

News & views

Vision • Integrity • Quality

Vol. 8, No. 8 • August 1994

The "Wrong" Sex: A New Definition of Childhood Pain

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Even when he was just 3 years old, the boy spent hours preening himself in front of a mirror, dressed up in his mother's clothes, makeup and jewelry. He shied away from rough-and-tumble games with other boys, preferring to play dolls with girls. His favorite stories featured women: *Snow White*, *Rapunzel* and *Alice In Wonderland*.

He hated being a boy, he said; he'd rather be a girl. He once told his therapist, "if you wear girls' clothes you could really become a girl."

The child was referred for therapy by his nursery school, not just because he insisted on dressing as a girl, but also because he was extremely shy and easily upset. The diagnosis that he received when his parents brought him for psychotherapy was Gender Identity Disorder, the fervent desire to become a member of the opposite sex and distress at one's own gender.

He was in therapy for four years. Now, at ten, he "likes himself as a boy and doesn't really remember crossdressing," said his therapist Dr. Susan Coates, director of the Childhood Gender Identity Center at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital in Manhattan [NY].

Gender identity disorder might seem to be a problem exacerbated by the cultural mores of our time when RuPaul, the [crossdressing] rock star, dresses as a woman and women like the singer k. d.

lang dress as men. But child psychologists say that it has little to do with images from popular culture and much to do with the intimate dynamics of family life and a child's search to find a firm identity.

Others say that there is as yet no firm data on what leads a child to desire to join the opposite sex. Some contend that it is a precursor of homosexuality, that parents should simply accept it, and that the very diagnosis is based on sexist assumptions.

Recent studies show that on the one hand fantasies about being a member of the opposite sex are normal in 3-year-olds, with about half of both boys and girls having them, and that on the other hand a vast majority of gay and lesbian adults recall having engaged as children in crossdressing or other behavior typical of the opposite sex. Thus, while crossgender make-believe play does not mean that a child will grow up to become homosexual, most homosexuals have engaged in it as children.

In Western cultures, where gender standards for girls are more liberal than those for boys, girls who want to be boys typically suffer less for it than do boys who want to be girls. Of those children brought for treatment to American clinics, boys outnumber girls by a ratio of more than five to one. "Girls have to be in more extreme distress than boys before

please turn to page 6

New Members Added to National Board

Several personnel changes were made at the last meeting of the Renaissance National Board in June.

Elaine H. was appointed to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Bonnie [redacted] as Executive Secretary. Elizabeth [redacted] was appointed to fill a vacancy as Co-Director of Membership. Both Elaine and Elizabeth are relatively new members and a bit younger than other board members; their appointments bring a fresh outlook to the board.

The board unanimously voted to amend the By Laws permitting appointments for Director-At-

Large positions from outside the organization. This change allowed the board to induct Dr. William R. Stayton, a long time supporter and advisor to the group, as a Director-At-Large and voting member of the board. Welcome Dr. Stayton.

In other business of note, the board voted to contribute \$150 to the *First Annual Conference on Cross Dressing, Sex and Gender*, to be held at the Univ. of Calif., Northridge next February. Board member JoAnn Roberts will conduct a three hour workshop for professionals at the conference.

Renaissance



Chapter & Affiliate Information

Chapters

Delaware

Renaissance Delaware Chapter: meets second Saturday of each month. Write for info to: PO Box 5656, Wilmington, DE 19808 or call 302-995-1396.

New Jersey

South Jersey/Shore Area: Write Renaissance SJ, Box 189, Mays Landing, NJ 08330. Meets the first Saturday of the month at the Atlantic Mental Health Center, 2002 Black Horse Pike, McKee City. Doors open at 7 p.m. Call 609-435-5401 for details.

Pennsylvania

Greater Philadelphia area: Write Renaissance GPC, Box 530, Bensalem, PA 19020-0530. Meets third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia. Doors open 8 p.m. all year 'round. Call 610-630-1437 for information.

Lower Susquehanna Valley: Write Renaissance LSV, Box 2122 Harrisburg, PA 17105. Meets on the first Saturday of the month. Call 717-780-1LSV (1578) for location and times.

Affiliates

Georgia

Atlanta: The American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS), PO Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033-0724 or call 404-939-0244. Information resources.

Atlanta: Atlanta Gender Explorations (A.G.E.), PO Box 77562, Atlanta, GA 30357, 404-435-4203.

Louisiana

The Gulf Gender Alliance, PO Box 870213, New Orleans, LA 70187-1300. Local support group.

New Jersey

Monmouth/Ocean Trans-Gender, (MOTG), write PO Box 8243, Red Bank, NJ 07701 or call 908-219-9094.

New York

Metropolitan Gender Network (MGN), write 561 Hudson St., Box 45, New York, NY 10014, or call 201-794-1665, Ext. 332. Local support group.

Renaissance News & Views

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\$2 per issue, \$16 per year (12 issues). Back issues are available for \$2 per copy plus \$0.52 postage and handling. Send check or M.O. to the above address, attention: Beth Marshall.

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Articles, opinion pieces, and letters to the editor are always welcome. Ideas for articles and opinion pieces should be sent to our editorial office care of Renaissance, PO Box 530, Bensalem, Pa. 19020-0530. Complimentary and irate letters to the editor may be sent to the same address.

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

Resources

Background Papers:

Background Papers are \$1.25 each:

1. Myths & Misconceptions About Crossdressing
2. Reasons for Male to Female Crossdressing
3. PARTNERS: Spouses & Significant Others
4. The Matter of Children
5. Annotated Bibliography
6. Telling the Children: A Transsexual's Point of View
7. AIDS/ HIV Safety and Ethics.
8. Understanding Transsexualism


Significant Other Support

To network with other partners of transgendered people contact Evelyn Kirkland, PO Box 1242, Newtown, Pa., 18940.

Pen Pal Program:

If you would like to correspond with other people around the country contact Pen Pals, care of Maryann Kirkland, PO Box 1242, Newtown, Pa., 18940. Maryann will put you on the Pen Pal List and give you a copy of that list so you may correspond with as many new friends as you like.

TransParent Forum:

If you are transgendered and have children, that makes you a TransParent. If you'd like to network with other TransParents contact Elsa  PO Box 2122, Harrisburg, Pa., 17105, attention: TransParent.

Events Calendar

August

- 6 Ren So. Jersey
- 6 Ren LSV - Ren Bookstore
- 13 Ren Delaware
- 17-21 ICTLEP Law Conf., Houston
- 20 Ren GPC - Fashion & Style w/ JoAnn Roberts
- 20 Lambda Car Club Invitational
- 27 Ren LSV-Annual Luau

September

- 3 Ren So. Jersey
- 10 Ren LSV - Cosm. Surgery
- 10 Ren Delaware
- 17 Ren GPC -
- 22-25 CDS Pocono Weekend
- 24 MOTG - 4th Anniv. Mtg., Guest: Leslie Feinberg
- 29-2 4th Annual So. Comfort, Atlanta, Ga.

