



## Garden State's Finest? N.J. judge rejects trooper's appeal

by Kara F.

The wheels of justice turn forever slowly, but no matter how imperceptible the movement is, it does occur. In this instance that case of the resignation of Michael Federico from the New Jersey State Police is going to move ahead.

As previously reported (RN, Dec. '90 and South Jersey chapter newsletter of 10/11/90), Federico had earlier received an unfavorable ruling in his attempt to be reinstated to the New Jersey State Police. Superior Court Judge Francis Fiscal ruled that the resignation

was voluntary and not under duress as Federico claimed in his suit.

Federico's resignation followed a state police investigation into his "unusual behavior." He was reported to have visited a beauty salon for a makeup session and a wig fitting. He claimed his resignation was forced in order to protect his division, and was not based on any criminal behavior.

According to Federico's attorney, Lewis Robertson, an appeal to the ruling has been filed, although it probably won't be heard for another 10 to 14 months. During this period,

briefs will be filed and reviewed, and responses written and reviewed. Since the appeal can only raise issues brought up in the original case, it is very doubtful that Federico's crossdressing will be addressed directly.

*We will continue to monitor this case, as I am sure we can all empathize with Mike's position. I am sure there are many others (this writer included) who have been treated unfairly by an employer due to an unanticipated discovery of our true selves.*  
—K.F.

## While another fired trooper denies he's a transvestite; charges racism

Michael Federico isn't the only New Jersey State trooper who recently got into trouble because of crossdressing.

Kenneth Ruff was discharged from the force in January after internal affairs officers reportedly concluded that he was unfit to continue as a trooper. The investigation came after two Newark police officers said they saw Ruff, dressed as a woman driving a state police car in August, 1990.

Ruff denied ever dressing as a woman, and also said he had never met the two police officers although he was assigned to the state police barracks in Newark at the time of the alleged incident. Ruff, who is African-American, said that his dismissal was motivated by racism, which, he said, is rampant in the state police organization. He is also claiming that he was discharged

because he objected to the manner in which the internal investigation was conducted and because he complained about being ordered to undergo a psychiatric evaluation. Ruff's attorney said the charges of crossdressing were "false and malicious."

Ruff has appealed his discharge to Mercer County Superior Court. To support his charge of racism, he submitted to the court racist cartoons which he said were stuffed into his locker. His suit seeks reinstatement, back pay, and punitive damages.

## Spring fête set for April 27

The Greater Philadelphia chapter has announced plans for its second annual Spring Ball to be held Saturday, April 27 in the Liberty Ballroom of the Embassy Suites Hotel in Philadelphia.

The evening's festivities will get underway at 8 p.m. with a cocktail hour and hors d'oeuvres, followed by a finely prepared sit-down dinner, music and dancing.

Last year's spring event was a rousing success, and the chapter's

leadership is certain that this year's ball will be even better.

"The spring ball is designed to give all of us a chance to enjoy a special evening *en femme*," said chapter leader Dina Amberle. "The Embassy Suites staff is eager to accommodate us and make this a memorable event."

The Embassy Suites is conveniently located near Philadelphia International Airport. The hotel

(continued on page 4)



## CHAPTER INFORMATION...

### New Jersey

**South Jersey: Kelly [REDACTED], chapter leader.** Write Renaissance SJ, c/o P. O. Box 189, Mays Landing, NJ 08330. 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.

### Pennsylvania

**Greater Philadelphia area: Dina Amberle, chapter leader.** Write Renaissance PHL, Box AD, Bensalem, PA 19020. Meets third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia, Pa. Winter hours: starts at 8:00 p.m. The May meeting begins at 9:00 p.m. Call (215) 946-8887.

### Pennsylvania

**Lower Susquehanna Valley: Brenda Davidson, chapter leader.** Write Renaissance LSV, Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105. Meets the first Saturday of the month. Presently, the chapter lacks a permanent meeting site, so call (717) 780-1578 for latest information. The April meeting will be held in Carlisle, Pa., at 8:00 p.m.

### Pennsylvania

**Reading: The National Board** has revoked this chapter's charter. If your membership there has not expired, please contact National Secretary Susan [REDACTED], P.O. Box 552, King of Prussia, PA 19046.

## NATIONAL INFORMATION...

✓ Renaissance has a new mailing address, please correct your records: P. O. Box 552, King of Prussia, PA, 19406.

✓ Renaissance has a new phone number as well. Call (215) 630-1437 24 hours a day for current information about events and activities.

✓ The board of directors has approved a new policy for the development of chapters and affiliates.

• Any group that wishes to become a Renaissance chapter must be incorporated as a non-profit in-

stitution in their home state (except Pa.) before asking for chapter status.

• Any group that wishes to become a Renaissance affiliate will pay a small annual fee for services normally afforded to chapters for free. Affiliates have no legal connection to Renaissance and remain autonomous. Services include unlimited access to reference publications and newsletter copy.

Write for details to Alison Laing, Co-director of Outreach, P. O. Box 552, King of Prussia, Pa. 19406.

## AND, DON'T FORGET ABOUT...

• **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-*What Is Renaissance?*, and 8-*AIDS & HIV Safety and Ethics*.

• **The Pen Pal Project.** If you are willing to write letters to pen pals, please inform Maryann Kirkland or write to the office, c/o Dept. PP.

• A few copies of the deluxe edition of Benjamin's *The Transsexual Phenomenon* are still available at \$39.95 postpaid. Make checks payable to Renaissance.

