



tg.ic. news

PUBLISHED EVERY OTHER MONTH BY:

TRANSGENDERISTS INDEPENDANCE CLUBS

P.O. BOX 13604
ALBANY, N.Y. 12212
Phone: (518) 436-4513



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MAY-JUNE 1991

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN: - Winnie [REDACTED]

Hello, Ladies!

Well, our "April Shower Soiree" on April 6 at the EconoLodge in Albany was a great success - over 40 people, including wives and friends, came out to the party. We had several visitors each from Syracuse and Rochester, and others from downstate. Thanks to the arrangements made by Cassie, everthing went smoothly - cocktails, dinner, speeches and dancing. For our fashion show, half a dozen volunteer models enjoyed showing off their Spring outfits, and the audience approved. Thanks again to Jennifer for providing the music, and to Julie for snapping the festivities on film. By all accounts, everyone had a good time. Another special event like it is planned for the Fall. If you have ideas for making it better, let us know.

~ * ~

I left the party early so that I could get some sleep before leaving for the IFGE Convention in Denver on Sunday. The Regency is a large hotel, quite nice but fallen on hard times because of its isolation on the outskirts of Denver, and apparently doomed by a new freeway. Anyway, their room rates were reasonable and the staff was great in accepting us as ladies (and some new gentlemen as well). There was a Convention of the Colorado Tourist Bureau at the same time, and some other groups, too.

My room-mate for the seven days was Sharon Ann [REDACTED], a new member of the club but an old friend of mine - she was my room-mate at the first Dream in 1973, on the Oregon coast. She volunteered to serve as roving reporter for the Convention Daily Newsletter, and many articles appear under her by-line - copies are available for perusal in the club room. Renee [REDACTED] deputised me as assistant photographer, so I kept busy, too. Renee is doing OK in California, but misses us and sends you her hugs.

While Merissa and others were skiing on Monday, Sharon Ann and I went downtown with a couple of our local hosts from the Gender Identity Center, running errands and paying a visit to a large shopping mall in the afternoon. Most of the merchandise was too expensive for our pocketbook, but great to window shop. Tuesday was a quiet day, meeting old friends from all over the country, and ending with a formal reception for club representatives (including yours truly for TGIC).

Wednesday began with a meeting of the Congress of Representatives. One of the major topics was networking among clubs in different areas. Besides our NY State Gender Coalition (Pamela from Rochester was there), there is MAGGIE in the mid-West (Mid-America Gender Group Information Exchange), the Renaissance group in the mid-Atlantic region, and the East-Central groups that sponsor the Be-All event. Cynthia [REDACTED] from California spoke about the Gender Alternatives Leauge (GAL), a group intended to promote political action nationwide. Copies of her "Gender Activist Declaration of Independence", signed by many persons well-known in the community, were distributed during the convention, as well as "A Bill of Gender Rights" by JoAnn Roberts. Our own Sharon Ann Stuart published her independently conceived "Gender Bill of Rights" in the newsletter. I brought back copies of all for consideration by our TGIC Board and the NYS Gender Coalition. I hope we can agree on a position to support.

There were many Sessions and Committee meetings during the Convention, dealing with topics such as TS issues, F-to-M, partners, self-help, hormones, legal problems, helping professionals, fund raising (goal: \$2,000,000 by 1996!), and many others. On Friday, Dr. Stanley Biber of Trinidad, Colorado was honored at the IFGE luncheon and presented an illuminating slide show in the afternoon

to a packed room. He showed details of the procedure during an operation and examples of the excellent results that can be achieved when he has sufficient tissue to work with, especially with cosmetic "fine tuning" some six months or more after the main surgery. Also, he presented some sad examples of poor surgery and mayhem, which he attempted to correct, but with less satisfactory results. Four of his "babies" were in attendance, and very thankful for his skill. The session ended with a long line of questioners, answered well.

The recipient of the IFGE Virginia Prince Award this year, presented at the final banquet on Saturday, was Betty Ann [redacted] of Alexandria, Virginia. She is well known for organising many groups on the East coast, and for coordinating Fantasia Fair for the last five years. Betty Ann has led a very fascinating life, including attending a girls boarding school during childhood (really - not TV fiction!), and has performed as a female impersonator - as well as pursuing an active and productive male life. Truly, she well deserves the honor. She ended her acceptance speech with a serious warning - "There is a plague on the Earth, called AIDS, and it will soon get worse. There are many preachers of hate out there, who will blame us, amongst others. This will excite a backlash, which we must face and be prepared to counter".

TGIC Officers & Directors:

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Secretary	JULIE M.
Treasurer	Denise S.
Director, Outreach	Jennifer W.
Director, TS Affairs	Tiffane V.
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Standing Committees:

Newsletter	OPEN
IFGE Representative	Winnie B.
Programs	OPEN
Rap Groups	Katherine H.
Big Sisters	Melissa K.

REGULAR MEETINGS OTHER THAN TGIC

CD NETWORK: Rochester, NY 716-251-2132
General Meeting - 2nd Friday

EON: Syracuse, PO Box 6293, Camillus, NY 13031
General Meetings - 1st Saturday - Parish
3rd Saturday House

TGN: New Paltz, NY PO Box 177, Tillson, NY 12486-0177
General Meeting - 1st Friday - Church 7P
3rd Friday - Church 7P

TIFFANY: Wayland, MA 508-358-5478
Rap Group - Every Tuesday - House 6P
Open Day - Every Saturday - House 4P
Wives Support - 1st Friday - House

XX CLUB: Hartford, CN (TS only)
General Meeting - 2nd Saturday - Church
4th Saturday - Church

THE GATHERING: NY City (TS only)
General Meeting - 1st Sunday

CONNECTICUT OUTREACH SOCIETY: Devon, CT
Socials - 1st Saturday - House Parties

LIFE: Hempstead, NY (Long Island)
Socials - 1st Friday - 3rd Saturday
Wives Support Group - 2nd Tuesday

CASSY'S NOTES

Cassandra [redacted]

As most of you know we had our April Shower Soiree and it went very well. We had roughly forty people turn out. The staff at the Econolodge treated us very nicely, thanks guys! I would also like to thank all of you who were there. Also a special thanks goes to Jennifer, Winnie, Sue, Julie, Valerie, and all of the others who helped out. I apologize for the rough edges, but next time we'll knock your stockings off.

