, in celebration of Gay and Lesbian Pride month, is co-sponsoring "Night of Illusion: An Evening of Female Impersonation" on Saturday, June 10.

GALA asked Renaissance to produce the event because of our experience with similar AIDS benefit productions.

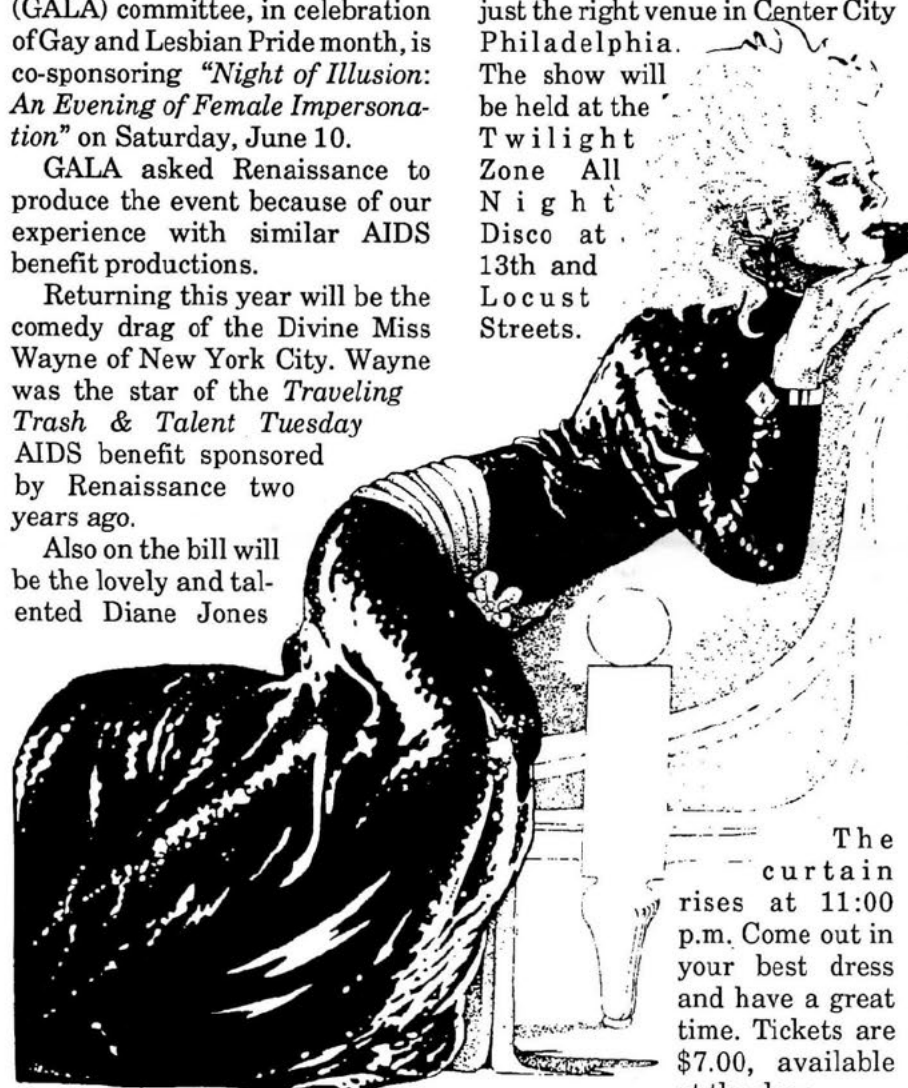
Returning this year will be the comedy drag of the Divine Miss Wayne of New York City. Wayne was the star of the *Traveling Trash & Talent Tuesday* AIDS benefit sponsored by Renaissance two years ago.

Also on the bill will be the lovely and talented Diane Jones

(winner of the Cartwheel's Drag Wars), Berry Lyndon, Natasia (from the Black Banana), our own JoAnn Roberts and other surprises. The girls have worked up production numbers that would make Busby Berkeley proud.

Angela Gardner has worn her manicure down to the quick to produce this event, and has found just the right venue in Center City Philadelphia.

The show will be held at the Twilight Zone All Night Disco at 13th and Locust Streets.



The curtain rises at 11:00 p.m. Come out in your best dress and have a great time. Tickets are \$7.00, available at the door.

Supporting the Gay and Lesbian community

Being asked to produce the *Night of Illusion* is an important milestone for Renaissance. For a group, whose members are predominately heterosexual, being asked to co-sponsor an event that is primarily aimed at the gay and lesbian community is both an honor and a statement of respect.