## Renaissance News

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For current information about Renaissance, call (215) 630-1437 24 hours a day.

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

## Calendar of Events

### APRIL

6th Ren. So. Jersey Chapter  
Endocrinologist Dr.

James M. Kauffman

6th Ren. LSV Chapter

10th-14th IFGE convention in  
Denver

20th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter  
Irene LaPera, feminine  
mannerisms and de-  
portment

### MAY

4th Ren. So. Jersey Chapter

4th Ren. LSV Chapter

18th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter  
Savarese Electrolysis  
Salon. Meet at 9:00 p.m.

### JUNE

1st Ren. So. Jersey Chapter

1st Ren. LSV Chapter

15th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter



## JoAnn Altman Stringer™ **SURVIVAL**

Many transgenderists will think that education is a less-than-exciting topic for this column. Yet, when you think about it, education is the key to success in a very unstable, transitional life in more ways than you might imagine.

First, and probably foremost, you may need education to obtain a new profession. This is assuming you are changing professions. An extremely high percentage of transsexuals will change professions during their transition. By changing jobs, I mean changing completely from what they had done in their previous life. This could be something as drastic as going from corporate executive to retail cashier, or as simple as going from criminal law to divorce law. In any case, it means retraining for a field that is different from what you used to do.

This re-education also could take the form of getting an advanced degree, such as an M.B.A. or Ph.D. in your specific field, or it might mean taking a two-week nurse's aide certification at a nursing home. Your new education could also mean taking at-home correspondence courses in gun repair or any number of in-class studies at a local university.

What about seeking education for a field known to be hostile for transsexuals; law enforcement, religion, teaching and the military are some examples of threatening environments. There are a few pre- or post-op transsexuals in police work, though they may have been moved off patrol and away from the public. Others, like Sister Mary Elizabeth, SSE, chose the path of God for their life's vocation. Sister Mary encountered many closed doors, but stuck to her beliefs until an open door was discovered. She had the courage and determination to persevere. For some time now, I had thought I was the only college-teaching post operative transsexual in the United States. I have

since learned there are a couple more which I think is great. Then, there's the military which is closed to all gender conflicted people perhaps because the armed forces fears the stigma of presumed homosexuality is possible cause for blackmail and, therefore, it threatens national security.

Besides the direct benefit of education, there is another, indirect, benefit. Not only can you get the job-specific education you need, but you also get the social education of watching your contemporaries (both men and women) interact. Socialization is something that suddenly becomes a monumental question mark as you start your transition. You realize that you have never really observed how people socialize. How do women react to men, to other women, and how do men interact with one another? The classroom can become a microcosmic school in itself. All you have to do is sit back, watch, take in the show, and learn.

You're probably going to take these classes at some point during transition while living full-time in your chosen gender. (The "Standards of Care" set down a one year minimum to help you find out if society would accept you in the opposite role and for you to see if you could fit in comfortably). Much of our society is guided by closed views and small-mindedness. Yet, the classroom remains one of the few zones of neutrality for free thinkers and differences of opinion. The first place in society that should accept who you are would be fellow students in a college class. After all, have you seen some of the people who go to college today? A transsexual woman (or man) would probably be one of the most "normal" people in a typical computer class.

While one way to get an education into a new field was to take at-home correspondence courses, these may be good as far as rote education

goes, but have the drawback of no outside socialization. Admittedly, there are some occupations, like camera repair technician, that are not offered by many certified educational institutions, but many people out there in "gender-land" feel that taking a correspondence course is the "safe" way out; they will not have to face the public and the risk of rejection.

Playing it "safe" never got anyone anywhere. Those who have made it in life are the ones who have weighed the options and decided the risk was worth the effort.

If you must take a correspondence course, do it for the right reason—you can't find it offered by a local facility, or the cost isn't within your ability to pay. Don't take an at-home course just to be "safe."

This word "education" has now, somehow, taken on a multitude of facets, new meanings that may never have occurred to you before. Yet, it is nothing more than a tool to help you finish the job of transition. Use it improperly and it is shallow and meaningless. Use it wisely and it becomes the golden key that unlocks a new life.

Many individuals in transition don't believe that going back to school is right for them. Yet, many find through the "school of hard knocks" that they must return for re-education simply to survive. College, or even an evening adult painting class at the YWCA, can be far more rewarding than just learning a new employment skill.

• • •

*I would like to thank all those who wrote me regarding my book The Transsexual's Survival Guide to Transition and Beyond (CDS, 1990). It is my hope that, maybe, at least one person will find some guidance within the covers. Thanks. Finally, I have graciously been asked to sit on several panels at the upcoming I.F.G.E. "Coming Together" convention to be held in Denver later this month. I hope to meet and talk with you there.*



# "Rules" for playing the name game

Transgendered people choosing to take their feminine identities public sometimes face a difficult question — what name to give the "new" woman? Now, there may be some help.

Albert Mehrabian, professor of psychology at the University of California at Los Angeles, has studied first names for seven years, and has published a book that tells how strongly people associate 1,800 names with characteristics such as success, morality, warmth, cheerfulness, femininity, and masculinity. His book is *The Name Game; The Decision That Lasts* (National Press Books, \$9.95).

While the book is aimed at prospective parents, it has value for transgendered people selecting names for their new female personas.

"People select names for the most peculiar reasons," Mehrabian said. "I am very concerned about people

who take an intuitive approach to naming and take wild guesses."

