

Police departments cop out on transsexual's civil rights

by Elsa Larson
and Paula Jordan Sinclair

A transsexual member of the Lower Susquehanna Valley chapter of Renaissance ran afoul of two police departments when she tried to get hired as a cop. A detective at the Harrisburg police department was so incensed that her drivers' license said she is female that he detained her for four hours and threatened her with arrest and a strip search. Shortly afterward, police in Upper Allen said she was a prime suspect in a criminal case.

Markely Streeper's problems began in mid-January when she went to the Harrisburg bureau of police to update her job application, originally filed two years earlier. At that time, she did not check either

the "male" of "female" blocks on the application, instead noting that she is a male-to-female transsexual. That didn't fly with officials, and they forced her to check the male block. Now that she is two years into the "real life test" required before sexual reassignment surgery, she returned to the police department to change her sex designation to female.

The process seemed to be proceeding smoothly with routine interviews and fingerprinting. The trouble began when police detective Larry Glad, assigned to the department's internal affairs section, asked to see Streeper's drivers' license. He questioned the fact that the license showed her sex as fe-

male, and was unconvinced when she explained that she had followed the Pennsylvania Department of Motor Vehicles procedure for changing the sex designation of licenses. He also was unmoved when she produced documentation from her counselor.

Glad called in another officer, an "expert" on drivers' licenses, Cpl. Isaac Nixon. Both Glad and Nixon made it clear to Streeper that they were going to arrest her for carrying false identification. They repeatedly told her that they would order a strip search and have her confined in the male section of the jail.

"They were bound and determined they were going to write a
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Female impersonator held in murder of roommate in Center City Philadelphia

A well-known Philadelphia female impersonator has been charged with the January 20 murder of his roommate. Shawn DeVeareaux, 25, was ordered held for trial in late January for the killing of Frank Griffin, 42. Bail was set at \$200,000.

DeVeareaux, who is identified in police records as Jonathan Brown but who is known legally as John Allen, Jr., has been active in community events for nearly a decade as an actor, playwright, and female impersonator. Two years ago, he received the Lambda Award from the *Philadelphia Gay News* as up and coming young community leader. He performed in drag in

several local clubs and carried the title Miss West Side Club.

Most recently, DeVeareaux has been performing stand-up comedy in drag at local gay bars and emceed various drag shows. He has written and directed two plays, one of them was a satire of the local gay community. The other, titled *Murder Is A Drag*, was a mystery in which a transsexual character is falsely accused of killing a person with a baseball bat. DeVeareaux cast himself in the role of the innocent transsexual.

Griffin's body was found in the apartment he shared with DeVeareaux in the Mid-Town Apartments,

1218 Walnut Street. Police went to the apartment and found Griffin dead after receiving a call from DeVeareaux. Griffin had been hit in the head several times with a hammer. The following day, DeVeareaux turned himself in to the police Homicide Unit and confessed to the slaying.

According to statements made by DeVeareaux to police and read into the record at his January 29 preliminary hearing, he killed Griffin following an argument. He said the older man wanted DeVeareaux to pay him money or move out of the apartment that day.

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Announcements...

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.

Pen Pal Project

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

Prisoner Project

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

The Transsexual Phenomenon

A few copies of the deluxe edition of this book by Dr. Harry Benjamin are still available at \$39.95 postpaid.

Our chapters...

Greater Philadelphia

Meets third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia, Pa. Fall/winter meetings start at 8:00 p.m. For information, call (215)946-8887, or write Renaissance PHL, Box 530, Bensalem, PA 19020. Michelle Lynn, chapter leader.

Lower Susquehanna Valley

Meets the first Saturday of the month at Cameron Cut Rate, Cameron and Market Streets, Harrisburg. Call (717) 780-1578 for latest information, or write Renaissance LSV, Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105. Brenda Davidson, chapter leader.

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, c/o P. O. Box 189, Mays Landing, NJ 08330. Kara Foreward, chapter leader.

Our affiliates...

Groups wishing to become a Renaissance affiliate must pay a small annual fee for services normally afforded to chapters for free. Affiliates have no legal connection to Renaissance and remain autonomous. Services include unlimited access to reference publications and newsletter copy.

Write for details to Alison Laing, Co-Director of Outreach, P. O. Box 60552, King of Prussia, PA 19406.

Our affiliated organizations are:

- **Monmouth/Ocean Group**, P.O. Box 1326, Brick, NJ 08723
- **AEGIS**, P.O. Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033 (404) 939-0240

Events to note...

March

7th South Jersey Chapter meeting: Dr. Reynolds on child abuse

7th Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter meeting : Makeup demo by Mary Kay

21st Greater Philadelphia Chapter meeting : Shelia Kirk, M.D., on hormones

April

4th South Jersey Chapter meeting

4th Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter meeting : Dinner meeting

15th Greater Philadelphia Chapter meeting

May

2nd South Jersey Chapter meeting

2nd Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter meeting: Herb Merchant with fragrance ideas

9th Renaissance 5th anniversary gala!

16th Greater Philadelphia Chapter meeting

Renaissance News

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Military court OKs drag, but...

The Court of Military Appeals in Washington has ruled that even though crossdressing can sometimes "enhance morale and discipline" in the armed forces, the Navy acted properly when it gave a senior enlisted man a bad conduct discharge for wearing women's clothes in a way that brought discredit to the sea service.

The case concerns former Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Virgilio Guerrero who was given a bad conduct discharge and demoted to the lowest enlisted rank after his 1989 court-martial conviction of two charges of crossdressing, both of which took place in his apartment in National City, Calif.

According to the court-martial records, Guerrero, a storekeeper, dressed in women's clothes after he and a Navy recruit went to Guerrero's apartment for drinks. The second crossdressing charge was composed of two separate instances of neighbors saying they saw Guerrero crossdressed through the windows of his bedroom.

Writing for the appeals court, Judge Thomas Cox noted that "crossdressing can certainly be nonprejudicial and (can) even enhance morale and discipline. Indeed, many popular entertainers have successfully portrayed women characters, such as Dustin Hoffman's 'Tootsie' and Flip Wilson's 'Geraldine.'" But, Cox added, "It is the time, the place, the circumstances, and the purpose of the crossdressing, all together, which form the basis for determining if the conduct is to the prejudice of good order and discipline ... or was of a nature to bring discredit upon the armed forces."

"It is not the crossdressing, per se, which gives rise to the offense," Cox stressed, adding that if a service member crossdresses at home with curtains or drapes closed and is unaware of being watched, he is not committing a crime.

The court's senior judge, Robinson O. Everett, disagreed with upholding the conviction on the second charge. "Even though Guerrero had been seen casually by others 'crossdressed,' he was away from any military installation and was in his apartment," Everett said. "Under these circumstances, to uphold his conviction — and the sentence to bad conduct discharge which is based in part thereon — is not within the law."

Everett said the appeals court ruling was "an invitation for the Supreme Court to re-examine its holding there."

