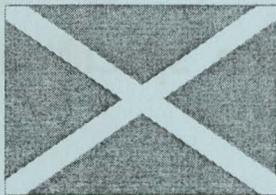


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# the Tartan Skirt

Volume 7, Number 4  
Autumn 1999

The  
Magazine  
Of The  
Scottish  
Transgender  
Community



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Editorial

# Proud to be different...

Just two weeks ago, as I write this, I was walking through the streets of Edinburgh accompanied by a large number of people I didn't know but who had, like myself, chosen to demonstrate their unreserved pride in who they were on that day. The event, of course, was the annual Pride Scotland march. As far as I, or any of the spectators watching from the sidelines could tell, or so I believe, the vast majority of those present might have been mistaken for taking part in a trade union rally, or an anti-blood sports protest, were it not for the shrill noise of many hundreds of whistles drawing attention to the brightly painted banners proclaiming the names of the particular gay organisations taking part.

From time to time, however, my gaze would be arrested by someone standing out for some reason from the crowd, perhaps because of the unexpected colour of their hair or because of a show of vibrant tattoos or shiny body piercings, or because of the clothes they were wearing. I felt almost ordinary for a moment, quickly recovering, however, when I reminded myself that I was playing an equal part on that day, at that moment, in testifying to the diverse nature of a small part of humanity as it beat its triumphal path to the Meadows.

The theme for this year's Pride was 'diversity'. A word we all say we understand and believe has much the same meaning for everybody. Or has it. For some of the people we encounter in our daily lives, the word can feel intimidating, threatening. For them, life can become difficult when they cannot see clearly 'what you are' - making decisions about you becomes harder because they have to start to think for themselves.

Diversity can also loosen the bonds of control - the control of others, exercised through their own fear. Indeed, fear-based religions detest different behaviours - many political ideologies have no place for different ways of seeing the world.

But are we, ourselves, always ready to acknowledge the value of difference? Within the transgender community we can all too often fail to respond appropriately to the needs of others we do not easily identify with, because of our own fear - fear of being thought the same, fear of being thought different, fear of being exposed, fear of being overlooked, fear of being rejected, fear of being... loved.

There are only two emotions in the human soul - love and fear, and our free will allows us always to choose which one to base our action upon in our relationship with ourself, and with others. Two weeks ago I chose love, and felt my heart soar.

Apparently the DVLA have been getting their nickers in a twist over their insistence (later retracted) of 'completion of final surgical procedures' as a requirement before agreeing to change an individual's gender code on their driving licence. This got me thinking again about how we see ourselves and about the expectations we put on others to see us as either men or women, regardless of whether that matches their own perceptions of ourselves or not. In the case in question, the individual had undergone the removal of both breasts and was taking testosterone. He identifies himself as male, but being in full possession still of a vagina (not electing to have genital surgery) the DVLA identifies her as a female.

So just what makes a woman a woman and a man a man? Which sexual markers might everyone accept as defining female and male? Which behaviours could we all agree upon to be taken as indicators of femininity and masculinity? Can a consensus across the divide of opinion, and all points in between, be anything less than optimism on a grand scale? And when I hear the dogène of radical feminism, Germaine Greer, regret the lack of distinction between men and women that today's equality has produced, consider femininity even more a construct, who argues against the outrage of men who have 'surgery and shots' thinking they are women... I don't hold my breath.

Yet unless there can be agreement of some kind there will continue to be people left in 'no (wo)man's land' - the situation we find today. If there is to be consensus, where should we look for points of agreement? Primary sexual characteristics - would that be 'natural', or surgically constructed? Secondary sexual characteristics - would that be 'natural', or the result of taking hormones? How about chromosomes - but what about the extra ones? Voice, hair, body shape, vestimentary expression, mannerisms, likes, dislikes...?

So if you get the message you don't belong in a particular 'box' (and I'd really want you to look at your motivation for wanting to get into the box in the first place), or you feel you don't belong there anyhow, how do you move forward?

When I think back to what helped me become 'who I am' today I find the words of Gloria Anzaldúa capture the essence of that journey: "I learned that when I could not change

external circumstances, I could at least alter my perspective regarding them. Altering my perception often led to the transformation of outer reality."

Perhaps if we give more thought to who we really want to be instead of trying to be *what others expect*, if we put our energy into becoming that person instead of a person *acceptable to others*, if we look for ways to fulfill our own potential instead of living our lives according to the *limiting beliefs of others*, we might discover a new reality in which we can live in greater comfort.

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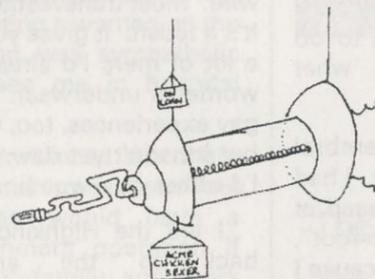
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## Just For The Record!

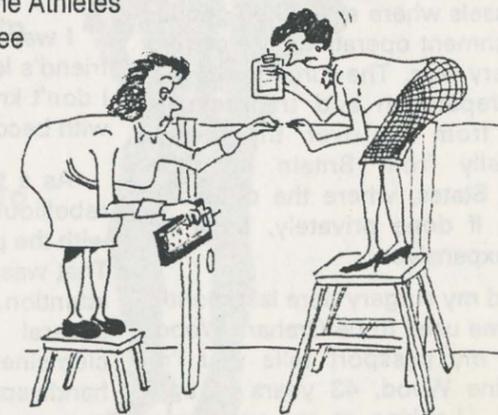
Following the confession in 1957 by Hermann Ratjen, who ran as Dora Ratjen for Germany in the 1930s, that he had disguised himself at the request of the Nazi Youth Movement, the International Olympic Committee set up a panel of judges in 1966 to check female athletes for vaginal openings, overlarge clitorises, a penis or testicles.



By 1968, chromosome testing replaced these 'nude parades', and in 1992, a more sophisticated instrument to hunt for the SRY (sex-determining region, Y chromosome) gene was adopted. But as the technology advanced, so did the confusion.



Five women out of 2406 tested 'male' in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. Eight women in the 1996 Atlanta games didn't pass as females. In February, the Athletes Commission of the International Olympics Committee urged its parent organisation to do away with sex analysis and rely instead on observed urination during drug testing to pinpoint any likely imposters.



Anatomy, gonads, hormones, genes, rearing, identity and even the presumptions of others all play in a person's sex.. "To select only one, the genetic sex, out of a large number of sex-determining factors and analyse for that one is scientifically incorrect." says Arne Ljungqvist, head of the International Amateur Athletics Federation doping commission.



*"I wasn't born in the wrong body. I didn't hate my male body, or being a man. I just feel more confident, more me, as a woman."*

Catherine

eyes, a ready grin and what the tabloids call "womanly curves".

If I'd had it done on the National Health Service, I would have waited three years for hormone treatment and ten for the operation. Going private would have cost me the equivalent of 600,000 BF - less in some clinics, but my psychiatrist was reluctant to recommend them. If the operation isn't done well, you can lose the ability to have an orgasm. My Brussels operation cost around 210,000 BF.

Gender reassignment involves removing the testicles and muscle from the penis, creating a vagina-like hole and using the skin for the lips. The prostate gland enables a male-to-female transsexual to continue to have orgasms. Female-to-male operations entail attaching a penis, created using skin from another part of the body, and inserting a flexible silicone tube: the erection is achieved by repositioning the tube. It gives rise to orgasm by rubbing against the clitoris during sex.

But my motives were not sexual. It's about self-confidence, identity and the way I see my body. I reject the cliché that transsexuals are born different - I think it has a lot to do with your childhood and what happens to you in life.

I was born with mild cerebral palsy and I've got a slight limp. I had a lonely childhood. I was teased at school - they called me "club-foot". The teachers punished me because I had bad handwriting - I couldn't help it. It was my handicap. I didn't get much support at home either.

I was 13 when I was raped by a friend's lodger. I kept quiet about it. I don't know if it has anything to do with becoming transsexual.

As a teenager I hung out with a rebellious crowd, got into trouble with the police and ended up in care. That was better, because I got more attention. I left school at 16, lost several jobs because of my clumsiness and then worked with handicapped children and adults. I got on well with them, but I started drinking and drifted from job to job.

I drank to escape the nightmares that had plagued me for years. I used to wake up screaming. Drink was like a sedative. Alone in a bedsit on the eve of my 30th birthday, I drank three litres of wine. When I woke up I thought "There must be more to life than this". I gave up drinking.

When I got a council flat in Manchester's Moss Side (one of the city's most depressed areas), I thought I'd gone up in the world. I worked for a probation office and joined Alcoholics Anonymous, but only for a while. I got bored hearing everyone talk about how they started drinking - it was enough to make you run to the pub!

I met my first wife at a club for mildly disabled people. She had multiple sclerosis. She was too ill to have sex, but we both needed company and we got on well. She died several years later. I met my second wife on holiday in the Scottish Highlands where we settled. It was a happy marriage - we were good friends. She died of cancer.

I was already interested in transvestism but it really peaked after the death of Mary, my second wife. Most transvestites are married. It's a fetish. It gives you a thrill. Like a lot of men, I'd already dabbled in women's underwear. I'd had some gay experiences, too, wearing a bra - but it hadn't yet dawned on me that I'd rather *be* a woman.

I left the Highlands and moved back to the anonymity of Manchester, which has several transvestite clubs and a large gay community. I told the neighbours that I was a cross-dresser, but at first they didn't understand - they thought it meant I was bad-tempered when I got up in the morning!

I started hormone treatment three years ago. Most transsexuals give up because they're not happy with the way anti-testosterone drugs reduce their sexual appetite, but some want to go the full monty. I felt that if I could bear five hours of electrolysis at the hands of students (I couldn't have afforded it otherwise), this was proof of my commitment. It was like a life test.

Today I talk about transsexuality at universities and beauty institutes and hair dressing schools, where staff might come across similar people. I tell them about my experience. I believe that being open about transsexuality helps combat ignorance, fear and prejudice.

People usually ask me whether I prefer men or women. I still very much like women and I'd like to share my life with a woman on an equal basis. My partner might be a lesbian, possibly bisexual. I'm leaving my options open. In Britain, around 40 percent of "post op" transsexuals remain with or find female partners and 60 percent end up with a man.

Now that I am as close to a woman as possible I no longer dare walk down quiet streets at night. And I travel with a lot more luggage than I used to! I have to take all those female things around with me.

I have no regrets. After the operation itself I felt a bit of discomfort between my legs when I woke up, but the worst thing was being isolated and alone. It's tough having the operation abroad. I was fortunate in meeting a woman on the airport train who was sympathetic and came to see me in hospital several times.

I am totally convinced that there are some men and women who feel transsexual who would have a gender reassignment operation if they felt free of family and work pressures. I was free of such pressures. Although I never had much contact with my parents or siblings, I told them I was going to have a sex change. My siblings never replied to my letters and my mother told me not to come home dressed like a woman. My father gave me a hug and said it was my choice, but I'm not sure you can call it a choice. It had become a necessity. I already felt female inside. I feel more confident, more as I wanted to be. People notice me. I get more attention as Catherine than I did as Graham.

End

# Caption Competition

Win a year's subscription to the Tartan Skirt!

All you have to do is think of a funny caption for the picture and send it in.

The winning entry will appear in the next issue of the magazine. Closing date for entries: 31st October 1999



[Empty speech bubble]

I can't help it, Pet. I just love these new Sheerer stockings.

The winning entry for the last Caption Competition was sent in by Selina from Essex. Well done, Selina, your free year's subscription to the Tartan Skirt has really happened!



# Transfiguration by Zab.

*It's happened to all of us -  
we've seen the ideal dress  
but it just doesn't fit!*

*Maybe the sleeves are too short,  
the waist too high, or it cuts off  
the circulation at the arms.*

*How often have you walked past  
that (almost) perfect outfit and  
just wished it would fit?*

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whatever the style.*



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# SPEAK OUT!

*Use these pages to express your views and opinions,  
your anger or frustration... or to ask for help!*

Dear Julia,

Just a short note to let you and other Tartan Skirt readers know that the West Lothian TV/TS group has changed it's name to the West Lothian Transgender Support Group. After some discussion between members of the group we have decided to change the name because we feel using the term 'transgender' incorporates everyone in a united front to equalism, and to help people with their transgender identity, whether they are cross dressers or transsexuals.

We know that other groups have the same aim as ourselves, and doing a fantastic job helping others within the community, and long may they continue the good work. But coming together under the one banner name links all groups in the fight for our equal rights and acceptance within society as it should be, to live our lives freely and to openly express the feminine side of our lives.

We also know that a lot of transgenderists can't come forward due to their personal commitment and that is why members of all the other groups should stand and fight for *their* rights as well as our own, to help the sisters who would like to join us but can't. So come on sisters, in those immortal words of William Wallace, "they'll never take our freedom."

Sorry for coming on a bit strong Julia but I totally agree with you about the name and that all groups should work as one, not as individuals.

Now for some other news. We are, at the moment, trying to open a drop-in centre within the West

Lothian area, to help people who may find it hard to approach a group and meet other sisters. I remember how I felt when I first went to the Edinburgh group - I was totally petrified. I stood across the road looking at everyone up at the window. Someone was crouched down in their car looking at me - I just didn't know what to do. After about twenty minutes I plucked up the courage and ran across the road. Once inside, everyone made me feel welcome. Since then, I have never looked back - my confidence has grown and I have met a lot of new friends in the process.

So I say to the sisters who read the Tartan Skirt and are not members of a group, *take the plunge and go to a group*. Even if you meet someone there that you already know, don't worry, they are there for the same reason as you and you'll never regret it. Honest.

I would like to finish with this thought - *by setting our standard high we ultimately achieve things we thought we couldn't*.

Donna [redacted]

Dear Tartan Skirt,

I am a researcher working on a Channel Four documentary series concerned with people who feel forced to live part of their life in secret. One of the areas we have been looking at is that of transgendered people. I have had a lot of contact with the Beaumont Society who have been very helpful and put me in touch with a lot of people to talk to.

