

TRANSCARE DECEMBER 1990 PAGE No ONE



HUMAN RIGHTS BILL TABLED IN PARLIAMENT

Its mid September. Parliament has ended for this year. A few days beforehand a new Prime Minister took charge of Labour who held power. Geoffrey Palmer was booted out, and Mike Moore took over. Wed 29.8.90 there was no hint in the Parliamentary Order Papers about the Human Rights Commission Act ammendments. A few days after the leadership Coup Thursday 6.9.90 in the last hour of Parliaments sitting and also following the eulogies to retiring MPs Parliament held its first and momentous discussion upon the HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ACT AMMENDMENT BILL. Leone received a phone call at home 4.15pm as she was stepping into the bath! (where all momentous decisions are made except when on the throne). A hurried try of several radios to pick up the debate, while the bath went cold. As Fran promissed, and MArgaret and Elizabeth (Wild, Shields & Tennent)kept saying would happen THE BILL - OUR BILL (and others) WAS presented and I am sure it only happened because while Geoffrey procrastinates, Mike acts. Some good responses and support given along with a few objections mixed with support for some parts. A clearly mixed up male mentality which will need targetting once we know who will win the election. National are very anti-Gay and have little to offer the electors, while Labour now at last has a good chance BUT they did leave it all rather a bit late to gain a good and decisive majority. Leone sent letters of thanks to a small select group of MPs. and minuted copies to all COMMON GROUND SUPPORTERS.

NEW ZEALAND BILL OF RIGHTS

This has now become Law. Discussed elsewhere in Transcare. The Human Rights aspects of concern to us must wait until the HUMAN RIGHTS COMM ISSION BILL HAS BEEN DEALT WITH. Then maybe the Bill of Rights can be ammended accordingly. However, in its present state, thanks again to fumbling Geoffrey, it might well need to be repealed and re worded in total, if it is to be of any value. There are existing laws and also legislation which actively were designed either in intent, or else in interpretation to discriminate/victimise selectively disadvantaged minority interests such as ours.

DECISIONS OF THE INDECENT PUBLICATIONS TRIBUNAL

Elsewhere herein is a random list of DECISIONS taken from H.M. CUSTOMS list of decisions. A- Z.

HEARD ON RADIO NEWS RECENTLY see previous TRANSCARE Mr Claire Costly aged 22 of Glen Eden was sentenced to 200 hours Community Service for selling Animal Sex videos.

BEWARE OF VIDEO RIP OFFS at \$100 a tape.

A member has reported that on buying a tape about boobs and cocks TV it was only for 10 mins and then another entirely different hetero story was the rest of the tape. One supplier is known to make up some tapes taking snippets from several and joining into one tape. About 2 weeks ago Customs and Police raided a New Lynn Warehouse and confiscated a large shipment of illegal tapes and mailing lists of clients. May well be 'THE MR. BIG' who also operates from Australia and imports from the Phillipines. Time may tell!

TRANSPEOPLE STUDIES

We had a recent enquiry from an Auckland University student doing a paper about crossdressing. Didn't disclose identity but believed to be a former female workmate of Leone.

Otago University student doing a bisexual study and research questionaire is enclosed with this issue of TRANSCARE. Please complete and return promptly. Oops! That was lost insul, EDITOR.

There is another small research enquiry from USA which we wish you to complete and send back promptly - follow instructions sent you, THANKS ALL QUEST (WARAGE SHOULD BE DACK NOW



I wanted a more respectable way of life, a lifestyle that my family could admire me for.

It seemed important that I succeed-to prove to my family that I wasn't a complete failure.

I detested prostitution as a way to survive and I had outgrown the strip club line of entertainment. In 1993, while in a cabaret show called *Play Girls*, I was asked if I would appear in the opening credits of a TVNZ drama called *Inside Straight*. The show's star was Phillip Gordon, a chap I had met in 1974 at the NZTF Drama school. I pestered him for a job-and ended up doing seven episodes playing a character called Desdemona.

character called Desdemona. The role gained me a foot in the door and my acting ability was taken more seriously. In 1984, after appearing in an episode of another TVNZ series, Roche, I moved to Auckland and became involved with a drag-show at a gay nightclub. There I developed a talent as a lip-sync artist, miming songs. I also did the rounds of talent agents but none wanted me on their files. One night at the Alexandra Tavern, I ran into Alistair Douglas, an actor I had met some years earlier.

One night at the Alexandra Tavern, I.ran into Alexair Dougles, an actor I had met some years earlier.
He was a little taken aback at my new sexual status but told me I would be perfect for a major role in a short film a colleague was casting for.
He put me in touch with Robert Bruce, the exwrestler and now a casting agent. Robert had previously turned me down when I asked him if he would put me on his files ... but with Alistair's influence, Robert put me onto the director of the film was *Jewels Darl*-my first starring role. The story was about Jewel, a transsexual, and Mandy, a transvestite.
It was a tricky subject and the censor ruled the content was centrary to good taste. But Julian Mounter stepped in and with his weight as head of TVNZ, the programme was screened a year later.
It gat a nized reaction but for the most part, people were genuinely impressed ... so much so that it won five nominations in the 1987 GOFTA awards including my own for best actress.
Cn awards night, an event televised live to the nation, I knew that many yees would be on me and that fellow transsexuals, anyone in the gay community, acting colleagues, people who I had met over the years, would be rooling for me.
My success was the success. It proved that against the olds yeu CAN do it and I was proud to be able to represent other peopl like me at such an auspicious occasion.

represent other peop: use me at such an ac-occesion. I also hoped that my family was watching. Until this day they have never spoken to me of the highest point in my career, maybe my life. I still ask myself what GEORGINA must I do to prove to them that I can be a re-spectable, productive per-son despite my transsexuality. FINAL

transsexuality.

PREMIER

In 1989, I attended the premiere night in Auck-land of a TV documenta-ry, The Mighy Givic, in which I had a delightful carneo role in it. Sir Paul Reeves was the guest of honour. Paul is my mother's cousin and we had been at numerous family ratherings togeth-

We had been at numerous family gatherings togeth-er in the past. But this was the first time I had met him in his capacity as Governor-General.

Les Governor-General. I avoided contact with him at the premiere so as not to cause him any embarrassment. But he spied me zeross the room and came to greet me and introduced me to all within earshol as "Georgina Beyer his cousin." I was standing with Tairoa Royal, a Linbs cancer, and told her I was fabbergasted that Paul was so open about being related to me. Here I war, gaining acceptance from an important—if distant—rela-

WILLIAM STATE TO A STATE OF STATE

Transsexual Georgina Beyer began life in one of New Zealand's richest, most influential social circles. So far she has told of a strange boyhood, suppressing a

influential social circles. So far she has told of a strange boyhood, suppressing a desire to dress and act as a girl while playing Sunday cricket with Bob Jones and being raised by the wealthy Beyer family. In part two last week Georgina told how she broke the news of changing sex, by dressing as a woman for the reception of her mother's funeral. And she told how she got her first break into television after years as a prostitute, introduced to a TV producer by well-known Wellington transvestite Carmen. In this final episode Georgina tells of gaining the highest award for TV work in New Zealand. How a chance meeting with the Governor-General high-lighted her bitterness toward her family. And how she found herself broke and living in a small Wairarapa town today.



