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Number 4, May 1992



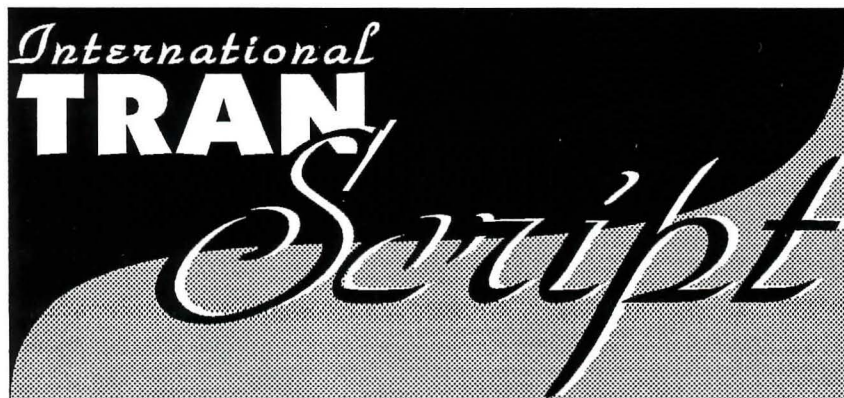
On the Cover: Michael Daniels. Photo courtesy of Paddy Aldridge & Michael Daniels.

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R.J.M.Inc.	Printing
CDS	Distribution

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Editorial

Who Decides?

As I write this, the forces of "Good" are lining up to battle the forces of "Evil" in Buffalo. The people of that fair city are about to be treated to a travesty side-show of "christian morals and ethics." Ha! Who do they think they're kidding?

Operation Rescue, the fanatical anti-abortion, anti-choice group has invaded the city of Buffalo and they intend to teach it a lesson of intolerance, ignorance and hypocrisy.

For my money, the freedom to make my own choice is *always* preferable to having my choices dictated to me, even if it means that sometimes I might make the wrong choice. Nevertheless, the choice and, ultimately, the responsibility are mine and mine alone.

Who Needs An Umbrella If It's Not Raining?

I recently returned from the annual convention of the International Foundation for Gender Education. An interesting turn of events at the convention was the reassertion of autonomy by the Congress of Representatives. The Congress is a loose coalition of all the support groups with the purpose of fostering greater communication between the groups.

For several years now, IFGE has been telling the community that it is NOT an "umbrella" organization. So, you can imagine the surprise at a proposal by IFGE Founder and Executive Director, Merissa S. Lynn, that would have made the Congress a committee of the IFGE board and its member organizations, voting members of IFGE. Curiouser and curiouser.

Fortunately, Lynn's previous "no umbrella" lectures must have sunk in because the Congress unanimously rejected Lynn's proposal and took the opportunity to re-establish itself

as an autonomous body with its own leadership. Thus, Alison Laing of Renaissance (PA) was elected to the chair of the Congress, Linda Phillips of Boulton & Park (TX) was elected vice-chair, and Vicky Mansfield of Indiana Crossdressers Society (IN) was elected recording secretary, all unanimously.

At the heart of the issue were the questions of choice, self-determination, and who decides what the Congress will or will not do. Lynn wanted to make the Congress an extension of IFGE and thereby have it come under her control. The representatives saw through this and very clearly rejected the suggestion.

As a result of the rejection of her proposal, Lynn no longer feels the Congress should be supported by IFGE and made this statement at the IFGE board meeting later in the week, "The Congress of Reps has no status with IFGE." Fortunately, while Lynn may be the Executive Director, she does not call the shots anymore and the board out-voted her 12 to 1 to establish a formal liaison between IFGE and the Congress. After the board meeting, Lynn was griping to anyone who would listen about how she'd been "beat up," as she put it, by the board, which is just nonsense.

Now What?

The Congress is *not* independent of IFGE; it is autonomous. There is a difference. The Congress currently depends on IFGE for information exchange through the *IFGE Update*, a quarterly newsletter. That publication missed its last issue and who knows when we'll see another.

So, if IFGE drops the ball on the *Update* again, this magazine offers to publish Congress information in every other issue. One person cannot stand in the way of progress.

Contributors



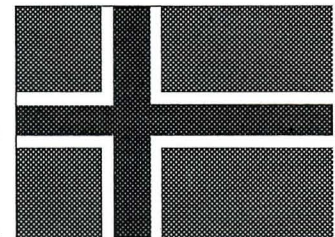
Lady Paula Howard is best known in Australia and England, so we welcome her to the pages of ITS. She tells us an amusing anecdote about Le Pissiors of Paris.

Dina Amberle is the former Managing Director of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of Renaissance. She shares her thoughts on the over-emphasis on "passing."



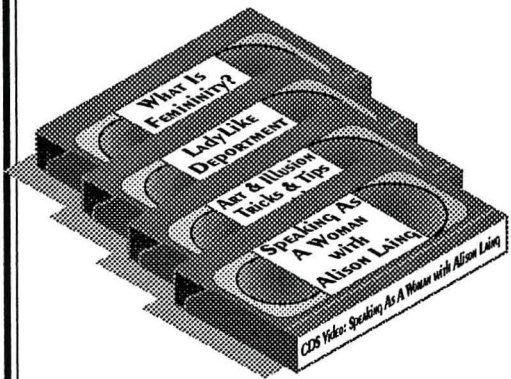
Delia Van Maris is a new addition to the ITS staff. She is an M.D. with experience on both sides of the gender fence. She'll write about health concerns in this and future issues.

Jenny Sand is very active in Scandinavia and is currently the president of the Swedish chapter of FPE-Northern Europe. She is also coordinating the EuroFantasia event.



Nikki Nash is a free lance writer from the southwest. She has a knack with poetry but this time she has some secrets to share about crossdressing.

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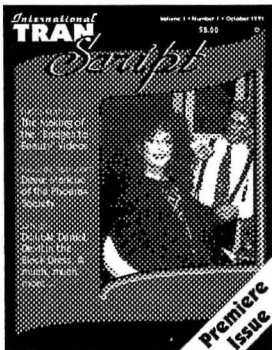
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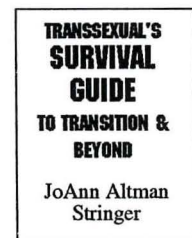
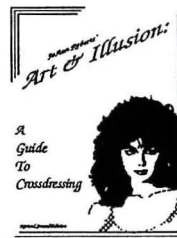
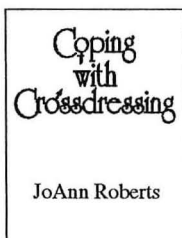
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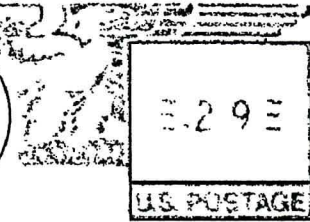
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Transsexual Follow-up

I received your letter quite a while ago and was glad to hear that you were going to publish my story about Svetlana (ITS Vol. 2, No. 2, Mar. 1992). I'm sorry to say I'm unable at present to locate Svetlana and get her photo. When I met her last, she would not give me a photo of herself. No wonder. Even during the period of the so-called *perestroika*, people were frightened and did not believe in their civil rights.

Now the situation in all the former USSR countries is chaotic in every sense. You must know the economic situation from your newspapers. People are too stupid to understand about sexual minorities, not to speak of transvestites and transsexuals. They, more often than not, make no distinction between these groups, especially in Russia where it is most common. Pornography is openly available yet a statue of Venus de Milo is considered obscene by others. Everything that does not correspond to their outlook on gender, sex and clothing, is considered patently homosexual.

I have another Russian friend whom I cannot contact now. I mentioned her in one of my other letters to you. She is a pre-op TS on hormones and suffering badly because of the hostile attitude of her neighborhood.

Margaret is in her twenties, younger than Svetlana, and though unaccepted by "normal" society, she still hope to have the operation. She dreams about the U.S. surgeons.

I am enclosing a photo of Margaret. If you are interested in her story, I may write it down for you.

Elga Remes, Latvia

Won't Let Subscription Lapse

Let *International TranScript* lapse after being one of the writers in the inaugural issue? It is more likely I'd

renounce my feminine self and become a skinhead, or send money to Pat Buchanan. Enclosed is a check for my renewal of *International TranScript*.

The creative urge is gripping me again and I should be submitting something soon. The serious topics are important and the stirrings of concerted political discussion are overdue, but I may offer a little reminder of the

lighter side of our special lives.

Until then, the repetitious refrain of all of us: "Keep it up." Both magazines [LadyLike and ITS] are truly wonderful and have brought consideration of crossdressing to a new level. But, then I am among the hundreds that have said that before.

Janet Hylan, IN



Above: Margaret, Elga's transsexual friend from Russia.

Keeping It Together

When life deals you a lemon, you learn to make lemonade.

You may have heard, as A. A. Milne put it, that I have been “less than well” lately. I am not by nature the sort of person who loves to prattle on about physical ailments, my latest scars, or whatever. But I’d like to tell you about this one because it taught me something valuable that might be of use to you someday.

I had no idea that my kidneys were going to fail. My various doctors had given me no warning that all my years of lymphatic problems, all the attacks of cellulitis would take a toll on my system. I came back from the Fall ‘91 Paradise In The Poconos with a minor leg attack — scary, but not really serious. All I’d need would be a couple of days of rest, then my stamina would return and that would be that!

It didn’t happen. Days passed, then weeks. My breathing became difficult, my strength non-existent. I couldn’t work — hell, I couldn’t walk to the bathroom without becoming desperately weary with a horrible, rheumy cough. My roommate and I suspected some kind of walking pneumonia, but

a visit to the doctor revealed the truth.

My blood pressure had risen to around 200 over 110, my blood count was less than half of what it was supposed to be and my iron was virtually non-existent. The diagnosis: acute renal failure. I was dying slowly and I didn’t even know it.

I checked in to our local hospital the next day filled with fears. I’d heard lots of stories about kidney ailments, none of them pretty. Renal failure is a walking death sentence, they said. You become the prisoner of a machine that drains your blood and cleans it out. At best, it’ll buy you a few years more, and even then, you won’t be able to do the things you used to do. Frightened? Who wouldn’t be?

And there was another fear, chewing on me almost as fiercely: what would happen to Maggie? If I survived, I would be constantly in a world of doctors, nurses, and other health-care workers, disability benefits and Medicare. I’m still legally a male and I’d have to do business under that identity. How could I possibly keep my female-self alive under these circumstances?

It might occur to people that this was an awfully absurd thing to be worrying about with my life on the line. However, dear reader, I believe you understand what was running through my mind. After a lifetime of darting back and forth across the gender line, three years of discovering and developing a female identity that I could make permanent, eighteen months of intensive field testing, and a full year of the dream fulfilled, I couldn’t conceive of all my happiness being stuffed back in the closet.

I was prepared almost immediately for hemodialysis by the hospital staff, a large and very rude catheter being inserted in a primary vein. Later, I would have a bypass tube surgically implanted in my right arm, which would provide ready access to my bloodstream. I felt like a geek with this stuff sticking out of my body, but it was all for the best.

My first surprise came with my first dialysis. Yes, it took somewhere over three hours to complete, and I was confined to a semi-reclining position for that time, but it really wasn’t that bad. It turns out that less than a pint of blood is going through the machine at any one time. I was fully conscious and functional — I could even eat while the treatment was going on. No pain either. I could handle doing this.

The second surprise came when I asked about the survival rate for dialysis patients. There have been dramatic improvements in the technology over the last decade, and now it’s possible for a patient to live comfortably on dialysis for thirty years or more. So, if I took care of myself, I would not only survive, but there is a good chance of living out my normal life span. Alright!

The third and best surprise was that not only did my breathing improve almost immediately, But I lost nearly ten pounds in edema [fluids] removed by the machine. Not only would I survive, not only could I live a long life, but I was going to lose some major weight.

I was still a pretty sick puppy, and it would take me several weeks to stabilize, but now I knew I was going to make it. (I developed a local infection that was unnerving for a couple of

days, but it passed.) With questions of my-survival settled, I could answer some life questions. I set a date for returning to my job, a timetable necessary for my disability coverage, but equally valuable as a personal goal. The I went about dealing with the Maggie problem.

I have always believed in the principle of "hiding in plain sight." The best place to conceal something is a place sufficiently obvious that no one would seriously believe it was hidden there. Similarly, I believe that the secret of my success as a full-time female has come from the fact that I've never been afraid to let someone know who and what I am, if it's necessary for them to know at all. It's bolstered my confidence and eliminated the fear of being read.

