



College sex text Two members serve as special consultants to noted author

Two Renaissance members are special consultants to a leading college human sexuality textbook just published, and one of the Renaissance *Background Papers* is reprinted in the book.

JoAnn Roberts, Ph.D. and Paul Hanson (*née* Paula Jordan Sinclair) are listed as special consultants to the revised second edition of *Becoming a Sexual Person* (Macmillan) by Robert T. Francoeur, biological and allied health sciences professor at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Roberts and Hanson assisted in the preparation of the chapter "Gender Conflicts." They are identified as founding members and directors of Renaissance.

The other special consultants for that chapter are Connie Christie Wheeler, M.S., Ph.D. (cand.) and New York therapists Roger E. Peo,

Ph.D., and Leah Cahan Schaefer, Ed.D. Schaefer and Wheeler are charter members of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association.

Special consultants for other chapters in the book include noted sexuality experts John Money, Ph.D., Bonnie and Vern L. Bullough, both Ph.D. and R.N., James D. Weinrich, Ph.D., Richard A. Friend, Ph.D., and William R. Stayton, M. Div., Th.D., at whose offices the Greater Philadelphia chapter meets and who was instrumental in helping found Renaissance.

The Sex Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS) rated the first edition of the book as one of the three best college sexuality texts among the two dozen then in print. In his preface to the second edition, Francoeur

says that the principal changes came from the input of the special consultants who "updated, simplified, and balanced the treatment of complex and controversial issues."

The Renaissance *Background Paper* "Myths and Misconceptions About Crossdressing" is reprinted in the chapter on gender conflicts. Roberts and Hanson co-authored the paper.

"I really believe this is the first time that an organization in the gender community has made a major contribution to a leading textbook," Roberts said. "This is a major step for the community's credibility as a source of educational information."

Renaissance is also listed as a resource organization in the book's appendix, along with ETVC, TRI-ESS, the Outreach Institute, and IFGE.

What really happened on that dark and stormy night?

It was bitterly cold on a January night as the two silent figures slogged through the slush and snow, their feet swaddled in bits of chiffon and crepe de chine. The wind whipped their Kanekalon tresses and forced its way under their fake fur coats sending shivers up and down legs covered only in nylon and Lycra.

One turns and says, "We've gotta start our own group on the other side of the river." The other replies through gritted teeth, "Yeah!"

And so begins the saga of Renaissance, born of the dissatisfaction of two transvestites, Angela Gard-

ner and JoAnn Roberts, for having to travel to New Jersey for a transvestite support group meeting. Both are from suburban Philadelphia.

Later in the evening, the two disgruntled crossdressers meet two others who share similar feelings, Melanie Bryan and Alison Laing. The four begin to plot the birth of a new support group in the western suburbs of Philadelphia.

Meeting in a Paoli bar in March of 1987, the four are joined by a fifth co-conspirator, Trudi Henry and the cabal is complete. The foundation is laid for the first cell of the New Philadelphia Transvestite Libera-

tion Army. "No," says one with a more rational mind, "We'll call it 'Renaissance.'"

Letters passed through the mail undetected and phone calls were made untapped. A total of thirteen people — surely a portent of the future — attended the first meeting in May. By September, the numbers had swelled to 40. Within the year, the ranks had grown to over one hundred. Was there no stopping them? Could this go on?

Yes. This month the group celebrates its fourth anniversary with over 350 members, three chapters and one affiliate.

CHAPTER INFORMATION...

New Jersey

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

Pennsylvania

Greater Philadelphia area: Dina Amberle, chapter leader. Write Renaissance PHL, Box AD, Bensalem, PA 19020. Meets third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia, Pa. Summer hours: meeting starts at 9:00 p.m. For information, call (215) 946-8887.

Pennsylvania

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

Pennsylvania

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

AFFILIATE INFORMATION...

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

- Any group that wishes to become a Renaissance chapter must be incorporated as a non-profit institution in their home state (except Pa.) before asking for chapter status.

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

access to reference publications and newsletter copy.

Write for details to Alison Laing, Co-director of Outreach, P. O. Box 552, King of Prussia, Pa. 19046.

Current affiliated organizations are:

- Monmouth/Ocean Transgenderists, PO Box 1326, Brick, NJ 08723

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

AND, DON'T FORGET ABOUT...

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

- The Pen Pal Project. If you

are willing to write letters to pen pals, please inform Maryann Kirkland or write to the office, c/o Dept. PP.

- A gift of only \$6 gives a transgendered inmate 12 issues of the Renaissance News. Please help provide this needed support to our sisters in prison.

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

Renaissance News

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\$2/copy, \$12/year (12 issues)

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Articles must be submitted for publication one month in advance.

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

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

Calendar of Events

MAY

4th So. Jersey Chapter: Make-up instruction and advice by L.M. Cozzi & Associates. Bring your own makeup.

4th LSV Chapter

18th Gr. Phila. Chapter: Sava-rese Electrolysis Salon. Meeting starts at 9:00 p.m.

25th Wine Tasting at Chadds Ford Winery

JUNE

1st So. Jersey Chapter

1st LSV Chapter

15th Gr. Phila. Chapter

JULY

6th So. Jersey Chapter

6th Ren. LSV Chapter

20th Gr. Phila. Chapter

JoAnn Altman Stringer™ **SURVIVAL**

In the March issues, the *Renaissance News* carried a story about military troops in the Persian Gulf war who were under the spell of misguided gender genes. While wearing the attire of the opposite sex in the military may be difficult at best, it can be disastrous in a war zone. How do you explain to the medics about the lacy panties you are wearing when you were the unlucky recipient of an Iraqi bullet?

This article brought back many memories from my old military days, and, if I may, I'd like to ramble with a few thoughts concerning this subject.

A decade in uniform

My career in the Army spanned exactly ten years to the day. When I was unceremoniously asked to leave, I was a newly-ordained captain. Primarily, I worked for Department of Defense agencies in hand-picked positions for some general or another.

I had entered the Army in January, 1974, during the last stages of the Vietnam war. At the time they needed broadcasters, and since I had spent several years in radio and television, they welcomed me with open arms, giving me the rank of sergeant. Later, I attended Officer Candidate School (OCS) and was commissioned a shiny new second lieutenant. During those years I learned only too well the inflexibility of the military.

It's funny, but I joined the military for exactly the same reason almost every other gender dysphoric individual joined. I knew that I was transsexual (I had known since I was 3 years old), but I thought that maybe strict Army life would force me to forget my inner feelings; the tough, rigorous life might show me who I was really supposed to be. Interestingly, it taught me the opposite. It taught me who I was *not* and who I *never* could be.

I know that women make up a larger proportion of the Army today, but when all is said and done, it is a man's Army. Yet I never really knew what being a male was all about to begin with. My cousin, Sandi, said that she immediately knew when she saw me for the first time that I was different — more female than male. But from my uninformed perception prior to signing on the dotted line, the Army was my way to salvation, the way to become the person everyone wanted me to be.