Guerrero took the hint from Judge Everett and said he would

appeal his case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

His attorney, Gregory Zitani, said the case centered around the "question of when does the impact of good order and discipline outweigh the right to privacy." He added that "while Guerrero's conduct was certainly eccentric, I didn't believe it was a crime" even in the military.

Before the appeals court upheld the court-martial sentence last September, the Naval Clemency and Parole Board upgraded Guerrero's separation to a general discharge.

☞ *Thanks to Crossroads Chatter, the newsletter of Crossroads, Royal Oak, Mich., for first reporting on this case.*

Sports radio is latest outreach medium for Greater Phila.

by Dina Amberle

Thanks to Charlene Galante, treasurer on the National Board and a member of the Greater Philadelphia chapter, Renaissance recently got free publicity from a very unlikely source — WIP-AM, the all-sports talk radio station in Philadelphia. Here's how it happened:

WIP's morning drive-time host, Angelo Cataldi, made a bet with co-host Tom Brookshire and their audience that the Dallas Cowboys would defeat the Eagles in their December rematch, or he would wear a dress to the Eagles' game against the Washington Redskins the following Sunday. The bet became a hot topic of discussion on the show for the week leading up to the Cowboys game. Many male listeners were giving Cataldi fashion advice and offering to donate lipstick for what Eagles fans believed to be a sure thing: victory for the Birds and drag for Cataldi. Unfortunately, the Cowboys beat the Eagles, and Cataldi was spared the

embarrassment (or pleasure?) of crossdressing in public.

Here's where Charlene entered the picture: After the Eagles-Cowboys game, she wrote Cataldi a letter offering him the opportunity to fulfill his "secret desire" to crossdress by attending a Renaissance meeting. She enclosed her photo with the letter. The letter was read on the air in its entirety during prime morning period. It also mentioned the Renaissance name, its mission, and the fact that the Greater Philadelphia chapter has more than 150 active members.

Cataldi, of course, denied any latent interest in crossdressing and hid behind the bet as his sole reason for mentioning the possibility of wearing a dress. He employed his typical obnoxious on-air demeanor and denounced Renaissance members as "perverts." But Tony Bruno, another co-host, stuck up for Renaissance a little bit, and implied that maybe Cataldi should attend a

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Female impersonator held for murder

(continued from page 1)

"Frank asked me for money, and I told him I didn't have any," DeVeareaux told police. "Then I got up and went into the kitchen and put some barbecued chicken and cabbage in the microwave. Frank comes in, opens the oven, took the food out and dumped in the garbage (and said) 'No money, no food.'"

According to the statement, the two scuffled, and then Griffin went into the bedroom and sat on the bed. DeVeareaux, who said he had become very angry, came up behind Griffin and struck him with a hammer.

"I raised the hammer. I hit him in the head. He let out a loud scream," DeVeareaux told police. He also told authorities he said "Johnny's not doing this; Shawn is" as he struck the first blow. "After my first swing, I used both hands," he said.

After he killed Griffin, DeVeareaux

said he took the clothes he was wearing and the hammer and disposed of them in a dumpster behind a fast-food restaurant on the 1200 block of Chestnut Street. He said he then went to a cafeteria for a cup of coffee before he called police.

At the preliminary hearing, DeVeareaux pleaded not guilty to the charges of murder and possession of an instrument of crime. His court-appointed attorney, Jeffrey Kolanski, said "there's a defense for every crime."

Assistant District Attorney Evan Silverstein said his office would "vigorously" prosecute the case against DeVeareaux. If convicted of the capital murder charge, DeVeareaux would receive a mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole. The death penalty is also possible.

Friends of DeVeareaux expressed shock at the killing, but they were

not totally surprised. They knew him to have a volatile temper, but they said he was not violent. Other friends said DeVeareaux claimed that he and Griffin once were lovers but that they were simply friends. Ironically, Griffin reportedly had at one time told friends that DeVeareaux would always have a "special place" in his heart.

Notice

I am conducting research on women who passed as men from 1880-1930 and am interested in collecting first-hand documents on these women. I would be interested in receiving personal accounts from women who crossdressed during that period or who knew women who did, as well as newspaper accounts of such women. Write to J.J., 1906 Kilbourne Place, NW, Washington, DC 20010.

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For 23 years Charlotte White has been a role model for a double minority

by Whitney Brown

If you are black, live in Philadelphia, and are transgendered, gay, or have AIDS, you know Charlotte White as a pillar of support. In fact, some call her the matriarch of the black transgendered community in the city. For 23 years, she has lived and worked as a woman and has become well-known in North Philadelphia neighborhoods and among the gay black community throughout the city. She currently is the director of fundraising for the William J. Craig Memorial Foundation, which provides assistance to people with AIDS and their families within the black community.

WB: What type of background did you come from?

CW: I grew up in my early years in Mobile, Alabama with my grandparents. After their demise, my father came from Philadelphia to get me and brought me back to live with my mother and two brothers. This was at age 11.

WB: What were the differences between Mobile and Philadelphia?

CW: It was a very dramatic change, being a Southerner, facing my first junior high school. Integration for one thing. Here I had white teachers, students, etc. It wasn't like that in the South.

WB: Who were some of your heroes?

CW: Like every young person of my generation, Diana Ross was the *ultimate!* We admired any glamorous black woman — The Supremes, The Marvelettes, Nancy Wilson, and Dionne Warwick. But Diana Ross stands out the most because of television. If you didn't have a television, you went to someone else's house to watch black people on TV. It was a big thing to see these glamorous black women with big wigs, eyelashes, and lip rouge (as grandmother would say) and all that. We were coming to be.

WB: Did any of these heroes influence your decision on who you would become?

CW: I would have to say, if any, Diana Ross, glamour wise. As a transgendered person, Miss Bunny Blocker, one of the older transvestites, and China Doll and Miss Tina Thomas. These older girls, much older than myself, are our local legends. Tina and I are about the same age, but she was out longer. These were the kids who paved the way.

WB: Are things different now?

CW: Girls today take for granted the struggle we went through so that they have freedom to walk and be the ladies that they choose to be, and I think they should carry themselves as that. I don't see it in the younger girls now, and it disap-

“...we have never totally gotten respect. (But) we're coming to be now, and people are focusing on us...”

points me. I know that girls today can go farther if they calm themselves and be ladies.

The girls fighting one another isn't right, queens are gonna be queens, we know. But out in public, display means a lot. The whole world is watching. In the gay life we are the lowest on the totem pole, we have never totally gotten respect. We're coming to be now, and people are focusing on us, on our behavior, our mannerisms, and it helps the next girl.

I'm often depicted as being snobbish or trying to be grand, but that

demeanor helps the next girl. People see my behavior and say, “Oh, well they all don't have to act like the ones on 13th Street.” I was on 13th Street, I was on Broad Street, I did all the things everybody else did. Then I found it could be done a different way. We all don't have to be hairdressers or do drag shows. There's an arena out there for us; we must take our place because they are all watching us. To be treated like a lady, you must act like a lady.