News Beat & Reminder



by Angela Gardner

Well, I know I said I wasn't going to tread on the island of Manhattan June twenty sixth. That resolution lasted till I got a call from the casting director in charge of hiring the female impersonators for the new Spielberg flick that started lensing last month in the Big Apple. They wanted me to get gussied and attend an open call that evening. What could I do? I gussied and went.

The traffic and crowds weren't that bad going into Manhattan. I even found a parking spot on the same block as Webster Hall, the giant club where they held the casting session. After signing up I had a cocktail and being a middle aged queen who needs her beauty rest I decided to head for home.

Under the evil influence of demon gin I forgot that Seventh Avenue in Greenwich Village was not the place to try and drive a vehicle on that particular evening. As I sat in the traffic jam at Christopher Street gays, lesbians and transgendered folks partied all around me. One guy leaned out the broken back window of his rental van to take my picture. That gives him two souvenirs to take back to Georgia. (Rental? Hope he got full coverage)

A car in the left lane ahead of me was half heartedly trying to pull into my lane. Since I am always a lady I waited for him to pull in but he kept hesitating. (Not the thing to do when driving in NYC.) I reverted somewhat to masculine mode and actually clearly enunciated the phrase, "Come on buddy! Move it!"

The lesbian on a motorcycle next to me said something to the effect of,

"You tell 'em queen!" It was a moment of bonding. I would have parked the car and hung out, but there was nowhere to park.

That's my Stonewall 25 story. For some other perspectives on the March from people who were there for the whole day's activities check the articles starting on page 16.

BLATANT APPEAL FOR FUNDS

Last month you found an insert in *News & Views* soliciting funds for production of a film on the transgendered community. Go to your desk, your drawer, your trash can, wherever you put the insert, fill in an amount and send it back to us with a check. (We take money orders too.) It takes money to make a feature film. There's film to be bought, cameras to be rented, lighting equipment, pay checks for the crew, walkie talkies for the production assistants and a million other things that need to be paid for.

To raise the kind of cash we need for this pic we are counting on support from the community. We need to come up with at least ten percent of the projected \$400,000 budget so when we apply for grants the grantors will take us seriously. If you want to help the transgender community take a giant step toward greater public acceptance, then you will want to make a contribution. Any amount over \$5000 will get your name (femme, of course) in the credits under the "additional funding provided by..." section. Any amount will be fine, just make sure you send an amount. If you can't find last

month's insert, make your check payable to Renaissance and mail it to Community Film Project, c/o Renaissance, PO Box 60552, King of Prussia, PA 19406. Thank you for helping us take this step toward greater acceptance. By the way, it's tax deductible to the full extent allowed by the IRS.

BIG DEAL

IFGE publishes the *TV/TS Tapestry Journal* and at one time or another most of us in the TG community have either had a subscription or paid the cover price. Now, for a limited time only, comes an offer from IFGE that some of you may be interested in. They sent us a letter and ad copy promoting a two year (8 issues) *Tapestry* subscription for only \$72.00. A regular 4 issue subscription is \$40. If you order before midnight tonight (operators are standing by) they will throw in a "Love Sees No Gender" T-Shirt. If you already have a subscription and you would like the shirt they are available for \$10 each.

As I said, the letter from IFGE arrived with ad copy enclosed. In order to assure the arrival of the copy in usable condition they put it in a nicely marbled texture, pocket type arrangement. Sort of like half of one of those pocket folders you use to carry papers around. The copy arrived in mint condition. Only thing is, our policy is: **No Free Ads.** We're happy to write up any information that arrives in the form of a press release, but sending ad copy without a check is just a waste of time and postage.

For an organization that is always trying to raise funds to keep up with daily operating expenses I think that 62¢ for the postage, probably (just a guess) 20¢ for the pocket thingee and then the cost of a large manila envelope to mail it all in is an expense they could do without. A bulk mailed press release, one that could have included a smaller piece of ad copy could have done the same job. Is it a case of pound wise and penny foolish?

If you want to order your subscription send your check or money order

continued next page

News Beat...

for \$72 to IFGE, PO Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778-0367. Make a note of whether you want the bonus T-Shirt. If you want to order by phone using your Visa or Master Card call 617-894-8340. If you order using a credit card IFGE will receive a 6% donation from the credit card company.

THE WIGS ARE ALRIGHT

An employee of US Air is suing that airline over their dress code. Jon Coia is a long-haired baggage handler who has kept his hair in a ponytail for about twenty years. He also sports an earring. This guy's a regular hippy! How many crossdressers have used that excuse? "I keep it long in honor of Jimi, man."

They told Jon to cut his ponytail in 1991 but he refused and filed suit in June, saying the dress code violates his civil rights. An airline spokesman got himself in hot water with us when he said dress codes do not have to be sexually equal. "You wouldn't let a man come to work wearing a dress." Well now, hold it a minute. If his dress didn't hinder his baggage handling capabilities, I ask you, why not?

The irony of the whole story is, Coia's supervisors said he wouldn't have to get a hair cut if he would stuff it all under a short wig. Think you could get your company to order you to wear a wig? Perhaps a simple page boy. How about a shag? Calling Eva Gabor!

Thanks to Linda C. of LSV Renaissance for the clipping from AP.

AWARD FOR LONGEST NAME/ MOST CONFUSING PRESS RELEASE

We've gotten a few press releases from an organization called The National Harry Benjamin Gender Dysphoric Association and frankly, they've been too confusing for me to comment on. It seems the NHBGDA is a Colorado based association that provides referrals to providers for transgendered individuals seeking psychologists or surgeons. This referral is free to the gender dysphoric and the providers pay \$75.00 to register with the NHBGDA. (Pssst. Providers can get a FREE listing in the *Who's Who & Resource Guide* from CDS.)

Okay, I think I've got that. They would also like us to know that they have nothing to do with The Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, Inc. in Sonoma, California. The HBIGDA is often confused with the NHBGDA I guess. I can't think why. Maybe because both organizations have names that only turn into gibberish when you use the first initials.

Write to the NHBGDA at 3506 South Ouray Circle, Aurora, Colorado 80013 or call them at 303-754-7579 for more information on their referrals. Their founder, Sharon F. Daugherty is working her way through law school in an attempt to earn a Juris Doctorate degree dedicated to laws on behalf of gender dysphoric individuals. It might be a good idea if she took a course on effective writing for press releases.

LIKE BUTTER... WELL MARGARINE

The cover story of the *Philadelphia Inquirer's* June 19, 1994 Entertainment section had a performance photo of Barbara Streisand taking up almost half the page. But, what does that say under the photo? It says, "Jim Bailey on stage as Barbra Streisand." And he looks just like her. Of course Jim doesn't just look like her he sings like her and the tickets are a lot cheaper to his show; \$25 as opposed to \$400.