Today I haven't changed since the time in the Army, and it has been nearly four years since my sex reassignment surgery. My appearance is much the same now as it was back in the service. Yet with only one exception, nobody questioned my sex. I went in as a male — more or less — but with the physical attributes of most women. But nobody said anything, even at OCS when I thought I wouldn't last two days. I was flabbergasted when I was commissioned 98 days later.

Asked to leave

Two years after being "butter barred," and then getting my "railroad tracks," my commander finally asked the BIG question — "What sex are you?" It seems some on the staff had thought I was female and wondered why I wore men's uniforms; a few thought I was gay; and others had no idea. The commander's question brought about a psychological evaluation and my eventual honorable discharge.

I was grateful for Major Stanley's recommendation for an honorable, but I also deserved it. You see, I hadn't done anything wrong. I was just being me! Because no Army regulations were broken, they got me for "conduct unbecoming an officer." The Army psychiatrist officially diagnosed me as gender dysphoric (transsexual) and I became the first officer in the history

of the U.S. Army to be officially recommended for sex reassignment surgery. But they still asked me to leave.

I had legally changed my name before resigning my commission, which posed no problem to the gentleman who processed me out of the Army.

Even to this day I still don't know how some people get through the system — this giant game of charades—even as long as I did. Living in the barracks or on board ship, every clothing item in your locker is subject to inspection. My behavior was extremely effeminate for any male officer, yet no one picked up on the fact that I was different. Gays are often an easier target. Maybe the military teaches gender dysphoric individuals to be good actors. But that's all it was, just an act.

Advice for others

I will say that I miss the monetary rewards of Army life, and it would have been nice to stay in for just another decade to get that 20-year retirement. But I just couldn't wait that long. If you make it as far as I did you really need to think long and hard about what course your life is going to take. If you can hack it for another ten years, go for it. Don't try to push your gender issues into the open where others can see them.

If you believe that you must have surgery in the very near future, allow yourself to be discharged normally, at the end of your enlistment contract. You don't need the hassle of a court-martial and a less-than-honorable discharge like the Army dentist Fort Carson in Colorado Springs got. I was lucky and got an honorable, but that colonel was not; he got a dishonorable.

Be careful, do it right, and do it smart. Or, for transsexuals, the military can become a bad dream turned into a nightmare.

They were invisible!

Trio engages in radio-active crossdressing

March was a big radio month for Renaissance, with appearances on two stations: one that carries shock-DJ Howard Stern and another station in Buffalo, N.Y.

Early in the month, Trudie Henry and Paula Jordan Sinclair appeared on a talk show on WYSP-FM, the radio station that brings Howard Stern to Delaware Valley listeners. The two were on "The Stephen Starr Show," a interview and call-in show that airs very early Sunday morning.

In addition to carrying the New York-based discjockey who is known for insulting sexual minorities and making frequent scatological and genital references, the station is also known as the home for classic rock and roll. The interview with Henry and Sinclair was punctuated with cuts from rock songs about

crossdressing: "Lola" by the Kinks and "Walk on the Wild Side" by Lou Reed.

The program was also punctuated by something else — insulting telephone calls from listeners. At least two callers suggested that Starr assault his crossdressed guests. While Henry and Sinclair were prepared for those calls, they were not prepared for Starr's response. When the callers hung up before discussing their anger, Starr called them cowards, "pussies," and said even though Henry and Sinclair were wearing dresses they "have more balls than you guys."

"I've done several radio programs," Sinclair said, "and that's the first time I ever heard a host directly insult an insulting caller. It sure put an end to that type of call."

Other calls ranged from curious

to outright supportive. One caller said that he was also a transvestite.

Starr also interviewed drag entrepreneur Michael Salem via telephone from New York.

Later in the month, Angela Gardner appeared on "The Paul Kyle Show" on WGR in Buffalo. No, the national outreach director didn't fly to Buffalo for the show; wearing her fuzzy slippers and robe, she lounged in her comfy bedroom, and chatted with Lyle via phone.

Lyle is a highly-rated and controversial host on all-talk WGR radio. Several times during the hour and a half that Angela was on the air, he expressed contempt for closed-minded people who would not let crossdressers "do their own thing." He got into several shouting matches with callers who called crossdressers

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Sexual minority volunteers needed to test Philadelphia fair housing law

The Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations (PHRC) and the Mayor's Commission for Sexual Minorities are seeking transgendered, lesbian, gay, and bisexual volunteers to test compliance with the city's fair housing law.

Under a pilot program run jointly by the two commissions, sexual minority volunteers are needed to be hypothetical applicants for renting an apartment. "Straight" applicants will also be used in the pro-

gram. Both straight and sexual minority applicants will be sent separately to various realtors and landlords to compare the responses received.

The volunteers will receive training from the Housing, Compliance and Testing Department of PHRC. Volunteers must stay in the local

area for at least a year and must be willing to testify as an open transgendered, lesbian, gay or bisexual person if a discrimination case goes to adjudication.

For more information or to volunteer, call Peg Conway, executive director of the Mayor's Commission for Sexual Minorities, at 686-1545.

Wine tasting set for May 25 at Chads Ford

Is your femme side more interested in dressing elegantly, being in a romantic country setting, and sipping fine wine than dancing in a disco and drinking beer? If so, Angela Gardner and Alison Laing have an idea you might find appealing. Through the Chaddsford Winery in historic Chadds Ford, Pa., they have arranged a wine tasting party for Renaissance members and friends.

The winery owners, Lee and Eric Miller, have reserved Saturday evening, May 25, for our own private tasting of their wonderful Pennsylvania wines. From a full-bodied Chardonnay to a light spring wine, they have a wine for every taste. The magazines *The Wine Advocate*, *Bon Appetit*, and *U.S. News and World Report* have all said Chaddsford wines have a reputation for quality. In blind taste testing, nearly three quarters of the people participating identified Chaddsford Wine as a California or European wine.

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MOTG of New Jersey

First affiliate signs up with Renaissance

Renaissance has received its first application for affiliate status from a New Jersey group. After months of organizational meetings, the Monmouth/Ocean Transgenderists (MOTG) made their decision and filed with the national office.

The request was made by Terry M., a frequent contributor to these pages and one of the recipients of the 1990 Renaissance Achievement of the Year award for her work with the 3R recovery group.

According to the application, MOTG has about 20 members and is still growing. Most of the members are from the now-defunct Tri-Ess chapter, Sigma Nu Rho.

Alison Laing, co-director of outreach, polled executive board members and the application was unanimously approved.



Logo for Renaissance affiliates

A complete affiliate data package was sent to the group along with the new affiliate logo.