From its inception, Renaissance recognized the need to participate with the gay and lesbian community in efforts to create tolerance and acceptance for all sexual minorities, including transvestites and transsexuals. For that reason, we sponsored an AIDS benefit as our first public function. We also participate in the Transgender Work Group for the Mayor's Commission on Sexual Minorities.

This commitment to cooperate with the lesbian and gay community has paid off for us. Renaissance has earned a measure of respect and trust among gay and lesbian organizations in the region. For example, Renaissance was nominated this year for a Lambda Community Service Award. The Lambda Awards are sponsored by the *Philadelphia Gay News*.

Now, here is another opportunity to show support. Renaissance members are urged to come out for the GALA events in June, especially for the *Night of Illusion*. Show that you *do* care.

Chapter news & notes

If no address is given for an organizer, write or call the office.

New Jersey

South Jersey: Tina Louise, chapter leader. Write c/o Box 2, Glassboro, NJ 08028. Tina needs your help to get this group organized. They have not been able to secure a meeting location. If you are willing to contribute your time and energy to the group, please contact Tina or the office. Until further notice, no meetings are planned.

North Jersey: See Manhattan listing below.

New York

Manhattan: Carla [REDACTED] is organizing this group. Contact her at 212-[REDACTED]. There has already been one organizing meeting held April 21. We will keep you informed as this develops.

Central New York State: We have some interest from the Albany/Rochester area. Contact the office for details.

Ohio

Columbus area: Please see the notice in NGN this issue.

Pennsylvania

Greater Philadelphia area: Teri Kay, chapter leader. Write c/o, Box AD, Bensalem, PA 19020. Meets third Saturday of the month at the original King of Prussia location. Doors open—9:00 p.m.; new member orientation—9:30 p.m., main program—10:30 p.m.

No smoking is permitted in the meeting rooms.

The May meeting will feature Tinsel Garland and the topic will be makeup for the stage.

Please note that the Spring/Summer starting time is in effect for the chapter.

Reading: Susan [REDACTED] chapter leader: Box 14421, Reading, PA 19607.

Susan is trying out different meeting schedules to see which one generates the best response. Contact her for the latest information about when and where they meet.

Susan has also identified commercial and professional resources in the area.

Alice-Ann is producing a local newsletter for the chapter.

Harrisburg/York: Elsa

[REDACTED] is coordinating a Lower Susquehanna Valley chapter. Interested parties should write her at Box 7412, York, PA 17404.

Vermont

Burlington: All activity here is on hold until further notice.

General Information

The Chapter Handbook is an in depth set of guidelines to help you develop a successful organization.

For those who want to start a group but do not wish to affiliate with us, we have Community Outreach Bulletin #1, *Creating An Organization*, available for \$1.25.

And, don't forget about...

- The PCHA Food Bank: Please bring canned and dried food to the next KofP meeting.
- Background Papers are available for \$1 each plus \$.25 postage for each pair ordered. Eight papers are available.

- 3R addiction recovery support group meets at King of Prussia on third Sat. of the month.
- The Pen Pal Project. If you are willing to write letters to pen pals, please let Alison know. Write to the office, c/o Dept. PP.

Renaissance News

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For the latest information about events call: 215-640-9449, 24 hours a day.

Renaissance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing education and support to the gender community at large.

Business Report Thru 31 March

Membership Count: 273

Starting Balance: \$2305.05

Income:

Dues & Donations	\$665.00
Publications	122.45
From Chapters	692.50
Subtotal	\$1479.95

Expenses:

To Chapters	\$1025.00
Newsletter	510.16
Office	50.04
Postage	127.15
Subtotal:	\$1712.35

Ending Balance: \$2072.65

Renaissance Meeting Calendar

June

- 10th Reading Chapter
- 17th Greater Phila. Chapter

July

- 8th Reading Chapter
- 15th Greater Phila. Chapter

August

- 12th Reading Chapter
- 19th Greater Phila. Chapter

Opinion - Forum - Information

An open letter to Renaissance...Hollis [REDACTED], Northern New Jersey Tri-Ess

As a lifelong Hudson Valley, New York crossdresser and a recipient of your fine newsletter, I would like to give you my thoughts as a member of Tri-Ess.

In 1986, I became a member of Tri-Ess. Our group met in Elmsford, N.Y. We were fairly happy for a time, but a rather shameful event occurred. Renata, a very nice person whom I believed to be an asset to our group, let it be known that she was a transsexual. A number of our members (not a large number, to my understanding) verbally attacked her for entering the club under "false pretenses" (no gay, bisexual or transsexual is allowed), and summarily drummed her out of the group. Some of the members came to her defense. Her dismissal was almost certainly not supported by the majority of the members. Many members were not even aware that this dismissal was happening.

