



News & views

Vision • Integrity • Quality

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A Community Is Born

by Sarah DePalma

I hope all of you will please forgive some emotion from a person who is not normally given to such things. Today's date is June 25, 1995. Let it burn into your memory. On this day a truly national transgender movement has been born. You will someday be able to tell your friends and family you were a participant in this event.

First, The Tri Ess Sorority, the worlds largest association of mostly heterosexual crossdressers has passed three resolutions of remarkable proportions.

(1) Tri-Ess is firmly committed to ending intolerance, disrespect, harassment, intimidation bigotry, racism, hatred and bias in society and strongly encourages its members to work toward the elimination of such discrimination wherever it exists.

(2) Tri-Ess believes that crimes based on such intolerance, disrespect, harassment, intimidation, bigotry, racism, hatred and bias should be firmly punished, and we strongly support the enactment of hate crimes legislation that will incorporate such punishment. (Forgive me Jane Ellen [Jane Ellen Fairfax, Chair of Tri-Ess] but I'm crying as I write this. After all our hard work on hate crimes legislation you can't imagine what this means to me.)

(3) Tri-Ess stands firmly for an end to discrimination in the workplace and supports legislation prohibiting discrimination against any person for any reason that is not related to bona fide occupational qualifications for the relevant job classification or job performance.

Wow! And, on the same day I find this news in my mailbox from Tere Fredrickson in San Antonio concerning her conversation with Elizabeth Birch, head of the The Human Rights Campaign Fund, (HRCF), a gay lobbying group. The essence of Tere's news is the HRCF has no intention of doing squat for us. Nada. Zip. Zilch and nothing. We are totally on our own and no way in hell do they include us in the Employment Non-discrimination Act (ENDA). This confirms the same basic message given to Riki Anne Wilchins (Transexual Menace head honcho) the day before. Imagine that! On the very day the Tri-Ess Sorority issues one of the most powerful statements in memory, the HRCF slams the door on inclusion.

Ladies and gentleman, meet the issues on which the national transgender movement will be built... employment discrimination, employment discrimination...

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ENDA, HRCF & YOU

The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) is a gay lobbying organization that has been working to get the Employment Non-Discrimination Act passed in Congress. The act would cover people who are gay or "perceived" to be gay in matters of employment. If you're fired because you're gay, ENDA would give you recourse. If you are a straight man in a dress or a transsexual, ENDA doesn't apply to you, as currently written.

Some feel the "perceived" language ought to be enough to cover the crossdresser or transsexual and while it might work in some cases (if you're a gay crossdresser or an F-t-M who is attracted sexually to men), there are many people who would be left without recourse. Unless the specific words: transgendered, crossdresser, transvestite, transsexual are added to the act, too many people will be left out.

HRCF has stated they have no intention of backing a law that includes transgendered people. Their reasoning, flawed though it is, runs along the lines of — we can't rub elbows with these people because the straight laced, conservative support we need in Congress will not vote for a bill that includes drag queens, crossdressers and other gender trash weirdoes. They are wrong because those conservative, straight laced types on the Hill think we're all "queer." It doesn't matter if you're a man who loves men or a man who loves to wear a dress, Congressmen will tar us all with the same brush.

Renaissance cooperated with the Transexual Menace and the Grassroot Queers to stage an "Informational Action" at an HRCF fund raising ap-

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Renaissance

Chapter & Affiliate Information

Chapters

Delaware

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

New Jersey

South Jersey/Shore Area: Write Renaissance South Jersey, Box 189, Mays Landing, NJ, 08330. Meets first Saturday of the month at the Atlantic Mental Health Center, 2002 Black Horse Pike, McKee City. Doors open 7PM. Call 609-641-3782 for details.

Pennsylvania

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

Lower Susquehanna Valley: Write Renaissance LSV, Box 2122 Harrisburg, PA 17105. Meets on the first Saturday of the month. Call 717-780-1LSV (1578) for location and times.

Affiliates

Connecticut

Devon: connecticutView, c/o Denise Mason, PO Box 2281, Devon, CT 06460. Monthly newsletter and activities.

Georgia

Atlanta: The American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS), PO Box

33724, Decatur, GA 30033-0724 or call 404-939-0244. Information resources.

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

Louisiana

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

Maryland

A chapter is forming in Baltimore. Write P.O. Box 39189, Baltimore, MD, 21212 or call 410-243-4250 24hr Hotline/Info.

New Jersey

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

New York

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

Long Island: New York GIRL & Partners, PO Box 456, Centereach, NY 11720, Call 516-732-5115 for info.

Oklahoma

Central Oklahoma: Sooner Diversity, part of the Central Oklahoma Transgender Alliance (COTA). Contact, Rachel [REDACTED], P.O. Box 575, Norman, OK 73070.

Pennsylvania

Lehigh Valley/Poconos: NEPTGA, meetings on the second Saturday of the month in the Allentown area. Call for directions and more information, 610-821-2955.

Renaissance News & Views

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

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

Local Calendar

August

- 5 Ren. South Jersey
- 5 Ren. LSV meeting
- 12 NEPTGA, Allentown
- 12 Ren. Delaware
- 19 Ren. GPC
- 26 Balto. Affiliate

September

- 2 Ren. South Jersey
- 2 Ren. LSV meeting
- 9 Ren. Delaware
- 9 NEPTGA, Allentown
- 16 Ren. GPC
- 23 Balto. Affiliate



Background Papers:

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

Significant Other Support

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

Pen Pal Program:

If you would like to correspond with other people around the country contact Pen Pals, care of Maryann Kirkland, PO Box 1242, Newtown, Pa., 18940.

News Beat & Reminder



by Angela Gardner

Ah, summer! I'm reminded of an old song, and since I have the mental capacity of a five-year-old, I am forced, forced I tell you, to paraphrase the lyrics to the tune of *Dancin' In The Street* — "... Summer's here and the time is right for meltin' in the heat." Yes, it isn't a time of great enjoyment for the heavily made up and bewigged CD. Fortunately I had some practice with heat and humidity back in June at the Be All. Thus prepared and eased into the one hundred degree range I have continued to dress through the summer months, even in the daytime, but I will be happy when the cool fall weather returns, and I can shave less of myself every time I go out. Ouch! Pass the iodine, please.

But, enough of this badinage (and bandaging cuts)— it's show time!

Busch Is Back In Skirts

All those years in dresses way off-Broadway have paid off for our first lady of the theater, **Charles Busch**. Fresh from his first in-pants role in a show at Philadelphia's Wilma Theater, Busch is stepping into the platform shoes vacated by real girl Alison Fraser in the off-Broadway musical, *Swing-time Canteen*. This is historic casting since it's the first time a guy has played a woman's role off-Broadway. Oh, yeah, we've had men in dresses running around New York theater (on and off stage) for years (mostly way off Broadway) but this is the first time a producer has said, "Give the role that was written for and performed the first time by a woman, to a man." Charles

won't be playing a drag queen or cross-dresser. In this show, he gets to be a real live girl. Talk about non-traditional casting. The show, as you may gather from the title, is a World War II nostalgia fest. Charles will be wearing one of those **Andrew Sisters** type outfits. Good luck Charles, break a leg, or at least a nail.

RuPaul Conquers Publishing

Lettin' It All Hang Out (Hyperion, 240 p., \$19.95) is the title of the new book by the living legend of drag. She does it all; singing, modeling, acting, writing. What's left? Will she give birth? Stay tuned for all the details.

Promo on the book says the blonde bombshell (eat your heart out Madonna) is promoting her positive thinking drag queen philosophy: IF A MAN OVER SIX FEET TALL CAN MAKE A SUCCESS OF HIMSELF WEARING PUMPS AND A PLATINUM WIG SO CAN YOU! YOU BETTER WORK, GIRL! In addition to pumping up your positive thinking, the book is chock full of info on Ms. Charles' rise to the top and all the encounters and dish you'd hope for. Sounds like a good read for a rainy afternoon when it's too icky to go to the mall. At \$19.95 for the hardback I'll be waiting for the soft-cover version. I hope they include photos.

Meanwhile, an adoring fan has put a page on the Web for her gorgeousness. Point your browser to: <http://www.cyber-dyne.com/~tprebble/ruPaul/index.html> and revel in the Ru. I think it's about time I got a platinum

blonde wig and changed my name to **RuPaul Lite**. I'm gonna work!

Making Waves On The Radio

Talk radio is a lot of things; sports, right wing jerks, sophomoric "humor" and "regular" listeners who call in and offer their opinions on everything but the topic currently being debated. What you don't expect on talk radio is a transgendered host. (Usually we're the guests.) Well, as a Jewish guy named Bob once sang "The times they are a changin'" and we've got not one but two TG folks hosting radio programs. (There may be more but they haven't sent me a press release yet.)

Down in Texas, Sarah DePalma turns the knobs and watches the dials for a radio program called *After Hours* on KPFT Radio in Houston. Keep up the good work, Sarah.

Up in New England our hostess with the mostest is Nancy Nangeroni. She graduated from MIT and then kept hanging around till they gave her a show on the MIT radio station, WMBR (88.1). Hey Nancy, that's how I got started in show biz. I worked at WDFM, the Penn State station. I played music though. Back then you couldn't get me to talk. Now I won't shut up.

If you're hanging around the hallowed halls of MIT on a Wednesday night, tune in from 10:30 to 11:30 for *Gender Talk*. Since I won't shut up, now I'm available for a guest spot. Call my agent, JoAnn Roberts.

Tran Search

No, it's not a *Star Search* for cross-dressers. Roberta [redacted] of the **Washington-Baltimore Alliance** is hunting for some folks who were around in the dim mists of time when that organization was coming together. Back in the 70's a group called the International Alliance (ambitious name for a group in Baltimore County) was meeting down in Maryland. In 1985, since international membership was down, the group was floundering and Roberta took charge. That group became the present day Washington-Baltimore Al-

continued next page

News Beat...

liance. Roberta is writing the history of the organization and needs to find some of the ladies who were there at the beginning. If you are or know where to find **Glenda Rene Jones, Linda Ann Stevens** or **Linda Phyllis Robbins**, get in touch with R. [REDACTED], PO Box 4064, Rockville, Maryland, 20849-4064.