If anyone wishes to talk to me about their experiences on a strictly confidential basis, either with a view to being involved in a potential film or purely for research purposes, they can reach me on 0410-[redacted]

I would also like to point out that we are not just looking for sensationalist stories, we will be taking a thoughtful and sensitive approach to this series. Thank you for your help.

Aimee Jackson

So when the wife says tae me, "Ah werr the troosers roun here," Ah thought tae masel, "Two can play at that game!"



Hi to everyone in transgender land!

I'm a research student studying for a PhD degree at Stirling University. My subject is gender and I'm writing this note to ask you if you might be willing to tell me what your gender means to you.

I'm hoping to contribute to a clearer understanding of exactly what gender is. Are we born 'masculine' or 'feminine', or do we learn to act in these ways depending upon our sex? But then, what does 'sex' mean anyway? Do, or should, the terms 'male' and 'female' include us all? In sum, just what do these categories, or labels, tell us? I am genuinely interested in your views on this. I also have a vested (sic) interest in studying gender.

Julia, our friendly and trustworthy editor, will vouch for my integrity and has kindly agreed to act as a go-between. If you'd like to get in touch with me just speak to Julia, or drop her a line. I would assure you that whatever you care to disclose to me will be treated with the utmost respect and confidentiality. Anonymity is most definitely assured. Thanks.

Jude [redacted]

Hi,

I've been a Transistor Radio for most of my 47 years.

I attended the Grampian Gender Group (3G) in May and it was good to see some of the old faces amongst an excellent turnout. I thought the chap from Edinburgh gave a good demonstration of make up techniques - I was amazed at the transformation he achieved on our good friend Ronnie. He gave us good advice too, but didn't think much of my shaving technique - nobody did, come to think of it - but I still maintain there's nothing better than a dry BIC and some 'wet and dry' for getting rid of beard shadow prior to applying make up. The other guest ran a smart little business in Kinghorn in Fife, providing a service to transistor radios, selling make up and clothes, and doing alterations and 'made to measure'. I was intrigued, but too shy to ask her what she could do for me.

Now, some people are saying "Jim has got the cure." I feel a million times better than I did a few years ago, but cured? No! It's just my attitude that's changed. For many years I was convinced I was a woman in the wrong body, but something inside me kept fighting

back. I think the main reason I didn't go for the 'treatment' was that I enjoyed sex as a man. Nowadays, I don't need to wear a dress to be a transistor radio - wearing trousers didn't make me a man. I'm not effeminate though some may say I have feminine traits. I get a kick out of wearing female gear, call it a fetish if you like, but it's a fundamental part of me. Like the alcoholic realising he has a drink problem, a transistor radio needs to admit his true feelings to himself. Do you remember years ago when the Beaumont Society had the row over their constitution, whether to let gay male transvestites join the Society? The establishment were so frightened of admitting they might be gay too. The cure is about finding out and admitting to what you are, to yourself especially. [How about accepting it too? Ed] I get fed up listening to transistor radios who justify their lifestyle by saying "It's OK, I'm not gay." So what! The bottom line is honesty with yourself.

Perhaps next time I'll tell you something about my fetish for bridal gowns, but for the moment it's... goodbye from me, and it's... goodbye from her.

Jim



## The Beaumont Society



The Beaumont Society is a nationwide self-help organisation for people who cross-dress or who are transsexual. The Society has many open social meetings around the country and offers a good quality quarterly magazine, a Bulletin for members only, a confidential mail-box system and access to the Beaumont Society library.

Further details can be obtained from:

The Beaumont Society,  
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Telephone information line - 01582 [redacted]  
Web site - [http://members.aol.com/\[redacted\]](http://members.aol.com/[redacted])  
E mail - [redacted]

# BEAUTY QUEEN

by Alexandrina



Devina eyed up the competition. In the beauty stakes she felt she could hold her own against the best of them, but there were some new tranny bimbos in the race this month.

A dark skinned tranny from a nearby town pranced on to the podium to great applause from the audience. She had a flared yellow mini tunic which brought an assortment of wolf whistles. Devina knew her as Naomi and had to admit she was drop dead gorgeous.

Naomi had just turned at the end of the catwalk to do a few turns in front of the three judges - all RGs - when a disturbance at the rear of the hall caused everyone to turn. A mob of females, brandishing banners and shouting, advanced down the two aisles.

'Beauty Competitions Degrade Women!' shouted a tweed-suited amazon at the front of the pack. Another stuck a placard into the face of a bemused elderly gentleman. 'You men are despicable!'

'Women of the world revolt against male chauvinism!' screamed the ringleader now purple with rage.

Before the revolution could be advanced much further marshals jostled the protesters back up the aisles and finally ejected them through the exit doors. The lady who was presiding over the judging took it all in her stride. She was standing, waiting for the rowdy group to be removed, then quite unfazed turned back to the waiting contestants.

'Thank you number six. Will number seven please come forward.'

Devina stepped on to the stage,

trying to stop herself shaking. Her nerves were not due to the competition; she was now a well-seasoned contestant at such events. It was something else.

As the group of female emancipists turned to leave, Devina had recognised her boss - Wilma Greig. Devina was certain Wilma had not spotted her as she had been half-concealed by the backcloth to the stage. But her legs were now visibly trembling as she clicked her stilettos across the catwalk.

The competition proceeded and everyone, including the participants, settled down to a cabaret act while the judges deliberated.

Devina did not win this time, the prize going to Naomi. But she took second place and had regained her composure by the time the awards were presented. Her prize was a £10 token for the local 'Bodyshop'.

Devina sat on a high stool in the dressing room removing her make-up. As she took off the flame red wig - one of her favourites - she thought about that near discovery and a shiver ran up her spine once more.

'Don't be so glum, Devina,' said Naomi, 'it's only a bit of fun.'

Devina smiled. 'I'm not upset about not winning. Honestly. Congratulations, honey - you look terrific. No, it's just that my boss was among the bra-burning brigade.'

Naomi puckered her mouth. 'Well I won't burn by bra. Know why? My tits'll fall on the floor.'

They both burst out laughing.

'That's my girl, Devina. Don't worry and it may never happen.'

Devina sighed. 'I hope so. Gosh, I hope so.'

The competition had taken place on a Sunday and it was more than just Monday morning blues which affected Dave Morton as he slunk into the office of Acme Advertising Agency. He was only at his desk a short time before Wilma strutted into the general office.

'You'll never guess what we burst up yesterday, girls.'

Dave kept his head down; in any case his boss was addressing the females in the place.

Several of the girls crowded round their superior, glad to have a genuine excuse for an early morning break. Wilma proceeded to boast about the feminists' 'victory' at the beauty competition.

Dave was sickened by her effrontery. He knew very well that the lot of them had been ejected - forcibly - and there had been no victory at all. She sounded like Saddam Hussein of Iraq. He would have liked to have told them the truth about the failed demonstration, but he could not do that without implicating himself. Feeling miserable, Dave went off to the gents.

One of the girls in the office broke in when Wilma paused for breath. 'I suppose you know that that was a competition for transvestites.'

Wilma stood transfixed by the word transvestites. 'You mean, Carol, that they were not really women? They were ...'

'Sure ... guys. Didn't you know? They have regular competitions in that hall.'

Wilma had now been struck dumb.

Another member of staff giggled. 'If there are men in the audience,

then you can't accuse them of being chauvinists, Wilma.'

'Maybe not chauvinists,' Wilma grumbled, 'but they are disgusting, parading about like that on the stage.'

'Well, it was a private do,' said Carol.. 'Anyway, why don't you beat them at their own game, Wilma. You've got a good figure. Why don't you enter and show them up.'

Several of the younger girls, who listened to such conversations but kept quiet, now waited for an explosion from their boss. It did not materialise.

'You know Carol,' said Wilma through clenched teeth, 'I might just do that. In some ways those men who appear in drag are worse than the ones who leer at women in

bathing costumes.'

'Yes, you could really show women's superiority over those cretins,' goaded Carol.

'Disgusting pigs,' hissed Wilma. 'Yes, I would like to show them up for what they are - a set of revolting clowns ... inferior creatures ... lecherous louts.'

As Wilma was berating the male sex, Dave slipped back into the general office. There was not another male in the room that morning; Dave wished he had stayed longer in the loo. His entrance halted the animated discussion, not through any attempt to save him embarrassment, but simply because there was work to be done.

Wilma Greig strode back into her

office.

If Devina had been shocked to see her boss in among the gang of feminists, she was even more so when Wilma turned up at the next beauty competition a month later. Devina had arrived early, taken plenty of time to get her make-up and hair just right ... when Wilma walked in the door.

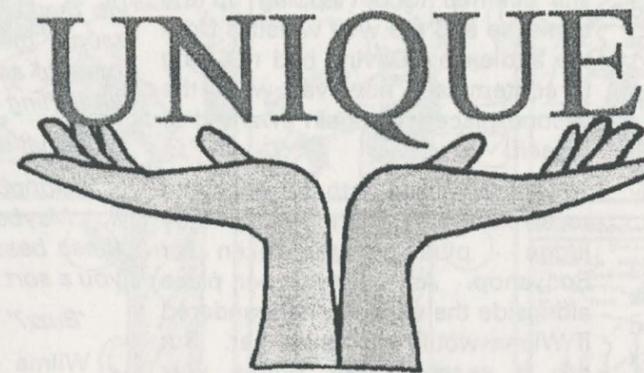
Poor Devina! She felt as if she were naked, even though she was wearing a fetching set of bra, suspender belt and knickers, all in matching black and wine, plus a fully fashioned pair of seamed stocking in pillarbox red.

Wilma looked the tranny up and down as if she were one of the judges. Devina was sure Wilma had

*continued on page 12*

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- \* About one in two thousand babies are born with uncommon variations of genitals and gonads, or sex-conditioning hormones that don't match sexual organs.
- \* About one in a thousand women has three X chromosomes instead of the usual two; some people have as many as four X chromosomes - plus two Ys.
- \* Some women have facial hair, some men don't. Breast size, voice timbre and body structure, all generally accepted cues, also can contradict chromosomal identity.
- \* A number of people, both men and women, will choose to express themselves socially by adopting the appearance and behaviour of the opposite sex.

**It's not always helpful to jump to conclusions about the people we meet, or to have snap judgements made about ourselves. Challenge others to look at who you are rather than through you to a reflection of their own assumptions.**

continued from page 10

recognised her, but she showed no sign at all of recognition.

'I understand that we can keep our clothes on for this contest,' sneered Wilma.

'Yes,' gasped Devina. She put on a refined accent which she had perfected. 'Help yourself to a chair.'

Wilma sniffed, took a seat next to Devina and brought cosmetics out of her bag. Devina breathed a little more freely when a number of other competitors entered, some of them looking curiously at the girl sitting next to her and who was extremely convincing.

When Wilma had finished putting on her face, she went into one of the cubicles used for changing and emerged in a tight outfit of black sweater and red pencil skirt. Devina drew in breath. She knew that Wilma had a good figure, but ... wow! She was fabulous. Her gorgeous curves were offset by her oval face and light brunette hair - almost blonde - in a stylish pageboy cut.

The competition began. The girls all paraded on the podium, gyrating in front of the three judges, all female, but different ones this month. As Wilma swung her hips, placing her hands on her slim waist, Devina felt that surge of jealousy when she could sense stiff

opposition.

'It's not fair,' Devina groaned to herself. 'This competition is supposed to be for trannies. Wilma's a cheat.'

She knew the result before it was announced. Wilma won.

There was something about her demeanour that interested Devina: she seemed to be lapping up the applause and the wolf whistles from the audience. Devina had not long to contemplate, however, when the second place was again awarded to herself.

Devina walked onto the stage and received a kiss from the top lady judge - plus another token for Bodyshop. As she took her place alongside the winner, she wondered if Wilma would recognise her. But no, it seemed that Wilma was basking so much in the glory of winning that she was ignorant of Devina's true identity.

Devina did not know if she made the proposal in order to crow about her success, but she was more non-plussed when Wilma invited her to the hall cafe for a coffee. 'Let me buy you a drink in compensation.' Wilma spoke in such a friendly tone that Devina accepted, although she had only done so when she cursed her stupidity.

Idiot! You should have got out of here fast. Your boss is sure to recognise you if you have a conversation. Keep your mouth shut.

But Devina found it very difficult to keep quiet. Wilma certainly burred on about her success, but she also wanted to know about transvestites ... and Devina in particular.

'You know,' said Wilma, a little superciliously, 'you guys should recognise that women are superior. There's no way you can compete in the beauty stakes.'

'I know that, Wilma.' Devina lowered her eyes. 'It's not just in the beauty business. Sometimes women win in the job market too.'

Wilma looked at her curiously, recognition beginning to filter across

her face. Devina knew the game was up; she might as well come clean.

'Do you not know me ... boss.'

'You're ... Dave!'

'Yep. That's right. And I suppose you'll now tell me how absolutely vile and disgusting I am.'

Wilma sat for a few moments, musing on the situation. 'No, I won't do that ... Devina. I think today has taught me something ... although I have to admit I set out to teach you lot a thing or two.'

'What did you learn, Wilma?'

'I suppose I found out why you do it. Maybe why girls do it, too, in those beauty competitions. It gives you a sort of ...'

'Buzz?'

Wilma smiled. 'Yes, just that.' She played with the spoon, slowly stirring her half-drunk cup of coffee. 'Why do you do it?'

'I don't know. None of us does. Maybe it's just because we have to admit that women are superior beings ... and we try to emulate you.'

'You're not trying to flatter me, Devina?'

'I don't need to do that. You won, didn't you?'

'Maybe I took an unfair advantage,' Wilma whispered.

Devina looked into the cute oval face and once again her heart missed a beat. Wilma was really a stunning woman. She plucked up courage.

'There is one thing I may be able to do better than a woman - cook.' Devina bit her lip in apprehension. 'How would you like to come up to my place and I'll make dinner?'

Wilma hesitated for a few seconds and Devina held her breath. Was she to get the rejection that all men feared?