We eventually moved out of our hotel location in Elmsford and now meet in northern New Jersey. All of the members who hounded Renata (several of them officers) are no longer with us, and most of the original members have left as well, with a few exceptions.

Our group is much smaller now, but we continue to exist as a Tri-Ess organization, which means we still abide, apparently, by the "credo" of the national organization. (Tri-Ess, The Society for the Second Self, was founded in 1976 in California with Carol Beecroft

as the leader. —Ed.)

The introductory booklet by Tri-Ess states the group is open only to heterosexual TVs, and their wives or girlfriends. Bisexuals, gays and transsexuals are instructed to look elsewhere for a group. Prospective members are required to make a pledge which is listed in the same booklet. Pledge #5 states each member must agree, "To keep National Headquarters informed of behavior and activities which are against the best interests of the organization. I understand that my membership will be revoked if found guilty of conduct unbecoming a sister in the Sorority."

While the ban against non-heterosexuals is not mentioned in the pledge, it is most implicit. Essentially this means that Renata revoked her membership the moment she labelled herself a transsexual. (A similar situation occurred with Wendi Pierce and Alpha-Zeta [Ariz.] last year —Ed.)

It is not too difficult to theorize the reason behind the Tri-Ess discriminatory policy. The organization was originally founded for the conservative crossdresser who is supposedly, firmly heterosexual, likely with a wife and children. To these individuals, association with non-heterosexuals "makes you one of them." Therefore, your identity as a heterosexual male is threatened as well as your marriage and family life. But this reason has not been offered by Tri-Ess to explain its policy. Tri-Ess has become a

large organization since 1976. It has between 20 and 30 chapters, and has possibly over 1000 members.

Should Tri-Ess be forced to become an open organization if the majority of its members don't want it to? I don't know. But not too long ago, all men's clubs were forced by public and legal opinion to open their doors to women. Long before that, blacks were allowed to attend all white colleges, and farther back than that women were given the vote.

I am now vice-president of my Tri-Ess group. I have met some very fine people and made many friends through it. I'd like to stay in this group if I can. To my knowledge it's the only TV group that regularly meets within a radius of 90 miles from where I live.

But I do have other longings. I long to be in a group where people share feelings and friendship without prejudice. I long to be in a group where I don't have to tell gays, bisexuals and transsexuals, who desperately need people to talk to, "Sorry, no admittance." I long to be in a group where people aren't afraid of others simply because they have different sexual orientations.

I applaud the Renaissance stand on anti-discrimination. If your group truly lives up to its policy, you are indeed aptly named. I am afraid Tri-Ess is still in the period that preceded you — the Dark Ages.

The exercise of power...JoAnn Roberts

I had not planned to write anything this month but I am moved to make comment on Hollis' letter.

Her letter expresses a strong sense of helplessness and the inability to change the way things are in Tri-Ess. I guess I just don't understand that viewpoint.

Any support group, Tri-Ess included, is nothing more than the sum of its parts: its members. If the majority wants an open policy, they must tell the leaders. If the leaders won't listen, their own pledge can be used against them. They are not acting in the best

interest of the organization, the local organization.

The real power resides in the individual. She must decide what is right for herself. She must not delegate that responsibility. For if she does, she gives up a most precious freedom: freedom of choice.

An American Yankee in French Court...JoAnn Roberts

Our family had finally decided to take a holiday and this was to be our first trip outside of the United States. Our destination was the United Kingdom, and we were excited about the trip.

I wrote letters to several transgender groups in the U.K. to see if I might visit them during our trip. My plans were loose and I would firm them up depending on who I could visit. My highest priority was to get together with Phaedra Kelly of the Gender Transient Affinity, as I am the GTA representative to the International Foundation for Gender Education here in the U.S. I blocked out three days at the end of the trip for a visit to the Isle of Wight, so that left six days for other travel. Phaedra helped locate a nice hotel in the Earl's Court section of London. The tube station (subway to us) was around the corner and we could travel all over

greater London from there.

I had written to TransEssex and the Scottish TV/TS group. I never did get a reply from the Scots, but I decided to forego Edinburgh as it added enormously to the cost of the trip. I exchanged letters with Stacy Novak, the coordinator of TransEssex, and found that I would not be there in time for their regular meeting. Stacy and her friend Tammy offered to come to London to meet with me. I asked Phaedra to join us. The plan was to meet at the TV/TS London headquarters in French Court. The date was set for Saturday at 8:30 p.m.