But Mehrabian's choices may not fall easily on the ears. For example, Zsa Zsa, Bunny and Barbie were identified as among the most feminine names; Brooke was the healthiest, and Prudence won highest marks for morality.

There is another consideration in choosing a name besides popular associations—fashion. Names, like clothes, go in and out of fashion over the years. Currently, traditional names are popular, appellations like Rachel and Abigail. Names that are traditionally male are also gaining popularity for females, like Lindsey. But if a 40-year-old transgendered person took a name popular in the '80's or '90s, she may be signaling that she was "born" during the last decade. It may be better to take a name that was popular when she was a baby.

The solution? Take a copy of your

high school yearbook in one hand and *The Name Game* in the other and check your female classmates's names against Mehrabian's research. But the chances are that Zsa Zsa won't make the list.

## Spring fête

(continued from page 1)

features a unique courtyard/atrium that will provide a beautiful promenade to the ballroom.

Tickets for the ball are \$32 per person and are available only in advance. All orders must be received by Monday, April 22. **No tickets will be sold at the door.** Forms for purchasing tickets have been inserted with the newsletter. Tickets will be mailed along with a map.

The Embassy offers a weekend rate of \$89 per suite for guests wishing to stay overnight. Or, if you need help in choosing a nearby hotel, directions, or general information, call the chapter at (215) 946-TVTS.

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# THE Paula Jordan Sinclair NEWSQUEEN™

There seemed to be a lot more news of a transgendered sort from the war in the Persian Gulf than we had expected. Maybe it was all that testosterone floating around.

The theory isn't as wild as it sounds. Dr. Sherman J. Silber, a well-known fertility expert.

Thinking about the war, he says, makes people wonder "how did this happen?" The answer, Silber says, is that war is only possible when men "are at the helm." The reason isn't psychological, but biological. "The issue is the hormone testosterone, the same hormone that gets the moose and the ram to almost kill each other to see which one gets to mate with the female," Silber explains. In humans, he says, testosterone "allows anger and impulses toward violent behavior to be expressed much, much more powerfully than in women."

"If we could just reduce the testosterone level in these men (world leaders), we wouldn't be having these wars," he said. And how to do that? "Drop an estrogen bomb on the Middle East," he joked, and men would sit down and talk about their differences instead of fighting.

♣ ♣ ♣

After the liberation of Kuwait City, some Kuwaitis didn't wait for an estrogen bomb to feminize Saddam Hussein. As soon as Iraqi troops fled the city, they went to work on a wall-size portrait of Saddam, replacing his black beret with long black tresses and adding blue eye shadow, red lipstick, and rouge.

Knowing how some Arabs view women, this was a great insult.

♣ ♣ ♣

We know that Kuwait was a former British colony, and so perhaps the freed Kuwaitis were simply following the war-time fashions from London where Lord Linley, a nephew of the Queen, was spotted at a nightclub wearing red lipstick and standing next to several other men in drag. Hardly proper behav-

ior for a country a war, huffed *The Sunday Times*.

♣ ♣ ♣

But the best war story came from the front as A Company of the 101st Airborne Division was preparing to attack. The company commander, Capt. Larnell Exum, was giving his men a last minute pep talk, and then climaxed it by pulling a pair of black silk panties out of his helmet. "This is what we are fighting for!" he told his men.

♣ ♣ ♣

That same speech wouldn't have worked with Pvt. Lauren Cook of the Confederate Army. When she dresses up to take part in Civil War reenactments, she dresses as a man from the skin out, even binding her chest and talking with a husky voice.

But her portrayal of a male Confederate soldier isn't good enough for officials at Antietam National Battlefield in Maryland. They won't let her join "living history" portrayals because of her sex. Park Superintendent Richard Rambursaid that having a woman masquerade as a man would not be historically accurate. But historians say that they know of at least 400 women who posed as men and fought during the Civil War. Cook says that documents show that two of the crossdressing women fought at Antietam.

Last month, she filed a sex discrimination suit against the Department of the Interior.

♣ ♣ ♣

That estrogen bomb may not have fallen in the Middle East, but there is an indication that it is about to be dropped in Hollywood. According to two reports that differ slightly in some details, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sylvester Stallone have either agreed to star, or are negotiating their roles, in a movie that puts them in drag.

In the film—titled either *Operation Pipeline* or *The Girls Club*—Schwarzenegger and Stallone play to cops who go undercover as women.

We now believe that those rumors about Stallone are not true, for if they were he probably wouldn't accept the role. We'll just have to wait and see how much he enjoys it. Schwarzenegger, however, is safe. He has already used a female disguise (one could hardly call it drag) in *Total Recall*.

♣ ♣ ♣

The gossip columnists didn't say if Stallone and Schwarzenegger were among the guests at a party aboard the yacht of advertising executive Charles Saatchi. Guests were required to come in drag.

Among those attending were MTV founder Bob Pittman and record producers Quincy Jones and Jellybean Benitz. They wore matching Lycra tops and portrayed the Pointer Sisters.

But not all celebrities could get into the spirit. Record producer David Geffen and designer Calvin Klein stayed aboard Geffen's yacht anchored off the same West Indies island where Saatchi's party boat was berthed.

♣ ♣ ♣

But fear not, drag fans, Hollywood is not turning its back on crossdressing. In fact, it continues to produce new drag icons each year. According to *US* magazine, Madonna was *it* for 1990. To wit...

"Every since Bette Midler went Disney on them, transvestites have been clamoring for a raunchy new icon. Enter Madonna 1990. With her Blond Ambition ponytail and torpedo bra, Ms. Ciccone gives dragdom an image any man tired of lip-synching Cher can copy."

