

Renaissance News



Volume 6, No. 12

Vision - Integrity - Quality

December, 1992

Renaissance Staff in Place for Hosting IFGE 93

The cadre of Renaissance members to coordinate the host organization responsibilities for the 1993 International Foundation for Gender Education Convention is now in place. The convention, to be held at the Hilton Towers at Broad and Locust in Center City Philadelphia will run from March 14 through 21, 1993. The attendance is expected to top 200 persons.

The major role for Renaissance is to be host of the social activities for the convention. The plans, so far, include an Art Museum tour and brunch at the Four Seasons on the first Sunday coordinated by MaryAnn Kirkland; and a bus trip Monday evening to Bally's in Atlantic City and the La Cage show, coordinated by Emily Sheldon. Tuesday and Wednesday evenings include IFGE-hosted functions. Thursday night will feature a "Night on the Town" with the attendees dining out at eight different restaurants and then gathering at a club afterwards for dancing and cocktails. This activity is being coordinated by Alison Laing along with seven other Renaissance ladies that will act as "guides." Friday evening we

will host "Casino Night" at the hotel which will also serve as a fund raiser for a local Philadelphia charity.

The local Publicity team consists of JoAnn Roberts and Wendi Beeman. JoAnn will also be involved in developing the professional program with Dr. Sheila Kirk of IFGE. Evelyn Kirkland will assist the Convention in conducting the spouses' program as well as be Chair of Flowers and Decorations. MaryAnn Kirkland is the local Marketing person. Joanne White is the Treasurer for the local activities and Michelle Lynn is a member-at-large of the planning staff.

Another of the major roles for the host organization is providing volunteers to assist in the conduct of the Convention. Susan Crane Persing is the Coordinator of Volunteers. These volunteers include people who will serve as ticket takers, receptionists, chauffeurs for VIPs (guest speakers) to and from the airport or train station, and general go-fers. We have also been asked to provide an Assistant Audio/Visual person and an Assistant Newsletter Editor. (We are on the look-

out for someone who can bring a word processor and printer to publish the daily Newsletter.) If you are interested in volunteering for any of the jobs or being a guide on the "Night on The Town," please contact Susan or Alison Laing. (Please note: volunteers for some of these activities do not necessarily have to be registered for the convention.)

We need your help to make this one of the best IFGE conventions ever. To paraphrase Vidal Sassoon, "If we make them look good, then we look good too. So, support Renaissance and IFGE in 1993.

DIDJA KNOW? . . . you can make donations directly to Renaissance through payroll deductions to the United Way. All you have to do is get a Donor Option form from your payroll office and fill it out with the code for Renaissance, which is 07677. You don't even have to put our name on the form if you don't want to. Every little bit helps, so please make a donation today.

Official Notice

Hey girls! It's time to get out those pennies you've saved up from buying discount mascara and renew your membership. Don't miss next year's issues of the Renaissance News! We're getting better and better everyday in every way.

Chapters & Affiliates

New Jersey

South Jersey: Meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Atlantic Mental Health Center, Inc. 2002 Black Horse Pike, McKee, N.J. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Call (609) 641-3782 or write Renaissance SJ, PO Box 189, Mays Landing, NJ 08330. Kara Forward, chapter leader.

Pennsylvania

Greater Philadelphia: Meets on third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia, PA. Doors open at 8:00 p.m. Write to Renaissance PHL, Box 530, Bensalem, PA 19020 or call (215)630-1437. Michelle Lynn, chapter leader

Lower Susquehanna Valley: Meets on the first Saturday of the month at The Greens at Westgate in York, Pa. Write Renaissance LSV, Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105, or call (717) 780-1LSV. Brenda Davidson, chapter leader.

Affiliates

MOTG: PO Box 8243, Red Bank, NJ 07701

American Educational Gender Information Services (AEGIS): PO Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033, (404) 939-0244

And, don't forget about...

- Articles and opinion pieces for the newsletter are always welcomed. We want to hear what you have to say about what goes on in Renaissance and in the community at large.