I located the nearest tube station to French Court and found that we would be traveling to the other side of the city. I was apprehensive about "tubing" while crossdressed but Phaedra reminded me that Britain is the birthplace of "gender-bending", so it shouldn't offer any problems.

We got underway late. It was my fault. We had been out shopping for knee-high, spike heeled boots. I never did get my boots. Of all things to be the "rage" in London: Cowboy boots everywhere! So, we got back to the hotel a little later than I would have liked. I wasn't ready until about 8 p.m. My wife, Betty, had been ready for over 45 minutes. I hate to be late!

We dashed out to the tube and off we went. No one paid us much mind at all. The only "incident" was when we got off. A very big black man said something to Phaedra which I did not hear. But Phaedra is no shrinking violet and went right back at him. There was a tense moment when I thought we might get into a physical scuffle, but the man kept going in the opposite direction. *Phew!*

Out on the street we were not quite sure which way to go and

continued on page 9

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Paula Jordan Sinclair... The NewsQueen

The discussions within the transgender community about support group open membership policies have not gone unnoticed by the compiler of this monthly column of news from the "outside" world. So, to promote the spirit of inclusion of all peoples, we'll start this column with an item with a strictly *heterosexual* slant. And who could be more heterosexual than Madonna. Why, even her name speaks of breeding!

The May issue of *Interview* magazine quotes the pop star and former Pepsi pusher as saying that despite being an "extremely flirtatious" kid who "crawled on everyone's lap," she didn't have her true sexual awakening until just last year. She didn't elaborate on that liaison, but perhaps there is a clue in a later quote about the kind of men she likes.

"The most interesting men I've met are the ones who are in touch with their femininity," she said. "They are the strongest men."



Besides the recognition that some heterosexuals actually find each other sexually attractive, inclusive policies should be based on the knowledge that heterosexuals (or "straights," as they sometimes call themselves) also are capable of showing great courage and serving as role models for the rest of us. One of these role models is Patricia Smith, a high school English teacher in Rhode Island.

As part of a lesson on prejudice as portrayed in the arts, she had her students read books about discrimination against transvestites and blacks. She also showed her class the film *Making Love*, a portrayal of the doomed marriage of a gay man who ignored social mores and took a straight woman as his spouse.

Several parents protested the use of the materials.



The careful reader will have noted more than a hint of irony so far in this column. The real world has quite a different view of normalcy. If it were not so, then the following item would *not* be considered news: the political campaign of an avowed transvestite for a legislative seat representing part of the city of Brisbane in Australia.

Tanya Amanda Wilde, 46, is running with the strong backing of the city's gay and lesbian community. She said she would conduct a high profile campaign that would focus attention on the plight of homosexuals and other sexual minorities.

For those of you whose geography is a bit rusty, we should point out that Brisbane is the capital the Australian state of Queensland.



One problem society imposes on transsexuals is that of identifying themselves as having been known by a different name without going through the rigmarole of explaining their sex change. Jeffrey Zaslow, the advice columnist who replaced Ann Landers when she left the *Chicago Tribune* a couple of years ago, has come up with a possible solution.

Recently, the editors of a college alumni magazine wrote Zaslow inquiring how they could properly identify an alumna who was once an alumnus. The individual in question had told the editors that she had a sex change operation after graduating from the college, but the editors did not think that type of personal information was appropriate for their publication. Still, they asked, how do we indicate to classmates that "Sam Jones" is now "Susan Jones?"

Zaslow replied, "the word 'nee' is used to identify a woman's name before she got married. You might identify your transsexual alumni this way: Susan Jones (nee Sam Jones)."



In addition to the ongoing discussion regarding open membership policies, we have noted the continuing debate on the bathroom question. No, we don't mean that lengthy exchange of letters that Ann Landers published in the *Trib* about the proper placement of toilet paper roll, or even her columns about leaving the seat up or down in mixed households.

Instead, we refer to the question of choosing a bathroom based either on hormones or haberdashery. One entrant into the fray has noted that there may be a potential problem with the sound of water splashing into the bowl from a considerable height. It appears that the Japanese have solved that problem by the installation of electronic devices in some public rest rooms. The device produces the recorded sound of a flushing toilet.

Many Japanese women, it seems, are so shy about making a tinkling sound that they flush public toilets all the while they are using them. Thanks to the new devices, all they have to do is push a button in their stalls, and an audio tape player fills the room with the recorded sound of rushing water. Each play lasts 25 seconds. The volume can be raised or lowered to fit the size of the room.