Anyone interested in joining should contact, MOTG, PO Box 1326, Brick, NJ 08723

Radio-active crossdressing

(continued from page 4)

"sick and perverted." Lyle urged one caller — a man who said he would kill any crossdresser who would use a woman's restroom when his wife was inside — to get psychological help.

Lyle also said that several years ago in the Midwest he had picked up a woman who later turned out to be a man. Lyle said he and Sabrina

discussed the situation in a rational manner and parted friends.

Angela was joined on the show by Wanda, a member of a local Buffalo support group.

WGR officials said the response to the show was generally favorable and that they would like Renaissance to be featured on another show in the future.

THE Paula Jordan Sinclair NEWSQUEEN™

Where would we be without celebrities? For the past six weeks, we have been captivated by the gossip about Nancy Reagan. Before that, it was the doings of the Kennedy clan in that pocket of poverty known as Palm Beach. But the fortnight of scandal was really kicked off by Danny Bonaduce's arrest in Phoenix, Ariz., for robbing and beating up a transvestite prostitute. Now there's a scandal with everything—sex, violence and crossdressing!

Bonaduce, who achieved fame as a member of *The Partridge Family* and celebrity status when he lost a radio DJ gig because of drug use, isn't talking about the incident except to say that when the truth comes out at his trial set for July 15 he will be vindicated and people will be surprised. We already are. What did Bonaduce expect for \$20?

♣ ♣ ♣

After Bonaduce's arrest, we could sympathize with the kids whose lives were shattered when their child idol fell. We naturally speak of the deep disappointment that accompanied the report that Jordan Knight of the New Kids on the Block wants a sex change.

A "close friend of the teen idol" was quoted in a supermarket tabloid as saying that Knight "has always been a very delicate and sensitive person, unsure of his sexual identity. He told me once that he felt as if there was a woman trapped inside him..."

The issue came to a head, *News Extra* quotes other "insiders" as saying, after Knight punched a woman who asked him for an autograph and called other female fans names. Later, Knight said his sudden rage prompted him to see a psychiatrist who diagnosed him as transsexual and told him that he should express the woman inside himself.

So what will become of the group if the reports are true? Some say that it will mean the end. They're

probably right, after all, how many transgendered rock bands from Boston can the country stand?

♣ ♣ ♣

Jecquin Stitt, a water department worker from Flint, Mich., won't let becoming a woman stand in his way of fame. In fact, it has already helped.

Stitt was the winner of the Oprah Winfrey look-alike contest sponsored by *Ladies' Home Journal*. He almost didn't get to appear on the April 22 *Oprah* show because of his born gender, but the magazine's lawyers warned that Stitt could charge sex discrimination. Besides, they noted, Stitt claims that he is midway through his sex reassignment.

♣ ♣ ♣

Too bad Stitt isn't a star now. He could save the producers of the new film *Switch* a lot of money in salaries. As it is, two actors have to be cast in the lead role of a womanizing man who comes back to life as a woman: Jimmy Smits and Ellen Barkin.

♣ ♣ ♣

But a guy doesn't have to go that far to make it big time with Kim Basinger. She recently told *Cosmopolitan* magazine that she prefers a man "who knows his femininity. I love a man who can cry. I love a man who's not afraid to delve into the female psyche and become part of it, to have tea with the girls, emotionally."

♣ ♣ ♣

Is actor John Cusack one of those guys? Or maybe he was just trying to impress Kim when he said that he is wary of being considered a man only *after* he portrays a cop. "It seems that some rite of passage for every actor to play a cop with a big gun" he said. "Actually, I'd rather play a Nazi transsexual in a buddy film."

♣ ♣ ♣

Madonna's preference for men not afraid to explore their feminine side is well known. Therefore, she of

all the people at a recent West Hollywood reception should have known the true gender of the tall, striking figure in an elaborate gown. So, Madonna's minions asked her, "Is that a girl or a guy." But Madonna wouldn't tell them. All she said was "Work that dress, girlfriend!"

♣ ♣ ♣

Of course, Madonna may not have wanted to let on that the mystery person may have been on the lam in drag. That was one of the ways that Joseph "JoJo" Rhone, a reputed member of the old Philadelphia Black Mafia, eluded police for more than 13 years while being wanted for murder.

According to reports, Rhone was seen dressed in women's clothing, often in the flowing robes of a Muslim woman.

♣ ♣ ♣

While's Rhone's disguise wasn't good enough to convince people that he wasn't actually a woman, it would have probably fooled the Orange County (Calif.) Sheriff's department.

After a burglary, they arrested a suspect who gave his name as Louis Jones. But only after he was booked and searched did they discover that the person they arrested was actually Teresa Jones, 19. They released her only to later put out a warrant for her arrest on the same burglary charge. Seems they were so convinced that they were looking for a man that when they discovered they had arrested a woman, they were so confused that they seemingly never considered the person they were really looking for could be a woman who poses as a man.

Jones had previous arrests while impersonating a man.

♣ ♣ ♣

It was probably fear of prison sentences for people like Jones that prompted Jacksonville, Fla., officials to fire corrections officer William Harvey Smith six years ago after he was discovered changing a

THE Paula Jordan Sinclair NEWSQUEEN™

flat tire while wearing a woman's swimsuit, false breasts and heavy makeup. Now, more than seven months after having a sex change, Belinda Joelle Smith is trying to get her old job back.

Her attorney is charging that Smith's dismissal in 1985 was illegal because it was based on Smith's "handicap" as a transsexual, but the "psychosexual disorder" would not have caused her problems at work. Sheriff's department officials said that they were sympathetic to Smith's transsexualism. However, once Lt. Smith said the only cure was sex change surgery, and that he would have to live as a woman for a year prior to surgery, they had no choice but to fire him. The firing was upheld by the county Civil Service Board.

Things are different now that her change is complete, Smith told an administrative hearing. She acknowledged that there will be whispers and talk at first, but that very soon she would be accepted as just another female jail guard.

A ruling on her case is not expected for several months.

♣ ♣ ♣

In California, another transsexual is fighting to get her job back as a state employee.

Katherine Rosen, 42, worked as an account clerk for four months in 1989 before officials discovered she was still a man. She was fired for lying on her employment application. But her attorney says that a she produced her medical records for a pre-employment medical exam, and the records clearly showed that Rosen was born a man and was still physically male. "So it appears she was rejected because they found out that she's a preoperative transsexual," Smith's lawyer said.

"There is a gap in the law for transsexuals," attorney Cindy Parker said. "They're not mentioned because most people don't understand the condition."

An administrative law judge upheld Rosen's firing. If her appeal for a new hearing is rejected, she said she will sue the state.

♣ ♣ ♣

You can bet that Charles McGuire of Houston won't be having employment problems when he legally becomes a woman. He owns his own construction company, and although he is the subject of a federal probe into price fixing, he is planing on having a sex change.