Articles should be submitted one month in advance of publication.

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

- Pen Pal Program - If you are willing to write letters to pen pals, please inform Maryann Kirkland or write to the main office, c/o Dept. PP.

Renaissance News

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

Events Calendar

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December

5rd Ren. So. Jersey Chapter
5th LSV meeting
19th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter
Holiday Party

January

2rd Ren. So. Jersey Chapter
2th LSV meeting
16th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter

February

6th Ren. So. Jersey Chapter
6th LSV meeting
20th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter

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Prisoner Project

A gift of only \$8 gives a transgendered inmate 12 issues of the *Renaissance News*. Please help provide this needed support to our sisters in prison.

ROGER'S NOTEBOOK (#74)

by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

Last month I wrote about the female-to-male crossdresser. I suggested that such people were a small minority within the whole transgender community. This month I continue this exploration by looking at another minority -- the person of color who has transgender feelings.

I invite you to look about you at the next meeting of your group or when you go to a larger function. If your observation is the same as mine, the majority of people there are white. Does this mean that only the Caucasian race has crossdressers? What might cause such a disproportionate representation of one race in what is likely a more universal phenomenon?

One explanation may be socioeconomic. Crossdressing can be expensive. It also requires some freedom in planning time to prepare for and travel to the meeting location. My guess is that the typical white male has the economic means and a vocation that gives him the freedom to participate in groups and go to conventions. People in other socioeconomic groups are often in less fortunate circumstances.

Another possibility for the small representation of people of color is cultural. We tend to think that we live in a monolithic society. This is not true. The United States has many different cultures whose differing values strongly influence what a person thinks and how he/

she behaves. Studies have found that expressions of gender and sexuality vary widely between cultures. Some societies have a "place" for trans gendered persons while others do not. Where there is a strong division by sex/gender, the transgendered person often has few options. When such feelings are at odds with accepted behavior, it can be very risky to share them with anyone else.

I recently spoke with a black crossdresser, who observed that most others she knew were either prostitutes or female impersonators. She was further concerned that there were no groups or publications for the black crossdresser. Is it possible that the combination of culture and limited economic opportunities left them few choices?

Also, the typical white culture and the typical black culture tend to stay separate and have few chances to interact. Perhaps the two areas of most opportunity for dialog are in business and the arts, particularly the theater. Sexuality and gender are not discussed openly in business settings because it is not often appropriate. While I suspect show business may be less judgmental, gender issues can still be difficult to discuss. Perhaps this is why some transgendered people go into female impersonation. It gives them

both a "cover" and freedom to express their feelings.

What, if anything, can/should the transgender community do about these minorities in the way of outreach and support? First, there needs to be recognition that there are crossdressers who are different from those we see at most meetings. As the overall community gains strength, it can begin an outreach to other cultures. A safe place to start is soliciting and including their news in various community publications. Going further, I am sure they could use help to establish their own support groups and/or publications.

If you remember what it was like before you knew about others, you can understand why it is important to include all segments of your culture in your thoughts and outreach.

You may contact Dr. Peo at P.O. Box 3445; Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 or by phone at (914) 452-8405. All communications are kept confidential. You may contact Dr. Peo at P.O. Box 3445; Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 or by phone at (914) 452-8405. All communications are kept confidential.

(This column may be reprinted in any non-profit organization's newsletter if Dr. Peo's name and address appear in the reprinted version. Others must obtain written approval from Dr. Peo. A copy of any reprint is requested.)

Reminder Beat

by Angela Gardner

Hello possums! (As Dame Edna would say.) Here comes one more month of witty, informative crossdresser kernels from around the world and up the street where you live.

First of all, we can't talk about December without reminding everyone again about the glittering Holiday Party on the nineteenth. The Greater Philadelphia leaders have been working their manicures to the quick to give you a romantic, secure place to wear your dressy dresses and rhinestones to celebrate the holidays. Be there or be butch.

