

Renaissance News



Volume 6, No. 10

Vision - Integrity - Quality

October, 1992

Renaissance is all about you. That's what I said a couple of issues ago and it's still true. Our goal as an organization is to provide information to the transgendered individual and to the public in general. Recently I had a conversation with one of our members who was confused about how we accomplished this goal.

Okay, let's take a quick trip thru our organization, starting with how Renaissance National is set up. Basically, it is a Board of Directors. Our board is currently made up of twelve members. The members and there positions are as follows:

Angela Gardner
Managing Director

Susan C. [REDACTED]
Executive Secretary

Charlene [REDACTED]
Treasurer

Alison Laing
Outreach & Development

Beth Marshal
Co-Director of Membership

Elsa [REDACTED]
Co-Director of Membership

JoAnn Roberts
Director at Large

Trudi Henry
Director at Large

Kelly Harris
Director at Large

Kara [REDACTED]
South Jersey Chapter Leader

Michelle [REDACTED]
Greater Philadelphia
Chapter Leader

Brenda Davidson
Lower Susquehanna Valley
Chapter Leader

This board is responsible for policy decisions affecting the entire organization. Establishing standards for Affiliate and Chapter status, publishing the Newsletter, conducting national outreach efforts and producing informative background papers on transgendered topics are all part of it's responsibilities.

The National Board is putting together a Renaissance Library and provides the Bookstore as a service to our members.

Local chapters run meetings, do outreach in their areas and sponsor outside social events for their members. A chapter may be involved in any activity as long as they do not violate the Renaissance by-laws. Local Chapters hold their elections once a year to determine their board members. Chapter Leaders represent their chapters on the National Board.

The National Board meetings are open to anyone interested. If you would like to attend a meeting, speak to your chapter leader and find out the place and time. National meetings are held about every two months.

If you have questions, ideas or suggestions on how we can do a better job serving the transgendered community, tell your chapter leader or an officer of your chapter. If the idea can be utilized on the local level, they will be able to put it into action. If the idea can't be implemented without National Board approval then your leader can bring it along to the next National Board meeting and have it included in the agenda. The list of National Board members is included in this article to help you reach people who can answer your questions. If your local chapter leader is unable to help you, you may call our National Office and leave your message for any member of the National Board.

If you don't receive a prompt response, leave another message for the Managing Director. I will get back to you and ask the person you originally asked why they didn't return your call.

Angela Gardner

Holiday Party !

by Maryann Kirkland

Fall is here and the festive month of December will soon be poking its head around the corner. Besides finding party-hose in their Christmas stockings, our membership gets a new local Board of Directors. The Greater Philadelphia board will honor tradition and as an outgoing gift they'll be giving everyone another edition of the annual Holiday Party. [REDACTED] and Company invite you to be there for a warm, intimate evening at the Sheraton Great Valley Inn.

The Party takes place on the third Saturday, the nineteenth of December. The Inn is located in Frazer, Pennsylvania, right down the road from a regular GPC hangout, The Ship Inn. When you purchase your tickets the girls will make sure you get a map to the facility.

The evening will start with a poolside cocktail reception featuring cash bar and finger foods. At the appointed time we will ascend to the second floor for a sit down dinner featuring three menu choices. Attendees may choose from Sirloin of Beef, Chicken Cordon Bleu or Orange Roughy.

The unique floor plan of the of the hotel, situated as it is in an historic stone building, has allowed us to occupy all of the second floor banquet rooms including those important rest-rooms. We will have a special dinning room for smokers with two other rooms for nonsmokers.

continued on page 3.

Announcements...

Background Papers are available for \$1 each plus \$.25 postage for each pair ordered. Eight papers are available: 1-Myths & Misconceptions About Crossdressing, 2-Reasons for Male to Female Crossdressing, 3-PARTNERS: Spouses & Significant Others, 4-The Matter of Children, 5-An Annotated Bibliography, 6-Telling the Children: A Transsexual's Point of View, 7-Understanding Transsexualism, and 8-AIDS & HIV Safety and Ethics.