GOVERNOR GENERAL . . . Sir Paul Reeves (right) with my great uncle Percy in the early 1970s.

tion in public, while my own immedi-ate family have nothing to do with me

me. My aunts and uncles have been fairly tolerant of me. Some have even come to see me. But my imme-diate family doesn't care. I'm sure they'd be quite happy if they never heard about me again. My half brother's now a born-again Christian so my outlook doesn't really fit in with his lifestyle. L thick my confecter wants to

I think my stepfather wants to have as little to do with me as possi-

have as little to do with me as possi-ble. I can understand that. Ignorance is bliss they say. They are probably infuriated, though, whenever my name appears in a newspaper or if sonneone asks if they are related to me. Beyer is a pretty unusual name in New Zcaland. "Living on the breadline" would be a good description of where I'm at today. As far as acting goes, I don't

know what has happened. Maybe it's just that my popularity has waned. The agents I've had haven't been much help. Ninety percent of the time, I find my own work. Featherston is not that far from Wellington-and I'll live anywhere there's work. I moved to the Wairarapa because my friend is buying a house here and I wanted to get away from the gay scene in the cities.

To this day, I am bitter that . was forced to repress and hide my true sexuality. I'm pretty sure that my mother, if not all my family, must mother, if i have known.

Inere 1 was, an effeminate little boy... it must have been pretty obvious. But their remedy was to squash it, to try and nip it in the bud. This left me with a guilt complex. I just got more secretive about it. Until now. There I was, an effeminate little



PUBLICITY POSE . . . 1977 at Wellington's Club Exotique.

JESSICA'S. WIG	
SALON	
Now relocated from St Kevins	
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HAs now come out of the closet	
and her spouse has kicked her ou	
too. The best of luck to her and	1
our sympathies to both who we	
trust will remain the best of good friends	
your arten of	,



BEYER STORY

FINALE

Narcissus

PHOTOS

OVER PAGE



NEW ZEALANDERS have a Bill of Rights. Parliament passed the relegislation last night, five years after Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer first presented the proposal to the House.

It received its third reading and passed 36 votes to 28 as Parliament sat under urgency in the legislative rush before the election, and will become law when the governor-general gives his assent.

Mr Palmer had originally wanted the Bill of Rights to be New Zealand's supreme law with the courts able to use it to overrule other legislation passed by Parliament if the freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights were being damaged.

It was also planned that it would be entrenched legislation. able to be changed only if 75 per cent of MPs agreed or a referendum of all voters opted for a change.

But the version voted for last night can be changed by a simple majority of MPs, and has exactly the same status as any other act.

A clause added after public submissions makes it clear courts cannot use the Bill of Rights to toss out other legislation:

Instead, the protection provided is that the attorney-general must tell Parliament if it is considering legislation inconsistent with the Bill of Rights.

There is no requirement for Parliament to pay any attention to the attorney-general's advice.

The catalogue of rights in the bill covers many basic civil liberties.

It includes:

□ The right not to be deprived of life, not to subjected to torture, cruel treatment or medical experiments and to refuse to undergo medical treatment. The right to vote for New Zealand citizens 18 and over. □ Freedom of thought, conscience, religion and expression, and to worship.

By SIMON KILROY Political Reporter

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THIS ... ? DEFINITION ?

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RIGHTS

□ Freedom of peaceful assembly, association and movement. including the right to leave New Zealand.

□ Freedom from discrimination on the grounds of colour, race, ethnic or national origin, sex. marital status or religious or ethical belief and a guarantee of the rights of ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities.

The bill also sets out the rights of those arrested, searched or detained.

Included in those rights are the right to consult a lawyer, the right to silence and the right to a fair trial. The bill originally included

the Treaty of Waitangi and would have covered the rights established by the treaty.

However that section was dropped when the bill was downgraded to the status of ordinary law.

It has also been criticised for not including social and economic rights, such as the right to housing and the right to work.

The Opposition voted against the bill with justice spokesman Paul East calling it a Clavton's bill full of well-meaning phrases but unenforceable.

However Mr Palmer said it was an extraordinarily useful contribution to New Zealand constitutional law.

The passage of the bill drew a quick reaction last night from the Aids Foundation, which said it made large groups of New Zealanders second-class citizens because it did not include protection from discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and disability.

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THE TARTAN SKIRT Scotland Vol 5 No 6 December 1989

An Introduction To Transsexualism.

A transsexual is a person who feels an overwhelming need to live and function in the opposite gender role to that of his or her biological sex. The earliest records of human behavior clearly indicate that transsexualism existed long before this name was coined, but the cause of the condition remains obscure. Several widely held, if somewhat diverse, explanations are that transsexualism originates form endocrine, genetic or environmental causes; quite possibly more than one of these factors is significant. Although the question of origins is of considerable interest, the practical issue facing a transsexual is the question of what, if anything, is to be done.

There are no definitive statistics, but knowledgeable estimates suggest that in Britain today there are at least ten thousand transsexuals. Female-to-male transsexuals appear to be some three to to five times rarer than their male-to-female counterparts, though this difference in proportion is changing.

During the early stages a male transsexual can be expected to go through a period when he cross-dresses in the privacy of his room, or when the other occupants of the house are absent. If, he feels confident enough, he may also venture out. Of course, many men who cross-dress go no further than this. Men who cross-dress but feel no desire to live and function as women may be termed transvestites. The dividing line between a transvestite and a transsexual is sometimes difficult to draw, since a spectrum of commitment to the feminine role exists, but one can define the types as one can define colours in a spectrum. Most transvestites are heterosexual and don't want to be women, some feel it would be 'easier' or better if they had been, others do live as women but insist they are not transsexuals. The incidence of transvestites may be as high as one percent of all males: transsexuals form a much smaller proportion. There seem to be very few female transvestites, probably because women have a relatively greater freedom of dress.

There are fundamental differences in outlook between the transsexual and the homosexual, a fact not always understood. It is true that some transsexuals are experimentally homosexual before changing roles, but perhaps the majority have led relatively normal lives up to that point.