Alison Laing sent us a tidbit from the City Paper about a guy whose girl friend was turned on by dressing him as a woman. He wasn't turned on by this at all. Sex advice columnist Isadora Alman's reply was both humorous and informative.

"Your letter serves to confirm my suspicion that human intimate relationships are choreographed by a pantheon of stoned deities getting their jollies by creating perversely mismatched couplings." She goes on to mention the Tapestry and says that most crossdressers

would "...give their right falsies" for a girlfriend like that. Having had a couple girl friends who were like that I can add that if you give up your right falsies for them run out and buy another right away. They like their chick dude lovers to fill out a tight dress in a symmetrical manner.

Having mentioned deities in the previous bit, I can flow seamlessly into our next item. The National Board is at work on a letter to be sent to the pastors of the major churches in the Philadelphia area. This letter advises the clergy of the statistical possibility of crossdressers in their flocks and offers them a packet of information on transgender issues. The letter is ready to go but we're stalled by lack of someone with a computer and the time to generate mailing labels. If you would like to help with the clergy project drop a line and let us know.

Our library lady, Laura Edwards has not only literary talents but musical ones as well. She has been a trumpeter for years and played classical music with many community musical groups. Her latest gig is first trumpet in the Philadelphia Freedom Band, a group comprised of members and supporters of the gay and

lesbian community. The group has been around the area since nineteen eighty eight and we're sure Laura will help them ascend to new heights. They are performing on the fifth of this month. For info call 922-4255. If you can't make it on the fifth I'm sure Laura and the band will be happy to have your support in the future.

Speaking of support... (Oh boy, yet another clever segue.) We received a letter from a transexual support group in Baltimore called the Bridge Club. It seems that due to lack of support and other problems they are no longer active in that area. We would like to welcome any former Bridge Club members to Renaissance and say that maybe with a little participation they could get back in business. You may get in touch with them thru Michele Gerald, PO Box 11737, Baltimore, MD 21206-0337.

Other people from Hollywood to Manitoba have been, like the two old guys from the wine cooler spots, seeking our support. From Manitoba comes a letter from a woman who is trying to set up a crossdresser Club Med in the Do-

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minican Republic. Yep, she has a hotel in Central America that will be turned into a crossdresser vacation paradise if enough people like the idea. If you like the idea drop us a line to the attention of "Tropic Holiday" and we'll pass your views along to the folks in Manitoba. Hope that hotel has good air conditioning.

In theatrical parlance an angel is someone who puts up the money to back a show or film. From Hollywood comes an invitation to our members to become angels, (We know they already are.) for a film based on a crossdresser clothing store in L.A. The producer describes it as, "Ralph Cramden meets La Cage Aux Folles." The title is "This Can't Be Macy's" and, as with most films at this point in preproduction, it sounds like it could be good. Of course, if I had a list of all the angels who lost their wings on movies that sounded like they could be good, I'd need to rent some extra space to store it in. If you have a few thousand to throw away and would like to see your femme name in the credits (maybe!), send us a note and we'll pass it on to the producer. I wonder if they're accepting headshots and resumes yet? I'm ready for my closeup Mister DeMille!

Closer to home, a member of Renais-

sance is seeking your support. Carolyn Perry from York, PA, is trying to organize a midweek group meeting and possibly some retail trips like MOTG's Bra and Girdle Factory outing. If you are interested in either idea contact Carolyn at PO Box 15, York, PA 17405. She is also interested in getting together a group of folks who sew and would like to be members of a sewing circle. Good luck Carolyn and thanks for seizing the initiative.

Finally a little story I call "The Halloween Apple Caper." The October thirty first edition of the Philadelphia Inquirer ran a story about a family in Bellmawr, New Jersey, who have been making Halloween apples for the past twenty three years. These kind folks have been passing out about six hundred apples to trick or treaters of all ages in recent years. The article gave some examples of the various kinds of people who show up for apples. The paragraph that caught my eye was the one that talked about the teenage boys in drag who walked four miles in high heels to get their Halloween treat.

