



# News & views

Vision • Integrity • Quality

Vol. 9, No. 2 • February 1995

## SF Enacts Tough TG Discrimination Law

San Francisco has enacted the most far-reaching civil rights law in the nation with protection from discrimination for members of the transgender community. The SF Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the ordinance in early December, which makes it illegal to discriminate against those who fall under the category of transgender, an umbrella term for people ranging from crossdressers to transsexuals. The law was signed by San Francisco's Mayor Jordan on Dec. 30, 1994.

The board's action offers transgender people protection under the city's new anti-discrimination law, which bans discrimination based on "gender identity" in employment, housing, health care, social services, public accommodations, and more. The anti-bias clause also extends to all city contracts, regardless of whether the contractor is based in San Francisco. The new term, "gender identity," joins race, religion, color, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, disability and place of birth in the police and administrative codes that prohibit public discrimination.

The San Francisco Human Rights Commission can investigate alleged violations of the law and mediate disputes, although they would not have the authority to issue penalties against the private sector. People who believe they have suffered transgender discrimination might be able to sue alleged offenders, but recent state court rulings on other anti-discrimination protections have made the outcome of such actions uncertain.

No opposition to the ordinance had surfaced by the time the law was signed. The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce consulted both large and small businesses and no one voiced major objections, although most were taking a wait-and-see attitude as to whether businesses might be unfairly burdened by enforcement.

Other cities with transgender civil rights protection are Santa Cruz (Calif.), Seattle (Wash.) and Minneapolis (Minn.). The San Francisco version, with the addition of the SF Human Rights Commission's administrative remedies and the anti-bias language that will be added to contracts, is considered to be the toughest in the nation.

One SF Human Rights Commission staffer said this is the most far-reaching legislation of its kind in

the United States. Supplemental legislation will be introduced in the coming months that will more clearly define the law. One proposal calls for requiring employers and stores to provide appropriate accommodations for their transgender workers and customers when they use dressing rooms and bathrooms.

The SF Human Rights Commission estimates the city has between 3,000 and 5,000 transgender residents, a group that only recently began fighting for recognition and government protection. Over the past five years, the city received slightly more than 40 complaints from its transgender residents. With the new law, officials expect more than 50 complaints a year.

"The largest complaint is in employment, people who were in transition while on the job," said [Human Relations] commission investigator Larry Brinkin. "When [a] male starts coming to work dressed as a female, they are either fired or harassed so severely they quit." There have also been complaints from transgender people who were asked to leave restaurants, stores and malls, or were rudely ignored while there.

"At night, [we are] automatically considered to be prostitutes, and that's not right," said Shelley Salieri, a City Hall activist and 20-year transgendered woman who helped write the law. "We are doctors, lawyers, police officers and zoo keepers. This will end a long history of discrimination."

The most difficult thing now will be regulating rest rooms under the new law mandating "reasonable accommodations" for all protected classes of people. If rest rooms have the ability to provide privacy—like stalls—people will be allowed to use whatever matches their gender identity.



**Correction** In the December issue, under the lead story "Community Alliance Forms" it was incorrectly stated that JoAnn Roberts coordinated the NASW cooperative effort. The NASW cooperative effort was coordinated by Yvonne Cook-Riley of IFGE. Ms. Roberts was responsible for securing the initial agreement among the national organizations to cooperate with IFGE. We regret the error and the slight to Ms. Cook-Riley.

# Renaissance



## Chapter & Affiliate Information

### Chapters

#### Delaware

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

#### New Jersey

**South Jersey/Shore Area:** Write Renaissance SJ, Box 189, Mays Landing, NJ 08330. Meets the first Saturday of the month at the Atlantic Mental Health Center, 2002 Black Horse Pike, McKee City. Doors open at 7 p.m.

#### Pennsylvania

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

**Lower Susquehanna Valley:** Write Renaissance LSV, Box 2122 Harrisburg, PA 17105. Meets on the first Saturday of the month. Call 717-780-115V (1578) for location and times.

### Affiliates

#### Georgia

**Atlanta:** The American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS), PO Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033-0724 or call 404-939-0244. Information resources.

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

#### Louisiana

The Gulf Gender Alliance, PO Box 870213, New Orleans, LA 70187-1300. Local support group.

#### New Jersey

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

#### New York

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

**Long Island -** New York Girl & Partners, 149 South Howell Ave., Centereach, NY 11720, Call 516-732-8219 for info.

## Renaissance News & Views

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

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

## Resources

### Background Papers:

- Background Papers are \$1.25 each:
1. Myths & Misconceptions About Crossdressing
  2. Reasons for Male to Female Crossdressing
  3. PARTNERS: Spouses & Significant Others
  4. The Matter of Children
  5. Annotated Bibliography
  6. Telling the Children: A Transsexual's Point of View
  7. AIDS/ HIV Safety and Ethics.
  8. Understanding Transsexualism

### Significant Other Support

To network with other partners of transgendered people contact Evelyn Kirkland, PO Box 1242, Newtown, Pa., 18940.

### Pen Pal Program:

If you would like to correspond with other people around the country contact Pen Pals, care of Maryann Kirkland, PO Box 1242, Newtown, Pa., 18940. Maryann will put you on the Pen Pal List and give you a copy of that list so you may correspond with as many new friends as you like.

### TransParent Forum:

If you are transgendered and have children, that makes you a TransParent. If you'd like to network with other TransParents contact Elsa [REDACTED], PO Box 2122, Harrisburg, Pa., 17105, attention: TransParent.

### Events Calendar

#### February

- 4 Ren. South Jersey
- 4 Ren. LSV meeting
- 11 Ren. Delaware
- 18 Ren. GPC
- 21-25 Texas "T" Party, San Antonio
- 23-25 Int'l Conf. on Cross Dressing, Sex & Gender, Northridge, Ca.

#### March

- 4 Ren. South Jersey
- 4 Ren. LSV meeting
- 11 Ren. Delaware
- 13-19 IFGE Convention, Atlanta, Ga.
- 18 Ren. GPC



# News Beat & Reminder



by Angela Gardner

Happy February! It won't be long till March and then Spring will be ready to flower. In the meantime, we offer, for your edification and delight, the annual **Swimsuit Issue**, as illustrated by the two beach bunnies pictured here.



Look at that warm beach. If this was *USA Today* you could see the deep, beautiful blue of the sky and ocean, and the red tinge on the sunburned bodies. Ah well, black and white is all we got. The pic was snapped last August in Rehobeth, Delaware. Elizabeth, my friend Jayne (who played photog) and I, went on a quest to find **Poodle Beach**, the gay spot on the Delaware coast. The thinking was, "If we go to the gay beach in our girl bathing attire we'll fit right in and everyone will love us." This would have no doubt turned out to be the case but,

unfortunately, we couldn't find Poodle Beach. We drove around Rehobeth for about a half an hour looking for some gay people to ask for directions and only saw one couple who looked like they might be gay. "So This is the Fire Island of Delaware?"

We asked a gas station pump jockey but he was clue less. Finally, in desperation, we just went to a beach. It was Mr. and Mrs. America at the shore. There were old people, and children. We walked out on to the sizzling sand and there, in defiance, we staked our claim. Nobody even looked, which was depressing cause how often do they see the Editor of *Renaissance News & Views* in a bikini?

When I returned to my home that evening Jayne called and said, "Put on Channel 3." I hurriedly switched my set on and found that a local TV show, *The Bulletin with Larry Kane* was doing a feature story on the gay beach in Rehobeth. Coincidence? Maybe, but if only the show had been on the night before, we would have known how to get to Poodle Beach. Synchronicity was working but, as always, it didn't do much for us.

Check out the rest of the bathing beauties on page 21 and now, on with the show.

## And They Say We're Confused

Here are a couple of items from Billy Jaye [redacted] that just go to show it's not the transgendered who are the most confused. Of course these items come from the always-informed-on-TG-issues *Arab Times*.

Item one concerns the strange way things get tangled up when the British insist on trying to keep things simple. "Keeping it simple" to the British courts means keeping a man a man and a woman a woman, no matter what surgery and hormones have been introduced into the mix. It's the legal attitude that keeps the lovely **Tula** legally a male in the British Isles and now it keeps a father, who used to be a mother, from legally obtaining paternity rights. Since he is legally still a female, he cannot be registered as the child's father. This Neanderthal thinking keeps the the girl from getting financial support from her TS father, and from ever getting an inheritance.

The couple, who have been in a stable relationship for fifteen years, are also being kept from adopting a two year old child they conceived through artificial insemination, with the help of a third party donor. The European Human Rights Commission is trying to get a friendly settlement in the case, but isn't it about time the British Courts just caught up with the rest of the civilized world on the definition of gender? All the couple want is to have a normal family life. As the fat drag queen says, "Is that so wrong?"

Item two concerns a strict orthodox Jewish law which is benefiting a transsexual singer. The law in question does not allow Jews (ultra-orthodox Jews) to listen to a woman sing. The female voice is deemed far too sensual. This works out great for sex-change-singer, Dana International. Since she started life as a man and the Rabbis in charge, like the British, like to keep things simple. They consider Dana to be a male vocalist and that's that. Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi Doron said it's okay for Jews to buy her records and listen, "provided you know about her previous state." There would only be a problem is she had originally been hermaphroditic. Fact is stranger than fiction, ain't it? I wonder how many records she sells to ultra-orthodox Jews? Do they pop her tape in the Walkman while they jog? Another case of learn a little, ask a whole lot more.

*continued next page*



# News Beat...

## And The Winner Is...

You! That is if you help out a good cause and see a great show at the same time. **The 1995 Miss Pennsylvania, USA Female Impersonator Pageant and Ball** is happening on February 11th and this year it is a benefit for *We The People*, an AIDS group in Philadelphia. The organizers of the pageant had the good sense to follow the lead of Renaissance and the IFGE by utilizing the facilities of the Doubletree Hotel. As you may recall, that's where the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of Renaissance held their Holiday Party in December and of course the IFGE had a convention there a couple of years back. The event is black tie optional, which means that some men will arrive in tuxedos, some in sequined gowns and some in spandex hot pants and tight tank tops. Let's hope we get a little more tuxedos and sequins, it's so much classier.