WB: What kind of advice would you give a transgendered girl coming out today?

CW: Be a lady, above all, because that is going to gain you the respect that is so hard for us to get. We're always put in the class of troublemakers. They think we're all alike. Above all, be a lady and retain your dignity because this is really what they're trying to take from us. They feel that we don't have the right to be the ladies that we feel we are.

WB: Do you feel being a lady is learned or comes from within?

CW: Definitely from within! No one could be a transperson if they didn't feel it. It is too difficult a process. You may see yourself as a beauty, and the whole world may see a beast. It takes a lot to go out under that pressure. Wearing clothes of the opposite sex and paying the world no mind, it takes a lot. That's a hell of a lady!

WB: What is your definition of being a lady?

CW: Being a lady means you have respect for yourself, respect for others, you carry yourself in the fashion that a lady would. You can't be a lady, then have a situation come up and you act like a guy. You haven't stuck with the character you've chosen.

⇒ Next month, Whitney Brown's interview with Charlotte White concludes.

THE **NEWSQUEEN**™
Paula Jordan Sinclair

Only two things interest Miss Sinclair at this time of year: presidential politics and fashion shows. While some would argue that neither has anything to do with the way real people live, she disagrees by claiming that both mirror our times — the victory of style over substance.

However, Joan Jett Blakk's campaign for president has more substance than one would expect from a drag queen running for the White House.

"You might think we're joking," Blakk said in announcing her campaign in her native Chicago in January. "I'm sorry, but I think the fact that this is the only industrialized country without national health care is a joke...I think the fact that a woman who accused a Supreme Court nominee of sexually harassing her was judged by a group of all men is a joke. Are you still laughing? California Gov. Pete Wilson, are you still laughing? William Dannemeyer, are you still laughing?"

But her campaign is not totally without humor. One of her campaign promises is to change the F.B.I., renaming it the "Fashion Bureau of Investigation because crime will be a thing of the past if we arrest the poorly dressed before they can do any wrong." She also proposes awarding the Congressional Medal of Honor for the best hairdo.

Last year Blakk, a persona created by Terrence Smith, ran for mayor of Chicago. She lost.



One should not confuse the poorly dressed with the poor (even though both groups will always be with us), for sometimes one has to be fabulously wealthy to be really poorly dressed. Who else can afford dresses that cost up to \$40,000 each, yet prompted *Women's Wear Daily* to remark that the spring creations "looked far-fetched and out of sync with the times."

This movement away from real-

ity went into high gear at several recent fashion shows...

The Jean Paul Gaultier show in Paris featured crossdressed men on the runways and in the audience. The crossdressing Swedish pop group Army of Lovers (two men and one woman) entertained the crowd, which included several fantasy transvestite nurses and Lypsinka, the popular New York entertainer. She also did some runway work for Thierry Mugler. "You know," one of the crossdressers proudly told a member of the fashion press, "the designers all use us as inspiration."

She may be right. GG party girl Susanne Bartsch hosted an affair at which, according to *Mirabella*, the drag queens wore clothes that looked as though they came right off the runways—fishnet stockings, rumba skirts, lace underwear..." Bartsch is reportedly planning on mounting a fashion show this spring in which all the models will be drag queens.

What could be called an anti-fashion show was held in New York to protest the wearing of furs. "Fur Is a Drag" was sponsored by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals at the Palladium nightclub. Naturally, the models were female impersonators who vamped down the runway wearing fur coats emblazoned with anti-fur slogans.



Before you book passage to Paris in hopes of having a career as a transgendered fashion model, be advised that the City of Light seems to be swimming with crossdressers hoping for that first big break. In the meantime, the girls are strutting their stuff in the Bois de Boulogne, a park along the chic western edge of the city.

Police report that each night 400 to 600 prostitutes — most of them men dressed like women — line the pathways and roads. Police chief Pierre Verburgghe has proposed that iron gates be installed at the park entrances and locked each night to keep out motorists as well

as fashion designers recruiting for the upcoming fall shows .



About half of the Bois de Boulogne girls are from South America, and with recent events, it's no wonder that transgendered people are emigrating.

According to human rights advocates, the death toll among transgendered and gay people in Latin America continues to mount. More than 1,000 murders have been reported to date. At least 40 have been killed in Peru in the past two years, 320 in Colombia in the past seven years, and 710 in Brazil since 1980.

Many share in the responsibility for these killings: the police who have special "morality squads," right- and left-wing political groups, private armies belonging to drug lords, and even the Roman Catholic Church. Last year, Argentina's Antonio Cardinal Quarrancino described homosexuality as "animalism."



A protest against homegrown violence directed against transgendered people took place in Rockefeller Center during the New York Film Critics' Circle Awards. The lesbian and gay activist group ACT UP crashed the event and handed out pamphlets denouncing *The Silence of the Lambs*, the movie that swept the awards.

The front cover pictured Venus Xtravangaza, the transgendered person who was murdered during the filing of *Paris Is Burning*, and carried the message "The Reality." The back cover showed Jamie Gumb, the crossdressing killer in *Lambs*. This was called "The Myth." Inside were statistics about hate crimes against sexual minorities, along with the message "How do you respond? By honoring a film that feeds the myth that drag queens, since they wear dresses, must be sick."

Least we totally condemn the New York Critics' Circle, we should

THE *Paula Jordan Sinclair* NEWSQUEEN™

note that they invited drag star Charles Busch to present an award to *Paris Is Burning* director Jennie Livingston. Busch was then off to Tokyo, where he opened his play *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom* for a three-week run last month



Speaking of political correctness, here are the *au courant* phrases to describe certain activities engaged in by crossdressers...

✓ Men who have a feminine side to their personalities are not sissies, instead, they are "profoundly masculine-challenged."

✓ Irate drag queens no longer attempt to "scratch each other's eyes out." Rather, they "process their anger in conjunction with Lee Press-On Nails."

✓ Likewise, they no longer wear wigs, but don "faux hair."



A drag role in a film now in production is unlikely to induce protests, even by the most "pc" viewer. Virginia Woolf's gender bending novel *Orlando* is being brought to the screen. Perhaps the most inspired bit of casting is Quentin Crisp portraying Queen Elizabeth I.



Crisp's physical alterations for the role — a bright orange wig — pales in comparison to what Kelly Michaels has gone through to perfect his portrayal of Madonna. The reportedly heterosexual female impersonator spent \$3,500 for breast implants.

"I'm the only professional male Madonna with breasts," the 20-year-old said. He noted, however, that his are one size smaller than hers.

Michaels began portraying Madonna three years ago when he said he convinced his girlfriend to do his makeup. We don't know if this is the same Kelly Michaels who appears in the adult video *She-Male Sex Clinic*.