I realized that my fear of losing my female-self was nothing more than worrying whether the people I'd be dealing with would accept me. Since I was determined to hold onto the gains I'd made in life, and had been granted a second chance to do so, I wasn't going to give myself up just to keep a couple of doctors from feeling uncomfortable. It was time to reassert myself, pull off the shroud that I'd gathered around me in my fear, and reappear in my magic costume... Supertran!

The first thing I did was to establish my full identity on all of the myriad documents one has to sign while hospitalized, just the way in which my bank account is titled with my male name and "a/k/a Maggie Morgan." If this is who I am, I reasoned, then I must proclaim myself and be consistent. I informed all my doctors about my transgendered status, plainly and without apology. I also left my favorite mail-order catalogs and publications (guess whose?) in conspicuous view by my bed.

I have repeatedly been amazed by the ease with which I've been accepted as a tran by all sorts of people, but never more than in my hospital stay. Not only did nobody carp or make a negative value judgement — and this is a Roman Catholic hospital, mind you — but the doctors were very respectful. The nurses began referring to me as Maggie and at least one aide came in on her break to check out the catalogs. A couple of the nurses even borrowed my copies of LadyLike and ITS.

On the day that I finally got out of the hospital, I decided to leave in triumph. I had my roommate bring my foundation, breast pads and makeup kit. I combed my hair out, put on a proper face for the first time in weeks, and arranged myself in clothes that had suddenly become much too big as a result of losing 25 pounds via dialysis. I wouldn't say that I left to cheers and huzzahs, but there were smiles all around me as I went out the door.

My illness has changed my life in a number of ways. I did go back to work on schedule, and except for a mechanical problem that sent me back to the hospital for a few days, I've been getting along very well. I do have to go to an outpatient center for dialysis treatments three times a week. I'm on a restricted diet that is occasionally a nuisance, but has caused me to hone my cooking skills and has helped me to take off

an additional fifteen pounds or so. Best of all, I'm still me and I'm very happy about that.

The moral of this story is a very simple one. Don't give up on yourself! I don't care what kind of situation you find yourself in, be it catastrophic illness or whatever. If you have a dream, be it living full-time, or anything else, hang onto it for all it's worth. In the dialysis center, I'm frequently surrounded by people who have been consumed by their illness. They sit in their chairs and suffer, playing out the string of their lives. It doesn't have to be so and I like to think that when I come in lively, lovely and laughing, I'm offering proof... living proof.

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Thomas Hansen

Passing or Pleasure

To pass or not to pass. That is the question. For some of us, nature has given us the answer.

Some of us are passable while for others it is completely out of the question and no expertise with makeup wand or fashion selection will overcome some men's natural masculine features. Genetic factors such as height, breadth or a striking resemblance to Ernest Borgnine can make passing an unattainable dream.

What of the rest of us in the vast middle ground where the proper application here or the correct choice there may give us some hope of passable femininity? Let's take a look at the concept of passing and see if it's the objective we should all be striving for — or perhaps merely an idea to be scrapped in favor of a more rewarding alternative.

Let's agree on one basic fact from the beginning: passing is a relative term. Let's also define passability as a measure along a continuum rather than a specific measurable point of feminine believability. For example, many crossdressers can "pass" providing the observer is far enough away to miss some telltale signals. Likewise, many of us can pass in close quarters if the lighting is subdued or if there are other distractions to the observer's attention in the near vicinity. Very few crossdressers can pass in daylight or close quarters in an easily observed area. Along the spectrum of passability, we all fall somewhere. The difficulty for each of us is in discovering at what point we pass and beyond which we do not.

The widespread advice for passing

in public is to dress down in an attempt to blend in with the surroundings and not stand out like a... well, a man in women's clothing, hence increasing one's chances of passing. But this is a difficult thong for us to do because even if we choose sedate fashions to wear in public, we need quite a bit of makeup to conceal some masculine features while enhancing others to create a feminine visage. And makeup in the quantities that we often need to apply is quite a bit more than most women wear even if they're going to a fancy dress affair. Of course, subtlety in makeup application is something that can be learned but for the most part we are still heavily made up compared to most women in almost any setting.

So, let's consider a best case scenario for passing at, say, the local shopping center, restaurant, or stroll along the street. We are wearing our most conservative wig and our makeup is understated in quantity and coloration. We are wearing a simple blouse and conservative length skirt, slacks, or perhaps a very simple dress, and accessorization is at a minimum, not at all showy, and we are wearing flat-soled or very low heeled shoes. Are we having fun yet?

And, even if we look like our own Aunt Jane in our dress-down duds, we must still wonder if we aren't being read for other reasons like height, gait, or simply un-passable masculine features such as a protruding Adam's Apple or large hands. I won't even bring up the subject of voice.

How many of you are saying, "But that's not me; I pass all the time."

Well, maybe you do, but it's prob-

ably a matter of staying within your space on the passing continuum and, more pointedly, simply not being observed very closely. The question I want to raise is whether passing under the constraints mentioned above is a rewarding experience.

It has to do with personal tastes and motivations for crossdressing. Some strive for the totally believable look that will enable us to pass in any situation. Others favor varying degrees of more noticeable fashions from party chic to drag queen extravagance. If you enjoy wearing party dresses and high heels, then the realities of passing would impose severe crimps in your personal style.

Yet each of us, no matter what our tastes or motivations might be, would like to be accepted as a woman in whatever guise we might create for ourselves. The concept of passing has therefore acquired the cachet of being the loftiest form of crossdressing. The problems with that widespread notion is that for many of us passing is out of the question be it for physical or aesthetic limitations. An Ernest Borgnine look-alike can't pass because of physical limitations; but a would-be Marilyn Monroe isn't going to enjoy dressing like Miss Hathaway because of the aesthetic crimp.

If you are determined to get out of the house, there are places to go that do not require you to pass perfectly. Crossdressers' support groups, some gay/drag nightclubs, some avant-garde or more cosmopolitan watering holes, and some boutiques and shops are to be found where you could be

continued page 40

Daniel Graham

Everything you need to know about... ow... ooh...

Piercing

Daniel looks at the most common forms of body piercing, an "art-form" that seems to be on the upswing.

In the last five years piercing has become a very common practice. With the influence of mass market music and the rediscovery of ethnic traditions, this one-time taboo has become socially acceptable. It is no longer unusual to see a man wearing a large drop earring, let alone earrings in both ears.

If you're thinking of having your ears pierced, there are several considerations to take into account. Be truthful with yourself and look at your ears critically, Would you look good with earrings? Some people have ears that would not look good pierced. Another consideration is where to have your ear pierced; lobe, rim, or tragus. The most common place is the lobe. This is the easiest to pierce, causes little discomfort in most people and heals the quickest. When the rim is pierced, cartilage is removed and the healing process takes longer. The upper part of the rim can take as long as six months to heal completely, even though there

may be no discomfort after several days. The third location for ear piercing is the tragus, that lump of flesh located in front and in the middle of the ear opening.

Ear piercing is generally done with a dermal punch, more commonly referred to as a "gun." A piercing stud is placed in a holder, the earlobe is cleaned with an antiseptic, the "gun" is held over the spot to be pierced and with a single stroke, the piercing is completed with the pull of the trigger. (The tragus should only be pierced with a needle. If pierced by gun, it may grow out.) Many jewelry stores and even new-wave clothing shops do ear piercing for very nominal fee.

The second most popular piercing is the nipple. This must be done professionally. A nipple piercing must be placed correctly or it may be crooked, or it may be too close to the surface and grow out. Healing time for a nipple piercing is about eight weeks. Any pressure on the nipple during this time may be uncomfortable, so loose clothing is advised.

The third most requested piercing is the navel, or rather just above the navel where the skin is fleshy. This piercing has been traced back to Egypt and was limited to the royal family, perhaps because they had more than enough food to eat and therefore had sufficient excess flesh. This piecing is done with a needle and take about eight weeks to heal. A

ring is the most advisable adornment for this piercing.

I want to reemphasize that, except for ear piercing, all body piercing should be performed by a professional. Never try to perform a piercing yourself with a sewing needle or any other sharp object. If a needle or other object breaks off, it will require surgery for removal.

Finding a professional is not difficult if you ask around. Check in with an adult leather shop or a tattoo parlor. There are several questions to ask. How long has the person been doing piercings? Will they wear disposable rubber gloves? Are the needles new and sterile? Do they know what to do in case of complications? Use your head and common sense. I once met a guy who claimed to be a professional. He carried his needles in a shoebox and never wore gloves. He is no longer in the piercing business.

Once the piercing is complete, it may puss for a while. This is normal. Twice a day the piercing should be cleaned and an antiseptic applied, like Super Septic. Healing is promoted if the piercing is left undisturbed as much as possible until it is healed.

Author's Note: I would like to thank piercing artist Wild Bill and Lovely Laura of Pleasurable Piercing for their help. They can be reached at 201-488-3881 or by writing to PO Box 2226, Clifton, NJ 07015. ♣

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Wendy K. Smith

THE Library Lady

Britain's contributions to the crossdressing literature are reviewed in this issue.

This is an international magazine, so this time around our special theme is transgendered books from Britain. (And by the way, I do read German and Spanish if there is anything you would like to see reviewed here from those countries.)

Let's begin with a true classic, *I Want What I Want* by Roy Brown. This is one of the first pieces of TV fiction that I ever saw and one of the few to be made into a movie, starring Anne Heywood as Roy/Wendy.

Frankly, I loathed that movie. Not only did they cast a woman in butch drag as the TS, but they also turned Roy from a blue-collar kid in inner-city Hull into an upper middle class twit in a real estate office in London. In the process, his father goes from an ex-sergeant to a colonel.

In the novel, Roy works in his father's Fish 'n' Chips shop while trying to pursue his one real ambition - to become a woman. His father not only doesn't understand, but brutally beats his son in a vain attempt to force him to become "normal."

Still, Roy truly "wants what he wants" and a legacy from his dead mother offers him the chance to flee his old life and become Miss Wendy Ross. Soon, Wendy has her own apartment, clothing, friends and even an attractive boyfriend. But her body is still male, so she cannot commit to a relationship with the man that she now loves.

Worse, this is England and in order to work, Wendy has to show a National Health card that only Roy has. Without a job, sooner or later Wendy's money and her life as a woman must run out.

This novel is a tragedy. There is no happy ending and the uneducated, not overly-bright heroine may not appeal to some. But this book is very sensitively written and moving. I loved it when I first read it and I haven't changed my mind since.

You might also find in your local library *Sunday Best* by Bernice Rubens. Now this one is downright funny, if you like English humor.

George Verry is a much put-upon teacher in an English state school. He's trapped in a seemingly loveless marriage to an overly-conventional woman, Joyce. He's in trouble with his boss, a racist snob posing as a liberal, who is more concerned with stopping scandals than teaching children. Oh, and his next door neighbor just committed suicide in circumstances that make it look like George is the real father of the dead man's son. Heavens, George has barely so much as said "hello" to the woman.

The only thing that makes all this

endurable is Sundays, when George can trot out his best dress and escape for a little while. One Sunday George escapes a little farther than usual and ends up as a lady's maid to a wealthy Gypsy widow who lives in a tent in her living room in Brighton.

Of course, with his usual timing, George has walked off on the very day one of his fellow teachers was murdered. Now, Joyce who truly loves him, is frantic, thinking George may also have been murdered. The police are also upset. They think he's the murderer.

Your college library may also yield most of a copy of *Drag... A History of Female Impersonation on the Stage* by Roger Baker. I say most, because in the last ten years, I have yet to find a copy that hasn't had the picture of Ricki Renee cut out.

Yes, this is a serious history of theatrical impersonation from Shakespeare's boy-actresses to the 1970s, including chapters on male impersonators and onnagata [Japanese female impersonators from Kabuki theatre]. It's fairly well written, informative, and well worth reading.

Along the same lines, but more oriented towards the movies, is Anthony Slide's *The Great Pretenders*. Not as informative, but it does have more pictures, including shots of the legendary Julian Eltinge in his prime, and the photos of other 19th century impersonators are worth the cost in themselves.

The book *Men In Petticoats* is really overpriced at \$15, but its a fun

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Jim Bridges

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Jim Bridges

THE Art of Makeup

Powder, blush and lip color finish up our make-over series with Jim.

Following last issue's application of foundation, our next step is to set the foundation with powder.

There are a couple of reasons to use translucent setting powder. It sets the foundation so it stays fresher longer, and it takes the shine off the foundation. You don't want a shiny face that makes it look like you've been sweating or that you have oily skin. A nice matte finish is what you want.