If you are willing to write letters to Pen Pals, please inform Maryann Kirkland, or write the main office, care of Dept. PP.

Chapters & Affiliates...

New Jersey

South Jersey: Meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Atlantic Mental Health Center, Inc. 2002 Black Horse Pike, McKee, N.J. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Call (609) 641-3782 or write Renaissance/SJ, PO Box 189, Mays Landing, NJ 08330. Kara [REDACTED] chapter leader.

Pennsylvania

Greater Philadelphia: Meets on the third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia, Pa. Doors open - 8:00 p.m. year round. Call (215) 630-1437 or write Renaissance/GP, PO Box 530, Bensalem, PA 19020. Michelle [REDACTED], chapter leader

Lower Susquehanna Valley: Meets on the first Saturday of the month at The Greens at Westgate in York, Pa. Call (717) 780-1LSV for information or write Renaissance/LSV, PO Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105. Brenda Davidson, Chapter leader.

Affiliates

MOTG: PO Box 8243, Red Bank, NJ 07701

American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS): PO Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033, (404) 939-0244

Events Calendar

OCTOBER

3rd South Jersey Chapter

3rd LSV

17th GPC, "Universal Spirit"

24th MOTG, Lingerie Night

31st Henri David's Annual Halloween Party at the Bellevue

NOVEMBER

7th South Jersey meeting

7th LSV meeting

11th-15th Holiday En Femme "92" Atlanta

21st GPC meeting "Laine Alexander"

28th MOTG meeting



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

Congress of Reps creates ByLaws, pens accord with IFGE

by JoAnn Roberts

The Congress of Representatives and the IFGE board of directors have finally agreed on the autonomy of the Congress. An agreement for services between the two organizations is expected to be signed by Alison Laing, current Chair of the Congress and IFGE Chair of the Board, Wendi Pierce.

Laing, at the request of Pierce, developed a series of documents for the Congress including By Laws, a Summary Statement and a Reciprocal Agreement. The Reciprocal Agreement is the important document for IFGE. It stipulates that IFGE will provide space and logistical support for an annual Congress meeting at the IFGE annual convention and assist the Congress in disseminating information of interest to member organizations through IFGE's *Update* newsletter. In return, the Congress will assist

IFGE by providing nominations for various IFGE offices and awards, plus assistance in developing programs for the community.

IFGE will assign a staff member as liaison to the Congress so that Congress concerns get visibility at IFGE headquarters. The Congress has also asked that a member representative be allowed to attend the annual IFGE meeting.

The Reciprocal Agreement in no way obligates the Congress to an exclusive arrangement with IFGE. In fact, according to Congress staff, they want to hold Congress work group meetings at events other than the IFGE annual convention. Both Fantasia Fair and the Texas "T" Party have been mentioned as possible sites for work group meetings.

Even though the two chair persons will sign the agreement, none of it holds any water until the com-

munity has a chance to review and ratify the By Laws for the Congress itself. As far as the community is concerned, the By Laws is the most important document. It defines the Congress as a not-for-profit organization with no fiduciary or legal standing. It defines the purpose of the Congress to promote and encourage diverse representations of our community and to facilitate communications within our community and the community at large. And, additionally, it specifies membership requirements for the Congress.

More importantly, the By Laws do not link the Congress to IFGE or any other organization in a way that makes the Congress dependent on that organization for its existence. As long as any support groups exist and are willing to appoint representatives, the Congress of Reps will exist.

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Editor's Note

This issue has been beaten and cajoled into a newsletter like consistency by Angela, "Give me a challenge" Gardner. Ms. Gardner's only tools were her trusty and somewhat old Smith Corona word processor & razor knife. Having put

Party!

Following dinner it's back to poolside for dancing to dee jay provided music. Those who care to mingle with the public may avail themselves of the seating in the lobby or visit the piano bar near the pool.

If you want to check in for the night the Sheraton Inn will be reserving rooms for us that overlook the dance floor. Price is reasonable, at sixty nine dollars for a cozy, above average room.

