

Renaissance News



Volume 5, No. 12

Vision - Integrity - Quality

December, 1991

First increase in 5 years

Board approves higher national dues

The Renaissance national board unanimously approved the first increase in national dues since the organization was founded nearly five years ago. Starting in 1992, national dues will be \$16 per year.

Local chapters have the option of absorbing all or part of the increase or passing it on to their members in the form of higher local dues.

The chief reason for the \$4 hike is increased expenses associated with the printing and distribution of the *Renaissance News*. For example during the past year, printing costs have increased nearly 50 percent, and postage costs have jumped by almost a third. Next year's projected cost for the publication is nearly \$6,000.

While the board was eager to investigate ways of reducing that expense without reducing the size

or quality of the newsletter, it did not believe that savings alone would keep the organization financially healthy in 1992.

In addition to approving the increase in dues, the board also

approved a strong recommendation that dues not be increased for the next two to three years.

Renaissance's financial records are always available for inspection by members.

Chapters, national board elect officers for 1992

New officers have been elected to guide the Renaissance chapters and the national organization through 1992.

As is customary on the national board, Paula Jordan Sinclair completed her one-year term as managing director and did not seek reelection. Also, Angela Gardner did not wish to continue as co-director of outreach and public affairs. Gardner was elected to the managing director's post, and Sinclair was named a director-at-large, as was Kelly [REDACTED], the former managing director of the South Jersey chapter. All other officers on the national board continued in their posts. They are: Charlene [REDACTED], treasurer; Susan [REDACTED], secretary; Alison Laing, outreach and public affairs; Beth Marshall and Elsa [REDACTED], membership; and Trudie Henry and JoAnn Roberts, directors-at-large.

In the Lower Susquehanna Valley chapter, Brenda Davidson was reelected as managing director. Jennifer [REDACTED] was elected secretary. Dawn G. was reelected treasurer. The new meeting/program director is Rose Z. [REDACTED].

Richelle, former chapter secretary, and Nicole [REDACTED] join Elsa [REDACTED], Delma W., Alison [REDACTED], and Lynne V. as directors-at-large.

Kara [REDACTED] was elected as the new managing director of the South Jersey chapter, sharing responsibility with Frances B., assistant director. Linda was elected secretary, and Sharon [REDACTED] will serve as treasurer.

A record number of members turned out for the elections at the Greater Philadelphia chapter, as well as a record number of visitors and guests. Approximately 125 people attended the November meeting and more than 50 were voting members. Early last year, the chapter board set a goal of 150 members; the count now stands at 157, or nearly half of the 327 members for all of Renaissance.

Michelle [REDACTED] was elected managing director. Joanne [REDACTED] was elected treasurer. Samantha [REDACTED] was elected secretary. Gloria [REDACTED], who had served as chapter treasurer since 1989, was elected as director or outreach. Angela Gardner was elected to the programs post, a job she held in 1989.

A call for a spouse support group

Fern Peden, a professional counselor and the significant of a Greater Philadelphia chapter member, wishes to start a spouse support group that would gather during the regular Greater Philadelphia chapter meetings. In addition to providing an opportunity for spouses to talk face-to-face, the group will also establish an informal "network" among the participants.

She hopes to start organizing the group in January. Further announcements will be made at the chapter meeting.

Announcements...

Background Papers...

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

Pen Pal Project

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

Prisoner Project

A gift of only \$6 gives a trans-gendered inmate 12 issues of the *Renaissance News*. Please help provide this needed support to our sisters in prison.

The Transsexual Phenomenon

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

Our chapters...

Greater Philadelphia

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

Lower Susquehanna Valley

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

South Jersey

Meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Atlantic Mental Health Center, Inc., 2002 Black Horse Pike, McKee, N.J. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Call (609) 641-3782. Kelly [REDACTED], chapter leader. Write Renaissance SJ, c/o P. O. Box 189, Mays Landing, NJ 08330.

Our affiliates...

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

Write for details to Alison Laing, Director of Outreach, P. O. Box 552, King of Prussia, PA 19406.

Our affiliated organizations are:

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

Events to note...

December

7th Free Greater Philadelphia Holiday Party at The Woods. No Greater Philadelphia Chapter meeting this month.

Also, no Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter meeting this month.

7th South Jersey Chapter meeting — professional makeup demo

January

4th South Jersey Chapter meeting — fashion choices for your shape and figure presented by Lois Cozzi

4th Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter meeting from 8-10 p.m. followed by a New Years party at 10 p.m.

18th Greater Philadelphia Chapter meeting

February

1st South Jersey Chapter meeting

1st Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter meeting

15th Greater Philadelphia Chapter meeting

Renaissance News

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P.O. Box 552, King of Prussia, PA 19406

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Articles must be submitted for publication one month in advance.

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

No room at the Inne

The gala Greater Philadelphia chapter holiday party has been canceled. Instead, the chapter will host a free holiday party at the chapter's regular meeting site, The Woods, at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7.

The annual holiday party had been scheduled for the Great Valley Inne, the site of two previous holiday parties. But only weeks before the event, the chapter was notified that another organization had been booked into the main Inne facility and the chapter would have to use a smaller converted farmhouse nearby. Because this

was not adequate for all of the planned activities, the chapter board decided to host a scaled-down party at The Woods.

However, it still promises to be a jolly affair, featuring hot hors d'oeuvres, champagne and wines, "other goodies and beverages," and door prizes.

Tickets for the previously planned party had gone on sale last month. Most all refunds have been made, but some persons made reservations without providing a return address. If you are owed a refund, call the chapter at (215) 946-8887.

Transvestite, transsexual veterans recognized by national registry

Veterans' Day this year was quite different for transvestites and transsexuals who had served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard. On Nov. 11, Renaissance officially began to record the military histories of transgendered veterans and servicemembers.

The National Registry of Transgendered Veterans/Transgendered Servicemembers (NRTV/TS) is a growing list of transgendered people who have served honorably in the armed forces. Many of the people now listed achieved senior enlisted or officer rank, received the military's highest decorations, and saw action in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq. Because many individuals must still keep their transgendered status secret, all are listed on the Registry under their femme names. The names included so far range from Christine Jorgensen (an Army vet) and Renee Richards (a Navy doctor) to rank and file Renaissance members.

The debut of the Registry was covered by Philadelphia radio and television stations, and reported in the local gay press.

Despite the military's refusal to accept transgendered military personnel, the Registry will serve as an

"honor roll" for all veterans who served in the armed forces with a "secret identity."

In addition to listing the femme names of transgendered veterans, the Registry also lists their branch of service, the years served, highest rank achieved, medals and awards, notable action, and special assign-

ments. The information on the registry is neither traceable to service records nor divulges the veteran's identity.