I know why they left. Roberta only has two names, and these girls all had three each. No doubt they've gone off somewhere to start **The Society of Tri-Named Trans**. You can call the Alliance at 800-496-9332. Let Roberta know if you can help her.

AEGIS On The Net

With all the World Wide Web and Net stuff going on, it sometimes sounds like one of those wrestling organizations — **"See WWW superstars JoAnn 'CyberQueen' Roberts and Dallas 'Mad Dog' Denny go breast to breast with Masked Tran and The Miss Murderer in a tag team match to the death!!!"**

Well, WWW is not like WWF. It's not like FTP, either, but that's another set of initials from the Net that you should know. Why?

AEGIS is the latest to dive into the icy waters of the Net. They have just announced their very own FTP site, and it's extremely useful for girls like us. An FTP site is a location where you can download information, usually for free. Point your FTP software to;

Host: mindspring.com;

User ID: anonymous

Password: (leave blank)

Directory: /users/aegis.

The more than 60 gender-related files available at the site include the *Standards of Care* and articles about them, lists of resources, articles, and several chapters from a novel. Files can be downloaded as text or Word-Perfect 5.1 files. Users download either of two self-executable zipped files (one for text files, and one for WP5 files), which, when run, will unpack into all files present at the site.

If you don't have a computer and you'd like to download a copy of the *Standards of Care*, or the chapters from the novel get a friend on the Net to grab them for you. What could be more convenient? You don't even have to go to the book store or library anymore for information about transgender issues. Let's boot up and log on!

Canuk CD on TV

The *Xpressions Explorer* newsletter from up in the Great White North carried a bit about a TG "television actor" named Janet "Blondozilla Williams. It seems she has made some history in a vein similar to Charles Busch. She was hired to portray a female police officer in a *Nancy Drew/Hardy Boys Mystery* show being shot in that hot bed of crossdressing, Toronto. The show is slated to run all over Canada and in the U.S. on the Disney Channel. Look for a fall start in Canada and check your listings in the States.

Seems she is featured throughout the show but her big scene comes at the end as the Hardy Boys come running down the stairs and she gives them a stern look. Her acting was limited to looks since it was a non-speaking (as we say in the biz, "extra") bit. Pretty cool though. Keep up the good work Blondzilla and tell your agent you want to talk next time. Another good way to get more money is have your agent tell them you'll do the drag bit but it's so much work to get in makeup and costume you'll need triple scale pay to even think about it. Don't let the producers know you're having the time of your life.

More From T.C.W.N.

Of course crossdressing in Canada should come as no surprise. Canada has such cold weather, and out on the western prairies there's not much to do, so it's no wonder that more than a few ranchers and farmers have tried crossdressing for entertainment purposes. Michelle [REDACTED] sent in a clipping from the *World Press Review* called **Iron John In Pumps**. It seems there is a lot of participation in "lighthearted, mock wedding ceremonies, where both sexes crossdress." They do it in

celebration of people's real wedding anniversaries and other important events. (Be cool if they did it to celebrate a couple's mock wedding anniversary.) Folklorist Michael Taft wrote an article for the *Globe and Mail* of Toronto about the subject and was quoted as saying, "Male ranchers and farmers are especially unforthcoming on the subject of crossdressing. The few males who have opted to talk...said most men participate to enhance their reputation as a good sport." He added, "Some seem to view it as a reaffirmation of their manhood." They don't, "fear the occasional foray into pumps."

"Well men, get the pumps. It's Aunt Thelma's birthday and she wants all the 'girls' to be at her party." Wanna bet about forty or fifty years ago a well regarded farmer, who happened to be a crossdresser, introduced this quaint tradition and the "good sport" thing has kept it going ever since? The article says that even though the men don't really want to talk about it they seem to participate with zeal and throw themselves into the role. Guess if all else fails we can move to the prairie. "Pass the mirror, Frank. I gotta check my lipstick. I want to look pretty fer the wife."

Breasts!

Thought that would get your attention. I was skimming through a catalog at a friend's house the other day and what did my wondering gaze see? Breast forms. Not junky ones either. The reasonably soft, bouncy kind. They were priced at \$159.00. Not a bad amount for a good balcony. The catalog had lots of other cool items, like a soft sponge lotion applicator on a long handle for those hard to reach spots and, something no woman should be without, a cordless electric nail file.

This is the kind of thing that should go in **Shopping With Jackie** but I didn't have time to send it to her. I wanted to get the info directly to you... the loyal reader. Drop a note to Dr. Leonards' *Health Care Catalog*, 42 Mayfield Avenue, PO Box 7821, Edison, NJ 08818-7821. Tell them you want a copy of the catalog. You could spend hours looking through this at the

stuff they consider healthcare related.

Psst! Wanna Be In Show Biz?

A while back I told you about a production company that was trying to get up the capitol to produce a film with a crossdressing theme. We all know how hard getting money to produce a film can be. (Look how long we've been trying to get the cash together for our **Transgender Film Project**. Send your check to Renaissance today.) Elizabeth Street Productions has sent out a letter to groups in the TG community asking for investors in a film called *This Can't Be Macy's*. It's, "A contemporary comedy based on a middle-aged couple who own a clothing store for crossdressers." It will, "... portray one man's struggle to own his own business but it will more specifically represent the gender community than other films in the past." It's a comedy. If you'd like to send them a giant check contact Bill Moser, at Elizabeth Street Productions, 13516 Haynes St., Van Nuys, CA 91401. Their phone number is 818-██████████. Fax is 818-902-9818. Good luck as a producer. Make sure I get tickets to the premier.

Last Minute Musings

A bunch of us went to see *The Queen*, the 1967 documentary about a drag beauty contest in New York. It was fun watching the film and remembering 1967 in my own western Pennsylvania reality. If I had seen this movie back then I would have had heart failure from the excitement. Now

it's a page out of history that remains very similar to the modern day pageant experience, except for the outfits. And, oh girl! That hair.

One line from the movie stands out as the perfect come back to anyone trying to get you to tell them your male name. If someone asks your name, you give them your femme name and they say, "Oh sure. What was your name before?" Say, "Honey, there was no before."

Remember, if you have email capabilities, you can send me your comments, suggestions, and good recipes for cookies to: ██████████@cpcn.com and I'll get it almost instantly. They're more likely to get in to the News that way since I can always lose a piece of paper. (My desk looks like an explosion in a paper factory.) Electronic mail is easier to work with as well as quicker. Providing I check my email. That's it for another thrill packed month. Don't let your pancake cake.



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Crossdressing blues band forming in the Philadelphia area. Need drummer with a nice frock. For information call Terri at 215-763-3240..

Ladies garments and lingerie for sale. Reasonable prices. Call Terri for details. 215-763-3240..

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

Innovative new transgendered public-relations group looking for models, volunteers, artists, or other interested parties. Call Christy at 215-476-2018.

ADVERTISERS! Why not use a transgendered model/spokesperson? Incentives for first time clients looking for something innovative. Call Second Sex Public Relations 215-476-2018.

ARTISTS! Why not use a transgendered model for your next school or creative project? Call Second Sex Public Relations for a free session. Ask for Christy at 215-476-2018.

Overstock - UV and Air Dry Acrylic nail supplies, instructions for nominal fee. Call Lynda, Cdtips, at 609-384-6269, x6100.

Your Ad Could Be Here

Have You Noticed How Renaissance Is Growing?

In the last two month, Renaissance has added two more affiliated organizations. That brings the Renaissance family to a total of fourteen local groups, 4 Chapters and 10 Affiliates, in a total of 9 different states. This makes us one of the fastest growing transgender organizations in the country and the single largest open-membership organization in the world.

We're proud of our growth and the people who have made it possible. If your organization is looking for a national sponsor, maybe we have what you're looking for. Contact the Co-Director of Outreach/Community Relations at the Renaissance National Office. The address is on page 2.

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Community...

nation, and employment discrimination. All delivered in a nice bow, courtesy of the HRCF. We ought to send them a Thank You note.

Is there a transgendered person anywhere that does not understand employment discrimination? Can there be a transgendered person who doesn't think this is *the* key political issue on our plate today? Could an easier target be served up than a group which is predominately white, predominately male, and extremely arrogant? Is there an easier message to explain than a tiny

minority asking to receive protection versus a giant who wants to discriminate? My goodness, in my wildest dreams I could never have envisioned such a scenario! And it happens at a time when ICTLEP, Transsexual Menace, Transgender Nation, It's Time, America! and, now, Tri-Ess are working together for the first time in history. Mark the date in bold red letters... we became a community today.

In the days ahead we will have decisions to make. Now that we know where HRCF is at, what is the best way to maintain pressure on them without sounding shrill? How do we make our political organizations

funded so that the individual leaders no longer have to pay expenses out of pocket? How do we bring individual media outlets like IFGE, Renaissance, and Cross-Talk into this revolution without scaring away their readership?

Yes, these and many more things will need to be decided in the months ahead. And yes, the potential to fall into bickering will certainly be there. But tonight I have the sense our fledgling movement has not only come together, but we have been given the issue upon which there is universal agreement and the fertile soil for future growth. Savor this moment, a movement has just been born.



ENDA...

pearance of the lesbian sister of House Speaker Newt Gingrich. When Candace Gingrich came to a town meeting in Philadelphia she, and the attendees, were met by Renaissance members and Grassroot Queers handing out flyers authored by the Menace which condemn the exclusion of transgendered people from ENDA and urges HRCF to practice inclusion. While not disrupting the event the presence of the protesters, and the information supplied by them, should have a positive effect.

All of this is not something that will benefit marginalized people today or even next year. ENDA has a long way to go before it gets passed. We must keep working, together, for the day when it will be passed and for another day even farther in the future when the world will be a place that doesn't need legislation to guarantee equal rights and freedom from discrimination for all people.