Michelle [redacted] tells us that tickets, which must be ordered in advance will be thirty five dollars per person. She and the other GPC Board members promise a door prize drawing and fun for all.

together two of these babies, Ms. Gardner has decided she is a regular William Randolph Hearst and she will stick on as Acting Editor till her brain burns out. Staff search is still under way and it would be swell if somebody else could do the layout. As soon as Ms. Gardner recovers from this issue, she will be contacting the people who have already said they would be interested in helping.

Reminders;

The September issue of theGPC News contained a form that you can use to nominate yourself or a friend for a position on the GPC Board. Mail in the form and be sure to vote at the November meeting.

SEMINAR AT FANTASIA FAIR

JoAnn Roberts will conduct a seminar at this year's Fantasia Fair in P Town. Her topic will be, "The State of The Community & it's direction in the 90's." If you're at the fair check the schedule and plan to attend JoAnn's program on Wednesday the twenty first.

UNDERWEAR ON PARADE

Don't miss the party on the twenty fourth of this month. The Monmouth/Ocean County girls are up to hijinks reminiscent of a GPC party of last year. They've even done it a little better. GPC had their lingerie night at the regular meeting place. MOTG is having their lingerie party

at The Bra & Girdle Factory in Ocean Township, NJ. Contact the MOTG girls at PO Box 8243, Red Bank, NJ 07701 for more information and directions to the event.

SM ADVISORY BOARD IN S.J.

Kelly Harris, National Board Member at Large & former South Jersey Chapter Leader has been working to establish a sexual minority advisory board. (I bet that headline caught your eye.) The advisory board will offer information on sexual and gender minorities to South Jersey business's, like the casinos. If you would like to help Kelly or get more information give her a call at 609-[REDACTED].

SPIRITUAL SPEAKERS

If the ether is kind and the vibrations are in alignment the Greater Philadelphia Chapter is planning a presentation by the Virginia based group, Heart of

the Goddess at the traditonally different October meeting. The topic will be spiritual aspects of femininity. Are you channeling the spirit of Jean Harlow? Find out on the seventeenth.

If the ether is kind and the vibrations....uh oh. Wow, deja vous.

PARTY, PARTY

December is filled with holiday fun. Greater Philadelphia's Holiday Party is happening at the Sheraton Great Valley Inn on Dec.19th. You can warm up for it by attending the second annual Ziegfeld's Night and Xmas Party presented by the Washington-Baltimore Alliance. December twelfth is the date. Call 301-277-5475 for info.

STAFF SEARCH CONTINUES

The Newsletter staff is still in limbo. At this time JoAnn is

Continued on page 5.

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Reminders Cont.

no longer on the staff. She has written her last, "Iconoclast". It appears in this issue. Next month she'll be back though, as a syndicated columnist with her new feature, "Hot Stuff", which she calls, "Something like the old "Iconoclast", with fashion tips."

Diane [redacted] will be joining the staff as proofreader. It's evident that this issue didn't get done in time for her to do that useful job. We have one volunteer with computer skills. When we begin to use that technology, then Diane will be able to go to work.

Brenda Davidson will be doing a new column for the Newsletter that will appear for the first time in the November issue. The tentative title of her column is, "Gossip, Lies and Rumors". It will cover the same beat that was covered in the "Iconoclast" but in her own unique way.

Another syndicated columnist coming on board is Dr. Roger Peo with his "Roger's Notebook". It appears in several newsletters

and gives information on transgendered phenomena from a sexologist's point of view.

Again, if you're interested in long hours spent hunched over a hot computer screen, getting eye strain from scanning countless publications for news about TVs and TS's, then we've got a place for you on the Newsletter staff and we'd love to hear from you at the Bensalem PO box.

Italy-The winner of Italy's, Miss Gambe Contest, (Miss Legs to us,) was all ready to compete in the Miss Italy contest when pageant officials made a discovery that they felt knocked the legs out from under her.

Ms. Giovanna Fanelli like many other women had used surgery to enhance her beauty. A year ago Ms. Fanelli, who was born with two sets of sex organs had the male set removed and has been a woman ever since.

Greeter Training Set.