For ticket information call Keith Rasnake at 717-236-6960 or Matt Gertz at 215-472-8326. To reserve tickets call Upstages at 215-893-1145. The promoters are expecting 500 people to show up and in addition to the beauty contest there will be performances by **Sasha Vega, Miss Pennsylvania Female Impersonator USA 1994, Coco, Miss Gay USA 1994 and Cezanne, Miss Continental USA 1994**. The hostess will be Miss Mortimer, direct from

Atlantic City. It sounds to me like a good opportunity to get out your party dress and help people with AIDS. I know I'm going to try to be there. Any event with a name that long just has to be good.

## Tom or Tomesina?

Our friend Suzanne reports that back in December the *National Inquirer* had a story about America's heart throb **Tom Cruise**. According to the *Inquirer*, young Tom used to dress up as a girl when he was twelve years old. Why you ask? The reported reason was, he needed to cut loose. Now where have I heard that story before? Could it be one of **Michelle's 1000 Reasons To Dress Up?**

Everybody thought Tom was exercising total control over every aspect of his young life and that he was totally predictable. (I know I was rigid with myself at that age. Weren't you?) To prove how unpredictable he could be, young Tom would dress up as a woman to shock people, showing up at parties in a dress and makeup or just dropping by a friend's house to hang out in drag. If you keep doing that all the time, doesn't that just make you predictable, in an eccentric way? "Oh look, it's Tom in a dress again. How shocking. What's for dinner?" They actually had pictures in the *National Inquirer* and somehow, maybe I didn't get to the supermarket that week, I missed them. If you've got that issue lying around the house, cut out the article and pictures and send it to me so we can put it in the Renaissance library. After I've examined the photos

thoroughly of course. Suzanne didn't send the pictures but she reports that Tom made a good looking girl. I wonder if they offered him a role in *Wong Foo*?

## Perversion Is As Perversion Does

Suzanne said she had a good time at the GPC Holiday Party. If you remember my report in last month's issue you'll know the party was crashed by some young ladies who were appearing with the Pennsylvania Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker*. They had a great time dancing to our band and talking with some of the attendees. Suzanne asked if that means the transgendered are now acceptable company. She had gotten the impression from reading a lot of "behavioral science crap" in the sixties and seventies that we were, "a rank below child molesters." No Suzanne, we aren't. We're more than a few notches above child molesters, for the most part. As I always say, no group of people is perfect (Priests for instance. Talk about molesters!) but stereotypes attach themselves to groups and the members of those groups often start to feel that they have something to be ashamed of, even when they know that their hearts are pure. We are our own worst enemy when we begin to believe things about ourselves that we know aren't true. Thanks to some good press in the past few years, the young ladies at the party didn't feel we were any kind of threat to them, which is good, since we weren't a threat. If we could all forget the "crap" we learned about transgendered people in any decade

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and examine ourselves and others we know, we would see that we all put our panty hose on one leg at a time and there's nothing perverted about it.

### Speaking Of Good Press

Dee [redacted] sent in a page from *Allure* magazine titled, "Beauty and the Beat." The writer, a Ms. Tracy Young managed to fill a whole page with bulleted paragraphs that might make up half a column if it wasn't spread out like that. Each paragraph was a kind of news bite/observation. Of interest to us, ladies, is the second paragraph which concerns the fall clothing collections in Paris. To make the point that the clothes are boring and it takes more than supermodels to make a collection, Ms. Young says, "It's no surprise that transvestites have become mainstream—they uphold that quaint tradition wherein clothes are more important than supermodels." Of course the clothes *are* more important than the models and a TV is nothing without a great outfit. We really do prove that clothes make the woman but I think considering us "mainstream" is a little premature. We've been making strides toward acceptance but until there are transvestite check out clerks at supermarkets and convenience stores, until your secretary is a guy in a dress, until then, we are not free.

Hey, wait a minute. One of our columnists is working at a full time job as a secretary and wearing a dress, as well as suits and other female business attire. **Robyn Dormer** (our comics columnist) has been working as a

secretary for several months through a temp agency. She had the job skills needed and the need for a part time job, so she went in and applied as Robyn, not Bob. They were not in the dark about her true gender, but they sent her out on assignments and she has landed a full time position at a scientific company. The company is aware of her gender but they like her work so much they want her to go full time (in the job that is). She said that seventy-five percent of the people in the office have no problem with her at all and the others leave her alone. What more can you want? Even if she gets tired of the business woman grind (I don't envy anybody who has to get up at oh-dark-thirty in the morning to make themselves pretty and then get to the office and be brisk and efficient.) She can always use the experience to write a book. Or maybe, in Robyn's case, a comic book. Good luck Robyn. Keep on breaking new ground.

### Musical Mystery Solved

I've been hearing a funky rap song, on the alternative rock station, by a singer or group called **Luscious Jackson**. The song called *This is the State of the World* is great, but I couldn't figure out the gender or race of the vocalist. First I thought it was a black woman, but then I began to hear things about her voice that made me think she was a guy. Then I began to have TV fantasies that Luscious was a sexy TV. Oh boy, what excitement! Well, since the DJs never said whether Luscious was a boy or girl it remained a mystery till the group appeared on

*Saturday Night Live* January 15th. (I'm too lazy to go to a record store and check it out.) At last, the mystery is solved. Unfortunately Luscious Jackson is not a sexy TV but a group with three white women, one on bass, one on vocals and one on keyboards along with a black male DJ, white male sax player and a drummer I didn't pay much attention to. The bass player does the rap part and the vocalist sings on the chorus section of this poppin' little tune. But, having conjured up a vision of delectable TV pulchritude in the fantasy theater of the mind, I will still see a Luscious TV Jackson when I hear the tune. At least my intellect will know who's really singing. Just another lesson in how who you are can influence what you visualize.

### Return Of The Wabbit In A Dress

Philadelphia's *City Paper* had a review of a new book called *Images In The Dark: An Encyclopedia of Gay and Lesbian Film and Video*. The author is Raymond Murray. (No, he's not the Ray Murray who co-hosted the syndicated *Evening Magazine* with Nancy Glass.) Whoever he is, he has put together a compendium of not only who's gay in films but, "an exhaustive guide to more than 3000 films and videos with profiles of hundreds of actors, directors and movie icons, all relevant in some way to gay and lesbian experience." Which brings us to that wascally wabbit. Bugs show's up in the section of primary interest to us, the transgendered section. Murray alleges that Bugs may

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*Continued from last Month*

## III. DEVELOPING PROGRESSIVE STRATEGIES FOR CHANGE:

A strategy for change that has reoccurred frequently throughout our annual conferences and appears in all of the Proceedings is to take the loopholes that exist in the oppressive laws and use them to our advantage. The first to so advocate was Connie Moore who won the First Transgender Advocate Award at our August conference. Connie presented family law caselaw in Proceedings I. As she related, both England and the State of Ohio had a similar problem over the non-changing of the birth certificate after genital reassignment surgery. Without the birth certificate change, caselaw prevented a transgendered man from marrying a woman or a transgendered woman from marrying a man since legally, in those jurisdictions, the transgendered man was still legally female and the transgendered woman was still legally male. Connie's remedy was for all of those transgendered men who had a willing male partner and for all of those transgendered women who had a willing female partner to go to Ohio or England and get legally married. Then they should flaunt their homosexual marriages in the face of the same laws that denied them the dignity of their gender correction. She stated her case in a very forceful manner: "ram the inconsistencies down their throats" were her fiery words during her inspiring presentation.

Connie is about as subtle as I am, but her point is well taken. This was the reverse argument for transition without divorce. Examination of most marriage law reveals that two people of the same sex cannot get married, but once legally married two people cannot be separated without clear and specific statutory reasons (bigamy or under age) or divorce. Since a loving heterosexual couple can marry, when one partner transitions with the love and support of

the other partner without violating the statute and without invoking a suit for divorce from the other partner, then the state cannot void the marriage.

Call it being proactive, or call it being assertive, or call it being an activist, or call it being in-their-face. Whatever term you feel comfortable with, this is what it is mostly about.

Being proactive can be soft conversations wherein you come out to one person at a time. Being assertive can be a letter to your members of the state legislature and of the federal congress alerting them that one of their constituents is TG and is proud and votes. Being an activist can be refusing to knuckle under and be ashamed when your children or your job are about to be taken away.

An in-their-face activity is being willing to appeal your case if the trial court rules against you. Too often an appeal is simply not prosecuted when a good solid win is very possible. Either a transgendered client who was shafted in trial does not want her or his name in the newspaper associated with the appeal or else there is insufficient money for the appeal (each step of an appeal can run from \$2,500 to over \$5,000). I.C.T.L.E.P.'s future plans include having a sufficient annual budget to finance legal defense and Amicus projects, but that is in the future and depends upon people who will allow I.C.T.L.E.P. to tap their credit cards on a monthly basis for \$10 or \$20 or \$50 or more. Such regular, monthly financial support may be YOUR way to help us be in-their-face.

Being proactive can be joining with your local lesbian/gay/bisexual political group, getting on the screening committee and screening candidates on TG issues — let them actually meet one of us. Being assertive can be refusing to go away thereby forcing someone to deal with you, as you are, where you are.

Currently in Texas is the introduction of new legislation for us that first appeared in Proceedings II. If enacted,

this bill will streamline the name change, gender identification change and birth certificate change process and will recognize both the surgical and non-surgical transsexual. It's Time Texas, is shepherding this bill. For a copy or general information, contact Sarah DePalma at 713-██████████

Sometimes the action required is best categorized as being IN-THEIR-FACE. Last January, ICTLEP lead the transgender community in a frontal assault against the minority of those leaders of the lesbian/gay/bisexual community who refused to put "transgender" into the name of the Stonewall 25 event. (I am indebted to the hard work and commitment of Jessica Xavier.) When the dust cleared, it was painfully obvious, yes even around the globe, that the lesbian/gay/bisexual community would have to either deal with us as allies in the fight against bigotry or be targeted as bigots themselves. We must, all four, lesbian AND gay AND bisexual AND transgender, work together in this freedom struggle.