On a sadder note I would like to climb up on my trusty soapbox again. In our community we depend a lot on trust and support of each other. Unfortunately we have had some problems. We've had items disappear, nuisance phone calls, confidential phone numbers released, among other incidents. Please, ladies, I beg of you, can we try to grow up and act like civilized human beings? The times we are in are rough enough, please don't make them more so.

Well, off the soap box, I would like to welcome all of our new members. Believe me, you are not alone, in fact there are more of "us" out there than you would believe. Many of the regular attending club members are more than willing to lend a sympathetic ear and help as much as possible. If we can't help, we might just know someone who would be able to. Thursday nights we usually have roughly fifteen people show up. We also had some very fascinating and informative discussions. The rap group is now actually a rap group! And to use an old line, "The more the merrier", so come out and check it out (en femme is optional).

Well, I guess that this is it for now. Take care all of you don't be a stranger, just be strange....

MEMBER PARTICIPATION PROJECT

I have been working on a project for several months now and I need your assistance. The pamphlet I started to write, describing what gender dysphoria is really is, to educate those affected and professionals alike, has been caught up by the Frankenstein Effect. I would appreciate autobiographies from anyone that is involved or affected by Gender Dysphoria. I include not only TV's and TS's but your SO's, children, parents, brothers, sisters and mail person - anyone.

What is needed to make this work is you. It's your chance to tell the world who you are as both a Male and as a Female. How you survive and overcome or surmount to the conflicts that exist due to gender dysphoria. This is too important to let die by the roadside, as only your participation can keep it moving as a viable project.

If you don't feel that you can write an autobiography, please let me interview you or anyone else, in person or by phone. Though I prefer that you tell your story in your own words, I will help you if I can. No names will be published without permission and fictional names can be used.

Please send your copies to or contact me at TGIC. Thanks everyone.

Julie [redacted]

Boulton & Park Fourth Annual

"Texas 'T' Party"

FEBRUARY 28th - MARCH 1st
1992

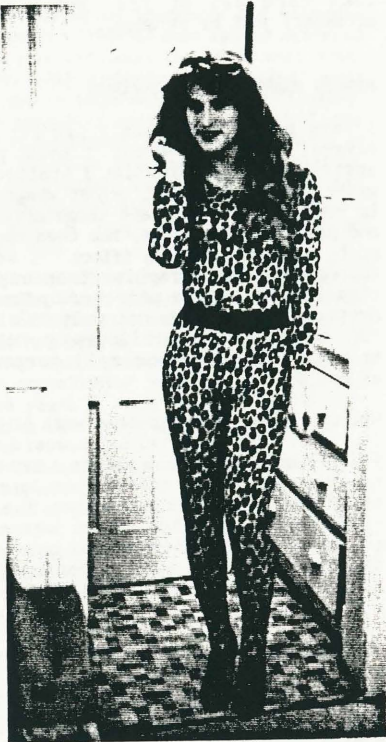
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DANIELLE: ARE WE HAVING FUN YET? (SHEESH I LOVE 4 HOURS I SHAVED OFF A PERFECTLY GOOD BEARD FOR THIS?)

"SOIREE" MEMORIES:



DIANA (OF SYRACUSE) TRIES TO LOOK... "SAINTLY"



MALLY: (OF SYRACUSE) DISE - DO YOU SEE MINE IN THE REF?
CASSIE: SHSSH. WE WANT THEM TO THINK THIS IS LEGIT... WHAT? YOU MEAN THIS MIRE IS ON?!!

"SOIREE" MEMORIES (CONT.)



"PROFESSOR HAWKINS" WAS "OUR FAIR LADY"

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From the For What it's Worth File:

"...It is also likely that the tendency for (homosexual transexuals) to be more physically feminized would become a significant association. On the other hand, high scores on the Gynephilia Scale (i.e. heterosexual males; philia=love of) showed positive adjustment (to sexual reassignment) by their ability to generate their own income (stable income)..."

"The data suggest that homosexual transexuals tend to have, or take on, more femininity earlier in life and that the heterosexual types tend to be older and have developed a more masculine career and life-style before they undertake gender change. To explain the differences, (the researchers, Roback, et.al, 1984) theorized that gender conflict for the older, more heterosexual group, is less intensely experienced early in life and becomes more intense only after the traditional solutions (?) have failed."

"...it is suggested that for the hetero-transexuals, the erotic component of cross-gender fetishism may provide an early outlet for the "intensity" (quotes theirs) of the cross gender conflict. This "outlet" (quotes theirs) of cross-dressing and experiencing erotic release may delay the need for an early gender resolution by providing intermittent relief from gender distress until this erotic component fades in later adult life. Without such an outlet, the homo-transexual experiences an increasing need for conflict resolution and is motivated to take on feminization at an earlier age."

From the Archives of Sexual Behavior, Johnson and Hunt "Male Transsexual Typology and Psychosocial Adjustment" Aug 90, 357-8.

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4

THE DEATH OF RICHARD by Jennifer [REDACTED]

Anyway, here I was sitting on a deserted beach on Narragansett sound at 2 AM. The sound and energy of the ocean waves crashing to shore was matched only by the waves of emotion and nausea running rampant through my body. Hours earlier, I had feasted on a sumptuous roast beef dinner at some nameless Providence restaurant, as I blankly watched the planes coming and going so purposefully at the nearby airport. My life no longer had a purpose and I knew it. The first Manhattan tasted sweetly bitter as it rapidly disappeared down my throat, only to be followed by another, and then by at least five more. I recall leaving the restaurant at about 10PM and driving south half hoping that some concerned policeman would spot me, and haul me off to some wretched cell for the night to dry out, thereby interrupting my plan, and my life, a life I now detested. None did.