An associate of the Wayne Counseling Center, Dr. Jeffrey Wolper, will be conducting a two hour seminar on the best way of greeting newcomers to a support group meeting.

"It's important to make the individual, who may be feeling great anxiety, comfortable in this new situation," said Dr. Wolper. The seminar will be held November twenty first from two till four PM. Call 630-1437 to let us know you'll be there.

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KING OF PRUSSIA, PA. — Straight from the horse's...

No, it's not a rumor. I have closed down *International TransScript*. I was unable to obtain enough subscribers, enough advertisers, and adequate distribution to maintain the quality of the publication. It was very expensive to produce

I owe **Tere Frederickson (Bolton & Park Society)** an apology for my remarks in the last issue of this newsletter. I wrote that I doubted Frederickson's sincerity about community building. She was one of the very few people to proactively support ITS. Thanks Tere.

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SAN ANTONIO, TEX. — Fourth time's a charm?...

Meanwhile, Frederickson and crew deserve some kudos for the revised policies of the 1993 Texas "T" Party. I know they're saying there's no change, but there is a significant change to my eyes.

My criticism of the T-policies centered around a ban on facial hair. That ban is nowhere to be seen in the current policy statement. Instead, a more uniform and even handed policy states that you are expected to behave and dress with the same taste that you'd expect of your sister or mother when out in public. Otherwise, you will be asked to change attire and if you don't comply, you will be asked to leave.

I don't have a problem with setting policies or standards for appropriate attire and behavior. I also don't have a problem with throwing out people who do not have the good grace to abide by the rules, as long as the rules are fair. Congrats!

The '93 "T" is set for February 26 - 28. For info, write Texas T, Box 700042, San Antonio, TX 78270

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WALTHAM, MASS. — This is one list we could do without...

I never cease to be amazed at the way that people deceive themselves

into thinking that they're so much more important to the world than they really are. An example is the letter that arrived from **Merissa Sherrill Lynn**, executive director of the **International Foundation for Gender Education** this past August. It was addressed to... "IFGE Board of Directors, *IFGE 'A' List*." [italics mine] A-List???

But wait. There's more. Lynn's business card claims that IFGE has been serving the community since 1978. Neat trick since IFGE didn't exist before 1987.

Oh, please! Do we really need to create class distinctions. Haven't we had enough posturing? Who is impressed by this foolishness? Not me. What's emerging is a picture of Lynn that is disturbing a lot of people. She is no longer held in high esteem. For example...

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YORBA LINDA, CALIF. — How the mighty have fallen...

A good example of Lynn's decline in stature can be seen in the August '92 issue of *Girl Talk* from the **Powder Puffs of Orange County**.

Writing in her column, *The TV Social Register*, PPOC prez **Justine Sahnjay** gave Lynn a new rear-body orifice with this satiric report on Lynn's plans while visiting the west coast, "...her entourage has planned a coronation ceremony culminated by a public flogging on members of the Congress of Representatives. Royal decree dictates that the floggings take place even though the Congress has no official status with IFGE."

It'd be pretty funny if it wasn't so damn close to the truth. Anyway, what's important to point out is that most of the criticism is leveled at Lynn, not at IFGE as an organization. Let's be real clear about that.

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PORTLAND, ORE. — Now is the time for all good (wo)men...

It is almost unbelievable. There

is a movement in this state that would make it illegal to recognize "any categorical provisions such as 'sexual orientation' or similar phrases... State, regional local governments and their properties and monies shall not be used to promote, encourage, or facilitate homosexuality..."

So states the initiative (Measure 9) proposed by the **Oregon Citizens Alliance**, in a move to amend the state's constitution so that equal protection for sexual (and by extension) gender minorities would become illegal.

Our sisters in the **Northwest Gender Alliance** here are concerned about Measure 9 and with good reason. So, they've taken to getting the word out in their newsletter and they're encouraging their members to vote "No" on M9.

I congratulate the leadership of NWGA for the courage to take a position on a controversial issue.

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NAPPA, CALIF. — 'Cause if you want something done right...