It is important that you have a good size powder brush. Just start with a little bit of powder in your hand and put your brush into it. Put your brush up to your face and push the brush into the face. You're putting powder into the pores. It's important that you start out with just a little bit, you can always go back and add more. If you start out with too heavy a hand, you will probably look like you stuck your head into a flour barrel. Dust the entire face generously but lightly, because you can go back and do this step two or three times until you achieve the look you

want. Then take your brush and very lightly, in a downward, motion, dust the face to remove any loose powder that is left. You don't want to do this in the eye area, however, because you will smear your eye shadow. Just bring it up under the eye and make sure that you have a lot in the top part of the cheek where you will put your blush. I put a lot of it on the neck area where you didn't use a lot of cover or foundation. Again the powder will help to tone down the redness or any irritation left from shaving. Just a little bit of the powder will camouflage small beard follicles.

It's also important to use powder after you have done your foundation but before you put on blush. One of the reasons is that if you try to put a powder blush over the top of your foundation it will look streaky or spotty; it will not blend properly. It's very important that you put the powder over the foundation, and then put on your blush. That way it will blend smoothly.

In making your blush selection, it's always important to have several shades from which to choose. When people write me or see me at one of the conventions, they tell me that they have a red blush or a pink one and one of the things that a lot of the people don't understand is that you need several shades of blush to compliment not only your skin tone but what it is that you're wearing.

A really well-stocked makeup supply should include a blush in the pink family, peach, coral, red and brown. When you have these colors you have a good variety from which to choose. For instance if you'll be wearing something in the blue or purple family, then a coral blush, lip

stick and nail polish would be appropriate because blue and orange are complementary colors. Your blushes, lips and nail color should always be chosen by what it is that you are wearing. It is just the opposite with eyeshadow because eyeshadows are chosen for what will best complement your eyes. Your blush is chosen to best compliment what you are wearing. Having simply one shade of blush would be like having one pair of shoes to go with every outfit that you have. It just wouldn't work and it wouldn't be appropriate, if you wanted to create a really sophisticated and glamorous look.

Once you've made your color selection, the next step is the proper placement of your color. Blush should always be placed high on the cheek, on what is called the "apple" of the cheek. Take your finger and feel for your cheekbone. Look in the mirror so you can see how high the bone is and that's where your blush should be concentrated, right on that spot. Use your brush to apply the blush in a pie-shape right on the bone. Blend upward at an angle to the hairline and back down to the ear. Once you've applied the blush with your brush, take your sponge that you used for blending the foundation (there's always a small amount of foundation left in the sponge) and go very lightly over the area where you just placed the blush. This will blend it smoothly and evenly so there's no streaks. Once you're satisfied with one side, duplicate it on the other. Make sure you have the same amount of color on both sides and the color is positioned evenly. Some-

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The Body Shop

Delia will address health issues for both transvestites and transsexuals. This issue she looks at the DSM-III-R.

As a prelude to discussing physical health, exercise, medication, and other items of interest to the crossdresser, it is appropriate to first emphasize mental health. This is consistent with the ancient Greek concept of a healthy mind in a healthy body.

Realizing that many of our sisters vigorously object to inclusion and placement of the transvestite phenomenon in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Third Edition, Revised* (DSM-III-R), I will, nonetheless, review some of these classifications, since it is through this system that you will be perceived by most mental health professionals. Having had almost 30 years experience and various responsibilities in the health-care field, I would be remiss if I didn't add some of my own thoughts, impressions and recommendations.

Transvestic Fetishism

Elements of transvestic fetishism can be found in most crossdressers. Unfortunately, this has been classi-

fied as a sexual disorder. Even more unfortunate is the appearance of this "disorder" on the same page as frotteurism (butt-rubbing) and the paraphilias (pedophilia, necrophilia, etc.). This would suggest that cross-dressing is deviant behavior, whereas most of us prefer to think of our activities as variant behavior.

The psychiatric literature generally emphasizes that such [cross-dressing] men are heterosexual, often strikingly female when "dressed" and are usually otherwise very masculine in dress and occupation when in their male role. Uniforms are a common prerequisite for the jobs or career of these people.

Of course, psychiatrists and other mental health professionals only see a small segment of the population of crossdressers. Those of us who do not complete the transformation, and who may use only a few articles of women's clothing, are more likely to associate this fetishistic object with heterosexual orgasm or masturbation. The resulting anxiety, or the hope of preserving a heterosexual relationship prompts the individual to seek help.

The men who crossdress and go beyond the orgasmic experience are often delighted to find satisfaction in the feeling of "girlishness" — for want of a better term — and these feelings are not just sexual in orientation. Unless there is some complicating factor causing anxiety or uneasiness, then individuals may not seek professional help. In some cases, a support group of like-minded individuals may meet their needs.

Transsexualism

The transsexual complains of a gender mismatch. This is generally the person that is troubled because of feeling like "a woman trapped in a man's body" or vice versa. Notice I emphasized feeling rather than being. These individuals know they are anatomic males, so that this is not a delusional condition. Transsexuals can be heterosexual, homosexual or asexual — the latter a somewhat arbitrary distinction. If asexual, the individual is generally so distressed by their male anatomy that they cannot bear an intimate sexual relationship. If homosexual, the pre-operative transsexual would complain that sexual orientation cannot be defined in only an anatomical sense.

I have had the most clinical experience with transsexuals since their endocrinologic and surgical problems are extensive. My experience has been that the female-to-male transsexual is far more successful, post surgery, than many reports in the literature would indicate. Although not well endowed following hormonal therapy, the physiological changes can be dramatic. The voice deepens, hair growth and pattern are altered, and the musculature thickens and hypertrophies. Having a small (or non-existent) penis does not seem to interfere with the formation of solid and long lasting intimate relationships. Often the female-to-male transsexual is more settled emotionally.

The male-to-female transsexual can have a good result from hormonal therapy, but the results vary markedly. Any breast development

depends on the genetic makeup on the maternal side. Often, breast augmentation (mammoplasty) is necessary to achieve a desired effect. The voice does not change, facial hair requires electrolysis for removal and male pattern baldness may remain unchanged, although it will not get any worse than it was.

Tragically, many patients decide they are transsexual because they simply cannot cope with their daily lives for a variety of reasons. For them, what should be a matter of successful therapeutic procedure becomes a matter of chemical and surgical mutilation. Depression and suicide are a consistently described outcome.

Some males choose not to go beyond hormonal therapy and are quite satisfied with the results. Others are so alarmed by the unanticipated physical, emotional and psychological changes that they discontinue therapy. These people are under-represented in the literature.

Of course, many post-op transsexual patients are ecstatic with the results, emotionally well-adjusted and sexually active. It goes without saying that part of the success of such a drastic change depends on the skill of the surgeon, endocrinologist and psychiatrist involved in the process. The best non-judgemental and supportive team will be composed of medical personnel who dedicate themselves to the patient.

Gender Identity Disorder of Adolescence or Adulthood, Non-Transsexual Type (GIDAANT)

This category applies to most of us and exists because most of us are neither transsexuals nor simply dismissed as transvestic fetishists. Many in our community object to this classification since it is considered a disorder. Further, there is the impression that we have been dumped into a "garbage can" category.

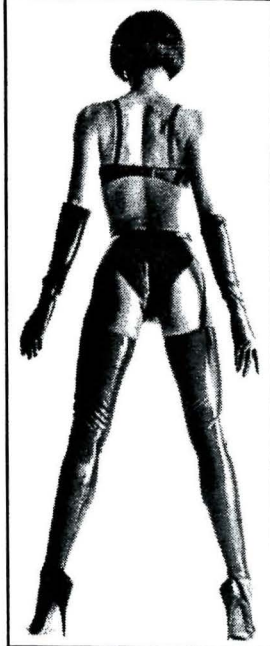
Under current classifications, this "disorder" differs from Transvestic Fetishism in that the crossdressing is not for the purpose of sexual excitement. It differs from transsexualism in that there is no persistent preoccupation (at least two years) with the alteration of primary and secondary sex characteristics.

The counter-argument that an individual capable of expressing both genders is delightfully variant rather than deviant is a cogent one, indeed.

Recommendations

The DSM systematized categories are probably here to stay and, in fact, have tripled in number since I entered medical school. Nowadays, anyone not included somewhere in this schema is boring. We can live with it. More importantly, we need to learn to live with ourselves. For the transsexual, their chosen path must not only include dedicated medical professionals, but legal and social support and assistance. For the rest of us, our approach should be twofold. The first step is to maintain a healthy,

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Michael Daniels Is Fancy Free

Paddy Aldridge of Wildside tracked down the low-down on one of Toronto's most trans-interesting people.

Who remembers the words to that song *Fancy* by Bobby Gentry? Let me refresh your memory: the chorus went: "Here's your one chance, Fancy, don't let me down." The ballad told of poor child who grew up in a "one-room run-down shack on the outskirts of New Orleans." The summer she turned eighteen her mother dressed her up in an outfit she spent her last bit of savings on in the hopes that Fancy would meet a man who would give her an opportunity to get on in life. The transformation took place, "Mama washed and combed and curled my hair then she painted my eyes and lips; I stepped into a satin dancing dress that was split on the side clean up to my hips." Fancy became a new person as "Staring back from the looking glass was a woman where a half-grown kid had stood." As the story goes, Fancy met not only one man but many men and sang "I got me a Georgia mansion and an elegant New York townhouse flat, and I ain't done bad."

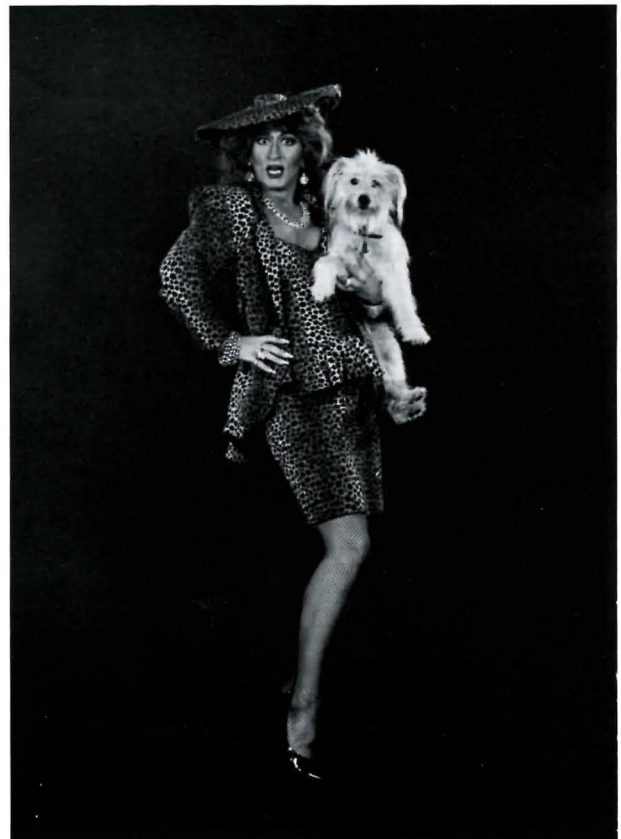
Fancy became an anthem for local Toronto designer and female impersonator Michael Daniels. The idea that Fancy came from nothing and made something of herself appealed to Michael and from the moment he left his small-town home of Sault Saint Marie in Northern Ontario at the age of sixteen he put all his energies into making a name for himself on the drag circuit.

Michael is a cat with nine lives. He has used up seven of them in frightening brushes with death. A feeling that he is being taken over by spirits accompanies these near

death experiences. Once caught in a fire and badly burned, he walked home in a daze and took a bath. He felt no pain whatever as the flesh fell from his bones. Months later as he recuperated in the hospital he still could not remember what had happened.

Another life was expended when he was shot while crossdressed in Mexico and flew back to Canada with the bullet deeply embedded in his shoulder. The excitement of performing as a drag artist on a Mexican cruise ship is reflected in his letters...

"I have been doing a show a week on a fifty foot trimaran that is pink like Pepto-Bismol. At one point in the show I had an introduction by Vangelis — you know, the song with the whale sounds. Well, we spotted two whales



not sixty feet from the boat. Fancy dove into the water and swam to within ten feet of these enormous creatures. It was really beautiful. My legend here grows..."

The first time Michael ever crossdressed was in performance. Of all the definitions describing crossdressers he best suits the term "drag queen." The vision of a gorgeous woman wearing a lovely dress, singing a popular song for a large audience impressed this young boy and he imagined himself another Judy Garland in a school pageant at grade eight. The crowd went wild and he did not dress again until he came to Toronto at sixteen.

Toronto was young and naive like Michael in the early seventies. Many rules that exist now didn't exist then; male and female strippers worked in almost every bar on Yonge Street as did the streetwalkers outside them. Drag was popular; transsexual strippers, drawn to Toronto, saved for their surgery; Dr. Lindsay at the Wellesley hospital did SRS for those approved by The Clarke Institute.