Now I don't care how good the candy apple is, I don't think four miles in heels is something the regular teenage boy would do. Next Halloween I'll be there in Bellmawr, getting my candy apple and passing out information about Renais-

sance to any high school kids in drag. See you there.

Pagan Babies

If you've ever wondered what happened to all the pagan babies the Catholic church used to talk about we can let you know what happened to them. They don't have to spend eternity in limbo anymore. They've got their own magazine.

"Marilyn Medusa" is a quarterly magazine that deals with gay pagan issues. Interested fairies may subscribe for eighteen dollars a year. It contains photos, drawings, poems and essays dedicated to developing a gay mythology.

If you would like to try a sprinkle of the magic dust send five dollars for a sample copy to: Marilyn Medusa, 8701 NW 35th St., Coral Springs, FL 33065.

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STORM OVER RUSSIA

by Phaedra Kelly

After our third talk on MOSCOW radio, I entered in my log-book, "It would be fair to say that I hit Russia like a storm, with my defiantly lateral perspective and activist attitude." We had been recalled to go on-air for the second time by "popular demand," so this is accurate and will be the title of the book on the Eastern European Mission, Sept. 2, 1992 to Oct. 14, 1992.

My co-guest on the Martin Reesink show was Maggie, a sensationally beautiful Russian pre-op transsexuals, with whom I had traveled on the night train from Riga to Moscow, and who was then living in the home of her F-to-M pre-op friend Victor, and his wife, Svetta.

Yes, wife, because like Maggie, though pre-op, Victor's papers are entirely changed to the gender in which he now lives and he has full rights to, in his case, marry a woman, as has Maggie to marry a man. But that is the ONLY advantage of Russian transsexual life and some there might say, it's a mixed blessing. Surgery in Russia, equals cruel and unusual torture in itself. A transsexual can, with difficulty and hard work, get hormone therapy but, monitoring appointments are then twelve months apart, being why Maggie suffered blood problems and had to quit hormones. Actual surgery is barbarous, expensive and finally humiliating.

It costs what in Rubles must equal approximately \$76,775! A desperately high sum to a country with a soft currency. The proce-

sure is over 25 years old, involving a twin incision, one at the lower abdomen and, as it was explained to me, a joining of the plasti vaginal orifice to the top inside of the rectal cavity. Despite which, the result is an unreal boxlike thing which prohibits sex, and might even, in most cases, inhibit urination. Putting on masses of excess weight with blood problems and water retention follows and the patient may end up looking less like a woman than they began. If, that is, they survive; supplies in Russia are so low that they have to suffer this without anesthetic, perhaps a local, for an operation taking many hours and involving three blood changes (even in the Western op). They must stay very still, because there is not thread available to stitch them up, a tight nappy covers suture clips, and hemorrhages are very common.

For F-to-Ms, it takes three operations to produce what I saw on one, an anemic sausage nothing like a penis, though the mastectomies are getting better.

In Holland and Belgium, surgery costs \$1677, using laser stitching to minimize pain and bleeding, so that in five days the patient can walk and eat. For F-to-M, they have just celebrated three month's success with partial transplant of a penis tip from post mortem donors, enabling some erection and far easier urination. While the Dutch celebration is only now becoming known, each time a Russian op is done the surgeon has the unparalleled

temerity to go into the newspapers claiming "new frontiers of surgery have been passed."

The more I learned of this the more disgusted I became by it, and angry too, not solely with Russia's authority but with gay groups who insisted that transvestites/transsexuals, having been first to be noticed by the press and law, had no problems and did not concern them. Naturally, people who stand out like a sore thumb, as what was formerly called "bourgeois morals," would be noticed. The more assertive F-to-Ms got their ops, about four a year during the Communist rule, whereas M-to-F were labeled paranoid schizophrenic and thrown in Asylums (ref.: Svetlana's Story, International Transcript, March 1992). But a mere flex in law concerning passes - in keeping with changes in all Russian pass laws that, hitherto, were so complex as to send up to 300 inmates to labor camp per week - does nothing to alter the difficulties with the police, militia, and proletariat daily on the street.