Whatever way is best for you is what matters. Find what you are comfortable with, be it proactive or assertive or activist or in-their-face. **What matters is that you take some kind of action.** That's right, get off of the couch and do something other than fret over wigs, nail polish or rubber allergies.

Being assertive can also be as simple as insuring that your lawyer demand from the very beginning that the other lawyer get your pronouns correct. It is amazing to me as a trial lawyer how that simple tactic can turn the posture of a legal fight.

Another progressive strategy is checking your state law. If it is legal to record your own phone calls without telling the other party (each state is different on this) then do anticipate and do record that one call where adversaries tell you the real reason for messing with you. When they later deny ever saying it while under oath, you and your

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## The American Educational Gender Information Service **AEGIS**

### ANNOUNCES A NEW MEMBERSHIP POLICY

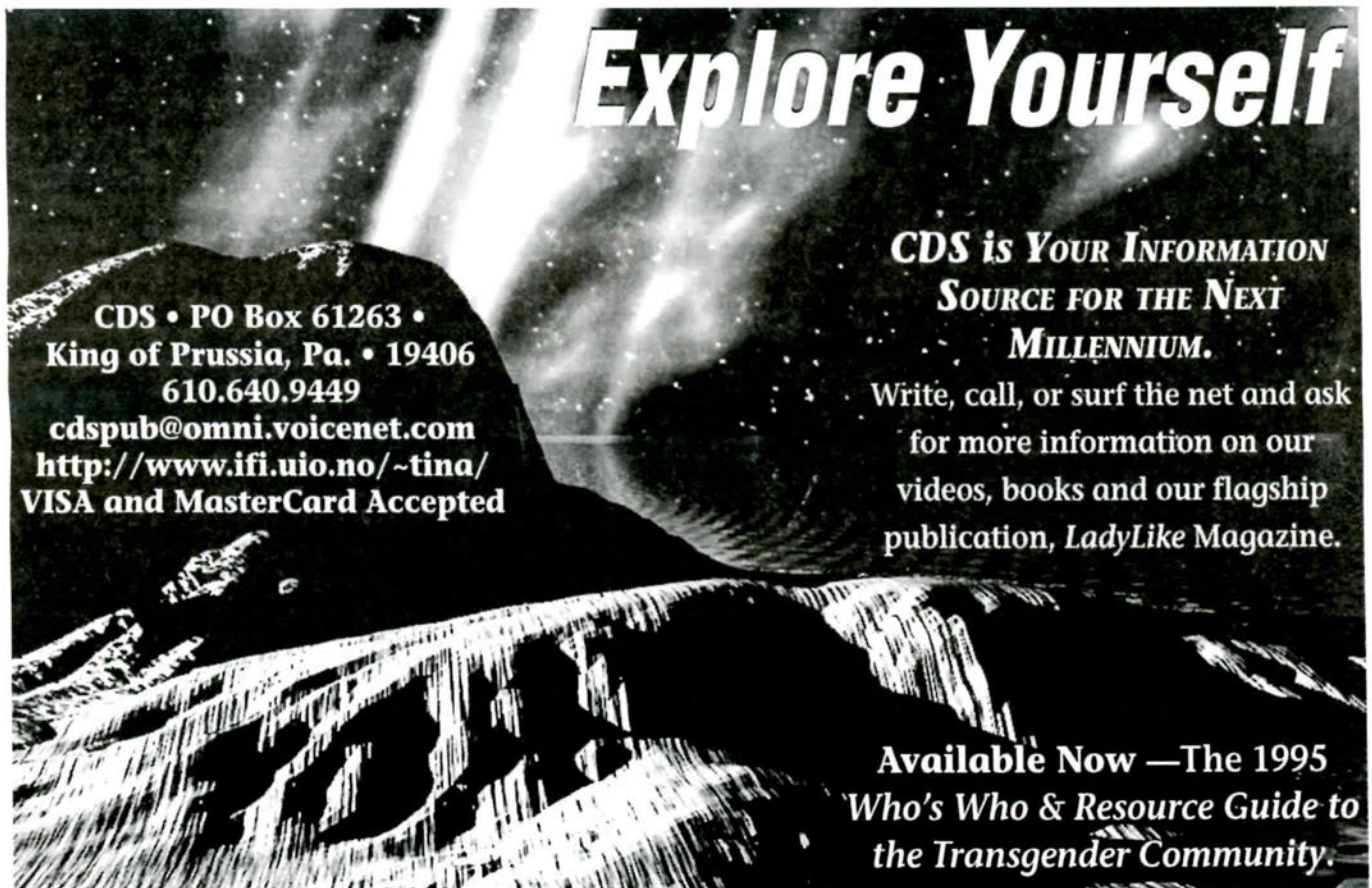
AEGIS is now a membership organization. Membership at \$36/year includes: 2 issues of *Chrysalis*, a theme-oriented magazine focusing on serious transgender issues; 4 issues of *AEGIS News* our quarterly newsletter; a 10% discount on all publications sold by AEGIS; a membership/I.D. card; and the right to vote for AEGIS board members. Membership is open to anyone.

AEGIS is a 100% volunteer, non-profit information and education resource for all people and does not discriminate on any basis. AEGIS supports SSSS, HBGDA, SIECUS and other professional organizations. AEGIS is a founding partner of the Transgender Alliance for Community and an affiliate of the Renaissance Education Assoc., Inc. Write or call today.

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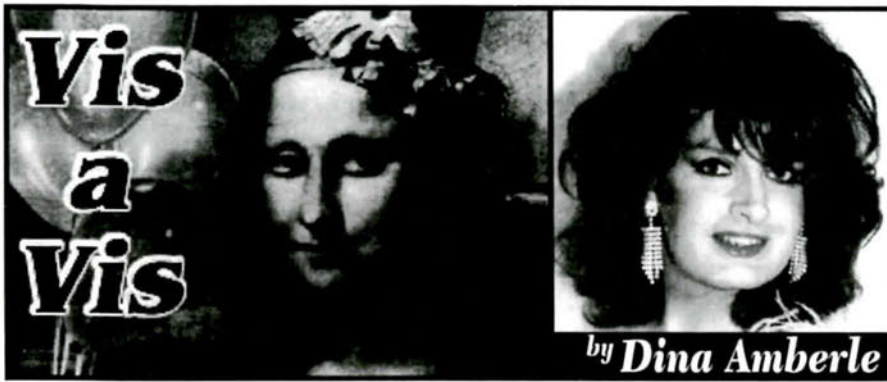
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by Dina Amberle

Some people have asked me how I make this column up each month. Like a lot of manufacturers, I'm as proud of the process as I am of the results.

First, I select only the choicest malts and hops. I fire brew them in clear mountain spring water then deep freeze it in genuine oak barrels and ship it direct in refrigerated trucks.

Somewhere in the making—even I'm not sure how I do it—I add two alloy steel belts between each nylon cord bias ply. Then—and only then—do I allow my editor to label it 'Vis a Vis.' Here, have a few quaffs of this month's brew:

### CHOOSE YOUR OWN PATH

The *AEGISNews* published from Decatur, Ga. and the Washington, D.C., PFLAG newsletter both carried articles that, although not directly related, dealt with similar issues and carried a metaphorical message for the crossdressing community. AEGIS is a transgender support organization that publishes their news quarterly; PFLAG is a national umbrella group for parents and friends of gays and lesbians.

John Gallagher authored the piece in *AEGISNews* and included this quote by Riki Anne Wilchins of Transsexual Menace: "There is a real split going on in the transsexual community. The younger cohort coming up says 'passing' does not work. The idea of 'passing' is essentially a way of saying, 'I am not OK, I have to fool you.'" There have been several opinion pieces in the transgender press about the 'non-passing option'. While many of the classic case

transsexuals opt for total assimilation as women, there is a new movement that is trying to forge a 'third gender' that forces society to deal with transsexuals on their own terms.

Catherine Turek, President of the Washington, D.C., chapter of PFLAG titled her article *The Subtler Forms of Homophobia*. In it, she talks about the split in the gay community between 'straight-looking' homosexuals and their more stereotypical gay and lesbian counterparts. Especially in the group for parents of gays, there is a real concern for how 'normal' their sons and daughters appear. Ms. Turek poses this question: "Where are the parents whose kids don't look normal?" She makes a distinction between the terms 'different' and 'abnormal.' Using terms like 'normal' implies a value judgment, while recognizing 'differentness' confers no judgments pro or con.

Both of these articles point out that no group, whether the majority or a minority, is monolithic. There is diversity within subgroups just as there is within the power blocs. Rather than trying to funnel each member of a group through a homogenizing filter, organizations should celebrate the diversity within their memberships. Unfortunately, the peer pressure and politicking within minority groups often creates an atmosphere that is more repressive than in the greater population at large.

In the crossdressing community, there have been many instances of discord between competing groups because they did not share the same outlook—even if the object-goal may have been the same. There has also

been outright censorship and more subtle, censorship, directed at individual crossdressers who dress 'inappropriately.'

Individuals have many different motivations to crossdress and to a certain degree the organized crossdressing community has been guilty, like some parents of gay and lesbian children, of pointing out how 'normal' we all are while ignoring those crossdressers who have motivations that our leaders have decided are 'abnormal.'

### SOMETIMES A GREAT NOTION

Chris Jones is the editor of *The Pinnacle*, the newsletter of the Transgender Education Association in Arlington, Virginia. Chris recounts in the December issue her experience of crossdressing at work on Halloween. I mentioned another crossdressed work adventure last month, but Chris' had much more profound effects.