On the other hand, a transsexual whose identification with the feminine role is complete and who enjoys the commany of men will positively not repard herself as homosexual. The characteristic desire of male to female transsexuals is the removal of male sexual characteristics and the creation of female characteristics. including a pseudo-vagina. which will allow them to assume the role of women to the fullest possible extent. short of menstruation. conception, giving birth and lactation. For female to male transsexuals the desire is for the removal of female characteristics and the creation of male characteristics so they can live the role of a man as far as present day surgery will allow. The average homosexual would no more permit such surgery than he would the removal of a healthy arm or leg. He and his male partner value his male qualities. Homosexual partnerships in which one partner undergoes gender reassignment usually dissolve; if the other partner had wanted a woman presumably he would have chosen one in the first place. After gender reassignment most transsexuals assume a sexual preference compatible with their new gender though some do not. There are transsexual lesbians and homosexuals. It is a question of gender not sex.

Once experienced, transsexual feelings are unlikely to diminish either through the individual's sex. Psycho-analysis, psychotherapy. drugs, electric shock and aversion therapy have been tried in order to change gender orientation to that normally associated with the individual's sex. For the correctly diagnosed, committed transsexual MH these attempts invariably proved unsuccessful, sometimes with disastrous results. A transsexual is therefore faced with two possible courses H of constructive action: to accommodate as best (s)he can to life as as his/her biological sex or to seek gender reassignment. It is 6 essential to grasp that for the transsexual this is not a simple choice 6 but a profound dilemma; whatever path is eventually followed, the predicament deserves compassion and the decision respect. The third choice, suicide, is often the last desperate resort. It is a question PA of gender euphoria versus gender dysphoria. G

It must be clearly understood that there is no such thing as a Z 'sex-change' in the strict meaning of the phrase. In the medical sense, biological sex is determined by an individual's chromosomes and cannot \searrow be changed. At the present time, in the United Kingdom, this fact has certain legal consequences which will be discussed later. What can

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be accomplished, largely through the transsexual's own efforts. are varying aspects of what the medical profession have chosen to term gender reassignment, that is, social, hormonal and surgical reassignment. Except at the surgical and cellular level the net effect of these techniques, where successful, represents for all practical purposes, a fair attempt at a change of sex in the external sense at least.

The course of gender reassignment is a slow and complex one. fraught with difficulties, involving many emotional, social and physical readjustments requiring much patience and enormous motivation. It is a sensitive continuing process, of which surgery, whilst it is the culmination, is but one of the many essential of a successful transformation.

The decision to seek reassignment is not, and should not be, an easy one. Apart from the problems of employment and possibly an existing marriage, with or without children, which are considered in later sections, there is a basic issue which all transsexuals must face: it is whether or not they will pass successfully in close everyday contact as members of the opposite sex. The problem is not simply one in physical appearance and voice but also in manner, vocabulary and personality: not merely passing but being. It is necessary for the transsexual to be successful as a person and not simply as an actor. Thus there are practical, social, physical and psychological considerations which may indicate that gender reassignment would be a mistake.

In terms of appearance female to male transsexual physique may alter but small stature and bone structure will barely change. For the male to female, a large boned six foot man cannot become a petite five foot three and whilst surgery can improve some facial features it cannot perform miracles. Nor will hormone treatment modify the masculine voice. which having broken at puberty remains forever broken, and there are limits to what speech therapy can achieve.

However powerful the feelings involved, it is vital that the transsexual and those counselling be objective when evaluating appearance, voice and manner. To pursue a certain life style at the cost of alienating all normal social contacts, and quite possibly being

jobless, is hardly a recipe for future happiness. There is little social discrimination against successful transsexuals. for they are not distinguishable from any others of their new sex. but for those unfortunate enough to have made an unconvincing transformation life can be terribly hard. Better by far to settle for some less extreme compromise.

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Those contemplating gender reassignment should also consider their age and physical health. As a rough guide, the mid-fifties may be considered old by many surgeons while socially the chances of acceptance and successful adjustment may become less with the years. A history of thrombosis might contra-indicate hormone therapy, or it might be that even after considerable achievements in social reassignment a serious heart condition could result in surgery eventually being refused.

These reminders are not set down to discourage potential transsexuals from seeking help, but in an endeavour to promote a realistic approach.

S In reaching their decision, many transsexuals find it helpful to discuss the problem thoroughly with a professional counsellor or social psychotherapist. If such help is sought, it really must be with someone who has had previous experience with transsexuals. In most cases, counselling will have to be undertaken privately. An hour of discussion every month or so may suffice but there are many transsexuals with H more than one psychological problems, feelings of helplessness, depression and persecution being common, for whom a good deal of 3 counselling is often necessary. Counsellors can be located through various pastoral foundations or through the British Association of Counsellors. Experience shows that knowledgeable counselling can prove $\stackrel{\scriptscriptstyle \leftarrow}{\mapsto}$ 10 invaluable and is strongly recommended. in 0

For those transsexuals who have lived in silence with their problem for many years the mere presence of a knowledgeable listener, together with the realisation that they are not alone, can greatly ease the Ω immediate burden, but the basic dilemma remains. After much heartsearching many transsexuals, through love of their spouse and o children, for religious or other reasons, decide not to seek gender reassignment. For all who think that reassignment may lead to a° resolution of their difficulties the advice must be to find out

> progicaly what is involved



ONE of New Zealand's forgotten subcultures survives-long after its notoriety of the 1960s. Our waterfronts continue to attract "ship girls".

Friday 20.7.90

Some Transvestites also are amongst the SHIP GIRL\$ SHIPS IN THE NIGHT ... but it's no plain sailing for Timaru's "coastal hostesses".

TRANSCARE DECEMBER 1990

And in Timaru one of the girls believes the pub-lic image of "coastal host-esses" hasn't changed much since Japanese and Korean fishing boats first began using New Zealand ports.

FROM NEW TRUTH

Now Monique, appoint-ed spokesperson for the Timaru girls, has spoken out.

She and the other girls are sick of being "spat on" by society and the media in Timaru.

Monique said it has become almost impossible for her and her fellow "coastal hostesses" to be seen in public.

"We are continually referred to as sleezy whores who do nothing but lie on. our backs for a quick buck. That is so untrue.

"Many of us who board the ships merely do so to party up with the crews and officers that invite us. "Most of the time we

go home later. "If we stay it's because we choose to, not because

we have to. "We always have the last say."

Monique said there were 10-20 women aged between 18 and 45 who regularly visited certain ships when they docked in the port of Timaru. We've known most of

these crews for years now, and to be honest it's about the only place in Timaru where we can go and have a night out without being hassled."

Monique admitted that men visiting the port did pay some women for sex, but said not always, gifts were often given

"You can't make mon-ey in Timaru. Nine times out of 10, nothing happens. "The Korean, Filipino d Lancore may that in-

and Japanese men that in-vite us onto their ship do for parties and SO company. "They aren't like most

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place we (an go and not be hassled

Kiwi guys, who only have one thing on their mind. Nor are they violent to-wards us," she said

Monique and ber fellow a "ship associates" took ex-ception to the fact that they were referred to by some people as living a life of "drugs, booze, and violence."

They also disagreed with comments recently that announced they were a "high risk factor for contracting and passing on AIDS."