Maggie is Latvian by birth, resettled in North Russia at the age of seven, where she lives with her step-father and mother, a diabetic amputee. Her step-father is an alcoholic, an escape which proliferates throughout Eastern Europe. This leaves Maggie, last of the children at home, to look after her mother who, with Maggie's slight frame, Maggie cannot always lift.

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In the small commune, her daily round is victimization and suffering. Every moment she is on the street people throw stones at her, call abuse and men say they will rape and kill her. She is followed and intimidated. The woman and old babushkas (grandmothers) spit and blow mucus at her, and all, from shop owners to authorities, sneer at her every need.

For being beautiful, slight, gentle, loving and kind, creative and intelligent but also, different, Maggie lives in daily fear for her life and desperation, about her future.

Maggie "very loves" her mother, who understands her child and nightly says: "My dar-

CONTINUED IN NEXT ISSUE

Board Notes

by Beth Marshall

Well, it was quite a day in Lake Woebegon, my home town.

Actually, with apologies to Garrison Kielor, it was a quiet day at the Renaissance national board meeting on November 8, 1992. In attendance were: national officers Angela Gardner (Managing Director), Alison Laing (Outreach Director), Beth Marshall (that's me, Membership Co-director), Elsa Larson (Membership Co-director) and JoAnn Roberts (Director at Large); from the Greater Philadelphia Chapter, Michelle Lynn (Chapter Director), Joanne White (Chapter Treasurer) and Maryann Kirkland (Chapter rep to the Congress of Reps); from the Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter, Brenda Davidson (outgoing Chapter Director) and Yvonne Sullivan (incoming Chapter Director). Beth Marshall represented the South Jersey chapter. Also attending as an observer was Laura Edwards our new librarian.

Reports:

Treasury - The Renaissance national treasury had \$696 on hand; about the same as it was at the last board meeting in September.

Membership - There are currently 335 members, of which 159 belong to the Greater Philadelphia chapter, 56 to the Lower Susquehanna Valley chapter, and 31 to the South Jersey chapter. The newsletter mailing also includes 38 complimentary subscriptions to professionals and 60 to other support groups.

Chapters - The Lower Susquehanna Valley chapter has secured a permanent meeting location at the clubhouse of The Greens at Westgate, in York through 1993. The South Jersey chapter has no candidate for Chapter Director for 1993. (This is not

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Hot • Stuff

JoAnn Roberts

"You cannot be anything if you want to be everything."

Hello babies! Time for more HotStuff. Have you noticed all the leather in ads lately? Revlon ads use Claudia Schiffer (I want her body!) who bares her midriff for an "Outrageous Lips" campaign. Most of the clothing used in these ads are skin-tight pants. Check out Valentino and Escada — HOT!

According to NewsQueen, Paula Jordan Sinclair, the new Revlon nail polish is FABULOUS! It dries faster, looks shinier, and is more chip proof than the old formula. The other good news is that they've taken out the formaldehyde and toluene. Look for the bottles with the four golden rings on the top.

The latest research on skin care reveals that an old stand-by, Vaseline, really does do more than just coat the skin. The jelly penetrates the top layers of skin replacing depleted lipids and healing damaged skin. (You do know about depleted lipids, don't you sweets?) Anyway, before you start slathering the Vaseline all over your face, look for a moisturizer that has petrolatum as the first ingredient.

First came the HipSlip. Then the ThighSlimmer. Now we've got a whole tribe of body-squeezing lingerie. Check these out: Bellybuster, Bustbooster, Bustboosting Bodyslip, Bustboosting Bodysuit, and the list goes on. All are made with DuPont Lycra. Call 1-800-426-SLIP for more info.