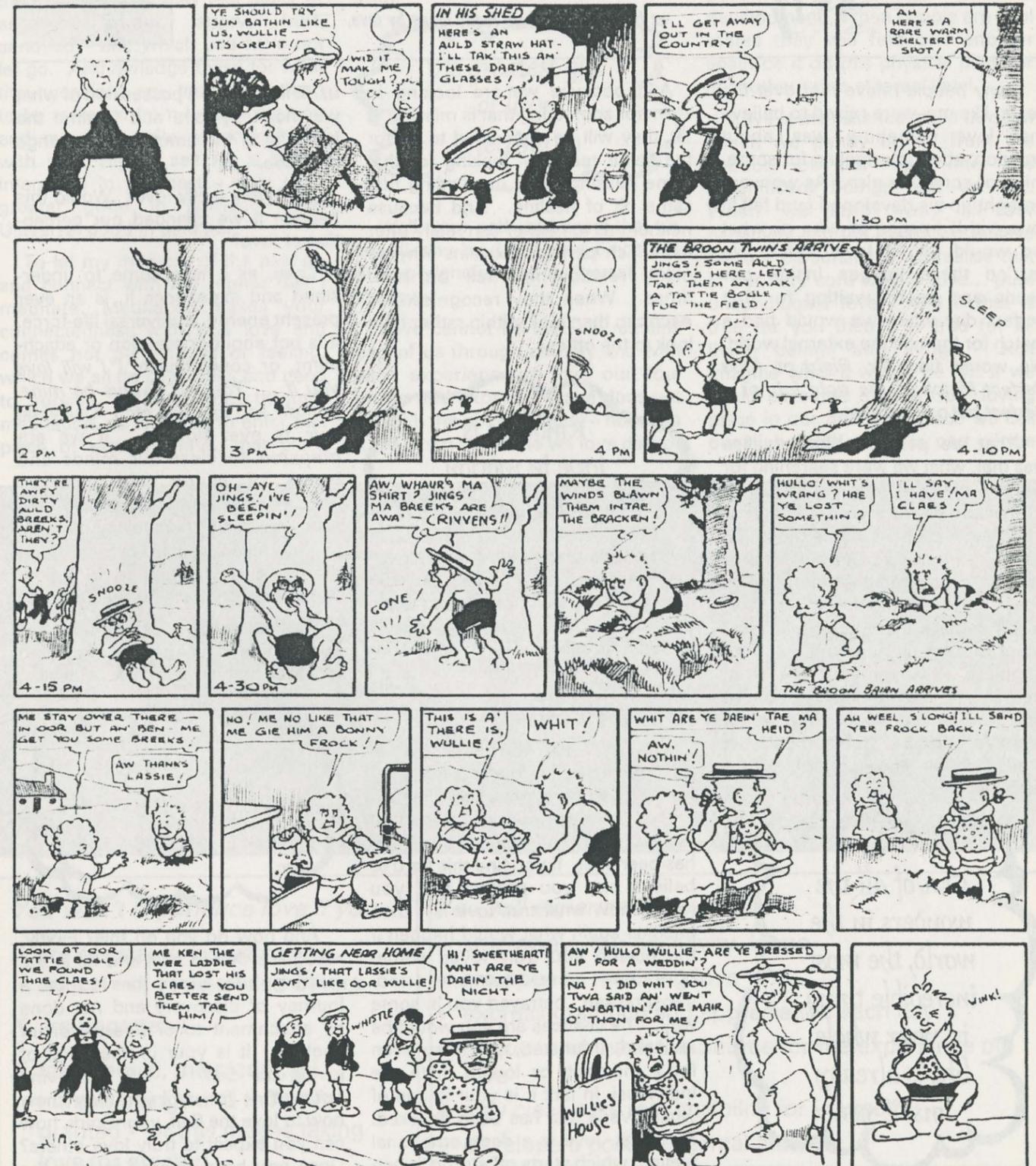
Wilma smiled. 'OK. Let's see if you really can beat women at their own game.'

She put her arm through Devina's as they both tripped out of the cafe.

End

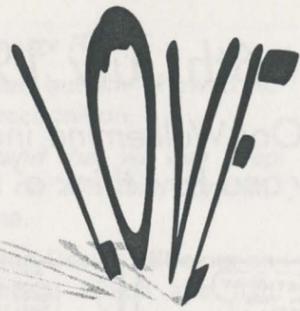
# All Our Yesterdays: The Sunday Post 6th July 1941

Michty me, jings, crivvens and help ma Boab if it isnae Oor Wulliemina indulging in a spot of gender transgression. Whatever would Maw and Paw think o' that!



With apologies to Dudley D Watkins and D C Thomson & Co Ltd for taking liberties with Oor Wullie!





Founding member of Reach Out Highland, the Highlands of Scotland's first sexual health charity, Andrew Hunter comes from a background in education, training and counselling. Qualified in Spiritual Healing, Reiki Healing, Hypnotherapy and Psychotherapy (amongst other things), Andrew invites us to explore what we really mean by love.



Many people I have met over the years, like me, were raised to believe that love somehow was about emotion, about our feeling for something or someone else. As we were brought up we developed (and fell in love with!) images of who or what we would fall in love with. We carried these images inside our heads and hearts waiting for that perfect day when we would find a match for them in the external world. We would find *Mr. Right* or *Miss Perfect Match* or *the right job*, or a *perfect pet* or whatever.

What we perhaps didn't realise was that, what we were searching for in someone or something else, was a reflection of our own self-image or a representation of something that was missing in us or part of us that needed to be healed. This notion of love, then, is about seeking a mirror, giving us back the missing piece, or about making us happy, whole and complete. However you look at it, there is an underpinning sense of need, of feeling so incomplete in ourselves that we try to meet that need through someone or something else.

Out of all the wonders in the world, the most incredible thing in your whole life, is already inside you

And because we are looking in *them* for something that is missing in *us*, they will be connected to us for the same reason – looking for that same missing piece or needing that same bit of healing. And because neither has it, neither can really offer it - which perhaps explains why so many relationships fall on hard times. When they recognise this *each* can then look within rather than look to the other.

Kindness is love in motion

When we once have found "love" we become traumatised at the possibility or reality of it being taken away from us. Love in this sense is about a possession and when our possession is threatened or taken away we don't like it, we retaliate, we go into shock and grief.

When you say you are at last "in love" what you are really celebrating is that a part of you has been healed, a need has been met, an image that you carry around inside your head has been met. If you find this hard to believe and you protest that you really know what true love is – then imagine again what would happen if the person you truly loved somehow, in your terms, erred, transgressed, betrayed you in some way. The chances are you would be annoyed, infuriated, you may even for a moment, or longer, hate the individual. In fact it is your image of what love is that has been attacked. For most, love is a deep emotional feeling, which starts off strong, when we feel attached to someone else, or when someone else is attached to

us. This creates a possession of what we mean by love and in time the intensity of the emotion will change and fade.

So is this really love? Would this happen if we changed our perception of love?

Love, as I have come to understand and experience it, is an ever present energy, a universal life-force. It is not about possession or attachment, or conditionality ("I will love you if .... You will always be mine, you do as I say" etc etc.) Universal love is ever flowing. If we are prepared to clear our minds and hearts of clutter and mistaken beliefs, it will both infill us and flow from us to all of humankind, not just to a few select people we meet along the way and who happen, for a time in our lives, to make our hearts sing.

The personal love we feel for another individual can be expanded to a love that we can share with all.

books don't mean much unless you open them - hearts are the same

And how do you do this? Firstly, recognise that to heal and fill in the missing bits, yours has to be a journey of discovery and not done by attachment to or possession of another. It is your journey first of loving *the Self* – NB not loving *yourself* – for until you truly know how to love the Self, your Spirit, how can you expect to truly love others? Once you have learned to love the Self, loving others takes you to a different dimension.

Affirmation:- I freely choose love at all times in my life

So look deep inside, look into your past and you will find there are many memories and parts of you that you probably wish were not there; things you may feel guilty or ashamed about, angry, hurt, annoyed – and which you have not let go. Acknowledge these for what they were and are, then allow them to be released from influencing you and move to unite, work and live with your Higher self for it is not interested in the past – only your greater good in particular and Universal good in general.

To let my memory of the past go and connect with my Higher Self I meditate. Meditation eases your connectedness with true love and comes not by thinking or feeling, which we all do so readily, and need to survive. But so too, through meditation, do we need to enter that place of silence within, that place

where we can really begin to experience what love is really like. True love cannot be faked; it is a universal force that must contain truth.

the greatest gift of love is letting go

Walk your path and know that we are all, day by day, taking tiny steps to experiencing the universal love energy.

Love cannot be lost – it remains part of us through eternity and with each experience of love our soul grows and expands. Love does not die with the physical body – nor does it die when someone we love dies or

moves out of our life for some other reason. When we lose someone close to us the love shared does not diminish. It remains with us and becomes part of our spiritual development. When people are soul mates they will find one another again be it on this physical plane or at another more ethereal level.

Love is the essence of life through which we gently unfold from the cocoon of our ego into the magnificent beings that we are. When we strip away all our negativity and the masks we believe are our personalities we realise that at our very core we are love... pure unconditional love. And if that is true for you then it is true for all living beings and things. Just imagine what it would be like if we could all come from a truly loving place in our hearts...a place we call our Higher Self which is part of the

- ♥ *You can only love when you are truly alone. It means seeing a person, a thing, an animal, a situation as it really is - and not as you imagine it to be or would like it to be and to give it the response it deserves.*
- ♥ *Love is seeing the person and not the image. It is about allowing - not about control.*
- ♥ *Love is generated through awareness. So to experience love, go to a mountain, the sea, or commune with nature, experience aloneness - but give it time. Miracles occur naturally as expressions of love.*

*So often we use religion to masquerade as love. But too often religion is about fanaticism, marginalising so-called minorities, power, control, prejudice, self-opinionatedness. If religion doesn't lead to love, of what use is it?*

*It isn't that we are without love, it is that we live too much in fear and anger, worry and regret. The opposite of love is fear but what is all-encompassing can have no opposite. Love is beyond what we can be taught.*

You won't experience love if you...

- X are constantly negative and critical - of yourself and others
- X are ungrateful
- X take people, the planet, all human beings and things for granted - for this means taking love for granted
- X believe in limits and lack

You will experience love if you...

- ♥ strip away your negativity, let go
- ♥ are open to receiving love
- ♥ express gratitude and appreciation each day
- ♥ honour and thank the Source for the experience of love
- ♥ stay clear, take responsibility for yourself
- ♥ develop a positive mental attitude
- ♥ are prepared for miracles - are ready to receive
- ♥ know that the love within you is the love around you

Divine rather than from that other self of the small, yet powerful controlling individual ego.

Without love nothing can grow or flourish healthily and ultimately life will cease to exist. We must therefore rekindle and share our love. The more we do the more we will have untold treasures in our lives as well as never ending supply of love.

We can experience love in so many different ways – in our relationships, by being a mum or dad, by serving in the community. We are each given a different way to express and experience love and always in our working and relationships with other people.

Love in the past is simply a memory and love in the future is fantasy. Only in the reality of the present moment can we love, can

we awaken, can we find peace and understanding and connection with ourselves and the world.

Love is wisdom – and wisdom means awareness in the present moment. It means developing the capacity to understand at all times – to be sensitive to this situation, this person, unhindered by past habits and beliefs.

So often when we are confronted by a situation we dip back into our reservoir of habitual responses and so say "This is the way to treat A, or B, or C." What we think is love (ie relationships) is masquerading as an addiction. Enslaved by addictions, attachments, control, conditions, habits, negative emotions, limiting beliefs, projections, prejudice, judgements and labels – we are unable to see this present situation or person

for what they really and truly are.

Without these preconceptions the heart is undisturbed and when the heart is undisturbed, the result is love. To be wise we need the heart. In the heart lies freedom.

Extract from *The T Factor*  
by Andrew Hunter

Andrew Hunter Associates  
[www.benu.com/quest](http://www.benu.com/quest)

Every day  
practise  
random acts  
of kindness

## MODELLING YOURSELF ON OTHERS?



Your sights are set on having a figure to rival Elle Macpherson's - did you know that...

- there are 3 billion women who don't look like supermodels and only 8 who do?
- that twenty years ago models weighed 8% less than the average woman, compared with 23% today?
- or that if shop mannequins were real women they'd be too thin to menstruate?
- and models who appear in magazines are often airbrushed? - they're not so perfect.

Don't even think about it! A psychological study in 1995 found that 3 minutes spent looking at models in a fashion magazine caused 70% of women to experience depression, guilt and shame!

Perhaps you prefer the big bazoomas look, anyhow. Well, just remember that if Barbie were a real woman she'd have to walk on all fours on account of her proportions!

So the bimbo image never crossed your mind? You have something more akin to tortoiseshell glasses and an air of academia about you, right? Well in that case you'll want to know that one in four women of college age has an eating disorder!

Okay, you've finally decided. You're going to be realistic and become Miss Average. In that case, perhaps you should know that she weighs in at 144 lbs and wears between a size 12 and 14? Now you're really depressed. Well, if Miss Average still seems like too much hard work, you can comfort yourself with the knowledge that Marilyn Monroe was a size 16. It never fails for me! Pass the chocolates, please - Ed. (with thanks to Laura [redacted])



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# MISS CROSSLYNX 1999



Crosslynx, the West of Scotland TV/TS support group, held it's annual 'Miss Crosslynx' competition at it's May meeting, providing all those young hopefuls wishing to follow in the footsteps of such illustrious queens as Tiffany [redacted] the opportunity to compete for the coveted title.

The Judges were Rosann Foy of Bodyline at Divine Beauty, and Pearl, an agent for a well-known mail order catalogue company.



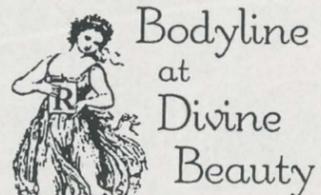
Both Judges agreed it was hard to decide on a winner but this year's honour went to Zoe who received a £10 gift voucher for Bodyline at Divine Beauty.

Zoe is overcome with emulsion!