Jerry Hall, the girlfriend of Mick Jagger, doesn't need much encour-

agement to do the aging rocker up in drag. A friend reports that once while staying at their house "everyone comes down to dinner in drag, and it's just huge fun. Masses of people sort of screaming, running in and out of each other's bedrooms, applying makeup to the boys. The English and the Irish love to do this. It's wild upper-class house-party behavior. It's nothing kinky or sexual." Another friend reports that "Mick was terribly dashing one night in a tight black shift and a ratty silver-fox fur. He was so chic, he looked like Coco Chanel."



Well, we all know about rock stars, don't we? Or do we? Don't be confused about a local rock group called the She Males. Sad to say, they're not what you might think.



Here's the latest entry on the list of 1,001 reasons for crossdressing...

A few years ago, a Chicago broadcaster pretended to be his own female therapist named Stephanie and called his girlfriends trying to convince them to provide psychological help by participating in his crossdressing activities. Now, in a different line of work, the man is again working the phones, posing as "Susan," a promoter who is looking for women to help the guy "learn how to be a woman," write a book about it, and eventually go on the talk show circuit with "her" new girlfriend.



Imagine the fun Geraldo would have with that pair, almost as much fun as the show "Hard Copy" had with the story that a "transvestite killer" had escaped from a Connecticut maximum security prison.

Inmate Frank Vandever, 37, a former stock broker, had been convicted of killing a client after he discovered Vandever had been siphoning funds from his investment account. After killing the man, Vandever used his victim's credit card for a shopping spree at a trans-

vestite boutique

Vandever and fellow inmate Ronald Rutman were at large for more than two weeks after their escape. Police eventually captured Rutman, but Vandever continued to elude dogs, a police helicopter, 150 FBI agents, and police from Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey for two more days. During the manhunt for Vandever, FBI Assistant Special Agent Dan Clark was asked if the search was made more difficult by the fact that Vandever might be dressed as a woman. "We don't think he ran away in high heel shoes," Clark replied.



Finally, you remember the arrest of San Diego Chargers center Courtney Hall on prostitution charges when he was discovered in the company of a crossdressing hooker in the city's North Park neighborhood? The city attorney requested that the prostitution charges and a related charge of lewd conduct be dropped. Hall pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges of using offensive words to the "girl," Charles Thompson, and was fined \$360, ordered to undergo private AIDS counseling, and placed on three years probation. Officials said the order for AIDS counseling is standard in prostitution-related cases.

Judging from a news report out of San Jose, Calif., the practice is a wise one. Gilbert "Diane" Mascarenas has been charged with felonious prostitution charges for engaging in the world's oldest profession while aware that he carries the AIDS virus. Police say that Mascarenas had a record of 35 previous arrests on misdemeanor prostitution and other sex-related charges.

A plethora of correspondents showered Miss Sinclair with clipping this month. Among them are Etienne, Jackie Dawn, Jenifer Michaels, and Laura Smiley. You can join this august group by sending clips about crossdressing to Miss Sinclair at the Renaissance office. Remember to note the name and date of publication.

The *For Ideas*
FORUM

Homophobia in the TG community: Trying to be macho while wearing a dress?

by JoAnn Roberts

⇒ Last month Paula Jordan Sinclair discussed homophobia in the gay/lesbian community, especially towards transgendered people. This month we look at a similar phenomenon within the transvestite/transsexual community.

A support group in New York state specifically excludes homosexual crossdressers from its membership roster. Another group in California screens potential members through a complex interview/application process. A large, popular TV event in the Southwest, sponsored by an "open" support group, restricts attendance for persons with facial hair. A national transvestite support group emphasizes its "family" orientation. Each of these organizations can give you good reasons for their "exclusive" policies, and none will include homophobia. So, why have segments of the transvestite community gone out of its way to exclude homosexuals and transsexuals from its membership rosters?

It's clear that homophobia was rampant in the early days of organized support groups for crossdressers. Public opinion of gay men and especially crossdressing

gay men (drag queens) was very low in the mid '70s when the first groups began to emerge. Gays were seen as promiscuous and constantly looking for sex. It was also widely believed that a "straight" could be "converted" to gay through social contact and possibly sexual contact. The only image the public had to associate with a male in feminine clothing was a stereotypical drag queen.

It is not difficult to understand why early transvestite support groups limited themselves to heterosexual members only. It was a conscious effort to distance themselves from the public image of stereotyped homosexuals.

Later, transsexuals (M-t-F) were added to the proscription list because they too were seen as males who were interested in having sex with other males. (Why else does a male have a vagina constructed and live as a female, if not to fulfill a female sex-role, goes the logic.) As with homosexuals, it was thought that social contact would convert transvestites to transsexuals too. At the heart of these arguments is the concept of promiscuous sex between males, and we know that if this society is hung-up on anything,

it's sex.

But, it's been over 20 years since the Stonewall riots and Gay Liberation have educated us about homosexuality. Aside from their sexual orientation, gays and lesbians are not that different from most anybody else, including transvestites.

We now understand that all gays are not promiscuous. We now understand that most gay men are erotically attracted to a male body-image and, therefore, have little interest in crossdressed males. We now understand that there are gay transvestites who have the same feelings and needs as straight transvestites. And we, presumably, understand the differences between anatomical sex, sexual orientation, gender role, and gender identity. So, homosexuality should no longer be a threat to transvestites, yet we still see traces of homophobia in 1992. Why?


Perhaps because society, in general, and a large number of transvestites still confuse gender role with sex role.

According to the paper "Mexican and Mexican-American Male Sexual Behavior and the Spread of AIDS in California," by J.R. Magaña and

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The *For Ideas*
FORUM

A hidden group

Who speaks for the 'All-American Crossdresser'?

By Shirley Kay

The All-American crossdresser—you still remember him, don't you? He is the man who has a facet of his personality which loves the feminine. He thinks looking and acting feminine is just delightful. But he also knows that he is a man and derives an equal amount of satisfaction from being a man and expressing his male side. He's not on hormones, has no desire to live as his femme self full-time, and God forbid anyone should even suggest tampering with his male anatomy. He loves his feminine ways — but not at the total expense of his maleness. Within the gender community today, he seems to be a dying breed.

Recently, on the way home from a chapter meeting, my partner and I were discussing the fact that yet another of our crossdressing friends was taking female hormones. "Am I the only crossdresser not on hormones?" he asked me, obviously upset. This comment led to what we felt was a very productive discussion, resulting in some conclusions we felt should be addressed in print and given some thought by other members of the gender community.

When coming out of the closet and for the first time experiencing the total and unconditional accep-

tance of the gender community, many crossdressers tend to almost become obsessed with their feminine side. They have suppressed and/or hidden their desire for the feminine for so long that it only seems fair that their male side take a backseat for awhile. They may throw themselves totally into the safe haven they have found for the expression of their feminine self.

Eventually, however, reality must set in, and a balance must be reached. Because of the many influences of the gender community, this balance may not be so easily reached and is often difficult to maintain. There is a great deal of peer pressure within the gender community, a fact which often goes unrecognized. Many crossdressers come to realize that while the gender community is a blessing in many ways, it also can be a curse, affecting both the individual crossdresser and his personal relationships.