To become part of the Registry, send information to the Renaissance national office. The Registry is open to active duty military personnel as well.

Used AIDS virus as 'weapon' TS released from jail pending appeal of assault conviction

A Florida transsexual who was convicted of using her AIDS infection as a deadly weapon has been released from prison pending an appeal before the 1st District Court of Appeal in Tallahassee.

Rhonda Smith, 33, of Parker, Fla., who is also known as Dennis Smith, was released after serving just 10 months of a six-year sentence for two counts of aggravated battery. She had scratched and bitten two jailers, reportedly threatening them with the AIDS virus that infected her body.

"Given the nature of the illness or disease... (jail) would result in a much greater hardship on this de-

fendant than it would ordinarily" if she remained behind bars during the appeals process, Circuit Judge Clinton Foster said. He added Smith's appeal presented "substantial issues to be addressed by the appellate court" and by his own court.

One of the issues to be addressed is the effectiveness of Smith's defense presented by her attorney Alice Cano. The lawyer obtained exclusive books rights to Smith's story, but later voided the contract after she decided it was unethical.

Another legal issue is whether prosecutors violated court rules on pre-trial discovery of information.

AEGIS is newest Renaissance affiliate

The national board of Renaissance has accepted another organization as an affiliate: the Atlanta Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS) of Atlanta, a not-for-profit organization which disseminates information to persons interested in issues of gender.

AEGIS provides free referrals to support groups and gender clinics as well as free referrals to physicians, psychologists, psychiatrists, social agencies and private social workers, ministers, and attorneys to those people not within range of a gender support group.

The organization recently hosted a private reception in honor of Carolyn Crossey (Tula), welcoming her to Atlanta. Crossey is reportedly moving to the United States and will open a business in the Atlanta area.

The organization's publications include the *Chrysalis Quarterly*,

published four times a year, a series of booklets to aid in gender transition, and other publications in preparation.

AEGIS was founded by and is managed by Dallas Denny, M.A., a human service professional with knowledge of the professional

literature of gender issues and more than a decade of experience in the delivery of psychological services.

For more information about this newest Renaissance affiliate, write AEGIS at P.O. Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033, or call (404) 939-0244.

Give through the United Way

There still may be time to make a discrete gift to Renaissance through your company's annual United Way campaign.

This year for the first time, the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania allows contributors to specify that their gifts go to an agency that is not listed with the United Way. So far, several Renaissance members have done this.

Contributors wishing to make a gift to Renaissance must use the "Donor Choice Form." Fill out the information requested on the top

half of the form, and skip to the middle where you check the box for "Specific Care." Then write in "Renaissance Education Association, P.O. Box 552, King of Prussia, PA 19406. Specify the amount of your gift in the space provided. The form must be returned to United Way by Feb. 28, 1991.

The United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania serves Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties. If you live elsewhere, please check to see if "Donor Choice" is available to you.

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Wild nightlife in New York, London, L.A. draws energy from crossdressing

by Amy [REDACTED]

"The nightlife in New York is dead apart from the drag scene. Because of AIDS, you have to dress up and express yourself in a non-sexual way which says 'Look, but don't touch.' The drag scene is much more acceptable now; maybe subcultures become more interesting during a depressing time."

Matthew Anderson and his boyfriend Zaldy dress up to go out several times a month, getting paid once a month for go-go dancing at one of New York's most popular drag clubs, Copacabana.

"The drag scene seems to be completely acceptable now. People somehow find it easier seeing two men in drag dancing close together on a podium than seeing them in T-shirts and jeans."

"I have no desire to be a woman. Our look is based more on popular culture. It's very TV (television) age. We're usually flat-chested; we don't try to get rid of our balls by taping them down, it's like just forget it! We don't want to look sweaty and ugly; we want to look beautiful."

"My mother always said, 'At least you didn't turn out like Boy George.' I haven't told her the truth."

Copacabana was opened in 1988 by the "queen of all drag queens," Swiss-born Susanne Bartsch, who left London for New York in 1981, and who now runs the annual AIDS fundraiser, the Love Ball.

"I started it with the intention of uniting everyone: gay and straight, black and white, young and old, uptown and downtown. It was so successful that now everyone's into drag queens because they love the visuals."

Taken from the underground into the world's living rooms via Madonna, voguing, the film *Paris is Burning*, and Deee-Lite (Dmitry Djed at Pyramid, a gay crossover club which had its heyday in the early eighties), the drag scene is

now sufficiently mainstream that you no longer have to be a dressed-up man to get into or get off on it.

"In a way, its getting harder to break down barriers," continues Bartsch, "but I'm doing a party for (Italian fashion designer Giorgio) Armini using theatrical drag, a male Madame Butterfly. The costumes have become so much more theatrical, I tend to call it 'theater' rather than 'drag.' Clubs like Copa, bars like Edelweiss, they're essential — where else can queens walk hassle-free uptown?"

"I have no desire to be a woman. Our look is based more on popular culture. It's very TV age."

Late in October, Bartsch threw her semiannual fashion collection party at Boy Club, a gay bar in the Big Apple. It was a night few will forget. Drag queens as tall as Magic Johnson and as big as Refrigerator Perry pranced among the crowd of celebrities, designers, socialites, fashion editors, and assorted groupies. MTV vee jay Downtown Julie Brown was there. The party was taped for a segment on MTV's "House of Style" monthly fashion program.

Darryl Brantley, an assistant fashion editor on a woman's magazine, has noticed an increasing number of men dressing up during the day, which, he claims, wouldn't have happened a year ago.

"It still wouldn't be acceptable for me to dress up for work, so I only do it on special occasions — it takes me up to an hour to put on my makeup, do my hair, and shave half my chest. It's such fun to see people's reactions, to get chatted up by

straight men as I walk down the street."

The rule is to be beautiful, glamorous, and, above all, to have fun.

Fun is also the byword of London drag culture, which has seen a resurgence over the past year, probably for the first time since the heyday of clubs like Heaven in the early eighties. Gerlinde and husband Michael's monthly club Kinky Gerlinky has made the move from small Soho clubs to the vast Empire Ballroom. It welcomes everyone and owes something to Bartsch.

"I've spent a lot of time in New York and I've known Susanne for a long time," says Gerlinde. "I started Kinky a few years ago because there was nothing like Copa in London. I had all these clothes but nowhere to wear them. Kinky's success is really accidental; people are ready to dress up again. They've been dressing down for too long. Getting dressed up with friends is half the fun of going out."

You can't leave out the Left Coast — Los Angeles and Hollywood.