Adrift on a sea of friendly acquaintances bearing gifts of drugs and money, he soon found himself the center of attention in a crowd of adventurous teenagers. His best friend Ralph was a male stripper at the local *Myna Bird* in Yorkville, Toronto's Greenwich Village area. Feeling shy but not too shy, and in need of money, he found employment as a Go-Go Boy in an after hours club called *Dauids* that didn't even open till midnight. It was located in a back alley behind St. Joseph Street that to this day remains famous for drag/strip bars, gay discos and drug deals.

High upon his two foot square dance platform eight feet above the steamy masses dancing tirelessly, Michael had a bird's eye view of the action night after night. The club wasn't licensed for alcohol but nobody noticed. Here smoking grass and popping pills was a common pastime for the nonconformists that conformed to each other surprisingly well. The air was hot and sticky and Michael had been dancing steadily for almost two hours. He was waiting for his two o'clock break; his favorite time of night, showtime. A waitress would bring him a glass of chocolate milk and a joint and he would sit upon his platform smoking and watching carefully the long, lean, lico-rice queens entertain in the *Fantasy Follies Revue*.

The story of drag unfolded; Michael watched closely as he worked Toronto's hottest club while the queens imitated Diana Ross and the Supremes, the Pointer Sisters, Donna Summers, Della Reese, Cher, Judy Garland, Liza Minelli, Gladys Knight, The Three Degrees, etc.

"My dreams will come true when I can dress in a beautiful gown of my own creation and perform my favorite songs. I like to be wanted. Lust for me for I am the most beautiful of them all," Michael would fantasize as he watched. "Let me show you how it's done."

He left work at dawn and picked up coffee on his way home to devote several hours to his part time job of



dressing the queens at the club. It took forever to hand sew each bugle bead and sequin to the floor length gown he was making from see-through silk. Sometimes he would model the garments in front of the mirror, swishing around to his favorite songs, wishing he were the star.

It was the end of an era for female impersonators from the old school. If Michael was to be allowed to perform, he would have to abide by a strict regiment of drag queens who were very particular about their peers. He would require several wigs, two pairs of long black gloves, several feather boas, plenty of rhinestone jewelry, one short gown and two long plus a repertoire.

The difficult part for him was the repertoire. He used the name Judy and planned a show for the following Saturday. Egged on by the annoyed queens who were just waiting to see what he could do, he chose an obscure number he can't remember to this day. The important fact was that at the last moment his tape broke and the DJ substituted 'Fancy'. The rest is history and no one has called him Judy since.

The most well known group of female impersonators locally is 'The Great Imposters' and Michael was their wardrobe designer. He had the ability to learn anything and mastered stage management techniques. Soon the sound/lighting technician for the show as well as wardrobe designer, he earned a fair wage and used his creative

abilities to their full potential - they took the show on the road; Michael was eighteen.

Michael would only crossdress to perform. He never transied around the clubs like many did, preferring to wear elaborate gowns, wigs and make-up reserved for the stage. He continued his haute-couture designs and produced a line of exciting drag wear for many of Toronto's top female impersonators like The Great Imposters (Rusty Ryan, Jackie Loren, Danny Love, Michelle DuBarry and Randy Cole), Craig Russell, Tico and Miss Toni, eventually opening a store called Fancy's Closet.

"I get a lot of satisfaction from helping new talent to discover their stage personalities. We all have a little drag queen inside us screaming to get out. Serious female impersonating is difficult to do, so is lip-synching. It's not enough to just mouth the words, you have to move your throat as well so it looks like sound is coming out."

"Scag drag is a comedic type of drag that is less serious. If you have a moustache, you can hide it with a band-aid, or let your tattoo show above long satin gloves. It's drag with a sense of humor. I love that too."

"I've had good reviews and bad reviews. It's not important to me how people feel because the mood they're in when they make their comments can change — they might feel another way at another time. I try to keep myself happy and healthy."



"The first thing I do each morning is meditate. Then I walk my pet dog Mona, a bearded collie who is my best friend. I paint her toenails red and put on her rhinestone collar; she does drag shows with me. She accompanies the models down the runway during certain fashion shows. She's very photogenic."

"Ideas just happen for me. I gain inspiration from my immediate environment, when I least expect it. I could be washing the kitchen floor and, Pop!, I have a vision of a set of ball gowns with trains a mile long, crowns and tiaras for the Coronation; even the jewelry design is clear in my mind. I will need to stop and sketch out my ideas, then I can't rest until my ideas come to life."

"I am a one-person monogamous lover, a Taurus. Some people call me stubborn but I call it determination. There's two ways to look at everything. I'm also very punctual and reliable. That's how I manage to do as much as I am doing now."

Michael is a traveler who carries a suitcase of drag-wear, ready to do a show at a moment's notice. He granted me this interview between a tour of Europe and two months performing in Mexico. Summers are spent in Toronto designing, Winters globe-trotting. Maybe you will see a drag show poster in your town advertising Miss Fancy Free; don't miss your chance to see this female-impersonator extraordinnaire.

Michael Daniels



My Girdle Is Killing Me!

Michael



When Michael Daniels was seven years old he made clothes for his cousin's Barbie Doll. "Barbie is one of the ten best-dressed women in the world," Michael reveals as he puts the finishing touches on the tiaras and crowns he has created for the Trillium Monarchist Society Ball to crown the Empress for 1991.

Michael's first Mother/Daughter Tea was held in August 1987 at the newly opened Admiral Hotel on Toronto's fashionable Harbourfront. How appropriate

that a brand new hotel host a brand new function for a city with a population as diverse as Los Angeles or New York. Toronto is also a much sought-after film location and it has the largest gay population outside of San Francisco. The result of this is that a few who attend the Tea imitate famous stars. You look across the room and see Marilyn Monroe and Willie Nelson, Cher and Barbara Streisand. Is it really them? Who cares? Your imagination soars. The significance of the name Mother -

Daughter is entwined with Michael's discovery of his femme side: Fancy Free. Since he came out and developed his talents as a female impersonator, he has helped to create many of Toronto's top drag acts through his ability to successfully put together their whole look. Michael is the Mother and all those he has helped along the way to be female impersonators are his Daughters and even his own mother attends the Tea.

Glamour outfits are Michael's

Daniels



focus now. When he dons the hat and heels of Miss Fancy Free he wears only his own creations. Each Mother/Daughter show will feature one of Michael's own drag performances which are rare since he spends most of his time now designing for a variety of entertainers like Leona Boyd, Tina Turner, Tanya Tucker, The Nylons and top female impersonators.

The luxury condominium suites of 70 Carleton Street in Toronto provide an elaborate entertainment area for residents' social

functions. Here, with the help of resident roommate Rusty Ryan (of the Great Imposters) Michael designed the 1988 Mother/Daughter Tea. It was another successful event that dazzled, with transsexual, transvestite, female impersonator and drag queen stars. The ingredients were there: a fashion show with fabulous people, a great buffet and cash bar, and the magic of yesteryears' Sunday afternoon Teas with your friends.

Certain annual events happen

at just the right time. People who attend the Mother/Daughter Tea each year see old friends that they haven't seen since the last Tea. This characteristic has helped make it an eagerly anticipated event. That, and wondering "Where will it be this year?" The main ball room in the elegant Westbury Hotel in downtown Toronto is huge with gigantic crystal chandeliers. The fashion show runway installed for the

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fourth Mother/Daughter Tea (1990) was flanked by two professional lighting technicians with follow spots from Canada Staging. It was the best fashion show yet. One might think they were in 'Vegas' as drag queen after drag queen and female impersonator ventured forth displaying their famous outfits by Toronto designers Mauro and Daniels. It was the first time Michael had invited outside designers to show with him.

Jackie Loren, first runner up in the International Queen Competition modelled the Egyptian Gown created for him by designer Tony Mauro. The results were fantastic and a trendy crowd sampled trays of exotic finger-sandwiches and petit-fours as crisply dressed maids in white uniforms brought out more champagne.

It's 1991 and Michael's Annual Mother/Daughter Tea showcases his designs amidst an eclectic,

artsy-fartsy panorama of clothing displays and objects d'art! (His one-of-a-kind Faberge Eggs sell for over \$200!) In between there are drag performances by the top local Toronto female impersonators. This year Pepsi, Chris Peterson, Morgan Holiday and Jackie Loren helped out. Hosting a successful fashion event five years in a row is no easy task and at 36, Michael has had lots of lucky breaks. "But the really big one's coming," he believes.

Text by Paddy Aldridge of Wildside. Photos courtesy of Paddy and Michael.

Jacqueline Urania

Universal Spirit Lesson #2

Universal Love. Universal Spirit. What is this energy? In ancient times, the terms christos was given to mean universal love. Jesus, as a Master of the Spirit, and Brother of a special spiritual strain, was given the gift of the christos or Christ power. He was given the gift of universal love. His job, as others throughout time, was to share this christos with humanity of that age to bring them forward mentally and spiritually to the level needed by God, the All, the Father/Mother, for the development of the race.

Our potential to love is often underestimated by ourselves and our associates. Throughout this series of lessons, our purpose is to explore the meaning of love and the application of that sensation, both as a couple and as an individual. To love oneself is foremost. To understand your universal spirit as a blend of the male and female and to love that blend is also important.

Take ten minutes right now. Write down the characteristics that you attribute to men and to women in society. After that, write down your own characteristics that could be classified as male or female. Be honest with yourself, knowing that you don't have to share this with anyone else, so you can write down anything you really believe. Throughout these lessons you will be asked to reveal to yourself characteristics that you have submerged or not thought about for years. Understand that by bringing to the surface all of your potential characteristics, you will be able to blend your universal spirit into a marvelous whole being.

Take a few minutes for yourself and define the following terms:

The universal spirit seeks harmony and can allow us to experience the beauty and vitality of being both male and female. Explore!

Ecstasy • Enlightenment • God • Spiritualism • Religion • Crossdresser • Transvestite • Transsexual • Universal Spirit • Tantra.

We will explore these terms. To assist you in your understanding of Universal Love, we shall be exploring an area known in philosophy and religion as Tantric Meditations. The study of the Tantra philosophy involves understanding our sexuality as a form of enlightenment and ecstasy. Tantra began in India around 5000 B.C. through the Hindu worship of the male god, Shiva, and the female goddess, Shakti. Shiva represents the embodiment of pure consciousness in its most ecstatic state and Shakti is the embodiment of pure energy. The Hindu religion believe that through the uniting of Shiva with Shakti, Shakti gave form or birth to the universe. Through the act of love, the universe was created in a dance of union, beauty, harmony, and happiness. The root of the divine in the Tantra is the dance of love and the act of love on all of its manifested levels.

The word Tantra has been defined to mean "weaving" — the unifying of the many and often contradictory as-



pects of the self in one harmonious whole. The word has also been defined as meaning "expansion" of the sense of joy and harmony that we can feel when we become one with all parts of ourselves.

The final exercise for this lesson shall be one of self-discovery. Get out your photo albums with pictures of you as child through adult. Pick twenty pictures of yourself spanning the time from your birth to the present. Place them in a special photo album. With each picture you choose, write a brief description of that time in your life. Think about your mental happiness or awareness at that time. Did you understand about your male and female energy at that age? Can you see now that energy coming through the pictures? Was that a time of growth for you? Did you like that time period? You do not always have to choose happy times for your new album. The purpose of this album is to help you reflect on your personal development and to help you blossom during these lessons in terms of your own personal awareness of self.

With Blessings of Love. 🌸

The Last Time I Saw Paris

Lady Paula reminisces about Paris and one of its most unusual features on the street.

They don't make them like that anymore! By now you will doubtless think that I am about to involve you, while I have you cornered, in a boring account of the joys of owning some of those vintage automobiles for which our French friends were once famous — the Bugatti, the DeDion Bouton, the Panhard-Levasseur and the awesome monsters the Mors and the Gobron-Brillé. But no, nothing of the sort. Greater by far, to me, and far clearer in my memories of student days in France (in and out of high drag) are those benisons to mankind, Les Pissoirs de Paris. The Pissoirs of that same once great city that in 1914 sent out its gallant infantrymen in hired taxicabs bravely to hold off the invading Germans on the River Marne. That same city in whose lovely Bois de Boulogne, my Great Aunt Dominique and her elegant transvestite brother Jean-Pierre, cheered to the echo the Prince Scipio Borghese, in his massive Itala touring

car at the end of his winning drive of 13,000 miles from Peking, which clods now call Bei-Jing.

I will not explain what a Pissoir is; you would have to be pretty dim, even if you never had French, not to have guessed already. But, I will tell you of its constructional details and of its unique place in society.