Last issue I asked if anyone had heard from **Cynthia Howard** and the **Gender Alternatives League (GAL)** lately. Not a day after I penned that question, I received word from **Yvonne Cook** at IFGE that Howard sent out a press release announcing the demise of GAL. I have not seen the release, but Cook said Howard is blaming the community for GAL's troubles.

Well, I can understand that community apathy had some effect, but trust me on this, Howard had more to do with GAL's demise than anyone else. Just yesterday I received a letter from someone wondering why GAL hadn't replied to their request for information.

Regardless, let it rest in peace until someone comes along who has the community's interest at heart, not self-aggrandizement.

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PHILADELPHIA, PA. — Time has come today...

I'm going to miss **Paula Jordon Sinclair's** wit and sarcasm in *NewsQueen*, but even more I'm going to miss her professionalism. Yes, Paula has resigned as newsletter editor and I, for one, am sad to see her go. Between us, we took this newsletter to the top of the heap.

But, there's always somebody who thinks they can do it better. The criticism was almost constant the last few months and the subtext was homophobic. So, no Paula.

It will be interesting to see how the newsletter survives. For those who think I'll step in, don't bet the grocery money.

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SILVER SPRING, MD. — Caveat emptor I...

Reader **Stella B.** wants everyone to know about what she feels is an unfair practice. She writes, "I understand that we live in a free market ...but!

"Constance Enterprises of Upper Montclair, NJ, states that they prefer UPS delivery, for which they charge \$3.25 for the first item and \$.75 each additional item. However for US Post Office box delivery, they charge \$5.00 *in addition* to the UPS charges."

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KANSAS CITY, MO. — For a good time call...

The girls of **MAGGIE** (Mid America Gender Group Information Exchange) are getting ready for their annual **Fall Harvest Weekend** to be held November 19-22. Registration fee is \$165 for the 4 day/3 night event. Additional fees include \$62 a night for a room and \$25 for a Sunday Riverboat brunch.

For more complete information, write to Fall Harvest 92, PO Box 35061, Overland Park, KS 66214-5061 or call 913•894•6474.

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DEPTFORD, N.J. — Welcome to the Monkey House...

The **South Jersey Chapter of Renaissance** has a new newsletter and a new newsletter editor. Welcome to **Diane** [redacted] who took up the thankless job of editor from former editor **Chrys** [redacted].

[redacted] has created *The South Jersey Genderette* using a simple word processor. While it is not the ultimate in desktop publishing, it serves its purpose well — to inform the members of the chapter. Nice job Diane. Keep up the good work.

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SAN ANGELO, TEX. — From a silk purse to a sow's ear...

The news from west Texas is that **Marlina Dawn** [redacted] now calls herself a "publisher" and her **Heart of Texas San Angelo** newsletter has become the commercial publication *Petticoat Junction*.

It takes a lot more than a computer and page layout software to make a good magazine. What sets a magazine apart from a newsletter? In addition to creative writing, a magazine must be visually creative. That usually means photographs and that means money. To my mind, if you can't afford to do it right, don't bother; there's more than enough junk publications on the shelves.

I wish [redacted] good fortune. It will take an enormous amount of effort to create a great magazine.

PS Marlina: It would have been nice if you'd sent a copy of the magazine for preview.

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BOSTON, MASS. — *Today's TV* for *Today's TV*...

[redacted] might want to take a PR lesson from a neat little publication titled *Today's TV*. It's only 24 pages but the cover price is just \$2 which is tough to beat. The writing is very witty and the magazine is visually appealing. I liked it alot. I was also quite jealous that TTV had better distribution than ITS.

If you're interested in seeing a copy of TTV, send \$3 to TTV, 7 Dwight St. #3, Boston, MA 02118.

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TIAJUANA, MEXICO. — Caveat emptor II...

Don't be fooled by the Washington state address, the information being sent out from Kent by one **Susan Katherine** [redacted] concerning the **New Woman Surgical Center** is dangerous. There are stories already about the horrible mistakes that have been made. These will be detailed in the upcoming issue of *Tapestry* from IFGE.