♣ ♣ ♣

But drag is not always pretty. Witness this account from the diary of Chicago impersonator James St. James...

"I started off the day being humiliated on national television and ended it in the Bronx, jerking off with a bunch of drooling junkies.

(continued on page 6)



## THE *Paula Jordan Sinclair* NEWSQUEEN™

((continued from page 5))

Just another typical day."

The television appearance was *The Joan Rivers Show*. She was booked along with a transsexual, a bondage clothing designer and others. The theme of the show? "Freaks of Nature" or 'Abominations of God.' I never bothered to ask," St. James said.

"I marched onstage, did a practiced little half-step and twirl. The audience applauded. They loved me. I was magnificent...a hit! Then, mid-twirl, both of my testicles, which have always been adventurous to a fault, decided to dislodge themselves from my tuck and made a special appearance — on national television. The audience gasped. Joan gasped.

"I quickly sat down, humbled. As I was doing so, one of my curls fell off my head and onto my lap. I picked up the curl and tried to think of something witty to say. Nothing came to mind — so I tried tossing it over my shoulder. It hit Joan in the face."

The report of St. James' adventures we read ended before she arrived in the Bronx.

♣ ♣ ♣

Television isn't much different in Finland where the producers of a program exploring alternative lifestyles hired actors to portray a transvestite and a homosexual. Either such people don't exist in Finland or

the producers were too lazy to look.

♣ ♣ ♣

And speaking of fraud, police say that the person who robbed a bank in the western Pennsylvania town of Somerset last month — and who appeared to be pregnant — wasn't really "in a family way." What's more, police say, the bank robber wasn't really a woman.

Harold E. Roadman, 41, was captured a few days after he allegedly took an undisclosed amount of money from a bank while he was armed with a handgun and wearing a wig and a maternity smock. Police would not say how they came to suspect Roadman.

♣ ♣ ♣

*The Philadelphia Inquirer* linked crime and crossdressing in an article about the new Center City Nite Watch program. The reporter accompanied a patrol team and mentioned transgendered denizens of the night in a way that closely linked them to criminal activities. The *Philadelphia Gay News* took the *Inquirer* to task for the gratuitous remark.

♣ ♣ ♣

A judge San Antonio, Tex., has approved a pre-op transsexual's request to change the gender on her identification cards from male to female.

The attorney for Oliva Jane Labrie said that that paper gender change was necessary because it

was nearly impossible for her client to avoid rudeness, mean-spiritedness, or awkward curiosity from the people who ask her for identification to cash a check or negotiate a credit card purchase

♣ ♣ ♣

Don't tell JoAnn Roberts, but American and Italian art experts believe they have found final proof of the identity of the model who posed for Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* and it wasn't the artist himself in drag. The experts say the actual model was the wife of a Florentine merchant. If correct, the theory puts to rest claims that the woman with the enigmatic smile was the mistress of Giuliano de Medici or Leonardo in drag.

U.S. art historian Janice Shell and Italian archivist Grazioso Sironi said they found 400-year-old legal documents that tend to confirm a 16th century report that the model for the painting was a woman named Lisa, the wife of a merchant from Florence. That report was published shortly after Leonardo's death, but it had never been independently confirmed.

*For clippings this month, Miss Sinclair owes thanks to Janice [redacted] and Alison Laing. Stu Bykofsky gets her thanks as well, but not for news tips. After reading last month's column, he wrote Miss Sinclair to inquire "should I send some of my mail, or male?" You may send whatever you wish to her in care of the Renaissance office. If you send clippings, please note the name and date of publication.*

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## **For Ideas** **FORUM**

### **"Get the facts when presenting a 'true story'"**

To the Editor:

I read with great interest and much surprise the articles "Two tales of coming out" (RN, Feb. '91), in particular the story of "Stan" and "Bob" (a.k.a. "Lisa") and Bob's insensitivity toward Stan, one of his co-workers.

Let me first explain that although names were changed and most of the details were incomplete and inaccurate, it appeared to be more than a mere coincidence that the story was similar to my own situation. Upon further investigation (something not fully done by the writer), I discovered it was indeed my own experience.

It's true that this story was told by an acquaintance, giving his perspective of what took place in the office and how Bob's transition effected him personally, but the facts just simply aren't told accurately.

You may have noticed that I refer to Stan as an acquaintance rather than as a friend. It hurts me to make this distinction because Stan is a very, very nice person. But talking about football and working in the same office for three years does not constitute a true or meaningful friendship, at least not one in which I would be willing to disclose anything as personal as my transsexualism any sooner than I needed to.

As far as not telling close friends

in the office, I did. I confided in five people, three women and two men. This I did the same day I told my supervisors of my intentions to crossdress. This happened a full five weeks before I "appeared without warning."

These five friends were very supportive, and over the following days they helped spread the news throughout the office... Over the course of the next several weeks some people approached me to verify what they had heard. I assured them it was correct and offered to answer any questions. Again, everyone that approached me was very supportive if not for what I was doing, at least for my right to do it.

The delay of five weeks had to do with my conversations and strategies being worked out with the (Philadelphia) Commission on Human Relations.

Three days after the company received notice from the commission, I came to work dressed the way I felt most comfortable. I should also add that the day before, I walked around the office saying goodbye to my fellow employees, since management had stated they would fire me on the spot if I came to work (cross)dressed. Not knowing if they would follow through with their threat, I wanted all to know what I was doing and why. Stan certainly would have been told, had he been

in work, but he was out sick. Stan was still out the next day when I arrived (cross)dressed. Therefore, he did not see the six or seven young women flocking around my desk asking "what should we call you?" Nor did he hear the compliments and other questions. That first day I spent my lunch hour surrounded by women asking more questions and offering more support.