Like Ms. Gardner, Jim considers himself to be an actor. Unlike myself, Jim Bailey doesn't like to be called a female impersonator. In the *Inquirer* article he says, "I'm an actor. People compare me to Hal Holbrook, who played a one-man show as Mark Twain, or Robert Morse as Truman Capote. It's just the fact that I wear a dress. I could be singing as a man." Hal Holbrook may be an actor but I think you could reasonably call him a Mark Twain impersonator.

Jim left the Philadelphia area to seek fame and fortune in Hollywood back in the sixties. He started out doing Phyllis Diller and then discovered that he could sing like Judy Garland. "Something inside said, 'Do this.'" said Bailey. Since then he's been making his living by becoming famous women. He has appeared on several television shows, mostly in a dress, including *Here's Lucy*, *The Rockford Files* and *Night Court*. In the latter he was Dan Fielding's old buddy who had been through SRS. That is a pretty good acting career and if Jim doesn't

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want to admit to any thing other than an inner voice that urged him to do it, then who am I to argue with him. I know why I accept female impersonation acting jobs. It's fun! Lighten up, Bailey. Yes, you are a great artist but don't you enjoy it just a little bit?

MORE SHOWBIZ DRAG

If you haven't seen it, keep your eyes open for Prime Suspects III on PBS. It's part of their Mystery! series and it's a British made show which deals with a homicide investigation that takes place in the seedy underworld of England's sexual minorities. (Hey, I've been there!) Someone has killed a "rent boy," one of the street kids who make their living by prostitution. Homosexuals, pedophiles and drag queens are featured in the story line along with transsexuals and, ooh yes, straight people. (I love the way they say, 'pee-do-phile.')

Don't worry girls, the story is well written, the acting is superb and the transsexual and transvestite characters are treated fairly. The fun part occurs in episode three when some of the straight cops go undercover to a club that features drag queens on stage and in the audience. The homosexual cop, who does not dress up, says the only way they'll be able to check out the patrons of this club in their search for clues is to go in drag since none of the male members pay any attention to the queens. Use their own prejudice against them. One scene has the cops being dressed up by a performer from the club who will also get them past the doorman. One of the policemen

says it makes him feel like he's in *Some Like It Hot*. The FI reacts negatively to that reference and when the other cop says it's a comedy she replies, "For people who only feel right in drag, it's not funny."

If you see it listed, don't miss it.

DRAG IN SHOCKING GREY

Shocking Grey is the gay orientated catalog where homosexuals can acquire "queer gear." Among the items they offer, like commitment rings for same sex couples, tiny Speedo swim trunks and various types of sex lubricants, you will find, on page 42 a section labeled "Go Girl." It offers videos and CDs by California drag sensation, Pussy Tourette. I don't know if she sings as well as Miss Streisand (or Mr. Bailey) but I've heard good things about her. Farther down the page you can find the video *Paris Is Burning*, a life size cut out of Marilyn Monroe and a series of drag postcards for queenly correspondence. On the next page they offer Divine refrigerator magnets! To get your copy of *Shocking Grey* write them at 1216 East Euclid, San Antonio, TX 78212-4159. Call 800-788-4729.

SUNSHINE SISSY MAN

July's Vanity Fair had an interview with the son of '60s pop singer Donovan. He is also named Donovan and like dad, he has musical aspirations. While his dad was always a little fey, young Donovan Leitch is an absolute swish. His band is called Nancy Boy. That's an old English expression that means the same thing

as sissy boy. In the photo accompanying the interview Donovan is wearing a fishnet unitard, spandex short shorts and a maribou coat accessorized with a black choker, black nail polish and alluring eye makeup. Unfortunately, from our standpoint, he isn't wearing falsies and he's got a bulge in his pants. He's still cute though.

He admits to bisexuality. He says he is in love with model Kate Moss and he has a huge crush on Jaye Davidson, (who doesn't?) but, they're just friends. He also says he has never acted on his attraction to men.

When questioned about his high swish factor he replied, "True, I'm completely camp. I've never been macho. I feel like it's my alter ego, it's like a release. So many of my friends are gay, and I do feel like I really fit

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TASK FORCE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

If you would like to help the Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force in their fight for full civil and human rights for gays and lesbians maybe you'd like to give them some of your time. The Task Force is in search of a team of skilled volunteers to support special projects and to provide administrative assistance. If you are interested in joining the Task Force team call Rita Adessa, 215-772-2000 for more information.

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"Wrong" Sex...

their parents will bring them for treatment," said Dr. Kenneth Zucker, director of the Child Adolescent Gender Identity Clinic at the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry in Toronto.

Gender lines vary with culture and history, of course. It is probably more difficult, for example, for women or girls to engage in crossgender activity in a traditional culture with strong gender boundaries, as in many Muslim countries, Dr. Zucker said. But his reading of historical records suggests that the phenomenon now called Gender Identity Disorder has existed for centuries.

"Social historians describe hundreds of cases of women who lived as men, whose true sex was not discovered until their death," Dr. Zucker said. While some may have been motivated by the desire for access to what were then exclusively male privileges, historical accounts and biographies show others clearly fit the childhood pattern of Gender Identity Disorder, he said.

"Many cultures have found ways to deal with people wanting to live as the opposite sex," Dr. Zucker said. "Native Americans had a tradition of men who lived as women, 'berdache' as the French called them. In other cultures, some men who have become eunuchs may have gravitated to the role because they had the same tendencies."

But the Victorian custom of long hair and dresses for little boys as well as for little girls reflected the style of the times, not a longing to cross sex boundaries.

Seeking What's 'Normal'

Gender Identity Disorder is quite rare; the Clarke clinic has seen or treated 225 children for the problem over 15 years. There are only a half-dozen centers worldwide that specialize in treating it, Dr. Zucker said.

One reason few children are brought for treatment is that "there is not a distinct line between what is normal and what is abnormal," said Dr. Linda Lindsay, a behavioral pediatrician at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital

Center in Manhattan. "It's a spectrum," she said. In a study of 65 preschool-age boys and girls, she found that 45 percent of girls had fantasized about having a penis or otherwise being male, while 44 percent of boys had fantasized about being pregnant.

The fantasies typically fade as the children grow older. The crisis that most often brings children to therapy, said Dr. Zucker, occurs when the child reaches the age to start preschool or kindergarten and refuses to go unless allowed to crossdress.

"Until children are around 3 or 4 they feel that everything is possible: you can be both a boy and a girl," Dr. Lindsay said. "Around 3 or 4, though, they realize that there are limits to your gender. The fantasy of being of the opposite sex allows them to try out different roles."