Runner up in second place, Katie was presented with a £5 voucher, and Helen who took third place, received a bouquet of flowers.

Ruth Stewart



Toning Table & Beauty Salon

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## JAIME.

'Spend an hour - or stay the day  
 Fulfil your dreams in every way.  
 Eve and Lyn 'real girls' who care  
 Who make you up and do your hair  
 We fix your nails and sort your clothes  
 From stocking tops to panty hose.'

.....  
 We invite you in to our home which we share with our very own TV - 'Jaime'. So we do know and understand your needs. 'Jaime' has the total freedom to be herself at anytime, both inside and out. She too has known that terrible 'boxed in' feeling and now wants to share with you less fortunate girls, the ultimate pleasure of being totally girly without any embarrassment. So come on girls, - you can do it. Totally and for real in the warm friendly atmosphere of our home. Give us a call and we shall give you a date.

We can promise you a day to remember.....forever!

.....  
 Call now: 0831 [redacted] West Lothian, Central Scotland  
 Ask for Lyn, Eve or Jaime.



# Carolyn's Corner

SAVE £1,000s!  
 with a Do-It-Yourself Facelift

Have you ever wondered what you would look like with all those little lines and bags gone and a neater jaw, with less under your chin? You can at least approach the above with a technique called "Face Taping".

You'll need the following:-

Sticky tape (wide fabric elastoplast), or best of all Charles Fox's Kryolan Leukoflex (50 mm wide, knicker elastic and a pair of scissors.

- ◇ Cut the tape into 75 mm lengths
- ◇ Pierce holes 10 mm from the ends
- ◇ Pass a length of elastic through the holes and knot, leaving about 100 to 125 mm.
- ◇ Make sure your hair is clean and dry (surgical spirit works well), stick the tapes as shown, pressing firmly.
- ◇ Tie the ends in a bow up on top of your head or crown.

The elastic can be tightened further after a few minutes, making a huge difference to the look of your face.

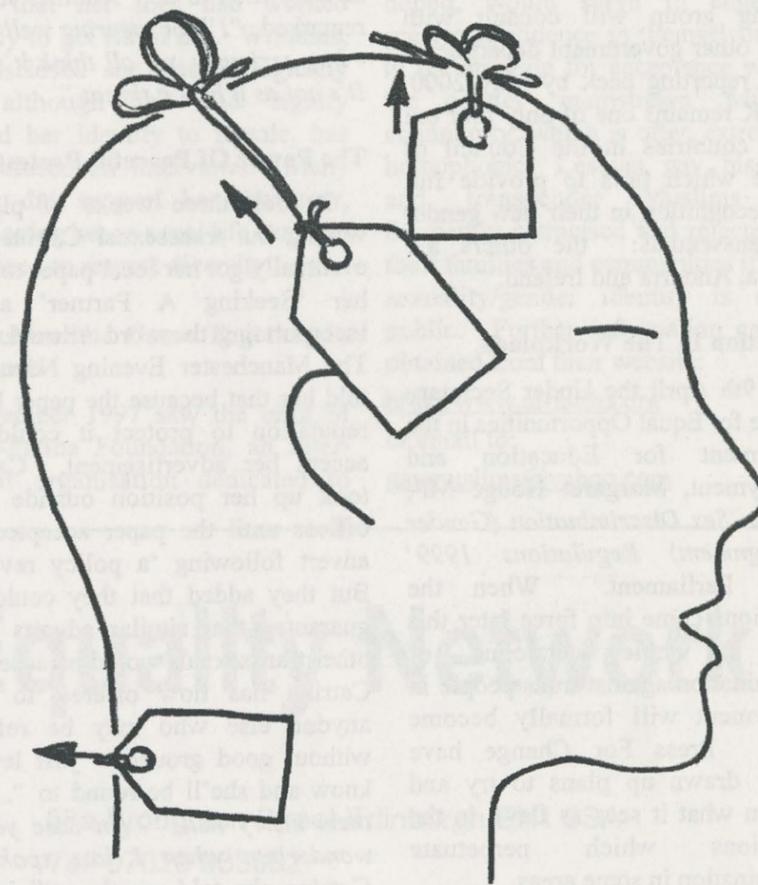
The tapes and elastic, if positioned carefully, are invisible under your wig. After a little

slippage, the tapes remain secure during your wildest, longest night out.

Removing is easy, and leaves no residue or lasting effect except for your normal slumped appearance!

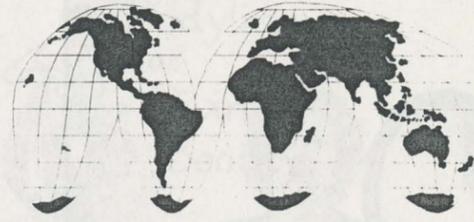
I've used this technique for some time now and standing in the Post Office queue it's family allowance they think I'm waiting for - not my pension!

Carolyn



# NEWS

## From Around The World...



### UNITED KINGDOM

#### Coming In From The Cold

On April 14th the Home Office announced that it is to set up a working group to examine certain issues relating to the status of transsexuals - birth certificates, marriages and passports - and that the working group will consult with twelve other government departments before reporting back by May 2000. The UK remains one of only four out of 39 countries in the Council of Europe which fails to provide full legal recognition in their new gender for transsexuals: the others are Albania, Andorra and Ireland.

#### Protection In The Workplace

On 9th April the Under Secretary of State for Equal Opportunities in the Department for Education and Employment, Margaret Hodge MP, laid the 'Sex Discrimination (Gender Reassignment) Regulations 1999' before Parliament. When the regulations come into force later this year, a whole catalogue of discrimination against trans people in employment will formally become illegal. Press For Change have already drawn up plans to try and overturn what it sees as flaws in the regulations which perpetuate discrimination in some areas.

#### Don Dons Woman's Clothes!

Oxford University has requested that lecturer Ian Ruffell should be addressed with a new name - Isobel. Ruffell, a visiting lecturer at the 658 year old college is undergoing gender reassignment and living in the opposite gender role. Professor Paul

Madden of Queen's College, who has offered students the chance to discuss possible changes to their tutorial schedule, said "None of the students have been to see me yet, but I expect some to." One fourth year classicist said, "We are right behind her. She has been wearing women's clothes in lectures for quite a while and we are all very used to it." Another student remarked, "I'll be steering well clear - but, seriously, we all think it's OK. It's not as if he's a threat."

#### The Power Of Peaceful Protest

It took three weeks of placard waving but transsexual Catrina Day eventually got her local paper to print her 'Seeking A Partner' advert incorporating the word 'transsexual'. The Manchester Evening News had told her that because the paper had a reputation to protect it could not accept her advertisement. Catrina took up her position outside their offices until the paper accepted her advert following 'a policy review'. But they added that they could not guarantee that similar adverts from other transsexuals would be accepted. Catrina has now offered to help anyone else who may be refused without good grounds - just let her know and she'll be round to "...give them merry hell!" [In case you're wondering, when I last spoke to Catrina she told me she still hadn't received any replies to her ad! - Ed]

#### Recognition!

Jan Morris, travel writer, was awarded a CBE in June, this year. Renowned for his account of the conquest of Mount Everest, James Morris subsequently underwent a sex change operation.

### THE VATICAN

#### Pontiff Pontificates On Perverse Policy Of Parental Approbation!

The Vatican has strongly criticised the decision by a court in Spain to give custody of an 11 year old girl to a transsexual. The girl's natural mother died when she was a year old and her father, who afterwards had been living with the transsexual in question, died two and a half years ago. The vatican called the decision repugnant, an insult to the institution of the family. It also said it resented the fact that many courts in the European Union appeared to be making similar decisions.

### CANADA

#### It's Official - A Man Can Have A Vagina!

A Canadian has won a precedent-setting legal battle to have his sex designation changed from female to male on his birth certificate. Quebec Superior Court heard that the 35 year old transsexual had undergone hormone treatment and surgical removal of breasts and ovaries. The Director of Civil Status had demanded, however, that it was necessary to have male sex organs constructed and have his vagina removed before being considered male. The man's lawyer contested these requirements, saying they were not required by law and were imposed arbitrarily. Canada's Civil Code allows for a change in sexual designation after 'medical interventions and surgical alterations' but without specifying what medical procedures were required. The case

was settled out of court after a two year fight, allowing the man to have his papers changed. The new criteria are to be officially adopted by the name-change bureau.

### UNITED STATES

#### Georgia Murder

Tracey Thomson, a 33 year old transgender died after being beaten to death in Wilcox County in the heart of rural Georgia, in March this year. Severely beaten and bleeding from head wounds, Tracey walked the half mile from the site of the incident to a nearby farmhouse for help before collapsing and being taken to hospital, dying soon afterwards. Authorities have not ruled out the possibility of hate motivation in the attack although the Bureau of Investigation revealed they had not yet eliminated her boyfriend from their enquiries, either. At least three other transgendered people have been murdered in the US so far this year in what activists believe to have been hate crimes.

#### Minnesota Music Teacher Bows To Orchestrated Pressure

A transgender music teacher has been forced to resign her post in the face of opposition from a number of

parents who are attempting to overturn Minnesota's anti-discrimination legislation which offers protection from unfair dismissal to transgender individuals in the workplace. Sandy Crawford, one of the parents, does not consider "a man in pantyhose" a role model for her daughters. Above all, she doesn't want the State of Minnesota protecting a teacher whose lifestyle she considers morally wrong. Together with several other parents she has enlisted the help of right-wing advocacy groups to try to remove the transgender clause from Minnesota's 1993 Human Rights Act. They've already won one victory - the transgender music teacher, Alyssa Williams, resigned in late February saying that her foes had worked tirelessly to get rid of her. Williams, who disclosed she was biologically male although she had legally changed her identity to female, has since refused all interviews. Many parents did support her, however, championing her as a real life example of the need to respect diversity.

#### LGBT Muslims Come Together in New York

November 1997 saw the birth of the Al-Fatiha Foundation, an international organisation dedicated to

LGBT Muslims. Al-Fatiha's goal is to provide a safe space and a forum for LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning) Muslims to communicate issues of common concern, share individual experience and institutional resources. By using their knowledge, faith in Islam and belief in Allah (God), the mission of Al-Fatiha Foundation is to help LGBTQ Muslims in reconciling their sexual orientation/gender identity with the religion of Islam. Following the success of meetings across the United States and Canada, in June this year Al-Fatiha held it's first North American Conference in New York City. More than 60 people attended the event which, it was hoped, would serve to engender greater confidence in themselves and in the struggle for acceptance within the greater 'mainstream' Muslim community, which is often extremely homophobic. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Muslims are frequently ostracised and rejected by their families and communities if their sexuality/gender identity is made public. Further information can be obtained from their website:

<http://www.al-fatiha.org>  
or email to:



## Equality Network

58a Broughton Street Edinburgh EH1 3SA

Tel 07020 [REDACTED]

Fax 07020 [REDACTED]

Web [www.diversity.org.uk/equality/](http://www.diversity.org.uk/equality/)

Email [REDACTED]

**Equality Network campaigns to remove the inequalities facing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the laws and institutions of Scotland**

## California's Department Of Correction Got It Wrong

A federal court in Sacramento has ruled that prison authorities had "denied, delayed and intentionally interfered with" the delivery of medical care for a transsexual inmate, Torey Tuesday South, and that she is entitled to a jury trial in order to ascertain damages. Ms South, who had been sentenced to five years imprisonment for theft, said, "I'm not gay. I'm not a drag queen. I just live as a woman."

## Compensation Award For Transsexual

A San Francisco jury awarded \$755,000 in damages in April this year to a transsexual who was strip searched in 1996 by sheriff's deputies to confirm her gender. Victoria Schneider said the strip search was unnecessary because deputies at the same jail had searched her after a 1993 arrest and determined she was a woman. She said she implored them to look at their records but they refused. Schneider was brought to the jail after being arrested for prostitution, although she was never charged. Initially booked as a male, she protested that she was a woman and said she feared for her safety if placed into a cell with men. Schneider said the city employees and other detainees had laughed and jeered her during the search.

## No Appeal For Killer

The Supreme Court has declined to hear the appeal of John Lotter who was convicted of the 1993 murders of female-to-male transgender Brandon Teena (aka Teena Ray Brandon), Philip Devine and Lisa Lambert, in Nebraska. The judges indicated that the death penalty was merited. Lotter's accomplice Marven Nissan, who testified against him, is serving a life sentence. The two men had beaten and raped Teena after discovering her to be a cross-dressing woman, and then killed her friends for having witnessed the murder.

## BRAZIL

### Fit For A Queen

Police in the Brazilian City of Salvador de Bahia cleaned up the streets for the weekend visit of Denmark's Queen Margrethe by locking up 18 transvestites. Arrested on the Friday and held until the Monday, they said the police told them they were being arrested because of the visit. Police have since admitted the detentions were illegal, but say they are investigating local thefts allegedly carried out by transvestites.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Apartheid By Any Other Name Stinks Just As Much

The small religious community of Nigel, near Springs, is divided over Jan Nel's decision to undergo a sex change. Now known as Benne-Dean, she dresses as a woman and carries an ID book which shows her name change. She takes feminising hormones and is currently trying to raise the R30,000 needed for her surgery. Because of the persecution she has experienced, Benne-Dean is resolved to help others in a similar situation. "There are a lot of real suicides among transsexuals, but I've decided that if I can survive the change in this place, anyone can," she said. Like the community, her family is split. Her father holds that "God does not make mistakes like that."

## IRAN

### ... the punishment fit the crime.

A 22 year old man has been given twenty lashes of the whip in a conservative religious city for wearing make-up.

## BAHRAIN

### ... and changed into a prince.

An unhappy ending could await

one princess if she ever returned home. Princess Latifa of Bahrain is the niece of one of the most powerful men in the Middle East, King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa. Latifa, or Taff as he now calls himself, takes testosterone and dresses in the men's clothes he has felt drawn to since he was a small child. Now resident in the UK, Taff could face the death penalty by stoning should he return to Bahrain, the punishment under Islamic law for being considered homosexual.