Message sent via e-mail to the Human Rights Campaign Fund on behalf of Renaissance:

To: hrcfcomm@aol.com

Subject: Inclusion

Imagine that you are a male crossdresser. You walk down the streets of

the city dressed in women's clothing, which gives you an emotional and/or sexual satisfaction. Besides being a crossdresser you are a citizen of the US, a taxpayer, a son, a lover, and a heterosexual male. As you pass a dark alley mouth, listening to the echoing click clack of your high heeled shoes, you hear a guttural male voice say, "Hey baby! Where ya goin' all alone?" This is followed by an unprintable exclamation and then, "Damn, it's a man! Fuckin' faggot!"

This is a scenario that occurs on an all too regular basis in our unenlightened world. No one should beat, hurt or kill anyone for any reason. Certainly a person's sexual orientation should not be the basis for a violent act. But, it happens, and when it is about to happen to a crossdresser there is not much hope that when informed of the sexuality of his victim the attacker will stop and say, "Oh? I'm sorry. I didn't know you were a heterosexual crossdresser. Have a nice day." Men in women's clothing are *perceived* to be gay. That places all of us in the same boat; whatever our actual orientation.

The same prejudice that fuels violent acts against us extends into the work place. A worker spotted in a dress at a local gay bar is labeled "gay" by fellow employees, and if it gets to management's ear, an ear that may have an anti-homosexual attitude, perceptions that will influence the cross-

dressed employee's future situation with that company. If it does influence the crossdresser in a negative way, then no matter what his actual orientation, he is a victim of discrimination based on his perceived orientation.

Including transgendered people, who are thought of as "queer" by most of the world, in any legislation enacted to protect human rights seems to be just fair. If we are subjected to discrimination, and in some cases, violence; shouldn't we have the same protection as those we are perceived to be? Include transgendered people. We are only other human beings who are trying to get through our time on this planet.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Angela Gardner, Co-Director of Outreach, The Renaissance Education Association, Inc.

Don't let the folks in Philadelphia have all the protest fun. Candace Gingrich is touring the country to raise funds for HRCF. Here's part of the itinerary for August. Get out there and tell them we wanna play in the sandbox, too.

August 5: New England

August 12: Louisiana

August 19: Dallas

Check with your local HRCF chapter. They should be listed in the Gay Yellow Pages. Just give them a call and tell them you're a gay Republican who would like to be there to see Candace. Then get down there and pass out flyers. Contact Riki Anne Wilchins for great flyer text. Email her (riki@pipeline.com) or call at 212-645-1753. It's time to activate all activists.



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It's hard to believe, but we're into our tenth year in business. We'd like to thank everyone who made this possible, especially those who frequented **Paradise In The Poconos**. So, we're making the Sept. '95 weekend a very special event.

We'll be giving away a free Paradise weekend and lots of gift certificates from really great community vendors. We've planned a marvelous event just for you.

Paradise In The Poconos is produced by and for crossdressers, just like you. Whether you're experienced or a novice, we've got something you'll love.

One price fits all: \$335* per person, double occupancy. Includes all activities — 3 parties and 2 seminars — room, all meals, tax, and gratuity. Register now for the September weekend before we fill up.

*Some single occupancy rooms available at higher price.

Paradise In The Poconos is produced solely by Creative Design Services and is not affiliated with any other organization.



I guess I'm just an old fashioned girl. Sometimes I think I'm the only crossdresser who doesn't have an e-mail address. You know, the italicized mumbo jumbo like:

tramp@www.wears.womens.dresses.

Of course, you have to have a computer to get on the Internet and while I'm not typing this on an Underwood typewriter, I'm not exactly 'wired' yet.

Another old fashioned thing I'm sticking with is spandex — the greatest invention of the twentieth century, in my mind. But spandex minis have all but vanished from the stores. Lord knows, I've been searching for them for this past year unsuccessfully. They are as rare as a stylish high-heeled pump nowadays.

But enough of this maudlin pining. It's time to pop another eight-track in the stereo and begin writing this month's column...

I.D.E.A.S. FOR I.F.G.E.

Kymberleigh Richards wrote an editorial in her Cross-Talk Magazine's June issue titled 'Is It Too Late to Save IFGE?' As you may have heard, IFGE has had some changes lately. They have a new Chairperson (Renaissance's own Alison Laing) and have turned themselves into a membership type organization.

IFGE has had financial difficulties in the past couple of years and it's been under fire for some non-financial missteps as well. Kymberleigh devoted most of her essay to IFGE's financial woes and made five constructive suggestions for strengthening the Foundation's ledgers. In order:

1. Lose the [IFGE] headquarters building. The Foundation has its own

building in Massachusetts and Kym believes it is an unnecessary luxury for a strapped organization. '[Renting] space has got to be less expensive'.

2. Bring *Tapestry* costs under control. IFGE publishes the quarterly magazine *Tapestry* — and Kymberleigh publishes the monthly *Cross-Talk*, so she knows whereof she speaks when she discusses publishing costs. Kym believes that valuable (and expensive) paper is wasted on regular features like listings of support groups and professional services — about sixteen pages per issue. 'The savings from sixteen fewer pages on a press run of 10,000 copies is pretty substantial.'

3. Make the personal listings a separate publication from *Tapestry*. This would save not only pages in the *Tapestry* press run, but could be used as a means to boost paying membership in IFGE by those who wish to list their personal ad or receive the separately published listing. With the personal ads out of the 'new' *Tapestry*, they might be able to mainstream the magazine into retailers who would stock 'alternative' publications but shy away from anything smacking of sex listings, which some could construe from the personals.

4. Shift outreach programs to outside committees. This is a little more 'inside' than most of us non-IFGE folk care to understand but Kym thinks there's some economizing to be had so I'll defer to her judgment on this one.

5. Downscale the annual convention. The Coming Together convention has been changed to a 'leadership' conference rather than the general get-together it once was. Kym feels that it isn't necessary to hold a leadership-

only meeting in expensive digs as was the case for the larger conventions.

IFGE may get bashed from time to time — and I've taken a few shots at it myself — but that's only because it is looked up to as a respectable national organization and we would like to see it being run properly. We can all hope that the changes being instituted by the Foundation, and maybe some of these suggestions or others intended to improve it, will be successful for its future health and well-being.

THERE BUT FOR THE GRACE OF ALLAH GO I

The *FEM* Newsletter from the girls of Phi Epsilon Mu Tri-Ess in Winter Park, Fla., carried an article by Lolita [redacted] about her experiences as a temporary transferee to Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia, as a conservative Islamic culture, has as many rules and regulations about female dress as... well, as some stateside TG support groups.

Lolita reports, for those unfamiliar with Islamic customs, that women must wear the traditional flowing black wrap known as an 'Abayya' when in a public place. The Abayya and its accessories such as elbow length gloves and a sheer black veil are designed to keep the woman's body completely covered at all times. Only during private family time at home or in others' homes may women wear modern fashions. When traveling to a friend's home, the Abayya is worn over modern clothing to be removed only after arrival when safe from public view. Foreign visitors are not bound by the rules of dress for Saudi women but often follow along because of the strong cultural rigidity to the code.

Saudi Arabia is a very wealthy country and there are well stocked womens wear stores carrying expensive modern fashions in lingerie, casual and formal wear, shoes and makeup. When the Abayyas come off, the Saudi women are usually well-dressed and made-up for their family and friends. Because of the suppressed role of women in Islamic culture, it is common for the men to do the clothes shopping for their women and most of the womens' stores are staffed by male salespersons.

Lolita says that this makes it extremely easy for a crossdresser to go shopping in Saudi Arabia. But crossdressing in public — and probably in private — is a big no-no under Islamic law.

It occurred to me as I read Lolita's article that the Saudi culture for its real women is similar to the de-facto circumstances for most crossdressers in the U.S. As long as nobody sees you wearing the 'wrong' clothing in public, you can do as you wish in the privacy of your own home. And covering oneself head-to-toe under a flowing black cloak and veil is what many of us need to do in order to pass in public anyway.

LIFT UP YOUR VOICES

Dawn ■ wrote an article about her experience with vocal surgery that appeared in the *MFG News* from St. Paul, MN. I didn't see the original version but caught a recap by Allison Marsh in the *Emerald City News* out of Seattle, WA.

Dawn wrote that she had pursued surgery to change the pitch of her voice but could find no surgeons in her area who could do such a procedure. A Beverly Hills plastic surgeon whom she had read about charged \$6,000 for the procedure but that level of expense was out of her price range. After checking around, she found a local otolaryngologist who did some preliminary tests and agreed to do the procedure on Dawn for about \$3000.

Even after reading the piece, I still don't know exactly how the procedure works but it was apparently successful in that Dawn's vocal pitch rose about an octave. This made her voice approximately equal in pitch to her wife's and that of the speech therapist Dawn was seeing. The speech therapy was necessary because although the tonal level of her new voice may have been more feminine, the modulation and patterns of speech need to be adjusted to make it believably feminine.

I know nothing about Dawn's situation before this procedure so I won't judge her decision to go through with it. However, it does seem a rather radical and risky move to take for achieving a more feminine voice. It seems to have made her feel better about her-

self so it was successful in a deeper sense than the mere shifting of vocal range.

Most of us spend many hours trying to achieve a visual approximation of femininity but either neglect or fail to get anywhere close to feminine speech. If we get close enough to someone to converse, having a believably feminine voice could increase our chances of 'passing' - equalizing some of our appearance deficiencies. In most instances, we know the jig is up as soon as we open our mouths to speak. Wouldn't it be nice to keep the guessing game going a little longer while we carried on a conversation?

SO THAT'S HOW YOU DO IT

The *Transgenderist* newsletter of the TGIC group in Albany NY ran a tongue-in-cheek article titled "How to Look Like a Transvestite." The article was a list of eleven tips to get just that right look of the 'truck driver in drag' we all know so well, from our own past experience and seeing it on others.

Not all of the listings were humorous, but some of them were right on the mark. Among those were: 'Make your bustline as large as possible — to about a DDDD cup.' 'If you use the silicone breast forms, make sure they have a nipple about the size of your thumb and wear sheer bras and white blouses.' 'Buy a bra that is much too small. Remember that the look you want is a pair of ice cream cones, set about three inches apart and two inches below your collarbone.' 'If you have large, hairy hands, 'buy a pair of white gloves and make sure they don't quite reach the end of your sleeve to display a bit of enticing hairy flesh.' 'For daytime shopping, wear leopard print Lycra with glitter eyeshadow.' 'For evening, choose a micro-mini with patterned hose — especially if you have knobby knees.'