A Parisian Pissoir is, or was, a simple, but highly specialized, piece of engineering. Indeed, to me, only the Pissoir and the French "75" Field Gun seem to have displayed design skill in excess of that which in England we would have expected from the local blacksmith. But now, both these French masterpieces are no more. The gun was overtaken by advancing demands in human destruction (it could not kill enough people quickly enough) and the Pissoirs died too on account of advancing Gallic Morality.

If you should wish, as well you may, to inspect one of these Pissoirs, banned and swept away by order of General DeGaulle shortly after the Peace of 1945 broke out, you will be forced to pay a visit to the Musée de l'Art Sanitaire in the 5th Arrondissement, or some lonely French scrapyard. Happily, however, memory, history and folklore of le Pissoir linger on.

In the long dead past, before the "Lady Paula Howard" role burst upon my life, in those halcyon and salad days when I was a frequently absent student at La Sorbonne, the Place Pigalle and its bars and boites knew me well. There seemed, in those

days, to be a pissoir on every corner. Indeed, I once wrote to the authorities enclosing a petition of 1200 liquor-affected fellow students that Place Pigalle should be renamed Place Pissoir.

It is perhaps necessary to explain that, like the ground floor of an Orthodox Synagogue and the Long Room at Lord's Cricket Ground, le Pissoir was strictly FOR GENTLEMEN ONLY. It was invented about the same time as the guillotine and it worked just as well. Much better, in fact, than that other famous French invention, the Maginot Line, which, when Hitler's Panzer forces arrived at it in 1940, was found to work only "en principe" which, among Frenchmen, is equivalent to "not at all."

The site of any Pissoir was merely a designated circle of sidewalk not already allocated to a gaily, umbrella clad table occupied by a po-faced, middle-class French family who seemed never to eat or drink in their own home. Le Pissoir, itself, was no more than a drain surrounded, save for a narrow entrance, by a neck-to-knees-high sheet of iron. When in use, the patrons' feet and shins were visible below that. More surprisingly, indeed, adventurously, above its upper edge, the users' head and shoulders smiled or scowled, according to their mood, at those outside.

This bizarre exposure of the pissoir-patrons meant that a typical boulevardier, strolling abroad with his wife, daughter or mistress (or more likely, all three) could, if seized by some sudden urinary urge, peel

off from his lady companions and nip smartly into the next Pissoir. Then, while they awaited his pleasure, and wholly unembarrassed, Monsieur could continue his animated conversation or flirtation with them over its top edge. Socializing while peeing, as one might say. This may surprise you as it did me initially. But where sanitary facilities are concerned, the French are a notably uninhibited people.

Now, one fine Paris afternoon, I was, as usual, wasting student time loafing in the Rue Scribe in Monmartre while dreamily dodging the usual array of overflowing garbage pails. I was, you might have said, doing no more than wandering in search of my lost youth, a habit to which I am still addicted. And this particular après-midi was no exception to a faun such as I then was.

I was, at the time, staying with an artist friend who had, as yet, painted no pictures nor written a single poem. Armand had, however, one wet Saturday afternoon in London's Fitzroy Tavern, drunk too much beer with Augustus John, that great artist's niece Caitlin Macnamara and the latter's husband, Dylan Thomas. Sobering up a week or so later, he had returned to Paris with the intent to become, himself, an artist or a poet, or, since he was intrigued with transvestism, perhaps a suitable artist's or poet's "wife" or live-in housekeeper. To date, he had not gotten down to doing any of these things, but it was his intention to do so soon as he was no longer able to dine out on the strength of his story of his great encounter with the Talented and Famous in London. That time had just about arrived and we were currently having serious discussions on who should be whose "wife: or :housekeeper" and who should see to the painting or masterpieces or the writing of epic poems.

To we poverty stricken Sorbonne students, who had as yet to paint a single canvas or churn out a single poem, life was difficult. Food and

drink did not come easily and when they did they were a touch grotty. Our more well-provided friends were apt to allege that the cockroaches which, at dusk, invaded our studio, brought their rations with them. But this particular afternoon, I was in high spirits and in high drag as last night's argument had led to the decision that from now on Armand would do the Painting of Masterpieces and I, never having lifted a paintbrush in mu post-school life, was better suited to the role of Artist's Wife, Cook, Bottle-washer and Bed-Maker.

High-heeling along the Left Bank happily, I espied in front of me a strange looking couple. A sinister looking male citizen in an awful check suit, yellow shoes and walking stick, which I suspected concealed a sword. His femme companion was rivetingly dressed in splendidly bad taste.

Fishnet tights, heels even higher than my own, numerous floating scarves, a skin-tight satin dress, a scarlet beret and great dangling hoop earrings that would not have been out of place in a parrot's cage. An oil slick of cheap perfume followed in her wake and, if the reek was not too much for you, she was spectacular enough to warrant closer inspection. I stopped worrying about the possibility of being "read" and fell in behind them to see what, if anything, might develop.

I soon noticed that we, all three, were approaching a splendid specimen of Le Pissoir and if, as I expected, Monsieur went in for a brief micturition, I could inspect Madame and her flashy outfit and makeup at close quarters. But, when they arrived at the Pissoir, to my horror, Monsieur slid inside and Madame followed him. Standing inside together, they continued their chat wholly ignoring the three gents who were already in there.

Bewildered by the sight of this gent and his sexy doxy communing openly in a Parisian Pissoir, I went

on a trifle shaken and treated myself to a café-cognac at the next pavement café. Soon the pair passed by and I was happy to note that Madame had a magnificent figure, was exceedingly pretty and wore a beautiful makeup. However, I was convinced that the 1939/45 War, so recently concluded, had swept away all the old and worthwhile values. The wretched Germans, it seemed, were now to be our Gallant Allies in order to save us from our former Gallant Allies, the Russians. And excitingly dressed and highly painted ladies were freely to be admitted to, and allowed to socialize in the hallowed precincts of the Pissoir! What next, indeed.

It was not until that evening, over our frugal supper of fish and chips, a few elderly eggs and a beaker of vinegary vin rouge, when I told Armand of what I had seen that afternoon that all became clear to me and my femme education was suitably advanced.

"Ma belle amie, Paula," said Armand, "There is more to know than nice clothes and good makeup if you are to be a transvestite lady in France. I should have warned you before you ventured abroad this afternoon. Nobody, not the authorities, nor the citizens, nor the gendarmes, mind about your being a transvestite, or travesti as we call them. But, except in hotels and cafés and theatres where one toilet serves for ladies and gentlemen both, you must never go into what you call in England, the Ladies Loo. It is most illegal and greatly objected. You must go into the Pissoir accompanied by your male escort. That doll you saw this afternoon was a crossdresser!"

"But, Armand," I said, "what if I am out alone as I am most likely to be —what then?"

Armand had a ready, but not very comforting answer. "An attractive travesti who goes into a gentlemen's toilet unaccompanied, I assure you ma chérie, does so at her peril. I can only wish you the best of what you call British luck." ❧

Somewhere In A Mall

Scene: The USS Social Conscience is on patrol on what looks like an ordinary day when the ship's RADAR picks up a blip on its screen.

"Bridge, RADAR... got a spook."

"RADAR contact, Captain," says the First Officer.

"Get on the plot, Missy!" the Captain shouts back.

"Captain, spook is fifty yards from position Sierra, Echo, Alpha, Romeo, Sierra," replies the RADAR operator.

"Oh, she's in front of the Sears Store," the Captain says with a sigh. "Head for the target. Full speed ahead."

"Yes, Ma'am. Engineering estimates we can get 1.5 miles per hour in low heels. Target is moving at a slower pace. Probably has three inch heels."

"Quartermaster, this is the Captain. What do you make of the Target?"

"Well, Ma'am, it could be a female member of the World Wrestling Association, the East German Volleyball Team, or... well, Captain, it could be a transvestite."

The Captain looks back angrily. "That's 'crossdresser' sailor. This ship practices politically correct speech."

"Visual contact, Captain!" the First Officer shouts.

"Get me Jane's" the Captain barks.

"Jane's what?"

"You know, *Jane's Book of Crossdresser Silhouettes*," the Captain replies.

"Aye, Ma'am."

"Oh, is my mascara smeared?" the Captain asks.

"No (that's sailor-talk for 'yes'). Here's the book."

"Yes, just as I thought. 'Target has considerable bulk, wobbles on her heels, and makeup is uneven.' I'd say we're tracking a Tri-Ess type crossdresser. Go to battle stations."

"Battle stations!" shouts the F.O.

"Adolescent Girls-armed and ready," says a voice from the ship's loudspeaker. "Gawking Black Women-armed and ready. Lesbians and Gay Men-armed and ready."

"All battle stations armed and ready, Ma'am,"

"Good," the Captain says, "We'll attack with a pattern of Gawking Black Women first and see if we can force her into the ladies' room where we'll finish her off with a group of Adolescent Girls."

"Target changing course, Ma'am. She's taking refuge behind those mall actors doing pantomime."

"You mean..."

"Yes, we've chased her into a Mime field."

"You had to say that, didn't you, Number One?"

"Sorry, Ma'am. Are we going in after her?"

"Full Stop," the Captain orders. "We'll wait her out."

"Bridge, RADAR... I've got two male escorts dressed like Chicago gangsters coming along side the target."

"No!" the Captain says. "She wouldn't dare attack with torpedoes... I want all officers in the Ward Room now."

"Ladies, we are at a disadvantage here. We can't attack while she is in the mime field, so I suggest we wait until five o'clock. She will have to surface then or risk having her beard show through her makeup."

"Captain, she's going deeper," the Quartermaster says.

"You mean..."

"Yes, the bargain basement," the F.O. replies.

"Well, now she's made her first mistake," the Captain says. "If she tries shopping down there during Remnant Days, those real women will tear her apart."

"Captain, SONAR shows her heading for the Juniors Lingerie Department. She's trying on foundation garments."

"Can she stand that much pressure on her bulkheads?" the Captain asks. "We must bring her to the surface."

"I know what to do Ma'am," says the F.O. "I only hope she has her listening devices on."

A minute later a voice is heard over the ship's loudspeaker, "Attention shoppers, for the next half hour there will be a fifty-percent-off sale in ladies better quality shoes on the first floor. Sixty percent off on sizes 10 and up."

"Good thinking, Number One."

"It's working, Captain. She's coming up the escalator."

"Come left to course one eight zero," the Captain orders. "We'll attack with one pattern of Adolescent Girls, then block the mall exit with some Gawking Black Women."

"Ready to attack, Ma'am!" the F.O. shouts.

"Launch AGs"

"AGs launched," replies the F.O.

A minute later news is heard from the lookout, "Mascara slick off the port bow."

"We've hit her, Number One," the elated Captain shouts. "Keep tracking her."

"Target coming to course one three five," the F.O. reports. "She's heading for the mall exit."

"Plot an intercept course," the Captain says.

"Recommend course one five seven, Ma'am. Intercept in eighty-five seconds," the F.O. says.

"Good, make it so," the Captain orders.

The mall is suddenly quiet again. No evidence of any gender anomalies, when a lookout shouts, "Debris off the starboard bow!" Closer inspection reveals it is the heel from a ladies high heel shoe.

"Confirmed sinking, Captain," the F.O. says. "Her crushed ego will never let her come in this mall again."

"Pity," says the Captain. "She did look cute in her Halston suit... but this is war!"

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Useful Secrets

If, like myself, you cannot live as a woman full-time, you very soon become aware of the extremely high cost of maintaining two complete wardrobes.

In addition to feminine clothing, we have to learn 1001 little tricks connected with what I refer to as: female maintenance. It's not easy being a woman, but genetic women learn the "mysteries of femininity" from their mothers as young girls. Where do we, as "crossovers" learn these necessary skills? Anywhere we can; from wives, girlfriends, fashion magazines, or by very careful observation. Often, it takes years to acquire these "secrets," and genetic women have always had a chronological headstart.

In this, and future articles, I will share some "useful secrets" that may help you along your own individual road to femininity (or at least the illusion).

Rule #1: Never Buy Anything Unless It's On Sale!

Women's clothing is usually marked up higher than men's clothing, but women's clothing and accessories are always on sale—somewhere. If you have a female confidant, she will help you learn women's sizes. Nothing can be more disappointing than buying something luscious, then taking it home to try it on and find you've bought the wrong size.

Rule #2: Stick To Brand Names.

The quality is much better with well-known brands and, generally, the better the quality, the better the fit.

Rule #3: Avoid Fashion Fads & Frills.

Good taste and a classic look never go out of style. Ask any well-dressed woman. Don't confuse fashion with style.