The next couple of days were much quieter simply because the women knew that management was watching to make sure I was not a disruptive influence in the office.

Concerning the use of the men's room, yes it was very embarrassing, and yes a visitor (was) very confused. But if management would have been the least bit cooperative, the situation would never happened.

(At) the end of your story (Stan) states, "it was getting to the point that the boss was thinking 'we have to get rid of this guy. Visitors are getting embarrassed and the women are going to quit.'" This is conjecture on one person's part as to how the entire office felt, and I believe I've made it fairly clear that the majority of the office did not feel that way.

As far as speeding up the cutbacks in the office, it was a well-known fact that the Philadelphia branch had been fighting layoffs for

(continued on page 9)

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## For Ideas FORUM

# "I thought I was 'in like Flynn'!"

To the Editor:

I've been a crossdresser all my life — long before the word "transvestite" was coined. I thought that when Virginia Prince came out with her FPE etc., that I was "in like Flynn!" Well, 30 years of reading, corresponding and joining has gotten me not much further out of the closet than I was before the realization came that I was but one of thousands with the desires to dress in feminine attire! To me, the word "closet" is just about the most over-worked or abused word in the English language, particularly so in our society of crossdressers.

The accepted statistic is that between 3 to 5 percent of the population prefer to wear or are addicted to the wearing of skirts and dresses. I venture to say that the figure of 10 to 15 percent would be more accurate. Yet, in my case, my closest

longtime sister is 1,400 miles distant!

Sure, it is admitted that we come from all walks of life with no lines drawn between us as to race, color, creed, wealth or poverty. Yet, all whom I have met seem to have high-paying jobs or else more or less were born to the purple! This is further supported by the photo book by Mariette Pathy Allen (*Transformations — Crossdressers and Those Who Love Them*). All but possibly two of those depicted are either in high-paying jobs or are well enough off to dress and live like women!

Please allow me to say that just as I have done down through the years, I have always thrown my heart and soul into whatever I was doing, work or play. The same has been the case with crossdressing. While I have a layman's point of view (the closest I ever came to a

college was to walk down the street past one), I believe that I can hold my own with and "shrink" or group that will discuss this lovely habit!

In closing, let me comment on remarks made in Chicago by Carol Beecroft as quoted in *Tapestry* #50. I fail to understand why she was not jumped on. Before the convention, Carol stated that she detested homosexuals, but if a homosexual was running for president, she would vote for him — providing he was a Republican. Apparently no one opened their tater trap. I sure would have. I would have asked about a candidate who admits that he is a crossdresser but who is also a Democrat. How will you vote now, Carol?

—Sharon [redacted]  
Vallejo, Calif.

(continued on page 10)

# "Get the facts when presenting a 'true story'"

(continued from page 7)

at least four months. This is a \$1.5 billion a year corporation, and when the cutbacks came, they came nationwide. I don't think a large corporation is going to be forced to make such a move because of the actions of one transsexual. One other thing, six people were cut-back, (including) three in a sales staff of 22. I don't believe that equals a third of the staff.

I suppose the two tales were printed to show that coming out affects more people than just the transsexual. This is understandable, but the article also gives the impression that I didn't care about anyone's feeling except my own, and that's not true. I may have not done everything perfectly, but I certainly had the feelings and concerns of my fellow workers foremost in my mind. So much so that my close friends and my psychologist felt that I

worried too much about offending or disrupting other people's lives that I was losing sight of my own well-being.

"I'm sorry that Stan feels the way he does, but there were 70 other people in that office, and although I wouldn't try to fool myself by thinking all were happy with what I did, I know it was something I had to do.

On the last day of work, as we were told one by one of our fate, I gathered my things together and said goodbye to a few friends. As I reached the door, two of the older women raced over to me and hugged me with tears of concern in their eyes. They made me promise to stay in touch and call them anytime I needed help or just wanted to talk.

I'm certain I did the right thing in the best way I knew how.

I feel your newsletter owes an obligation to get the facts when presenting a "true story." This could

have been done easily had someone contacted me before the printing of this story.

—Teri Kay  
Bala Cynwyd, Pa.

☞ *The article was nothing more than it purported to be: only one person's reaction to a transsexual's "coming out" in her other gender role. Ms. Kay's argument, it seems, is with the view presented by the individual interviewed for the article (who still wishes to remain anonymous). While it is clear that she took considerable effort to prepare most of her co-workers for her transition, that fact that even one person — who was not the beneficiary of these efforts — felt betrayed indicates how severe the effect of insensitivity can be, regardless of whether the insensitivity is intentional or accidental.*

We wish Ms. Kay the best with her new life.  
—PJS



# A little advice for marriage:

by Leslie

I have been married for almost three years now. Girls, I have had a lot to learn! My wife has pointed out a lot of my mistakes, but by telling me about those errors she has helped me look at myself and correct them. Here a list of some of the most common lessons I have learned and a few rules we can use to make our marriages better. About those rules — yes, I have broken every one of

## "I thought I was 'in like Flynn'!"

(continued from page 9)

☞ This is the second part of Sharon's letter. The first part was published in the January issue.