I've been asking about "Sugaring" as a form of hair removal for several years and I finally found out it's much like waxing. But, according to *Glamour*, it's less irritating and requires only an eight -inch of growth compared to the quarter-inch with wax. Problem is, very few salons know how to do it. I still don't have a clue as to the actual technique. Anyone care to enlighten us?

Honey, all he had to do was ask us. William Gaylin (there's a clue), M.D. has written *The Male Ego* wherein he claims traditional masculinity is obsolete and dangerous. (Has he been reading Cross-Talk?) To wit: "... the biological mechanism that brought us out of the cave — the fight or flight response — is now hurting men. They constantly over-respond with fear and anger."

When Hell freezes over, hon. Every so often a major designer tries to convince the guys that they, too, can wear skirts. The latest attempt at feminizing the hairy masses comes from Donna Karan who showed Mr. Macho in a sarong wrap skirt and wool blazer. Tres chic, but the socks and wingtips have got to go!

Eyeshadow compacts usually contain one shade you'll never wear or one that you use up before the others. Prescriptives is going to change all that with their mix-n-match compact. They have 36 different shadows. You pick the ones you like and the salesperson makes up your compact on the spot.

Okay. Pay attention! Here's a quick course in lipstick-ology: Matte — unshiny color, used to be dry, but no more, try Christian Dior Rouge Accent or Body Shop Rosewood; Satin — is the hottest new style, halfway between matte and glossy, try Borghese Bassano Ruby; Cream (or glossy) looks moist and wet, try Maybelline Brown Sugar or Almay Blaze; Frost — has a pearly shine to it, try Ultima II Oh La La or Coty Hyacinth; Pencils — can be used to line lips or as a base color, capture Lancome's Le Crayon or Clarins Red#04.

Didya know that just over 51 percent of the population is female, yet only 3 of 50 governors are women, only 2 of 100 senators are women and only 1 out of 9 Supreme Court justices is a woman. As I write, women all over the country are poised to rewrite the political landscape.

Should be an interesting election and a very interesting next four years.

I am often complimented on my "youthful" appearance (she says humbly) even tho I am "forty-something," yet I do have fine lines around my eyes that I wish I could banish. Avon may just have the answer with a product called "Anew." This product contains a patented formula of Glycolic Compounds that work by removing dead surface skin — sorta like Retin-A. Avon claims you'll see smoother skin in two weeks or your money back.

Several waitresses in Atlantic City casinos have taken their employers to court over their skimpy costumes charging sex discrimination since the male waiters don't have to wear revealing clothing. Cited were very sheer hosiery, 3-inch high heels, high cut body suits and deep cleavage. Complaining! Hrummph, the nerve. I know crossdressers who'd kill to be able to wear a costume like that. Hey, maybe the casinos should hire CDs!

The proper eyebrow shape can make a great deal of difference to your look. According to my fave makeup artist, Rex, here's the scoop: Round face: aim the end of the brow toward the tip of the ear; Square face: slope brow toward the middle of the ear; Oval face: curve brow toward lower part of the ear.

Here's a cheap-trick from my good friend and Ann-Margaret impersonator Morgan Stevens. Don't pay those big bucks for glittery pantyhose this holiday season. Buy a regular pair of sheer black hose and a can of silver or gold hair glitter. Put on the hose and spray them with the glitter. Neat, and it washes out too.

Remember *Megatrends*? now the authors John Naisbitt and Patricia Aburdene (since married to each other) have published *Megatrends for Women*, a study of the ways women are asserting their power and causing change everywhere. I know

Hot Stuff

a couple of our community leaders who'll need this book.

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Laser surgery can remove ugly birthmarks and other unsightly skin marks. Skin laser treatments start at \$300 but many health insurance plans do not cover the procedures (cosmetic surgery). Con-

tact the American Society for Laser Medicine & Surgery, 2404 Stewart Square, Wausau, WI 54401 to find a laser surgeon near you.