McGuire is something of a celebrity in Houston. Since 1987 he has been dressing as a woman all of the time, and his adventures in high society while in drag are often chronicled by a friendly columnist for *The Houston Post*. He even attended an inaugural ball for George Bush wearing a gown. In 1989, he unsuccessfully ran for city council as an openly transgendered candidate.

"I'm no longer happy being a transvestite," McGuire said recently. "Now its just not enough to to dress as a woman. I have grown to have all of the feeling of a woman except the sexuality. I want to love a man, but not as a man."

♣ ♣ ♣

Loving a man, "but not as a man" didn't work out so well for Nina B. Farmer, 41, of Memphis, Tenn. The pre-op transsexual was sentenced to six years in prison for killing the man who was described as her "spouse" during her trial.

She was convicted of the voluntary manslaughter of John Slack, 58, a retired Army sergeant. Farmer said she shot Slack in self defense during an argument in their home.

The judge said he gave Farmer the maximum sentence because of her 1975 second-degree murder conviction. She was paroled after serving serving less than half of that 20-year sentence.

♣ ♣ ♣

What is it about guys in the Army? Earlier this year, a staff sergeant serving with V Corps in Germany

got in hot water when officials discovered he was claiming to be married to a man who was listed on Army records as the sergeant's dependent wife named Tiffany.

For seven years Staff Sgt. William Dillahunt and Stephen Davis enjoyed all of the privileges of a married couple. Davis had a dependent I.D. card carrying his photo in drag and shopped in the PX. Four times the government paid for his travel to follow his "husband."

The scheme fell apart when Davis applied for a passport in the name of Tiffany Dillahunt to join his husband in Germany, and State Department officials discovered that Tiffany was actually Stephen.

Army officials and Dillahunt had no comment on the case, but officials privately expressed concern that Dillahunt and Davis managed to escape safeguards in the system.

Davis said that he only dressed as a woman when he went out in public as Tiffany. He said he met Dillahunt while working as a female impersonator in Texas. He also said that he suffers from multiple personalities and was not aware of his true gender when the relationship began.

♣ ♣ ♣

Now, a note from the world of science that may be be good news for male-to-female transsexuals. A study by the University of Pennsylvania suggests that female sex hormones may keep the brain from deteriorating as it ages.

Penn scientists used magnetic resonance imaging to study the brains of 34 men and 35 women aged 18 to 80. They found that the women's brains had atrophied less than had the men's brains.

So much for the old (and bad) joke that m-f transsexuals loose 10 I.Q. points when they start on hormones.

Thanks, again this month to Lisa de [redacted] and Sharon [redacted], and to a first-time contributor Billie from Germany. You can send clipping to Miss Sinclair at the Renaissance office. Please note the date and name of the publication.

A frolic with follicles

by Brenda Davidson

☞ A letter from Stella [redacted] of Silver Spring, Md., prompted this article.

My reason to start electrolysis had absolutely nothing to do with any long range plan. My beard was so heavy that I could go only six hours before the makeup touch-up battle began. So, I decided to begin the process of permanent beard removal.

Electrolysis need not be as difficult or as revealing as most seem to think. Here is what I have learned.

There are many different types of electrolysis; yet all involve the killing of the hair follicle with a small electric current applied via a needle-like probe inserted into the follicle. Explaining the theory and method of each is not necessary; a trip to your local library, followed by a call to the electrolygyst of your choice should get you the information you need.

To find an electrolygyst, first check the Yellow Pages. An important thing to look for is a mention of being licensed or belonging to a professional association. Presently, Pennsylvania does not require licensing. Another tip: male facial hair is different than female facial hair, so make sure the electrolygyst has experience with male clients.

My experience shows that about 9 percent of the total transgendered population receives electrolysis.

Everyone I talked to started with facial hair, and moved downward.

Depending on the method used and the "HPMs" (hairs per minute), the pain can range from as minor as plucking hair from your arm to as painful as causing overnight swelling or puffiness. Electrolysis on the chin and jaw will generally be less painful than on the upper lip and cheeks.

To lessen the pain:

✓ Avoid caffeine for at least eight hours before a session;

✓ Take two aspirin or Tylenol one hour before your appointment; and

✓ Apply an ice pack directly to the treated area as soon as possible afterward.

Try to have at least a 24-hour growth of hair because the easier the hairs are to tweeze, the faster the electrolysis will be. Some methods will require more growth and additional treatments. Most electrolygysts will be able to achieve 18 to 25 HPM. (I've heard of rates as high as 50.) Beard removal will probably take from 18 months to three years of weekly appointments.

Rates will vary depending on location. I pay \$20 for 20 minutes or \$40 for 45 minutes per week. I have been told of rates as low as \$40 for an entire hour, and as high as \$80. So do some shopping around. Some electrolygysts will book longer appointments, but most prefer not to,

especially if you are going more than once a week.

You don't need to be shy about having your beard or other hair removed. My electrolysis assures me that she has many male clients who receive electrolysis for many different reasons. Though the course of conversation during my sessions I disclosed the reason for my weekly appointments. She was very interested and intrigued, and not the least put off. I am finding that this is the case with most of the people I confide in.

One final note: avoid the electrolysis home units. Some hairs can become infected if this process is not done properly. The home units positively do not work.

Wine tasting

(continued from page 5)

To compliment the wines and help clear your palate, there will be a selection of cheese, paté, fruits, and bread. As you sample the seven to eight varieties of wine that Chaddsford Winery produces, you will be given a tour of the winery, a wonderfully renovated 160-year-old barn, and told many details of the winemaker's art.

Reservations for the event are due by May 18. Tickets may be ordered by returning the form inserted with this newsletter. Tickets also may be ordered at the May Greater Philadelphia meeting.

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March was a momentous month for the gender community. Almost simultaneously, two documents appeared that herald a new era for all transgendered people.

On March 1, JoAnn Roberts circulated a Bill of Gender Rights to all support groups in the U.S. and overseas. Close on the heels of that mailing came the Gender Activist Declaration of Independence, March 17, from the Gender Alternatives League (GAL) in Napa, Calif.

Roberts' "bill" proclaims that "it is time for the transgendered community to take a strong stand against all gender based discrimination..." and that it's time to declare our gender rights as follows:

"THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE A GENDER ROLE: No one shall be denied their Human and Civil Rights on the basis that their chosen gender role or perceived gender role is not congruent with their genetic sex or sex role.

"THE RIGHT TO FREELY EXPRESS A GENDER ROLE: No one shall be denied their Human and Civil Rights on the basis that a private or public expression of their chosen gender role or perceived gender role is not congruent with their genetic sex or sex role.

"THE RIGHT TO MAKE ONE'S BODY CONGRUENT WITH GENDER ROLE: No one

shall be denied their Human and Civil Rights on the basis that they changed or wish to change their body, cosmetically, chemically, or surgically, to better fit their chosen gender role.