Chris owns her own small business and her employees know of her crossdressing, but apparently had never seen her crossdressed in person before. Chris even asked the employees if they would mind if she wore a 'costume' to work on Halloween. It isn't made clear if the employees knew the 'costume' would be womenswear but the implication is that it was understood.

Chris came to work in a tasteful women's business suit, but it became clear two of the female employees were uncomfortable with the whole scene. One woman was so uncomfortable, she went home early and admitted it was the 'costume' that upset her physically, although she wasn't sure why she had such a strong reaction. She said if Chris had come as Cat Woman, in a real costume, she would have been able to handle it better than seeing her boss in passable drag.

On the same day, Chris' 12-year old son also stopped into the business and saw his dad crossdressed for the first time. Chris recounts his son's shock at realizing the unknown woman in the office was his own father.

Since I don't know enough about the situation to say whether I think this



whole thing was a good or bad idea, I won't try to make a firm judgment. But it does point out one thing about 'passable' crossdressing. Namely, it can seem far stranger to outsiders than dressing up in outrageous drag. The young female employee could accept her boss dressed up in a campy Cat Woman outfit, but when she saw that Chris was 'serious' about the female clothing, she had a strong negative reaction. And, will Chris' young son figure out that his father was not just wearing a 'costume,' but making some statement about his femininity? I wonder how things are at home since that day.

This is a prime example that the public at large may not be buying the program when we promote: "heterosexual crossdressers trying to get in touch with our feminine personas." Everyone understands a costume and the idea of having a good time, even if it entails women's clothing. But public displays of deep psychological urges scares some people.

#### RENAISSANCE, AS IN REBIRTH

Most people like a good 'comeback' story and one of my favorites of the past few years involves the actor Martin Landau.

If you're of a certain age, you best remember Landau as Rollin Hand of the series *Mission: Impossible*. He was the first choice to play Mr. Spock when the *Star Trek* series was casting but turned it down to stay with the highly rated *Impossible Missions Force*. Before that taste of fame in the 60's, he was a minor character actor, appearing in small roles like the heavy in Hitchcock's *North By Northwest*.

By the '70s, however, Landau's fortunes had tailed off and he turned up in a syndicated sci-fi series, *Space 1999*, and some pretty lame B movies that are only remembered now on the video store shelves. Like a lot of television stars before him, he became a 'whatever happened to...'

After a decade of virtual invisibility, he took a supporting role in the late-80s Jeff Bridges film *Tucker* and

copped an Oscar nomination. A couple of years later, he co-starred in the Woody Allen drama *Crimes and Misdemeanors* and received another Oscar nomination. Now there's talk of yet another Oscar nomination for his role as Bela Lugosi in *Ed Wood*, the eponymous biopic of the crossdressing director. He also turned in a nice supporting performance in the tepid drama *Intersection* earlier this year. So now we all know about the career of Martin Landau, but what's that got to do with crossdressing?

As crossdressers, we all get a chance to recreate ourselves. That's why our founders chose the name Renaissance for our organization. If our everyday lives may be humdrum, or even if they are a whirlwind of exciting activity, we can literally change ourselves into the women we like so well. Everyone suffers some reverses in life and that is why the 'comeback' stories are so popular and inspirational. We get a shot at a 'comeback' every time we do ourselves up, leaving our male selves behind (with all their real world problems) and sally forth to conquer the world (or at least enjoy some small portion of it) as ladies.

#### THE INS AND THE OUTS OF 1995

As I write this, the new year is still a fresh and shiny thing onto which we can project our hopes and dreams. By the time you read it, the year will be well on its way to being shot in the ass like so many before it. But right now, I'm looking at one of those dreadful lists of "What's In, What's Out" for '95.

For the crossdresser—and I know


there are a few of you out there—this list has some interesting entries on either side of the In/Out ledger.

Stiletto heels, latex clothing, Wonderbras, unisex perfumes, gay club nights, bondage, caning, and 'bombshell' women are all on the 'In' list. Platform shoes, leather clothing, bustiers, silk, spanking, and the 'waif' look are all 'Out' for this year. And one last thing: masturbation is 'In'; fornication is 'Out.'

It seems to me that you could have a pretty good time with any combination of those items no matter which way the social arbiters have cleaved them. But imagine how cool it would be if you were a bombshell in a latex dress and stiletto heels getting caned while you were in bondage. Not your bag, you say? Well, then you could wear a leather bustier, silk scarf and platform shoes and just get spanked—which doesn't sound that bad for a night's entertainment even if it has been deemed 'Out' for the trend-driven masses.

**What was 'In' is now on the 'Out'**  
**I finally see what it's all about**  
**If I got it right a bustier**  
**Was only hip yesterday**  
**And I'll get caned instead**  
**of spanked I haven't a doubt**





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# Comics With TG Characters

by Robyn Dormer

The alternative (or "underground") press have always been a breeding ground for TG characters. This is still true today. A recent issue of J.R. Williams' *Crap* (#3) featured the cliché title "Kind of a Drag" with Madame Xtra, a drag queen, midnight horror movie hostess. After a moral discussion between roommates Milton and Mike, Milton runs into Madame Xtra at a record store Milton is an employee there and when Madame Xtra mentions a recording she needs for her nightclub act, Milton informs her that he has it, in his personal collection. He offers to tape the song she needs in exchange for an interview for his column in the local paper. She agrees. Milton tapes the song and delivers it to the studio where Madame Xtra is taping her show and meets Bill, the man behind Madame Xtra. Milton sits and watches Madame Xtra emerge from inside Bill and learns her whole story. Milton (and the reader) learn quite a bit about drag and gay life as he attends his first drag show with his girlfriend who feels like "a fat little lump of dough" around the glamorous crossdressers in the audience. The story offers a real insight into the world of drag and appears to be written from personal experience. It would make a great ice-breaker for anyone who wants to enlighten someone. *Crap* #3 is a black and white comic book published by Fantagraphics Books.

Also from Fantagraphics is *Real Girl*, an anthology title featuring contributions from many different alternative press professionals. *Real Girl* #6 was the "Special Gender Bender Issue" and "The sex comik for all genders and orientations, by cartoonists who are good in bed." Anne Bernstein (editor of Nickelodeon magazine) contributed graphic interpretations of famous quotes. Her drawings include pictures of "muscle bound women" and "chicks with dicks." The next story is a spoof of the old crossdressing Jimmy Olson entitled "Supergal's Slave Jimmie Ogler." Jimmie watches Supergal fly off to battle evil and then slips into her private quarters. Finding her secret stash of costumes, he feels compelled to wear one, complaining that all of her boots are flats. With a wig and a little make-up, Jimmie becomes Supergal. Then the real Supergal returns... "Dale's World" is an autobiographical piece about the author's roommate, an albino man with tits who plays in a band and crossdresses. There are pieces about female crossdressers and lesbians to round out the issue.

Both *Real Girl* and *Crap* should be available at your local comic store or directly from Fantagraphics Books.

Raging Rhino Press has a couple of irregularly published titles featuring transgender characters. *Donielle: Enslaved at Sea* and *Jane Doe* are hard core sex and bondage comix that feature

plenty of "chicks with dicks." Both series revolve around the drug 'estrofem,' a narcotic that has a serious side-effect. It feminizes males. *Donielle* takes place on a floating slave ship where estrofem runs freely and the slaves have that little something 'extra.' *Jane Doe* is a gender cop in the near future where

Charlton Heston is President and everybody is taking estrofem. **Warning:** these comics are hard core in their depiction of sex acts and may be hard to find. They can be ordered directly from Raging Rhino.

How about a couple of mainstream back issues to hunt for, titles that won't give you away if you ask for them at the counter. *Punisher* #20 features a cross-dressing villain and *Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight* #6 features a very brief scene where a macho mobster and his gay date go out for the evening. The date dons a dress and wig and wonders aloud why they bother since everybody knows they're gay anyway. *Crossfire*, published by Eclipse Comics, had a two-part adventure revolving around the 'murder' of Marilyn Monroe. In issues #12 and 13 (1985), *Crossfire*, a masked skip tracer, has to find a Marilyn Monroe impersonator being pursued by a madman who believes the performer to be Monroe herself. The performer is male, and had been arrested for assaulting a man who made a lewd comment to him while he was out on the town dolled up. Issue #12 features a Dave Stevens cover and may be more expensive because of it. Well worth looking for. *Grimjack* #41 by First Comics (1987), finds our hero searching for the killers of a young woman's brother in the mystical town of Cynosure. It seems Keith, the brother, disappeared without a trace and owes a lot of people a lot of money. Carrie, the sister, is now being harassed for information about her missing brother and Grimjack smells a rat. I'm probably not giving anything away by revealing that Carrie is actually Keith after some elective surgery. There's a lot of emotion at the end when Carrie is found out, and for once there's actually a happy ending. Check with mail order back issue firms if your local store doesn't have back issues of *Crossfire* or *Grimjack*.

That's it for this issue ladies. Next month: JIMMY OLSON. 'Bye!



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# Hot•Buzz

## JoAnn Roberts • Queen of Prussia



*"Great deeds are usually wrought  
at great risks."*

— Herodotus

It was with great courage and with great risk that the people and organizations developing the Pledge for Community took that step forward. The risk was to be viewed as a threat to existing organizations. Sure enough, the ink was barely dry on the December issue of *RN&V*, when the rumors and phone calls started flying. So, let's get it straight right here. **No one** has created a **new** organization. The groups taking the Pledge are forming a federation to promote a unified transgender community. That unification will occur through the interactive participation of the various organizations in joint projects. Anyone who labels this interaction a "threat" to their organization doesn't understand the concept of true community. No one runs this movement and no one group is "in charge." It has no structure because it needs no structure. Any structure required already exists within the individual organizations. Funding and other resources required to accomplish joint projects will come from the individual organizations, just as it did for the NASW conference last October. I hope that you will ask your organization to take the Pledge for Community and join us.