"All these people who never did drag are doing drag every week at so many bars now. I guess they see that if you're in drag you get all the attention. Everybody wants to have drag queens at their clubs."

Not just clubs. Chi Chi LaRue is a drag girlfriend to the likes of Cher, Madonna, Drew Barrymore and Sandra Bernhard. But pairing celebrities with drag queens more than not produces a whiff of scandal among sex-repressed Americans. Hence the tabloid headlines that followed Chi Chi's performance at Bernhard's premier. Yet, the connection continues but without the publicity. There were no headlines in June after Madonna's Hollywood drag bash for her ex, Tony Ward.

For those not on the "A" list, Chi Chi advises, "the Queen Mary is definitely a place to go no matter what kind of drag queen you are."

THE *Paula Jordan Sinclair* NEWSQUEEN™

We start this month with old business, an update on an item in last month's column... For those of you who wondered how British lass Jennifer Saunders managed to fool her two teenage female lovers into believing that she was a man, here are details on Saunders' deception.

Jennifer, who used the name "Jimmy," naturally cut her hair short and wore baggy trousers. She used a strap-on dildo to make love to her girlfriends (always in the dark), and refused to allow them to touch her "down there" or on her chest.



We hesitated to publish details of Jennifer's ruse for fear that some may employ the technique to pull off the deception themselves. If news from Texas is to be believed, our fears were correct; a 20-year-old woman named Niki Faye Eichman has been charged with sexual assault for seducing a 14-year-old girl. Eichman posed as a 17-year-old boy named Tyler Bradd Lawson.

Authorities in Highland Village, Tex. say that while she posed as Lawson, Eichman may have dated as many as four girls, convincing each one of them that she was a guy.



Glenn Close's newest movie role also puts her in the female-to-male crossdressing hall of fame. Wearing a false beard and with her hair cut short and dyed black, she plays a pirate in the new film *Hook*. Look quick or you'll miss her.



Male drag of a different sort was a major theme in the recent list of the 10 All-time Worst Dressed Women celebrities issued by fashion maven Mr. Blackwell. Here are excerpts from his acid-dipped pen...

♥ Julie Andrews — "A woman every man wants for his maiden uncle."

♥ Barbra Streisand — "Ringo Starr in drag."

♥ Princess Anne — "A walking, talking wax museum of dowager

drag 40 years too soon."



Breasts were in the news a lot recently when the federal Food and Drug Administration decided to withhold its endorsement of silicone-filled breast implants. Several women testified of the pain and discomfort they experienced after they received the implants. But none of the personal stories were as strange as that told by Penny Smith of Tulsa, Okla., to a reporter from the *Weekly World News*.

At first, the supermarket tabloid reports, Penny was delighted with her new 38-inch bust. But then she noticed that her breasts seemed to be farther apart. "Don't worry," her doctor was quoted as saying, and so Penny pursued her new career as a topless dancer. Then, one morning, she woke up and found that one breast had moved to under her shoulder blade. In a few days the other breast had also shifted to her back.

At first Penny didn't know if she was coming or going. Then her agent suggested that she could make a fortune as the world's only backwards topless dancer. Now, the paper reports, Penny is raking in the dough in strip clubs in France and England "with her headline-making act." Yes, she is suing the doctor who performed the surgery.



More boob news from the tabloid press...

Kenny Rogers, you'll recall, began growing breasts after liposuction on his stomach. The reason: new fat had no place to accumulate except his chest, and so he began to develop a figure that could rival Dolly Parton.

Evidently that wasn't enough for the bearded star, now he is contemplating implants, actually pectoral implants to make his chest more manly. But he better be careful, he may end up with a manly back.



The tabloids seem to be fasci-

nated with miracles of modern medicine. First it was breast implants, and now its womb transplants.

According to a story in the *Sun*, a French male-to-female transsexual is pregnant after undergoing the world's most complete sex-change by Dr. Gustave Cotellet at a clinic in St. Etienne, France.

Josephine Michelet was just your ordinary pre-op transsexual until she met up with Cotellet. The doctor had been perfecting a surgical technique for transplanting reproductive organs in laboratory animals and was waiting for a chance to try it on a human.

But even though she is pregnant, Michelet won't be the "complete female" Cotellet promised. The baby will have to be delivered by C-section because she still has a man's pelvis, and the baby cannot pass through it.

(Doubting readers may want to know that we believe both of these fantastic stories because they both had photos!)



Non-doubting readers of the *Weekly World News* were asked last month to help the Los Angeles parents of a 10-year-old boy decide if their son should have a sex change.

Jackie Mears began to realize that he should have been a girl after he saw a television documentary on transsexualism. The parents aren't sure how to proceed even though they are convinced that Jackie is sincere. "We're not talking about some pervert who wants to change sex for kicks," said the boy's father. "Our son's happiness is at stake." Readers are asked to write to the newspaper and vote for or against a sex change for Jackie.



Sandra and Bill Mears could save themselves a lot of worry if they had read an October issue of the same tabloid and sent Jackie out to play baseball. He may have enjoyed the

THE *Paula Jordan Sinclair* NEWSQUEEN™

same fate as 9-year-old Buster McCarthy of Madison, Wisc. who was hit on the head with a baseball and now thinks he is a girl. A sex-change has been recommended for him.

Until the accident during a Little League game, Buster was an ordinary boy. But after a fast ball hit him in the right temple and put him in a coma for three days, Buster was no more; Wanda had taken his place.

At first, his parents believed that it was a passing delusion. But the boy became so insistent that he was now a girl that they let him grow his hair long and wear dresses. After 13 months of therapy, he still believes he is a girl, "so now I guess we'll go ahead and let him have a sex-change," his mother said.

♣ ♣ ♣

It will take a lot of baseball injuries to fulfill a prophecy for 1992 from the same tabloid. According to the newspaper's panel of expert psychics, in eleven months the entire case of the television show Beverly Hills 90210 will make television history by undergoing sex-changes at the same time.

♣ ♣ ♣

Football rather than baseball made news on the transgender scene in San Diego when Chargers center Courtney Hall was cited by police for allegedly engaging in lewd conduct in public with a male prostitute dressed as a woman.

Police spotted Hall in a car parked in the North Park area of the city along with Anthony Richard Thompson. In addition to receiving a citation for lewd conduct in public, Thompson was cited for crossdressing for an unlawful act. Hall will go to court later this month.

Hall was arrested just hours after San Diego's 20-9 loss at the hands of Seattle. We can guess what was on Hall's mind during the game. It probably wasn't football.

♣ ♣ ♣

In other sports news, a female runner has lodged a complaint

against another female runner who had a sex change 15 years ago.