"THE RIGHT TO SEXUAL EXPRESSION CONGRUENT WITH GENDER ROLE: No one shall be denied their Human and Civil Rights on the basis of sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation. Further, no individual shall be denied their Human and Civil Rights for expressing their chosen gender role through private sexual acts between consenting adults."

The bill has been well received by the community so far. The national board of Renaissance has endorsed the bill as written. The board of directors of Tau Chi, the Tri-Ess chapter in Houston, adopted the bill by unanimous vote. Reportedly, Jane Ellen Fairfax, Tri-Ess national chairman, will recommend that all Tri-Ess chapters plus the Tri-Ess national board endorse the bill with a minor modification.

Other organizations are expected to endorse the bill in a similar fashion.

The significance of these endorsements is monumental. It provides a basis for working together toward common goals even though the basic philosophies of the two groups are divergent.

Meanwhile, the GAL declaration is also gathering massive support, mostly from the West Coast, but the "freedom train" is heading East.

The GAL document recommends the self-adoption of the term "Genderist" for those who support gender rights and states, "The name 'Genderist' is our standard of pride and shows unity of purpose..."

Many points made in the declaration are strikingly similar to the Roberts' bill;

"We reject the old line of thinking that says we should hide our behavior as though we were somehow criminals. We have the right to choose and express our preferred gender publicly and freely and to be treated as first class citizens without discrimination in any form..."

"We have the same right as anyone else to change our physical imperfections and be treated by the medical profession without judgment..."

(continued on page 10)



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Transgendered themes abound

Plays are the thing in May and June

Three original plays with important and positive transgendered characters will debut in Philadelphia in May and June. The playwrights have all extended special invitations to Renaissance members and friends.

The first production is *Murder is a Drag*, written and directed by Shawn De Veareaux, a keen observer of the drag scene. This murder mystery comedy should rate three finger clicks for wit. You can see it at Temple's Center City Stage III (1619 Walnut Street) May 3 through May 11 (except for May 6). Curtain is at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. Benefit performances are set for the River/Harris Foundation (May 7) and Action AIDS (May 9). Tickets for these benefits are \$15. The Midtown Ticket Agency (546-1337) will accept credit card orders.

Robyn Barr's *Bert and Jesse*, a love story about a male-to-female transsexual and her lesbian lover, is a one-act play that will run with three other one-acts—all romances—at Group Motion, 624 South Street (between South and Bainbridge) June 1, 2, 22, and 23. Curtain time is 8 p.m. The other plays are *The Long Way Home* by Tommi Aviccoli, *Who's a Clown?* by Wayman Widgins, and *Selected Shorts* by Robin Bernstein. Tickets for all four plays are \$7 at the door, \$6 in advance at Giovanni's Room and Girlfriends

bookstores. For more information, call 545-5247.

Finally, there is *Spring Eternal* by Gary L. Day. This is the sequel to Day's play *FirstCamp* which was the story about three people with the AIDS virus imprisoned in the early days of the epidemic: Sid and Kevin, both gay men, and Carla, a drag queen. Carla was an important character in that play, and it is to Day's credit that he gave her con-

siderable depth. In fact, that play ends with the poignant revelation that she has been killed by her jailers. But in *Spring Eternal*, we learn that she is still alive. The new play is about the trio's escape efforts.

Spring Eternal will be presented at the Walnut Street Theater Studio 3, 9th and Walnut Streets, June 5 to 15, at 8 p.m. with a Sunday matinee at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10; \$15 on Friday and Saturday nights.

Gender rights movement

(continued from page 9)

"We believe that all people should be treated equally and deem that Human Rights and Civil Liberties are meant for everyone."

Cynthia Howard, national executive director of GAL, has written to each group in the U.S. urging them to sign the declaration. She asks:

"Can we commit ourselves to unity and the achievement of our goals toward liberty, regardless of any differences? I think so. I know the Vision is solid enough in our minds and that it can be achieved."

"Will we say 'you're wrong and you can't do this' or will we be positive and dedicate ourselves to making a good start even better?"

Howard has offered selected members of the community seats on the national board of GAL and Roberts was one who accepted.

"We're at a major milestone in

this community," says Roberts. "It is not simply coincidence that these two documents appeared at the same time. We're ready to move on and make ourselves heard."

"I believe in GAL and its purpose. It will become the national umbrella group we have all wanted for so long. It will be the strong 'voice' of the community we need," she said.

"And, above all else, GAL has the balls to stand proud and say who they are and what they want," Roberts concluded.

For a copy of the Bill of Gender Rights, send a SSAE to JoAnn Roberts, P.O. Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406.

For a copy of the Gender Activist Declaration of Independence, send a SSAE to GAL, P.O. Box 3392, Napa, CA 94558.

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The **FORUM** For Ideas

Transsexuals want to talk while transvestites 'wanna have fun'

To the Editor:

Regarding JoAnn Altman Stringer's column on support groups (RN, Mar.'91), I have found that in the groups I have been associated with, transvestites and transsexuals only appeal to co-mingle when the main purpose of the group is to socialize, that is when the group has parties, dinners, and guest

☞ Since February, this newsletter has been enlarged by a third, from 12 to 16 pages. But still we can't add pages fast enough to keep pace with your letters. So we regrettably must now edit all letters to achieve brevity. Please be assured that every effort will be made to retain focus of each letter.

—PAW & PJS

speakers on subjects such as cosmetics and deportment.

Transvestites and transsexuals do not seem to agree on the amount of group rapping that is needed to support their chosen way of life. TSs seem to need more talking among themselves in a group setting to try to clarify and justify their choice of lifestyle to themselves and to their peers. TVs just seem to have the "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" syndrome. TVs do not seem to want group rapping because of their own denial about why they crossdress. They mostly deny the sexual aspects of crossdressing.

I agree with JoAnn Roberts' statement in her review of *Crossdressing with Dignity* that the

book is flawed by the avoidance of a meaningful discussion of sex and eroticism. This is one of the most important reasons why men crossdress, and this is where most of the denial lies. But I also disagree with JoAnn; the book will have wide appeal to the vast majority of TVs because they all have large quantities of guilt and will grasp at anything that will justify crossdressing yet does not elaborate on its erotic and sexy nature.

—Roni Lang, Past President,
Northwest Gender Alliance
Beaverton, Ore.

☞ TVs do like to talk; witness the transvestite rap group at the Greater Philadelphia chapter meetings where sex is discussed. —PJS

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The **FORUM** For Ideas

Readers respond to "Balls" column

To the Editor:

I applaud JoAnn's deep conviction (RN, Mar.'91), I empathize with her frustration, but I wonder about her methods.

She referred to her coming out. But would she have come out only because someone said that she "had no balls" unless she dressed up and marched down Main Street? Blacks, lesbians, and gays have marched, but the name of the game is not just loud voices, it is also numbers.