Perhaps it was a case of "john jitters" that recently led a woman in Los Angeles to don the clothes of the man she had robbed at gunpoint several days earlier. Unfortunately for her, the "disguise" contributed to another kind of apprehension—her arrest on armed robbery charges.

The strange saga began when the woman pulled a gun on a middle-aged man and forced him into an alley. After ordering the man to surrender his valuables, she made him strip. The woman

continued on page 7

On The Town with Alison

Dining with the stars *Back Stage...* a special report by Charlene

Philadelphia's South Street area has many fine restaurants, but one of the best is a small, friendly place on south Fourth Street named **Back Stage**.

I've had the pleasure of dining there more than half a dozen times and have never been disappointed. The dining room/bar seats about 40 people and is decorated in an Art Deco motif built around old movie stars. A bigger-than-life Betty Grable greets you at the entrance. Framed photos of old movie stars fill the walls, while the background music is generally old show tunes and movie themes.

The menu provides an interesting number of dishes named after one's favorite stars. Appetizers include: Paul Williams—marinated shrimp cocktail; Ava Gardner—avocado crepe with

crabmeat and swiss cheese, (absolutely delicious). The salads are a generous size and very tasty. My favorite is Robert Roquefort (\$4.00) garden greens with roquefort, avocado, bacon and onions. The entrees are truly delightful, like the Mae West (\$10.00); lime broiled breast of chicken, served with a mustard-honey sauce. My favorites are Bosom Buddies (\$12.50); chicken and shrimp with a Madras-curry sauce and Ryan O'Veal (\$15.00); veal scallops breaded and sautéed with tomatoes, mushrooms and basil. In addition to these menu regulars, there are the specials of the day.

The staff, Howard, Charles, and Marc are friendly, attentive and polite. They will make your dining experience something special. The bartender, Micheal, is a

true professional and capable of whipping up any drink from a gin and tonic to a Funky Cold Medina. The owners Peter Lamlein and William Alexander take great pride in maintaining a quality operation.

For those of you who shy away from the South Street area, have no fear; the punk rockers are not here. I've been to Back Stage as Charlene, and as C. J., with other crossdressers, and with straight friends. The place is usually filled with casually dressed couples, many of whom are gay. Overall, *Back Stage* is a delightful dining experience.

Our business is very welcomed there. Reservations are a must on weekends. Try it yourself. Back Stage, 614 S. Fourth Street, Philadelphia, 215-627-9887.



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Artistic Transvestism: a new trend?...Linda McKim, CHIC Diary

Perhaps you noticed the piece in the *Los Angeles Times* covering the efforts of four major male authors who published novels writting as women. The *Times* aptly called the act "artistic transvestism."

Reynolds Price, John Updike, Jay McInerney and Jim Harrison created quite a stir among critics. And although they worked without knowledge of the others, they experienced similar feelings, some of which are familiar to TVs.

"I am convinced that the sexes are not so different that we are shut out of the other sex's thoughts," commented Updike. McInerney wanted to imagine himself in other realms of experience. "I think it's like method acting," he said. "It's like really immersing yourself in a role. The 'great sexual divide' is one we're always looking across with great fascination."

"I dreamed of her a couple of times," Harrison said of the persona he had adopted. After that, he had to let himself believe he could

create her in the way Sioux shamans believe they can transform themselves at will.

On the other hand, author Price did not find the process so forbidding and was not surprised that he found no deep feminine mysteries. The only real difference he sees between men and women is that women can bear children. "Everything else is role playing. Women playing with dolls and men getting shotguns on their 10th birthday. Any sensible, sensitive person should be able to see past roles foisted upon them in childhood."

Of course, not all of the criticism of these works has been positive. Marge Piercy, poet and author, feels the transgender efforts were not all that successful. But she sees hope in the fact that men try at all. "Through the capacity of empathy and imagination, morality grows up, it becomes more adult, more mature."

It's a nice thought on which to close — maybe an inspiration for us *all* to try a little harder.

NewsQueen...from page 5

then ran off, taking the man's clothes with her.

The man ran into a nearby thrift shop and wrapped himself in a second-hand robe. A store clerk said she first thought the man was a "weirdo," so she called the police. But instead of arresting him, the police began to search for the female bandit. She was caught days later wearing her victim's suit.

♣ ♣ ♣

A group of men that police say may number as many as 60 seem to be using a similar but less violent ploy to add to their wardrobes.

Police in Boca Raton, Fla., arrested and charged three men with being members of a burglary ring made up mostly of crossdressers who have broken into chic women's boutiques

throughout the state and made off with many thousands of dollars of designer clothes for their own use.