Two months before, my wife of ten years, had told me to get out, she just couldn't handle being married to a crossdresser. All my life, I had been raised to "BE THE MAN" and had denied my feminine nature, it was just too scary to handle, too unnatural, too... perverse. All my dreams had been wrapped up in my family, my home, my children. Everything I did was aimed at trying to provide a beautiful home and home life for them... no sacrifice was too great to make that home work. Except under it all was a burning need I tried time and time again to shake... and failed. I thought of it as a weakness, a sickness that needed treating, yet which I didn't really want treated, and sadly for which there was no treatment. Finally, in my thirty sixth year, I began to learn about who I REALLY was, and began to accept myself as that person, a person who for some reason was part female, a person torn between upbringing, and some non-understandable inner need. A caring, loving, devoted person. When that union broke, all those dreams were crushed. All that was left was a hollow shell, of what had been a man. For two months, I wallowed

between despair and hope that we could work it out. I was like a scale, whose balancing weights were removed, dangling helplessly out of balance. I clung desperately to the hope that I could regain the shattered dreams that allowed me to live as a man.

The same week that my marriage crumbled, unforeseen economic changes caused my business to fail and an opportunity which only a week before had seemed golden, now lay shattered in the dust. I hadn't accepted yet that my marriage was over, and the hope for reconciliation, somehow, provided me with enough energy to rally and find a new job, which had brought me to Rhode Island on this trip. But, now, that wasn't really working out either. One reason was I had sunk into a catatonic state of despair over my lost marriage, a job I didn't have the right tools for and didn't like, and my inability to accept myself as a woman.

I wanted to go home, but there was no home to go home to. I wanted a job that meant something, working with intelligent interesting people, but found only mediocrity, and boredom. I wanted someone to hold me and tell me things would work out... but there was no one to hold me. I wanted to know that the first half of my life had served some purpose, but that knowledge was lacking. I wanted to dream and strive to make that dream a reality, but as a man, there were no dreams. I wanted to die, as in death I could find release, and that was my plan. It was so simple really... a quiet, deserted beach, midnight, full moon, peaceful swim ... further, and further, from the shore, drifting, floating, swimming into the embrace of the mother sea, until returning to shore was impossible, and exhaustion would pull me under. Somehow, it seemed so proper and symbolic.

Several times during my life I had experienced instances of telepathy, and as I sat on that beach, I tried to send a message of good bye to my children, and hoped that they remember me as I had

been not as I had become, but mostly that they remember me. In my drunken stupor, I looked for some sign that the message was received, but instead felt a warm peace inside for the first time in weeks. I don't remember the drive back to the motel at all, but the next morning I awoke in my room, head clear and knowing that I had an option I hadn't explored, an option I had closed from myself all my life, a dream unfulfilled - to become a woman. The pain was still there, as was the uncertainty of the future, but now, I had a direction.

You know, sometimes, I still half expect my current reality to dissolve and some white garbed angel, or red garbed devil come up to me and say... "come on... its over... yes, you did indeed drown, the last two years were only a dream", but until that happens, I go on building a new life. My practicality keeps me regularly looking over my shoulder for some sign of hope from the past, and some bridges have indeed been patched, but because of my circumstances that same practicality keeps me going slowly ahead. In a way, I was successful in my plan that night, because part of me did die, not by drowning, but by choice. Many people had been telling me prior to this event that I was probably transsexual, but I turned a deaf ear. It took this night, three more months, more tears than I care to remember and a Drinking and Driving charge to force me to accept myself as transsexual, but now everything seems to be slowly falling into place. And I'm constantly astounded at how natural and easy and right everything feels... everything, that is but the lack of a relationship with my children.

With Love, on Father's Day
Jennifer [REDACTED]

D&S CORNER By Melissa K.

What is D & S?

Hello all! Sorry I missed the last issue, but I've been kind of tied up for a while. My night class almost had me at the end of my rope. Maybe some of you out there are asking "what is D & S?", so I'll give my interpretation of what this dark area is.

The term "D&S" is just an acronym meaning Discipline and Submission. (It could also be called Dominance and Submission depending on your opinion) Basically, it is a general label for just about anything having to do with bondage, sadomasochism, pain, and dominance and submission. But all of these points within the D&S realm don't necessarily go hand-in-hand. There are some who enjoy bondage simply for the sensation and those who use it as a discipline tool. Others will submit to pain, i.e. whipping, spanking, etc. but won't do bondage. People not oriented into the scene, or "straight" folks, may even think of crossdressing as a form of submission since, "if an man dresses as a woman, he must want to be dominated". Not necessarily. One of the "Pink Panther" movies with Peter Sellers demonstrated this misconception very well when the presumed dead Inspector Cluseau shows up at his apartment wearing women's clothes and is whipped and beaten by a dominatrix on site. (This was after Kato turned the apartment into and house of pleasure).

There are also couples, married and not married, straight and gay, who pursue master/slave relationships. In some cases these associations may not include any bondage, pain or discipline at all. One simply bows to the will of the other out of spirit and/or trust. I don't know the exact figures, but masters and slaves can be male and female alike.

In most of the D&S photo fantasy magazines I have read the ads contained within them are usually of the same nature of theme of the magazine itself, meaning, if a publication's theme is about female domination, i.e. women dominating men or other women, or FemDom, then generally most of it's ads will also be along those lines. If you are just starting out on your search for items of your interest you can almost always tell just by the title or cover of the publication itself what it's about.

The main categories of D&S as I see them are: Bondage, Discipline, and pain. A D&S relationship can contain a single entity or all of them, and under each category, are almost countless sub-categories that are limited only by one's imagination. I've seen bondage techniques that go from the plain hands-tied-behind-the-back to the extremely elaborate, such as harnesses and pulley systems. (Remember the movie "Nine to Five"?)

The discipline aspect can range from simple verbal instructions to devices and garments which prevent the person from doing much else other than their assigned task(s). In a document I downloaded off of a computer service some months ago, a woman spoke of her account of having to wear a special punishment dress her mother had made, whenever she misbehaved. It was floor length and snug fitting with a locking belt around the hem which prevented her from kicking her mother, as she had apparently tried to do one time. This could also be considered a bondage aspect and is a good example of the intermingling of the three main D&S entities.