Discussing the need for this balance is important because there are those crossdressers who have expressed the feelings that since coming into the gender community they have felt they have lost contact with their male side. They feel pressured by other members of the community to express only the

feminine. They feel that while their femme selves have come out of the closet, their male selves have been forced into one.

Some have also expressed feelings of inferiority because they chose not to have chemically induced curves, or shave their body hair. They feel undo pressure to attend support meeting only en femme, or to accept the ultimate goal of living full-time as their femme self. Many have even questioned whether perhaps something is wrong with them because they aren't transsexual, that relishing both the feminine and masculine is wrong.

A frequent complaint encountered from family members is that while finding the gender community has enabled crossdressers to come out of the closet, it has put undo pressure on an already stressed relationship. It does more to undermine the relationship than strengthen it. Usually these relationships are already in varying stages of crisis just from dealing with and trying to understand one partner's occasional need to dress en femme. (These relationships are further stressed by entrance into the gender community and the additional pressures which result.)

(continued on page 13)

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A reply to Virginia Prince's 'bigender:' 'Transgendered is good enough for me'

by Tere Frederickson

We find ourselves embroiled in the ceaseless circular search for labels. While I concur with Dr. Prince that labels (I prefer the phrase "descriptive words") are needed as a point of reference, I do not agree with either the choice of words she suggested or the basic rationale behind her choice (*RN*, Feb., '92).

The term "bigender" (bigender...as in having a large posterior?) is neither appropriate as an overall descriptive term for our community, nor is it easily understood by inference by the rest of the population. Simply, I provide the following counterpoints:

✓ Bigender would imply that everyone in the community *has* a dual gender disposition. I'm sure that the fetishistic crossdresser who has a strictly male gender identity would protest to random assignment of dual genderism, just as those individuals also protest the use of the term transgender. I'm also sure that many transsexuals would protest the assignation of gender duality because most have established a gender identity akin to the opposite genetic sex, and are thus not bigenderal.

✓ Bigenderal would also be confused with bisexual by the general public. Dr. Prince freely admits that the general public does not comprehend the difference between the words "sex" and "gender;" for most people the terms are virtually synonymous. It therefore follows that the general public, when hearing the term "bigenderal," will without a doubt confuse it with "bisexual," a confusion we in the community obviously do not need.

✓ Dr. Prince asserts that the prefix "trans" means *permanently* to cross or move beyond something. We beg to differ on this point; trans can indeed mean temporary or transitory. After all, the term "transvestite" does not mean that the person permanently dresses in clothing styles assigned to the opposite sex. Ergo, transgender does not dictate a permanent crossing of the gender line. Nor does it preclude a permanent crossing.

We propose the usage of the term transgender as an overall and inclusive term for the community. All Dr. Prince's arguments for bigender in regard to simplicity and understanding also apply to transgender (we won't take a trip through the dictionary). The prefix

also is used in other descriptive terms within the community and by the public, so there can be little confusion. For example, both transvestite and transsexual are already in the dictionary. For the fetishistic crossdresser with strictly a male gender identity, transgender is descriptive of their crossing of gender lines if only in terms of clothing. At the other end of the spectrum, transgender can refer to the transsexual who has permanently adopted a single gender identity akin to the opposite genetic sex (sexual reassignment surgery merely being a medical procedure to align anatomical genital appearance to that of the opposite genetic sex). So, it can be easily argued that transgender is highly appropriate and highly descriptive in reference to our community as a whole. Finally, the overwhelming common usage of transgender in our community today is the usage we have proposed. Why bother to change terms when we already have one which is proper, clear, and already in common use?

In acknowledgement to Dr. Prince, I recognize that she coined the term "transgenderist" to refer to

(continued on page 14)

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The **FORUM** For Ideas

Book Review

A Low Life in High Heels

Reviewed by Michael Klein

A Low Life in High Heels: The Holly Woodlawn Story, by Holly Woodlawn with Jeffrey Copeland. St. Martin's Press.

One of the disturbing things about Martha Graham's posthumous autobiography, *Blood Memory*, is how it testifies not to a private life (which you hope an autobiography will do) but to a public one. You never feel any risk being taken by the words she chooses. The book is beautifully written, but there's no revelation in it, finally, because she hasn't really dug beneath the veneer of her own fame. It's a book about how to keep one's life a mystery.

I had the same feeling reading *A*

Low Life in High Heels, Holly Woodlawn's journalistic scrawl across the very empty but glamorous and sexually provocative pages from New York in the late 60's and early 70's. For those who don't know, Holly Woodlawn is a man who dresses like a woman, starred in Andy Warhol's *Trash* and some off-Broadway plays, and was quite successful on the New York cabaret circuit. She was, like all of Warhol's gang, an outrageous personality from whom Warhol could make money.

Ironically, she would never have met Warhol were it not for a particularly audacious stunt involving mistaken identity and a \$2,000 camera Woodlawn charged to Warhol, which brought her to the atten-

tion of Paul Morrissey, the director of *Trash*.

Here, in *A Low Life in High Heels*, is the Holly some of us know and remember: pill-popping, sex starved, booze-guzzling - *FABulous* Holly, who really was nothing more than a homeless alcoholic who had the knack of walking into the right party. She had talent, but that talent was always being short-circuited by circumstances, revenge, and bad luck. Mostly, it was sabotaged by drugs. And the book takes on a strange, almost psychotic patter - as though none of the clearly death-defying stunts Woodlawn managed to pull off during her long career have changed her. She talks about

(continued on page 14)

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The *For Ideas*
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Don't be quiet about cops' discrimination

By Elsa Larson

We are all probably disturbed by Markley Streeper's story in this issue of *RN*. Why would things like this happen to a well-qualified individual with lots of military and civilian police experience? Why would Fraternal Order of Police members treat one of their own this way? The actions of Det. Glad and Cpl. Nixon look like plain, old-fashioned intimidation. Women and racial, ethnic, religious, or sexual minorities wanting law enforcement careers have been dealing with this for years. It's relatively new for transgendered persons to get into the act, but the

response comes as no surprise. Cpl. Spotts may need some refresher on the "No means NO" concept but, overall, seems to be doing his job.

I think Markley would be a good cop. She has some unusual extra qualifications and insights into the human condition. Cpl. Spotts may be an okay cop. Det. Glad and Cpl. Nixon have demonstrated their ignorance of the law and an appalling lack of good judgment and should not be cops at all.

Lots of transgendered people have stories about how decent the police can be when we need them but are afraid of what might hap-

pen. Markley's recent experiences show that bad cops can show up when we least expect them. Ironically, this all happened at the beginning of the Martin Luther King holiday weekend when everyone should be mindful of the continuing challenge of obtaining human rights for all persons.

Let your personal friends and elected officials in local government and law enforcement know how (and why) you feel about such treatment of transgendered or any other persons or groups. Remind them that you vote.