According to Sgt. Mike McCutcheon, the trio was arrested outside of an expensive women's clothing store. "We think we have a pretty good idea of what they were going to do at that store," he said. "Why else would they be there at 4 in the morning?"

♣ ♣ ♣

Miss Sinclair usually reads several newspapers each day. But now that the neighborhoods around chic boutiques are no longer safe (not to mention the alleys behind thrift stores), she will be spending the next few weeks trying to find less hazardous places to shop. Therefore, she may not see a story or two relating to transgender issues or crossdressing. If you see such a news story, clip it out of the paper and send it to her at the Renaissance office. Kindly note the name of the publication and the date it appeared.

Getting along with others

We don't always like everyone we meet. However, there is no reason why we can't learn to work with almost anyone, especially those with similar goals. Here are a few simple guidelines:

- Don't say everything you think. And watch your body language. It can say more than you intend or want to say.

- Make few promises, but keep those that you do make if you want to be trusted.

- Learn to praise good work, no matter who did it - including your rivals.

- Have empathy. Celebrate with those who are happy, console those who are mourning.

- Keep an open mind. If you are the only one coming up with the right answers, something is wrong. Discuss, don't argue.

- Treat everyone as an important person, just as you would like to be treated.

Business Communications Newsletter

How important are you?

The following note was found in our mail recently.

"Vxvn though my typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works wxll — xxcxpt for onx kxy. You would think that with all thx othxr kxys functioning propxrly, onx kxy not working would hardly bx noticxd; but just onx kxy out of whack sxxms to ruin thx wholx xffort.

"You may say to yoursxlf — Wxll I'm only onx pxrson. No onx will noticx if I don't do my bxst. But it doxs makx a diffxrxncx bxcasux to bx xffctivx an organization nxxds activx participation by vxvry onx to thx bxst of thxir abilitixs.

"So, thx nxxt timx you think you arx not important, rxmxmbxr my old typxwritxr. You arx a kxy pxrson."

Pasadena Weekly Journal of Business



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French Court...from page 4

started walking. But it was soon obvious we were lost. Now picture this; We are on a cold and windy street; I can barely see and I am trying to locate French Court in my pocket "London A-to-Z" while standing under a street light. Maybe it was the imposing sight of Phaedra waving madly or maybe it was my green leather suit, but we could not get a cab to stop for us.

Finally, Phaedra hailed a cab. We clamber in out of the wind and cold and ask for French Place. The cab driver didn't know where it was either. He got out *his* copy of "London A-to-Z." I told him it's between XX and YY streets. He said sarcastically, "You don't need me then, do you?" I said, "Well, the problem is we know where we want to be but we haven't the foggiest notion of where we are!" Finally, he located the street and off we went, grateful for the warmth in the cab.

I don't know if we would ever have found the location in any reasonable length of time; it certainly seemed like a long walk from where we had exited the tube. *Wait. Can this be right? This isn't a street. It's an alley. Phaedra?* She assured me it was correct and reminded me we were in London, not the U.S.

Then we turned down an even smaller alley. *Ohmigawd we're gonna get mugged, fer sure.* Actually, the streets and even the alleys were well lit and although I was apprehensive, it was quite safe. I'm sure there are "bad" parts of London, just as in Philadelphia, but this area did not seem that way. Eventually we found a lighted doorway with a small sign that said "TV/TS London."

Inside, we passed through a small foyer and found a very nice person at an entrance counter. Phaedra introduced us, we paid the guest fee, and went upstairs.

While we were signing in, I took a quick look at the facility. Downstairs seemed to be taken up by a

large room housing a pool or billiards table and a wall full of lockers. I learned that the lockers were available to members for storage of clothing. Also, out of view, was a shower room and toilets. Upstairs were two rooms setup as lounges. The larger had a food and beverage service area. By this time Stacy and Tammy had been waiting for over an hour.

We bought some beverages and settled into conversations. Stacy and I talked about our respective groups and how they are both alike and different. Renaissance is similar in its open membership policy and its main function of providing a place for TVs and TSs to meet others like themselves. Renaissance is different in that we are a non-profit corporation that works with both the professionals and the public to increase knowledge about transgender behavior. TransEssex is a social group.

I had a particularly interesting conversation with Tammy, a recent post-op TS. We talked about the "rivalry" between TVs and TSs. We both have difficulty understanding why this condition exists. Tammy feels, and I agree, that one function of support groups like ours should be to dissuade people from naming themselves as "TS." Now that probably needs more explanation than I have space here, but some of you will understand what we mean.

By 11:30, we had decided to leave TV/TS London and go to a pub a short walk up the street. It was then it struck me. No one from our "host" group had come over to talk with us. Other than the greeting at the door, they seemed not to care about their visitors.