## THAILAND

### There's No T In TV

Thailand's Department of Public Relations has ordered the suppression of transgendered characters and entertainers in television programming. The directive seeks to "prevent innocent youngsters from imitating unfavourable examples." Apparently Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai has been inundated with complaints about television shows that "promote sexual abnormalities."

## JAPAN

### Gender Reassignment Surgery Continues To Gain Recognition As A Medical Treatment Option

Following Japan's first female-to-male surgical reassignment last October in Saitama Medical College Hospital, a male-to-female operation was carried out in June on a 38 year old medical worker. The team was led by Professor Takao Harashina who explained that the ethics committee of the college approved the operation on the basis that no other procedure would improve the patient's gender identity crisis. He added that such operations are still deemed unacceptable by Japanese society and are not covered by medical insurance. The college has estimated that one in 100,000 women and one in 30,000 men experience incongruity between their gender

identity and their anatomical sex. Based on these figures, there are undoubtedly many Japanese individuals with a desire to express their lives as members of the opposite sex.

## AUSTRALIA

### Playing through...

Mianne Bagger, 32, has won the South Australia amateur title in her sport - golf. Born a male in Denmark, Mianne had surgery seven years ago. While the victory has generated some controversy, it has been endorsed by golfing officials who were aware of her background and who encouraged her to continue playing.

### Meeting For Equal Rights

According to the story which appeared in the Melbourne Star Observer, a meeting to discuss the formation of a new advocacy group, Victorian Transgender Rights Lobby, was to have been held on 26th April, in Prahran. Sally Goldner, spokesperson for the group, said that transgendered people are not covered by current equal opportunity legislation, and that this situation was the basis of the identified need for a political lobbying group. "It is also important because it will help us address a suicide rate of 30% in our community and an unemployment rate of 60%", Goldner said.

### Serv(ice)ing The Community!

A transsexual and former brothel madam has won a council seat in the Western Australia town of Kalgoorlie-Boulder. Leigh Varis-Beswick grew up in the goldfields city in the 50s and 60s as a male and returned, nearly twenty years later, as a female. The 49 year old says she wants to give something back to her home town. While accepting that being the madam of a brothel is not the usual background experience for entering politics, she didn't see it as a handicap either. [I reckon we get screwed by our politicians, anyhow! Ed]



# WE WERE THERE!

## PRIDE SCOTLAND

19th July 1999

Roz [redacted] reporting



It was a bit grey and dismal when we piled into the minibus outside the Glasgow Gay and Lesbian Centre. There was a buzz of excitement, however, as this was the annual celebration of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender communities. We were getting together to strut our stuff in this year's march through Edinburgh's city centre. The celebrations would continue thereafter at the Meadows.

The bus was soon speeding along the M8, the smells of the previous night's stale booze and fags blending nicely with the mixed aromas of the driver's KFC chicken and bio yogurt. Tiffany remarked knowingly of the yoghurt, "It's good for thrush," - for the benefit of the less ornithologically minded.

We arrived in good time, dropping our happy gang at the start of the march. A few of us went on to the Meadows to park the minibus for a fast getaway at the end of the day. Tiffany disappeared into the 'Ladies' to get





changed, returning soon after in her new cheerleader outfit. Much fluffing up of pompons had been carried out previously on the bus. As she jumped into the air we were given a rehearsal of her routine, arms and legs wildly thrashing through the air as she let forth with

***"T-S-T-V-we-are-who-we-want-to-be!"***

The 'Pink Pompons Cheerleaders' had just been launched and a middle aged chap in the corner choked on his beer! The Pink Pompons are now recruiting in your area. Previous experience not essential.

The theme for this year's march was 'Diversity' and was led by eminent politicians, all of whom I didn't recognise. Official estimations put the numbers at 4500 marchers plus 6500 joining at the festival watched by a further 1000.

We snaked up Leith Walk and on to Princes Street, with the sound of the girl drummer bands pounding in our ears. Several floats headed the procession and I personally think it would be a great idea to have our own for next year - high heels and cobbled streets do not make for an easy life!

The 'diversity' theme was reflected in the many different groups and organisations on the march - gays, lesbians, Goths, S&M, M&S, TV and TS. The crowds were very friendly and happily smiled and waved back

to us. Cars and lorries on route tooted loudly as occasional mild showers of rain descended upon us. Increasing gusts of wind were evidenced by Zara's umbrella doing several reversals in quick succession, as we walked quietly past the Royal Infirmary and into the Meadows and the Festival site.

After a quick coffee we were off exploring all the interesting tents. Tom Robinson was doing a session in the Diversity tent, his distinctive vocal style easily recognizable, and everyone enjoying his acoustic set. On the main stage, the usual ABBA-esque bands were Mama Mia-ing and the crowd were loving it.

By now the rain was becoming torrential and the only escape was under cover at a tent. The women's tent was very busy and it was great seeing some old friends and exchanging gossip. The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence were visited, with the usual reverence accorded. They were, of course, pissed as farts. We had to hold on to the frame of their puny enclosure to prevent the wind blowing it up Arthur's Seat.

We ended up in the Diversity tent where we, as a group, were given the opportunity to tell our stories. Julia, Tiffany and Ruth put forward the ideology of our community elegantly and then the platform was opened up for questions from the floor. "Show us your tits" and "Where do you hide your willie?" were, of course, the customary opening questions.

The festival site was gradually becoming a mud bath as the rain continued to pour. We made our way back to the minibus and a sleepy journey home, ending the day with a tasty buffet in the GLC when we arrived. I think overall it was a successful day and the celebration of diversity, a great theme. Our small but easily recognised presence is an important part of the Pride march and I would recommend it to you. Come and join us next year.

Roz



## PRIDE SCOTLAND

19th July 1999

Zara Strange reporting

The weather was as forecast - wet, windy and cold. Apart from that, everything was great. The centre of Edinburgh was brought to a complete standstill and the welcome by shoppers, tourists, etc. was genuine and warm - even those whose cars were held up by the march. I saw no animosity towards any of us at all.

Because of the weather, all the tents were full to overflowing. There was enough of the transgender community for it to be spread around the men's area, the women's area and the diversity area! I must be getting old because the sheer volume of sound sent me rushing



back out the dance tent.

Reach Out Highland's Julia Gordon had taken a stall\* in the Diversity Area and was selling The Tartan Skirt, distributing information leaflets, including those of the Beaumont Society and Press For Change, and dealing with enquiries from concerned and inquisitive individuals.

Julia did an impromptu presentation with Tiffany and Ruth Stewart, and was rewarded with the promise of more opportunity for greater participation at next year's Pride.

The transgender community was represented by a good number of MTF (male to female) transsexuals, group organisers, including a member of WOBS, folk from MAST and lots of really happy cross dressers. I have to say I was very impressed by the welcome and support from the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual communities - thanks very much.

Zara

*[\* My sincere thanks to everyone who helped me look after the stall and who helped make the day such an enjoyable one, despite the weather. In particular, Zara, Roz, Tiffany and my daughter Amy whose participation on the day was, additionally, a tremendous source of personal pride and joy - Ed]*



**PRIDE SCOTLAND** was founded in 1994/95 and aims to create a focus through which the lesbians, gay men, bi-sexuals and transgendered people of Scotland can project their unity, diversity, dignity and fundamental right to universal equality.

It is a voluntary organisation run by a number of directors and coordinators who organise the annual Pride Scotland march and festival, and take the message of Pride Scotland out into the community. By visiting groups around the country as part of its outreach work, Pride Scotland ensures that LGBT communities are listened to and their expectations met. It also has a dedicated health team looking after the interests of the LGBT communities when decisions are being made for us by other bodies and which is active in publicising information via the Pride Scotland festival on health issues such as safer sex, diet, alcohol and mental health.

Pride Scotland has an open and free membership and welcomes anyone and everyone to get involved. As a voluntary organisation its survival is ensured by people giving generously of their time and money in order to work together and make Pride Scotland a reality year after year.

You can get in touch with Pride Scotland by contacting their Glasgow or Edinburgh offices, or send them an email at [redacted] or, for more information, check out their website at [www.pridescotland.org/contact.htm](http://www.pridescotland.org/contact.htm)

**Edinburgh Office:**  
Pride Scotland  
58a Broughton Street  
Edinburgh EH1 3SA  
Tel/Fax: 0131- [redacted]

**Glasgow Office:**  
Pride Scotland  
Glasgow Gay & Lesbian Centre  
11 Dixon Street  
Glasgow G1 4AL

# 'LATE FLYTE' Takes Off...



Andrea Brown, Dr Susan Carr and Ruth Stewart appear on BBC Choice's late night discussion programme, Late Flyte.

A while back, the Tartan Skirt came to the aid of Mairi Damer, a researcher for BBC CHOICE, in helping her locate willing participants for one of their 'Late Flyte' television programmes looking at transgender issues. The programme entitled 'Transgender Agenda' went out on the 14th April and was presented by Lindsay Hill. The guests were Ruth Stewart, Scottish Regional Officer for the Beaumont Society and Crosslynx support group coordinator, Andrea Brown and Dr. Susan Carr from the Glasgow Centre for Family Planning and Sexual Health.

Ruth spoke to everybody after the show for their thoughts and comments.

Mairi Damer: "We'd had an idea to do a programme about transgenderism for a few months and as the result of a letter sent to the Tartan Skirt we were able to get in touch with Ruth, Andrea and Dr. Susan Carr. This morning we had a quick chat over a cup of coffee and I felt confident that everyone was comfortable with the shape of the programme, happy in the thought that it wasn't 'Zoo TV'. The programme itself went very well after the initial first five minutes of 'settling in'. Considering transgenderism is an extensive subject, I thought we managed to cover a lot of basics in the short time we had. The conversation flowed extremely well and I was very satisfied with the programme at the end. I believe I am involved in making programmes that allow serious subjects to be dealt with properly".

Lindsay Hill: "I think that was, being perfectly honest, one of the programmes I enjoyed doing the most. It went very smoothly, everyone talked very easily and interacted well. It's a fascinating topic. For example, one of the things brought out in the programme was that each of us, regardless of sexuality or gender, exists at some point on a spectrum. My hope is that the programme treated your situation in an intelligent way and helped break down some of the barriers and prejudice you face given the lack of understanding by a public all too quick to jump to conclusions. I'd like to wish you all the best with the Tartan Skirt - it's a great magazine. I enjoyed it. In fact, can you put me on your mailing list, please?"

And from the girls themselves:

Andrea: "I found it a very positive experience. It gave us the chance to put over our points of view in a serious way".

Ruth: "It was a very positive show - not at all sensational. This gave us the chance to look that bit deeper beneath the surface".

[I'd like to thank Ruth Stewart for sending me a BBC Choice videorecording of the programme. This has been added to the Transgender Resource at Reach Out Highland and can be made available to other support groups, etc. on request. Ed]



If you learn only one thing in this lifetime, let it be this...

**You are responsible for creating your own happiness.**

Bartholomew

We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.

It is not just in some of us: it's in everyone.

And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.

As we are liberated from our own fears, our presence automatically liberates others.

Nelson Mandela  
1994 Inaugural Speech

"You can't change what you're born with, can you?"



"There is still a widespread misunderstanding of the counselling process which is revealed in various ways, most noticeably by the belief that unless the counsellor is of the same gender or orientation as the client, they are unable to understand the issues involved."

Sue [redacted]  
Reach Out Highland

[Sue also works as a counsellor with Couple Counselling.]

Counselling is a term that can often raise hackles, with people seeming to fall into two groups - those that believe it is the answer to everything - and those who think it is at best, a total waste of time and at worst, self-indulgent navel gazing.

**The reality is that people make different use of counselling.**

A social worker was surprised to discover that talking to me about difficulties at work helped put them into perspective. She had asked for advice, but I had not given her any. I had helped her to tell me what was happening, and to take it seriously, without the need for pretence. She had explained why she felt trapped and threatened by a client and in the process of doing this, had reached a clarity and understanding that had previously eluded her. She was thus enabled to find a way forward.

It is surprising how often a process that sounds so easy escapes us, as our heads become muddled with unexpressed fears and anxieties, usually relating more to past times and events than to the present situation.

**Most of us have little practice in taking our own thoughts and feelings seriously - and less belief that we have any right to do so.**

Often, when people are continually tired, an underlying reason can be the effort it takes to keep down troubling emotions as we try to cope with life the way we feel we should. Frightening feelings about not being loved, about attracting disapproval, of being out of control, are hard to endure. The result is that thoughts and feelings never get explored to a conclusion, or to a point when we feel capable of taking action.

Counselling creates a space, free from the pressure of others, where we can allow ourselves to unpack the jumble in our heads, throw away the exaggerated fears and look more realistically at what remains. The



'jumble' usually shrinks with exposure, and can be better held 'in storage', less likely to create difficulties in our lives.

Counselling can give us the opportunity to recognise and grieve for losses we have suffered, to take them seriously, and so let go of them more completely. Loss can be as much about what we ourselves may have surrendered in order to arrive at our position today, as about the way relationships with others change with the passage of time.

**Many of the ways we deal with others are unproductive because we are defending ourselves against further loss.**

Talking about our loss to someone who is not personally involved can make a big difference to the way in which we handle the loss and to the way we relate to others in our lives. Worries about the future are often difficult to share with those closest to us, as we seek to protect them. It is easier to think through all the feared consequences with someone who is not directly involved.

**Counselling does not solve every situation in life.**

It will not transform our gender or orientation, nor will it give us uncomplicated sexuality, but it can help us accept who we are in radically different ways which enable us to give pleasure and support to those around us as we live our lives more constructively.

Sue [redacted]

# Our Forgotten History

## KING ASHURBANIPAL AND HIS QUEEN ASHURSHARRAT

**A**shurbanipal, King of Assyria circa 668 BCE, was a fierce and powerful protector of his people.

As a method of terrifying adversaries, so the legend goes, Ashur and his queen, Ashursharrat, hung newly severed heads of enemies on trees in a garden where visitors were provided locusts dipped in honey to munch on. Ashur also was a gender variant. He wore women's clothes, used make up, and talked in a higher range to simulate the voice of a female. Historians, with no evidence other than their own aversion have assumed that Queen Ashur found this practice disgusting. History is too often little more than a reflection of the jaded perspectives of those who write it. In actuality, Queen Ashur appears to have been madly in love with her gender variant husband.