"That's a load of hogwash. I wish the people who delivered these low blows knew some of the

facts. "It really confirms peo ple's worst pre-conceived ideas about ship girls.

"No seaman now can obtain a contract to work on a ship unless he can present a negative AIDS certificate. I've even had guys show me their. certificates."

"Ninety percent of the time seamen carry condoms anyway, as they are married and they don't want to get AIDS any

PAGE No

More than us Ally seamen also get pamphlets on AIDS from their respective; Govern-ments warning them of ments, warning them of the dangers open to them, because they are contin-ually into ports throughout the world, Monique said She admitted there was "occasionally" money to be made on the ships, but long-term friendship and "martring np without being

"partying up without being hassled" were the two prime objectives of all the girls.

girls, Monique did not be-lieve "ship girls" deserved the rubbishing they re-ceived from Timaru people people. She said none of the

girls went out and blatant-ly advertised sex for sale.

She said she had a Jap anese boyfriend and cer-tainly did not consider herself or her associates

as prostitutes. Sure we make a be or two, but it's very spar

Ingly. I can bet you anythin you like hone of us girl have AIDS, because we al make our men wea

"Now how many gir? they are safe from the diease when some are sleep ing with a different in each night of the week said Monique who has vited ships in the Port Timaru since 1988.

She said it was a p Timaru people frown

tudes have not reached : minds of all Time

We all have our families, friends and i styles that are totally s arate from the ships. "The fact that choose to socialis ships is accepted to by them

by them. "Our individual right choose is respected at times," she said. the second second second

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JOYCE'S JOTTINGS:

WHO AND WHAT ARE YOU?

As a reader of this article the chances are that although you are classified as male on your birth certificate you dress either fully or partly in women's clothing whenever you can. This cross-dressing behaviour is called transvestism and those who do it, transvestites. However, this term does nothing to define the reason for cross-dressing and is little use as a term to describe those with a common interest.

If you want to know who you are and who are those who share the same motivation for cross-dressing then I suggest that it is important that you look at yourself as objectively as possible; you need to work out why you do what you do. Having done so, if you can come to terms with those findings you will then be in control of your life and able to make the best of it.

There are, in my view, three main reasons for cross-dressing; they are not mutually exclusive but one will usually predominate over the others. These reasons are:

- * A conviction that you are a female trapped in a male body
- * A need to be seen and behave as a woman rather than a man
- * Improved sexual stimulation/satisfaction

In looking at yourself there are, in my view, five key issues to examine. They are: Gender; Gender role; Sex; Choice of sexual partner; Preferred sexual activity.

The order in which I give them here is a personal choice; it will be necessary for you to determine their order of importance to you. That ranking will be an important indicator of your motivation for being 'different'.

Gender is a mental issue. Are your attitudes and emotions those regarded as manly or are you more inclined to those normally associated with women? Is it important to you to retain/increase this difference if it exists

Gender role is social. Do you live a life which accords with the manly stereotype? Are you comfortable with that lifestyle? Or do you find yourself uncomfortable in that role and yearn to be able to live as a woman? Is it important to you to do so?

Sex is a biological phenomena. Are your sexual characteristics anathema to you? Do you feel cheated by your body? If so, do you feel sufficiently strongly about it to undergo surgical and chemical treatment to bring it more nearly in line with your preferred sex? (Remember you cannot fully assume the characteristics of the opposite sex). If not, presumably you can (or must learn to) live with the difference between your sex and gender.

Is your desired sexual partner of the same sex or opposite? Or will either do as long as you get sexual satisfaction? Are they to have sex and gender coincident? Or doesn't it matter? Is getting (and retaining) this partner more important than the means used?

Do you have an over-riding desire for a form (or forms) of sexual activity and/or satisfaction that is not among those generally accepted as normal between persons of opposite sex expressing love for one another? Is this activity/satisfaction more important than the other issues?

Resolve these issues and you are well on the way to knowing who and what you are; but don't be concerned to stick a label on yourself. Labels in themselves solve, nothing and you probably don't have access to relevant labels anyway!

But that's another issue altogether and deserves an article of its own.

TRANSCARE DECEMBER 1990 PAGE No

GIC Newsletter

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THE GENDER COMMUNITY: WHERE ARE WE GOING IN THE NINETIES?

(Continued)

CO-OPERATION AND PRIDE

The whole point of my talk today is that we have to work together in the nineties. Our numbers are proportionately small in this country, so we can't afford indifference on this matter. I maintain that there is a common agenda and 'Unity' should be one of the answers to the question: "Where are we going in the next decade?" Whether we choose to live full-time as a TG, achieve a personal goal of surgery as a TS, or desire to express our femininity in weekend social gatherings as a TV, it is clear that we want to be able to express who and what we are without obsequious hand-wringing apologies to society. The bottom line is that we need to recognize a need for being <u>proud</u> of who we are.

In order to know where we are going in the next decade, I think an answer should be attempted to the following question: "What is it that we as a group do to evoke such a violent reaction in Society?" It's always been curious to me that people who choose merely to express themselves without any harm to others seem to threaten so many people. The less aware, unenlightened and uninformed 'great unwashed' in our society are upset by our mere existence and seem to find a more forgiving understanding attitude toward convicted violent criminals. The puritan yoke of our legacy has historically allowed us to be more tolerant of violence than sex. You can see it in our movie codes that place more importance on sex than random violence.

The mere existence of Senate Amendment 722 labels all of you as outcasts and misfits. We have become the modern day equivalent of biblical leper colonies. My criterion (as one of the 'New Lepers') is asking: "What would it take for a family to disown or ignore you?" You see it in many cases of gender shifting. It's ironic that in unconditional love you want a person to become all they can be; to stretch and grow as a human being, not limit their happiness. The more nervously macho, frail, and male egos in our society might think that just being near us will cause this phenomenon to rub off. I suggest to bigots that options in life are limitless and the possibility of gender expression regardless of sex is inherent in everybody. Medical science can certainly prove that there are male and female attributes in both sexes and the quest to explore the other side is a goal of personal growth and total integration of the complete self. Recognition of the anima/animus, yin/yang theories of life are as old as history itself, of course as Albert Einstein was once quoted, "Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds".

Over the years, I have observed a destructive and vicious cycle of distrust and sarcasm amongst the different segments of our community regarding the many different lifestyles. Bickering and infighting amongst various TV, TS, and gay groups have caused unnecessary division and hurt feelings. It has even gone so far as to cause the dissolution of valuable networking groups.

Starting anywhere you like along the cycle of mistrust, it is a cycle that feeds on itself. Mistrust breeds fear. Fear is born from ignorance; It's not stupidity, just unenlightened views. For example, a gay male might mistrust a straight TV because they may feel that TV's may harbor a basically anti-homosexual feeling; Homophobia does permeate our society.