We have two comments on this portion. First, we don't believe that Sharon is old enough to have been crossdresser "long before the word transvestite as coined." Transvestite was first used by Magnus Hirschfeld in 1910. Transvest saw the light of day in 1652. Secondly, as one of those appearing in Allen's book, we wonder in which category Sharon places us.

—PJS

them at least once and have been forgiven each time, but sometimes that forgiveness is not the easiest thing for your lady to provide.

✓ Give your lady equal time. It is too easy to become selfish and get all wrapped up in your alter-ego. Don't spend too much on yourself (and that applies to time, money, and attention) without providing something for her.

✓ There are times when your wife wants her husband, not another woman. Let your wife see the man she married on a regular basis. Some crossdressers become so adept at transforming themselves into women that they have very clear-cut alternate personalities. While the wife may become good friends with that alternate personality, her husband's feminine side may not be enough at times. Your wife needs you — as a man!

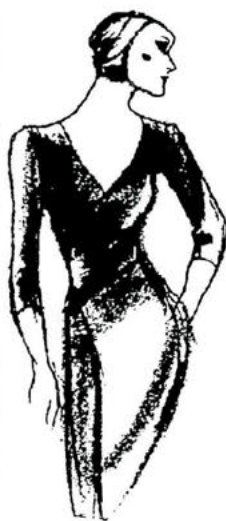
✓ Establish some kind of agreement regarding attire for sleeping and for sex. You may feel terribly turned on by crossdressing and want to make love to your wife immediately after you slip out of your dress. But your wife may need a little time to make the change between your

femme self and you. Some women, for example, are turned off when they see marks from bra straps on a man's shoulders. My wife objects to the smell of perfume and makeup after I have dressed. Our solution was simple — I take a bath, and she says I smell like a man again. Every woman is different. Some don't care if their husbands wear lingerie to bed, while others simply hate it. If you are not sure, ask! If she's not sure, experiment together.

✓ One of the biggest problems a wife can have, especially one who is new to crossdressing, is that your "hobby" is a threat. Show her that you're careful when you dress and that you don't want to do anything stupid or reckless. The thought of you going out in public *en femme* may be a very great source of worry for her. She doesn't know if you'll run into someone from work, get arrested, or simply blend into the crowd. If you assure you that you use common sense, she'll have less to worry about.

✓ When you buy something for your spouse, don't let her see it on you first. This is a good way to anger her, and to make her hate an item that otherwise might have been a most welcome gift. She is most likely to think you bought it for yourself and your giving it to her was just an afterthought.

✓ Find out if she likes the idea of sharing clothes, makeup and other items. If she does *not*, leave her things alone. If you take her things and she hasn't first given permission, she is likely to feel that she has no privacy. Women have a tendency to attach sentimental value to certain items, such as a dress they wore on a memorable occasion. You may not know which items these are, but you will definitely hurt her if you help yourself to these items when she hasn't offered them. If she doesn't want to share, or even if she just acts like she's not really happy



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# be sensitive to wife's needs

about sharing, get your own things.

✓ Work out some kind of budget for the purchase of your female items. Agree in advance whether you can afford to spend money out of the family budget. When finances are tight, she may often hold off on a purchase for herself if she feels it will strain the budget. The best way to tick her off after she has denied herself something nice is to come home with a new dress for yourself. Remember, no matter how tolerant or approving she may be of your crossdressing, it is still an extracurricular activity in her eyes.

✓ Remember that marriage is a partnership, not a contest in which one of you must emerge dominant. Don't say "I'm the man so I'm the boss," particularly if you happen to be wearing a dress at the time. This is the very height of hypocrisy, and it is the most damaging thing you can do to your relationship. You're in serious trouble if you try this stunt with a person who married you because she loves you and not because she needs you.

✓ Honesty about your crossdressing is always best, and if your spouse knows about it, keep the

lines of communication open. Some of us tell our wives we crossdress and some don't. The only way to tell if you should tell her is to use common sense. Remember, you can avoid a lot of fights by telling her what you do, and, if possible, by asking her permission regarding when and where you do it. Often, it is possible to reach a mutual agreement about your "hobby" and to find time when your crossdressing can be convenient for both of you.

✓ Most women still think crossdressing is something that will go away, so they tolerate your behavior in the beginning, but resent it when they begin to realize that it is not a temporary condition. This is a big problem and you have to decide how to handle it. Some of the resentment is triggered by the fact that one or both is uninformed about crossdressing. Sometimes only one or two specific aspects of crossdressing are causing the resentment, and a willingness to be flexible and to compromise can solve the problem. I handled this by keeping our communications about my "hobby" open and honest. This made a major difference in our relationship.

✓ Sometimes a woman will want

to sincerely help you, but her suggestions may sound like criticism. For example, you've just shown your wife your entire wardrobe, and she isn't really happy about it. She says "real women wouldn't be caught dead looking like a whore in those six-inch heels and 40 DD bras, and nobody would leave the house wearing that much makeup!" Don't get mad — listen! She's trying to help you. She has taken an interest and is willing to teach you some of the things she's learned as a woman. The best thing to do, most of the time, is to take her advice. This will show her you respect her opinion and are willing to try her ideas. She'll appreciate it. You might even look better if you take her advice, and she might even be impressed enough to help you shop!

My wife and I have grown and learned together, and we are continuing to grow and learn every day. We're able to do this because we live by the Golden Rule — we treat each other the way we would like to be treated.

—Reprinted with permission from The Flip Side, the newsletter of Tri-Delta Chi, New Orleans.