One way they do this is by dressing as the opposite sex. "Occasional cross-dressing in a child is not necessarily a sign of a problem," Dr. Lindsay said. "The problem is with the little boy who insists on dressing as a girl all the time and brings his Barbie doll with him wherever he goes, not the little boy who at dress-up time in nursery school one day puts on the Princess Jasmine costume and then jumps right into some game with other boys."

The new edition of psychiatry's official diagnostic manual, published in May, specifies that the diagnosis does not apply to children who ignore the culture's stereotypical sex roles: girls who are "tomboys" or boys who are "sissies."

The main symptoms of Gender Identity Disorder include not just a strong wish to be the opposite sex and unhappiness about one's actual sex, but also distress about this predicament that is so severe it interferes with the child's functioning.

"Boys who want to be girls express lots of misery about being a boy," Dr. Coates said. "A kind of self-hatred is one of the most prominent symptoms and the most distressing to parents."

Much of therapy focuses on helping children deal better with their feelings about themselves. They often suffer

anxiety, depression or social withdrawal severe enough that each of those problems would be reason to treat your child, Dr. Zucker said.

"In our clinic, it's always up to the parents to determine what the goal of therapy should be," he added. "We recommend that one goal be to help the child feel more secure about his or her actual gender, another to deal with the child's emotional difficulties, and a third to help with problems in the family. It's helpful to have parents set limits on things like crossdressing, which many parents have not done before coming to us."

Several patterns have emerged as common in the family dynamics of boys with gender problems. One is having a mother hostile toward men and a physically or emotionally absent father, so that the child senses being a male is not valued," Dr. Zucker said.

Another problem for boys is having a mother who is emotionally distressed. "The majority of mothers have had some terrible trauma occur in their own lives, like the death of another child, that has left them suddenly depressed and emotionally inaccessible, often when the child is about 2 or 3," Dr. Coates said.

"When the mother isn't available emotionally, a little boy may try to make up for it in fantasy play by identifying with a nurturing female like Princess Jasmine in *Aladdin*, wanting to dress and be like her," Dr. Zucker said. "In families where the mother is angry at men, a boy may identify with evil females, like Cruella in *101 Dalmatians*."

Wanting a Gun and a Penis

In the 30 or so girls treated for gender identity problems, half lived in families with a violent father, Dr. Zucker said. "One 5-year-old girl with an abusive father was obsessed with getting a gun and a penis to protect herself. In 80 percent of cases, the girls had mothers who were severely depressed or otherwise emotionally preoccupied when the girls were between 1 and 4 years old, a period

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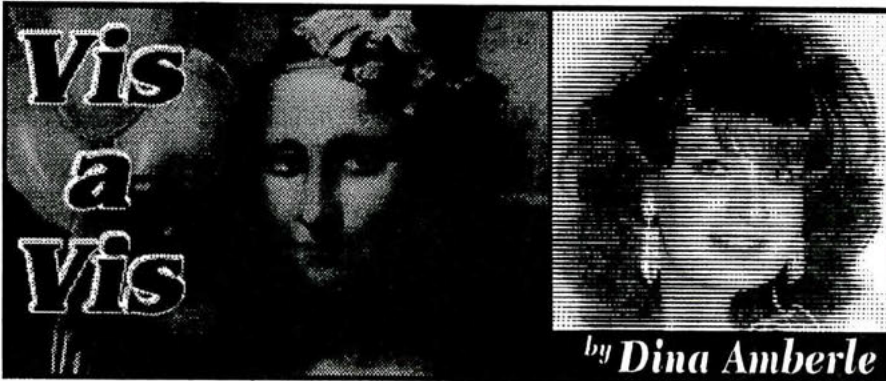
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Last month I was lamenting the fact that I was agreeing with too many of my compatriots in newsletterland. This month I don't have a nice thing to say about anybody.

To the growing list of people who don't like me, (and took the time to write me and tell me so) we can probably add the Phillips', Jennifer Rose, Bobbi L. and Kiki. And if you're wondering why those people may not like me anymore... well, read it yourself...

A SOCIETY OF TWO?

The Boulton & Park Society down in San Antonio, Texas has announced that it will have no more social meetings. According to B&P's Secretary, Linda Phillips, the Society's bylaws were changed to eliminate not only monthly meetings, but memberships also. That means the Society is really just a group of subscribers to the *Gender Euphoria* newsletter that B&P puts out. That would seem to leave only Linda and Cynthia Phillips as the two faces of B&P.

Linda Phillips wrote an article (in an unnecessarily snotty tone) about the problems involved in trying to organize meetings, put out the newsletter, and run the annual Texas "T" Party. Apparently, there wasn't a lot of help forthcoming from the membership, including a problem getting people to pay their way with dues or meeting expense contributions.

She exhorts someone out there in San Antonio to take up the cudgel and do it for themselves if they really want monthly meetings. That's fair. Too

many people in groups all over the country rely on others doing all the groundwork so they can sashay in, eat the munchies, see their friends, make a mess, then cruise home.

But organizing monthly meetings shouldn't be that hard a task. It should be a fairly routine chore to offer a place, a program, and some refreshments at the same time, same place each month.

I may be reading between the lines here, but the leadership of Boulton & Park has always seemed (albeit from afar) a little abrasive and too closely held. Perhaps that's why it was so hard to foster volunteerism in the group - and perhaps why the remaining leaders (the Phillips') really don't care about the rest of the Society being left out in the cold.

SOMETIMES WHEN YOU'RE RIGHT...YOU'RE WRONG

Cal Thomas is a syndicated columnist whose conservative opinion pieces appear in newspapers across the country. One of his recent columns exhorted the Republican party to promote conservative morality rather than focusing strictly on economic issues. Cal's hypothesis is that voters will be more interested in strong moral positions over bread and butter issues when push comes to shove in a national election.

He cites the population's growing alarm over drug usage; violent, random crime; educational decline; the breakdown of the cellular family; and the proliferation of AIDS as a by-product of sexual promiscuity. He

throws the blame at liberals who gained an upper hand in promoting social programs in the 60's and beyond. In Mr. Thomas' opinion, movements such as sexual freedom, progressive education, unrestrained personal expression, and even the war on poverty all contributed to the mess we find ourselves in today. He quotes another conservative opinionmaker, William Bennett, who cites all of the above points and says "If these things continue, the republic as we know it will cease to be."

Honest. Someone actually used that tired cliché in a speech in 1994.

Now you can agree or disagree with all or part of Cal Thomas' thesis. And it is true that certain trends in modern American life are troublesome. And it is almost human nature to fear the unknown if it appears to threaten the status quo. But the paths of history are littered with alarmists who said, "Society, as we know it, will cease to be if x, y or z continues."

What does this have to do with crossdressing? Well, nothing directly. But beware the pendulum as it swings from the left to the right. The so-called conservatives want to get government out of areas such as fighting poverty and improving education... and into the business of deciding which behaviors or cultural institutions are morally acceptable. That isn't conservatism - that's fascism.