Some historians, in the presence of direct evidence that the King had mastered mathematics and scribal skills with extreme ease and was held to be a different category of human being, dispute the claim on the basis that tales of great leaders are often exaggerated. Perhaps, but sometimes tales are exaggerated and sometimes they are not. If Ashur wasn't a bit on the brilliant side and academically inclined, what possessed him to create the first systematically gathered and organized library, a collection of 30,000 clay tablets? If his perceptions of a connectedness to the future are mere myth then why the inscription on the library, "For the sake of distant days"?

The library, the royal palace, and other government and religious buildings displayed extraordinary statuary, fine metalwork, and exquisite ivories, by order of the King. In the buildings and outside were also immense stone reliefs carved with scenes of warfare, court life, royal hunts, and mythological beings. Many were sexually explicit, suggesting a much different view of sex than that of today. Today these artworks, those that weren't destroyed outright, are kept under wraps as being improper for the general populace to see. Some depict same sex love making, while others depict delicate and beautiful women with male penises.

The various objects and treasures are in many styles including those of Babylon, Sumeria, Egypt, Phoenicia, and Syria, as well as a few native Assyrian



pieces. King Ashurbanipal, was an avid collector of aesthetics and knowledge. The last and greatest of Assyrian monarchs, he built roads linking the cities of his empire together. These roads not only increased trade and commerce, but provided his troops quick access to distant parts of the empire to subdue and quash rebel uprisings. He also put in place a highly organized mail service, carrying messages back and forth between him and his governors.

In addition to his inclination toward academics and the arts he was a brilliant strategist and a ferocious conqueror. The Assyrians achieved their greatest territorial expansion under his command. Babylonia, Persia, Syria, and Egypt were part of his domain.

When the sculptures, reliefs, and tablets were discovered by Austen Henry Layard, a British adventurer and archeologist, they generated enormous excitement. Here was a sophisticated material culture predating classical Greece by centuries, tucked safely away and waiting to be discovered. What is overlooked is that this massive collection was not preserved by chance alone, but because of the vision of Ashurbanipal and he spelled it out, "For the sake of distant days." All this and pretty dresses too.

There is a message here for those with open minds and hearts to see.

Laura Darlene Lansberry

## A Legend of the Great King, his Queen, and of his Final Days:

"My Love," whispered the Great King of Assyria, his long hair blowing against his face, ruby painted lips full and sensuous in the moon glow of an early morning. Standing on a small vessel with a single sail, Ashur's ancient eyes turned toward the heavens "You need not take this voyage with me. It's not your strength that wanes."

"I have been with you from the beginning, my heart. I could not bear to part from you at the end," answered Queen Ashursharrat, "besides, your hands tremble with age. Who would do your makeup in the after life if I remained behind?"

"You have been the light of my life, more fundamental to me than the lands I have conquered and the cities I have built. Even my libraries and my museums have little meaning now. Only our love endures, our monument to an unknown time that is yet to come," softly spoke Ashur, his words a caress.

"You are like no other that has ever lived. Our people call you a god, a god woman, he who walks in two worlds. You have offered us art and music from distant lands and taught us to appreciate knowledge. It wasn't always so! Remember the early days? Newly severed heads hanging in our garden lest our people think us spineless? I remember, and there were much worse things. Cities sacked, woman and children put to the sword, and all who remained relocated into other regions of the empire. How the soldiers cheered you, Ashur the Irresistible, they called you in those days. We went forth and we conquered. We took the spoils and built a kingdom unlike any other that has ever been or ever will be."

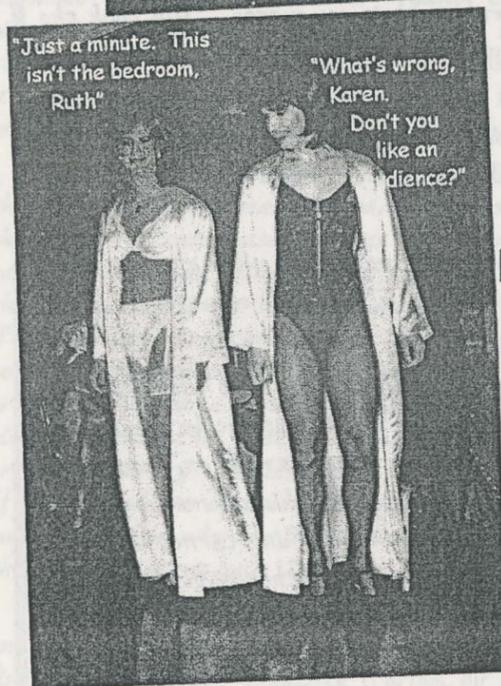
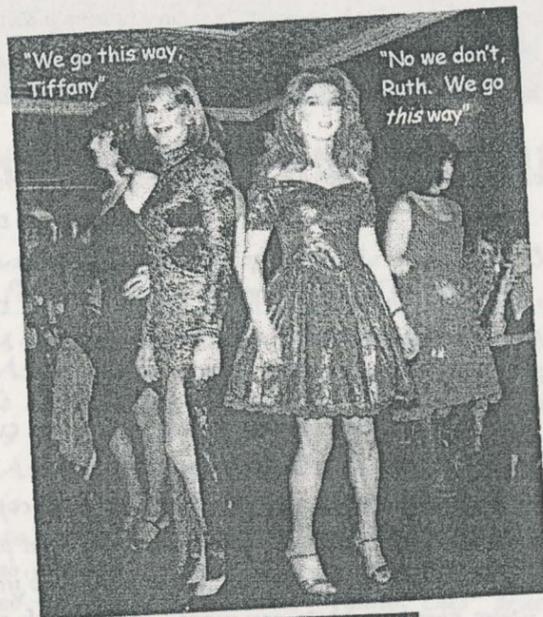
"Hmmm," mumbled the aging monarch, "not true, my pretty queen. We are but the beginning. I have had dreams of worlds to come. Strange places with extraordinary people coming and going, doing things that baffle and confuse me even in my slumber. Still, they are a comfort. In my heart I know that life goes on. We leave a legacy like none before have left."

"Your dreams have always frightened me," replied the Queen, her eyes wide and tinged with apprehension. Drawing her robes around her she starts to climb on board the funeral barge. "I have never understood the things you speak of when you tell me of times to come."

"They don't matter now. My time for dreams has ended and my time for life. My mind dims with age and my limbs no longer course with strength. I would not have my people see me become feeble minded and weak of limb. Come with me, then, if that is your desire. Let us begin our last voyage together," announced Ashur, stretching out an aged yet still firm hand for the Queen. Reaching out for his offered hand, she grasped it and almost effortlessly he drew her into the craft. Drawing anchor the King turned to a few trusted confidantes and servants on the shore, brought to witness his departure. His other wives were also there. They too had wished to come with him. Providing each with a modest endowment to provide for their survival, he denied them. Moist eyes from all present watched as the ship began to move away into the light from a dawning sun. He called to them one last time, "My friends, my wives, my servants. We have done well. Remember this ... we have passed on a legacy for distant days. The world is a better place for what we have wrought. Hold your heads high and when your time comes, as it has for me and my queen, die with dignity."

Then, laying down with his Queen on their death bed they drifted further and further from the coast. A few minutes passed, the ship becoming no more than a small black object on the horizon. Suddenly it began to twinkle and sparkle, appearing much like sunlight hitting a diamond. The sparkling quickly turned to flames and the flames begin to reach into the sky. Slowly, ever so slowly, the small craft was consumed and when the flames died down, nothing remained. King Ashurbanipal and Queen Ashursharrat passed from the land of the living into the night of the dead. But they did not die in vain, for a part of them, whether known or acknowledged, continues on in these, those distant days.

# Fash Bash at the Minto



Lorraine's  
'behind the scene'  
report...



The success of the Christmas meal and disco motivated me to plan something special for the Hide and Sleek Spring bash. I come up with what I thought was a wonderful idea... a fashion show.

So with six of the best looking girls in Scotland we set off for rehearsals at my local community centre, with the assistance of my sister Linda giving valuable advice on the art of walking to the beat. Ruthie insisted on wearing her platforms with 7" heels, quickly admitting "I can't walk fast in these" and was terrified she was going to be asked to look 'effeminate'. As if.

Over the coming weeks everyone got to grips with the music and the routines, credit to all the models for the time and effort they put in to get everything just right.

The due date arrived and everyone gathered at the hotel to get ready, Gary on hand to apply everyone's make up. I think most were a little nervous as the reality hit them... this is not just another rehearsal. As the first guests arrived they had to negotiate their way through a lively bunch of lads on a stag weekend, but they were all good natured, if somewhat bemused.

Gary completed faces with his usual speed (and wit) until Jennifer, who had been the model at the Edinburgh group meeting, came through and asked for a 'touch up'. "I beg your pardon" came the reply. "Will you touch up my lippy?" she innocently requested.

Ruthie forgot one small detail of her grooming routine but was saved by the helpful Gina who did some last minute plucking!!! After some dancing and the buffet cleared away, everyone dashed through to get ready... except Ruthie, who said "IT WILL ONLY TAKE ME TWO MINUTES". Now all who know Ruthie will know just how absurd that statement was.

Soon all six gorgeous models were standing in the hallway waiting for their modelling debuts to begin. Everything went really well with Catherine and I watching bits of the show... then running to help the girls change. Most shows have mishaps and I thought mine would happen in the fun section which had the greatest number of changes, especially for Tiffany who had to remove all signs of the sexy blonde in lingerie to a flat chested, teat sucking little girl. But no. It all passed off uneventfully, at least until I tried to zip Louise into one of my cocktail creations. I burst the second zip of my entire career, the first being in the same dress at the second fitting! She obviously wasn't meant to wear that dress. Luckily, we had a back up and Louise slipped into her figure hugging bias cut number and looked so gorgeous I forgot my disappointment.

All too soon it was time for the finale and I was tempted to hide under the voluminous blue ballgown. On second thoughts, all six models and I would have fitted under it! Well... what do you expect? Big girl... big dress.

Each new event that Hide and Sleek puts together attracts more girls and admirers. We would like to thank all the models, all the folk who helped in one way or another leading up to and on the day, and also the hotel staff who, as usual, were excellent.

Our next event is on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November this year. Details of this can be found elsewhere in the Tartan Skirt, or give me a ring at Hide and Sleek on 01592 [redacted]

Lorraine [redacted]

Photographs  
by Trudi Lorrette

<http://members.tripod.com/~Trudi2/index.html>

# birthrights and nursery crimes

by Juliet

*It takes shrinks to expand your subconscious when the bigots have pretty small minds  
For the victims of dark antecedents there are birthrights and nursery crimes*

*No one's looking for logic or answers, they want statements in black and in white  
There's a minefield of crisp definitions in this battle of loudest is right*

*It's not wise for a boy to be clever but unheard of to let the girls win  
Is he worshipping natural beauty, or exploring original sin?*

*He may always achieve what they ask for and conform in his manners and dress  
But no child can exceed expectations when his elders demand nothing less*

*The ambiguous voices that mock you, will insist that you say what you feel  
then they'll stamp on these fragile possessions as a sign of the power they wield.*



## TURN IT AROUND!

*Don't you just get fed up with being asked about your life? Why do you do it? When did it start?... and so on. I know I do. The next time you feel pressured into satisfying someone's curiosity produce a copy of the HETEROSEXUAL QUESTIONNAIRE ... and go on the offensive!*

- 1. What do you think caused your heterosexuality?*
- 2. When did you first realise you were a heterosexual?*
- 3. Have you told anyone about your heterosexuality? How did they react?*
- 4. Why do heterosexuals place so much importance on sex?*
- 5. Why are heterosexuals so promiscuous?*
- 6. The great majority of child molesters are heterosexual (95%). Do you really think it's OK to allow them access to children?*
- 7. If heterosexuality is normal, why are there so many as patients in mental hospitals?*
- 8. Since there seem to be very few happy heterosexuals, wouldn't you like to be able to change your behaviour? There are procedures available.*
- 9. Why do you insist on being so obvious and making a public spectacle of your heterosexuality? Can't you just be what you are and keep it quiet?*

*Adapted from Rochlin, M. (1992) in W. J. Blumenfeld (ed.), Homophobia: How We All Pay The Price, MA: Beacon Press.*

# London Pride 99

A report of the day's events - by Susan



I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Pride march in London on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July. Having attended on two previous occasions I was greatly looking forward to this year's event and perhaps renewing old acquaintances.

some rather un-ladylike clambering over barriers (thank goodness I was wearing slacks) I joined the group who quickly took up their assigned position in the march.

Soon, to the deafening sound of whistles, the march was off, causing

passed, as is the tradition, the noise level increased to an almost deafening level. Soon we arrived at the Houses of Parliament and shortly thereafter we were forced into side streets as the march was dispersed.

The group of transgender folk congregated on the steps of the Department of Transport where we chatted and then said our farewells. A few intended to head for the festival at Finsbury Park in North London, some distance away, which necessitated a trip by tube. Leaving Finsbury Park station the crowds filled the pavements, spilling onto the road with good humoured police on foot and horseback trying their best.



Leaving the underground, the crowds streaming from the station made it evident that a large turn out could be expected. Arriving at Hyde Park, I was heartened to feel the sun beating down. I went with the flow and soon arrived at the starting point. Not having been brave enough to wear my *Transsexual Menace* T-shirt on the tube on the way across I sought out a loo to change.

Suitably attired, I went looking for the Press for Change banner which I despaired of finding. Whilst doing so I saw many people dressed in a flamboyant manner who were not shy of displaying their feelings. With the start of the march rapidly approaching I was relieved to spot a small group at one side with the PRESS FOR CHANGE banner. After



traffic chaos due to roads being closed for reasons of safety. The pavements were lined with people, including the occasional drag queen, and passengers on open-topped tour buses waved and cheered. The atmosphere was superb as the march slowly made its way round Hyde Park Corner and then along Piccadilly heading for Piccadilly Circus, past Trafalgar Square then on to Whitehall. As Downing Street was

A special mention must be made of the seven year old son of a marcher who gamely walked all the way. Once inside the festival site I gave in and let him have a piggy back - big girl me!