Police departments cop out on rights

(continued from page 1)

ticket and take my license," Streeper said. "They had their minds made up what they were going to do, and no matter what I said, they weren't going to change. I had to prove my innocence."

She believes that the harassment and threats of a strip search were attempts to incite her to resisting arrest, thereby disqualifying her for a job with the police department.

Why should two police officers worry that a transsexual who walked in off the street would be given a job on the force? There are many reasons, not the least of which is that she is already a cop and a card-carrying member of the Fraternal Order of Police.

Currently, Streeper is employed as a Department of Defense police officer and works on the security force of the Navy Ships Parts Control Center in Mechanicsburg. She was hired as female and holds "secret" security clearance. She had served three years active duty as an Army MP and later in the Army

reserves as an MP and a drill sergeant. When she took the test of the Harrisburg police department, she was ranked 14th out of 200 applicants on the male list. She believes that if she had been allowed to apply as a minority applicant (as women, blacks, and Hispanics can do) she would have placed at the top of the list.

Even though she was ranked above 93 percent of the male applicants, she was passed over for hiring by Harrisburg. Her family and friends urged her to keep quiet regarding the discriminatory treatment. "That was wrong," she says now. "I shouldn't have kept quiet. At the time I was new at this and didn't know what my rights were."

She has since learned that the Harrisburg human rights law includes transsexuals as a protected class. She suspects that Glad and Nixon knew that she was protected and were trying to discourage her from pursuing her job application.

After several hours at the police department, Streeper was allowed

to leave but without her license and only after she changed the sex on her application back to male. She went immediately to the Harrisburg Affirmative Action Office who was able to get her license returned to her and the citation for carrying false identification withdrawn.

The stress associated with the events at the police department took a serious physical toll. At the urging of her counselor, she went to the emergency room of a local hospital. She passed out in the emergency room and was kept there for 20 hours with an irregular heartbeat. Later, she was admitted to the intensive care unit for five days. She said she was terrorized by Glad and Nixon, and the subsequent heart problems were due to the extreme stress they induced.

But her problems were not over when she was released from the hospital. Returning home, she found a message on her answering machine from the Upper Allen Township police department asking her

(continued on page 13)

Cop-out

(continued from page 12)

to come into the station. Because she had applied for work on that force, as well, she was not surprised by the call. When she arrived at the station, however, she was surprised when Cpl. David Spotts told her she was a suspect in a case of criminal trespass.

In November, two coeds at Messiah College, a religious institution about 15 miles south of Harrisburg, reported a person about 6 feet tall and with wispy blonde hair putting on makeup in a restroom of their dorm. The person spoke to them in a falsetto voice and drove off in a customized van. Streeper fits the general description of the suspect, and that fact must have been noted when she visited the Upper Allen police department to seek a job after the trespassing incident.

Streeper spent 90 minutes voluntarily answering Spotts' questions and provided him with an alibi. She notes that Spotts did not appear to note that she is a transsexual nor did she gather that authorities were looking for a man in women's clothes. Rather, she said,

she believes they are looking for a "female type" person whose description she matches.

She said she did not feel threatened by the interrogation, but she has been asked to appear in a lineup and take a polygraph test. At the present time, the investigation is continuing. Criminal trespass charges carries a maximum sentence of seven years.

Just as the investigation in Upper Allen continues, so does the case in Harrisburg. Availing herself of the protections offered by Section 6(a)

of the city's Human Relations Ordinance, she has filed a complaint against the city and its Bureau of Police and Bureau of Human Resources charging that "the respondents' representatives harassed, intimidated, detained, and forced the complainant to falsify her application for the police examination." A hearing on that complaint was scheduled for February 25. Streeper also lodged a civilian complaint against the police officers who detained her.

Who speaks for the 'All-American Crossdresser?'

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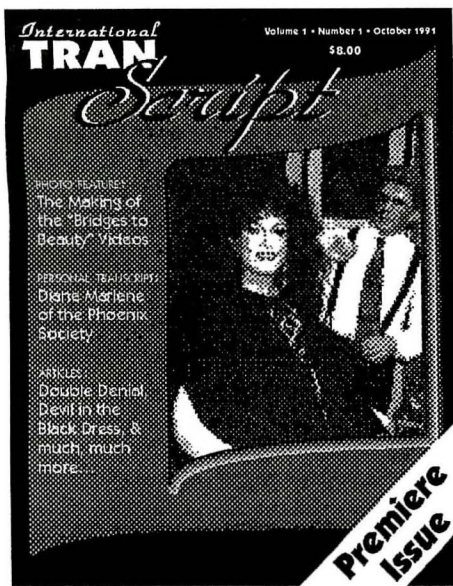
I have heard many genetic women say that the worst thing that ever happened to their marriages and relationships was getting involved with the gender community. This needs to change!

The gender community needs to stop and take a look at itself. A balance needs to be struck for those who need it. It should be just as acceptable to express your maleness as it is your femaleness. You should be able to freely express

yourself, whatever your needs be — whether those needs be that of a spouse, crossdresser, transsexual, or anywhere in between.

Society puts enough pressure on all of us. We do not need to add to it ourselves. We need to make the "All-American Crossdresser" a more visible and acceptable part of the gender community, not an endangered species.

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Holly Woodlawn's Life in High Heels

(continued from page 11)

the past with what gradually becomes a creepy intimacy because she is still living in it.

Woodlawn had brief triumphs: glorious bits in *Trash*, especially one involving a beer bottle, another funny movie called *Scarecrow in a Garden of Cucumbers*, and various gigs around town — especially at the premier night club at that time, Reno Sweeney's. There is also an hilarious scene at the Continental Baths when she was the front act for Tally Brown. But Woodlawn continually blames her unsuccessful bid for immortality on everyone else around her, when the fact is (and nowhere does Woodlawn come right out and say it) she had a se-

vere drug and alcohol problem — a problem that also seemed to bring with it (apart from reckless and embarrassing behavior) invitations to Fire Island.

Low Life in High Heels is basically a homage to denial, and, I guess in a strange way, it is a handbook of survival. Woodlawn is the last of a long line of underground beauties (including Candy Darling, Jackie Curtis, Hibiscus, and Edie Sedgwick), and she has, understandably, some resentment about that. In language that is extremely sarcastic but often very funny (until

you realize that the price of this particular form of humor is an almost acute inability to change), Holly Woodlawn charts the strange path that led her underground and miraculously allowed her to live.

There are some funny, gossipy things here — but none of it ever rises above the tabloid level because Woodlawn herself never transcends her own mystique — of which there is really none. What everybody says about her is actually true!

⇒ Reprinted with permission from Bay Windows, a lesbian and gay newspaper in Boston.

'Transgendered is good enough for me'

(continued from page 10)

someone who has permanently adopted the gender role typically assigned to the opposite genetic sex. However, I would suggest in the interest of standardization of terminology that the term transgenderist — as defined by Dr. Prince — be abandoned by the community and another term used in reference to one who "cross-lives" full time in the opposite gender role. Maybe something like "transrole/transroler/transrolist" to remain consistent and simple.