Robin Pancerev of Erie, Pa. complained to officials of the Great Race of Pittsburgh and with The Athletics Congress (TAC) that it was unfair for the transsexual to compete in the 6.2-mile race because she "is a male transsexual who is unfairly being allowed to ... compete as a female." Other runners in other races have also complained.

TAC officials likely will pass the issue on to the International Amateur Athletic Federation, the world governing body for track and field.

For the record, the transsexual, who asked not to be identified, finished the Pittsburgh race in fifth place with a time of 38:31.

♣ ♣ ♣

While law enforcement officials were fighting lewd behavior in public, officials in Santa Monica, a few mile up the Pacific coast, launched an assault on a much more serious crime — men using women's public restrooms.

It seems that until last month it was perfectly legal in many parts of California for people to use the bathroom intended for the opposite sex. But Santa Monica officials say this was causing problems — drug dealers loitering in women's rooms to push dope and men hanging out to commit lewd acts. As a result, women were afraid to use their restrooms. So now a person caught in the "wrong" restroom faces up to 6 months in jail and \$500 in fines.

Crossdressers in Santa Monica need not despair, however, for the law contains a loophole. If several people are lined up to use the facilities, a person in need can use the alternate restroom with impunity. So, all you girls need to do is travel with a bunch of guys and synchronize your toilet needs with theirs.

♣ ♣ ♣

Three girls we know of will have no trouble attracting men who will likely do anything for them. The

three are the new Miss Gay America and her court. Tiffany Bonet, Miss Gay Mid-East America, took the crown at the pageant held recently in Dallas. Leslie Rage, Miss Gay Mid-Atlantic, was first alternate and Blair Williams, Miss Gay North Carolina, was second alternate. This was the pageant's 20th year.

♣ ♣ ♣

Speaking of queen's, Paris Dupree, who's name and face figured prominently in the film *Paris Is Burning*, is suing producer Jennie Livingston for not paying him for the film. Dupree, whose real name is Robert Isaac, is seeking \$30 million.

Isaac claims Livingston deceived him about the purpose of the film she was shooting at various voguing balls in New York City, describing the filming as part of a school project rather than a commercial enterprise. He also said that when he threatened her with the suit, Livingston tried to pay him off with \$2,500.

Livingston did not comment on the suit. The film continues to play in theaters around the country and has so far grossed more than \$3 million.

♣ ♣ ♣

A queen of a different sort will come to movie theaters before you can say "Let there be lips!"

Rupert Wainwright has been signed to direct the sequel to *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. The new film will be called *Revenge of the Old Queen*. The plot seems simple enough; Brad Major's brother, FBI agent Steve Majors, investigates the depraved world of lust, debauchery and crossdressing that has captured Brad and his fiancée.

This has been a bad month for Miss Sinclair, and she has mislaid the names of the contributors to this column. But you know who you are; you sent clippings about crossdressing to her at the Renaissance office, and you noted the name and date of publication.

The *For Ideas*
FORUM

The first ten steps of a long journey

by Angela [REDACTED]

I was deeply moved when I read copies of the Bill of Gender Rights and the Gender Activist Declaration of Independence. Both of these documents are too important to ignore.

The intent of the Bill of Gender Rights is to give us the right to choose a gender role, the right to freely express our gender role, the right to make our bodies congruent with the gender role, and the right to sexual expression congruent with our gender role. The Gender Activist Declaration of Independence is a document that makes a positive statement about us.

As a citizen of this country, I know that with rights and independence comes responsibilities. For each of us, those responsibilities may be a bit different. Now, I'm not the type to dress up and march in protest parades. But that does not mean I still can't accept my responsibilities as a genderist.

Here is how I will do it:

1. Whenever non-crossdressers criticize the lifestyle of crossdressers, I will not join in the criticism. Depending on the circumstances, I will either advocate a "live and let live" attitude or adopt a detached defense.

2. When crossdressed, I will con-

duct myself in a manner that will project a positive image.

3. When crossdressers are portrayed unrealistically in the media, I will write letters of protest.

4. When it is within my ability to help a crossdressing sister who needs assistance, I will do so.

5. I will make myself aware of my political representatives' votes on gender issues and vote accordingly at election time.

6. I will help my local crossdressing support group by participating in meetings and assisting in any reasonable ways I can.

7. I will keep myself informed on current issues facing our genderist community.

8. I will keep myself up to date on what other crossdressers are doing to bring us independence and equal-

ity.

9. I will do what I can to educate people about what crossdressing really is.

10. I will accept other crossdressers as individuals in their own right, with their own set of wants and needs.

Looking over these ten principles, I have to admit they are low-risk activities that I can practice in my daily life with just a small effort. Think of what a better environment we might create if all of us practiced these principles with non-crossdressers and our crossdressing sisters. It will be just one step in a long journey, but at least it will be a step in the right direction.

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Quote/unquote...

"Playboy was a man's magazine. A heterosexual man's magazine. God knows there are few of those left."

—Syndicated columnist Lewis Grizzard reacting to the show-it-all pictorial on Tula in the October issue of Playboy and expressing the same "once-a-man-always-a-man" philosophy as the British government.

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The **FORUM** For Ideas

Untitled

*Under what pretext can a person
transcend gender
and be the smile, the caress
that opens a heart.
How, if I'm on the earth
and you on the moon,
could I touch your shoulder, gently
turn you around,
and out of a multitude of faces
transcend gender
to share in your eyes, your smile, your
frown:
the joy and the hurt
that have brought you here.*

*Each note, each word, each letter that
you read
is like the driftwood
swaying gently out of reach.
The tide taunting.
Will you wade into the water?
From afloat, I see you reading, and I
fear that with
Each note, each word, each letter that
I write,
You'll turn and walk away.*

—Susanne

Girl Talk

*She sits deep in her cause.
Basking in a crisp flowered dress
and pantyhose. Red hair, red shoes.
We have enabled her to enjoy
These things.
Men with false breasts,
And wigs of desire.
We are all evolving still
Somewhere on the continuum of things
Of ecstasies and enlightenment
And simple girlish pleasures.*

—Sheila

Natural Childbirth

*There I sat at 3:00 a.m., biting my pen & counting
Contractions, when suddenly, I supposed my mind
To be wombshaped!
I laughed, and inspiration gone, took oxygen,
Counted, waited again, then, after a slight*

*Incision, gave birth to two stanzas and slept,
Dreaming wonderment at the concept.
Immaculate paternity leaves one independent
As mother of one's destiny.*

—Phaedra Kelly

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The **For Ideas**
FORUM

Pretty is as pretty does:

by Alison Laing

There is a member of this community living in the Chicago area who has continually urged the various organizations and sponsors of conventions and gatherings to model their programs more like those of "women's clubs." Elizabeth Ann puts her ideas forth to anyone who will listen. My initial response was that while this might not be a bad idea, it was not practical because the majority of the attendees may want to appear as women but were not committed to the transgendered lifestyle.