IT IS YOUR PROBLEM

The Rainbow, newsletter of the RGA group in San Jose CA, carried an essay by one Jennifer Rose [REDACTED] titled *Coming Out*. This was the first sentence of the essay: "My name is Jennifer Rose [REDACTED] and I am a Pre-Op Transsexual and if you are uncomfortable with that, it is not my problem."

Now there's a fine 'how d'ya do'. Wouldn't this be a wonderful, warm and fuzzy world if everyone introduced themselves like that?

Somewhere along the road that Cal Thomas is complaining about, a certain segment of the population took to this notion of getting right in people's faces

with their own unique views of the world. It's evidenced by such tiresome phenomena as "trash talking," and beginning essays with opening lines like Jennifer Rose's.

The shame of it is Jennifer wrote a nice account of 'coming out' to oneself before 'coming out' to others. But why all that venom up front? I doubt if anyone reading a transgendered support group newsletter is going to be uncomfortable with a pre-op, post-op, non-op, or a pop-top transsexual. I agree that if someone is uncomfortable with that, it isn't *her* problem, but hitting people in the face with an arrogant opening *is* a problem. And it belongs to none other than Jennifer Rose [REDACTED]: pre-op transsexual.

VISIBLE JOHNSONS REVISITED

The Cross-Port *InnerView* out of Cincinnati, Ohio, carried an article by Bobbi L. titled *Your D-CK is Showing*. Close followers of this column will remember that I wrote a piece called *Pardon Me, Miss, but Your Johnson is Showing* a few months ago.

While my article dealt with the penchant some TV's have for flaunting their unimpressive members in personal ad photos, Bobbi's essay pointed out more subtle revelations of our underlying masculinity.

Bobbi finds that her feminine mindset is disrupted when another crossdresser starts acting like, well, like a guy in a dress. She cites the example of the oaf who spoils a koffee klatsch chat about dress sales and bargain pumps with a reminder that torque wrenches are also on special this week. And the way testosterone rises in some guys, er, crossdressers when a pretty babe walks by. Talking sports or home repairs should likewise be verboten in any group of serious crossdressers. She says that at moments like that someone should remind the transgressor, "Darling, your D-ck is showing."

True enough, in the figurative sense. But who are we trying to kid

anyway? No amount of chatter about fashions or lace doilies is going to make any of us forget our true gender. In fact, it would be very tiresome indeed if we felt compelled to discuss 'feminine' topics whenever we meet en femme. Socializing with other cross-dressers is a form of male bonding and each of us can enjoy our femininity without playing make-believe in everything we do or say.

So the next time some queen interrupts a good conversation about the merits of gas-powered versus electric weed whackers by injecting some comment about a sale on handbags, just say, 'Darling, Your Pussy is Showing.'

IF YOU KNEW KIKI LIKE I KNOW KIKI

If I'm ever in Chicago, I'll have to look up Kiki [REDACTED]. Who dat? you ask.

Oh, she's a pageant contestant, a would-be showgirl with a 42 inch bust, a showbiz performer with three shows behind her and a fourth just waiting to happen, and a miniskirted, high-heeled streetwalkin' party girl. She even got nominated to a Tri-Ess chapter board.

This Kiki must be a pretty good friend of mine to have all that neat information about her right at hand. But no, I've never met her. I learned all that stuff about Kiki from one of her columns in the *Primrose* newsletter of the Chicago Gender Society.

Yeah, that's right. One column by Kiki contained all that info about Kiki. Oh, and some other stuff too but who really cares about that unless it has a direct bearing on Kiki's activities?

Here are some snippets from Kiki's column - just to give you an idea why I wanted to bring it to your attention:

On being a pageant contestant: "Our pageant is this coming weekend and since I am in it, I have to think SHOWGIRL all week... Besides, I just looked over the list of contestants and decided I have a fair to middling

chance of winning it... Put the tape measure around myself the other night with the waist cincher on and had showgirl measurements 42-27-40!"

Must be one hell of a waist cincher, huh? But those showgirls know where to find good stuff like that.

On showbiz in general: "I'm really into this showbiz thing now and have been in three shows already and I have a fourth number ready to go with a really wild and cute outfit! All I need is a show." For the want of a nail a kingdom was lost and now for want of one stinking drag show a really wild and cute outfit might go to waste.

On walking down the street: "I want to tell you, it was exciting just walking down the street in my miniskirt and 4" heels. [I could have parked] right across the street... but I'm going to take the long way. It's more titillating. Especially if I wear the costume for my next drag show number. I swear it would stop traffic. But I should save it. Let 'em pay to see it!" Those showgirls can be so mercenary — but that's part of their allure, doncha think?

On performing: "Speaking of performing, I was in the last show at Temptations. Once I was out there on stage, I automatically started to check out people's reaction to me. Most everyone was paying attention... but there was this one guy sitting on a stool. All he did was stare at my body!" The showgirl's lament. They never think of you as anything more than just a bimbo with 42" hooters.

Oh, I could go on with more about Kiki but you get the idea. You *do* get the idea here, don't you? Or do I have to hit you over the head with it the same way Kiki kept hitting us over the head with her breathless first person narrative? It's too bad they don't make an 'ego-cincher' that's as sturdy as her showgirl corset.



HOT • BUZZ

JoAnn Roberts • Queen of Prussia



"Nobody can make you feel inferior without your consent."

Eleanor Roosevelt

So, after all the foofraw and hooray, the Stonewall 25 march is over. Both critics and supporters agree the numbers were nowhere near the 1 million hyped before the march. By most published accounts, the march was calm and without major incident. Both the *New York Times* and the *Philadelphia Inquirer* carried Monday-morning stories on page one. Neither paper mentioned "transgendered" people. Tabitha Soren did a report for the *Today* show in which she mixed "transvestite," "drag queen," and "cross-dresser" willy-nilly. I only heard one mention of "transgender" and that was on the PBS show *In The Life* which did a special on Stonewall 25. Thus, I pose these questions... Now what? What do we do next? What did we accomplish?

With friends like this, who needs advertising? Spartacus sent me one of their "Catalog of Fetish Catalogs" recently. I was surprised at the large number of fetish, S&M, and bizzare-sex magazines they handle. But I was most surprised to see a full page of *Tapestry* magazines. And not just teeny-tiny postage stamp sized pictures, but large enough to actually recognize the cover girls, like Nancy Cole, Laura Skaer, Jenny Sand, Nancy Nangerone, and our own Princess

Michelle. My-oh-my, what company you girls keep. But, the best part of the page was the tag line which describes *Tapestry* as "The leading clinical magazine for TVs & TSs." Clinical? Wow, that'll make 'em rush to order one. Also included in the catalog was *Crossdresser's Quarterly* just opposite *Bizarre Fetish Video* and *Bondage Jewelry*.