We can all laugh because we've all been there. Come to think of it...when you're talking Lycra micro-minis...I'm still there.

A SLICE OF ENGLISH CHEESECAKE

Reflections International is a book-

let-sized publication of the TransEssex group in England. It's a very well done and having read through it, the TransEssex gang seems like an active bunch of ladies.

They use a fair amount of photos in the magazine and aren't at all bashful about showing a little glamour. It's a refreshing and fun approach to crossdressing that doesn't undermine the seriousness of the enterprise, but rather enhances it.

Noteworthy was the cover photo and inside layout from a member named Barbara. If you'd like to see a few nice photos, then I'd recommend you peruse the June 95 issue in our Renaissance library. You may find yourself adopting a thick cockney accent as you whistle and say, "Cor, blimey! Look at that bit 'o crumpet!"

I GUESS SOMEBODY OUT THERE IS READING THIS STUFF

I was surprised to see *The Transgenderist* newsletter from Albany NY carried a lengthy 'point-counterpoint' response to my item about Callan Williams and Miss Take, two writers for that newsletter. They referred to it as 'The Dina Amberle Controversy'. Of course, the joke was really on me all along because Callan Williams and Miss Take are in fact the same person.

And it was interesting to read Jane Ellen Fairfax's rebuttal to my slant on her 'Trash Talk' essay that appeared in the July and June issues respectively. I was worried that I may have alienated Jane Ellen with my strongly worded piece but I guess we're still friends. Aren't we? Maybe? I hope?

Tracy ■, the President of the Hawaiian TG Outreach group, responded by letter to a column I sent her where I mentioned the remarkable photos they run in their newsletter. And as a token of thanks she sent me about a dozen prints of some pageant contestants from the islands. But my favorite photo was the studio glamour shot of Tracy herself. I ought to donate these photos to the Renaissance library but, gee, I kinda hate to part with them.

continued on next page

Renaissance Affiliate News

NEPTGA by Angie

The Renaissance family is about to gain a new addition. The Northeastern Pennsylvania Transgender Association has formed in the Lehigh Valley and at the next National Board meeting in September we will present ourselves for consideration as the newest Renaissance Affiliate.

Our first meeting was held in Allentown at Patricia Klein's office, 1013 Brookside Ave., Suite 201, on July 8. Folks came from all over and the meeting was a big success. One person came from Norristown, and one from the New York state border. Erica of LSV was in attendance, and — we were even visited by **Elvis**. Elvis, the 150 lb. bull Mastiff pet of our guest, (therapist and professor) Patricia Klein, M.S., was definitely our most "butch" looking visitor, but he's a real sweetheart of a dog.

In spite of six last minute cancellations, we had thirteen people show up, most residents of the Lehigh Valley and Pocono regions. Ten of the attendees became new NEPTGA members. The group will meet on the second Saturday of each month, at seven PM. We picked the second Saturday so we wouldn't conflict with the GPC meeting, which is only forty five miles away down the 309 Expressway or the N.E Extension of the PA Turnpike. (The next scheduled meeting is Saturday, August 12 and anyone who is interested is invited to attend.) It's interesting to note that we meet in Allentown,

which is (appropriately enough) nicknamed the Queen City.

As group leader of NEPTGA, my greatest hope is for this affiliate to grow and be successful. With the great start we've made, I don't feel that will be a problem. In fact, my major concern is that we may outgrow our current facility very quickly.

It has not been easy nurturing a new affiliate; it's been a lot of hard work. But, if it benefits the transgender community of the Lehigh Valley and Pocono region then it has all been worth it. I would like to see this group become large enough to support another group in the Pocono region, perhaps Scranton/Wilkes-Barre. Imagine that! If you live in the Lehigh Valley you could attend three meetings a month, none more than 50 miles away.

For directions and more information call 610-821-2955.

connecticuTView by Denise Mason

A huge hello from Connecticut, the 'Nutmeg State.' Nutmeg is a spice, which comes from the seed of a special tree. When grated, it adds a unique flavor to food. What better way can we describe 'the connecticuT View,' a small but growing group who enjoy the spice of life by participating in a variety of public activities. Our affiliation with the gay/lesbian community constantly offers us opportunities to participate with them in their events. **Snowball** and **Gender Bender Balls**, The Connecticut Gay Men's Chorus and other

groups have been very receptive to our members. We plan on continuing our relationship with all cultures and being more visible to society.

We add to the general welfare of the transgender community by being listed as a support group with Connecticut INFOLINE and several mental health groups in the state. Currently, we are developing relationships with businesses, other organizations, and professional services for the mutual benefit of all. Our dream is to expand our relationship with the TV/TS/CD community through our affiliated membership with Renaissance. Since we are an open group, everyone is accepted and invited to participate in any and all activities.

Plans for the coming year are to celebrate the First Anniversary of our reorganization. The 'connecticuT View' was first formed in 1987, had it's name changed in 1989, but was revitalized in November of 1994. We would like to host an AIDS benefit, an Impersonator Show or Drag Ball and invite everyone to party with us.

Our 40 member group enjoys monthly newsletters; an annual membership directory with names, photos and addresses; free mail forwarding and soon a mail box service; invitations to near monthly house parties; and all club activities at a yearly cost of \$16.

We look forward to a long, enjoyable relationship with Renaissance and its family of affiliated organizations. Information about connecticuTView can be obtained from: Denise Mason, P.O. Box 2281, Devon CT. 06460



Vis a Vis

Reader Vera Rae sent me a long clipping about Frank Zappa that appeared in her *Baltimore Sun* on July 9. Vera has a very good memory because I wrote about my admiration for Zappa way back in January of 1994. Thanks for thinking of me, Vera.

I don't think my article about Martin Landau's remarkable comeback

from obscurity had anything to do with his winning the Best Supporting Oscar this year...but who knows? Even Heidi Fleiss can tell you that there are a few crossdressers in La-La-land, subscribers to this newsletter and fans of Vis a Vis, I have no doubt.

And if you're one of those people who only buy *Playboy* magazine for the articles, then you might want to check out the June 95 issue for their piece and pictorial on filmmaker Russ Meyer. It turns out that I did a tribute

to Russ in our own June 95 issue. Of course we all know that our subscribers only buy this rag for the annual Swimsuit Issue in February.

Please Note:

The contents of this newsletter are copyrighted. If you want to reprint an article you see here, please contact the editor for permission. Most likely, we'll say "Yes" but you *do* have to ask us first.

IFGE Examines Recent Estrogen Research Findings

In response to the latest research findings reported to a leading medical journal of a study revealing alarming increases in breast cancer in genetic women using estrogen replacement therapy, the International Foundation for Gender Education's Director of Research and Medical Liaison, Sheila Kirk, M.D., addresses the possible incidence of breast cancer in genetic/biologic men on estrogen therapy.

"While there are no really valid or well planned studies of this possible problem in genetic males on estrogen regimens," remarked Dr. Kirk, "in an examination of the world's medical literature over the past two decades and more, there are only three reported cases of breast cancer development in genetic/biologic males using estrogen. Therefore, it could be concluded that the incidence of breast cancer is not

changed by their hormone use."

However, there is a high incidence of breast cancer development in genetic males with the chromosomal abnormality known as Klinefelter's Disease (XYY chromosomes). Some males afflicted with Klinefelter's are also transgendered and for those using estrogens the risk of developing serious breast disease including breast cancer could be very great.

Although the reported cases of breast cancer development in genetic/biologic males on estrogen regimens is slight, Dr. Kirk strongly recommends the need for well planned and executed research studies and routine mammography evaluation of estrogen using males.

"It must be stressed that credible studies are needed especially for estrogen using males whose female siblings,

mother or aunt have been diagnosed with breast cancer," stated Dr. Kirk. "Although, the occurrence is unusual enough to feel quite confident that the risks are small, studies would most likely reveal more incidents than the current three reported cases."

More detailed information about breast changes in estrogen using genetic/biologic males is available in Dr. Kirk's latest book, *Medical, Legal and Workplace Issues For the Transsexual*. Co-authored by Martine Rothblatt, J.D., the book provides in-depth guidance on medical, surgical and legal concerns for the Male to Female and Female to Male Transsexual beginning the transition process, engaged in the process or nearing its completion.

For more information, contact Pamela Kirk, at 617-██████████.



Letters to the Editor

Open Letter To Editor

Sarah DePalma here (It's Time, Texas). A very strange situation has arisen and I need some concrete information and resources in order to respond correctly.

Wendy ██████ and Denise ██████, two open transsexuals attended a recent blood drive with the intention of donating. Both have been blood donors for years. The blood bank informed them that their last blood donation had been thrown away and they were on a "do not accept list." After considerable prodding they were finally told that on their last questionnaire they had written in that they were transsexuals. They were further informed it is the policy of blood banks nationwide not to accept blood from transsexuals because they are in the "high risk" category. Upon further investigation they were finally told that transsexuals had a much higher than av-

erage rate of sexually transmitted diseases and thus were listed in the same category as gay men.

I personally followed up by calling the head of the Houston blood bank. He told me the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta had issued a warning to blood banks nation wide about the danger of accepting blood from transsexuals. Keep in mind that the questionnaire does not ask if one is transsexual. This all came about because they chose to disclose it voluntarily.

The director went on to tell me that "studies proved" transsexuals had a history of sleeping with same sex partners and therefore fell into the high risk, do not accept policy. When asked to name the studies he could not do so. When asked if he had heard of the Benjamin Society he said no, and it was irrelevant. This was "a liability issue" and people who refused to accept "high risk blood" were only doing their jobs.

Perhaps I am the one who is ignorant. Does anyone have any factual information about this? Has the CDC issued anything about not accepting blood from transsexuals? Are transsexual listed as high risk? The director said he expected a question asking if one is transsexual will

soon be added to the questions asked on a blood donor questionnaire.

If anyone can provide actual information or suggestions on where I could find information please contact me asap.