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Well, the presidential election is over and "our side" won, I think. It would seem that Bill Clinton will be supportive of the

concept of diversity. But we cannot afford complacency, especially now after an apparent victory. Even though the anti-gay amendment, Measure 9, was defeated in Oregon, the Oregon Citizens' Alliance, the sponsor of the measure, will not take the set-back lightly. Meanwhile, the dunderheads in Colorado *did* pass an anti-gay amendment to that state's constitution. It is up to us to get off our collective asses and do some real constructive work in the political arena. As we used to say — If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem.

.....

We've got an IFGE election coming up in a few months for new and renewed board members. Consider these words of IBM's Buck Rodgers when you consider who to vote for: "The world is advancing and that means that an organization must be willing to change and improve. The only sacred cow in an organization is its principles." And these: "Sacred Cows make the best hamburger!" — Yours Truly (kiss, kiss)

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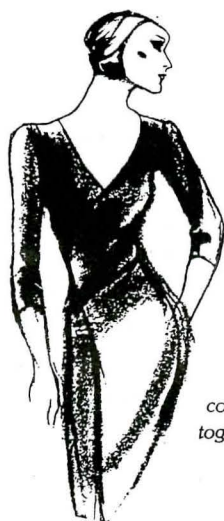
Congratulations to the girls (and family members) of Renaissance, Joanne White, Bonnie Allen, Andrea Susan, her son Gary and Alison Laing's partner Dottie for their awards received at Fantasia Fair 1992. Goes to show that Renaissance people make an impact no matter where they go.

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Here's this month's Quickie Quiz: Who is Howard Ellen O'Brien? Hint: I'm writing this at Hallowe'en. First correct answer will receive a free CDS video. Send your answer, by mail only, to CDS DecQQ, PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406. Meanwhile, no one correctly answered the QQ from two months ago, so we'll save it for another time.

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Brenda Davidson

Well, the people have spoken and it looks as though "we the people have slain half the monster." While it seems we will experience the leadership of an issue-aware president, we still have to keep an eye out for people like the OREGON CITIZENS ALLIANCE. This group, made up of mostly holy roller fundamentalists, tried their best to push Ballot Measure 9 into reality. Among the eccentric provisions were such things as "State, Regional, Local governments and their properties and moneys shall not be used to promote, encourage or facilitate homosexuality, pedophilia, sadism, or masochism." Geez Billybob, I say we put 'em all in a big boat, float it out in the middle of the ocean and sink it! Yeah, right. . . Once again, this is a relatively small group of people claiming themselves as the majority trying to influence others into their "eyes-closed" view of society. Fortunately, the people of Oregon chose to vote NO on this one for now. Unfortunately, Colorado had a similar enactment called Proposition 2 [This, by the way, was backed by more holy rollers. My God, they're legends in their own minds.] that did receive a YES vote from the people. This brings to mind the old quote, "We must surely hang together or we will most surely hang separately."



HANGING TOGETHER

Simply being a part of a group of people technically makes us a community. With this in mind, I had my doubts about the strength within our ranks. [Ah, but learn grasshopper.] While people here on the East Coast seemed to get less than adequate coverage of the previously mentioned issues, people on the West Coast knew exactly what was going on and were watching carefully. They were watching so carefully that it attracted the direct attention of most transgendered groups in the surrounding states. Support in opposition to the measures included everything from raising funds to working phone drives. Congrats to all the people who helped stand up for what they believe in. It seems there's hope for this "transgendered community" thing after all.

THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

Spotted in San Francisco, Ca.'s ETVC Newsletter was news about a soon-to-be-released book on Motown. Among other things there will be a story of Marvin Gaye's crossdressing ventures. Tony Turner, former Temptations road manager, was quoted as saying, "Marvin liked to dress in drag... He liked the experience of having a woman's wig on his head... then he would get himself dressed up." Now I know the true meaning of the song "Sexual Healing".