The Community Film Project is progressing, albeit slowly. The Steering Committee has invited several well-known therapists to participate on the Advisory Committee. Both Dr. Richard F. Docter and Dr. William R. Stayton have agreed to participate... The working title for the film is *All Dressed Up and Nowhere to Go*, so I was both amused and surprised when Maryann Kirkland stumbled across this headline from a 1990 *Philadelphia Inquirer*, "The CD: All dressed up and someplace to go." The "CD" in question was a Certificate of Deposit and the headline appeared in the Business section of the paper. Do you think the editor who dreamed up that headline knew something about the other CDs? Don't forget, this project is partially funded by contributions from within the transgender community. Please send a tax-deductible donation today.

The HOT BUZZ for Fall Fashion is the knee. After several seasons of skirts so short you dare not bend over or reach above your head, the fashion mavens have declared skirts shall reach just to the knee. Karl Lagerfeld, who always pushes the envelope, showed Chanel suits with jackets cropped to bolero length and skirts to the knees. Of course, Mr. Lagerfeld also went to the extreme absurd with his "second skin" sheer Lycra dress topped by a red bra and black petticoat. Sounds like *Lingerie Night* at RenGPC. Meanwhile, Giorgio Armani has "discovered" a newer, feminine style for his clothes. Jackets fit closer to the body with seams under the bust and

snug through the midriff. Dresses are cut the same way with shaped middles and gently flared skirts. Hervé Léger, he of the you-better-have-a-great-body bandage dress, takes the concept one step further. He's built padded bras into the bodices of both dresses and shaped jackets. This is a style that will catch on with other designers. The overall trend is to show off the body and that means we need to get into shape if we want to look fashionable for the Fall.

August is a good time to start planning your Fall itinerary. The "CD Season" starts with my *Paradise In The Poconos*, followed just a week later by *Southern Comfort '94*, which is on the heels of *Fantasia Fair '94*. The *Fall Harvest '94*, sponsored by MAGGIE (Mid America Gender Group Information Exchange) and hosted by MAGGIE affiliate Iowa Artistry, has had a change of venue, according to a press release. Nevertheless, the event will still be great. If you're interested in attending *Fall Harvest*, Nov. 17-20, call 319-373-3031 for details.

There has been much badinage in various transgender publications about whether or not we're really a community. After what happened at the recent *Be All in Pittsburgh*, I think we can reply in the affirmative. The National Association for Social Workers will meet for its annual convention October 19-22, 1994 in Nashville, Tenn. The *Transgender Community* will have an exhibition booth at the conference. The booth will be sponsored jointly by the American Educational Gender Information Service, the International Foundation for Gender Education, the Outreach Institute for Gender Studies, the Renaissance Education Association, and the Society for the Second Self. A special brochure, designed just for this conference, will contain mission and contact information on all five organizations. In case you fail to see the significance of this event, never before have these five or-

HOT•BUZZ

ganizations come together to work together like this. I applaud the boards of the five groups for setting aside parochialism in favor of community. This is just a beginning, but what a beginning!

I imagine that a lot of closeted cross-dressers buy clothing, etc., from many of the home shopping networks on television. Anonymity is virtually guaranteed. But, are you getting a bargain? After adding in shipping and handling charges, and for those who just can't wait, Federal Express, the price is often very close to what you would pay in the stores.

There are still some hazy, hot summer days left, and if you are a die-hard cross-dresser who doesn't stop dressing through the summer, you may need this next tip. In the olden days, when your grandmother was learning how to be a lady, women used to carry blotting papers. These were squares of tissue-like rice paper that absorbs oil and perspiration. Seeing that "everything new is old" it's no surprise to see rice paper making a comeback. Crabtree & Evelyn, Estée Lauder, Shiseido, and The Body Shop all offer small, beautiful booklets of blotting paper. Simply press a square to a shiny spot and let it make oil disappear without disturbing your makeup. Beats the hell out of applying compact powder.

Diversity is the watchword for the 90's and I was very pleased to hear from a friend that Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) not only had a Diversity Program in place, but that said program included transgendered people. At one time, according to my friend, DEC had 15 transsexuals working in various parts of the company. I am also told that AT&T has an excellent program.

Sometimes diversity comes as the result of one person's frustration. Take, for example, supermodel Iman, who says she has always had problems finding cosmetics that suited her skin color. Her frustration led her to create a whole line of cosmetics for Asian, Hispanic, African, and Native American women. Well, we'll

just slip in with transgendered folks too. Advantages to the line, introduced through J. C. Penney this summer, include colors that will never be discontinued; items sold by single colors so you don't end up with duos or trios you'll never use; oil-reducing primer and oil-absorbing powder; and blush with very dense pigments that show up better against olive or darker skin.

Factoid: Only 3 percent of American women still wear gartered stockings. Yeah, but what percentage of men are wearing stockings? Somebody is keeping the garterbelt trade in business.

Neat trick: If you would like to tweeze your eyebrows but the sting has put you off, try swabbing a little Anbesol on the brow area first. The local anesthetic will numb the pain... Shameless plug: If you can't tweeze check out the tape trick in my new *Art & Illusion: A Guide to Crossdressing, Third Edition, Vol. 1*.

Hey, you never know, do you. The July issue of *Allure* (my fave mag) had an article about the death of diet-guru Dr. Stuart Berger. The 40 year old, 365 pound (diet guru?), doctor was allegedly found dead in an expensive black negligee. (Well, thank goodness it wasn't white!) The good doctor's penchant for crossdressing in high heels and lingerie was a well-known "secret" among his close friends and associates. He had even adopted the femme name of Michelle when crossdressed.

Here are a bunch of makeup tricks from various New York City makeup artists. Laura Geller: Curling lashes is a must, but first condition them with a little dab of Vaseline, then coat with mascara. Susan McCarthy: Lip balm (unflavored and unmedicated) makes a great eye moisturizer. Also, try lipstick as rouge. Matthew Sky: Apply foundation, then press a damp washcloth over your face. Before applying lipstick, go over lips with a toothbrush to remove dead cells. John Rutledge: Buy cheap sable or goat hair brushes at an art supply store.

EuroDisney is going down the "pissoir" in France and here at home we seem to

be losing a few support groups. I read a report that A Rose in Tempe, Arizona has ceased operation and I read another report that Boulton & Park has stopped having "social" meetings. I don't know how you can be a "support" group that has no meetings. However, I have it on good authority that B&P will continue to "sponsor" the Texas "T" Party. On the other hand, there can't be too many B&P members left. Certainly the originators of the Texas "T" Party, Jan Rupard and Muffy Williams, haven't been involved in quite some time. And, if B&P no longer has social meetings, and the only event they hold is the "T," where does all the money go? With attendance at close to 300 heads, even a modest profit of \$25 each translates into \$7500 cash.