Thanks, Sarah DePalma

<██████████@phoenix.phoenix.net>

Dear Angela,

In November of 1993 (Renaissance News & Views, Vol, 7, Number 11) I had sent in a query about how song lyrics and crossdressing relate to one another. I have had very interesting responses to that query.

Let me begin by sharing a personal anecdote with you before I begin sharing song titles that people sent to me.

Recently, while my girlfriend was helping me with some weekend work, she put Jethro Tull's *Songs From The Wood* album on to listen to while we worked. This has been a favorite album of hers since I introduced her to it several years ago. Her favorite selection from the album is the last song entitled *Fire At Midnight*.

While this song was playing she paused to relax, listen and sing along with the album. When it reached the

continued on page 16

Hot•Buzz

JoAnn Roberts • CyberQueen



"A person reveals his character by nothing so clearly as the joke he resents." — G. C. Lichtenberg

The really HOT BUZZ for this month is the transgender backlash against the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), a gay/lesbian/bisexual lobbying organization. The HRCF actually worked *against* us for transgender inclusion in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act before Congress. Finally, this community has found a focal point for solidarity. The HRCF has become a common foe and that may yet unite us. I'm sure there's more on the HRCF controversy elsewhere in this issue, so I won't belabor the point.

The newly aroused political ire of the transgender community has inspired several activities that deserve mention. The International Conference on Transgender Law & Employment Policy (ICTLEP) has declared International Transgender Employment Days as September 3 & 4, 1995. ICTLEP is calling for local organizations to commemorate openly transgender employment victories, and document transgender employment discrimination. ICTLEP has distributed a press release along with a form to collect employment info. If you have had an employment victory or if you have lost a job because you are transgendered, you need to contact Phyllis

Frye of ICTLEP at (713) 723-8368.

Of course, all this is leading up to the Transgender Lobbying Days, October 2-3, 1995, as I told you last month. So, I don't want you should forget, I'm telling you again, like your momma would. You'll put it on your calendar and you'll call Riki Anne Wilchins (212-), Karen Kerin (802-), or Phyllis Frye at the number above, and you'll tell them you'll be there. *Won't* you.

I have a message for any community organization hiding behind the skirts of their 501(c)(3), claiming they can't get involved in lobbying because they'll lose their federal tax exemption. Wimps! Wussies! False! Federal law allows 501(c)(3) organizations to engage in lobbying activities and spend up to 20% of their operating budget. Sure there are caveats, but the only real zinger is we are not allowed to endorse or oppose candidates. Working for transgender inclusion in ENDA certainly fits within the framework of allowed activities. So, get out there and do some real work.

Okay, the serious stuff is out of the way for now. Let's do some fun stuff... like white eyeshadow. Yes, ladies, the shade of the 60's has returned but the whites today are not frosty or pearlized. The "now" white is matte, sheer, and nearly invisible. They are translucent and can be worn over other colors to lighten them, swept over the browbone to make your eyes look bigger, or use it as a liner just above the lashes to whiten the eyes. Try these: Prescriptives *Pure Light*; Bobbi Brown *Essentials White #1*; or Cover Girl *Snow Blossom*.

Fall fashions (yes, dear, we talk about Fall while it's still summer) are looking wonderful. None of the nonsense of a few years ago remains. What we're seeing are solid designs that are wearable yet decidedly feminine. The jacket dress is a staple as is the tweed suit with

straight skirt. Of course, suits are really "in" this Fall with either pants or a straight skirt. Just the thing to walk the Hallowed Halls of Congress (don't forget your flats).

Leather is also "in" for Fall and the look can be simply a single piece, like a black leather skirt, or head-to-toe. Of course, Fall means boots, too, and the rule for this season is: The Shorter The Skirt, The Taller The Boot. Those of you who own thigh-high boots will need a license to wear a skirt *that* short.

Or, you could dress like Madonna. In the latest video from the lady who reinvents herself every time she changes lingerie, Madonna has captured that ineffable D&S/B&D look with spike heeled thigh-high boots and allover shiny vinyl bodysuit, plus a few well placed ropes and chains. The words to the song, *Human Nature*, are almost inaudible, but who cares? Funny, just a short time ago, MTV banned a Madonna video because it showed a crossdresser and mild B&D. What is this country coming to? Sex! That's what. Can't get away from it, so why fight it? Jesse Helms was reported to have been apoplectic at the thought.

Thigh-high boots seem to be all over. For example, if you missed the M•A•C ad with RuPaul in red vinyl corset and thigh-high boots, tough. According to Joann Lupis, M•A•C publicity exec, the ad was a one time deal. According to Lupis, "M•A•C doesn't advertise." However, if you have Net access to the Web, you may still see La Ru at <http://www2.pcy.mci.net/fashion/index.html>. That's the newest fashion site on the Web, @fashion.

Summer weather can be a real killer if you're going out dressed. Makeup has been known to melt off people's faces. So, how do you beat the heat and stay looking fresh? Try these tips... Apply an oil free foundation with a sponge (I rec-

HOT•BUZZ

ommend a silicone based foundation), then set with a loose (not pressed) powder... Use an oil-free eyeshadow base before applying eye shadow... Use matte powder shades, not creams... Use liquid eyeliner, not a pencil... Apply one coat of mascara, let dry and powder, then apply a second coat of mascara on tops of lashes only... Use a powder blush and choose warm brown-beige tones... Outline and fill lips with a lip liner pencil first, then cover with a long-lasting formula lipstick. Matte is better than glossy. The trick in all of this is to avoid any product with an oil or waxy base.

You don't have to be rich to look nice, although it helps. But with a little bit of savvy shopping in the right places, you can look like a million bucks. Check out thrift shops, outlet stores, and off-price stores like Filene's Basement, TJ Maxx, and Annie Sez. Not only do they have great clothes at great prices, they're buying larger sizes, too. Don't neglect Sears and J.C. Penney. Finally, if you're really shy, you can buy almost everything you need except shoes and a wig by mail through the new Hanes *One Place* outlet. Call 1-800-522-1151 for a catalog.

It's happened to all of us. You just finish applying your nail polish and you bump your nail into something. Arrghhh! I hate it when that happens. Well, for those of us who are polish-impaired comes a nifty solution: Finger Fenders. Yes, folks, you, too, can end those unsightly blemished nails with Marls Finger Fenders, hinged, hooded, slip-on finger guards, at just \$7 a set of 12 (yes, twelve). Call 1-800-228-8193, ext. 23043 to order. What I want to know is who has 12 fingers?

You'll really nail down the "now" look with 3-D nails. The latest fad to hit finger tips are three dimensional sculptured nails, like at the Chanel show. The models' nails were quilted to match the signature Chanel style handbags.

And you thought working in the fashion industry was fun? Not for three execu-

tives of Carole Little. Two of the three were shot to death over the last 18 months and the third was shot at and had her house bombed.

Clothes Make The Man, the saying goes, and, as we all know, make the woman, too. (Gawd, were there enough commas in that sentence?) But clothes can do so much more than that. They can make you look authoritative, romantic, creative, trustworthy, even intelligent. Decode the secrets of dressing with a new book *Dress Code*, by Toby Fischer-Mirkin, from Condé Nast, PO Box 10214, Dept. 205013-020, Des Moines, IA 50336. The cost is \$17.50 plus \$2.50 shipping and handling. Residents of CA, CO, GA, IA, IL, KY, MA, MI, NJ, NY, and OH must add applicable sales tax.

Mademoiselle asked and they answered. The question put to several men was, "If you could be a woman for a day, what would you be most curious about?" The answers ranged from, "I've never understood why women need so many pairs [of shoes]," to "What they spend so much time doing in the ladies room?," to "Do women really have a more nurturing instinct?," to "What would it be like to go to a bar and get hit on by guys using ridiculous come-ons."

I keep saying this 'cause it's true: you never know where you're going to find a positive transgender role model. Like, we're sitting down to watch a pay-per-view movie 'cause we're really bored and there's nothing else on the telly. I had no idea the film, *I Like It Like That*, had a transgendered character in a major role. The story is about the trials and tribulations of a family in the Bronx. The main character is a young Hispanic woman who has a dork for a husband, a budding dope dealer 8-year-old son, a whiney daughter, and a brother who is a transsexual. I'm not going to go into the storyline in detail, but there are several scenes with her sister/brother (she constantly refers to "my sister Alexis") that are poignant and relevant. The film should also be in the video stores, so snag a copy to view if you can.

Meanwhile, there's no sign of *To Wong*

Foo... and with the glut of movies being released over the summer (65 at last count), we're not likely to see it anytime soon. Maybe in the Fall.

These days, even the bad guys are sensitive. On the *New Adventures Of Superman*, two thugs are talking and one of them, an Asian, is recounting the mystic powers of a pair of bracelets that make one nearly invincible. The other thug, an American, says, "Look, if you want to wear women's accessories, that's your business..." I think that's a pretty understanding attitude. Later in the episode, Lois Lane crossdresses as a male to enter a Men-Only private club. Gender-crossing is everywhere, as well as homophobia. After snagging some important data from the club, Perry White is seen hugging the crossdressed Lane. A passerby raises an eyebrow and White protests, "She's a girl! She's a girl!"

Lemme add my personal welcome to our newest Renaissance affiliate, the *connecticutView*. Denise Mason, who founded cTView, was one of the first to ask for an alliance with Renaissance back in 1987. At the time, we weren't ready for that responsibility, but, baby, look at us now! The Renaissance family of organizations now totals an even dozen.

I want to give some credit to the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE). One of my criticisms of IFGE has been a lack of communication with members and the community. They're trying to correct that with a new quarterly newsletter and frequent press releases about relevant news and events. The newsletter is just okay, but I'm sure it will get better under the stewardship of the new editor, and, no, I won't tell you her name. You'll have to hear it from IFGE. I understand that she's almost as picky as I am about design and layout, so that should mean a new look and feel for *Tapestry*, too. (Fooled yah! Thought I was gonna take a potshot, dincha!)

So, those are my opinions, but, hey, what do I know? I'm politically incorrect according to the HRCF. Comments? Email them to [redacted]@cdspub.com.