Pain is pretty much self explanatory: the deliberate inflicting of pain or physical discomfort. With the advent of technology, pain has also spawned many sub-categories. As an example, there have been several message threads in the CompuServe HSX forum recently which concern the use of the T.E.N.S. unit. I don't know the exact definition of what this unit does except that it is a medical device which emits an electrical

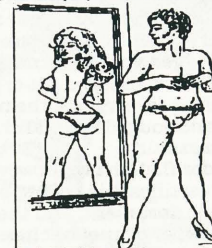
current to treat chronic pain. Apparently it can also be used to cause pain and selected muscles to contract. However, this is a dangerous area and should NOT be entered into lightly. I recommend doing research and getting as much information as possible before doing anything with electricity no matter how small the current. Ever touch a 9-volt battery to your tongue? In grade school I got suckered into touching the poles of a 6-volt battery after a fellow student had held a nail across them. OUCH!! my fingers hurt the rest of the day!

So the world of D&S is very large and ever changing. There are probably as many D&S techniques as there are ideas. And as long as you are not forcing somebody or really hurting them, then just about anything goes. Consentuality is the key in the fantasy. (Even though the fantasy may be about force and torture) We all have fantasies, but do you really want to live all of them out for real? So, acting out the fantasy with a trusting or willing partner gives us the experience at our own pace with the promise of a happy ending. I'll even close with one of my recent favorites:

"This is April O'Neil, Happy Hour News."

* EDITOR'S NOTE: Although topics covered in this column may seem abusive, the world of D&S is really rather structured, and does follow certain guidelines which ultimately guarantee the respectful treatment of the participants. The fantasy to be enacted is agreed upon before hand, and certain limits are set, this is called "Defining the scene". The fact that this is role play and fantasy are kept in mind, and that the "scene" is in effect an ad-libbed mini-play undertaken for the participants enjoyment. Should the relationship exceed the preagreed limits by either party, the relationship can be termed an abusive, breach of the trust placed in the partners. If this should happen, the limits need to be redefined or play should be terminated.

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In England, Still a Man



Richard Pender

Even her shape couldn't sway court

Tula, one of Britain's top models, has lost her six-year legal fight to be recognized as a woman. The European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, has ruled that the dazzling, green-eyed beauty—who underwent a sex-change operation in London's Charing Cross Hospital in 1974—is a man. The 6-foot golden blonde, who worked with Roger Moore in the 1977 film *For Your Eyes Only* and has posed for countless magazines, began life 36 years ago as Barry Cossey in Brooke, an English village near Norwich. During his teens, Barry realized

he was more at home in his mother's dresses than in boys' clothes. In 1973, he changed his name to Caroline Cossey. A year later, Caroline began sex-change surgery, gradually developing a full-fledged feminine anatomy. Soon she established a lucrative modeling career, took the name Tula and sought to legalize her transsexuality.

Under British law, however, a birth certificate is held to be an historic document, and the sex of its owner cannot be changed. In 1984, wanting to marry, Tula applied to the European Court of Human Rights to alter the sex on her birth certificate from male to female—something the British courts had refused to do. The European Court ruled that British law is inviolate in Tula's case. One British-born man cannot marry another British-born man in Britain, and Tula remains such a man.

Nevertheless, last year Tula "married" a wealthy businessman, Elias Fattal, whom she had met and nursed in a clinic specializing in Oriental medicine. Twenty-four hours after their honeymoon's end, however, Fattal called it quits. "I am," Tula says sadly, "the victim of a trick by nature."

The affiliate has won a ruling in King County Superior Court that transsexualism, clinically known as gender dysphoria, is a disability requiring accommodation by employers. In *Jane Doe v. The Boeing Company*, the first case of its kind in the state of Washington, the affiliate represented a pre-surgical, male-to-female transsexual fired by Boeing from her job as a computer software engineer when she wore a string of pink beads to work.

Doe began the sex-change process with hormone treatments in the spring of 1984. She testified that her supervisor at Boeing had shown "understanding" when she informed him of her condition in 1985, and that her co-workers had also accepted and supported her. The company gave her a new identification badge bearing the new name she had legally adopted, and the U. S. Department of Defense renewed her security clearance. By this time, Doe had worked for Boeing for seven years, receiving numerous certificates of outstanding performance for "her personal initiative, ingenuity, dependability, professional ability and dedication."

When Doe began the pre-operative phase of her sexual transition, her physician instructed her to live full-time as a female for one year. Although she was not specifically told to wear female clothing, she felt "It would have been impossible for me to meet minimum medical standards if I did not dress as a female while I was at work."

Doe notified her supervisor and co-workers in advance of changing her attire and explained the reasons. The supervisor testified that in response to the news Boeing imposed certain restrictions on her, mainly "no skirts or dresses" and no using the women's restrooms. He said that no disruption or complaints from co-workers resulted, although others testified that some employees were uncomfortable with Doe's transformation. *Court B/11*



Marilyn Monroe and Tony Curtis in 1959's "Some Like It Hot" about two musicians who masquerade as members of an all-female band.



See Humbert Pageant

At each performance of "Pageant," a panel of judges from the audience chooses the winner of the Miss Glamouresse competition. From left, Randal Ash, Russell Garret, and Dick Scanlan in a scene from the musical, which is playing nightly at the Blue Angel.

November 25, 1990 Parade Magazine

She who was he awarded 25G

By ALEX MICHELINI
Daily News Staff Writer

A busy transsexual, who charged she was cruelly forced to serve a robbery sentence in men's prisons rather than women's lockups, won a \$25,000 settlement yesterday in a suit against the state.

Jackie Farrell, 34, of Manhattan, also received up to \$80,000 in legal fees and the right to serve her remaining jail time in the Bedford Hills women's prison.

The dark-haired, 5-foot-7 woman said she had "mixed feelings" about the settle-

ment, adding that gaining entrance to a female prison was the biggest victory.

"Best of luck to you, Miss Farrell," said Manhattan Federal Judge Robert Patterson.

Farrell, described in court papers as "busty" with a size 38C bra, said she had filed a \$5 million civil rights lawsuit against the state in 1988 because of fears for her safety.

Robbery charge

She had been convicted of a prostitution-related charge of robbing a John of \$530.