TRIVIA

Impress your friends with this bit of suffrage knowledge. The first woman to vote in a presidential election was a transvestite known as Charley Parkhurst. [Now that I've got your attention.] Charley was born in 1812 and while still a child ran away from an orphanage to involuntarily pursue a career in stable cleaning. When the Gold Rush of 1851 began, Charley thumbed it to California where his "natural" talent with horses

(continued on page 11)

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(Vis a Vis continued from page 10)

netted a career change to stage coach driver. Charley quickly gained homage as the Mario Andretti of the trade and was described as being a lush, tobacco chewing, foul mouth with a quick temper. Charley piloted his last wild ride in 1879, and when the undertaker was preparing Charley's body it was found that Charley's body parts didn't match Charley's body. [Hey, Dis is a broad!] Charlene had voted in every election from 1868 til "his" demise in 1879 and, No, I didn't make this up or get it from Rocky & Bullwinkle.

W.A.C.S.

Yeah, that's what I thought it stood for, but it also is Women Associated with Crossdressers. This is a quarterly newsletter communication network put together by Cynthia Phillips of the Society for the Second Self. Its purpose is to help wives and partners to better understand and deal with the ups and downs of living with a transgendered person. My wife thought this would be useful in helping someone new to this topic as well as others with questions. For info write: Cynthia Phillips, PO Box 17, Bulverde, TX 78163.

BRAINHOUSING FAILURE

As I read this next piece on the FRONT COVER of Cincinnati's "Cross-talk", I

couldn't help but think it was some kind of a joke. The following is verbatim:

"Well there were 42 ladies and S.O.'s at the Cross-Port meeting last month. Last month was a busy month for me as I started to leave my apartment dressed now. So I showed my typical restraint. I went to Christophers on a Friday and talked to Dee. I also saw a girl I worked with there but needless to say she did not recognize me. I went to the Dock and talked to Stanley the bartender. I left the Dock and went to this bar called Professor Plum's. I bought my first and last drink the last being coffee."

I've had enough. This thing goes on for three quarters of a page. Criticism is not what this is all about, but this gal definitely needs more coffee. The moral of the story might be... don't drink the water in Ohio.

(Board Notes continued from page 7)

a difficult job. The director coordinates chapter activities with the other local board members and makes sure that tasks, such as opening the meeting location, are covered. If you're interested in this position, call 609-641-3782.) The Greater Philadelphia chapter reports all is ready for the holiday Party at the Great Valley Sheraton on December 19.

IFGE Convention - Preparations for

the 1993 International Foundation for Gender Education "Coming Together" Convention (March 14-21) continue. A fund-raising auction is scheduled for January 16th at the Greater Philadelphia chapter meeting. If you have any items to donate to the auction, please leave a message for Alison Laing on the office phone (215-630-1437), or write her care of the national office. Volunteers are also needed to help with convention activities. Anyone (not just Renaissance members) interested in helping may call Alison or Susan Persing at the number above.

New Business (1) - Angela Gardner volunteered to chair a planning committee to set a course and goals for Renaissance into the 90's and beyond. One of the topics will be how can we better support those members of our community who have been "out of the closet" for years and who may not have the same needs and concerns as someone who is just coming out. The diversity of people within our community is huge, making it difficult to address each person's needs individually. Compromise and deciding what will be the most help for the most people will be one of the committee's tasks. The first meeting has been tentatively scheduled for January 2, 1993. If you have ideas or suggestions for our future, please write to the Renaissance Planning Committee care of the national office. (Please

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(Board Notes continued from page 11)

indicate if you are able to help implement your idea. We often get the suggestion for a Big Sister program but no one has been willing to set one up.)

New Business (2) - It was suggested that we set up another Professional Program like we did last year but make this

one a 2-day educational seminar for counseling professionals who are not familiar with the transgendered community.

New Business (3) - It was suggested that we set up a Speaker's Training class since we have not had one in quite some time. This class would help train new classroom speakers and also give those who have been speaking an opportunity to

share their classroom experiences.

The next board meeting will be January 10, 1993 at 1:00 PM at the Woods. Any Renaissance member may attend.

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