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Third Gender... New Half

by Lee [REDACTED]
(Continued from last month)

Leonard began wearing his mother's underwear to school in the seventh grade. He was ten years old. He also began to keep a scrapbook of lingerie ads from newspapers and magazines that he would often refer to while masturbating. His life centered around dressing in his mother's clothes. His crossdressing always resulted in masturbatory fantasy. This continued for the next 50 years.

Leonard became his mother's chosen child... the primary source of emotional incest. The sad truth, according to Dr. Patricia Love, in her book *The Emotional Incest Syndrome*, about emotional incest is that a child can never give an adult the intimate loving relationship another adult can. Tragically, Leonard bore the brunt of his mother's frustration.

His father, in his pseudo-masculine

way, could never accept boys hugging and kissing. Leonard remembers, at the age of two, running up to his father seeking a hug and kiss. His father pushed him away saying, "boys don't kiss, they shake." Leonard never tried to kiss his father again!

He began his young adult life hating women and not realizing it. He grew up with the philosophy, "women were tools to be used by men for their use and pleasure." His abuse of women began in high school and continued on through three broken marriages, each ending in traumatic divorce.

He married women much younger, less worldly and extremely naive. He began, without cognitive understanding, abusive relationships. It would start with his feeling of superiority because he was older and more mature. His attitude would soon change to manipulation and control. His wives would cooperate for a time until they

caught on to his abusive treatment. Sex was the first to go... love soon followed.

Crossdressing and compulsive masturbation became his safe haven for nurturing when sex, and love, were taken away. This same pattern was present in all broken relationships. He would go on lingerie buying binges and, after ejaculation, would discard with disgust and guilt, his purchases. With remorse he says, "thousands of dollars were thrown away in local trash cans." This pattern continued from one failure to another until anxiety and stress drove him to seek therapy. At age 24, after 10 years of hard drinking, he joined AA. He became enmeshed in the 12-step program. Later on therapy taught him that his true addiction was sex and he joined SLAA (Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous). Through the combined efforts of his

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Third...

therapist and SLAA, Leonard says he was, "able to reach a serenity which enabled him to seek answers." His pain has eased enough that his self respect has returned, which released the anxieties controlling him for so long. He accepts his crossdressing because "it does not directly involve anyone but himself, it's considered a victimless sexual variant." Leonard presently lives androgynously and celibate... male by day... female by night!

The paths we are led to from birth can lead toward unknown terrors, guilt trips and broken hearts. The gender trap can create anxiety and stress levels without cognitive understanding of exactly what's happening to us. Gender becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy, imposed from childhood until it's part of our nature. Science has shown that people are infinitely unique, with one or two kinds of genitals (in many variations) and the potential for any sexual identity they choose according to Martin Rothblatt in her recently released book, *The Apartheid of Sex*.

Our sexual identity, absent of stereotyped male or female, is as individualized as is our personality. Each of us is different. Individually, each of us may choose male, female or transgendered. We must have the freedom to choose and not be categorized from birth into a sociobiological class on the basis of chance biology. We must not be socialized into a segregated culture. Human beings must be allowed to de-

velop toward their rightful inner gender. We must help them feel. Society will begin to allow us to not stamp newborn babies as one sex or the other. Gender expectations will become self evident and the full cultural liberation of all people will occur at last. Open minds are only the beginning. Open courts, and cooperation among the learned teaching community is paramount. Government acceptance of all genders can begin to stamp out segregation into two categories.. male or female.

We are people, not sexes. We are transgendered with unique sexual identities and capable of falling in love with any other person of unique sexual identity. The idea that people are made male or female has failed. It has failed because the seat of sexuality, the mind, has proven to be gender continuous... not either/or. The only possible new criterion of sexual identity is that people are neither male or female but of individual gender across an infinitely wide continuum.

Where was Leonard heading when his life was interrupted by his lonely mother? Was he male/female or was a third gender lying beneath the surface, waiting? The time has come for us to investigate the possibility of a third gender. Is there not enough abuse? Are not enough marriages failing? Is prejudice not still a prevailing issue? Are wars still being waged over nothing? The list is endless. The presumption of a third gender doing away with the world's ills is just that, presumption. But, doesn't it make you pause and think... could it be the beginning?

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Letters...

point in the second verse's lyric:

*"Go upstairs, take off your make-up
fold your clothes neatly away.*

*Me, I'll sit and write this love song
as I all too seldom do.*

*Build a little fire this midnight
it's good to be back home with you."*

She looked at me and smiled. I asked her which one of us was undressing & removing makeup and which one of us was writing love songs? Her smile became a laugh, and she replied, "I wondered if you heard it that way too?" In that brief relaxed moment I felt that she had acknowledged my crossdressing and her (growing) acceptance of it (as an inseparable part of me) more thoroughly than any direct statement possibly could.

Some of the crossdressing related songs that have been sent in to me are:

Girl's Night Out	The Judds
Dude Looks Like A Lady	Aerosmith
Planet of Women	ZZ Top
Legs	ZZ Top
Sharp Dressed Man	ZZ Top
Maryann	Alice Cooper
Run To You	Bryan Adams
The Look	Roxette
Dressed For Success	Roxette
Half A Woman, Half A Shadow	Roxette
(Can You See) The Real Me	The Who
I'm A Boy	The Who
Substitute	The Who

Most songs that have been suggested have come from rock and roll/top 40 styles. If there are songs from other styles (jazz, folk, country, rap or classical...) I would be most interested to hear about them. I will submit more titles in future letters.

Till next time, with a song,
Stacy Lynn Carlton

Editor Replies,

Some of the crossdressing connections in those songs seem to me to be a little tenuous, more like just sexy feminine references and wishful thinking, but thanks for sending it in. What about *Lola* by the Kinks? *Laid* by James, "Dressed me up in women's clothes, played around with gender roles..." Now there's a solid CD connection and

I ain't talkin' 'bout the compact disc, sister. Pick a song by Boy George, any song. They could all be related. Keep up your quest and check in again if you get anymore picks to click.

YOUTH RESPONDS:

Dear Dina,

I think I can give a bit of insight into what younger CD's might think about feminine clothing. I'm a 24 year old Generation X-dresser and many of the clothes that I wear definitely would not be considered sexy by many of my friends. At the risk of offending a few, I don't necessarily feel that tight sequin cocktail outfits or butthugger leather skirts make someone sexy or are the only clothes worthy of inspiration. What makes it sexy for me is the naturalness. I am much more comfortable wearing jeans and a t-shirt rather than a strapless evening gown and high heels, just ask Vanessa Kaye! It feels much more natural, and sexy, for me to wear something appropriate to a girl of my own age. I'd be remiss in this writing if I didn't admit it felt very sexy when I fulfilled a fantasy and went as a hooker on Halloween! To blend in casually and not even be looked at twice (Airhead Remark: If they are admiring, it's OK to be looked at twice!) gives me the ultimate pleasure though!

Clothing today is easily as sexy as it was twenty or thirty years ago. It's all from a different point of view. Find the juniors clothing in a JC Penney catalog and look at the fashions. Most of them are not provocative like a mini skirt or hot pants are, rather, what I see as sexy is the femininity of the clothes. A nice retro, sleeveless blouse, a slip-dress over a tee, or again, one of my favorites, a pair of denim shorts with a cute tee, is what appeals to me. It's what many girls and young women wear today. Anti-sexy? Maybe compared with what's seen as typically alluring. The trick is, it's got its own inherent sensuality. You don't need lacy things and tight pants to be or feel sexy. I'm somewhat ignorant of previous everyday fashions, but I imagine that many young CD's were as taken with them then as we are now.

Inspiration still lies in the same things that turned on young boys

twenty, forty, or sixty years ago. A soft slip, silky stockings, or mother's high heels inspire the average budding cross-dresser. When a young CD is in school, probably the same as when you were a kid, he likes the girls and wants to get into their pants... not only figuratively! A younger CD sees the girls of his age as sexy objects too, along with their clothing. He usually wishes not to just wear their clothes, but to be like those girls, too. It may not yet be a conscious thought for a ten-year-old, but I think that's what it is. That's what most adult crossdressers eventually do consciously; they emulate women.

As far as eye catching, again, it's all from a certain point of view. What some of my older TG friends (who could be my parents or even grandparents!) find attractive, I don't necessarily like, and vice versa. Different strokes... well, you know! I don't think inspiration for young CD's is any kind of problem!

Rachel [REDACTED], Facilitator
Sooner Diversity

Editor's Reply

Thanks for the response with the Gen X point of view. I didn't get this to Dina in time for a response, so I am replying. Actually, I'm more of a Swinging Sixties flower child type girl but I feel the same about clothes as you. I do want to point out though that the shorts in the Junior department are pretty short. As an older woman I have felt a little shy about wearing my very short, red Guess hotpants in the daytime. You young girls are shameless. And those baby T's! A bare midriff can be quite eye catching. I can wear them if I'm careful. I have to watch out for a dreadful little roll of flab that sneaks out when I sit.

It isn't what you wear, it's how you wear it. Have fun and stay cute.

AGE ACKNOWLEDGES:

Dear Dina,

In response to your question in *Vis* a *Vis*, July 1995, Vol. 9, No. 7, "for the rest of you old queens out there... what piece of women's wear first got your mind racing about transgendering yourself?"

In a previous lifetime, I was an avid fan of musicals in the '30s. I think I saw every

one that came out: good, bad, and indifferent! I loved the music, the dancing, the stylized sets, the opulence (in the Depression), the beautiful women, and the gowns. There was an unusually high proportion of very form fitting, but soft slippery satin gowns. Even some of the non-musical films had these gowns.

My all time favorite film was *Roberta*, that featured, as a central story element, a slinky black satin gown that I must have seen dozens of times. (Ed. the gown or the film?) I even rented the video version recently. I still try to tape the old '30s musicals from TV when I can. Two recent films featured tight satin gowns: Spike Lee's *School Daze*, in a musical number, and Judith Krantz's *Torch Song*, a glitzy soap opera made for TV. I happened to catch the latter while channel surfing one day and missed taping it. I saved the TV listing and waited patiently. Sure enough, a year later they repeated it, and I was prepared!

At the tender age (teens) when I saw all those musicals, I was not quite sure what it all meant. It wasn't until years

later (in my twenties) that I got the message. A late bloomer.