It has taken me 30 years to start coming out of this closet, and to start being as much of myself as I will allow at this time. I know *who* I am, and I *am* who I am. However, it took more than just patience to sort myself out. I needed understanding and — to a certain extent — nurturing along the way. Our sisters will not come out of the closet until they feel comfortable with themselves and their families. Only then can they start growing to the point where they can take a public stand. Not everyone is as far along as JoAnn or I. This is what the support group is all about. The development of self-esteem is critical to the good mental health of us all.

We ought to exercise both compassion and patience. Blacks waited 100 years after slavery in order to achieve their rights, and they are still fighting. We should feel fortunate if we see these kind of rights in our lifetimes. Martin Luther King Jr. was a leader of vision and peace. Sometimes it takes "balls" to have vision and peace as a leader. Maybe that is some of what we are missing.

There is no question that those of us who can need to speak out. I would like to think that many of us are willing. But until we get the numbers, we need to speak out in a way that will minimize the negative impact that a more militant air can

foster. This difference in public attitude can make an impact on how many more TVs and TSs come out. Remember, they are trying to have balls too. They are trying to leave the comfy surroundings of their cage and enter a new world that they know little about. Let them adjust to the new world without scaring them to death. Let those of us who can fight until those who can't grow to where they can take over.

There are other battles to fight. Give this a quick thought: In the '60s did blacks have to go to adult bookstores in seedy neighborhoods to find out about themselves? Maybe this is a front in this war we should attack first.

—Kara [REDACTED]
Salem, N.J.

☞ *Kara has made some good points, but she seems to assume that coming out is a one-time event. Actually, it is an ongoing process that essentially never ends. So when one finally decides to come out, she can decide to continue the process at a pace that is right for her. But until more transgendered people begin the process of coming out, the numbers Kara talks about will never be there.*

—PAW

To the Editor:

JoAnn is right on. The transvestite is afraid of losing his maleness. He is also afraid of discovery that might lead to ridicule, loss of job, family, etc. Therefore, he is not about to come totally out of the closet and let the world know. I agree that the transvestite community will never be as well organized as the gay and lesbian community which has political action committees (PACs) to help eliminate discrimination. But are PACs really necessary for this type of activity for the transvestite community? There are not enough

transvestites out of the closet to make any difference anyway. Does anyone think that a transvestite is going to buy a car, a house, or look for a job as a transvestite?

—Roni Lang, Past President,
Northwest Gender Alliance
Beaverton, Ore.

☞ *Funny that Roni should mention buying a house as a transvestite. I have been looking for a house, and last month I told my real estate agent that any house I buy must have lots of closet space because I am a transvestite and have lots of clothes. His concern remained, as it was at the beginning, his commission on the sale. What I hung in my closets was none of his worry.*

—PJS

To the Editor:

While it is true that the transsexual label "never goes away," one can make it irrelevant. One does not have to go around with a sign on their chest, "I am a TS." By careful editing and behavior, one can, in most circumstances, escape the label — depending on one's appearance.

Since I made my changeover at work, most people there "know." However, they also relate to me as a woman. In every other aspect of my life — with few exceptions — I am known as just another woman. My neighbors, shopkeepers, church members, even women in my all-female support group have no idea. Generally, people do not question a person's gender unless there is something that is obviously wrong.

Among my personal friends, in medical situations, and in intimate relations, disclosure is a matter of a "need to know."

If you live and work as a female for years, it becomes a non-issue.

—Jackie K.
Norristown, Pa.

The **For Ideas**
FORUM

Motown 'maidens' aren't all crooks

To the Editor:

I get to read the newsletters that are exchanged with other groups across the country, and I enjoy reading Paula Sinclair's articles every month.

I just want to assure your readers that the persons arrested for soliciting and pandering ("News-Queen," RN, Feb. '91) are not connected with Crossroads or any of the other three reputable cross-dressing organizations in the Detroit area. All of us try to maintain our clubs in the proper manner, and none of us will tolerate the riffraff who are giving us bad publicity. We certainly support our local law enforcement officials who are trying to put a stop to this blatant behavior.

I would also like to congratulate you on a fine publication that is easy to read and is always very

informative. This is an incentive for all groups everywhere to publish quality reading material and to leave the sleazy stuff to the adult bookstores or the bottom of bird cages.

—Joanne Marie [REDACTED]

President, Crossroads Chapter
Royal Oak, Mich.

⇒ Thank you for the clarification and the compliment. But "sleazy stuff" need not be relegated to adult book stores and bird cages. While we avoid being overtly erotic in these pages, we try never to forget that crossdressing is erotic for many.

—PJS

Oops, our slip was showing

To the Editor:

What happened to the end of the article "Sex therapists, educators want more from Gr. Phila. Chapter" (RN, Mar. '91)? One is left hanging with "The attendees indicated that they found the seminar useful but too..."


—Stacy-Lynn H.
Devon, Pa.

participation in the RN, so that truncated article was an opportunity for readers to pretend they were the reporter and complete the sentence as they wished. Here are four options for an ending: [a] ...cute for words. [b] ...much. [c] ...die for. [d] ...brief. Plans are underway for a two-day event later this year.

Seriously, thanks for pointing out the error. The correct ending is [d].

—PJS

⇒ We feel there is too little reader



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The For Ideas
FORUM

Joan to Phaedra: 'No guilt for me!'

To the Editor:

Phaedra Kelly's letter (RN, Feb.'91) is very revealing in that the first idea expressed in response to my comments on Lofofora's guilt-inducing letter (RN, Sept. '90) was to entertain thoughts of inflicting bodily harm on someone who disagreed with a prison inmate. I wonder if there is a causal relationship? Next, she goes after my integrity by ascribing to me characteristics meant to place me on the outer fringe of society.

Please, Miss Kelly, re-read three letters before you engage in scatological hyperbole and a series of non-sequiturs. My objection to Miss Lofofora's letter was that she was throwing guilt around as if it were confetti at a New Years Eve party and her effrontery and implication that those of us who had the good sense to lead honest lives were re-

sponsible for her plight. It sounded too much like the "victim/criminal inversion syndrome" so prevalent in some parts of our society. The victim is blamed for the crime, and the criminal is the "victim" of soci-

ety. No, Miss Kelly, I am not going to buy the guilt, nor will I ever buy the inversion syndrome.

Lisa [redacted] had her letter published in the December issue. She (continued on page 15)

'The nightmares never end'

To the Editor:

Louise Baltimore's column in the March issue of RN left me crying and hurting in ways that only a few can imagine or understand.

I, too, was an engine of war, programmed as a military machine from childhood. Unfortunately, the machine had a flaw. It became aware at a very deep level that what it was doing was abominably wrong. The resulting conflict became overwhelming, the machine ground to a halt, unable to function, and was cast aside,

Perhaps the "flaw" was the female that I should have been, and am now trying to be. "She" resisted the programming, but was forced into hiding. The machine is gone, but as you said, they never mess with your memories. The nightmares never end.