  
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# THE **ICONOCLAST**™

JoAnn Roberts

WOBURN, MASS. - If conceit were consumption, she'd be dead...

I have often remarked in these pages about transvestites who tout the glories of "exploring" their feminine side while they posture and strut like peacocks.

A case in point is the crowing of **Roberta Dearborn**, president of **The Tiffany Club of New England (TCNE)**. In the January issue of *Rosebuds*, TCNE's newsletter, she says of that publication, "It's the best in the nation." And, further along she says of TCNE, itself, "We are the best in the nation, but 120 organizations are out there looking at TCNE and the way we do things."

I wonder how many groups are interested in the way two TCNE members went on a shopping spree that included the purchase of gowns retailing from \$795 to \$975 and dinner at an exclusive Boston restaurant. I wonder how many groups are ready to copy TCNE's membership rate structure that starts with \$25 a year for *Rosebuds* and goes up to \$400 a year for keyholders.

So what if TCNE is the only support group to own its own facility. That, in itself, doesn't make them "best" or even "better" than any other group.

I seriously doubt that anyone would put *Rosebuds* in the same category as *Renaissance News* (so I'm prejudiced), *Twenty Minutes (The Twenty Club)*, *ETVC Newsletter*, *Cross-Talk*, *The Primrose (Chicago Gender Society)*, or the *Emerald City Newsletter*, all of which, in my opinion, address the real issues of our community.

For example...

▼▲▼

CAMILLUS, N.Y. - She ain't heavy; she's my sister...

I am very pleased to report that **Expressing Our Nature (EON)** has joined the growing ranks of support groups whose concern for their sister human beings extends

beyond their front door.

I recently received a copy of EON's brand new Constitution and By-Laws. It is an excellent document and in many ways better than the similar *Renaissance* document (see I'm not that prejudiced). But, one particular paragraph caught my eye and put a lump in my throat.

"In keeping with the purpose [stated in paragraph 2.01] this corporation shall provide, whenever possible, financial assistance to feed, clothe and shelter indigent members of this corporation."

That's a burden that most groups would avoid. Does that make EON better than TCNE? No. It just means that EON is more aware of the total community in which they exist.

And further witness to that fact is the appointment of Outreach Director **Molly Kennedy** as the EON rep to the New York State Pride Agenda, a coalition of sexual minority groups.

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ALBANY, N.Y. - On the other hand, she may be too heavy...

I find out the damndest things in the damndest places. Like a letter from **Helen [REDACTED]**, who I have not seen nor heard from in at least five years, in the January issue of *Community*, a publication of the **New York state Capital District Gay Community Council**.

[REDACTED], now a post-op transsexual, says her post surgical life has been difficult for her and she finally feels "free to express my anger at the treatment I received from the medical community..."

[REDACTED]'s anger must have been deep indeed as she notes that her local support group, the **Trans Genderist Independence Club**, (TGIC) asked her not to come around anymore.

TGIC was contacted for comment but they had not replied to my phone messages as of publication.

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INDIANAPOLIS, IND. - Be careful who you tell this joke to...

I used to jokingly say that I'd gone to the vet for my vasectomy 'cause it was cheaper. Now, it appears, some folks are actually going that one better. The February issue of *IXΣNews (Indiana Crossdressers Society)* reports that some of its members have been contacting local veterinarians about neutering services, and, they further report, that some have received it.

What a bunch of wild and crazy girls. Who says the mid-west is dull and boring? This is inspired lunacy.

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AUSTIN, TEX. - Strong nails with a tendency to sleep standing up...

Many of you have heard me extol the virtues of **Barielle**, a cream that strengthens fingernails. I've known for some time that it was originally developed for horse's hooves, but I never knew the name of the original product. Now, thanks to the diligence and sharp eyes of a sister at **Heart of Texas Gender Alliance**, I can report that the less expensive cousin is called **Hoof Maker** and is manufactured by the **Straight Arrow Co.** The product is said to be available at most local feed stores or direct from S.A. by calling 800•827•9815.

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SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CALIF. - If thine enemy strike thee, turn the other cheek...

Few have escaped the ire of **Veronica Brown**, fire and brimstone contributor of *Twenty Minutes*, the newsletter of TS-only **Twenty Club**. Brown recently took to task **Sister Mary Elizabeth, SSE** for a variety of alleged "sins" against the TS sisterhood.

Sister Mary has sent word "which will no doubt make Veronica very happy." She is leaving the gender community and denies reports that she will join the staff of the **International Foundation for Gen-**



# THE **JoAnn Roberts**™ **ICONOCLAST**

**der Education.** (I had reported this in January according to an I.F.G.E. announcement.)

Sister Mary further communicated, "It is sad that the one organization [Twenty Club] that was selected to give the **Christine Jorgensen Award** has made such a mockery of her memory...

"I am recommending to Christine's family that they rescind their authorization. Additionally, I am returning the Award... Christine's memory, and the meaning of the Award, has been tarnished beyond reason."

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**SPRINGFIELD, MASS.** - Speaking of **Veronica Brown**...

I extracted this quote from a lengthy reply by Veronica Brown in the February issue of *Twenty Minutes*.

"I don't write to hurt people's feelings, I write the words to educate them, make them think, to entertain and to have fun. Sometimes I use a word processor and sometimes I use a 2 X 4."

Who loves ya baby?

▼ ▲ ▼

**SANTA FE, N.M.** - Buffalo Gal won't cha come out tonight...

The newsletter for the **Fiesta Chapter** of Tri-Ess was pretty slim in February but I did find this amusing note.