Thanks, Dina and all of the wonderful people at *News & Views* for the news and views. I hope to see some of you at LSV's Luau!

Love, Stella

Editor's Reply:

Thanks for the older generation's take. I love those gowns, too. Let's all wear slinky satin gowns to the Luau or Holiday Parties.

Dear Angela,

I just finished reading your latest *News Beat* on the net, and congratulations, as always I found it excellent. Just a quick bit of info, however. In the remake of *La Cage*, you seemed mystified as to the identity of Nathan Lane (who?) He is actually a well known and highly regarded Broadway actor, and got rave reviews for his work in *Guys and Dolls*. His only television appearance that I can recall was on an episode of *Frasier*, where he steals Kelsey Grammer's briefcase, and pro-

ceeds to usurp his identity as well. All in all, an excellent actor who should do a fine job, even in the company of some very big names. It's nice to see that "mainstream" performers aren't afraid of a little gender blurring.


Keep up the good work, I love reading your column. Your photo is quite nice, as well. Any chance that you could convince the powers-that-be to enlarge it a bit?

Love, Angela (wonderful name!)

Editor's informed reply:

Okay, you've found me out. I'm not the all knowing, all seeing, wise woman I try to be. Broadway shows are my weak point. I don't go to them and I don't follow the theater very well. But, if ya say da guys been on dat *Frazier* show... sure, I remember dat guy. We'll see what we can do about the photo (Hey, if I make it bigger... I don't have to write so much!) and thanks for your compliments. Angela is a lovely name and all Angelas are sweet women.

continued on next page



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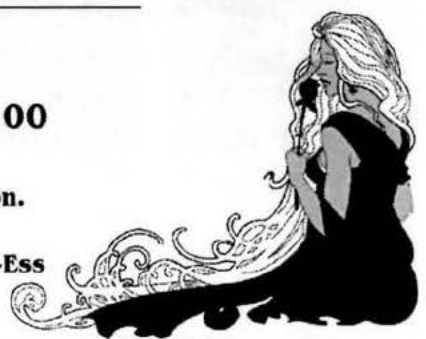
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Letters...

Dear Editor,

I would like to put a good word in for your organization. Angela, Dina, and JoAnn: you girls are right on time with your articles. By the way I'm Jenifer, from the South Jersey Chapter. I am planning to become a member of Renaissance and hopefully getting to meet all of you and other sisters in your organization. We can talk about the TV-TS experience because I've had the feeling of being a TS from birth and would like to complete my change. I try to help others from my experiences, and try to use a very simple down to earth approach with no confusing words. People have taught me a lot about just people, but family members are the ones that always shut you out first. I don't know why. We all must live with one another. When we get cut we all bleed the same unless someone knows something that I don't. I like to communicate with all people because this generation has so little of it. I remember

when neighbors used to communicate and even give each other a hand when needed. What happened to communication?

Well I would like to hear from you and hopefully meet you ladies. Thank you for your articles and for listening. I commend all us sisters.

Sincerely, Jenifer [REDACTED]

Editor's Reply

Thank you for your kind words. If you joined the South Jersey Chapter of Renaissance you are already a member of our organization. If you want to meet the girls in the Greater Philadelphia Chapter come on up to a meeting on the third Saturday of the month. They ask for a \$5 donation at the door to pay the rent and cover the refreshments. If you decide to join the Chapter you don't have to pay the five bucks.

Thank you also for sharing your experiences with others. Only by networking and learning that other people, "feel like I do" or "don't feel like I do" can we help people make choices about where they go on the highway of life.

It is a shame that family members are the first to shut you out, but they are the first to have expectations about who you should be, and when who you are is not who they think you should be, they can't cope with it. They also can't understand what motivates transgendered people to go through all of the things they do. Often they think the TG person is doing it to hurt them. Through ignorance comes fear and anger. As you say, it's all in communication.

Good luck and I hope we'll see you at GPC soon.

Dear Angela,

I haven't even finished reading the June Issue of *News and Views*, and I had to sit down and write. At first I wanted to write to Kelly Marie Harris to say "THANK YOU" after reading the front page article about the Transsexual Hotline. (I didn't get to the continuation on Page 6 until I'd read your News Beat & Reminder, some of Dina's Vis a Vis, skimmed through JoAnn's Hot Buzz, Letters to the Editor, some of Dear Doctor and Snapshot II about Weeslee and Mavis.) Be assured that I will read and re-read every word in this issue, just as I have in all of the past issues. The last paragraph of Kelly's article got to me and motivated me to call the (609) number listed and say THANK YOU! I got the FAX line instead, so I decided to write while I was still inspired. Anyway, please pass on my thanks to Kelly!

You haven't received any clippings from me lately because there haven't been any clippings in our local paper lately. The OJ thing is taking up all of the space over here, too. It has been a year.

This is a good time to thank all of you, JoAnn for never failing to find the time in her busy schedule to drop me an understanding note, you for editing such a wonderful Newsletter, and all who give of their time and talents. Thanks to the Dina, Dr. Bill, Jackie [REDACTED] and all of the other regular contributors. Thanks to your staff: Beth and Rachel, Barbara [REDACTED], the folks at CDS and all those who make each month something for me to look forward to, Angela. Thanks to the part time contributors who give me new insights, relate interesting experiences and most importantly, provide me with a true sense of belonging and understanding. Thanks to all of you!

Now, back to the June issue!

Sincerely, Billie Jaye [REDACTED]



We always welcome your cards, letters, notes wrapped around rocks, and now email. Our email address is [REDACTED]@cpn.com and fortunately there are no windows in the Renaissance office, so all rocks should be sent by UPS, or for faster service, FedEx.

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Protestors Disrupt, Take Over Transgender Symposium at National Lesbian & Gay Health Conference

A transgender health symposium held on June 18, 1995 and organized by Dr. Walter Bockting of the University of Minnesota's Program in Human Sexuality (PHS) for the 17th National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota was taken over by transgender protestors on the grounds that the symposium's panel was "not comprised of representatives of our community, despite claims that it is." The panel consisted of Martine Rothblatt, Dallas Denny, both post-operative transsexuals, and Armand Hotimsky, an FtM transsexual. All three panelists are long-term transgender activists.

Before the symposium's start, protestors handed out materials documenting problems with health care for transgendered persons. Some of the information had been published by Ms. Denny. As Dr. Bockting was making introductory comments, Margaret O'Hartigan, who had seated herself without invitation with the panelists, began to read a prepared statement concerning the recent abolishing of government funding for transsexual surgery in Minnesota. O'Hartigan accused Bockting of "remaining shame-

fully silent" about the funding cuts and demanded that all transgender and transsexual persons present be given equal opportunity to speak. Bockting pointed out that 45 minutes had been set aside for this. But when protestors imported from San Francisco and Pennsylvania came forward and sat at the panelists' table, Bockting left the stage, turning the program over to the original panelists.

O'Hartigan seized the opportunity, announcing that all speakers, including the original three panelists, would be given ten minutes. Martine Rothblatt spoke first, cutting short the slide show based on her book *The Apartheid of Sex* and left the room. Denny then took the podium, but was interrupted by O'Hartigan, who announced that Mecale Little of Action Aids in Philadelphia would be the next speaker. O'Hartigan capitulated when members of the audience called out, "Let her [Denny] speak."

Denny spoke of the many ways in which transsexual and transgender people are oppressed; much of her talk focused on health care issues faced by sex workers and individuals on the street. At one point, Christine Tayleur,

a protestor who was acting as sergeant at arms, told Denny her time was up, but Denny concluded at her leisure and went into the audience to sit beside Bockting to show her support.

The various protestors each spoke briefly, expounding on the problems Denny had mentioned earlier. Armand Hotimsky, the third of the invited panelists, was the last speaker; he described the health care problems of transgendered and transsexual people in France and other countries. Afterwards, the few audience members left asked questions. Denny, Hotimsky, and the protesting "panelists" took turns responding. Several members of the audience, themselves transgendered, spoke in support of Bockting and PHS.

After the symposium, a number of attendees expressed their regret that the educational content of the symposium had been overshadowed by politics. Many of them had pressing practical needs because of their ongoing work with transgendered clients. "How ironic," one of them said, "The supposed concern of the protestors has resulted in a net negative impact on health care of this population."

Denny was not surprised at the action. "Margaret O'Hartigan has been agitating to be on the panel. I suspected something like this might happen," Denny said. "This action was not born out of concern for transsexual and transgendered persons," she continued, "It is... about O'Hartigan's longstanding grudge with PHS. The other protestors were duped."

Denny seconded the protestors' concern that persons of color were not represented on the original panel. "Classism and racism are an ongoing problem in the community," she said, "but to destroy a symposium which was put together to address just those issues is insane. Dr. Bockting is to be commended for putting the panel together, and for his grace under fire."



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A Message From The Editor

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While I haven't personally dealt with all the merchants and services who offer their products here, someone on our staff, or in one of our chapters, has visited them. I won't allow any advertiser who is trying to exploit us to continue in these pages. But, if someone slips by and does rip you off, over charges, or gives you shoddy merchandise, I want to know about it. I'll look into the problem and either the situation will be made right or the ad-

vertiser will disappear. (I can't help you with mental health professionals. You have to find the one that's right for you.)

This editorial became necessary when an advertiser contacted me and asked us to stop running their ad. They said someone was accusing them of a ripoff and was calling and harassing the business. When I calmed the advertiser down and found out the nature of the "ripoff" I was appalled that anyone would badger people over what I perceived to be a difference of opinion over the definition of wording used to advertise certain merchandise, merchandise that was purchased almost a year ago and was now, suddenly found inferior.

The advertiser will remain with us and I hope that the irate caller will cool their jets. Harassment is not a good way to deal with your problems. Give me a call or drop a note if you have problems with our advertisers. In the meantime, please patronize them. They have said, by being in these pages, that they want our business. They are the most transgender friendly businesses you'll find. Don't "give them the business" if you're disgruntled. I don't think there are that many unsatisfied customers out there but because of this one incident I had to set the record straight and say that at *News & Views* we support our advertisers.