Farrell said she sought to

be placed in a women's prison. State prison officials refused, deciding "she's a man."

She charged she was wrongly shuttled among five men's prisons — including the hard-boiled Clinton Correctional Facility in upstate Dannemora — and was sexually abused by guards.

After serving nearly five years of her term, mostly in solitary confinement, Farrell was released last year. But she was arrested for cloaking a dress in a Manhattan store in February.

She was sentenced to one

year on the petty larceny charge and one year for parole violation.

After her arrest, Farrell spent one day in the men's jail at Rikers Island before being transferred to a women's lockup pending the proceedings on her suit.

Farrell, named James at birth, was the victim of a chemical deficiency of male hormones and began taking estrogen injections at 14, according to court papers. Four years later, Farrell became Jacqueline after undergoing breast implant surgery and removal of both testicles.

12-8-90 N.Y. Daily News

FLYING

'Pretty Woman'

During a Varig airlines flight between Lisbon and Rio de Janeiro last week, 39-year-old Brazilian transvestite Afonso Felipe dos Santos—clad smartly in a wig, pumps and black skirt—entered the cockpit under the pretense of wanting to take a picture. But once inside, he sprayed Mace on the pilots. A relief pilot rushed in to take control. The plane—and the 348 passengers—then landed safely in the Canary Islands. The transvestite was arrested and his sister said that Felipe dos Santos had a death wish. "The in-flight movie that day," "Pretty Woman."

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.

It's no 'Night Court,' but Niskayuna court can be strange

THE TIMES UNION

Wednesday,
April 17, 1991

From Woodstock II to transvestites, the judge sees it all.

By Michael Lopez

Staff writer

NISKAYUNA — The assortment of petit larceny, bad check and traffic charges was pretty boring for the 40 people waiting in the crowded courtroom one recent Wednesday

night.

But Niskayuna crime has a way of breaking out of the routine.

Take the case of a transvestite caught in a McDonald's ladies room or the defendant who gave his occupation as "ecoterrorist."

For Justice Bruce S. Trachtenberg, job initiation included the trials of anti-nuclear activists who turned his courtroom into a mini-Woodstock. "What a delight," Trachtenberg, a big but soft-spoken man, said of that spectacle.

The scene of these offbeat incidents is a staid

courtroom decorated in dark faux-wood paneling, a scuffed brown rug and heavy curtains. A sign announces, "No Personal Checks Accepted." A black-and-white portrait of Abraham Lincoln hangs behind the judge's bench, and there's also a painting of one-eyed Homer Brown, a longtime Niskayuna justice.

Trachtenberg is far from the clownlike Judge Harry Stone, from TV's "Night Court." Though stern and polite on the bench, the one-term Democrat does offer a colorful glimpse of the way justice is dispensed at the local level in one

of the county's busiest courts

In session on Monday and Wednesday nights, he and Justice Harold Gordon take turns arraigning suspects and conducting preliminary hearings. Once a month, there are non-jury trials for violations and small-claims cases and occasionally a jury trial for misdemeanors and civil suits.

Shoplifting and bad-check charges filed at Mohawk Mall accounted for about a third to a half of the 738 misdemeanors before the court

last year, when Trachtenberg began compiling the statistics on the case-load.

During one "light" court night, the room was awash with people: professionals in Oxford shirts and ties, young mothers quieting toddlers, teenaged boys in faded jeans tucked into unlaced work boots.

Trachtenberg dresses up — pinstripe suit, French cuffs with gold links, a lion's head ring on his left hand.

His courtroom manner is smooth and reassuring as he lectures defendants.

"It is cheaper to hire a limousine — not a cab — but a limo," he told one man who pleaded guilty to driving while ability impaired this

The activists' supporters sang in the courtroom, rearranged chairs, left loudly and surrounded his car. Trachtenberg's job often gives him a feeling of *deja vu* when it comes to recognizing faces.

"Since I've become a judge," he said, "I've stopped asking them where I know them from."



Times Union photo by John Carl D'Annibale

READY FOR ACTION — Town Justice Bruce Trachtenberg, shown in Niskayuna Town Court recently.

month. The same night, he warned a teenager to "bring your toothbrush" — as in jail time — if he violated the terms of his conditional discharge in a traffic case.

Trachtenberg's credo is to "treat people like people" — even when the circumstances can be disconcerting.

The transvestite was charged with disorderly conduct after he broke from a police officer checking out a report of a "strange lady" at the McDonald's in Mohawk Mall.

The defendant was deaf and could read lips — but not Trachtenberg's. "He put his head down and wouldn't look me in the eye," said the judge, who typed out the arraignment for the man to read. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to jail time already served.

A few months after his 1987 election, Trachtenberg presided in the trials of 10 protesters charged with trespassing at Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory. They were later convicted.



"So you'd like to get into my pants. . . . Want to wear my bra and my lipstick too?"

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Jennifer [redacted]

Well it looks like we are into the throes of another HOT SUMMER, and dressing activity is down, down, down, for so many of you. Things have slowed to a crawl at the club in recent weeks so we have been spending time planning new activities for the fall which we hope will (ahem) "DRAG" some of the faces we see so rarely, out of the closets. Isn't it getting awfully crowded in that closet? What's going on? In addition to our regular Thursday Rap group sessions continuing at 146 Central Avenue, and our second Saturday parties at Mother Eve's, Check this out:

If you are tired of the Bars as places to go dressed just to get out...

Beginning on the 21st of September, TGIC members will be invited to a monthly event in public... yes you heard me IN PUBLIC! Yours truly has taken the initiative to provide a monthly night out which will and emphasis on coming out in a classy and dignified manner to meet OUR public. Unless there is some other conflict either with holidays or major NYS gender club events these nights out will be held on the third Friday or Saturday of each month. Plans currently are calling for dinner/theatre, or other social events, and possibly several road trips later in the spring. These events should provide an exciting interchange with an interesting night.