If the opportunity to feel proud of who you are is of interests, try to make the trip next year. I know you won't be disappointed.

Susan

# I AM NOTHING - WITHOUT CLOTHES

Colette

Isn't life strange? We are led to believe that we live in a largely heterosexual world where men are men and women are... well, what they want to be. Mothers, with certain exceptions, instinctively shepherd their sons from an early age into masculine habits and pursues if the son shows a preference for things feminine - persuading him, "it's not for little boys."

What confuses me is that whereas the young boy is steered away from cuddling Barbie, he is positively encouraged to play with Action Man. Does that sound healthy to you? In later life the dressing, or worse still, the undressing, of a real Action Man look-alike by what is now a young man, is positively discouraged and in most circles considered an abomination. The tables have turned and now the same young man can cuddle a Barbie look-alike till the cows come home. (I think most of the cows must have homes as I have yet to see one selling The Big Issue.) So nobody bats an eyelid at him playing with this blonde bombshell, except perhaps Barbie who may be fighting for her virginity.

Is it me or is that weird?

I just can't get my head around this distinction and I believe it's very much a human characteristic. Dogs are different as they sniff each other with no prejudices and nobody gives a hoot.

Trannies are just a bit different. Ok then, a lot different. 'Clothes maketh man,' or so the saying goes. But I believe this has been bastardized and shortened from the original, which probably went something like, 'clothes maketh man into woman.'

Again our mothers have a lot to answer for, bless them. We were scolded when caught trying on female attire (OK, some of us might have been in our 30s at the time!) However, come a family wedding and the urgent need for a pageboy, then we could be dressed up in frills galore, and possibly even the kilt. Why these double standards?

As trannies we stand out (some more than others) and are recognized for what we are. What are we anyway? Those of us old enough to have 'got some in' will



remember the phrase, 'Stand and be recognized'. Well, we stand out whether standing, walking or sitting! And let's face it, most of us love it. Being noticed, I mean. Oh come off it, we do. I know I do, most definitely, and I'm a shy little thing. Yes I did say little... and shy. I just can't help it.

Others of all sexes can disguise their sexual preferences beneath their attire and give no hint of how they swing. However to the uninformed and uninitiated, trannies give the impression that because they wear female clothes they are gay or bisexual, and certainly a proportion are, as in any other section of humanity.

I have no problem with how the public sees me as I don't feel strongly that how I'm judged by them is all that important. Let's face it, Joe Public, in the main, can be stupid and ignorant. Am I being unkind and harsh? I don't think so. You only have to watch five minutes of that television programme, 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire' to realize this is the case. The two contestants I saw were unbelievable, and I feared for the future of the country if they were typical. Later, when I saw the viewing figures, I just *knew* that the country was doomed... yes, doomed. Oh yes, I know you only watched it because *you* couldn't believe it either. Why is it everyone I've asked has given the same reply!

Perhaps it's me. I know I'm old and computer illiterate, but at least I don't wear an anorak. Mind you, I did spot a very nice one recently in a pretty pink with blue and lemon flowers, although the roundel on the back was a little off-putting, I must say ...

End

# SNAP - quietly progressing



The Scottish Needs Assessment Programme (SNAP) set up a multi-disciplinary group in 1997 to provide an overview of transsexualism in Scotland. SNAP is a public health organisation established to assist Scottish Health Boards in carrying out their required task of health needs assessment.

Their main objectives in this instance were:

- to describe the prevalence and incidence of gender dysphoria in Scotland
- to describe the clinical needs of transsexuals
- to review the current service provision
- to make recommendations to purchasers for optimum, ethical care.

The following is Zara's account of the seminar held by the Group at Stirling Royal Infirmary on 29th April 1999.

After a warm welcome by Dr Susan Carr, Consultant at the Glasgow Centre for Family Planning & Sexual Health, several very informative presentations were made by speakers including Dr Phil Wilson (GP & Research Fellow, Department of General Practice, University of Glasgow), Dr Caroline Dobson (Clinical Psychologist, Craig Dunain Hospital, Inverness), Dr Tad Baecker (Consultant Psychiatrist, Craig Dunain Hospital, Inverness), Linda Chapman (Speech & Language Therapist, Glasgow Royal Infirmary), Mr Trevor Crofts (Consultant Surgeon, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh) and our very own Ailsa Spindler.

Amongst the participative audience were members of local transgender support groups and MAST (Motivation and Support for Transsexuals).

Of the 300 questionnaires previously sent out to transsexuals only 74 were returned whereas the medical professions managed between 72% (psychiatry) and 100% (Family Planning and Speech Therapy). Nobody asked the question that was certainly on my lips - *do we want help? or are we happy to take what is on offer?*

The full results of the survey will be published at a later date.

The specialists were very frank and on the whole, positive - except perhaps the representative of one Public Health Department of a Local Health Authority, who had responsibility for financing our treatment. He was careful, however, not to project too negative an image and did not put forward any arguments against the public funding of transsexuals' treatment.

Mr Crofts, who has worked with Mr Dalrymple at Charing Cross, was very clear regarding the viability of surgery anywhere in Scotland. With the present number of operations being carried out on Scottish patients, there was grave doubt that a specialist would be able to financially justify the setting up of a specialist team and also whether there would be a sufficient number of operations to maintain the high standards required for this complex surgery. The location of such a unit also posed problems, should it be in the Central Belt, should it be rural or city centre, and should it be in the NHS or within a private facility?

This led on to the problems experienced when referrals are made to Charing Cross, the team there usually being unwilling to accept the diagnosis of our own specialists, which results in the patient possibly having to undergo a

whole new round of lengthy and difficult assessment.

Clearly some system needs to be set up whereby hospitals and surgeons offering GRS (Gender Reassignment Surgery) are both able and willing to accept referrals from specialists outwith their own area.

Whilst during the morning many more questions were raised than answered, the afternoon session was organised into two workshops where proposals to improve the service, from the perspective of all provider and user groups, were discussed.

Eventually, once all the information has been carefully collated and analysed by the SNAP administration team (Jackie Gregan), it will be submitted to the Scottish Office.

In time to come, with a bit of luck and a lot of pushing by Dr Susan Carr and others who have a caring interest in us [*and ourselves - Ed*], the transgender community will see a move towards an acceptable standard of care in Scotland.

After all that hard work, there was just time for a glass of chilled white wine at a street café in downtown Stirling. It's amazing what a little bit of alcohol, good company and bright sunshine can do (*and watching the nice young men walk by*).

Zara Strange

## Welcome To Cheshire



**Shirley and Christine offer overnight stays and meals at their cosy cottage in Northwich. Only 30 minutes from The Hollywood Showbar and just 6 miles off the M6 at junction 19. A friendly and totally safe atmosphere is assured for all.**

**Telephone 01606 [redacted] for details**

# RELEASED AFTER FORTY THREE YEARS

At the end of December 1998 I had the chance that not many people would want, or get. I was about to be born again! After years of soul searching and agonising, my dream was about to become a reality. I was getting a second chance at life. I was about to undergo Gender Reassignment Surgery! People and friends kept asking me "Are you worried or nervous about the surgery, or the irreversible outcome?" The answer was of course "NO". Even if I died on the operating table, it would be worth it. I would have passed away at peace with myself.

To the man or woman in the street, what I was about to undergo willingly would be the most horrendous experience that any rational person could imagine. How could any sane person wish to have their genitalia mutilated? I should be seeing a brain surgeon, not a reconstructive surgeon!

Only someone who is also born with Gender Dysphoria Syndrome can truly understand the mental torment and pain we suffer. Although people can be sympathetic, they can never appreciate what it is like for the brain and the body to be in constant

conflict with each other.

Luckily, the medical profession now realise that this is a medical and not a mental condition and are now treating it as such.

And so on the 29th of December I said goodbye to the old, confused and mixed up me and fell asleep with no fears of what was about to happen or become of me.

When I awoke several hours later it was all over. I'd survived the op, there was a drip in my arm, drainage tubes, catheter, pain controlling pump and a bandage that made me look more like a sumo wrestler than a new woman!

## There was no more conflict...

Although for the next five days I was not allowed out of bed for any reason, I was free. There was no more conflict, the battle was over, total peace at last. I know it may sound over the top, but it was true.

During this time, although in a lot of physical pain, I knew it had been worth all the discomfort. Soon, the ten days of hospitalisation were over and I was ready to be discharged into the big new exciting world. What I could not get over was the

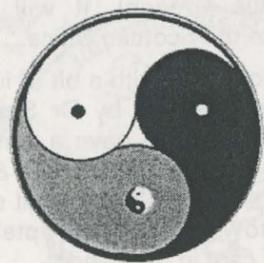
tremendous gain in confidence and self esteem. I suppose it was all part of the new inner peace I had found. The impossible had happened. From having a life sentence with no date for parole, I had now been granted a royal pardon!

I knew I had done the right thing (the only thing). The first time I saw the new me in the mirror it was not a shock. It was so natural. It was how it was always meant to have been. It was, at last, the real me.

Finally, I have just two regrets. Firstly, that I left it for so long before seeking help and secondly, and most importantly, a great sadness for my mum. Although she has been truly wonderful and so supportive all through this nightmare, it must really hurt her to know that what she created has been physically altered for reasons she can never really understand. I'm so sorry. I just hope I can repay her somehow - or is it all part of being a real loving mum?

Well, all I have to do now is what the doctor and nurses tell me, and behave myself. The medics have done their bit and it is now up to me to get on with my new life.

Sue Robb



## GENDYS

A network for those troubled by their gender identity, and their loved and loving ones, those who were troubled in the past and who care, and a forum for professional and lay people.

For further information, write to: **Gendys Network**  
BM Gendys  
London WC1N 3XX

or to the Scottish representative: Sue Robb, [redacted] Strathcarron, Ross-shire IV54 8YR

## Could You Crossdress To Impress? Or Would You Be A Jock Cock In A Frock! Try Tiffany [redacted]'s Trannie Test!



1 What's worn under your tartan tutu?

- a. nothing you've never plaid with it!
- b. frilly panties
- c. as little as possible ... you like to show off your assets!

2 A la Priscilla, when dressed, you feel the urge to mount something, is it:

- a. the Cobbler ... we'll his lasts longer!
- b. Ben Lomond ... you're a Munro de-bagger!
- c. the Paps of Jura ... mmm ... you wish yours were as big!

3 A Scotland/England game is on the Telly, do you:

- a. watch *The Clothes Show* and paint your nails a pretty colour.
- b. watch the game to ogle their sexy butts and thighs ... and what a thighs thome of them are!
- c. Grab a hunk and offer to be his bimbo ... tart on armie!

4 En Femme you love to cycle:

- a. because it gives you something to do when your legs are in the air!
- b. to keep your tummy trim
- c. to pedal your wares .. well if you've got it flaunt it!

5 When Dressed you like to be called:

- b. gorgeous
- c. outrageous
- d. ... 'cause it makes your nipples stand out like corks!

6 When asked why you are a cross dresser, do you reply:

- a. you'd be cross too if you'd just laddered your second pair of tights
- b. I'm not a TV, I'm a Radio Rental trannie-sister!
- c. er ... I'm going on a Gay Pride march, er ... all my boy clothes are in the wash, er ... I want to be a Cabinet Minister ... oh to hell with this, it's 'cause it feels right!

7 What's your favourite tippie:

- a. Babycham ... yeuch, but so sissy!
- b. Campari and soda ... pass the sick bag ... but even more sissy!
- c. anything with a long pink bendy thing you can suck on ... a straw you tart!!!

8 Your female role model is:

- a. Fran and Anna ... wearing the width of fashion!
- b. Flora Macdonald ... you'd love to have a Prince as your maid!
- c. Margaret Hilda Thatcher ... so kinky!



9 The femme name which most suits you is:

- b. Mhairi ... if only you were the blushing bride
- c. Flora ... 'cause like the margarine you spread easily
- d. George ... you haven't the balls to be a girl!

10 What kind of TV are you:

- a. a Braveheart with a sweetheart!
- b. a Bravetart in a cross your heart!
- c. and for those who chose 8c above ... a daft fart missing a part!

Now mark your score as follows:

1a	0	b 2	c 1
2a	1	b 0	c 2
3a	2	b 1	c 0
4a	0	b 2	c 1
5a	2	b 1	c 0
6a	0	b 1	c 2
7a	1	b 0	c 2
8a	1	b 2	c 0
9a	2	b 1	c 0
10a	1	b 2	c 0

and turn the page to discover your true identity!

If you scored ... well aren't you the lucky girl!

0-7 Hmmm! Are you sure you don't just crossdress 'cause it's a trendy perversion? Clothes may maketh the man ... but sassiness and attitude maketh the Tranny! You are the definitive Jock Cock in a Frock, do you toss your own caber too? Get on out there and flaunt your frilly femmel!

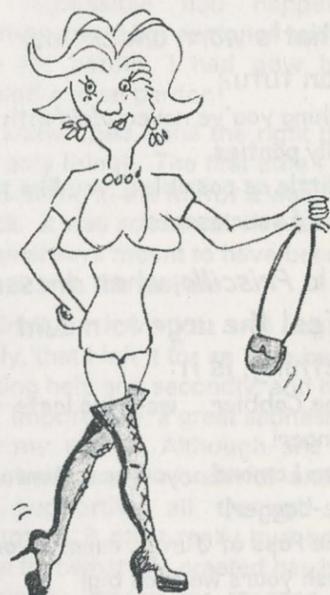
8-14 You've definitely got what it takes sweetheart. You are well on your way to becoming a beautiful big time beach-babe bimbo! Try wearing a tight wonderbra high heels and micro mini skirt

at the club ... you'll certainly get pulled, even when you don't want to be ... but could you then cope with the hassle real women have dished out to them?