Secret #1: How To Save On Hosiery

1—Choose your brand, style and color. I prefer J.C.Penney's hosiery. It's reasonably priced, available almost anywhere in the U.S.A., and is as good or better than most higher priced brands. You can choose from pantyhose, stockings or thigh-highs, all in a myriad of colors, textures, degree of sheerness, and sizes. For you

Nikki gives us a few tips about maintaining two wardrobes while keeping to a budget. Save a few bucks with these tips.

girls over six-feet tall, "queen-size" or "ample" will do the job. There is a size chart on the back of most packages

2—But two pair at one time. This way if you get a run, you have a backup. When you get a run in one leg of your pantyhose, cut off the leg with the run and store the pantyhose away in a plastic bag for future use. When you get a run in another pair of pantyhose, cut off the offending "limb" and go get the first pair you saved. Voila! You now have a new pair of pantyhose with two legs, no runs, and two panties. (Turn one pair around, if necessary.) The double panty will give you extra support and "hold you in" or under or whatever you do with your cajones. I prefer the support panty style as it holds my hip-pads in place and I don't have to wear a separate pair of panties underneath. Try hose with Lycra just once and you'll never go back to 100% nylon again. They are so sensual and silky and make less-than-perfect legs look trim and sleek. Make sure, for best appearance, your legs are shaved and moisturized with lotion. Rinse the hose after every wearing. Go for it crazy-legs!

Nikki

PS: I have always believed that if you take any normal, red-blooded, macho man, let a woman capture him, tie him and bind him so he can't move, then depilate his legs with Nair or Neet, paint his toes with red nail polish, and put silky nylons on him—he'll never, ever recover to normalcy!

Nexttime

Nikki. ❧

Art of Makeup...

times people have a lopsided look because the color is heavier on one side. So, step back from the mirror and check to see that the color is even.

Now we're going to line the mouth. Select a color based on what you've chosen for your blush and your nails. Find a lip-liner pencil that's one to three shades darker than the lipstick you're going to use. It's always better to use a darker liner, especially if you're going out in the evening; it makes the lips look fuller. For daytime, select a pencil that's almost the same color as the lipstick or one shade darker; you don't want too dramatic a look.

Start by standing directly in front of a mirror, hold your head back and make a "V" in the center of the lips, just above the natural lip line if you feel your lips are too thin. (About 90% of the people I see have lips that are too thin.) Start in the middle and you'll be able to make the outside lines even. I've seen people start on one side or the other and they come up and down and up and down and then one side of the lip is larger than the other. Once the top lip is lined, go just under the lower lip right in the center, and make a little half-circle. Then go back to your natural lip line and follow that to the outside edges of the mouth. Don't make the half-circle from corner to corner. That will just give you the look of a large, big mouth. The effect you want is a full lower lip that looks pouty.

If you feel the lines are not smooth, or they're too large on one side, here's how to correct this. Take a Q-Tip, put a little foundation on it and wipe off the excess on the back of your hand. Then use the Q-Tip under the lip and smooth out the line. You can do this until you get just the finest line for definition.

Once you have your liner as you like it, get your lipstick and apply it with a lip brush. A lip brush gives you more control and you can apply color to a smaller area. Also, the muscles in the lips are the weakest and constantly dragging lipstick over the lips will further weaken the muscles until the mouth has no shape.

After you've applied your lipstick, a nice final touch is lip gloss. Go over the top and bottom lips with the gloss. For a really pouty look, accent the lower lip only with the gloss. Gloss makes the mouth look moist and healthy.

We can go back now and finish with mascara and under eye pencil liner. I wait to do the eye pencil until after you finish dressing, because in getting dressed you might smudge that liner. Take your eye pencil, start at the outside corner of the eye, and bring the line three-quarters of the way in. Make the line thicker at the outside and thinner as you come toward the inside. Then, take a Q-Tip and smudge the line to soften it. It is important though to make it thicker at the outside and thinner at the inside. This creates a pleasing "almond" shape.

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International NewsScript

**Edited by Kym Richards from
the news section of Cross-Talk**

~ ~ ~

The Renaissance national board has unanimously approved the first increase in national dues since the organization was founded nearly five years.

Effective with 1992 renewals and new memberships, dues will increase to \$16 per year. Chief reason for the \$4 hike is increased expenses associated with the printing and distribution of *Renaissance News*. Next year's projected cost of \$6,000 for the publication takes into account a 50 percent rise in printing costs and an over 30 percent rise in postage costs.

Local chapters have the option of absorbing all or part of the increase or passing it on to their members in the form of higher local dues. The board also approved a strong recommendation that dues not be increased for the next two or three years.

Renaissance has also announced the affiliation of the American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS), the not-for-profit organization founded by Dallas Denny, M.A. which disseminates information to persons interested in issues of gender. AEGIS publishes the magazine *Chrysalis Quarterly*.

~ ~ ~

The executive committee of the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) held its most recent meeting October 22 and 26 to review its operating budget for 1992 and review various outreach programs conducted by the foundation.

IFGE has projected income of \$230,000 for the coming year, with operating expenses of \$341,100. Included in the budget were salaries for several IFGE staff members and \$43,600 for the annual "Coming Together/Working Together" convention.

The executive committee also announced that the 1992 IFGE convention is on schedule, with registrations

slightly ahead of the figure at that time the previous year.

~ ~ ~

Noted gender community physician Paul A. Walker, Ph.D., died November 16 at the age of 45.

Walker served on the faculties of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore and the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston before moving to San Francisco in 1980 to begin a private practice. He was internationally known and respected as a sex researcher and sex therapist, and was founding president of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association. He was also one of the primary authors of the association's standards of care for transsexuals. Medical disability forced him to close his practice in December 1988.

He is survived by his family in Baltimore and by many friends and patients around the world.

~ ~ ~

The American Educational Gender Foundation (AEGIS) says it is "gravely concerned" by rumors that an organized group is forging referral letters and HIV test results for purposes of helping individuals to improperly procure hormonal therapy and sex reassignment surgery.

AEGIS, having heard reports that one surgeon has unknowingly operated on three individuals with HIV-positive status, is urging surgeons, endocrinologists, psychologists, and other service providers to closely examine all supporting documents of persons requesting hormonal and surgical gender reassignment for authenticity. AEGIS is also suggesting that independent HIV tests be performed by gender community service providers whenever possible.

Although the rumors cannot be proven, AEGIS says it is still concerned about the potential for exploitation of those whose desperate desire for anatomical congruity could place them in

the hands of unscrupulous individuals who, aided by desktop publishing software and laser printers, can produce authentic-looking documents purporting to be from therapists, physicians or medical testing laboratories and which authorize gender reassignment procedures or report negative HIV status.

~ ~ ~

Amnesty International says it is planning to take up the case of a well-known Turkish transvestite who is languishing in jail after being tortured, savagely beaten, and raped by Turkish police.

Ramazan Demir — usually known simply as Demet — was arrested by the notorious Beyoglu police on August 10 and was taken to several police stations in Istanbul where he was beaten and systematically raped by a number of policemen. Although Demet was released after six days in police custody and has obtained hospital reports detailing the torture inflicted upon him, there were reports in early September that he was rearrested and taken to one of the worst prisons in Turkey.

Demet has been working as one of Istanbul's transvestite prostitutes in the past two years, and was a prominent figure in a campaign by a handful of transvestites to highlight the violence and abuse heaped upon the city's transvestites by police.

~ ~ ~

Lawmakers in Santa Monica, CA have passed a controversial measure that would ban men from using women's restrooms — and vice versa — unless three or more people are waiting in line or their own gender's bathroom is closed.

The city council passed the ordinance after reports of men entering women's restrooms at parks and beaches to deal drugs.

~ ~ ~

Police authorities in Atlanta are looking into the possibility that the recent slayings of three transvestite prosti-

tutes and the wounding of at least five others by gunfire may have been the result of a single individual.

At least three pistols have been used, but authorities say they do not know if they were fired by the same hand. Officers say they are looking at similarities and the speed at which victims are appearing. In all of 1990, police could count only one shooting death of a transvestite on the six-block homosexual hustling strip of Ashby Street; by comparison, three were slain in a three-week period in October and November 1991, as well as at least five other incidents dating back to June where the victims were only wounded.

By police and hustler accounts, a transvestite has been shot on the street about every two weeks since June. They have considered that the culprit may be either a serial killer in drag or simply a gunman whose only motive is a fear of homosexuals. While they have reached a dead end in most of the cases, they point out that the rash of violence has improved communication with the street people. "They'll come up to us now," said Atlanta police officer David Clemmons.

•••••

Lobbying by sexual minorities on behalf of an amendment to the Pennsylvania Ethnic Intimidation Act has had a surprise impact: House Speaker Robert O'Donnell has become a co-sponsor of the bill, which is intended to protect sexual [and gender] minorities from hate crimes.

O'Donnell joined 31 other lawmakers in supporting the measure, along with Representatives Robert Donatucci (Philadelphia) and David Mayernik (Allegheny County). Both Donatucci and Mayernik had voted against the amendment last year.

The next step for the bill is public hearings before the Pennsylvania House Judiciary Committee. No date has been set for those hearings.

•••••

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) says it will take "appropriate legal action" to recover a portion of a \$4,400 grant to a New York City

dance and performance art service organization, claiming a performance journal produced with part of the grant does not comply with the grant terms.

The issue in question, *Performance Journal* #3, contained essays and nude and semi-nude photographs which, according to NEA Chairman John Frohnmayer, "concerned the social and sexual experiences of transvestites, transsexuals, and individuals of confused or multiple genders." Frohnmayer's remarks were contained in a November 12 letter to Movement Research (MR), recipient of the NEA grant. MR co-director Cathy Edwards defends the photographs as exploring the "restrictions on artistic expression and dance... imposed by rigid gender identities."

Edwards said MR, which had not returned the funds by the November 26 deadline set by the NEA, was "not planning to change our mind." The NEA said it was looking into debt-collection actions.

•••••

The state of California did nothing wrong when it fired a transsexual for failing to reveal on an employment application that she was a male, a judge has ruled.

The state Employment Development Department fired Katherine Rosen in 1989 after learning Rosen was a male and suffered from asthma when hired. Rosen, 44, had worked for the department for four months as an accounting clerk. She underwent sex reassignment surgery in 1991.

•••••

After several years of being classified as a man by Olympic officials, Maria Jose Martinez Patino hopes that this year she will finally be able to compete on the Spanish women's track team during this summer's games.

Patino was booted from the team in 1986 when she failed a chromosome test designed to determine if women athletes are actually female. Since the tests were established by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1968, about a dozen competitors have been banned from Olympic competi-

tion because they failed the test. Patino appealed the ruling in her case to a special IOC committee, which reclassified her as a woman in 1988 and reinstated her amateur status.

•••••

A transsexual student in Tennessee State University (TSU)'s two-year nursing degree program says she was "kicked out" of school because of complaints about her transgendered status.

Tracy Quiring was told by the dean of the school that she will not be allowed to complete work toward her degree because the institution where Quiring was scheduled for clinical experiences would not permit her to continue her clinical rotation because of the gender issue. TSU Dean Marion Anema had earlier told Quiring that program administrators at Park View Hospital had complained about her enrollment in the student nursing program, worrying, in Anema's words, that her "appearance and voice would not be positively perceived by patients." Those remarks came after Quiring was present at the hospital for only one day.

Other TSU-affiliated hospitals also refused to accept the pre-operative transsexual "because of prevailing practice and philosophy." Anema told Quiring that TSU can do nothing more for her.

•••••

Three New Zealanders now working overseas have been given humanitarian awards by the Wellington-based Minorities Trust for their contributions to the needs of the transgendered.

The honorees are Dr. Michael Ross of Palmerston North, who was an editor of the 1986 book "Transsexualism and Sex Reassignment"; Dr. John Money of Morrinsville, who has studied hermaphrodites, transsexuals, transvestites, homosexuals and lesbians; and Dr. Russell Reid of Dunedin, who was a consulting psychiatrist at Charing Cross Hospital's gender identity clinic.

All three award recipients have also become honorary patrons of the Minorities Trust.

•••••

Resources

Resource listings are free. If you'd like your group or business listed. Please let us know. This list is accurate at the time of publication. Please send an SASE when writing to these folks.

o = open membership, TS = transsexuals only, f = family orientation

• National Organizations •

International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE), Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778, Publishes *TV/TS Tapestry*. Reprints and books on TV/TS subjects, other info. 617-899-2212.

Outreach Institute, 405 Western Ave., Suite 345, So. Portland, ME 04106. General TV/TS information for personal and professional use. Hard to find books.

Renaissance Education Association, Inc., Box 552, King of Prussia, PA 19406, 215-630-1437, \$12 associates fee includes monthly newsletter. Background Papers on TV/TS issues for personal and professional use. Speakers Bureau. Inquire about new chapters.