HOMOPHOBIA

This country is <u>extremely</u> homophobic. There is an irrational obsession with dividing up <u>all</u> human life as gay or

not gay. It is a kind of voyeuristic compulsion by society to assign a slot to everyone's personal sexual preferences as if it were their business in the first place. The whole subject of homophobia in America is insufferably tedious but, like it or not, this community will always be associated with traditional gay lifestyles as long as most people still feel that the only reason that we dress is to attract men.

Outside of the obvious validation of femininity that attention affords our own psyche, we know that is often not the specific intention, but we continue to be thought of as drag queens by the less educated in society.

Part of the solution is to actively work with the gay community instead of shunning it so that by joining forces, we will be well situated to set the record straight as to the spectrum of differences in lifestyles along the gender rainbow.

MISTRUST

As I was saying, fear and ignorance together create a catalyst for violence. Herbert Spencer has said that there is a principle which cannot fail to keep man in everlasting ignorance; and that is contempt prior to investigation. The cycle of mistrust pervades <u>our</u> community as well. Heterosexual TV's mistrust bi-sexual TV's because some say they hurt the cause by allowing society to lump all TV's in with gays, society not being able to yet recognize the difference between TV's, TG's, TS's, gay males in drag and female impersonators. Some TV's mistrust TS's because they feel that they have either given up on their masculine side or more appropriately, possibly secretly jealous of their intense commitment toward their femininity. TS's I have seen sometimes have nothing to do with gay queens or TV's because mostly after surgery, they just want to disappear into the crowd and do anything but stand out. Street queens and gay prostitutes in drag are most certainly ostracized from most everybody and legitimate theatrical female impersonators in turn are not thought of part of either socially aware gays, lesbians, or the gender community as a whole. Gays mistrust organized TV groups, organized TV groups mistrust TRI-ESS, TRI-ESS mistrusts Ariadne, Ariadne mistrusts Merissa, and nobody is talking to Virginia.....(Tm just *Kidding....*, But you'd better keep your distance if you upset Virginia).

One popular hangout in Los Angeles is the Queen Mary. I've noticed over the years that the bar separates itself out in terms of a stratified society that I previously mentioned, based on sexual preference and personal tastes. Performing female impersonators don't talk to TV's and TV's huddle together away from the TS's, lest it be catching. The TS's don't consider themselves as gay men so they don't relate to either the TV's or the performers. The straight 'Ozzie and Harriet' type couples out on a voyeuristic night on the town don't talk to anybody because, as we all know, you can catch AIDS from provocative discussions. So on and on and on. To me this stratification which is so evident is reenacted in every gay bar in the country and is perfectly symbolic of the type of communication problem we face. This is another challenge of the nineties and beyond.

So, all in all, everybody mistrusts everybody just at the time of the greatest need to come together in understanding. Individually, we have no clout socially, but together, we do. Again, "If you don't hang together you hang separately". The theme of the IFGE conventions has been 'Coming Together'; that more than any other theme should be our goal in the nineties. TRANSCARE DECEMBER 1990 PAGE No 10

Gender Identity Center of Colorado, Inc.

DSM III STATUS

Another goal of the 90's should be changing our DSM III status with the American Psychological Institute which will affect future benefits, housing, and job discrimination. The fact that we are lumped in with DSM III disorders may be our own fault due to apathy. If we're not part of the solution, then we're part of the problem.

A possible solution might be aligning ourselves with a broader base in the women's movement by stating the obvious: Is a man who does what a woman does, mentally ill? By ridiculing men who wear women's clothes, it discriminates against women by implying that women's tastes and activities are a sure sign of mental illness. This should surely be seen as offensive by feminists.

Women who adopt traditional male ways by asserting themselves towards the acquisition of power, money, and status are envied. Women who dress 'mannish' get more respect in business or are admired as fashion trend setters. They are not relegated to DSM III status of mental disorders. Our male dominated society sees it as desirable for women to mimic men and raise themselves up to a supposed top position.

This self-flattery is illusion because men who choose to mimic women's ways are seen as desiring a lower rung on the social ladder. Willingly relinquishing power is seen as mental instability. Men who desire the feeling of vulnerability and emotional sensitivity are ridiculed because it symbolizes woman's weakness. The obvious implication is that women and 'womanly things' are only for second class citizens and this association of the womanly arts with mental illness should be an affront to all concerned feminists crusading for equality.

The American Psychological Institute removed gays from DSM III's 'mentally ill' status and now it's time to remove gender prejudice. The reality is that men who do those lowly things' that women do are not mentally ill, they are just getting in touch with a beautiful, nurturing quality that women enjoy.

By letting women, who comprise a 53% majority of the population, become aware of this discrimination, we stand a better chance of acceptance. By allowing men to make fun of <u>us</u>, we are allowing men to contribute to putting women down. Feminists <u>should</u> resent the implication that 'men's ways' are 'better ways' since it belittles women.

If politicians thought for a minute that they were alienating women, they couldn't discount us as a minority of 'nuts and flakes'. We must say to politicians, the American Psychological Institute, and society, don't downgrade women's things and don't look down on femininity as inferior. The key is to get the women's movement on <u>our</u> side (Gloria, are you listening?). If you allow politicians to do it to <u>us</u>, then by quiet complacency, you allow then to do it to <u>you</u> and you jeopardize your hard earned rights. It's not an issue of sex, it's an issue of gender. Women can do what men do, but men can't do what women do is a tired old prejudice that I hope will fall by the wayside in the 90's. To change old attitudes, though, requires active participation on our part. Eternal vigilance may be the price of freedom, but the woman's movement has taught us that power is not given away freely, it must be wrestled free.

Participate specifically by writing letters to politicians or volunteering to speak at colleges and political groups. A TV/TS speakers bureau should be a part of every local gender organization, just as IFGE maintains a speakers list.

IFGE

Back in 1846, Henry David Thoreau may have said, "Beware of all enterprises that require new clothes", (but that same year on her return from a shopping spree, Mrs. Thoreau modified that by saying, "Beware only of enterprises that require a matching handbag and accessories"). A 144 years later, IFGE is saying, "Beware of enterprises that discriminate about clothes! The coming together last year in San Francisco of the Congress of Representatives was an important step in the recognition of working together and the need to gersonally involved. Groups like IFGE work on a margin financial basis and need all the active financial help ar personal participation they can. The same holds true for the Outreach Institute, various gender clinics around the country, and the increasingly numerous local crossdressir groups around the country which I feel have an inherer responsibility to make themselves known and to volunted public speaking at colleges, universities, and later forcement agencies, etc., to disseminate the word that we are not a dangerous element to society as has bee suggested by the United States Senate or B movies. Eve though we are all aware of the limits of exposure in so fa as it endangers our career, livelihoods, or relationship there is a safe balance which can be maintained on a nee to know basis. The longer we choose to hide from society the longer we lock ourselves in the closet.