15-20 Ah, you are a tart-lette of Tranvestia, what a giggly wiggly wriggly Tranny you are! You have it all in front of you, and possible get a lot behind as well. It's Trannies like you who make the Joe and Norma Normals relax! You are a carnival of fun and frolics ... yes better they laugh with us than at us ... but for those billion bleak black times when you are treated like a cursed leper,

please don't despair ... phone Crosslynx National Helpline - 0141 332 3333 : 7.30-9.30pm every Monday.

Tiffany [redacted]



# POTTY TRAINING

*Where do you find relief when you're out and about and the call of nature beckons? Anxiety surrounding the use of public toilets is guaranteed to have those sphincters contracting, and a poor understanding of the position in law will deter all but the most desperate.*

At a recent seminar I attended entitled "Sex and the Law", I took the opportunity to raise with an Edinburgh solicitor and a representative of Northern Constabulary the concerns that many of us have around the use of public toilets while dressed. Agreeing that all situations are (a) subject to interpretation (their position) and (b) subject to the individual police officer's attitude (my position), I did find their understanding of our predicament accurate and their responses almost reassuring.

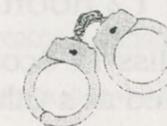
To begin with I was given the categorical assurance that no offence *per se* is committed when a man, whether dressed as a woman or not, uses the facilities on offer in a public toilet intended for use by women. Similarly, no offence arises out of a man dressed as a woman choosing to use the lavatorial facilities of a Gents toilet.

Well then, if that's the case, why don't we feel totally relaxed while having a pee? Simply because our gut instinct tells us that Joanne McPublic may not fully appreciate the finer points of Scottish Law in this respect. If she is at all inclined to feel disconcerted by the presence of a 'man' in what she perceives as a women-only space, she may equally be feeling that some sort of violation has occurred or is happening or is about to take place, in which case she may summon the police. Remember, entering the ladies toilet is not a crime in itself. The police will, however, want to establish why you are there and if your behaviour has revealed



more than just your intention to use the facilities of the building, or if you have allowed yourself to become involved in a heated argument with the other occupants, you may well find yourself charged with a breach of the peace.

**It's not a crime!**



If your behaviour bears out your legitimate intent, that is, only to relieve yourself, you can expect at worst to be asked to leave. In this

event, I would suggest you ask the policeman (or policewoman) to accompany you next door to the Gents while you pee, in order to avoid giving rise to a situation likely to result in anything from personal harassment and abuse, to rape.

So what can we do to relieve the problem. First off, it might be prudent to avoid using the Gents! How about using the disabled toilet instead? (They're getting more common and no-one can easily raise an objection.) Of course, as is so often the case, a convincing female appearance will help in avoiding unwanted attention. None of this, however, offers any comfort to those among us who are unable to feel sufficiently confident about going to the loo, any loo, while out and about dressed. For those individuals the long term consequences of bladder strain, incontinence and kidney stones may simply be seen as yet more inconveniences in their choice of lifestyle!

Julia Gordon



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c/o Tartan Skirt  
34 Waterloo Place  
Inverness  
IV1 1NB

Initial Readings: £5.00

Prices for more in-depth readings  
available on request

Make cheques/postal orders payable to:  
S. MacTheàrlaich



**Jump the queue?**

Fed up waiting for a referral for reassignment surgery? You could try repeating the word 'irinnaliutiit' to yourself. This was the magical word used by the ancient Inuit (Eskimo) people to transform men into women and women into men!

NOTICE BOARD

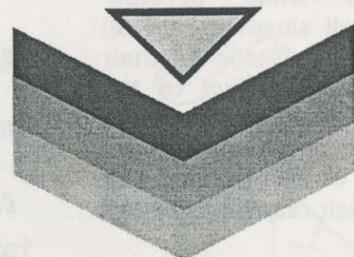
**URGENTLY REQUIRED!**  
COVER GIRLS FOR THE TARTAN SKIRT  
A year's free subscription to the magazine if you are chosen as a cover girl! The only stipulation: wear something tartan. Nothing too OTT please - this is a family publication! (Please enclose a SAE if you want your photograph returned to you.)

In-depth articles wanted!  
also anecdotes, snippets,  
press cuttings, etc. In fact...  
**ANYTHING AT ALL!**

Please Note:  
Deadline for all advertising and submissions  
for the Winter Issue of the Tartan Skirt is:  
**15th October 1999**

CALL IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE

**RANK  
OUTSIDERS**



**SUPPORT GROUP FOR  
GAY, LESBIAN, BI-SEXUAL,  
AND TRANSGENDERED FORCES  
PERSONNEL, PAST & PRESENT**

NATIONAL HELPLINE: 0171- [redacted] (Wednesday 7 - 9 pm)  
(Answerphone at other times)  
SCOTLAND CO-ORDINATOR: 01463- [redacted]  
Rank Outsiders, BCM Box 8431, LONDON WC1N 3XX  
e-mail: [redacted]

CALL IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE

**The Tartan Skirt Personals**



Attractive TV with varied interests and large wardrobe seeks couples and singles for fun and games.  
**Box No. 001**



**Glasgow**  
Zoe (35), very convincing TV, looking to meet other TVs for friendship or adult fun. I enjoy going out or sharing dress up nights indoors. Correspondence also welcome. Can travel or accommodate. SAE please. Photo appreciated.  
**Box No. 002**

TV adores directoire knickers, corsetry and silky apparel, wishes to meet others with same or similar interests  
**Box No. 004**



**Glasgow**  
Donna, lady artist, seeks to correspond with and meet discreet bi-TV or gent to enjoy occasional fun times.  
**Box No. 003**



**Inverness**  
Katy, attractive TV would like to meet singles, couples and other TVs to help her dress up (or down!) in satin and lace. Daytime only. Can accommodate.  
**Box No. 005**



Anywhere. Bi-TV, slim, convincing, long-legged, seeks correspondence, possible meet with singles, couples, females. Job allows travel. SAE ensures reply.  
**Box No. 007**

**Essex Girl** with large collection of TV magazines would like to swap them with girls North of the Border.  
**Box No. 006**

**Glasgow**  
Nicole, BI-TV, 30, 5'10", slim and attractive seeks professional male to treat me like a lady. Can travel anywhere but not accommodate.  
**Box No. 008**

**BEAUTY FESTIVAL**

At the Minto Hotel, Edinburgh, on the 20th November 1999  
from 12 noon until 1 am

Featuring Miss TV Scotland '99 contest -  
to be crowned at a Glittering Evening Ball  
Dinner and Dancing with Cabaret  
Overnight Accommodation Available

Makeup for the Evening Ball can be arranged by  
appointment with our professional Beauty Consultants

For details: contact Loraine [redacted] at  
**HIDE AND SLEEK DESIGNS**  
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Fife KY3 9UL

Tel: 01592 [redacted] Fax: 01592 [redacted]  
E-mail: [redacted]  
or visit our web site at  
<http://dSPACE.dial.pipex.com/hide.sleek/>

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BEAUTY

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BOOBS

MAKEUP

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**HOW TO ADVERTISE IN THE PERSONAL LISTINGS**

Send your details with a photograph (optional) to: The Tartan Skirt (Personals), c/o Reach Out Highland, 34 Waterloo Place, Inverness, IV1 1NB.  
or email your text and photo attachment to us at: [redacted]  
(use Personals as the subject line.)  
Please note the maximum number of words is 40. No sexually explicit wording or photograph will be accepted.

**ADVERTISING IN THE PERSONAL LISTINGS IS FREE**

Your advert will run for four consecutive issues unless otherwise instructed. No addresses are published - respondents indicate your listing number and our forwarding service takes care of the rest. Please include a SAE if you wish your photograph to be returned. Please print clearly.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
ADVERT \_\_\_\_\_  
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There is a forwarding fee of £1 per reply.

- Place your reply in a sealed stamped envelope and write clearly in the centre of the envelope, the Box Number to which you are replying.
- Repeat this for each advertiser you wish to respond to.
- Place your envelopes in a larger envelope together with your payment, and send to:  
The Tartan Skirt (Personals)  
c/o Reach Out Highland  
34 Waterloo Place  
Inverness IV1 1NB

Please make cheques and Postal Orders payable to The Tartan Skirt.

**HEY BOYS, IF YOU WANT THOSE FROCKS TO FIT... YOU NEED Hipsters**  
*\*Fem-form in foam*

**NEW**



**£20 inc p&p**

**4 PIECE SET IN \*SKINTONE**

SEND CHEQUE/P.O. TO:  
**Hipsters**  
 P.O. BOX 104  
 LOWESTOFT  
 NR33 0DT

Allow 14 days delivery

Raquél  
 (Prop. Mr D. [redacted])  
**07803-**

**\*HIPSTER tips from raqué!**

"...I LOVE WOMAN. I find them fascinating and extremely desirable, in every sense of the word..." (D.F.)

I am a cross-dresser and so I love to assume the Female Form. However, if you wish to successfully emulate them, there are some fundamental differences in our shapes that must be addressed. I started, perhaps just like you, with ripping my waist, but it was very uncomfortable and limited me to stretchy fabrics or face expensive alterations...Because I still did not have any hips!

As an Artist, I designed **\*HIPSTERS** to overcome just that disparity and THEY DO WORK! Now, the entire range of Ladies Wear is available to me...and you. We can shop with confidence for tailored skirts, trousers and of course those wonderful frocks that will fit and fit comfortably...Heaven!

**\*HIPSTERS** are extremely efficient, especially when worn beneath tights. Starting with the sides, then cheeks, they rapidly assume the body-shape. You can insure against movement by wearing any conventional female foundationwear such as a Pant-Girdle or Corsette. This will add those finishing touches and help define the Perfect-Female-Form...Just like a real woman!

To ensure your new **\*HIPSTERS** retain their colouring, it is advisable to store them away from direct sunlight or in the bags supplied.

I know you will enjoy both the Look and the Feel of **\*HIPSTERS** if you like to cross-dress.

What I could not have anticipated was the confidence they gave me. After a lifetime of secrecy I found myself Out (in every sense of the word..?) and I have had the-time-of-my-life ever since. I only regret not having done so, a long time ago...!

BUT, NO LOOKING BACK NOW...JUST LOOKING GOOD!

Warm wishes and good luck from a very happy Cock-in-a-Frock

Derek [redacted] (AKA Raqué!)

**★ ★ WORLD OF TRANSVESTISM ★ ★**



The World of Transvestism - a very specialised publication available every month containing fabulous photos and features as well as readers own experiences and views. Absolutely essential reading for the TV.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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 You can order your own copy of THE WORLD OF TRANSVESTISM direct from the press. I enclose my cheque/postal order for £..... made payable to Swish Publications Ltd.

Two randomly chosen samples - £10.00  
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Monthly for six months - £40.00 (commencing with Vol ... No...)  
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Name.....  
 Address.....

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE You may order on plain paper I am over 18

**The Tartan Skirt Directory**

**Scottish Support Group Network**

**CROSSLYNX TV/TS GROUP**  
 Meetings are held in Glasgow on the second Wednesday of the month  
 Tel: 0141- [redacted] Monday, 7.30 - 9.30  
 or write to: **CROSSLYNX**  
 c/o SLGS  
 PO Box 38  
 Glasgow G2 2QF

**GRAMPIAN GENDER GROUP**  
 Meetings are held in Aberdeen on the third Saturday of the month  
 Contact: Gillian  
 Tel: 01224- [redacted]  
 Mondays and Tuesdays, 6.30 - 9.30 pm  
 or write to: **Grampian Gender Group**  
 PO Box 18201  
 Aberdeen AB21 9YF

**HIGHLAND T-GROUP**  
 Meetings are held in Inverness on the first Saturday of the month.  
 Contact: Julia Gordon  
 Tel: 01463- [redacted]  
 Fax: 01463- [redacted]  
 E-mail: [redacted]  
 or write to: **Highland T-Group**  
 c/o Reach Out Highland  
 34 Waterloo Place  
 Inverness IV1 1NB

**SCOTTISH TV/TS GROUP**  
 Meetings are held in Edinburgh on the last Saturday of the month  
 Contact: Agnes  
 Tel: 0131- [redacted]

**WEST LOTHIAN TRANSGENDER SUPPORT GROUP**  
 Meetings are held in Livingstone every second and last Saturday of the month  
 Contact: Donna  
 Tel: 01506- [redacted]  
 Monday -Thursday, 6 - 9 pm

**National Helplines and Support Organisations**

**THE BEAUMONT SOCIETY**  
 Tel: 01582- [redacted]  
 E mail - [redacted]  
 Website - <http://members.aol.com/Bmontsoc>

**THE BEAUMONT TRUST**  
 Tel: 07000- [redacted] (10am - 10pm)

**EQUALITY NETWORK**  
 Tel: 07020- [redacted]  
 Email - [redacted]  
 Website - <http://www.diversity.org.uk/>

**THE GENDER TRUST**  
 Tel: 07000- [redacted] (10am - 10pm)

**THE IMPOTENCE ASSOCIATION**  
 Tel: 0181- [redacted]

**NATIONAL AIDS HELPLINE**  
 Tel: 0800- [redacted] (24 hour free service)

**PRESS FOR CHANGE**  
 BM Network  
 London WC1N 3XX  
 Email - [redacted]  
 Website - <http://www.pfc.org.uk/>

**PRIDE SCOTLAND**  
 Tel: 0131- [redacted]  
 Email - [redacted]  
 Website - <http://www.pridescotland.org/>

**RANK OUTSIDERS**  
 National Helpline  
 Tel: 0171- [redacted] (Wednesday 7-9pm)  
 Scotland Coordinator  
 Tel: 01463- [redacted] 0839- [redacted]

**THE SAMARITANS**  
 Tel: 0345- [redacted] (24 hours service)

**SCOTTISH MARRIAGE COUNSELLING**  
 Tel: 0131- [redacted] (Monday to Friday)  
 Tel: 0141- [redacted] (Wednesday)

**WOMEN OF THE BEAUMONT SOCIETY (WOBS)**  
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The **TARTAN SKIRT** is the magazine of the Scottish Transgender Community brought to you through the efforts of members of the community and the support and encouragement of Reach Out Highland.

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