The first "GIRLS NIGHT OUT" is planned for September 21st. We have reserved a block of twenty spots for a return to the Comedy Works. Our visit will be for the dinner performance at 6:30 and the cost is \$21.95 per person which includes dinner and the show. Tip and drinks are additional. Performing that night will be Max Dolicelli, Jim Mendrinos, and John Dean Belt. We will be seated as a group so we ask that you have your PAID reservations in to me at PO Box 1417, TROY, NY 12181 or via TGIC, by September 10. If your reservations are not in by this time, you may still be able to attend on a space available basis, but risk not being seated with the main group... so reserve early.

In October, we are looking at a double bill of dinner at Thatcher's Restaurant on Delaware Avenue in Albany, followed by a performance at Albany Civic Theater of Neil Simon's Comedy, BROADWAY BOUND the third play in his semi-autobiographical trilogy which included BILOXI BLUES and BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS. As yet the plans for this October event aren't final as we don't yet have the show schedule for ACT. But look for details in our next edition. In the months ahead, we hope to offer a road trip to either Pittsfield or Kingston in November, and a Dinner/Symphony package in December. If you have ideas or suggestions for our new Girls Night Out Series of events, let me know.

By the time you experience your first Girls Night Out, you may want to return to the relative safety of the Bars, so.. Beginning in September every fourth Saturday we will be meeting at Private Eyes, on Central Avenue in Albany for a semi-public social. Private Eyes has welcomed our girls regularly after our Thursday night rap sessions, and has indicated an interest in making this night a regular ladies' night possibly with special events and shows. So Come on out and join us, it should be fun!

Other things in the works:

I'm hoping this fall to be working with Moonhawk River Stone of Choices Counseling to facilitate a

professionally led support group. This is an outgrowth of our healing circle, and if you find that crossdressing is causing problems in your life we urge you to look for details of this service in upcoming issues of TGIC News.

Finally:

Don't miss the Autumn Accord (See information given elsewhere in this newsletter) being jointly sponsored by the NYS Gender Coalition (see the statement of purpose elsewhere in this newsletter) and the Syracuse Eon Group to be held in Syracuse at the Hotels at Syracuse Square on October 4-5 Weekend.



PASSING FROM XX MINUTES
by Ann D. Nymous

Whenever I hear a reference to "passing", I feel vaguely irritated. So much is dependent upon a TS's ability to "pass" in the chosen gender role and there are so many implications associated with passing or not passing. I guess that I've just assumed the irritation results from negative associations with not passing. After giving the issue serious thought, however, I have a problem with the entire concept of "passing".

The implied pretension and artificiality snags of a mentality that encourages members of a minority to endeavor to "pass" as a member of the (more accepted) majority, rather than coming to terms with the fact that they are different and finding a way to live with as much peace and dignity as possible. It seems to me a much more positive goal to try to assimilate rather than infiltrate.

All too often, some members of our community are so eager to embrace the (stereotypical) trappings of their conception of the "opposite" gender that they don't take the time to determine how/if all these pieces will fit into their own lives. To say nothing of how the world at large will respond to them.

is unfortunate that so many people seem to tumble onto the gender community conveyor belt and get swept along; through hormones, electrolysis, crossdressing/living and, eventually surgery, without ever coming to terms with who they really are. Perhaps if we weren't so focused on crossdressing and "passing" initially, before embarking on crossliving, transition could bring about more personal growth and, therefore, be a more natural process more likely to be accepted by others.

While I don't discount the effectiveness and gratification of presenting an attractive and convincing appearance in the chosen gender role, without an underlying congruity it's merely a facade. Sooner or later, people are going to see what's behind it. I know a glamorous, female-appearing TS who probably gets read just as often as a football player in a dress. Her physical beauty and female appearance are distorted by overcompensation and people pick up on her insecurity and flamboyance. By the same token, I have other acquaintances with numerous challenges and contradictions to their outward female credibility who are readily accepted as female virtually everywhere they go. Again, the signals coming from within are the ones people ultimately respond to.

I may have enjoyed a comparatively smooth transition as a result of successfully blending in, however, I can not change the fact that I was born a genetic male and spent the first half of my life living in a male context. I've worked very hard at getting a handle on who I am and making my life as compatible and true to my inner self as I can. For me, it's a happy coincidence that living in a female context seems to fit so well. Perhaps the most meaningful lesson I've learned during this process is, the more I let go of assumed/expected behavior along the way, the more comfortable I've become with myself. And, not surprisingly, the more comfortable others have become with me.

Shouldn't the transition process be a liberating of what's within, rather than a fabrication to cover it up? I don't mind saying that I find it disturbing to see people knocking themselves out trying to pass themselves off as "one of the girls", frequently with good ol' boy sensibilities. Maybe this is what the TV experience is all about, but it certainly doesn't seem relevant to being a TS.

No doubt, it takes time and effort to dump years of programming and conditioned behavior, but just getting all dolled up won't make it go away. All too often, we make statements like "So-and-So passes well", inferring that this person has "made it". In reality, they may only have made a successful masquerade. Conversely, commenting that someone doesn't pass well, implies that they are not credible and, therefore, less genuinely TS. Making an attractive visual presentation can be a crucial component of a successful transition. However, it is by no means the most important one, nor should it be Step #1.

For a TS, the ability to blend in should, hopefully, occur as a side effect of discovering, healing, and nurturing the inner sense of gender identity. It ought not to be wholly dependent upon or limited to visual presentation.

To put all of this in perspective, every TS would do well to recognize that members of other minorities, such as people of color or physically and/or mentally challenged people, usually don't even have the option of "passing". Yet most of them seem to find a way to make their lives work without having to mimic WASP's or "normal" people.

I'm not advocating that we should all come out and announce the fact that we are TS's to the world at large. But neither should we ignore our origins and barge into the female gender expecting to be welcomed and accepted with open arms by one and all. A little honest self-awareness and discretion can go a long way toward inspiring acceptance and even respect from others. And, positive feedback from others can further enhance, or the lack of it inhibit, the most dedicated quest.

Taken from Workers World 5-5-91, vol 33, NO. 18
46 west 21 street, NY, NY, 10010 (212) 255-0352

Silence of Lambs slanders transsexuals

By Leslie Feinberg

The writer entered a program for female-to-male transsexuals in the late 1960s.