CD SOCIAL CLUBS

At the risk of creating a huge controversy, it has been suggested that there is no bigger closet in the world than a CD Club. However, it is important for peer group validation and a safe outlet for gender preference. It is also a "hiding in the closet" cycle that feeds on itself; kind of like going to a play and seeing the actors perform the entire play backstage instead of in front of the curtain on a stage foi the world audience to see. The downfall of the peer group and club support can be that it drives us further into the closet than before and might cause us to be even more fearful to interact with society instead of getting out making our case known to the public and being proud of who we are.

Advancing our cause can be done in a discrete and quiet manner if one feels they have too much to lose by putting themselves on the line. This can be done in the form of financial support to any number of the aforementioned organizations. It can be done by writing letters to your congressmen and representatives. People in society tend to discount the importance of a personally written letter to political representatives.??????? However, they do get read and they do get answered as this is the only way they have of knowing what their constituency is thinking.

The few letters that politicians get represent the tip of the iceberg. This is something that can easily be done without fear of revealing your personal lifestyle. Going to festive gender social events is all well and good as an important element of networking, however, this exclusion of the various other elements in the community: ts, tv, gay or dominance groups, points out our own intolerance toward understanding and brings out a kind of discrimination that exists in all of us. The continuance to promote secrecy from the rest of society almost certainly creates a kind of prison for all of us.

By Wendy Parker

This series will be continued in the next few editions of this newsletter as space does not allow for it's entirety to be printed in this issue. Topics which will be presented in the future installments include:

> The Woman's Touch Gender Peer Group Pressure AIDS Related Backlash Specific Goals in the 90's Summary

The author of this work has generously donated a complete text of this speech for inclusion in the GIC library. If you are interested in commenting on this work, please submit letters to the editor of this newsletter as well as the Tapestry.

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HELPLINE: 0268 583761 7 til 10.30 pm

Dear Leone

I thought it was about time I introduced NEW TRANSESSEX to your news letter, this group has run in England for about eight years and by myself for six years, maybe your members would like to see my article LOOKING BACK which has appeared in my last and present magazine.

Though I enjoy working with T,V,s and T,S,s (as many know I am a gender female) It can be hard going at times, particularly when it comes to getting any help but we plod on, my boyfriend who is also non T,V, and I cope with all the problems and hassle of providing a service for our members. We are convinced at times our efforts go completely unnoticed with the exception of a few. I am sure the co ordinators of the world have the same problems.

a rew. I am sure the co-oronnators of integrate and month, our attendance is always How ever we seem to produce great parties each month, our attendance is always around eighty or more, we hold special parties in June (our anniversary)and at Christmas with a live band in addition to our resident DJ. We are always looking at ways to raise funds. At present we are organising a bring and buy sale of clothing, so far it seems I collect and bring, and hopefully they

Well Leone we do enjoy your news letter and I wish you well with your group.

All good wishes

Stacy Novak,

Stacy

DATE.





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It is six years now since I first announced over the mike I was co-ordinating the group. I have met hundreds of people, given newspaper interviews, been heard on radio, written thousands of letters, seen a big turnover of helpers than I ever imagined possible.

In the early days I did not work full time and had lots of time to spare for the group. Then I bought a business that took up a lot of my time, I was always pleading for help, whether or got it or not things always seemed to carry on.

Because I did not have so many work commitments there was a lot of fun times, lots of visits. I sometimes wonder what happened to girls who moved on, got married, found partners or just plain disappeared. I used to go with Tammy to all the Tudor Lodge Balls hosted by Ron Storme and the famous Porchester Hall where Ron also had balls, and also Denis Guilding.

One of the funniest moments was very early on when Gordon still ran TE, there were two DJs, Nick who you all know and let's call him Jo. Both were terrified of you lot, you know, it was all new to then. They went to the bar together, even to the loo. Well Jo ventured up the to bar on his own one night for some reason. The line of conversation he heard included long johns, he looked at me amazed and said "You don't wear them, do you?" I replied; "Only on the motorbike," he asked if I rode. I told him it was my boyfriend's bike. Jo asked what my boyfriend thought of my coming to a place like this. I told him he comes too, he looked amazed. I asked him if he would like to meet to talk about bikes. At that moment Tammy came to the bar. The introduction left Jo flabbergasted, I thought you were a couple of girls.

Well that sat at the table and talked bikes and got on like a house on fire, A short while later a young girl came in, stormed over to Mick and Joe left that table. That was the last we saw of him, his lady never forgave him "for chatting up a bird". She never believed Mick either.

The next month Nick insisted that Barbara, his wife, came to protect him, he said. He gave her strict instructions not to leave him for a second. She helped him set up the disco, went to the bar. Mick did not see her for the rest of the evening. When Mick realised the time had come for him to "Come out," Very soon both were involved in helping and organizing with me for the next 5 years.

Stacy

Narcissus

INDECENT PUBLICATIONS Continued from OCTOBER TRANSCARE.

In the last issue of TRANSCARE we dealt with the INdecent Publications Tribunal and the H.M. CUSTOMS attitudes, Policy and Practices towards Literature entering New Zealand. Some local material produced is also subject to scrutiny too but usually as a result of the Activities of keepers of Public Morals THE SOCIETY FOR COMMUNITY STANDARDS or as its better known, The Bartlett Brigade.

We now list as best we can determine TRANS RELATED MATERIAL on which decisions were made by the Tribunal on behalf of the CUSTOMS DEPT as at APRIL 1990. This is taken from the H.M. CUSTOMS MANUAL. Decisions prior to 1980 have been deleted according to the Manual.

We are including for convenience Fetish/Bondage/Erotica/TV type listings at our discretion. This list may not be complete or entirely as acurate as we would wish. BOOKS, MAGAZINES, COMICS are covered.

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ALL STAR HUNKS UI ARENA PUBLICATIONS 38/89	
Australian Golden Boys Vol 1	
No 2 CI 16 Pictorial Magazines 15/88	
B.BEST of Hustler Vol 7 UI Hustler Magazine Inc 1032	
" " Vol 9 UI " " 18/87	
Best of MEN ONLY Vol 17,18 CI 18 Paul Paymond Publisher 15/88	
BIZARRE FASHIONS NI Not known 56/89	
BIZZARE vol i No 2 UI Centurian Publications 6/84	
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" BOOK 1 UI " " 4/88	
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LEATHER MISTRESS/Slave games	UI	PLEASURE BOOKS NY	1083
LEATHER SCHOOL	UI		1083
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believe they are the chosen ones born to rule. Lastly, Dianne, top marks for a flannel tongue try. But sorry, there are no takers. GENE LECKEY Westmere	to remove from reference to ge the past 3 year recommended ear now reappeared	its EQU ender or s this lier th as part	AL EMPLOYM ientation, was droppe is be part of the ov	ENT OPPORTUNIT and sexual or d after consul of the E.E.O. erall Departme	ed its decision Y PLAN specific ientation. For tations with sta Policy. It has ntal Policy, whi
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TRANSCARE DECEMBER 1990 PAGE No 16

SENT IN BY KEVIN OF THAMES We hope to have the Cataloguesoon.