Thank you for remembering the survivors as well as the dead. Sometimes I'm not sure who has the better situation.

—Judy [redacted]
Southington, Conn.

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At 'La Cage aux Folles'

Taking the message to the suburbs

by Pamela Westin

The audience at the March 30 performance of *La Cage aux Folles* got more than they bargained for. For many, it was an unexpected opportunity to see actual transvestites; and for the 13 Renaissance members in the theater party, it was a positive experience.

The girls lost all hope of passing when they entered the lobby of the Valley Forge Music Fair amid stares, whispering, and at least one person's open and puzzling comment, "Those are the girls from Renaissance." But judging by the comments directed to the girls later, some people never quite figured out what was going on. A woman introduced her grown children to two girls, and another woman asked a third girl if she was part of the show.

"It was a great education for the audience," one Renaissance girl said later. "Just because people are different doesn't mean that they are less human. I really think that we carried home the play's message."

The interaction with the suburban world continued after the play when the theater party went to the nearby pub for refreshments. As the girls took seats at the bar, one

group of customers left, but others just watched with a mixture of curiosity and amazement. The band quickly got into the spirit, playing Lou Reed's "Walk on the Wild Side."

Like at the theater, several people eventually worked up the nerve to approach the girls and flood them with questions. One bearded man in a leather jacket expressed admi-

ration for the courage it took to walk into "a place like this," and said he is a transvestite himself.

"Going to *La Cage* in drag was a real outreach statement," a member said. "It would be unlikely that people in the suburbs would ever see TVs, not to mention interacting with them in a positive setting. It made us feel good about ourselves."

Joan to Phaedra: 'No guilt for me!'

(continued from page 14)

sounds like a person who has her head screwed on properly. She is positive in her outlook, not angry, bitter, nor ready to blame others for her misfortune. I believe she will become a valuable asset in her community when she leaves prison. Had Miss [redacted] written a letter in a similar vein, she would have generated a far more positive response.

Miss Kelly seems also to be ready and willing to lay guilt on the non-imprisoned transgendered community.

Our transgendered sisters should receive support. All transgendered sisters, not only those who violated the basic human rights and dignity of others. Prison inmates should be

treated no differently than any other sister in need. They (the prison inmates) should be willing to help others before demanding help from the honest people in this world. Committing a crime should not be a passport to special considerations.

Now that I have written this letter, and considering Miss Kelly's admonition after my last letter, perhaps I should wear a revolver every time I leave my home. A simple letter on guilt induces a broken neck. I'm not taking any chances on the benevolence of Miss Kelly after this letter.

—Joan Hoff

Lawrence, Mass.

☞ Now it's Phadra's serve, and then this game of name-calling is over.
—PAW



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THE **ICONOCLAST**™

JoAnn Roberts

SEATTLE, WASH. - I promised to get back to you about the turmoil at **Emerald City**. The ill winds have blown clear of the group and as the dust settles we find that president **Micki Van der Wey** and social director **Monica B.** have passed into the group's history. They lost their vote of confidence call.

Meanwhile, *EC News* editor **Karen Williams**, has instituted a new editorial policy that bans any criticism of EC members or officers.

Personally, I don't think a ban on all criticism is healthy for any group. Often, a club newsletter is the only voice a member has, particularly if she can't get to meetings. To call someone an "S.O.B." in print is not a valid criticism and gets at personalities, but to state an opinion that an officer is not doing a good job is, in my book, perfectly acceptable.

▼▲▼

NEW YORK, N.Y. - I received a review of **Mariette Allen's** book, *Transformations: Crossdressers and Those Who Love Them*, from none other than the *American Journal of Psychiatry*, the official house organ of the **American Psychiatric Association**.

The review, written by one **Robert N. Butler, M.D.**, praises Allen's work thus, "This is a remarkable book.

"This book would enlarge the insights of psychiatrists into human sexuality as well as enhance their aesthetic experience.

"You are shocked and haunted as [Allen] brings you beyond the boundaries of gender. They key to her photographic success is her empathy."

Gee, maybe the "shrinks" ain't all that bad.

▼▲▼

CHICAGO, ILL. - A little love and understanding goes a long way...

The **Chicago Gender Society** has launched its own *Operation Dessert Storm*. No, that's not a typo.

CGS prez, **Karen Baumgardner**, recommended the group do something to legitimately support our troops in the Middle East and the resulting campaign plan came from an **Ann Lander's** column in which two soldiers listed what they'd like to receive. At the top of the list was... cookies. Thus, the "dessert."

"This isn't an appeal for money. It isn't even charity. It isn't about war, peace, democracy, patriotism, oil, or a new world order," Karen says.

"It's about our friends, relatives, and countrymen on the other side of the world who take comfort in something as simple as a bag of cookies.

"It is also a show of support from a tangible community that has a large, if invisible, military heritage.

"Just remember, one lousy bag of cookies can be worth a thousand yellow ribbons."

▼▲▼

PORTLAND, MAINE - The **Human Outreach and Achievement Institute**, those great folks who sponsor the long-running **Fantasia Fair**, has moved from its Boston environs to the more pastoral setting of this fair city.

The new address is: Outreach Institute, Suite 345, 405 Western Ave., South Portland, ME 04106, 207•775•0858

The institute is sponsoring a "National Conference for the New Woman" aimed at post-operative transsexuals. The date is September 20-22, 1991. No other details were available at press time. Call.

By the way, this year marks the 17th anniversary of the fair in Provincetown, Mass. I'll be there. Will you?

▼▲▼

TORONTO, ONT. - I'm gonna pay for this, I just know it...

The March issue of the *Toronto CDC News*, (**Toronto Crossdresser's Club**) states that TCDC policy prohibits mustachioed or bearded crossdressers from attend-

ing their functions. Now, after the beard-bashing I gave the **Texas "T" Party** for a similar ruling, I can't let this one slide by.

What is the problem with crossdressers with beards or mustaches? Sure they look extremely silly and ridiculous, but so do a lot of crossdressers without beards or mustaches. Are we so esthetically sensitive that we can't deal with a hirsute crossdresser?

Maybe that guy has grown his 'stache as a way to sublimate his desire to crossdress. Or, maybe his partner would make a huge fuss if he shaved it off. C'mon, ladies! Let's lighten up a little and try to be a little more understanding about these people. Maybe, just maybe, if you're nice to them, they might get up the courage to shave it off.

▼▲▼

AUSTIN, TEX. - Speaking of beards and crossdressers...

I mentioned last month the "unwritten" rule about crossdressing at the **Texas "T" Party**. If anyone doubted me, well, now it's official.