However, after five years of observing the behavior of many in our community and the reaction of the public to us, I think there may be merit to at least part of Elizabeth Ann's dream. Some of our most

accomplished and attractive crossdressers destroy their beautiful image with overly masculine behavior. It is as if they want to send the message: "forget what I look like; I am still a man!" They may not realize it but they are almost as much of a "gender bender" as a bearded ballerina or a mustachioed Mona Lisa. I am not judging those who may want to behave in such a manner. I respect their right to dress and display their facial hair or macho personality as long as they do not bring harm to me or to others. But I wonder if the people who do so are aware of how others are responding to their behavior.

The bearded male-to-female crossdresser is probably quite aware of the shock or confused reaction to his appearance that both the

transgendered community and the general public seem to experience. But I suspect that many of our sisters would be surprised to learn that the general public — and even some of our community members and associates — are to a degree uncomfortable when they exhibit hyper-masculine behavior.

It seems to me that if we worked just a little bit harder on our overall feminine deportment and demeanor, we would send a more consistent message, and at the same time get more out of our crossdressing experiences. Besides these initial benefits, there are several more benefits that we may receive if we develop a more feminine behavior style. First and usually most important in the minds of the average crossdresser is that a more feminine state of mind

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The **FORUM** For Ideas

Clothes alone don't make it

will aid in movement and speech characteristics that are definitely more "passable" or at least less obtrusive and therefore more easily accepted by the public. But perhaps the most significant reward will be the ability to carry over some of the "feminine advantages" into our everyday life.

The advantages include such skills as bridging the gender communications gap, more effective interpersonal relations, improved management skills such as a less competitive and aggressive but more creative and rewarding approach to problem solving, and finally an overall feeling of wholeness with self that comes from balancing the genetic and environmental programmed behavior patterns of our masculine and feminine selves.

There is no easy path to modifying one's behavior, especially when trying to adopt the behavior of a different gender. There are many schools of thought on behavior modification. The single most important one is that to do it yourself you must be conscious of what it is you want to change and, secondly, you must sincerely want to make that change. It is easy to see your physical self simply by looking into a mirror. It is a lot harder to see your behavior as others see you, especially others of a different gender. Perhaps the best way to do this is to study feminine behavior. You can begin by reading some of the classic books on the subject of femininity and feminine behavior...

Femininity by Susan Brownmiller, Fawcett Columbine, 1984

In a Different Voice by Carol Gilligan, Harvard University Press, 1982

Language and Woman's Place by Robin Lakoff, Harper and Row, 1975

You Just Don't Understand by Deborah Tannen, Morrow, 1990

Another way is to observe the interaction of men and women together and to watch for objectionable masculine behavior that you recognize as similar to your own. Once you see an area of behavior that you want to improve, work on it and just like good manners or proper posture, it can become second nature. This may sound a lot easier than it really is, but behavior can be changed, and the results will be very rewarding.

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The **FORUM** For Ideas

Shocking Halloween tales The "Which" of Halloween

by Laura [REDACTED]

No sooner than I began to get a handle on who I really am and how I can best integrate crossdressing into my life as a whole than along came Halloween. Why not another 4th of July or any other holiday? The holidays come and go, and I generally enjoy them. But Halloween! I probably could have successfully ignored Halloween this year, but even the kids in the neighborhood — not to mention my own childhood memories — would not let me do that. So, I chose to go with the flow and be a part of it all.

This year, however, the flow was rather choppy, like trying to float serenely in a canoe and suddenly finding yourself in the midst of rough water. Overall, I must admit that I did enjoy the trip, but I also have to admit that I was surprised when I found myself suddenly facing the "Which" of Halloween.

"Larry," my male self, has celebrated Halloween in various guises over the years. He has been a clown with flashing nose, a monster from the swamp, and a cowboy, to name just a few costumes. All of them grew out of my identity as a male. For Halloween this year, I considered, naturally, dressing simply as Laura, which would be more fun than being Larry in another typical costume. But what Halloween party could I attend? Appearing as Laura might, in effect, be seen as coming out of the closet, especially if Larry is known by those in attendance. Coming out is a major decision that I was not sure I was ready for.

I thus considered going as Laura to a large party where I would be lost in the crowd: anonymous and socially safe. But I really did not want or need any more of those lost and anonymous feelings in my life.

I needed recognition and affirmation for who I am. The only reasonable alternative, therefore, seemed to be a small, intimate gathering of friends. There I could relax as my female self and maybe even wear something special for the occasion. The only problem now was that I felt like I would be trading one closet for another, going wherever it was safe to be Laura. Why couldn't I just be me, especially on Halloween?

These were my options for the big day: I could go to a party as Larry dressed in an acceptable costume; I could go as Larry in drag, that is as Laura or perhaps as some other female; or I could go as Laura herself

(continued on page 15)

Trick or Transvestite

*The night Halloween lasted forever,
The crossdressers dipped into
Their bag of treats
Pulling forth bras from Victoria's
Secret,
And party gowns from Gantos.
And when the Avon Lady rang
She did not run, but hung.
Using Victoria Principal's special
Beauty formula, they went forth into
the world
On a runway,
Leg-like and beauty-filled
Stepping over roses
Thrown from friends and family
Who were proud to have seen a
stretching for a kiss.*

— Sheila [REDACTED]

The belle of the ball

by Jennifer Ann [REDACTED]

A little over a year ago I wasn't admitting to myself that I am a transvestite. I was so troubled by the thought of how others would view me that I could not even use the term "transvestite." But eventually I was ready to admit to myself who I was and even managed to put a wardrobe together for my first public appearance on Halloween.

Through a friend who is a waiter, I learned that the place he works at would hold a Halloween party. About a quarter of the people would be in costume. So the stage was set, and I asked my wife to be my "date" for the party.

As I began to get ready for the party, my wife was becoming visibly apprehensive. I assured her that it was Halloween and so I could handle any problems. But to make doubly sure, I decided on a trial run.

On the way to the bar we had to get gas. I made the day for the two attendants on duty. One said I would

do well in the costume contest; the other said the last time he dressed as a woman it *wasn't* Halloween.

We arrived at the bar without further incident. My friend was our waiter. My costume was a surprise to him, and he couldn't get over my "change." As he took us to our table, several people responded negatively. One guy in an Air Force uniform made a disgusted look as I passed; someone behind us made a remark about "the transvestite."