Words and pictures **by PETER BUSH**

BLACK negligees, lace knickers, silky cullotes . . . the feminine delights you expect to find in any of the big stores in the major towns and cities of New Zealand.

The labels and prices suggest exclusive manufacturoperating from the stylish capitals of Europe. Wrong, wrong, wrong. Try Westport, New Zealand-51 Russell Street to be

exact

There you will find the local Masonic Lodge with its wrought iron gates and corrugated iron walls. Go to the back of the building and there is a small hall with giant portraits of former Grand Masters of the

Lodge adorning the walls.

There, under the grand masters' stern gaze, operates lingerie а manufacturer.

It's the home of Lacy Collections, who cater to the larger ladies, those size 16 and upward

How did this all come about in a town that once echoed to the tramp of tough gold and coal min-ers, whose lifestyles and generous thirsts have become legendary, the once come legendary, the once great West Coast, where today the dole queue has sadly become for many a way of life? It all came about be

cause Maxine Skupski, 52, herself a self-confessed and ample size 20, could not find lingerie to suit her.

Maxine explained: "If I found a petticoat that fitted it was made for a woman ten foot tall, and the cost of one I liked was more than \$70. So I decided it was cheaper to have one made."

Maxine, who had been running a Access Scheme business class, went to one of her former pupils Kath-leen Judge and asked her to make her a petticoat and nighties.

For Kathleen it was a work of love, she had worked for 15 years as a seamstress for Lane Walk-er Rudkin's Westport factor

Both Maxine and Kathleen were impressed with the result. They decided there was room in the market for larger lingerie. One in four New Zealand women were overweight,

women were over weight, they were told. Within a week of their setting up their sewing machines in the Masonic Hall they had landed an order for 300 nighties from a local store.

Other orders followed, especially for Cullote Petticoats, but because of the high markup shops place on clothing—as high as 100 per cent—they are now planning to build up



the business around mail

order. "For a small emerging business, we found the advertising rates pretty tough coming on top of the high cost of our materials and machines," said Maxine.

When they began oper-ating three months ago, they applied to various Government departments for development loans for those starting a new busi-ness. They got nowhere.

"They are more than useless and totally out of touch with the market place. I am furious with them," said Maxine.

After being turned down by regional develop-ment they went it alone. Maxine's husband George provided the finance; Kathleen Judge brought her 15 years experience in the garment trade; Maxine her business acumen; and Coleen Todd another graduate from Lane Walker's clothing plant, coming in as a machinist.

Most of the locals have got in behind the fledgling business. Some are not so keen.

Meanwhile, Maxine and George are keen to see the West Coast moving again. And they are prepared to do something about it.



WEST COAST LINGERIE . . . Chris Rodger, Amber Jo Illsley and Sharee Seymour sh

		Т	RANSCAL	E DECE	MBER 19	90	PAGE No	17	
Presenting The International Foundation for Gender Education's Sth annual COMING TOGETHER - WORKING TOGETHER' CONVENTION	lals, Wrves & Partners, essionals, Friends & Allies ar and brighter future for us all. JOIN US!	<u>APRIL 14. 1991</u>	in Denver, beautiful Denver, ocky Mountains. struton.) Special fees: \$55.00 per night single,	tower suite, \$150.00 per night hospitality suite. St., Denver, CO. 80216 (303) 458-0808 aling Friday to the following Tuesday for those : early and stay late.)	GISTRATION FEES: 2330.00 per person, \$3390.00 per couple person, \$305.00 per couple to only): \$150.00 per person Thursday \$80.00. Friday \$80.00. Saturday \$30.00.	co.co id by Jan. 1 1991, 5% if paid by Mar. 15, 1991 Supporting members and Benefactors.)	Host Organization: Gender Identity Center of Colorado Box 115S3, 3715 32nd Ave. Denver, CO 80211 1-302458-5378		
COMING TOGETH COMING TOGETH	Cross-dressers, Transsexuals, Wwes & Partners, Medical & Mental Health Professionals, Friends & Allies working together to build a happier and brighter future for us all COME AND JOIN US!	···· APRIL 8 through APRIL 14.	In the majestic Regency Hotel, in Deriver, beautiful Deriver, at the foot of the Rocky Mountains. (Hotel resistration is separate from convention reststration.) Special fees: \$55.00 per	\$65.00 per night double or twin, \$110.00 per night tower suite, \$150.00 per night hospitality suite. For reservations: Regency Hotel, 3900 Elati St, Denver, CO. 80216 (303) 458-0808 (Special hotel rates are guaranteed from the preceding Friday to the following Tuesday for those who would like to come early and stay late.)	CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEES: Full Convention (more than 3 days): \$230.00 per person, \$390.00 per couple Any 3-days: \$195.00 per person, \$305.00 per couple 2-days (Fridas & Saturdsy only): \$150.00 per person Per diem: Tuesdav \$50.00. Wednesdav \$50.00. Thursdav \$80.00. Satur		For information and Registration The International Foundation for Gender Education P.O. Box 357, Wayland, MA 01778 1-617-894-8340 Offices: 6 Cushing St, Waitham, MA 02154		
II nternational Foundation for Gender Education v.ts tapestry publications o Box 367, Wayland, Ma 01778 FICE 6 CUSHING ST., 2nd FL. WALTHAM, MA 02154 17-894-8340/899-2212 ••••• I.F.G.E. GENERAL WHAT IS I.F.G.E.2	OUTLINE ****			lisher's c C.) <u>Programs</u> 1.) <u>Annual</u>	clearing house for e	Working T	y Publications' into ou and informational boo ogether Convention'. Conference.	ir community's pri	imary pub- s.
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alism. B.) I.F.G.E. provides <u>the means</u> for individuals and c	rganizations wor	d-wide <u>to v</u>	work together for		-to-Male Issues Co				
the benefit of all.					Health Professiona				
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of

HOMOSEXUALITY

What your dreams make you

Native Americans not only accepted lesbian and gay people, they also respected them as prophets, hunters or healers. Rae Trewartha looks at homosexuality in traditional culture.

western society is to walk a tight-1 ties offern pin the minto the role of media-rope. Every time you meet a new tors between the sexes. When asked situation you have to decide how many when you file what will you be an the steps forward you can take just how spirit and? A man or a woman?; one out you can be without offending the Siour wintle 'naming' replied both' sensibilities of people who are alraid of the appears to have been fairly easy for the differences you force them to control to women in North American Indian It's encouraging therefore to team to control to take traditionally male roles about the place of lesbians and gay men in traditional North American Indian of the string of the difference and child-bearing traditional North American Indian society and to re-discover that homophobia is not some sort of genetic trait indigenous to all cultures. Indeed, many North American Indian tribes so valued gayness' that people who displayed these characteristics were picked for special office.