In real life there has never, never been a transsexual or transvestite serial killer. That's just a fact. If there had, there would have been endless lurid accounts on Entertainment Tonight, made-for-TV movies as well as in the supermarket scandal rags.

The current movie Silence of the Lambs, however, has put on the big screen that which doesn't exist in real life: a sort of transsexual, kind of transvestite, gay serial killer. As a genre it follows in the footsteps of Dressed to Kill, Freebie and the Bean, and of course, Psycho.

The plot of Silence of the Lambs is that a wanna-be transsexual who is turned down for sex-reassignment surgery is killing women in order to skin them and sew a woman's body for himself. Oy vey!

Is there any harm in this? You bet my life there is!

First and foremost it clouds the central question: are transsexuals and transvestites more likely to be killers, or the victims of murderers? Transsexuals and transvestites in this country have been the targets of chilling violence and have no legal recourse against the widespread discrimination they face.

For example, the estimated 10,000

transsexuals in this country have no legal status to sue on the basis of discrimination in housing or employment on the basis of gender, sexual orientation or disabled status. Jesse Helms recently successfully campaigned to have them specifically excluded in the American Disabilities Act of 1990.

Within the film there's a one-line disclaimer that real transsexuals are passive. (Thank you so very much for this additionally offensive characterization!) If not a "real" transsexual, should we assume that the character is a transvestite and therefore deserves no defense?

Film pits women against transsexuals and gays

The movie pits a refreshingly strong woman heroine against the role of a gay transsexual/transvestite villain. While it is a relief to see a strong woman character, the formula is still bigotry.

The film equates transsexualism with woman-hating. In fact women and transsexuals and transvestites of both genders are most likely to face violence from straight men, not each other. What would today be characterized as transvestism and transsexualism actually existed in matrilineal societies long before the oppression of women. In fact, sexual oppression arose historically in the period where human society cleaved into haves and have-nots.

But the movie is skillful, as though its director anticipated protest and tried to diffuse it.

For example, the role of FBI agent-in-training Clarice Starling (Jodie Foster) is an unusual heroine. Unlike in other slasher films, here it is a woman who is working to save women's lives. And she is a small-town southern working class woman, stung by class put-downs as well as sexist ploys.

We see the bodies of mutilated women, and the fabric of their lives, through her eyes. The movie draws parallels between the embattled conditions of women victimized by brutality and murder and the constant pressures of sexism in everyday interaction. So the film postures as a pro-woman exposé of the embattled condition of women.

The FBI is portrayed as the only voice of reason. In the real world, of course, this is the arm of the state which has ruined so many lives through surveillance and dirty tricks. Throughout its history the FBI has systematically tried to derail the national liberation, women's and lesbian and gay movements through disinformation and terror. This is all dismissed with a shrug in this film. o

CURTISY T.I.P.

NEW YORK STATE GENDER COALITION Purpose Statement

The purpose of the New York State Gender Coalition, is to provide aid and communication to local gender community groups; to enable them to provide support services to the gender community; to organize our collective membership into a cohesive force for progressive change. This coalition shall accomplish the afore mentioned goals through social, political and legal activism. We shall elect our

friends, defeat our enemies, and hold both accountable. This coalition shall work to foster and strengthen a union between ourselves and all other members of the alternative lifestyle community of which we are a part.

It is the position of the New York State Gender Coalition that all members of the gender community share a common oppression. It is the duty of each member of the community to accept, celebrate, and affirm the differences which make each and every one of us a unique expression of humanity.

FEMININE SPEECH & VOCAL TECHNIQUE FOR GENETIC MALES by Wendy [REDACTED]

Higher is not necessarily better. Sound quality or timbre is more important.

Vocal chords (or folds) are very delicate so minimize straining, shouting or smoking which all actually LOWER your pitch.

Relax the neck and voice with warm up exercises.

Use Rhythm (pacing) and melody (inflection) for a more sing-song approach. You may use 3 tones up or down from your "new" reference point.

End sentence with upwards inflections and qualifiers.

Pay more attention to diction and articulation.

Soften voice with lower volume and some breathiness.

Relaxed body language, expressive hand gestures and a smile ALWAYS helps. Face the listener directly and establish more eye contact especially with women.

Content of speech is ALL important!! Be more empathetic and a better listener. Reinforce others feelings and be more involved with them rather than you! Don't be afraid to show sympathy and be more emotionally involved.

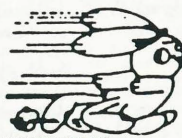
Try to mentally raise your "chest" voice to a "Head" voice and quietly practice hearing yourself speaking gracefully and melodically both in your mind and on tape.

Find a "vocal" role model in the media. Tape a show or rent a video with your favorite actress or personality and mimic or "Track" along as you repeat dialogue with them. Record this on a cassette and listen to yourself with out being overly critical or judgemental!


Vocal surgery is the LAST option and NOT preferable. It does not raise your pitch but only cuts off lower range. It is also sometimes permanently unsatisfactory!

Sing by yourself, be happy and have a positive outlook on life. Good self esteem a long way to completing the vocal picture.

GINNY C.P.E.



Hair Goes



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The Transsexual Phenomenon

by Harry Benjamin

The Outreach Institute announces the reprinting of this classic publication on gender issues. This major work on transsexualism, which includes 16 pages of photos associated with important case histories, and the well-known Benjamin Scale of Gender Shift, is available in limited numbers.

The glossy cover edition is priced at \$39.95 and the standard edition costs \$35.95. Please add \$3.50 for postage and handling.

Please make money orders and checks payable to:



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This project is being supported in part by the Renaissance Educational Foundation.

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The long-awaited photographic journal by Mariette Pathy Allen will be available in mid-October, 1989.