I received a lot of positive comments too. The deejay said, "Now that's a handsome woman." Many people asked if I was Tootsie, and several said that Dustin Hoffman would be proud. The women got a big kick out of it. I had never danced in heels, and they were surprised that I didn't fall. I told them that was because I was afraid of breaking something and having the doctor see me dressed as I was. A couple of women told me it was acceptable

(continued on page 15)

The **For Ideas**
FORUM

Senior Editor Pamela Westin bids Renaissance 'au revoir,' not 'goodbye'

by Pamela Ashley Westin

Well, it's hard to believe that it's been a whole year since I started as the newsletter editor. But it has, and I'm sorry to say this is my last issue as co-senior editor. Over the past year I've tried to bring you informative and interesting stories in the same way that JoAnn Roberts had before me. Of course I can't forget to say that I had lots and lots of help from Paula, who has shown me that I am a person and I can do good things for the community.

It wasn't more than 18 months ago when I, a very frightened, confused person, finally got up enough courage to write that ever-so-hard letter to Renaissance to find out what I'm all about. I did this with great reservation, because I thought, "Who cares about me and my problems?" Shocker! Someone *did* care and showed genuine concern for my dilemma.

Very shortly after I sent the letter, I received a reply for JoAnn

herself. I was simply amazed that this legendary person was actually taking an interest in my situation. This was too good to be true, especially since she put me in contact with Paula Jordan Sinclair.

Paula will not soon be forgotten. What she did for not only me and for every other transvestite, cross-dresser, transsexual, or whatever, was to give us the courage to be ourselves. She showed me that I'm not some kind of freak or pervert for what I do, only that I am a normal living, breathing human being with desires that need to be filled. She showed me that being a transvestite is nothing to be ashamed of. I have tried to take what she has taught me to heart and open myself up a little, or at least as much as I dare, to give others some of the same things she gave me.

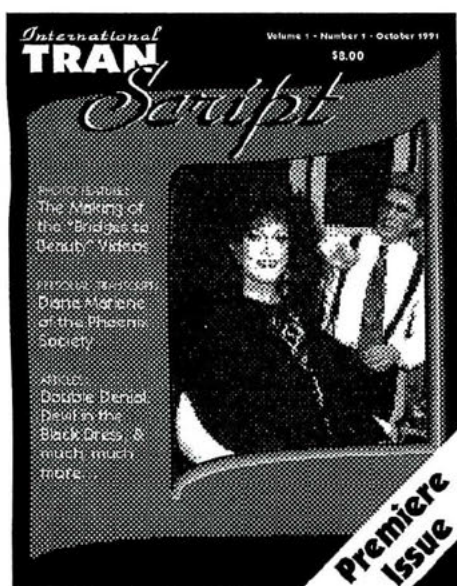
I think in many ways I am a far better person now than I was 18 months ago, and hopefully I will continue to improve by taking with

me the valuable lessons that both Paula and JoAnn, as well as the whole bunch at Renaissance, have given me. I will miss Jo and all the girls, but most of all I will miss Paula for the guidance, devotion, and love she has given me.

By the time this goes to print I'll be in San Diego, essentially starting over. But at least this time I have a direction. Don't think this is the last time you'll hear from me because I intend to at least get a Renaissance affiliate going in southern California. So I'll be in touch from time to time. Once a Renaissance Girl always a Renaissance Girl. You all have all my love.

(Oh, by the way, I hope my opening sentence wasn't too much of a cliché. I'll bet Paula has a conniption when she reads it.)

⇒ At the October Greater Philadelphia meeting, Pam was presented with a certificate of appreciation for her "outstanding services" to Renaissance. —PJS



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The **FORUM** For Ideas

An urgent plea to aid sisters in Colombia

To the Editor:

Regarding your report on Colombia ("NewsQueen," RN, Nov. '91), I have been aware of that situation since it began through my South American family and also because I met and interviewed Colombian and Brazilian transsexual hookers in Paris last year. I have been doing my best to circulate that news and raise consciousness within our community to try to get something done. But, to date, your column is the first to have the guts to publish more than a novelty snippet. To your credit you gave it full coverage.

The matter is only becoming noticed because "straight gay" men and born women prostitutes are being killed in equal number. Hitherto, it's been chiefly the obvious soft targets of trannies (transgendered people) and queens, and the homeless kids that many of them support on the side. It is sad but true that the gay men and feminists don't react unless they get hit too, and then they usually begrudge the transgendered for being such obvious targets, and blame it all on them in the first place, forgetting the basic right of individuals — including any tran — to express themselves.

What will be done? Letters of protest to governments and embassies? Marches, perhaps? How about

some actual hands-on work by someone in our community? What is required, in fact demanded, is a lone international troubleshooter to go to Colombia, find the community, interview them, establish sound and permanent contacts, supply them with IFGE lists and data (which I already have for such jobs), and inspire them to organize if only in cell form so they can get their news out to the world and perhaps link up with a sister group in a neighboring country. That's what I did in Turkey. I linked Istanbul with Pakistan so that they are now helping each other while the grand dames of IFGE can't yet so much as list their groups.

I am offering my services and asking the American "human rights" transgendered groups to put their money where their mouth is and send me on the mission. It will take one week to achieve the necessary emergency aims. I don't mind roughing it. I am very much used to that. So long as the air fare is paid both ways for me, I will cover the rest of the expenses or do without. My passport is up to date, so are my inoculations for anywhere in the world. It couldn't cost the community more than \$1,500 to get me there, maybe a touch less.

I am sure that you have sufficient people there able to use a phone

and make enquiries as to what the cheapest fare would be from London to Cali or wherever is the cheapest drop zone. As you know, I've not much money for mail, so would you circulate this offer to every and all groups and organizations interested in activism and human rights? Whoever pays the ticket can have my written report and any still pix video/sound tape that comes from the job, plus the contacts to use in publicizing the story of those in need.

If we don't make physical contact, no amount of mail is ever going to hack it because no one in the community there is going to understand how to help themselves, make contacts and ask for outside help. Also, no one else anywhere is going to understand the whole story with all its background and subtlety. Faceless mobs and gun squads are not targets; names and identities are.

I'm ready at a moment's notice.

—Phaedra Kelly

Isle of Wight, U.K.

⇒ *Phaedra Kelly stands alone in her often solitary efforts on behalf of transgendered people around the globe, especially in the third world. Her efforts have been somewhat successful. She can be contacted at GTA, Box 2, 1 Banks Bldg., Freshwater, Isle of Wight, PO40-9AJ, U.K.*

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The belle of the ball

(continued from page 12)

to remove my heels to dance. They thought it was great when I said I had painted my toenails for just such an occasion.