Have I added enough fuel to get the raging semantic inferno going full blast?

⇒ Transgender, bigender, bigender! Hell, I just like to dress up!

Seriously, neither Dr. Prince in her attack on trans, nor Ms. Frederickson in her endorsement of the term, refer to the definition of the prefix that gives the sense of moving beyond or surpassing, e.g., transcend. In this way, a transvestite has moved beyond clothing and a transsexual has surpassed sex. Nevertheless, the trans camp does have tradition on its side. This year marks the 340th anniversary of the debut of "transvest" in the English language. Any more views? Which term should this publication adopt?

— PJS

Barbiturate Junkie

And you look at me as though nothing out of the dictionary were happening: My wounded Alice, unable to dream, Her looking glass broke and all still in place.

Poor lady, prone to vague alarms, Take one more tepid tea-bomb And adjust your peripheral vision. Time, is the thief that is on our side, dear.

— Phaedra Kelly

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Homophobia in the TG community: Trying to be macho while wearing a dress?

(continued from page 8)

J.M. Carrier published in the *Journal of Sex Research* (Vol. 28, No. 3, August 1991), "Mestizo Mexican males involved in homosexual behavior operate in an...environment that leads them to expect that they should play either the anal insertive or receptive role but not both. *By and large (as) a result of sharply defined gender roles in the society, feminine males are passive and*

penetrable, like females, (and) masculine males are active and impenetrable..." (emphasis mine). Might not the same social strictures on gender role be at work in our community?

The dilemma faced by some transvestites, then, is how to appear feminine, yet active and impenetrable. For these transvestites, the answer seems to lie in asserting their masculinity while cross-

dressed, the phenomenon of the "man-in-a-dress" or the macho-transvestite. These people do not want to lose their sense of being male for fear of appearing passive and penetrable, i.e., homosexual.

I am reminded of a scene with Alison Laing after one of her voice seminars. An immaculately and very femininely attired crossdresser approached Alison and commented how much he enjoyed her book. When Alison inquired why he wasn't practicing a more feminine voice, her fan answered, "I couldn't do that. People might think I'm a sissy." For this person, his voice was the last vestige of his masculinity and he wasn't about to give that up.

The preservation of macho attitudes is a hallmark of homophobia, and we can see it in the TV/TS community if we look behind the facade of "protecting" group members. Arcane interview and selection processes are overt signs of homophobia, while the frequently destructive ego trips and power struggles intra- and inter-group are covert signs. Underlying it all is a deeply rooted fear of femininity, sex, and of becoming more like stereotypical females, passive and penetrable.

We must actively oppose homophobia in our community and recognize the implicit sexism and hypocrisy. We must divorce ourselves from the notion that gender role equals sex role. We must work toward a community that is inclusive and cherishes diversity rather than one that is exclusive and denigrates differences. We have nothing to fear from homosexual crossdressers nor from transsexuals. They are as much a part of the community as any straight-laced, heterosexual transvestite, and they have just as much to contribute to our progress toward universal acceptance by society-at-large.



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ATLANTA - The more I see, the more I'm impressed...

The folks down at AEGIS just never seem to rest on their laurels. With the successful launch of their quarterly magazine *Chrysalis*, they keep coming up with very interesting materials. Their latest is a public service ad from AEGIS on the dangers of silicone injections.

What is most heartening, is the number of newsletters around the country that have picked up the ad and donated space for it. (Look for it soon in *RN*.) There is hope for us as a "community" yet.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, AEGIS has proposed a Symposium for Men at the 1992 Southern Comfort, to be held October 1-4. The symposium will focus on traditional and non-traditional presentations of masculinity for female-to-male transsexuals. Watch for further announcements in a variety of TV/TS publication.

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HARTFORD, CT. - Say it again, Sam...

I have to say it again. The more I see, the more I'm impressed. This time I'm talking about *Twenty*, the newsletter of the **XX Club, Inc.**

The February '92 issue is their third time at bat and it scores another home run with me in terms of look and content. The editors, **Brenda P., Judy Summers, Anne E. Cur, and Jamie Lee Roper** have done an outstanding job of providing insightful and interesting reading about transsexual issues. Contact *Twenty* at PO Box 387, Hartford, CT 06141-0387.

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NEW YORK CITY. - Keep running that play 'til you get it right...

The executive board of directors of SIECUS, (the Sex Information and Education Council of the U.S.) will once again consider an advocacy statement for gender rights.

An initial statement was pre-

sented to the board last year by **Dr. William R. Stayton** and myself, but it was rejected as too "legalistic." SIECUS wanted a statement that the average person in the street could comprehend.

After four more tries at crafting the words, we finally succeeded in creating a statement that we believe SIECUS will adopt.

The new statement was sent to the SIECUS board in early January and a response was expected sometime in February or March.

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FRANKFURT, GERMANY - Ve haf vays uf making you haf a gut time...

Our Germanic sisters from **Transidentitas** are planning their annual meeting and they're inviting everyone from around the world to join them. If you're going to be in the neighborhood of Frankfurt around the 24th to the 26th of April, you might stop around and say "hello" from across the pond.

If there are enough "outlanders," the group will hold a special session on international co-operation with emphasis on how to improve communication exchange and relationships in Europe. The main topic for the afternoon of the 24th will be the foundation of a national organization for TV/TS support groups in Germany.

They need your registration by March 31, so get a move on if you're interested. Contact: Transidentitas, Postfach 10 10 46, 6050 Offenbach, Germany or call 069/800 100 8. The registration fee is 15DM and a single room with shower/WC is 110DM.

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SANDNES, NORWAY - Another Fan-Fair spin-off?...

On the heels of the announcement from **Claudia R.** above, came a letter from **Jenny Sand** of **FPE-Norway**. (For those who don't recognize those initials, FPE was the **Tri-Ess** precursor group started by **Virginia Prince**.)

Sand has been to two Fantasia Fairs and she would now like to see a similar event held in Europe. Her concept, though, sounds more in line with the principles of the "Coming Together - Working Together" conventions put on by the **International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE)**.

Sand is also looking for a coalition of organizations to produce the event, which gives it the flavor of the **Be All You Can Be** convention.

With such great examples to borrow from, I hope that Jenny's idea takes hold. She is looking for a location in Denmark that would be similar to Provincetown. Perhaps, Jenny, Holland might offer the atmosphere you're looking for, or, how about the Isle of Wight?

When I visited with **Phaedra Kelly** two years ago, an international gathering was one topic we discussed at some length, but neither of us had the time or energy to take it any further than simply talk.

Wherever it happens, it will be an important milestone for the world's transgendered/bi-gendered community. Good Luck, Jen.

▼▲▼

LOS ANGELES - New word, same old stuff...