Society for the Second Self (SSS), Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275. Organization for Hetero-TV's only. Publishes "Femme Mirror." See chapters listed below.

• Organizations by State •

City, Name, Address,
Zipcode

Alabama

Huntsville, Sigma Rho Gamma SSS (f), Box 16174, 35802

Arizona

Tempe, Alpha-Zeta SSS (f), Box 24459, 85285
Tempe, A Rose, Box 24623, 85285-4623

California

Anaheim, PPOC, Box 9091, 92812
Concord, DVG, Box 272885, 94527

Duarte, CHIC (f), Box 562, 91010

L.A., Androgyny, PO Box 480740, 90048

L.A., Alpha SSS (f), Box 36091, 90036

Sacramento, Sacramento Gender Assoc, Box 215456, 95821

San Diego, Neutral Corner, Box 12581, 92112

San Francisco, ETVC, Box 426486, 94142-64861

San Jose, Rainbow Gender Assoc., Box 700730, 95170

Connecticut

Farmington, Connecticut Outreach Society, Box 163, 06034

Hartford, The XX Club, Inc. (TS), PO Box 387, 06141-0387

Colorado

Denver, Gender Identity Center, 3715 West 32nd Ave, 80211

Northern & Southern Colo., call 303-458-5378

Florida

Hollywood, Serenity, Box 307, 33022

Miami, Animas, Box 420309, 33242

Winter Park, Phi Epsilon Mu SSS (f), Box 3261, 32790

Georgia

Atlanta, Sigma Epsilon SSS (f), Box 250481, 30325

Decatur, AEGIS (TS), Box 33724, 30033-0724

Hawaii

Honolulu, Hawaii TG Outreach, 777 Kapiolani Blvd., Ste 3114, 96813

Illinois

Chicago, Chicago Gender Society, Box 578005, 60657

Washington, Central Illinois Gender Assoc., Box 126, 61517

Wood Dale, Chi Chapter SSS (f), Box 40, 60191

Indiana

Indianapolis, IXΣ, Box 20710, 46220

Iowa

Cedar Rapids, Iowa Artistry, Box 75, 52406-0075

Kansas

Kechi, Wichita Transgender Alliance. Box 315, 67067

Overland Park, Crossdressers & Friends, Box 4092, 66204

Shawnee Mission, Gender Dysphoria Support, Box 15561, 66215

Louisiana

New Orleans, Tri Delta Chi SSS (f), Box 870213, 70187

Massachusetts

Woburn, Tiffany Club, Box 2283, 01888

Michigan

Grand Rapids, IME W. Michigan, Box 1153, 49501

Royal Oak, Crossroads, Box 1245, 48068

Warren, Up Town Girls, 21823 Van Dyke, 48089

Minnesota

Minneapolis, CLCC, Box 16265, 55416

St. Paul, MFGE, Box 17945, 55117

Mississippi

Jackson, Beta Chi SSS, Box 31253, 39206

Missouri

Belton, Kappa Gamma Mu SSS (f), Box 98, 64012

St. Louis, St. Louis Gender Found'n, Box 9433, 63117

Nebraska

Council Bluffs, RCGA, Box 680, 51502

New Mexico

Albuquerque, Fiesta! SSS (f), 8200 Montgomery NE #241, 87109

New Jersey

Mays Landing, Renaissance SJ, Box 189, 08330

Red Bank, MOTG,

Renaissance Affiliate, Box 8243, 07701

Teaneck, The Gathering (TS), PO Box 284, 07666

Trenton, Sigma Nu Rho SSS (f), Box 9255, 08650

New York

Albany, TGIC, Box 13604, 12212

Brooklyn, GNO, Box 369, 11235

Hempstead, LIFE (f), Box 31, 11551

Mountainville, Chi Delta Mu SSS (f), Box 93, 10953

New York City, CDI, PO Box 29, 10021

New York City, Metropolitan Gender Network, Box 45,

561 Hudson St., 10014

Rochester, CD•Network, Box 92055, 14692

Syracuse, EON, 523 W. Onondaga St., 13204

Tillson, Transgender Network, Box 177, 12486-0177

North Carolina

Charlotte, Kappa Beta SSS (f), PO Box 12101, 28220-2101

Ohio

Resource listings are free. If you'd like your group or business listed. Please let us know. This list is accurate at the time of publication. Please send an SASE when writing to these folks.

Resources

Cincinnati, Cross-Port, Box 12701, 45212
Elyria, Alpha-Omega SSS (f), Box 954, 44036
Parma, Paradise Club, Box 29564, 44129
Reynoldsburg, Crystal Club, Box 287, 43068

Oregon

Portland, NW Gender Alliance, Box 4928, 97208.

Pennsylvania

Harrisburg/York, Renaissance LSV Box 2122, 17105
Phila., Renaissance GP, Box AD, Bensalem, 19020
Pittsburgh, TransPitt, Box 3214, 15230

Puerto Rico

Bayamon, Foundation for Advancement of Puerto Rico Sisters, Calle 2, #288, Forrest Hills, 00959

Texas

Alief, Tau Chi SSS (f), Box 1105, 77411
Arlington, Delta Omega SSS (f), Box 1021, 76004
Austin, Heart of Texas, Box 402, 78767
Houston, Gulf Coast TV Chapter, Box 90335, 77090
Riesel, TriPlex Gender Assoc., Box 381, 76682
San Angelo, Heart of Texas NW, Box 30413, 76903
San Antonio, B&P Society, Box 700042, 78270-0042

Utah

Salt Lake City, Alpha Rho Provesta SSS (f), Box 26711, 84126

Virginia

Arlington, DCEA, Box 16036, 22215
Richmond, Virginia's Secret, Box 34631, 23234

West Virginia

Huntington, Trans-WV, Box 2322, WV 25724

Washington

Seattle, Emerald City, Box 31318, 98103

Wyoming

Call 303-458-5378

•Canadian •

Cornbury Society, Box 3745, Vancouver, B.C. V6B-3Z1
Gender Mosaic, Box 7421, Ottawa, Ontario, K1L-8E4
Monarch Social Club, Mississauga A Box 386, Mississauga, Ont. L5A 3A1
Canadian Crossdressers' Club Inc., 429C Dundas St. E, Toronto, Ont., M5A-2A9

•Overseas •

Australia, Seahorse Society Victoria, GPO Box 2337V, Melbourne, Victoria
Australia, Elaine Barrie Project, Box 405, Altona, Victoria 3018
Denmark, FPE-NE, Boks 192, DK-2600, Glostrup
England, TransEssex, Box 3, Basildon, Essex, SS14-1PT
England, Rose's Club Repartee Magazine, Box 339, Sheffield, S1-3SX
France, Assoc. Beaumont Continentale, 2 rue des Charpentiers, 68270 Wittenheim
Germany, Transidentitas, Postfach 10 10 46, 6050 Offenbach
New Zealand, TransCare, PO Box 2983, Wellington
Norway FPE-NE, Postboks 1968 Vika N 0125, Oslo 1,
South Africa, Phoenix Society, Box 21163, 7502 De Tijger

Sweden, FPE-NE, Box 11107, S-500, 11 Boras

•Boutiques & Businesses • California

Glendale, NS Products (Breast Forms, et al.), Box 6678-R, 91225

Laguna Niguel, Fashion 2000 (fashion consultants), Box 6502, 92607

Mt. View, B&R Creations (Corsetry), Box 4201-L, 94040
Sherman Oaks, Lydia's TV Fashions, 13837 Ventura Blvd., Suite 2, 91423, 818-995-7195.
Tustin, Versatile Fashions, Box 1051, 92681

Colorado

Denver, Energy Expressions (transform'ns) 303-733-4328

Connecticut

Greenwich & New Haven, Jane Doyle Electrology, 203-869-2323 or 203-734-5408

Illinois

Chicago, Divine Abundance, PO Box 148432, 60614

Massachusetts

Waltham, Vernon's Specialties, 386-EF Moody St., 02254, 617-894-1744

New York

NYC, Mardi Gras Boutique, 400 W. 14th St. at 8th Ave., 212-947-7773

Pennsylvania

Jenkintown, Laine Alexander Image Consultant, 215-635-8858

Upper Darby, Marilyn's Wigs, 215-446-0799

Virginia

Arlington, Baroness Prod'ns, CD Services & Fantasies, 202-686-4774

Arlington, Jacqueline Urania, CD Development, 301-499-4297

Falls Church, Feminine Mystique, 202-686-4853

Canada

Toronto, Walk on the Wildside, TV Boutique, 416-864-0420
Owen Sound, FantasyLand, TV Boutique, 274 8th St. E., Box 682, Ontario, N4K-5R4

•Gender Dysphoria Programs•

Minnesota

Minneapolis, Eli Coleman, Ph.D., 1300 S. 2nd St., Ste 180, 55454, (612) 625-1500

•Recurring Events •

Be All You Can Be Weekend, put on by Paradise Club, Crossroads, Trans-Pitt and Chi Chapter in June.

Fantasia Fair, 10 days, once a year in October, in Provincetown, MA. Contact the Outreach Institute.

IFGE Convention, once a year in March/April, '93 in Philadelphia, '94 in Seattle. Contact I.F.G.E.

On The Scene Nite, 2nd. Saturday each month at the Queen Mary, Studio City, Calif. (818) 506-5619.

Paradise in the Poconos, 4 days/3 nights, twice a year, May and September, in the Pa. Poconos. Contact CDS.

Tiffany Provincetown Outings, twice a year in Oct & June.

News from Scandinavia

Jenny fills us in on what's been happening in the Land of the Midnight Sun.

In less than five months, the 100 member strong FPE chapter in Norway has had an unprecedented media interest. Newspapers and magazines were standing in line asking for our participation.

It started in November with a five page feature in one of the larger regional newspapers in Norway. Last month it culminated with a 2½ page article in the largest daily paper covering the whole country. That is a potential readership of close to a million people.

In between those major media presentations, a women's weekly ran an interview, and another will follow soon. So, what are the experiences?

Both positive and negative things have been mentioned by members. A major problem in dealing with media is exerting any kind of control over the finished result. The journalists always claim their right to present the issue their way. We have tried to cover ourselves by meeting the actual journalist in advance to make sure

their intentions are well-meaning. It also helps to ask for the right to review both text and pictures before publication to correct errors and protect members's anonymity. We always ask that our postal address gets printed but sometimes that doesn't happen. In two cases, the writers promised to print the address but were overruled by their editors.

What about results? First, we think the various articles, although different, have contributed to the public education. Secondly, the last big article resulted in more than 20 responses the first week. There is no way we could have paid for such advertising. Also, we know that many will save the address for years before contacting us.

EuroFantasia planned for 1993

After receiving more than 20 responses on the idea of an All-European event, I'm more set to go ahead with plans than ever. I want to thank all of you who took time to answer my questions. The following is a summary of the activities so far:

- Everyone expressed great interest in the idea and volunteered to take part one way or another. Much help will be needed on all levels, and in all stages starting now with early planning and brain-storming. Laura in France offered to help with translations, Claudia in Germany will work closely with me on the project and Martine Rose in England has offered to try organizing a coach from the U.K. I'm very excited over the prospect to be working with so many fantastic people on this.

- The proposed time of Fall '92 is too early. I have to accept that, although I wish to go ahead faster. Time is flying and many groups plan their own events a long time in advance. There is already a congestion of regular events, so my new target is May of 1993.

- Location: I got few concrete suggestions and mostly general wishes. Many agreed with my own suggestion of Ebeltoft in Denmark. Denmark has a reputation of being open-minded towards different lifestyles. I have scouted the little town myself once and it looks very promising. It is only two hours from Copenhagen (for long-distance travellers), two hours from Esbjerg (ferry to Harwich and U.K.) and close to the major highway leading south to France and Germany. During this Spring I will visit Ebeltoft again to try to find the best deals possible. The price will be very reasonable.

- The program is important. I got several good suggestions, but I welcome more. The menu of activities will be varied and cover a full week. There will also be the option of attending for just a weekend, but I hope the majority will take the advantage of the whole week.

- Finally the name. I received many suggestions, but I really liked the sound of EuroFantasia. Easy to say and remember, and it carries the connection with the U.S. original. (Thank you, Laura.) ❖

If you'd like to get more information about EuroFantasia, write to Jenny Sand at Altonagaten 10, N-3400 Sandnes, Norway.



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Passing ...

accepted without regard to your passability. Finding these places may be easier in some locations than others, but they can be found.