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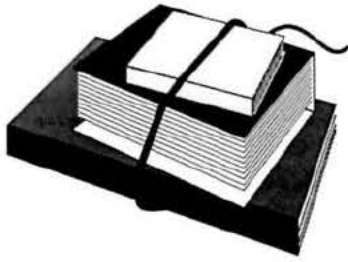
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BOOK NOOK

THE NATURAL SUPERIORITY OF WOMAN, by Ashely Montague (paperback 280 pgs.) MacMillan Publishing, 1992.

by Erica, NYC&P

Mirror, mirror on the wall... which is the better sex of all? In his 1992 book, it's no contest, world research anthropologist, former professor at NYU, Harvard, Princeton, and U of Cal. Ashely Montague concludes... drum roll please... Females!

From quotations in the bible 3,000 years ago through the Industrial Revolution and into the 20th Century, Montague tears away the myth of males being the stronger sex. Chapters on Biological, Intellectual, Sexual, Physiological, and Constitutional sex traits are the most interesting. One very scientific chapter describes how the genetic chromosome structures, XY male and XX female, permit females to be generally less susceptible to over 175 physical and mental conditions including diseases and disorders from appendicitis to cancers, dyslexia to hernias and pneumonia. Charts and research studies are cited illustrating how men are more prone to these problems and furthermore that women have a quicker capacity to recover from sick-

nesses in general.

Montague's chapter on sexuality argues that with a woman's capacity for multiple orgasms, along with her role as maintainer of the human species through pregnancy, birth, childhood/child care, a female is better equipped to psychologically deal with sex. Studies from Kinsey and others are cited in the Sexuality chapters. And, there's even more. Chapters on Emotions and Intellectual and Creative Capacities provide comparisons of the genders ("equal time" so to speak) and always have data to back up the conclusions. Again and again the comparisons favor the females despite the "Traditional Handicaps" assigned to them by society... responsibilities domestic and otherwise that males generally escape. This book is full of interesting stuff.

Perhaps Montague's *The Natural Superiority of Woman* explains why some males pursue crossdressing, crossgender, transsexual goals, lifestyles, and activities. The author does not write with this intent at all, but does offer a very positive conclusion. A better world can be achieved in which both sexes learn from each other — down playing the aggressive, competitive habits in favor of more cooperative,

sensitive, non-aggressive, socially responsive feminine traits which could become human traits for both genders. Ummm... sounds good to us... Happy Reading.

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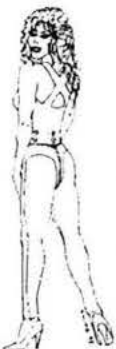
Web Page Busted

One of the first transgender WWW sites, Male/Female?, has been removed from the Internet. The pages were deemed "inappropriate" by the powers that be at Birmingham University (U.K.), so they pulled the web pages and the owner's account.

The page owner, Becky, may face a disciplinary hearing (although, according to her, that seems unlikely). Other TG Web sites in the U.K. are just cooling their heels waiting for the next development. This is part of a U.K.-wide crackdown by the universities on Web-publishing in an attempt to prevent students from "damaging their image." Fortunately, Becky has a line on another site for her page.

Another transgender Web site on a U.K. university computer, The Plaid, has secured a mirror site in case they lose their space as well (URL http://www2.wintermute.co.uk/users/snuffles/The_Plaid/gender.html)

NB: If Senators Dole and Exon have their way, this could very well happen here.



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Thoughts On the TS Hotline

by Kelly M. Harris

Ms. Harris is not a therapist. The views expressed in her column are her's and not necessarily those of Renaissance or the South Jersey Chapter of Renaissance.

"If someone agrees with what I say, that's fine. I welcome the support. If somebody disagrees with me then it is their responsibility to make their opinions heard. Call me on the Hotline or write in care of the Editor. If you feel strongly about something let somebody know. Right or wrong, do something."

This Month: A Warning!!

I received a call a couple of weeks ago that upset me to no end. This person, like so many others I talk to, was looking for direction. He was trying to get over the death of his wife and had a teenaged daughter to raise and worry about. He had been a member of the Transgender Community off and on for some time. He was going to an electrologist to have his beard removed. Now for the upsetting part. An electrologist had told him if he was on female hormones his beard growth would slow down and he wouldn't need to have so much work. This person went to a doctor and started receiving hormones on request. I don't know how this person found the doctor. The point I'm trying to make is, at no time were the **STANDARDS OF CARE**^{*} followed. This person was calling me because he didn't know if he was transsexual or not! There is no way

in Hell this person should be on hormones! Just because somebody thinks they are transsexual or because they think they may want breasts or slower hair growth or whatever—there are *Standards of Care* to be followed.

This person had **not** talked to a mental health professional. This person did **not** even know if he was transsexual. He did not know if he wanted to "go all the way" by living full time or having surgery. All this person heard was that hormones would slow down hair growth on his face.

The only way anybody should be on hormones is if they have been seeing a mental health professional for between three and six months, and have been diagnosed as a candidate for hormone replacement therapy and therefore been recommended to a medical professional for such treatment. According to the *Standards of Care* you **DO NOT** start hormones because you want to grow breasts, or feminize your body or to slow down hair growth! If you do not plan to live full time **AND** undergo surgery, you are **NOT** committed enough to taking the necessary steps to becoming a woman.

Who's to blame? The electrologist, who should not be making medical recommendations which they are not trained to make. The doctor; no way should anybody be given hormones on demand. My God, have some common sense. Think about what you're doing!! And the transgender community for al-

lowing something like this to happen. We have an obligation to everybody to put a stop to it **ASAP**! How can we expect the rest of the world to think of us as deserving any respect if we don't respect ourselves? The *Standards of Care* are our rules and regulations. They are our laws. In today's times if we don't like the laws we work to change them, not ignore them.

I've had to rewrite this column three times because I was so upset. If I had written it right after the phone call I would have gotten myself in some big trouble! The *Standards of Care* are in place to protect not only the care giver but the care receiver. I'm not saying this person is not transsexual, but, on the other hand I'm not saying he is. This person should be talking with a mental health professional to find out what he is or isn't. There is a possibility that this person has a problem dealing with the death of his wife. It could be a child abuse issue or a self esteem issue. In his mind he knows he wants to look like a woman, but that doesn't make this person transsexual!!

I guess what I'm trying to say is, don't be in a hurry! This is much, much too important to hurry and not look at **ALL** the ramifications of your actions. Have all the answers before you go on to the next step.

^{*} *The Harry Benjamin Association Standards of Care For Transsexuals* is available in the Renaissance Library.

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Transgender Lobbying Day

We mentioned last month that Transgender Lobbying Day is coming up in October. We're mentioning it again because it's an important event. Going to a TG convention is fun and can be an educational and growth experience but now the time has come for our lawmakers in Washington to learn and have growth experiences. Most congressmen have probably never (knowingly) met a transgendered person. The goal of Transgender Lobbying Day is to make congressional

representatives who have **not** met a transgendered person a rarity.

What do you have to do? Travel to Washington, DC Monday and Tuesday, October second and third. Walk the halls of congress and visit the offices of your representatives and talk to them about gender discrimination. If you are a crossdresser who wants to participate but is afraid to dress, do the rounds as a male but bring pictures of your femme self. They need to know that we're not weirdos, kooks and

freaks. We're their neighbor, their golf partner at the country club and the guy they play handball with. We're voters.

To join in the fun and rub elbows with lobbyists from every other special interest group in the country contact Riki Anne Wilchins at 212-██████████@pipeline.com), Karen Kerin at 802-██████████ or Phyllis Frye at 713-██████████. Shared overnight rooms will be available for \$15.00/night/person.



Activists Form GenderPAC

As a direct result of a luncheon speech by Riki Ann Wilchins (Transsexual Menace co-founder and community activist) at the 13th annual Be All convention in Cincinnati, several national transgender organizations have pledged to create GenderPAC, a community political action fund and advisory committee.

Chaired by Lynn Walker, Vice-President of the Greater New York GenderAlliance, Vice Chair of the Congress of Transgender Organizations, and co-founder of the Metropolitan Gender Network in New York City, and a political activist; the advisory committee will be representative of: the American Educational Gender Information Service (Atlanta, Ga.); the Congress of Transgender Organizations (Indianapolis, Ind.); the International Foundation for Gender Education (Waltham, Mass.); the Int'l Conference on Transgender Law & Employment Policy (Houston, Tex.); the Outreach Institute of Gender Studies (Portland, Me.); the Renais-

sance Education Assoc., Inc. (Phila., Pa.); and The Society for the Second Self (Tulare, Calif.).

All monies donated to GenderPAC will be held in a fund to be created and managed by IFGE. IFGE manages the very successful Winslow Street Fund for the community. The advisory committee will receive proposals and disburse funds in support of transgender political and educational activism.

After Wilchins' moving speech at the Be All, almost \$1000 was collected in cash, checks and pledges in support of Transgender Lobbying Days, Oct. 2-3, 1995. On these dates, members of the transgender community will visit members of the U.S. Congress to discuss transgender political issues.

Anyone interested in participating in Transgender Lobbying Days should contact: Riki Anne Wilchins, 212-██████████; Karen Kerin, 802-██████████; or Phyllis Frye, 713-██████████.

Donations to GenderPAC should be sent to: GenderPAC, c/o IFGE, PO Box 229, Waltham, MA 02154.

News & Views Notes

Dear Doctor will return next month. Dr. Bill's *Gone Fishin'*.

We hope *Shopping With Jackie* will return as well, but we're not 100% sure. We think Jackie is lost in a mall somewhere.

Ask The Dermatologist will appear again in September as planned.

Please send your questions for the doctor columns and shopping tips (and some directions back home) for Jackie to, PO Box 530, Bensalem, PA 19020.

Pictures!

People have asked why we don't run more pictures in *News & Views*. It's simple; we're too damn busy writing and doing layouts.

If you'd like to see more pictures, send us some care of the address above. Don't expect them back, and don't expect that *just* because you sent them, we'll print them. They should be pictures of some event or happening of interest to a large number of readers.

Please, no motel room poses in front of generic furniture.

This isn't a plea for personal photos. If you attend a transgender event, take your camera and maybe we'll make you famous. No payment for photos. We do this for love and you should too.