There was something vaguely familiar with the name of the US coordinator, Soraya, and a little checking turned up the fact that this name is one of the pseudonyms used by **Phillip Salem**, who has passed himself off as doctor in the past. The whole thing smacks of Salem's former National Transvestite/Transsexual Dating Service.

Whatever you do, stay away from the New Woman Surgical Center.

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PHILADELPHIA, PA. — A smack in the face so you know who's boss...

After spending most of the summer working on an agreement between IFGE and the **Congress of Reps**, I don't blame **Alison Laing** for being upset about the 1993 IFGE convention brochures.

The brochures make no mention of the Congress. Now, guess (a) who is the convention director and (b) who is responsible for the brochures? If you said **Merissa Sherrill Lynn** you'd be correct.

Are you as tired of Lynn's childish games as I am? She'd do us all a huge favor if she'd just resign and let us get on with our real work of building a community.

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT... This is my last *Iconoclast*. So long and thanks for all the fish. Join me next month for *HotStuff*. JAR

Library Almost Ready.

Soon the day will come when a transgendered person who needs information can walk into one place and be able to look at a large collection of books, tapes and news clippings. Magazines and group newsletters will all be there to give the searcher any information they require.

This type of library exists already in some lucky parts of the world but up till now this area was forced to do without. Now, after working on the idea for a couple of years, purchasing a locking cabinet, gathering a collection of books, magazines and clippings, at long last it's almost ready to open.

I say almost because now the new Librarian, Laura [REDACTED], is hard at work Dewey decimalizing and organizing the mass of info that we have compiled. Laura has decided to arrange all the hard back books first and then work on making other materials in the collection available.

"It's important to inventory what we've got and get it in an order that will allow people to find things," Ms. [REDACTED] said to our staff reporter.

The Library case will be in an accessible area of the GPC meeting site. Materials will be available during meetings. Right now it will not be possible for members to check something out for an extended period. Everything must be returned to Laura before the end of the night. To insure that things do return it will be the Librarian's duty to obtain something of value from the borrower. It was suggested that a breast form would make a good hostage for the return of library property but that would be discriminatory to genetic females and transsexuals. Laura will let you know what she'll need for security.

It is possible that sometime in the future the Library will be open other evenings of the week.

National Board Meets.

The National Board's latest meeting was held on September twelfth at Susan [REDACTED]'s cozy suburban home. Board members in attendance were; Angela Gardner, Managing Director; Susan [REDACTED] Executive Secretary; Elsa [REDACTED] Co-Director of Membership; Beth Marshal, Co-Director/Membership; Alison Laing, Outreach & Development; Chapter Leaders Michelle [REDACTED], Brenda Davidson and Diane [REDACTED] representing the South Jersey Chapter's Leader, Kara [REDACTED]. Also on hand was our Librarian, Laura [REDACTED].

After approving the minutes of the last meeting and hearing the Treasurer's report, local Chapter Leaders gave their reports.

One big topic was Newsletter staff changes. JoAnn handed in her resignation as a staff member and Angela read our former editor, Paula Jordan Sinclair's letter of resignation into the minutes.

Diane [REDACTED] presented a plan to get chapter information on cable television systems. She has already gotten the South Jersey Chapter listed on cable

companies in their area and so she was appointed to coordinate cable outreach efforts throughout the local chapters.

Also in the outreach area was a project that Angela has been working on for some time with the aid of Dr. William Stayton. While not a member of any type of organized religion herself, Angela recognized the fact that many transgendered people are part of the congregations of many churches in our area. With Dr. Stayton's help she has come up with a letter that will be sent to area clergy, informing them of the existence of our organization and the likelihood of TG people in their flocks.

Packets of information will be sent to clergy who respond to the letter by returning a response card. The information will include copies of articles on transgenderism and religion that were assembled by Judy Ann, a member who has been with our group for many years.

The Library was discussed and Beth Marshal presented a few of her ideas on how to improve our internal communication.

continued on page 9



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(Suburban Philadelphia)

A Time & A Place... a lesson in etiquette by Angela Gardner

Everybody knows by now that crossdressing can be fun: erotic, sensual, fun. That's great and it's one big reason why we do it. It should be enjoyed and integrated into your life. But, as the title says, there's a time and place for everything.