There's been lotsa HOT BUZZ about the Infobahn everywhere. While I haven't made it to the Internet (yet), I do cruise CompuServe. I picked off a download from the GenderLine library titled FAQ Gender Questions. (FAQ is netspeak for Frequently Asked Questions.) I knew we were in trouble when I spotted transvestism spelled "trans-vestitism." Also when Gender Dysphoria was described as "...unhappiness with your given sex or sexual identity." They still don't get the difference between sex and gender. Then there is the definition of transgendered: "Transgendered was a term put into general usage by Virginia Price (*sic*). It originally meant a pre-operative transsexual who has no desire to have SRS." Oh, Virginia! The indignity! But wait, there's more. "Some types of transsexualism (the XXXY Syndrome) are genetic." Oh, really? "Secondary transsexualism occurs between the ages of 12 and 20 and is thought to be linked to hormonal changes in the body at that time." "Young males with XXY chromosomal structures may sometimes begin developing as females rather than males." The "best" advice is this one: "To hide the penis wear a skirt or a dress." Duh! We have a lot of work to do and now we have to do it on the nets as well.

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"Wrong" Sex...

crucial for the formation of gender identity."

Dr. Coates said: "With therapy, younger kids usually come to accept their own gender and feel good about their temperament. When we go back to evaluate them three years or so after therapy, they don't have crossgender fantasies anymore, or often don't remember them."

"But if you don't treat it until 9 or 10, it's much harder to turn around. And beyond age 12 or so, there's a good chance they're on course to be come a transsexual as adults."

In follow-ups of 50 children who have been treated for Gender Identity Disorder, Dr. Zucker has found that, by late adolescence or their early 20's, "about 10 percent are still very unhappy about their gender, still crossdressing, and thinking about having sex reassignment surgery."

Gender Identity Disorder is distinct from transvestism. "Transvestite kids are interested in their mother's underwear, but don't want to be

women," Dr. Coates said. "In my experience, that usually doesn't start to develop until age 8 or 9 at the earliest, while Gender Identity Disorder can begin as early as 2 or 3."

The diagnosis of Gender Identity Disorder is itself the focus of gender politics, and some therapists object to the existence of the diagnosis at all.

"Putting the label of pathology on boys who are 'too feminine' is a sexist standard," said Dr. Joseph Niesen, program director at the Pride Institute in Minneapolis, an alcohol and drug abuse treatment center for gays and lesbians. "It's seen as pathological by those who hope that by eliminating feminine behavior in boys you can keep them from growing up to be homosexual."

A Cross Dressing Study

Most gay and lesbian adults remember having engaged in some degree of crossgender activity as children, according to a statistical report of 41 studies that included 5,734 gay men and 1,729 lesbians, as well as several thousand heterosexual men and women. Dr. Zucker did the study with Michael Bailey, a psychologist at

Northwestern University; it will appear in the journal *Developmental Psychology* next year.

The study showed that 89 percent of gay men had a history as children of frequently engaging in cross dressing, playing girl's games and preferring to play with girls. Only 2 percent of heterosexual men reported that they had engaged in these activities frequently. For lesbians, 81 percent recalled such crossgender activities in childhood as compared with 12 percent of heterosexual women.

But no more than about one in seven would have received a diagnosis of Gender Identity Disorder as children, according to an estimate by Dr. Coates, in an article to be published this year in *The Handbook of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry* (John Wiley & Sons, NY).

Those who treat Gender Identity Disorder point out that it is the child's distress that signals the need for therapy, not necessarily the crossgender activity itself. Our society is trying to be more liberal in letting boys and girls try out opposite sex roles," Dr. Lindsay said.



Gender Identity Disorder in Children: Making The Diagnosis

The new DSM-IV psychiatric diagnostic manual lists these criteria:

1. A strong, persistent identification with the opposite sex, which manifests itself in children in at least four of the following ways:

- Repeatedly saying he or she is of the opposite sex or wants to be.
- In boys, crossdressing or imitating female attire; in girls, insisting on wearing only stereotypically male clothes.
- Strong, persistent preference in make-believe play for roles of the opposite sex or persistent fantasies of being the opposite sex.
- Intense desire to take part in the games and pastimes typical of the other sex.
- Preferring playmates of the opposite sex.

2. Feelings of discomfort with one's own sex and its gender roles: for example, in a boy, saying that his penis is "disgusting" or that it would be better not to have one, or an aversion to rough-and-tumble play with other boys, and a rejection of boys' typical toys, games and activities; in a girl, refusing to urinate sitting down; saying she will grow a penis or does not want to grow breasts, or not wanting to dress in girls' clothes.

3. Significant distress or impairment in important areas of the child's life as a result of the condition.

The diagnosis is not made if the child has a biological condition that causes abnormal sexuality.

Source: *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, Fourth Edition, 1994, American Psychiatric Association.

Dear Doctor

Dr. William R. Stayton answers your questions in a monthly column.

Dear Doctor

Please help me understand where I fit in the CD-TV-TS scene. I love wearing women's lingerie; in fact, I wear them daily. However, I do not like to crossdress fully or wear makeup. Is there something wrong with me?

George

Dear George,

There is nothing wrong if you are comfortable with your own practice of wearing female underclothing daily. It is certainly harmless and it sounds like it is very meaningful to you. Many people find their sexual feelings enhanced by colors, or particular clothing, or by the feel of certain cloth textures. Most people think nothing about this. It is only because the particular clothing you like is attributed to the other gender that questions occur. To me, this is a negative form of sexism and rationally makes no sense. So enjoy!

Another part of your question has to do with how do you fit in the transgendered community. Members of the transgendered community are involved with gender issues and feelings. They identify with the opposite gender either for sexual, recreational, or stress reduction reasons as in the case of crossdressers, while others feel they are the other gender as in the case of a transsexual. It does not sound like your issue is one of gender, but rather articles of clothing that enhance either your sexual feelings or your feelings of comfort and wellbeing. In my judgement this is not a gender issue, other than possibly being a threat to your feelings of masculinity. If you can only become sexually turned on by wearing female underclothing, then it is technically considered a fetish. The major problem with a fetish is that the person is limited to ways of turning on sexually or may be unacceptable to a sexual partner.

Dear Dr. Bill,

I crossdress and have been married twice. I have four children. I also like men sexually. My understanding is that most crossdressers are heterosexual, so I am not sure how I fit in. Could you address this issue?

AC/DC

Dear AC/DC,

You have brought up two separate issues: gender and orientation. The issues around crossdressing involve gender identity, that is, who I feel I am as masculine or feminine and how I play masculine or feminine roles. Orientation involves who I feel turned on to. Most sex researchers agree that we are all born with a bisexual potential and that if we were not too homophobic and sexually repressed, the majority could act on their bisexual feelings. The fact is that in our culture most people develop a predominant orientation towards either heterosexuality or homosexuality. They then partner according to their predominant attraction and either repress, or leave to fantasy, or only occasionally act on their same sex eroticism. The reason the majority of crossdressers are exclusively heterosexual is an interesting question. We do not know for sure, but I would suggest that one reason is that having a gender issue is enough to struggle with. To add orientation only complicates the struggle. Although my guess is that most crossdressers ask themselves if they are gay, just as most gay people often question their gender feelings.