By far the funniest reactions came when I went into the men's room. They really should have assigned a paramedic to help with the cardiac arrest patients as I walked in. After they calmed down, the guys were great. "Jeez, you look better than my 'old lady!'" and "You've got a lot

of balls to do that!"

The costume contest came next. Judges handed out numbers for the two categories: most original and sexiest. I was given number seven, but they didn't say which category they had put me in. When they had called nine contestants for the most original category, the truth finally sank in. I was to compete with nine women for sexiest costume! A couple of guys standing around the dance

floor didn't look all that pleased.

As my number was called I began a bump and grind; all I needed was a feather boa to drag behind me. When I finished my routine, I thought the applause would make me go deaf; I was one of the three finalists. The three of us had to make another pass-in-review for the crowd, and this time the guys who had looked so displeased were giving me the "ok" sign and thumbs up. Honey, that did it. I raised my hands above my head to draw more applause from the crowd. The deejay had to actually shout into the microphone that I had won the \$150 prize.

I am sure that the major reason I won was that the crowd knew that I was a guy in a skirt and heels. But later my wife told me that you really had to look twice to tell if I was male or female. For her to admit that my appearance had improved showed me that I had come a long way in 14 months. She now teases me with comments such as "Hi, sexy," and "How does it feel to be the belle of the ball?" And my kids keep asking, "Why is Dad laughing like that?"

The "Which"

(continued from page 12)

in a special costume for the occasion. Each of these possibilities posed a problem without an easy solution. As the day approached, I was already being haunted, haunted by the "Which" of Halloween: which identity, which role, which persona was to be mine for the big day?

The problem was solved, at least for this year. It was Larry, after all, who finally went to a party, dressed as a chicken! It was all perfectly acceptable and socially safe. Larry was in fine feather, so to speak. Perhaps you are thinking I was chicken-hearted. Obviously, I didn't take advantage of every cross-dresser's dream, an organized and socially acceptable opportunity to dress as a female. Yes, I left Laura at home. But in a way I celebrated my feminine side after all. I went as a chicken, not as a rooster, and that's something to crow about.



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THE **ICONOCLAST**™

JoAnn Roberts

NAPA, CALIF. - Are you now, or have you ever been a member of...

GAL, The Gender Alternatives League, has finally broken its silence with the publication of its first newsletter *the Genderist*.

In this issue is an unsigned editorial by GAL executive director, **Cynthia Howard**, titled *Fibre for the Mind*. Howard writes that my article on the DSM debate (RN, Sept. '91) was a farce and not to be taken seriously. So, let me be very clear on several points:

- The DSM article was serious.
- The DSM does *not* define transvestism or transsexualism as a mental illness, nor are we victimized by the DSM.

- I think that removal of certain types of transgendered behavior from the DSM will do more harm than good.

- There are transvestites and transsexuals that *are* dysfunctional because of their behavior and these people need the care and help of professional counselors.

In a letter written to the **Congress of Reps of the International Foundation for Gender Education**, Howard charges that I started an "anti-gender movement campaign," and that GAL cannot, "endorse JoAnn Roberts or push power to her via the bill."

Anti-gender movement? Me? Not! Oh, I see! Since I disagree with the GAL anti-APA campaign, I am now anti-gender, anti-GAL and a "traitor." That McCarthy-esque tactic might have worked in another time, but not here and now. Nice try.

As for an endorsement, no problemo, Cynthia, since I neither wanted nor asked for a personal endorsement, and I do not seek power. This is not a contest with a winner and a loser. Either we all win or we'll all lose.

You either support the principles of the *Bill of Gender Rights* or you don't. I am *not* interchangeable with

the document, and while I acknowledge authorship, I do not claim ownership. The bill belongs to the community, not any one person or any one organization.

▼▲▼

SANTA BARBARA, CALIF. - Yet another questionnaire...

I received a letter from **Diane Wysocki** who is taking a masters degree at the University of California here, and her subject is crossdressing. She needs volunteers to fill out a questionnaire. Wysocki is known to the **Alpha Zeta Tri-Ess** group in Arizona.

Anyone interested in participating may contact her at the Department of Sociology, UCSB, Santa Barbara, CA 93106.

▼▲▼

MONMOUTH COUNTY, N.J. - Happy Birthday MOTG...

September marked the first anniversary of the **Monmouth/Ocean TransGenderists**, the first Renaissance affiliate. They started with 3 people at their first meeting and have been growing ever since.

I know she won't take all the credit, but **Terry M.** has put a lot of work into MOTG and I'm quite proud of her. She's come a long, long way since she found us.

▼▲▼

SO. CALIF. - Are you now, or have you ever been a member of...

The **Clarke Institute of Psychiatry** developed a sexual history questionnaire that they use with both transvestites and transsexuals. As such, the instrument has been tested and validated as a useful clinical tool. That's why **Dr. Richard Docter** chose it as an adjunct for his gender research project (RN, Aug, '91).

A letter sent by Docter to all his research participants noted that a few people (stress on "few" and we might guess who those few are) were "distressed with some of the sexually explicit content..." and that Docter might be "...trying to find evidence

that TVs and TSs have major sexual hang-ups."

Personally, I'd be surprised if they didn't. Almost everyone in our society has hang-ups about sex. According to one sexual authority, the United States is the second most sexually repressed country in the world. Anyone care to hazard a guess which country is number one?

▼▲▼

JACKSON, MISS. - But there is a glimmer of hope...

There is this wonderful little newsletter put out by **Lee Frances** called *Grace & Lace*. It integrates christian philosophy with passages from scripture in a way that supports and uplifts the transgendered community. Send a small donation to Lee and ask for the latest copy by writing to G&L Letter, PO Box 31253, Jackson, MS 39286-1253.

▼▲▼

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Rights? Ya ain't got no rights!...

My congressman sends me this quarterly newsletter, and the most recent issue had the results of a 1991 poll taken of 8,500 residents in this congressional district.

One of the questions had to do with higher taxes or increased costs for services and whether we'd be willing to pay more for:

- Education - 42.3% Yes
 - Civil Rights - 8.9% Yes
 - Health Care - 40.6% Yes
 - Environment - 45.5% Yes
- We've got a long road to travel.

▼▲▼

BELTON, MO. - Is this a case of reverse discrimination?...

Everybody knows about my "disagreement" with a certain Tri-Ess policy, but that is behind us now, and I truly do try to help wherever I can. So I was pleased to see my name mentioned with thanks in *New Beginnings*, the newsletter of the most recent addition to the Tri-Ess family, **Kappa Gamma Mu**.