I note with great sadness the passing of

a truly great lady of our community. Ellen Summers, a co-founder of the Northwest Gender Alliance, died mid-December after a painful bout with prostate cancer. In the seven years I knew Ellen, I never heard her utter an angry or unkind word about anyone. She was a person of enormous integrity, with deep empathy and a smile for just about everyone. She'll be missed by many.

On a brighter note, Holly Devor, Ph.D., won the Hugo G. Biegel Research Award from the Society for the Scientific Study of Sex for her article "Sexual Orientation Identities, Attractions, and Practices of Female-to-Male Transsexuals." The article was published in the *SSSS, Journal of Sex Research*. The award consists of a \$500 cash grant, a one-year honorary membership in *SSSS*, and a Certificate of Research Excellence. I had the pleasure of serving with Dr. Devor on the board of IFGE.

I wish I could say that serving on the board of IFGE was a pleasure too, but it was not. In case you're wondering, I've chosen not to rerun for my seat in IFGE. That organization has drifted too far from my own personal commitment to this community for me to be of any value to them. The notion that IFGE must "compete" (their term) with the other national organizations for the "limited dollars" (their term) in the community is a philosophy I cannot support. Read the IFGE Vision 2000 Strategic Plan and you'll see what I mean.

Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Founding Director of IFGE, who is responsible for producing the annual IFGE convention, wants the Congress of Transgender Organizations (CTO) to take responsibility for the IFGE conference site selection and host committee selection. Lynn took a lot of heat in the transgender press last year when she announced the selection of Southern California as the site for the 1997 IFGE convention. Seems she ne-

glected to tell either the IFGE board or the SoCal network of support groups of her choice before making a public announcement. The IFGE board retroactively approved the site in November. As a co-founder of the CTO, I think it would set an unwarranted precedent if the CTO accepts the responsibilities Lynn proposes. The CTO needs to remain a neutral body so that its voice speaks for the community's organizations, not for any one specific group.

While I'm on the subject of IFGE, the buzz in Waltham is over the recent spate of resignations. Both Linda and Cynthia Phillips resigned as board members, as did Taylor Montgomery, one of two F-t-Ms on the board. Taylor had two years left to serve and Cynthia had one. Linda's term would have expired in March. Also handing in their pink slips (oh... Freudian slips, too) were Holly Boswell as Chair of the Publications Committee, and Michelle Kelly, host coordinator for the 1995 IFGE convention in Atlanta.

Enough of the political clap-trap, you want to know the really important stuff, right? So, here it is. Almay has introduced an eyeliner that is cute enough to leave out in the open. I-Liner comes in a small inkwell-shaped bottle with a felt-tipped brush inside the cap. The brush allows fine lines, or bold slashes, and anything in between. I-Liner comes in Precise Black, Perfect Grey, and Definite Brown. Check it out.

I usually wear contact lenses, but there are times when I just need to rest my eyes and wear glasses. If you wear glasses, here are a few tips for getting the right frame of mind... Frame widths should line up with your temples. Too wide or too narrow makes you look cross-eyed... The tops of the frame should cover your eyebrows, else you'll appear to have two sets of brows... The base of the frames should line up with your



# HOT•BUZZ

cheekbones... A frame with a low-setting bridge can make your nose look shorter. A higher bridge can make a short nose or round face look longer... If your eyes are close-set, a frame with a light color bridge will help separate your eyes. A heavy and/or dark bridge will seem to pull eyes closer... Match the "weight" of the frame to your features. A heavy frame flatters strong features.

Crossdressing remains a staple theme in entertainment. Late in December Robert Altman's *Ready To Wear* gave us Danny Aiello as a crossdressing fashion buyer and *Mixed Nuts*, a comedy with Steve Martin, featured a lonely crossdresser in a major part of the film. Meanwhile, *Priscilla: Queen of the Desert* continues to rake in the dollars. For those of you who like mystery novels, check out *K is for Killer* from Sue Grafton. In this latest Kinsey Millhone thriller, there is a transgender character who is portrayed in a positive light.

Talking about films, I'll note in passing (no pun intended) that *StarGate* with, Kurt Russel, James Spader and the androgynous Jaye Davidson, kicked butt at the box office. The consensus on the net's Special Effects forum is that *StarGate* is a much better movie than *Star Trek: Generations*, and, having viewed both flix, I'd agree. Davidson is interviewed in this month's W.

In my latest video *Fashion & Style*, I talk about building a basic wardrobe. One good feature of a such a collection is seasonless clothes. Most designers agree, seasonless means clothes that you can wear through at least three of the four seasons. Most designers say tropical wool and rayon crepe are best. They drape well, tailor beautifully and travel well, too. Black, navy, brown and neutrals are the best colors.

Here's a tip. If you're getting a makeover or a wig styled at an event, remember to tip the makeup artist or hair stylist. Tipping for services like these is some-

thing most guys just don't know about. If in doubt, ask a real woman, she'll tell you the rules and guidelines.

Everybody knows that Queens love sequins and beads and goddess knows I'm no exception. I'll wear 'em to get a loaf of bread if I think I can get away with it. But, while many of us know when it is appropriate to wear glitz, how many of you know what to wear *over* those glitzy clothes? No to worry, your queen shall divulge all. Over those great beaded mini dresses try a Red satin swing coat or a black velvet version of the same. A shiny satin trench coat works, as does a sweeping fringed shawl. For those floor length gowns, nothing quite matches up to a faux-fur coat.

Do you know that some mail order houses sell the names and addresses of their customers? Yep, and it generates quite a bit of income, too. Intimate Treasures sell their lists, as does Michael Salem, and Spartacus. If you order anything from these people (you should never, ever, buy *anything* from Michael unless you like paying too much), make sure you indicate that your name is not to be placed on any lists for sale. Federal law says they have to comply. It's a good idea to code your name for each different place with which you do business. That way, you'll know if they sell your name. By the way, no one advertising here sells names, so you are assured of privacy when dealing with them.

Fashion knows no boundaries, so it shouldn't be any surprise that folks in different parts of the country have different notions of what's currently fashionable. Take nail polish for example. In Atlanta, Plum is the color of the moment. In Boston, it's Mauve. Chicagoans prefer Dark Brown. Los Angeles fashion mavens opt for a demure sheer Beige. Miamians go for the high-school look with pearlized Pink. Minneapolis likes Dark Berry. Phoenix follows the sun with French manicures in sheer shades. And, in New York where people really know fashion, bold Red is the rule.

The big, roomy, slouchy fashions of years past were a boon to crossdressers be-

cause the clothes effectively hid the body from public view. Well, not so the new Spring fashions; the emphasis is on curves. The "new" trends hark back to the 50's when structure and a body-hugging silhouette dominated clothing. The good thing about the new clothes is that they make it easier to separate the boys from the girls. The most important accessory for the new fashions is a tailor. Here are some of the new guidelines... **Jackets:** buttons and darts should fall right at the waist on a fitted jacket. If the button falls just above the waist, your legs will look longer. The jacket should flare slightly at the hips. **Skirts:** a pencil skirt is the "high" fashion mark at the moment. If the skirt is knee-length, make sure there's room in the hips and that it has a kick pleat or walking slit. Straight skirts look best above the knee, again making your legs look longer. **Pants:** look for a waist that falls about a quarter-inch below your natural waist. Lightweight fabrics don't add bulk. Leg length should just touch or break at the top of your shoe.

Be on the lookout for... Hot Sox posters. The outdoor posters for Hot Sox that feature model Jane Powers in thigh-highs have been disappearing from bus stop shelters in New York and Los Angeles. In cities like Chicago, Minneapolis and San Francisco, people must be better mannered since the posters remained in place.

Lest anyone think the Wonderbra and corset influence has faded from the fashion scene, think again. The summer crop of swim suits are awash with structured, cleavage creating bra tops and there is even one swim suit built around a corset. Did someone let a bunch of TV's loose in the halls of fashion designers?

The good citizens of West Palm Beach, Florida, defeated an anti-gay rights amendment in a special election mid-January. The vote was close, though, 55% Nay, 45% Aye. Phew!

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# Bra Sizes Revisted

A question in Reminder Beat a few issues back concerning the differences in bra sizes throughout our global community elicited an anonymous response with a hand drawn chart comparing bra sizes. The sender indicated the chart information was taken from Cole's, Melbourne, Australia and other sources. We guess that's a department store or catalog. We have no idea if the chart is accurate, but reproduce it here for your information and entertainment.

Aussies	USA	Europe	ComMkt	France
8	30	65	75	80
10	32	70	80	85
12	34	75	85	90
14	36	80	90	95
16	38	85	95	100
18	40	90	100	105
20	42	95	105	110
22	44	100	110	115
24	46	105	115	120
26	48	110	120	125
28	50	115	125	130
30	52	120	130	135

Of course, this doesn't say anything about cup sizes, so we guess someone else will have to send us another postcard. In any event, now you're prepared for international foundation shopping. Another fine service of this newsletter and the anonymous post-carder. (JoAnn Robert's adds: I recently purchased a pair of breast forms manufactured in Germany and the box has a chart that verifies the conversion of USA sizes to European sizes, which are approximately the equivalent measurements in centimeters.)

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## News Beat...

be bisexual. Well Mr. Murray, I think we covered that in *News & Views* back in April of 1994. All of our readers know that Bugs transcends sexuality and gender. Bugs is Bugs.

The cover of the book is a shot from the *Crying Game* featuring **Jaye Davidson** and **Steven Rhea** in a famous moment. Murray picked it for the cover because it, "worked on all levels: It's gay, straight, transgendered, man, woman, black, white—and the straight man is puzzled." Sounds just like life on planet Earth to me.

The review doesn't mention a publisher but the encyclopedia is available for \$19.95 from Giovanni's Room, 345 South 12th St., Philadelphia, PA 19107. Philadelphia readers may also find the book at TLA Video.