Gay traditions were prevalent in most American Indian tribes.' There are reports of both women and men living in samesex marriages, of women who dressed and acted as men and men who acted and dressed as women.

The European chroniclers who first came across such behaviour and customs described them in terms that belonged to their own world. So American Indian homosexual men were called 'berdaches' - French for 'slave-boys', used to refer to passive male homosexuals. The name stuck - although its servile connotations were quite inappropriate in the Native American context where berdaches were accorded considerable social prestige.

Indeed, gay transvestites were often the shamans or healers of the tribe. Sometimes they had specific religious duties. Among the Crow Indians, for example, the tree that was used in the Sun Dance ceremony would be cut down by homosexual men. Berdaches were regarded as having special intellectual, artistic and spiritual qualities. They were also reputed to be hard workers. Their

o be lesbian or gay in modern 1 ability to combine female and male quali-Western society is to walk a tight i thesoften put them anto the role of media declined marriage and child-bearing would dress as men and take part in hunting expeditions, reported Edward Carpenter in the late nineteenth century. This was also true of Sioux women who became warriors and married women. In the Kaska Indian families of Canada, parents would raise one of their daughters to become a warrior. Her sexual experiences would be with other women. Indeed, if there was sexual contact with a man it would ruin the lesbian's luck with game.

> But it was not all hunting and warmaking. The Kutrenai Indians of the Plateau speak of a woman who left the tribe for a year and married a white man. When she returned she had changed her name to 'Gone to the Spirits' and from then on behaved 'as a man'. She went on to achieve fame not only as a hunter and warrior, but also as a shaman, healer, prophet and guide.

> The distinction between homosexual and heterosexual was not always clear or constant. Friendship rather than identity could determine the course of events. As women spent most of their time with women and men with men they were often emotionally closer to members of their own sex than to members of the opposite sex. A nineteenth-century army officer, who studied Indian customs closely, reported on male pairs, saying: 'They really seem to fall in love with men





Ger An and trying to revise traditional attitudes to sexual diversity.

and I have known this affectionate interest to live for years."2

The union of two men was often publicly recognized in a 'friendship dance'. Historian Walter M Williams argues that these friendships were not necessarily homosexual, but that for all males who felt erotic attraction to other men, these relationships provided a natural avenue for same-sex behaviour. He cites a report from the 1920s saying that for the Yumas: 'Casual secret homosexuality among both men and women is well known. This is not considered objectionable.'

Spirit

But what was it about American Indian cultures that gave them such a relaxed and positive attitude towards homosexuality? To understand this we must look at their view of the world.

Indian society did not conceive of the universe as being composed of absolutes and polarities - of black and white, male and female, good and evil. Nor did it automatically equate gender identity and sex roles with biological sex characteristics.

Similarly, the spiritual and the physical were not separate. An understanding of the spiritual informed a tribe's every institution, custom, endeavor and pastime. What was 'natural' to a person was what the spirits told that person to be. So, if the spirits told someone, through visions or dreams, to act and dress as a person of the opposite sex, for that person not to do so would be to go against their culture and to endanger their own lives. Or in the words of one Indian elder: 'To us a man is what nature or his dreams make him. We accept him for what he wants to be'.

Some tribes believed that 'gayness' was something people were born with. Others believed it came to a person in a dream or a vision. While others had special ceremonies to test whether a boy or girl was gay. For instance, in CONTINUED OVERPASE



representing women's work on the other. The grass was set alight around the child and their future was determined by which pile they chose something from as they ran from fire to fire.

Western responses

It was hard for Westerners to grasp such a philosophy - especially when it clashed so fundamentally with their own sexual taboos. So early writers would incorrectly describe the berdaches as hermaphrodites (people who have both male and female sex organs). Many tribes did use a term meaning 'half-man, half-woman' to describe the berdache, but this referred to a person's spirit or character, not to ambiguous genitalia. Western society was unable to understand that Indian society provided, through the berdache system, an alternative gender role.

This had some brutal consequences. For the colonizing forces the prevalence of homosexuality only served to reinforce their belief that they had a divine right to destroy Native American culture and its peoples. Only tribes which have had little or no contact with European civilization have been able to retain their sexual diversity. In the 1950s and 1960s anthropologist Tobias Schneebaum was studying the Amakaeri people of Peru, living in the depths of the Amazonian rainforest. They maintained a culture where homosexuality was the norm and heterosexuality only

Polynesia Today, zay North American Indians are involved in a struggle to recover the wisdom of their ancestors in relation to homoscinality. It is not an easy job. But some tribes have managed to retain more than others. According to lesbian North American Indian activist Barbara Cameron the Pachlo Indians are 'probably the most together tribe in the country, the ones who have best retained the old ways and traditions ... gay people are still accorded position of spect in the tribe. Some are heaters medicine people ... Twenty years after the Stonewall Riots

in New York which seemed to pave the way to gay liberation in Western societies, we are still fighting for the right to have homosexuality accepted without prejudice. It would appear that as a community we will, in all our rich diversity, continue to walk a tight-tope and only dream of being accepted for 'what our dreams or nature make us

Freelance writer and anthropologist Rae Trewartha is a lesblan, a mother and an AIDS activist from Aotearoa(NZ).

1 Another Mother Tongue, Judy Grahn, Beacon Press, 1984. 2 The Spirit and the Flesh, Walter L Williams, Beacon Press, 1986. 3 Which Homosexuality? Essays from the internation-1900. S Which non-backbary: Essays from the mematoir-al/scientific conference on ession and gay studies, Gay Men's Press, 1989. 4 Keep the river to your right, Tobias Schneebaum, Grove Press, 1969. 5 Ritualized Homosexuality in Melanesia, G Herdt, Holt, Reinhart and Winston, 1984. 6 Gay American History, Jonathan Katz, Thomas Crowell, 1976. Cadolle, who had the idea of cutting. the midriff out of the full-body corset. to give women a breather. The invention ushered in new

freedom and spelt the end of rigid lace-up stays. Cadolle's first version was little

more than a glorified corset but by 1912 she was producing a version of the modern bra in cotton and silk.

The device was euphemistically dubbed the "soutien-gorge" (bosomsupporter) a word which first entered the French dictionary, in 1904.

In the decades that followed the bra's shape altered to suit the fashion of the day and women's changing images of themselves:

In the 1920s, when women who had worked in arms factories in World War I were campaigning for their rights, boyish profiles were all the rage and bras were designed to flatten the bust.

Ten years later the fuller figure was popular again and manufacturers first began classifying bra cups in sizes from A to D. The late '40s, hit by apost-war shortage of silk, saw the triumph of synthetic fibres, which gave bras elasticity and support.

The underwired bratwas an invention of the 1950s: the brainwave of American millionaireand film-maker Howard Hughes, whoswanted a brathat would show voluptuous Hollywood star Jane Russell's 38-inch (95cm) bust to advantage in his latest western: 13

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