In the March-April issue of *Cross-Currents* (**Heart of Texas Gender Association**), "T" party czar, **Linda Phillips**, announced there will be a 1992 "T" party and presented the latest rule for the event:

"You will be expected to dress at all times as the ladies you desire to appear as. Please remember that at each Party we have a large number of 'first timers' who have never been around other people while dressed. The sight of non-crossdressed males, except as vendors, hotel staff, etc., completely unnerves them."

You decide if you buy that explanation, but I don't think anyone should be "required" to crossdress unless they are comfortable with it.

▼▲▼

WALTHAM, MASS. - Meanwhile, back at the ranch...

The rumor that the 1992 Inter-

THE **ICONOCLAST**™

JoAnn Roberts

national Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) "Coming Together" convention might not be held in San Antonio now appears to be a fact with the Phillips announcement of a 1992 "T" party.

My guess, and I have no inside information on this, is that '92 convention will be moved to Houston and hosted by **Tau Chi**, the local Tri-Ess chapter there, under the guidance of **Jane Ellen Fairfax**.

▼▲▼

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. - It is with the deepest regrets that I report the news of the death of **Louis G. Sullivan**, well-known author and female-to-male transsexual.

Sullivan was the founder and director of **FTM**, the first support group for female-to-male transsexuals. He was a regular speaker at the **Institute for the Advanced Study of Human Sexuality** and was also closely involved with **ETVC**, the local transvestite/transsexual support group.

Sullivan was 39, and died from the complications of AIDS. A memorial service was held on March 15.

My thanks to **Ginny Knuth** of **ETVC** for passing on the news.

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NAPA, CALIF. - The "umbrella" we've been looking for?...

I received a letter and information from **Cynthia Howard** and the **Gender Alternatives League (GAL)**, a political activist group.

GAL plans to become a non-profit "umbrella" organization that will fight for our human and civil rights in terms of gender issues. Their first assault will be on the *Diagnosics and Statistics Manual-IV*. They want to get both transvestism and transsexualism removed as mental illnesses. Good goal.

Howard says GAL has formed an Interim National Board of Directors and held its first meeting. The league is about to sign a "New Gender Activist Declaration of Inde-

pendence" as a preamble to its by-laws. The declaration will be sent to other groups for review.

Combined with the "Gender Bill of Rights," we have all the makings of a new political force in this community and it's about time.

To be of any real use and to make any real gains for gender issues, GAL is going to need money, and I, for one, have made my contribution. If you'd like to help, write GAL, PO Box 3392, Napa, CA 94558.

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SANTA FE, N.M. - I thought that *Fiesta!*, the newsletter of the **Fiesta Chapter of Tri-Ess**, was about to go under but I see with the current issue that I was wrong. (Yes, you read that correctly.)

The latest issue to come my way was 12 pages long and filled with original material like "Christianity and Crossdressing" by **Agatha [REDACTED]**, an absolutely hysterical "Devil In The Black Dress" by **Christie [REDACTED]** and "To Be Or Not To Be... What?" by **Wendy Katherine [REDACTED]**. Perhaps our editrix will see fit to reprint one or more of these great articles in a future issue of this newsletter.

Congratulations to **Jessa B.** for saving the newsletter.

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PHILADELPHIA, PA. - Before I forget, **HAPPY FOURTH BIRTHDAY RENAISSANCE**. You've come a long way ladies. My personal thanks to the national board and the chapter leaders for keeping the dream alive.

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WOODLAND HILLS, CALIF. - Bravo to **Kym Richards**, recipient of the **BRASS BALLS** award, for filing a complaint with the U.S. Postal Service against ersatz doctor **Philip Salem** and his **North American Transvestite Transsexual Contact Service**.

Citing photographs of male genitalia and wording of several ads appearing in a magazine that promi-

nently features Salem and his business, Richards filed on the grounds that unsolicited pornographic material was sent across state lines without the appropriate warnings, either outside or on an inner envelope. Federal regulations require these warnings.

Salem has a history of ripping off our unknowing sisters and has been passing himself off as a doctor. I've personally received handwritten mail from this guy and it looked like the scribbling of a four year old.

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BROOKLYN, N.Y. - My 16 year-old son came home from viewing *The Silence of the Lambs* and said, "Dad, I felt very uncomfortable watching this movie, 'cause I know better." He was referring to the serial-killer in the film. I expected to see flak about this in various newsletters and I was right.

In the March issue of *Girls Night Out*, **Barbara Fortune** urges a boycott of the film because, she says, "...it portrays the TG as a psychopath, once again."

Now, I haven't seen the film, but I have read the book and the author, **Thomas Harris**, goes to great pains to explain that this killer is not a transsexual, but thinks he is. In fact, the person was rejected from several gender clinics. Harris based his psycho on several real-life serial killers, including **Ted Bundy**.

Fortune's assertion that the "TG" is portrayed as the killer is backward. The fact is that all modern serial killers are male and almost all serial murders involve sexual assault and/or mutilation of the victims, which are usually female.

Go see the movie for yourself and if you don't like what you see, write to the producer or director of the film to complain.

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NOTA BENE - Got an opinion you want to share? Write to me at PO Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406.

Louise Baltimore FUTURE PERFECT

Hi! It's me, Louise Baltimore. Remember? The one from your future. Look me up in *Millennium*.

Anyway, I just got back from another rescue mission and Sherman and I (Sherman's my personal computer) were discussing choices. See, the people I rescue from doomed airplanes have no choice. They're going to die unless my team and I do something. We give 'em another chance. It's not much but it's living.

We don't have too many choices left for us, what with the environment so badly damaged, but we fiercely guard and defend those we do have. Here, in the future, we believe that true freedom is the ability to make choices.

Sherman says there are lots of historical references to freedom of choice, most involving pitched political battles between opposing

camp. There's always someone or some group that wants to make your choices for you. They know best.

Anyway, Sherman tells me the basis for our present societal freedom (we change sex like you'd change socks) came from your time. It was, he says, the 200th anniversary of the Bill of Rights (he explained that to me too) and two things happened in your community.

First, you issued your own Bill of Gender Rights, and, second, you formed a political organization to fight for those rights. I think he called it GAL (*Gender Alternatives League*). Cute name.

Anyway, GAL and the gender rights thing caught on like wildfire. Other organizations, SIECUS (*Sex Information and Education Council of the United States*) I think he called one of them, acted on a

gender rights theme, and off you went to tilt at windmills. Only, your cause wasn't hopeless. The time was ripe for change. People were beginning to understand that the testosterone-fogged brain of the male was the chief cause of conflict in your world and if men wanted to take a different, more peaceful course, well, that was just fine with them.

The gender rights were supported by women's groups too. They'd had enough of second-class status. After all, they could shoulder the load as well as any male, maybe better.

By the turn of the century, gender rights had become the major issue in most political discussions, and you all were winning.

I like my female body. I'm comfortable in it. It feels right for me.

Sherman says it took a lot of work and support, but you did it.

I can't thank you enough for that.



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