### Showtime!

As the end of my column draws nearer, I've got a few quick items to present for your interest. Anybody catch *House of Buggin'*? That's **John Leguizamo's** show that I mentioned here a while back. It's up and running on the Sunday night Fox-TV schedule right after the *Simpson's* (lot's of crossdressing on that show) and right before *Married With Children* (occasional crossdressing). The premier episode presented some good sketch comedy and culminated in a performance by a girl group featuring Leguizamo on lead vocals. **Rosie Perez** was one of the back up singers.

Leguizamo uses mostly his acting ability and a big-hair wig, along with a sequined mini dress and pumps to bring to life a female character. He's so good you don't even notice that he's flat chested. The girls start out with backstage preparations and then after

a commercial break they perform a tune with complex girl group choreography. Salt & Peppa look out. These girls are hot. I think viewers who tuned in at the end probably had no idea the "girl" in the middle was a guy. The show's funny and he wears dresses. It doesn't get any better than that.

*The Philadelphia Inquirer* had a list of themes found in the films of 1994 in their New Year's day edition. One category was titled **Angora Dreams**. In it the *Inquirer* says, "The transvestite population explodes..." and goes on to list all the films in 1994 with TV characters. I give you the list for your files: **Johnny Depp** in *Ed Wood*; **Jesse Borrego** in *I Like It Like That*; **Terence Stamp** in *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*; **Liev Schrieber** in *Mixed Nuts*; **Adrian Pasdar** in *Just Like a Woman*; and **Danny Aiello** in *Ready to Wear*. Gee, I guess they're right. There were a lot of TVs in films last year. Of course, *Mixed Nuts* bombed and quickly headed for video land but I did get to see the TV in promo spots on television. I never even heard of *I Like It Like That* and the idea of Danny Aiello in a dress just doesn't do that much for me, I think you know what I mean. With all of these guys in dresses Mr. Murray will have to expand his transgender category in next year's edition. And, what ever happened to *Walk on the Wildside*, the Holly Woodlawn flick?

A girl named Alice, nothing like *A Town Named Alice*, sent in another review of *Just Like a Woman* from *The Reading Eagle/Reading Times*, a newspaper so good it has two names. While Alice thought the film was "GREAT" the reviewer felt that while the transvestism was handled tastefully the picture suffered from a lack of psychological explanation about what drives the main character to cross-

dress. Well, did Orson Wells include scenes of publishing magnate Kane consulting with his therapist? Did Alfred Hitchcock ever explain why all those birds got so pissed off? I don't think so. In my book, understanding of a character in a film comes through observing what that character says and does and how that character affects you. I'm willing to concede that we have been affected more by Geraldine than a non-crossdresser would be. We have walked a mile in her pumps, but, I still believe that viewing this film can help a non-crossdresser to get some idea of what it is like.

Let me take this opportunity to get in a plug for the **Community Transgender Film Project**. If you would like to help the non-crossdressed masses learn more about who we are and why we do what we do send your contribution to Community Film Project, c/o Renaissance, 987 Old Eagle School Rd., Suite 719, Wayne, PA 19087. I just spoke with the co-Director of the proposed film, **Terri Randall**, and she said that talks with the **Showtime** cable network have been very positive with more meetings to follow soon.

And now kids, it's time for this tired TV to push this demanding keyboard aside and get some needed beauty rest. No quote and no joke, just Sayonara sisters. See you next time.



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### Unemployed? Underemployed?

Ben Franklin said, "The Lord helps those that help themselves." Renaissance is going to try and help the transgendered who are unemployed or under-employed. **Announcing: Renaissance Job Match**, a national employment resource center. If you are looking for work send a resume or brief description of what type of employment you want. Make sure you include a way for us to contact you. If you are in a position to offer employment or let someone know of a job opening send a description of the position. Maybe we can make a match. To be included in the Job Match files send your information to: **Renaissance Job Match**, c/o Renaissance, 987 Old Eagle School Rd, Suite 719, Wayne, PA 19087



# ICTLEP

lawyer have them on perjury.

Still another is the insurance strategy. Go after your reimbursement incrementally. Read the Proceedings III for details on that one. That is simply one of the best things to emerge from TRANSGEN'94. It is an in-depth presentation. Use it as your guide. Use it to your advantage.

In employment fights, use the "Gender Change Employability Factors" in Proceedings II to establish that not all clients have a problem and not all bosses have a problem with your being transgendered. Boulton and Park (Cynthia and Linda Phillips) have provided two additional survey findings. All three of these studies should be studied and used in deposition to knock down the prejudices, stereotypes and untruths that will be put forth by the folks that decide to fire you.

Also, in the employment area and spread throughout all three of the Proceedings is a resource base of legal knowledge and progressive strategies to help you retain your job. With the help of Diana Ciccotello and Melissa Foster, the employment workshops developed strategies for successful transition and enhancing your value to your company. The ideas stressed were on-the-job change through education, communication and awareness. If you've been fired, then you and your attorney are fighting against the tide.

But, all in all, the best progressive strategy for change is to become a good consumer of legal services. You need someone in a divorce who will fight for your right to have custodial visits by your kids. You need someone in a wrongful discharge who will fight for your right to use a restroom at work (I was fired in 1976 because they wouldn't let me use any of the restrooms). You need someone in an insurance case who will fight for your reimbursement of payments for hormones, chest binder or electrolysis. You need someone in a criminal matter (such as a false prostitution accusation) who will fight for your right to a personal recognizance

bond on your very first day in court.

**How do you find such a lawyer?** **Step One** is to remember the "golden rule:" she/he who pays the gold, rules. It's your money!

**Step Two** is buy and study at least one of the written Proceedings. It doesn't matter which one at this point. You want to become intimate with the positive ideas and the high self-esteem that is available in the TG legal arena.

**Step Three** is pay for a consultation. I know that everyone wants a free consultation. Dumb, dumb, dumb. The best use of your money is to buy an hour of an expert's time. Find names in your local lesbian/gay bar (as in drinking establishment) publications. Or call you local bar (as in lawyer group) association. Or look in the yellow pages. Ask the receptionist if lawyer X does divorce, employment, insurance, criminal or whatever law that you need help with. If so, ask if lawyer X has a problem with representing homosexuals and transsexuals. (Even if you are neither, ask the question about both categories over the phone. Find out for free if you are calling an attorney whose heart won't be on your side.) If no problem, then ask for the charge for an hour of consultation. The fee will range from \$80 to \$300.

**Step Four** is to interview the lawyer. Don't forget Step One during this consultation (it's your gold). Determine if the lawyer will study the Proceedings to pick up those strategies that are particular to TG's or if the lawyer figures that she or he knows it all and will run you through their legal mind set in the same manner as they do non-transgendered folks. Even if you do not hire that attorney, you have not wasted your money on that interview because you have purchased both legal knowledge and experience in dealing with the next attorney to be interviewed.

**Step Five** is to do these steps long before you are in a legal bind. Often by doing so early, while you can afford it, you may minimize the degree of that initial legal bind.

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## THE SCORECARD, PLEASE:

I am proud of what ICTLEP has

done in just three short years. Just go through the Table of Contents of our Proceedings and you will understand.

But there is more to do, and each year is a surprise. The surprises are the means of scoring the success and the ICTLEP scorecard is 100 percent.

What do I mean by that? When I first began to publicize the idea of the first ICTLEP, there were two areas of law that I knew I would have great difficulty finding moderators for. Surprise - the first two volunteers specifically requested to work those two areas of law. When I needed this, surprise — a volunteer to fill this need. When I needed that, surprise — a volunteer to fill that need. I have already told you about the surprise of the International Bill of Gender Rights taking on a life of its own. The "Health Law Standards" and Ray Hill's "Policy for the Imprisoned" were both surprises. Melinda White-way stepping up to fill the documents void and Lisa Middleton doing the same for insurance were both surprises. This year the big surprise was the insurance law report. And the support staff — all volunteers — just keep on coming. The danger of such a list is the possibility of an erroneous omission, but here goes. Dee McKellar, Tere Frederickson, Sydney Clark, Sarah DePalma, and Aaron Davis.

We need a lawyer well versed in immigration. We also need someone to help us be inclusive within the Rainbow and another to help us be inclusive internationally. Happy days — more surprises are coming my way!

During 1994, I was invited to mostly keynote, and sometimes present, at TG events all over the world. People want to know about ICTLEP. I've been to San Antonio, Portland (Oregon), Burbank, New Orleans, New York City, Manchester (England), Pompano Beach, Portland again and Dallas. On New Years, our non-attorney director, Dee McKellar, will be representing ICTLEP in Helsinki, Finland.

During 1994, ICTLEP articles and ads and calendar listings appeared in every transgender publication of which we are aware. People yearn to read

*continued next page*



about ICTLEP. People are eager for more than the aforementioned wigs, polish and allergies. There is a great awakening out there folks, across the land. Transgendered people are beginning to feel very uncomfortable in their mental chains of guilt. To paraphrase Gordene MacKenzie from her new book *Transgender Nation*, "The transgender community has no disease—in fact, the problem is society's own disease caused by its rigid allegiance to the worship of gender bipolarity."

ICTLEP is obviously filling a great void. ICTLEP is obviously doing things correctly. Otherwise it would not be — surprise — well beyond our highest anticipation. At this writing, I cannot even dream of where ICTLEP will be in another three short years.

Mark your calendars and save your nickels & dimes. TRANSGEN '95: YOUR JOBS, YOUR RIGHTS, YOUR HEALTH AND YOUR DOCUMENTS will be Wednesday the 14th through Sunday the 18th of

June, 1995 in Houston, Texas, USA.

And remember that during our three previous transgender law conferences, well over 70 percent of those in attendance have been non- attorney, transgendered people.

"Houston" was the very first human word spoken from our moon. It is often called Space City and now it is the home of the NBA Championship Houston Rockets. I'll see you there June 14 through 18.