I'd received a letter from **Jennifer R.**, the founder of KGM,

THE **ICONOCLAST**™
JoAnn Roberts

asking for advice on how to start her own group since she felt that the nearby **Crossdressers And Friends**, an open group, did not meet her needs. I encouraged her to go ahead and gave her what little advice I could. She also received much help and assistance from **Jane Ellen Fairfax** and the Tri-Ess national organization.

Something worked for them because Jennifer writes, "I have never experienced anything like this in my entire life. When a person expresses empathy, compassion, and understanding to another human being, it brings rewards to you that are immeasurable on any scale."

The sour note is that some of the people at CAF are upset that Jennifer set up shop in "their" territory. I wonder who gave CAF the deed to Kansas City?

On a more positive note, KGM endorsed the *Bill of Gender Rights*.

▼▲▼

LONDON, U.K. - Twenty-five down and twenty-five to go...

I guess this is a testimony to the efforts of **Virginia Prince**, long considered the grande dame of our community. The **Beaumont Society**, a spin-off of Prince's original organization, is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary with a special edition of the *Beaumont Bulletin*.

The October issue is a keeper. It has a very nice heavy cover of silver metallic paper that should last a long time. Inside are 60 pages of articles and information about the English TV scene.

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SOMEWHERE, N.J. - Caveat emptor...

I have been told by several people that two former Renaissance members, both of whom are self-proclaimed transsexuals, have set up their own "gender clinic."

I am certainly not opposed to private enterprise, but these two individuals have no training or

expertise in counseling whatsoever. It is also rumored that one of them is handing out female hormones without a prescription.

I strongly caution everyone who reads this newsletter to stay away from such individuals. They do no one any good and can only bring great harm to the community.

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NEW MONMOUTH, N.J. - In Unity There Is Strength...

It's tough producing a newsletter every month, and, believe me, I know what it takes. But **Chrys** [redacted] has found a solution to that problem for several groups in the northern New Jersey/New York area.

NorthEast Passages is a cooperative effort between **South Jersey Renaissance** and **The Gathering**, primarily, with support from **MOTG**, **Metro-Gender**, and **Survivors of Transsexuality Anonymous**. The idea is to produce a regional newsletter with a little input from each group.

The premiere issue is extremely well done, even if Chrys does use a PC, and has many interesting articles in it. Individual subscriptions are \$24 a year. Group subscriptions are \$16.50. Contact Chrys at PO Box 532, New Monmouth, NJ 07748.

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HARTFORD, CONN. - They kept their promise...

True to their word, the **Twenty (XX) Club, Inc.** published their first official newsletter, *Twenty*, and it is extremely well done.

There's a grab-bag full of interesting articles, and one of my favorites is *A Letter From Holly* with advice to the neophyte transsexual:

"1. Start saving your money. As a woman you will earn less; if you can't save now, you won't make it. It will cost like a new Jaguar, tho' not all at once, not leasable, and no 48-month financing."

I also like the retrospective by **Vivian** [redacted] (love that name.)

So, check it out. Membership including a subscription to the newsletter is \$20 per year. Write to: The XX Club, PO Box 387, Hartford, CT 06141-0387.

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HOUSTON, TEX. - Find a need and fill it...

From the **Gulf Coast Transgender Community** newsletter, I see that **Phyllis Randolph Frye** has set up a writing endowment at the **University of Houston Law Center** to encourage research into transgendered law. Frye is coordinating a transgender law conference to be held in conjunction with the **IFGE** convention in Houston.

The law to be analyzed may be in such areas as employment, hiring discrimination, family, housing, insurance benefits, military, or any other subject related to our community. The annual award will be \$500 commencing in the spring of 1992.

The competition is open to law students at the UH Law Center, and submissions will be judged by a panel selected by the Dean and approved by Frye. The winner and selected submissions may be published under the auspices of the **Bar Association for Human Rights of Greater Houston**.

Frye hopes that other law schools can be similarly endowed. She says, "Until the above issues are thoroughly explored in the legal arena, the progress of the gender community will continue at a snail's pace."

Sounds like a great project for local support groups to fund.

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NOTA BENE - The opinions expressed here are mine and mine alone. No criticism is meant as a personal attack. If you feel that way, you have a problem with self-image. If you have a comment, positive or negative, write me at PO Box 61263, KofP, PA 19406-1263.

A TV testimonial

The Paula Young® Fashion Wigs story

by Lois Commendenominator

Oliver Wendell Douglas was a successful attorney in New York City, but in his heart he yearned for the countryside—you know; chores, land spreading out so far and wide, etc. Lisa just adored Times Square and her penthouse view in Manhattan. She would frequently shop the stores on Park Avenue but had to say goodbye to city life to become Oli's wife. Country bumpkin and nosy neighbor Hank Kimball later said of the couple that the two shouldn't have mixed, but Oliver wanted to till the soil, and Lisa liked the way he planted his seeds. She soon overcame her allergic reaction to the smell of hay, and he eventually got used to the splinters that perforated his dress shirts from climbing up and down that telephone pole. It was no wonder that Hooterville became their home. Just this side of Pixley, it was the only

place in the country that had room for the honeymooning couple to park their 1966 suicide-doored avocado green Lincoln Continental.

One fine day, possibly from being mesmerized by Fred Ziffle's goatee, Lisa had this brainstorm of an idea. She stopped milking Eleanor the cow just long enough to order fashion wigs from Paula Young®. Soon after, Lisa started wearing the FREE wig she won on her first quick and easy order, at which time she also gave in to the allure of those sporty Terry Turbans in all six available and glamorous colors.

Disaster struck when Mr. Haney sold Lisa some Dingwell's No-Wilt Aerosol Hairspray. Arnold the pig almost ended up in the smoke house from the rutting he gave Lisa. It was later determined that the hairspray smelled just like truffles to the misunderstood ham. Lisa was in a dither when she limped into

Sam Drucker's Emporium. He told her that Mrs. Ziffle had a similar problem, and the rutting stopped faster than you can say "This has been a Filmways presentation" when she followed the suggestion and switched to a non-aerosol spray (as we all should do!). Thankfully, with a shake and a fluff, the perfect take-me-along, no-fuss, no-muss, hand-tied, easy-styling medium ash honey blonde frosted lightweight Lady Orchid wig, which included a zig-zag weft and open ear tabs, bounced back to its carefree shape.

So don't buy your hairpiece from just any traveling dicky salesman! Call for your FREE catalog today, dahling! 1-800-343-9695.

⇒ Reprinted with permission from Dragazine, a wild publication from Hollywood dedicated "to those who are into 'recreational transvestism' and to others on the edge of the gender bell curve."



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