At the pub, I discovered a truism. A gay bar is a gay bar, regardless where it is located. The "Spread Eagle" was very much like the gay clubs in America; music with a driving disco beat so loud you have to shout to be heard; a

female impersonator finishing up her act; and cute, friendly bartenders. Stacy, Phaedra, Betty, Tammy, and I settled down to talk more about our shared interests.

Since we were leaving early the next day to catch a train for Lymington and the Isle of Wight, we had to cut the party short at about 1 a.m. Our cab arrived and as we said our goodbyes one of my contact lenses did its now famous "lets fall on the floor" routine. This lens has been on the floor of some of the finest clubs in New York, Philadelphia, New Orleans, and now London. But I somehow manage to find it every time.

The cab driver was a pleasant young man who had just returned from a holiday in the "colonies." We chatted about Florida and New Jersey as he took us back to Earl's Court. Back at the hotel, I asked the night clerk for the key to my room and went to bed.

The next morning I went down to pay the bill and had to wake the night clerk who was still on-duty. When I gave him the key and room number he seemed confused. Was there a problem? He asked, "Weren't there two women in this room?" *No.* "But I saw two women come in last night." *Yes, but one of them wasn't a woman. It was me.* I had to cut him short or risk missing the train.

I fell in love with London. I'm a "big city" girl. I was born in New York. I live near Philadelphia now and I've lived near San Francisco. London reminded me a lot of New York. I want to return someday soon. While I was very disappointed in TV/TS London, I was very pleased with meeting Stacy and Tammy. I truly wish we had made different arrangements so we could have had more time together. Next time for certain.

My deepest thanks and appreciation go out to Phaedra, Stacy and Tammy. And if Yvonne S. sees this article, you were right, dear.

National Gender News

from around the TV/TS community

The heat is turned to HIGH as Tri-Ess figures heavily in the news this month. NWGA (Northwest Gender Alliance, Portland, Ore.) president **Dominique Davis** is not too happy with the DFW Missies of Tri-Ess (Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas.) Seems the Missies decided that the open membership policy bequeathed to NWGA by the now defunct *Gateway Gender Alliance* has been a failure.

Davis disagrees strongly and indicates that NWGA is one of the largest and most active groups in the country. She goes further to say, "Only by the most tortured logic, this side of a U.S. presidential campaign, can the Tri-Ess chapters claim to be preserving their vaunted closed policies, let alone serve any purpose with it."

It's hard for us to understand how the Missies can declare an open policy a failure when Tri-Ess chapters all over the country are splitting apart. For example ...

NGN

Davis isn't alone in her critique of Tri-Ess. Some members of *Long Island Femme Expression* (Long Island, N.Y.) are still complaining

about their treatment by Tri-Ess National. Many of the L.I.F.E. members, but apparently not all, are Tri-Ess members. One possible solution, they suggested, is to form two separate groups: one open and one closed. That seems specious to us and a waste of time and energy.

We hope they will work out their differences and build a stronger group which serves the needs of all transgendered people.

NGN

Our source in New York City tells us all is not well with the Big Apple's Tri-Ess group either. They are headed for a confrontation with **Carol Beecroft**, the head of *Tri-Ess National*. The issue, of course, is open membership. (See the letter from Hollis [redacted] in this month's Forum.)

Meanwhile, some folks are trying to organize a *Renaissance* chapter to meet in Manhattan. Our friend tells us the N.Y. city folk are very wary of groups after the politics with Tri-Ess. We hope that our New York sisters will find an acceptable alternative to organized intolerance.

NGN

Speaking of intolerance. We've just received a most disturbing, issue of *Fanfare*, the publication of *Phoenix RSA*.

Marlene, *Fanfare* editor, reports that her home and personal privacy were invaded by four members of the South African plain clothes police. They demanded a complete list of names and addresses of all *Phoenix* members. She refused and the issue has not yet been forced. Apparently, some individuals were using the *Phoenix* return address on pornographic mail, and Marlene became the prime suspect. In order to protect herself and the membership, Marlene had decided to close down operation of *Phoenix* by May 1.

Just as we went to press, we received another letter from **Thelma Pine**, overseas coordinator for *Phoenix*, informing us that both *Phoenix* and *Fanfare* will continue to function as before, but with tighter security. Thelma says that *Phoenix* has too much invested to give up now.

We admire these ladies for their courage not to buckle under the weight of such repression.