# Scientific Study Proves Crossdressers Lie

## Justice Department Called In To Head New Investigation

By Linda Lee, Investigative Reporter for Sacramento Gender Assoc.

In a recent study conducted covertly on several crossdressers during their natural nocturnal performance period, shocking new evidence has been uncovered that proves conclusively most crossdressers are doing it for fun and hiding this fact from the general public by using deception, threats of violence and witness intimidation to cloud their activities. One reason given (considered now to be the prime motive) by a member of the investigating team, is fear that "everyone will want to do it if they begin to understand it and there's just not enough bar stools to support the phenomena."

One individual of the study group now in protection, has agreed to testify anonymously in support of this claim, and has produced shocking new evidence now being analyzed by the Justice Department. A representative said, "She has been placed under our: 'Shirley Temple Act' a new section of the federal witness protection program. She's being cared for pending disposition of this evidence for possible future testimony against criminal action." Asked who it was prompted this response, "I'm not authorized to give that out at this time. But she's a little doll."

Living near Disney Land as a little girl, to maintain her cover, she talked in a closed telecast given by the Justice

Department. Dropping her pacifier, she cried as she talked of the risk and loss she suffered in the wake of her initial comments which began the investigation. "It's tough having to dress and act like this, but I'm taking a moral stand against those who have maintained this deception. I've been dressing mostly for fun all my life and knew it, but I could never tell anyone about it because the leaders wanted us to feign a level of sadness and confusion when we were around the public. I just finally felt I could not lie anymore about it."

Further questions revealed shocking testimony that much of the data that has been produced in support of why men wear dresses has actually been falsified or theories doctored with bogus evidence compiled and released by psychologists who are part of a vast conspiracy of people intent on keeping this from the general public. "It goes far deeper than anyone realizes," the witness added in a tearful confession, while dressing her doll in preparation for a park visit.

Disbelief, shock and then outrage was felt by most of those who first heard some of the supporting evidence. It also gave hints of how strong the organization of crossdressers has grown in the past few years when this individual cited repercussions for another crossdresser who went public just a few months ago. Tugging on a large hair

bow and using her assumed name, she said, "This person simply admitted she liked it one day. After that, she had several pairs of nylons ruined over the course of weeks without anyone ever being arrested or even charged. This individual, in growing fear, began wearing knee high stockings under slacks to reduce the cost. She's living in Chico now. It was horrible to see someone treated like that. After that, we all were afraid it would happen to us so we went along with what the leaders wanted."

Emotions ran high as the witness further reviewed her terror during her time as a board member with one of the underground organizations now identified as the Sacramento Gender Association or SGA headed by the notorious "Crissy The Sissy." "I was under constant fear that if I smiled in public they'd see me and I'd get poked at, teased or worse I'd end up like that other person and wearing pants again. So each time someone would ask me why I did it, I would give them the list of approved excuses and never even hint that I liked it."

In a further shocking disclosure, she confessed to having personally talked with over 200 people who were given bogus reasons from an approved list (now in the hands of the Justice Department) fostered by the supreme gender organization known only as the

*continued on page 22*



# Dear Doctor

*Dr. William R. Stayton answers your questions in a monthly column.*

*Send questions to PO Box 530, Bensalem, Pa. 19020*

Dear Dr. Bill: How would you explain Deuteronomy 22:5:

*"A woman shall not wear a man's apparel, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment; for whoever does such things is abhorrent to the Lord your God."*

Can you provide primary references (e.g., Rabbinical texts or other sources)? I will appreciate any information or further insight on this topic that you can provide.

Sincerely,

Bible Belt, Georgia.

Dear Bible Belt,

What a wonderful question! Since so many religious people are sincerely interested in holding to the basic value system of the Bible, it is important to understand when you seemingly are not in sync with a biblical injunction.

Deuteronomy is the fifth book in the Old Testament. Deuteronomy is supposed to be a farewell address by Moses. In the first three chapters, he recounts the journey from Mt. Sinai to the land East of the Jordan. Starting with Chapter 4, he challenges his followers to be obedient to the "statutes and ordinances". He urges loyalty, gratitude, and obedience in view of the imminent settlement in Canaan and the dangers in this settlement. A real concern was that the Canaanite religions not be incorporated into the Hebrew experience. Beginning with Chapter 12 through 25, Moses gives an endless series of legal regulations, including rules for worship. The essence of the laws are outlined in Deut. 10: 12-22, where according to G. Ernest Wright, a well-known Old Testament scholar, "God's requirement is that his people shall reverence him, love him, and serve him with heart and soul."

According to *The Interpreter's Bible*,

Deuteronomy 22:5 is a law which appears only in this one verse in the Bible and is "directed against the simulated changes of sex in Canaanite religion." It seems to be guarding the Hebrews against the immorality of impersonating members of the opposite sex for vulgar and lewd pagan ritual. In Canaanite religious practice such exchange of garments was generally for immoral purposes. It was a form of idolatry; a major evil for the Hebrews was idolatry.

Dear Dr. Bill,

*As a sexually awakening 13 year old, a real turn-on was visiting my neighbor, a 12 year old girl. She spent hours applying make-up and teaching herself how to smoke cigarettes. I felt mildly excited sexually, however, we never had sexual contact. As a straight, married, non-smoking adult, I discovered a pleasurable high inhaling deeply on a very occasional cigarette that secondarily produced a throbbing erection that I would "jerk off."*

*About 5 years ago, my wife began traveling and I found myself advancing this little drama in frequency and intensity. I began to wear lipstick, which granted a smell/taste sensation of a semi-erotic nature. Two years ago, I started wearing high heels, which has escalated until today I go for the "whole look" in the privacy of my home and then preening in front of the mirror while smoking, which produces a very predictable aching hard-on. Within the last two or three months, I have decided to go out and find that I am extraordinarily passable.*

*This brings me to my questions for you. I've become a crossdresser, but why? Was it pursuit of a better high/erection while smoking? Or would I have become a crossdresser anyway? Will I*

*reach a point and quit? Since I don't smoke regularly, why does smoking produce an erection? Do guys like me manage to keep all this in the closet successfully? Should I just go with the flow and work on a better mascara application and network? Or what? I feel I must "see" the future and accept it.*

*Dressed to Kill in Dallas.*

Dear Dressed to Kill

According to John Money, each of us has a "lovemap" in our brain. It has the potential of being programmed in numerous ways. Each of us has the possibility to be eroticized by hundreds of objects, thoughts, fantasies, persons, and events. It is possible that our hormones have input into the programming. It also seems that there are times in infancy and in adolescence when the "lovemap" is open to be programmed. My guess is that as a pubertal teenager visiting your neighbor that your "lovemap" got programmed in watching your neighbor friend put on her make-up and smoke a cigarette. She was probably dressed as a female also, so the whole gestalt developed. At the same time, your sexual response, driven by your pubertal hormones made the whole experience very arousing. Whether you would have become a crossdresser anyway is anybody's guess.

We do not know all of the factors that go into the programming of our "lovemap". Since crossdressing is such a harmless turn-on, I would go with the flow. It is manageable as long as you accept it and not repress it. It is the repression that causes people to develop an inability to manage the crossdressing when it finally comes out. For some, who have repressed the desire for so long, when they finally start to dress they want to do more and more until they even believe they want sexual reassignment surgery. They are not, however, good candidates for surgery because it is for the wrong reasons. Usually, the person who accepts his cross dressing, enjoys it, and does it with some freedom, finds that after an initial period of doing it a lot, develops a level of cross dressing that is consistent with the rest of his life experiences. Enjoy your newfound fun!







## Letters to the Editor

Dear Angela,

I am an inmate at the state prison in Dallas, Pennsylvania. I have just finished reading my courtesy issue of Renaissance [News & Views]. When I came across the News Beat & Reminder section and saw your picture, it was love at first sight! (You are one beautiful woman.) I am also from the Philadelphia area, maybe one day we will meet.

At this point, financially, I am unable to afford the cost of a subscription. I am also, obviously, unable to physically attend a support meeting. Nonetheless, I had to write and tell you just how special you and Renaissance are.

I do not have to tell you just how frustrating (and sometimes suicidal) it can be inside the closet. It is good to know there are individuals out there who are concerned enough to provide a outlet such as yours.

I am a 220 pound body builder, currently living up to the stereotypic im-

age that comes with my strength and size. It is not as if I am afraid of who and what I am. I just want the setting to be right for my grand entrance. I would like my first time in heels and lace to be special. I want to be wined, dined, and romanced. I would hate the stigma that I was turned out in prison. Unfortunately I did not begin to accept myself until after my incarceration.

I won't hold you, because I am sure that you are a busy woman. I do not know how many prisoners are fortunate to receive your newsletter. I am one that feels extremely blessed. Once again I would like to thank you and Renaissance for your contributions.

Very sincerely,  
Ms. Chris

Dear Angela,

My name is Marlene Bomer, a self-diagnosed M-t-F transsexual lesbian. I have known about my condition since I was very young, thanks to my mother who gave me a love of books and knowledge, which is how I found what my growing feminine feelings were called.

In 1995, I will start my third year as a member of the Lesbian & Gay Alliance (LAGA), officially recognized and financially supported by Bowling Green University, Bowling Green, Ohio. This letter is in praise of the officers and membership who have supported me through-

out their present ordeal.

(Disclaimer: None of the officers nor any member received any advance notice of this letter, and are not to be held responsible.)

During the Spring of 1994, I was elected secretary of LAGA, despite a section in the student code which forbade members of the community from serving as officers in BGSU organizations. When the university learned of my position I officially resigned. Despite the ruling, LAGA has, from its inception over ten years ago, welcomed gays, lesbians, and bisexuals from NW Ohio as part of its outreach.

When I was an officer I was required to perform duties such as pick up and deliver mail to our office, which was located in the United Christian Fellowship (UCF) Center, which had welcomed LAGA for seven years. In addition, LAGA has an information and referral phone line which I volunteered for many times. I am also a member of LAGA's panel discussion group, which presents Question & Answer sessions all over northwest Ohio, not just on the BGSU campus. Since I am known by all the members as Marlene, I did my duties as a woman.