"JoAnn Roberts please take note: We have also changed the name of the position of Sargent-At-Arms to Buffalo Woman, Keeper of the Cash (Sounded more Southwestern and also shows we can take a joke.)"

My appreciation goes to **Shirley Kay**, Fiesta president, for maintaining her sense of humor.

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**TOKYO, JAPAN** - It's hard to keep a good man down...

Despite the fact that some psychiatrists "nuked" his sex reassignment clinic at **Johns Hopkins University**, **Dr. John Money** (a.k.a.

**Dr. Kink**) has kept working and producing new information about human sexual development.

His latest contributions, delivered at the 20th anniversary meeting of the **Japanese Association for Sex Education**, were Development of Gender Identity in Human Beings and Hormones and Gender.

Money will be 70 years old on July 8.

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**SAN ANTONIO, TEX.** - Something's a miss here...

Hidden under the "No Visible Facial Hair" rule at the **Texas "T" Party** was another unwritten and unannounced rule. Every non-vendor male attending the "T" party must crossdress. A friend of mine in attendance at the event was hassled by **Cynthia Phillips**, co-chair for the party, because he was not crossdressed. It was also reported that Phillips would not allow another attendee to go on the shopping trip because he was not crossdressed.

Meanwhile, an unbearded crossdresser (one assumes he was deemed an acceptable attendee) decided to take an unannounced skinny dip in the pool. The problem with that was a family (not attending the "T" party) with a small child was also at the pool. Several of the transvestites (myself included), my non-crossdressing friend and at least one wife were outraged by this obnoxious behavior.

You can't judge a book by its cover and stupid rules won't keep out stupid people.

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**WALTHAM, MASS.** - I won't say that the handling of this year's "T" party had anything to do with it, but...

The **International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE)** was not happy with the "T" Party venue planned by the **Boulton & Park Society** for next year's IFGE convention. Even though the site had

been approved by **Bette Lee Johnson**, IFGE Site Selection Committee chair, that decision was overridden by **Merissa Sherrill Lynn**, IFGE executive director. Other sites in downtown San Antonio are in consideration, like the Hyatt Regency. Some B&P members are against a downtown site.

Another rumor has it that IFGE may move the '92 convention to Houston. If that happens, look for B&P to hold a '92 "T" party.

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**PHILADELPHIA, PA.** - April means it's time for some MONAs, my annual "dubious achievement" awards.

÷ "Anti-Christ" Award: to **Janet Christon** for the *Lamé Expressions* parody of *Gender Expressions*. It should now be obvious who authored the *Rosebugs* parody.

÷ "Know It All" Award: to **Jennifer Anne Stevens** for *From Masculine to Feminine and All Points In Between*. It should have been titled *Much Ado About Nothing*.

÷ "I Spy" Award: to the **Monarch Social Club** member who gave out their membership list to a vendor.

÷ This year's "Rubber Cement" Award goes to **Bobbie Starr** and the *TV/TS Journal* for taking most of its contents from the *Tapestry*.

÷ "Rule #1; No Pouftas" Award: to the **Linda & Cynthia Phillips** for prohibiting "visible facial hair" at the Texas "T" Party. Next year send a photo to register.

÷ "The Gaff" Award: to **Joni Chrissman** for her fishy remarks at **Fantasia Fair '90**.

÷ "Asshole of the Year" Award: to **Mikki** for her "au naturel" dunk in the "T" party swimming pool.

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**NOTA BENE**—The opinions expressed here are mine and mine alone. If you'd like to comment, positively or negatively, please write to me at P.O. Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406. I'd like to hear your opinion of things.



# **FUTURE PERFECT**

Louise Baltimore

Hey, it's me again — Louise from Millennium. Remember, I'm from your future. The last time I was here, we talked about the way we fight war 1,000 years from your present.

Anyway, I was having this talk with Sherman, my personal computer about this book I found in some really old ruins.

The book has what Sherman says are photographs by someone named Robert Mapplethorpe. There were also some newspaper clippings — I think that's what you called them — inside the book. They mentioned a court case in Cincinnati. My cousin Shirley is from Cincinnati.

Anyway, the images were unusual and strangely provocative, so I had Sherman do a library search on this Mapplethorpe person.

I was astounded at what I saw on the vid screen. Some of you people

actually took a guy to court over a set of photographs?

And you lost, too! You have no concept of what is really obscene.

If you could see the state of our environment. If you could see the suffering we endure. Now, that's what I consider obscene.

Anyway, I had Sherman look up some more stuff on obscenity and found this music by Two Live Crew. Some of you took them to court also and lost that one too. You guys must be real slow learners.

Instead of being concerned about what your neighbor is reading, viewing or listening to, maybe you oughta pay more attention to what you breathe, eat and drink. Take care of your own body and mind first.

I guess some of you have a real funny concept of freedom. Like some people should be less free than others to say, write, sing, paint, or film

what they feel. Which is pretty ironic considering most of you are men who want the "freedom" to wear women's clothes whenever you feel like it. So, how do you decide who should have freedom of expression and who shouldn't?

Sherman also told me about "censorship," like this person Madonna. My mother's aunt's sister-in-law was named Madonna.

Anyway, this Madonna from your time had a video that was considered "too hot" for television because it showed a variety of sexual expressions, including crossdressing. You all sat by quietly and just let the parade go on. Life is easier if you don't get involved, ain't it?

If you disagree with that sentiment, then get off your fat ass and do something constructive. Your freedom and your future are at stake. Fight for them!



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