No matter how highfalutin' your crossdressing motivations may be, it is still very much a visual and tactile experience. If your aesthetic sense-of-

self cannot get interested in wearing dowdy clothes and flats in order to pass publicly, don't despair. A butterfly won't enjoy becoming a caterpillar again. Passing may not be the height of self-actualization for your femme-self. If, however, you are interested in blending yourself into the environment to pass as a woman in order to express yourself, consider

the notion of the passing continuum. Think about some mix of your own appearance factors and a venue in which you might be able to move about freely at minimum risk of detection.

You may come — or have already come — to the conclusion that passing is not for you, but that doesn't make you any less of a woman. ♣

Library Lady ...

read. It's literally a collection of letters to the editor from the 1860s to the 1890s by and about Victorian crossdressers and passing men, plus actual photos of Boulton and Park. There's lots of talk about corsets, if you like that. It's really remarkable how little some TV fantasies have

changed in 100 years. (Note Bene - I am using the price quoted in the ad in *Tapestry* for this. I have just learned that this book is available from Chevalier for \$7.50.)

On the other hand, *Men In Frocks* is an oral history of the gay/drag scene in England over the last fifty years. The photos are interesting, to-

gether with interviews of the people involved and some of the Drag-It-Yourself tips are amusing but not particularly useful.

Still, overall, it's one of the better drag books published. The photos are close to a par with Mariette Pathy Allen's *Transformations*. Even if you are straight, you will enjoy this one. ♣

Body Shop ...

active, successful image as a male; secondly, we must improve our expression of the feminine gender.

The first step in this process is crucial. The good feelings that come from dressing are escapist to some extent. It is dangerous to assume that the problems of daily living will disappear if we remain en femme on a full-time basis. There are two problems with such an unrealistic assumption:

- You don't solve any life problems by crossdressing. You only defer or ignore them.
- Crossing the gender line creates a whole new set of problems. Just ask any transsexual in transition.

You have to assess yourself and accept yourself as you are and erase any feelings of guilt. You may be able to accomplish this on your own, or you may need a support group, or you may require professional assistance. But, remember that you can also help yourself.

There are plenty of people less fortunate than you both in and out of

the crossdressing community. Not so long ago, a long-time friend of mine was divorced after his wife left him for another man and moved to another city with their two daughters. Tired of his whining, I told him, "Get you butt out of the house and find somebody who needs you." He now volunteers a significant part of his time to work with burned and crippled children. He said that once he had seen real pain in innocent young faces, his own problems seemed to dissolve. The point is there are people all around you that are losing jobs, life, limbs and bodyparts. Many men would be grateful if their major problem in life was the fact that they like to wear a wig and a dress.

Where Do We Go From Here?

While you begin working on becoming the happy, well-adjusted and beautiful person you want to be, we'll be covering all kinds of topics that will apply to your life in general and specifically to this wonderful tal-

ent of female gender expression. We'll discuss exercise, nutrition, smoking, alcoholism, hormonal therapy, plastic and cosmetic surgery, just to mention a few topics. We'll seek to enhance your lifestyle and explore ways to go beyond crossdressing to crossfeeling and even crossexpressing by helping others. This is good advice for anybody, not just crossdressers.

If you have a question, comment or criticism, please write to me care of the magazine. Nothing is off limits. Your health and well-being are of paramount importance. ♣

Delia is board certified in four separate specialties and sub-specialties of medicine. Her current practice focuses on surgical intensive care and trauma.

In the past, she has been involved in the medical and psychiatric evaluation of patients being considered for sexual reassignment surgery.

An active researcher, teacher, and contributor to the medical and scientific literature, she has authored over 300 chapters, abstracts and scientific papers.



Reader Survey

We've tried to make ITS an enjoyable magazine for you to read. We'd like to know how we're doing in that regard. It would be really appreciated if you'd take the time to fill out this questionnaire and return it to us.

1. To which magazines do you subscribe? (Check all that apply)

- | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Int'l TranScript | <input type="checkbox"/> TV-TS Tapestry | <input type="checkbox"/> LadyLike | <input type="checkbox"/> TV Epic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crossdresser Quarterly | <input type="checkbox"/> Transform | <input type="checkbox"/> FMI | <input type="checkbox"/> Other_____ |

2. Which magazines do you buy/read regularly? (Check all that apply)

- | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Int'l TranScript | <input type="checkbox"/> TV-TS Tapestry | <input type="checkbox"/> LadyLike | <input type="checkbox"/> TV Epic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crossdresser Quarterly | <input type="checkbox"/> Transform | <input type="checkbox"/> FMI | <input type="checkbox"/> Other_____ |

3. Please list your three favorite magazines:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

4. Which of the following features are important to you for a magazine? (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion of Important Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> First Person CD Articles (e.g., My First Night Out) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photos of "Celebrity" CDs/Ts | <input type="checkbox"/> Photos of "Typical" CDs/Ts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interviews w/Interesting People | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Ads with_____ or without_____ Photos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Erotic/Sexual Fiction | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Advertising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> "How To" Articles (e.g. Makeup) | <input type="checkbox"/> Event Coverage (e.g., Texas "T" Party) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> News about TVs/Ts in the News | <input type="checkbox"/> Color Photos/Color Covers |

5. Which of the following features in this issue did you like or dislike? (1=like, 0=dislike)

- | | |
|--|---|
| ___ Maggie Morgan: Keeping It Together | ___ Wendy Smith: Library Lady |
| ___ Daniel Graham: Piercing | ___ Jenny Sand: News From Scandinavia |
| ___ Dina Amberle: Passing or Pleasure | ___ Jim Bridges: Art of Makeup |
| ___ Lady Paula Howard: Last Time I Saw Paris | ___ Kym Richards: Int'l NewsScript |
| ___ Photo Feature: Michael Daniels | ___ Personal TranScript: Michael Daniels |
| ___ Delia Van Maris: Body Shop | ___ Jacqueline Urania: Universal Spirit Lessons |
| ___ Vicki Thomas: Somewhere In A Mall | ___ Nikki Nash: Useful Secrets |
| ___ Editorial | ___ _____ Other |

6. What would you like to see in future issues?

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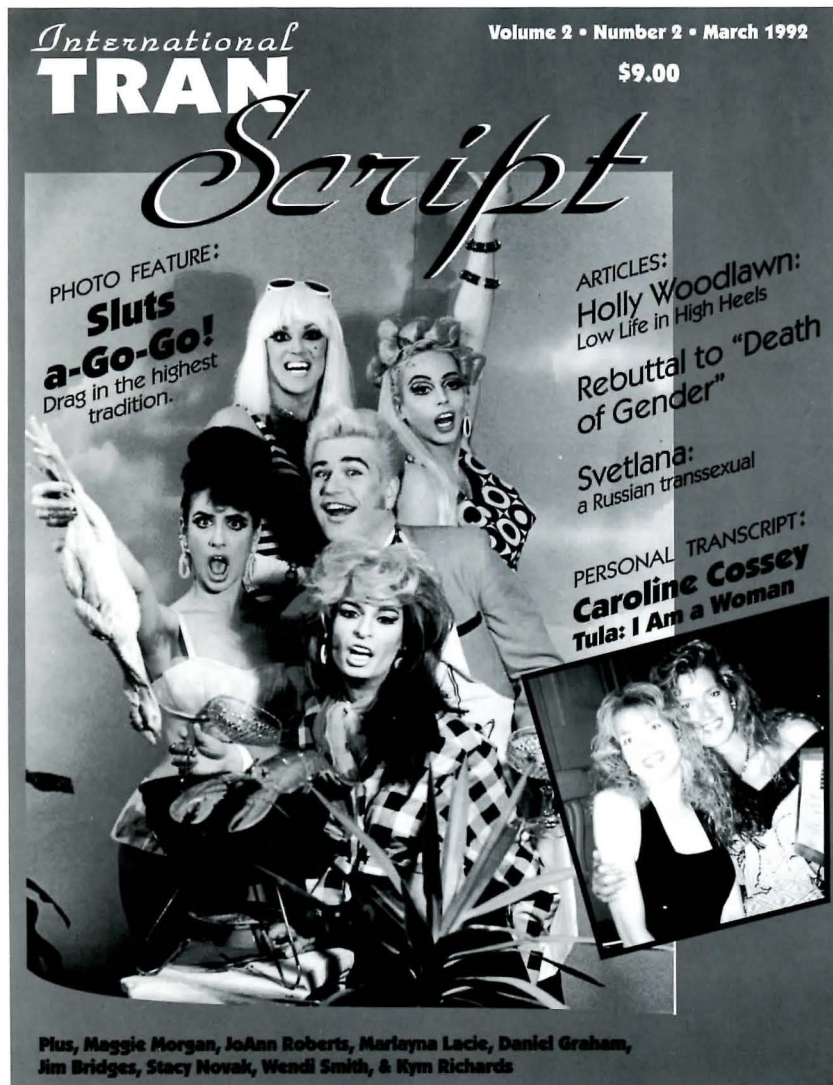
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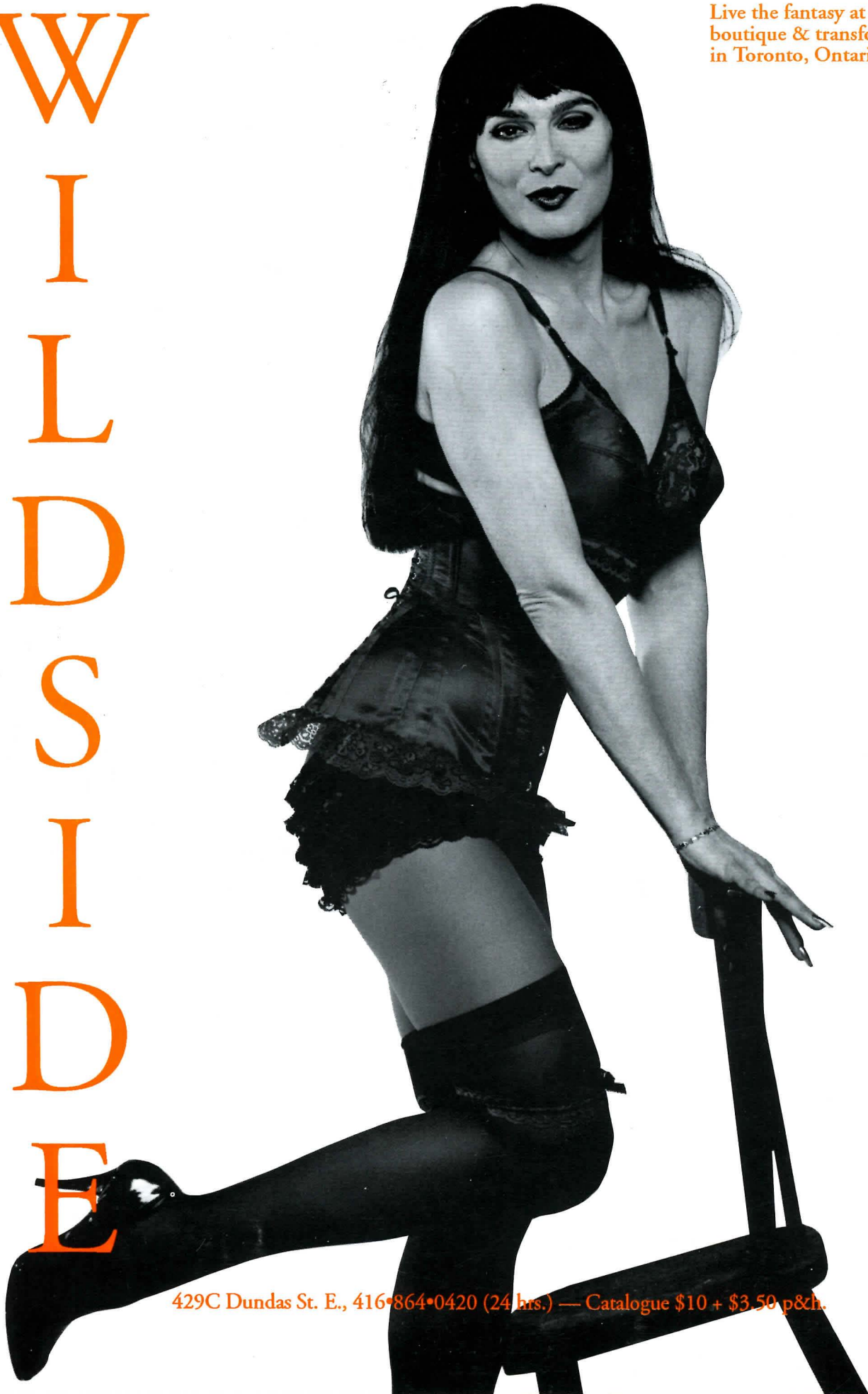
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