Evidently, going to the UCF as Marlene made some people uncomfortable. One night early last year (1994) I was approached by a LAGA member who had been confronted by the UCF director with some concerns, and I told the member to inform the director I would be more consistent in my appearance and I began using a back door in an effort to spare the offended person of my presence. Evidently acting like a black person before 1964 wasn't good enough for them.

One night in October the UCF director, Rev. Karen Thompson, wanted to discuss the situation. She informed me I had "offended" some people who happened to be financial supporters and they wanted to know why this person (I surmise they called me a "freak" or "pervert") was allowed in their building. She also told me there were others who were concerned, and accused me of "flaunting" myself at them.

*continued on page 20*



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## Letters

After I apologized for "offending" the person or group (which she refused to name) I informed her since I began therapy for my transsexualism, I was to be dressed as a woman at all times so I can interact with the public as a woman everywhere I went, without exception. I told her in no uncertain terms I had no choice in the matter, and repeated that this was a mandatory part of the process called the Real Life Test.

Evidently this didn't sink in because after I explained to her I wasn't in therapy at the moment due to financial reasons, she told me since I wasn't in therapy I didn't have to follow any directions from the therapist and demanded I begin dressing as a male outside of LAGA meetings. When I told her I refused because I would be living a lie, she claimed I was becoming belligerent. I later wondered if she would say the

same thing to a recovering drug addict, overeater, or any other person who can't go to their therapist due to financial woes.

In November, the director of the UCF summarily banned LAGA from ever meeting in their facility as long as I am a member of the group, and has now extended her ban to ANY group which allows transsexuals to become members. In mid-December, a LAGA member and its faculty advisor had a meeting with Rev. Thompson regarding its office space, and the director ordered the removal of the office before school starts January 9, 1995. When the question of my transsexuality came up she said she was threatened by my condition and then claimed transsexuals were "sick and mentally unstable."

It's a good thing I wasn't there, because I would've been sorely tempted to either slap or spit in her face, despite my vow of non-violence. As it is, she will receive a copy of the (Renaissance)

Background Paper on transsexualism in a vain effort to educate this uneducated, ignorant, bigoted person.

When confronted with this threat to their group, the Lesbian and Gay Alliance chose to find another place to meet rather than cave in to the demands of the UCF director. I would like to commend not only LAGA's officers (Todd and Darrell) but all those who agreed to move, despite the chance to play it safe and remove me as a member of LAGA, which was within their right to do.

I am forever in their debt.  
In sisterhood,  
Marlene Bomer

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# The Swimsuit Page

*Sports Illustrated*, eat your heart out! Here's our annual bevy of beauties in their summer finest.



*Angela Gardner, our editrix on the beach at Rehobeth.*

*Arlene T. inside at The Pines (Paradise In The Poconos)*



*Jodie H. at Rainbow Mountain Resort*



*Dina Amberle at Tamiment Resort in the Poconos.*

*Dorothy [redacted] on her way to the GPC Swimwear Meeting.*



*Elizabeth [redacted], GPC leader relaxes at Rehobeth Beach, Delaware.*



# Shopping With Jackie

by Jackie [REDACTED]

It's that time of the year when we shop for our SO in preparation for Valentine's Day. My rule of thumb is to buy something *I* like, so, if my *wife* doesn't like it, I get to keep it! It might be a *little* selfish but it works for me. If you don't have an SO, buy yourself something red (and cute).

Watch the newspapers for sales. Because of the mild winter we've had so far, a lot of winter things were not sold, and are now being cleared out at great

prices by our local department stores and speciality shops. The best prices are off-the-rack at local stores.

A catalog for gals needing larger sizes comes from **Silhouettes**, 5 Avery Row, Roanoke, VA 24012-8567. Their phone number is 800-704-3322. They carry sizes 14 to 26, with bras up to size 46. They have low to medium prices and good quality.

**Anthony Richards**, a nice catalog source, has added lingerie and wigs. The merchandise is nice and so are the

prices. Give them a call at 800-359-5933 and ask for their catalog.

Need to slim down a little? How about a longline bra up to size 42 and a high rise body shaper to fit 40" waists? **Dr. Leonard's** has them waiting for you. This is also a good source for silicone breast forms. Call 908-225-0880 and say, "Give me the catalog, please!"

Some of your letters are still enroute to me, and I will print them in next month's column. Remember, **you** make this feature of *Renaissance News & Views* work, so keep shopping and send me your favorite sources (care of the editor). Happy shopping.

## CDs Lie

I.F.G.E. fronted by a magazine called *Tapestry*. The government is investigating these charges along with the others.

Two other key individuals also linked to SGA were named in initial indictments now being drawn up. "Ava," who maintained the list for the Sacramento area and "Wittnie," who published it, were brought in for question-

ing. Both professed doing nothing wrong and neither admitted they dressed for pleasure as they appeared outside of the Sacramento Justice Department. Ava, in a silver dress and waving her matching purse hollered: "We're gender Dysphoric and nothing more! This pleasure thing is just another attempt by local government to lay groundwork for new taxes. I've

never dressed for pleasure." Wittnie, sporting a short black skirt, white polyester blouse and lace bra added as she opened her coat, "No one would sport breasts like this simply for pleasure. This whole thing is ridiculous." Crissy was unavailable for comment.

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE

(reprinted by permission from the Sacramento Gender Assoc. newsletter.)

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5. Do you like your situation?

These tough gender questions and many more can be explored through individual and small group sessions with Dr. Lee Etscovitz, Director of Human Dimensions, an organization specializing in gender education. Dr. Etscovitz is also the Renaissance National Librarian and a former Professor of Human Behavior at Drexel University.

Further information, including fees and scheduling, is available upon request. Write: Human Dimensions, PO Box 471, Willow Grove, PA 19090. Or leave a private message at 215•657•1560.

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# The New Beat:

## A March Toward True Community

by Alison Laing

Listen! Can you hear it? There's a new beat coming down the road. The sound of the distant drum is coming nearer. But what does it mean?

The grouping of the various gender variations has been referred to by a wide variety of names; the cross-gendered paraculture, TV/TS sub-culture, and the TG community.

While the latter term is least clinical, it is a designation that eludes clear definition and many people doubt that "community" really fits the environment in which we exist today. Community is a term that implies "togetherness" and, at this time, it seems to be only a dream.

If one seeks to find real community, it becomes apparent that community does not exist in competitive, exclusive and/or elitist organizations. True community does not seem to exist in organizations dominated by strong or charismatic leaders, no matter how altruistic their motives might be. Highly structured and even well-organized organizations somehow leave little room for the sensitivity and love that one expects to find in true community.

There is a prophet calling for "true communities" and he has provided a beautiful model based on his examination of groups that seemed to have achieved the Nirvana of real community. They range from short lasting, small groups to large complex organizations. The descriptions are included in *The Different Drum - Community and Peace Making* by M. Scott Peck, M.D., author of the best seller *The Road Less Traveled*.

In his new book Dr. Peck provides observations of the characteristics of real community.

First and foremost, you will be glad to hear, is the *celebration of diversity*. Real community is like a salad with a

great range of ingredients mixed together, each maintaining its identity but contributing to the whole; not a puree of green mush.

Second, "*community is and must be inclusive*." Naturally people within the community with special interests will flock together, but because of their common interest, not because of predetermined exclusivity which leads to separation and alienation.

Third, *community is "a group of all leaders."* Yes, communities still need facilitators, conveners, speakers, teachers, organizers, coordinators, and planners, but ultimately everyone is a leader in a true community. Important and effective decisions are made by the consensus of as many persons who are involved in the matter as can be, not by edict of an elitist few.

Fourth, "*True community is conflict-resolving*." Avoiding the issues leads to mendacity and pretense. Community building comes first, then conflict resolution becomes easier. While everyone may not agree on a particular solution, true community has the space and temperament to allow for dissension. People can agree to disagree.

Dr. Peck gives us some pitfalls to avoid, too. Over-organization stifles community growth.

Community thrives best where authority is decentralized. While alliances may form between individuals or organizations within a community, they must maintain the principles of true community or the alliance will fragment the community.

There is no way one can cram the wisdom that Dr. Peck has tried to impart in this 300+ page book into a couple of paragraphs. But if we think about it, there is nothing really new here. It is putting the principles of love, respect, caring and sharing into practice in our outside world activities.

Reading the book will help you understand what is needed. Applying these principles, however, is the only way we will ever achieve real community and God knows we need it now more than ever. It's time to march to a different drummer and we will be successful because all the world loves a parade.

Renaissance, AEGIS and the Outreach Institute have taken community building pledges to be more cooperative and sharing with other organizations. If you are a member of another transgender organization, please reprint this article and urge your group to participate in the construction of true community.



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Furniture, Appliances, Household goods, Records, Antiques, Toy trains and other goodies - Bought and Sold - Beth Marshall: 610-259-4945 - Leave a message

Hsemate needed, Wilmington, DE, Kirkwood Highway and Limestone Rd area. TV or TS only. 302-994-2593.

FREE information and sample biweekly newsletter for the Casual Gourmet. 24 Carrot News, PO Box 238, Scotland, PA 17254-023

Rideshare from Quakertown to RenGPC meeting. Write: Marilyn Johnson, PO Box 592, Emmaus, Pa 18049.

Lehigh Valley tour for TVs ending with dinner at Diamondz Club. Changing rooms available. Lisa M. Gunod, PO Box 22131, Lehigh Valley, PA 18002.

Ladies garments and lingerie for sale. Reasonable prices. Call Terri for details. 215-232-7551.

Nowhere to change before going out? I've got the same problem. Solution: let's get together on an apartment. Terri 215-232-7551.

Need a place to dress or store clothing? Call Marilyn, 610-446-0799.