Several newsletters have carried a recent article by **Virginia Prince** that advocates the use of a new term "bi-gendered." Prince wants us to use this term when referring to the community at large. Some groups, notably (not unexpectedly) **Tri-Ess** chapters, have embraced the new terminology without debate.

However, **Teri Frederickson**, writing in *Gender Euphoria* (**Bolton & Park Society**), disagrees with doyenne Prince (see p. 10 of this issue of *RN*), and I, for a change, tend to agree with Frederickson.

Prince's chief argument is that the prefix "trans-" (across) denotes a permanent change, while "bi-" simply means "two." The flaws in

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JoAnn Roberts

that are: (a) there is no permanency in the "trans-" prefix, and (b) "bi-" denotes two co-existing things, like bilingual. I'm sure that most transsexuals will tell you that they have only one gender-identity; it's their body that has failed to measure up. They're not "bi-gendered" at all.

However, I do have a nit to pick with Frederickson (you knew that, right) over terminology. She uses the term "fetishist crossdresser" for crossdressers with a "strictly male gender identity." I find this usage both inaccurate and offensive to those people who, like me, have no pretensions toward transgenderism or transsexualism.



ARLINGTON, VA. - Southern hospitality is alive and well...

I'd like to thank all the wonderful ladies at the **Delta Chi Educational Assoc.** who treated me and my partner like queens at their February meeting.

They asked me to speak about the Renaissance "secret" to leadership. I figured that such a "boring" topic would not draw a crowd. Imagine my surprise when over 65 people showed up for the meeting and no one fell asleep during my talk!

A special thank you goes to **Aunt Helen** for setting it up.



ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - Guardian of "The Truth" and Defender of The American Way...

There's an interesting little opinion piece that's showing up in a few newsletters. In it, writer **Michelle Anne Michaels** says, "...some criticism expressed by one member of the [TV] community I find counter-productive. It seems this person has appointed herself guardian of the truth... Instead, she attacks their backgrounds and education levels and thus implying that her opinions hold more weight." (Hmmm? Wonder who she's writing about?)

Well, Michelle, let's see. Would

you go to an accountant to get your car repaired? Would you get your income taxes prepared by a civil engineer? Would you have a bridge built by a psychotherapist? No? I didn't think so. Why? Because the "backgrounds and education levels" are inappropriate for the tasks.

As for any one person's opinion holding more weight than another's, that's silly. An "opinion" is a belief resting on grounds insufficient to produce certainty [American College Dictionary]. Like free advice, unrequested opinions are worth what you pay for them — nothing.

As for the "search for truth," I could fill this newsletter with that subject, but suffice it to say that in searching one must be willing to look at, listen to, and examine all sides of an issue. Sometimes, it's even necessary to take an opposition view in order to discover the "truth" of an issue.

I do thank you, however, for the perfect segue to the next item.



SAN FRANCISCO - Truth ain't got nuthin' to do with it...

The letter arrived with a news clipping attached. **Diane** wanted to warn all of us about the "shameful and second-rate treatment given to crossdressers by self-proclaimed gender activist **Christine Beattie**." Beattie, you may recall, wrote a piece recently that called the **Gender Activist League (GAL)** to task.

Well, I read the article attached to the letter and was pleased to see it was written by **Renaissance** alum, **Kate Bornstein**. But the article did not treat crossdressers shamefully nor as second-rate people. As reported by Bornstein, Beattie simply started a Hotline and Resource database for transsexuals because she felt that most transsexuals do not avail themselves of TV organizations. So what's Diane's problem?

Diane says that Beattie's state-

ment is misleading and most TV organizations welcome transsexuals, but Beattie never said they didn't. Diane was angry that Beattie didn't include crossdresser information in a TS information pamphlet and "...that she ASSumes that newly coming out crossdressers might not need information also. Is this selective censorship?"

Note the "ass" remark. This didn't make any sense until I read the very last sentence of Diane's letter: "I would encourage all *genderists* to beware of her." Now, it becomes clear. Here is a GAL genderist on a "search and destroy" mission because Beattie tried to make hamburger from the Sacred Cow.

With this kind of attitude, what separates GAL "genderists" from the fanatics of Operation Rescue? Is any tactic, any slander, any twist of the truth, fair game for the genderist's goals? Are only card carrying genderists allowed to call themselves "gender activists"? Is this really an "umbrella organization" for political action or just crossdressed fascism?

Diane says, "I am disgusted at Ms. Beattie's self-serving attempts at... discrediting crossdressers." Well, I am disgusted at Diane's attempts to discredit someone who is taking positive action to fill the needs of a special segment of the community, transsexuals.

If you're interested in Beattie's information, contact San Francisco Gender Information at (415) 346-0457. There is an information packet available to callers for \$2.00 that includes a resource list, a bibliography and several pamphlets for both M-t-F and F-t-M transsexuals. An additional contribution over the \$2.00 might be nice too.



NOTA BENE - The opinions expressed here are mine and mine alone. If you have a comment, positive or negative, write me at P.O. Box 61263, KofP, PA 19406-1263.

New sex test for athletes: look between their legs

A panel of scientists and athletes convened by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) has recommended that athletic organizations stop giving genetic tests to female athletes to see if they are really women. The IAAF says it will now rely on the only fair test: looking at athletes' genitals.

For 25 years female athletes have had to pass a test to see if they have two X chromosomes. Men generally have one X and one Y chromosome. But some people — as many as 1 in 500 by some estimates — have chromosome defects which would disqualify them under the testing program enforced by many athletic organizations, including the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Dr. Joe Leigh Simpson, a geneticist at the University of Tennessee, headed the IAAF panel. He said several genetic women athletes at each competition fail the sex test because they have the chromosome

defect. Yet, he said, they are women in all respects.

An IAAF panel member, tennis coach Alison Carlson, said that there is only one good example of a man posing as a female athlete: Hermann Ratjen. He claimed Nazi authorities forced him to compete in the high jump as a woman in the

1936 Olympics in Berlin. He was beaten by three women.

Many female athletes reportedly favored the end of the genetic test, although some wanted it retained.

Press reports on the new IAAF sex-determination policy did not say if the federation was concerned about detecting transsexuals.

Sports radio is outreach tool

(continued from page 3)

meeting to get "this crossdressing thing" out of his system.

The free publicity continued on the afternoon drive-time program hosted by Howard Eskin. Charlene's letter must have been left in the studio, for he read it on the air again. Eskin, who has the reputation as a ladies' man, gave Charlene the supreme compliment after viewing her photo. He said that if he hadn't read the letter, he would have never thought Charlene was anything but a real woman. He

expressed amazement at her display of cleavage, and wondered how a man could look so "bodacious." Then he commented, "actually, she's kind of cute."

Charlene resisted other members' entreaties to call Eskin on-air and make herself available for a date. Nevertheless, Charlene has boldly gone where no queen has gone before — all-sports talk radio.

⇒ *This article originally appeared in the monthly newsletter edited by Dina Amberle and distributed at the Greater Philadelphia meetings.*

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