NGN

More bad news from overseas. **Phaedra Kelly** has ceased publication of *Chrysalis International*. Kelly was not breaking even on the avant garde publication. She had offers from others to publish the magazine, but that would have meant giving up some control over its content. Kelly would have none of that so she shut it down.

Chrysalis has served a purpose in its brief life and that was to create an international network of transgendered information exchange. *Renaissance* certainly benefitted from the exchange.

NGN

As we reported last month **Narcissus**, from *TransEssex* (Eng-



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National Gender News

from around the TV/TS community

land) will try to fill the void left by *Chrysalis*. The new magazine will be a slick quarterly edited by **Stacy Novak**, the co-ordinator of *TransEssex*. Overseas subscriptions are £15 (about \$27). Write to : Stacy Novak, P.O.Box 3, Basingdon, Essex, U.K. SS14-1PT.

NGN

And now for something completely different...good news. The ladies of the **Boulton & Park Society** (San Antonio, Texas) report that their *Texas T Party* was a smashing success. One hundred twenty eight people were in attendance. Sixty-six of those were from out of state. That's a whopping 52 percent. After Texas, the states with the highest representations were California (9), Pennsylvania (8), and Louisiana (7).

The guests had such a good time, B&P is going to do it again next year. Mark your calendar for San Antonio, Feb. 22 - 25, 1990.

NGN

The eyes of **IFGE** are upon you, Texas! Our informant tells us the doyennes in Waltham were suitably impressed with the *T Party* and are entertaining a bid for the 1991 convention in that state. A conglomerate of groups would sponsor the event. You heard it here first.

Meanwhile, the third **IFGE** convention, while considered a success for the transvestite portion of the community, was not as well received by the transsexuals or professionals. Early reports indicate that the transsexual forums were not well attended and the professional response was nil.

NGN

Creative Design Services has just announced a new publication, *Speaking As A Woman*.

The booklet, written by **Alison Laing** (*Renaissance*), is the first of its kind to deal with the development of a feminine voice for

transgendered males. Laing became interested in this area after hearing **Dr. Reinhardt "Bud" Heuer** speak on the subject at *Fantasia Fair*. Heuer, who conducts speech development classes each year at the fair, reviewed Laing's manuscript. Laing dedicated the publication to **Ari Kane** of the *Outreach Institute*, promoter of the fair.

The book is available now with a cover price of \$8, postpaid. Write to CDS, Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406.

NGN

We sometimes find support coming from the most unusual of places. **Minia Baer**, manager of *Eve's Garden*, in New York city, called the office to request more information about *Renaissance*. The shop sells sexually oriented literature, among other things, for women. She was given a copy of our Background Paper, *What Is Renaissance* by a customer and her interest was piqued. (See Paula, they do read your stuff.)

Baer says that a lot of transsexuals come to the shop in desperation, looking for information and support. She has gone out of her way to help them where possible. Baer requested any information we had on therapists in the city. We gladly provided her with our references.

Here's an interesting side note. The shop is very feminist oriented, largely supported by the lesbian community. Men are welcomed in the shop, but store policy requires them to be accompanied by a female while on the premises. Baer indicated that she has had many male crossdressers in the store. If they arrive crossdressed they do not need a female escort. She said, "I'm mostly concerned with the straight men who come into the store to get their jollies."

Interested parties may contact

Minia Baer at *Eve's Garden*, 119 W. 57th St., Suite 1406, New York, NY 10019, 212-757-8651.

NGN

We received a letter from a contact in the **Columbus, Ohio** area about recent activities there.

A group of people, unrelated to *Renaissance*, got together in March to form a group in the area. A second organizational meeting was held in April. One of our contacts, **Sandy**, was in attendance. She reports this new sisterhood is based on an open membership policy. They have not, however, asked to become a *Renaissance* chapter. Accordingly, we have deleted the Columbus listing from the *Chapter news and notes* column on page two.

We're very pleased to see people helping themselves and not at all concerned about their chapter status. We'll help in whatever ways possible. We wish them well.

Anyone from the area interested in this group should contact: Forming Group, Box 287, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068.

NGN

JoAnn Roberts reports that her *Paradise In The Poconos* weekend has a new venue. The old site had been sold to a larger resort for use as employee housing.

Roberts says, "We had to scramble to get another location. Thankfully, the owner of the old location gave us a lot of help."

"The new site is more than we could have hoped for. It's larger and more modern with fantastic facilities. It really is paradise."

The *Paradise* events, held twice a year in May and September, follow a tradition set by **Joyce Dewhurst**. Dewhurst, who died last year, often billed herself as "America's Foremost Crossdresser" and was responsible for getting many East Coast TVs out of their closets, Roberts included.

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