We have had reports from the business community serving crossdressers that are depressing to say the least. They have opened their shops to our patronage, tried to be supportive of us and our hobby, and then had things that happen that do little to help our image in the community.

To be specific; one hairdresser reported an incident involving an over-stimulated TV.[Not a Renaissance member-Ed.] This person was apparently overwhelmed by the experience of having her hair

and makeup done in a salon and decided to engage in more active, manual stimulation under cover of the cape. The hairdresser was neither excited nor amused.

This kind of behavior is immature and irresponsible. It casts a shadow on all our community. If you are going to go out in public in a feminine role, then control your passions. There are appropriate times to act sexy or trashy, like onstage in a show or in the privacy of your boudoir. When you are in the public eye, and that includes service establishments, keep it in your pantyhose.

Granted, the above is an extreme case that we heard about, but we have also heard of stores having problems with CDs trying on clothes and damaging them. Again, it is often a case of being too excited

about what you are doing and not really paying attention to what you are doing. Be considerate of these shops that open their doors to us. When trying on clothes remove jewelry that may cause snags. Be very careful not to get makeup on the garment, and if you do, offer to have it cleaned. Pay attention to how tight the clothing is. If you are having that much trouble getting into it, then chances are you're not really a size four. Get a salesperson to help you find a larger size.

When out in public, act mature, responsible and use common sense. If you do otherwise, you may be suitable to appear in the next *Porkies'* movie, but you certainly won't do much that's positive for the image of crossdressers. We need all the good PR we can get.

This piece ran in September of eighty eight.

Porcine Operas...opinion by JoAnn Roberts

One has to be careful in this work of trying to help our sisters. We can easily get caught up in a "helping frenzy" where we think that everyone needs our advice and support. After a few successes in helping someone out of the closet, we tend to approach every new person with that intention. But guess what? Not everyone wants or needs our help. Many are content to march to the beat of their own drummer. They will arrive at their own chosen destinations when they are ready. Be there for them if they stumble along the way, but don't block the path.

The situation to avoid is one which can pull you under. There are people in this world who will literally suck up every ounce of energy you can muster without it ever showing any effect on them at all. They are 'takers', human vac-

uum cleaners, biological black holes, absorbing everything and returning nothing. Fortunately, like stellar black holes, these type of people are just about as rare.

But, they do exist, in every class and in every culture. You have to be smart enough to recognize when you are dealing with this type of person and back away. Their problems run much deeper than what may appear on the surface. They don't really want help. They want attention; all of it they can get. They don't care if you get wasted.

Trying to help one of these people is about as rewarding as teaching a pig to sing. It is a waste of your time and it really annoys the pig.

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An active debate evolved over her idea for chapter representation on the National Board based on chapter size. It was agreed to leave representation the same as before.

Beth's proposal to improve our cash flow by changing the membership period to an anniversary date method resulted in more debate and finally a vote by the board to change membership to a calendar year. Those who join after October first will get the next three months plus the next year for their money.

The next board meeting is set for November eighth at Susan's.

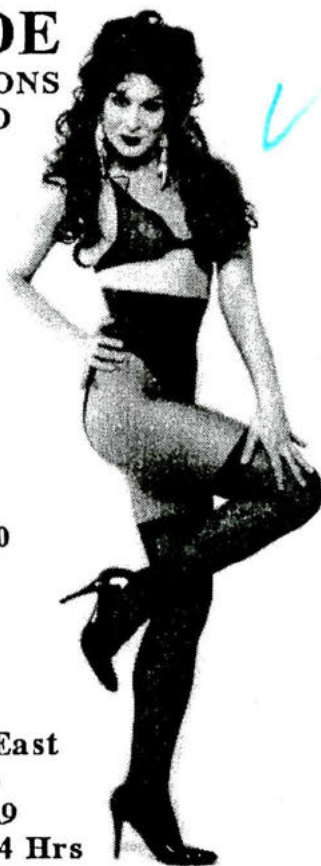
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