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CALANDAR:

JULY

- 3 BOARD MEETING - 7:00PM
- 4 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00
- 11 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00
- 13 SOCIAL - Mother Eve's 8:00
- 18 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00
- 25 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00

AUGUST:

- 1 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00
- 8 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00
- 10 SOCIAL - Mother Eve's 8:00
- 15 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00
- 22 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00
- 29 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00

SEPTEMBER:

- 5 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00
- 12 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00
- 14 SOCIAL - Mother Eve's
- 19 RAP GROUP - Club room
- 21 GNO Comedy Works - 6:30
- 26 RAP GROUP - Club room 8:00
- 28 SOCIAL - Private Eyes

OCTOBER:

- 1 HEALING CIRCLE - contact Jennifer
- 3 RAP GROUP - Club room 6:00
- 4,5,6 AUTUMN ACCORD - SYRACUSE
- 8 HEALING CIRCLE (?)
- 10 RAP GROUP - Club room 6:00
- 12 SOCIAL - Mother Eve's
- 15 HEALING CIRCLE (?)
- 17 RAP GROUP - Club room 6:00
- 19 GNO DINNER/ACT
- 22 HEALING CIRCLE (?)
- 24 RAP GROUP - Club room 6:00
- 26 SOCIAL - Private Eyes
- 29 HEALING CIRCLE (?)
- 31 RAP GROUP - Club room 6:00

CLASSIFIEDS:

TCIC NEWS will accept classifieds of a reasonable nature to our community free of charge from any TGIC member. Classifieds may be edited or rejected subject to decisions of the News committee.

TRANSFORMATIONS The book by Mariette Pathy Allen is missing from the clubroom. Will the borrower please return it? Any other books or tapes that have not been returned or that were borrowed with out proper signout should also be returned... other members are waiting to see these items.

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present

Autumn Accord II



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**CALENDAR OF
MAJOR EVENTS 1991-1992**

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of Regional, National, or International interest,
please send your information to:
IFGE Update, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778**

Chi Chapter, P.O. Box 342, Chicago, IL 60680

December (TBA), 1991
Annual 'MISS CGS PAGEANT', Chicago
CGS, Box 578005, Chicago, IL 60657

December (TBA), 1991
Annual 'PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ', Banquet, Chicago
Chi Chapter, Box 40, Wooddale, IL 60191-0040

January (TBA), 1992
8th Annual 'MISSETVC COTILLION', San Francisco
ETVC, P.O. Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101 415-763-3959

January (TBA), 1992
10th Annual 'WINTER GET-AWAY', Boston
TCNE, P.O. Box 2283, Woburn, MA 01888 508-358-2305

February (TBA), 1992
3rd Annual 'TEXAS T-PARTY', San Antonio
Boulton & Park Society, P.O. Box 169652-T, San Antonio, TX 78280 512-657-2540

March (TBA), 1992
'LAMBDA BALL', Pittsburgh
Transpitt, Box 3214, Pittsburgh, PA 15230

March (TBA), 1992
5th Annual 'NIGHT OF A 1000 GOWNS', NYC
Imperial Court of New York, c/o Ben Freeman, 200 East 16th Street, Suite 2M, NYC, NY 10003 212-673-7633

April 6-12, 1992
6th Annual 'COMING TOGETHER' CONVENTION, Houston
IFGE, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 617-894-8340

May (TBA), 1992
2nd Annual 'CALIFORNIA DREAMIN"', Los Angeles
PPOC, P.O. Box 9091, Anaheim, CA 92812 714-779-9013

June 11-14, 1992
10th Annual 'BE ALL YOU WANT TO BE', Detroit
Crossroads, Box 1245, Royal Oak, MI 48068-1245

March (TBA), 1993
7th Annual 'COMING TOGETHER' CONVENTION, Philadelphia
IFGE, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 617-894-8340

May 10-12, 1991
'POCONOS FANTASY FESTIVAL'
Fem Fashions, 9W 31st St., #7R, NYC, NY 10001 212-629-5750

May 17-19, 1991
'PARADISE IN THE POCONOS'
Creative Design Services, Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406 215-640-9449

May 15-19, 1991
'ESPRIT 91', Port Angeles, WA
Esprit 91, P.O. Box 55874, Seattle, WA 98155

May 28-June 2, 1991
11th Annual 'PROVINCETOWN OUT-ING'
TCNE, P.O. Box 2283, Woburn, MA 01888 508-358-2305

July 22-26, 1991
'THE DIGNITY CRUISE' (Caribbean)
(sponsored by PM Publishers) Cruise Ahoy, Anne McLaughlin, President, 11211 Katy Freeway, #300, Houston, TX 77079 713-556-1513

June 5-9, 1991
9th Annual 'BE ALL YOU WANT TO BE', Cleveland
Paradise, P.O. Box 29564, Parma, OH 44129

August 3, 1991
IFGE DINNER/CONCERT WEEK-END, Houston
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September 20-22, 1991
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October 3-6, 1991
1st Annual 'SOUTHERN COMFORT', Atlanta
Sigma Epsilon, Linda Peacock, P.O. Box

7241, Tallahassee, FL 32314-7241

October 4-6, 1991
2nd Annual 'AUTUMN ACCORD', Syracuse
EON, Box 6293, Camillus, NY 13031 (716) 251-2316

October 11-13, 1991
8th Annual 'P-TOWN COUPLES OUT-ING', Provincetown
TCNE-WSG, P.O. Box 2283, Woburn, MA 01888 508-358-2305

October 18-27, 1991
17th Annual 'FANTASIA FAIR', Provincetown
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October 25-27, 1991
'DRESSING FOR PLEASURE '91', Newark
Marie Constance, Constance Enterprises, Box 43277, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043 201-746-0072

October 26, 1991
32nd Annual 'GGRC HALLOWEEN COSTUME BALL', Los Angeles
Hollywood Paliadium, 6215 Sunset Blvd, Hollywood, CA

October 31 - November 3, 1991
2nd Annual 'FALL HARVEST WEEK-END', Kansas City
CAF, Box 4092, Overland Park, KS 66204 (913) 268-66204

November 1-3, 1991
4th Annual 'INTER-GROUP HARMONY WEEKEND', England
Martine Rose, P.O. Box 339, Sheffield S1 3SX England

November 8-10, 1991
Fantasy Adventure Weekend, Houston
Gulf coast Transgender Community, Box 90335, Houston, TX 77090 Jackie Thorne, President, 713-780-3553

November 20-24, 1991
17th Annual 'TRI-ESS HOLIDAY EN FEMME', Chicago