Thus, you sound normal to me. The complications are acceptance of your partner regarding your bisexuality and always remembering to play sexually SAFELY.



Letter to the Editor

Dear JoAnn,

I just finished reading your always informative and fun column, and the piece about organized religion in particular. Perhaps you could mention to your readers that the Unitarian Universalist religion is an option worth investigating. The U. U. Association (headquarters in Boston) has an office of gay, lesbian, bisexual and (I think) transgendered affairs. In any case, I just spoke to Gail Donkin who is the head of the Welcoming Congregation, a task force of the Main Line Unitarian Church in Devon which concerns itself with making the fellowship one that is welcoming to gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered individuals, and Gail says, "Come on down!" The church is currently in it's summer session (Sundays' services are in an educational format, w/guest lectures), but regular worship services begin the Sunday after Labor Day. For info and a program of upcoming events/services, call 688-8332. The church is located at 816 South Valley Forge Rd. and is a spiritual home for 500+ individuals with a wide range of religious backgrounds including Jews, Christians, atheists, agnostics, and more. And yes, I've been a U. U. for 14 years and am an unabashed promoter of same.

Smiles,

Maureen Osborne, Ph.D.

Dear Dr. Osborne,

Thanks for the great letter and the information about the local Unitarian Church. We're contacting both the local and national churches and we'll be happy to conduct a workshop for the Welcoming Congregation Program about transgendered diversity.

Meanwhile, maybe we'll see you in church soon.

News Beat...

into that whole lifestyle in a way. But then, I'm so turned on and enraptured by women as well. Maybe I'm a lesbian." I know just how he feels. Keep your eyes open for young Donovan Leitch. He's an actor/model/singer/producer and androgyne-about-town.

NIKKI NIKKI HOY

It's... the LSV Luau! Hurry, it happens August 27. That's coming up *real* soon. Make your reservation for the big bash by sending a check or money order for \$40 to Renaissance LSV, PO Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2122. It's happening at the Sheraton Inn Harrisburg and a great time is in store for one and all. Cash bar opens at seven PM and then you get your choice of three entrees plus all the trimmings on the Luau buffet. (Sorry, no whole roasted pig.)

At nine PM a glittering array of talented ladies will take the stage for

your entertainment pleasure and of course some guy in a flannel shirt will probably lead you in The Lumberjack Song. I have threatened to perform and there'll be sequins and fake nails everywhere. Don't miss it!

STONE BUTCH MOTG

Monmouth Ocean Transgender will be celebrating their fourth anniversary on September 24. In order to celebrate the occasion in style they have engaged a special guest speaker, Leslie Feinberg, the author of *Stone Butch Blues* and *Transgender Liberation*. Feinberg is a transgendered political activist, thinker and columnist whose current work in progress is a book of cross-cultural research on transgender titled *Transgender: A History of Change*.

If you'd like to join the celebration contact MOTG at 908-219-9094 and ask them how to get there.

SWIMMING INTO GPC

This month is the month you spandex and swimsuit fans have been

waiting for. It's the Greater Philadelphia Chapter's swimsuit and work out clothes night. Ironically, it happens that the program scheduled for the evening is JoAnn Roberts speaking on Fashion and Style.

I tell ya, that chapter leader over there in Philadelphia is just full of sexy ideas for them meetin's. I myself wonder what she'll come up with next. I also wonder how many of the girls will toddle on down to the Ship Inn after the meeting, still in their eeny weeny bikinis. Hope they at least wear flip flops. If they attend JoAnn's talk maybe she can convince them to wear a beach coverup. That would be far more stylish for cocktails.

Seriously though, Dina is trying to make the meetings fun and part of the fun of crossdressing is wearing things that help people to realize their fantasies. (Remember Lingerie Night?) This kind of thing is a bit controversial and a bit silly, so, if you or your significant other are easily offended by people enjoying themselves in less than demure little A-Line



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dressess, maybe you'd better miss this one. It might be wise for first timers to be warned that we don't do this sort of thing at every meeting. Everyone else — check out the swimsuit sale racks and show up dressed for the occasion.

Speaking of that Philadelphia Chapter leader, she has cooked up another field trip for her on-going course, *Takin' It To The Streets 101*. GPC has made excursions to center city Philadelphia, to Gatsbys in South Jersey and down to Atlantic City. Now she's planning on leading a squad of crossdressers to New York, New York. On September 10th, Dina and the girls will descend on Manhattan's Club Edelweiss at 10PM. After subduing Edelweiss, the group plans to commandeered a few cabs and retire to the notorious S&M/B&D club, The Vault. Call the Philadelphia Chapter at 610-630-1437. Leave a message and Dina or another official representative will get back to you.

WHAT A CO-INKY-DINK!

In the strange coincidence department I have to tell you about the letter which came from the Lambda Car Club. They are a gay automobile association with a drag contingent called The Vivacious Babes of Valley Forge. They kindly invited us to their Grand Invitational auto show in New Hope and guess when it is! August 20th, same day as the GPC swimsuit and spandex meeting. To further the strange coincidences, they are having a late afternoon beauty contest at the Holiday Inn pool in New Hope.

I for one will try to make use of this opportunity to the fullest. First, I will be handing out Renaissance brochures at the auto meet and then I will be displaying my beauty at the pool from four to six and then the meeting at eight followed by cocktails at The Ship Inn (It's Ship by the way, not Ship's. A small point but one which drives me mad. Simply mad!) For info on the Grand Invitational, write to Glenn

Cohn, Box 179 RD2, Harding Highway, Newfield, NJ. 08344-9217. I think it's time the Queens of Prussia met the Vivacious Vixens. It could be the start of a beautiful friendship.

OFF TO SEE THE WIZARD

I know we're not in Kansas anymore, we're everywhere. Crossdressing references are appearing more and more often in the popular media. I've received clippings of the Wizard of Id comic strip from two of my readers. The strip appeared in June. In panel number one Rodney the Knight is walking past an alley and a peasant standing there asks him if he'd like to buy some hot merchandise. Rodney says, "Let's see it" and in the next panel the peasant pulls his smock up over his head and exposes a pair of frilly bloomers. The third panel has the peasant's smock back in order and Rodney faces the reader and says to himself, "I guess times are tough for crossdressers too."

continued on page 17

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After Stonewall 25: Twin Views

Stonewall 25, or "What I Did On My Summer Vacation"

By Lynn Walker

"Beautiful day!" "It never rains on Pride Sunday, you know." "Wow, rainbows and triangles are everywhere!" "Over a million people?!" "Liza? Is that really Liza?" "Didn't I see you at the Dyke March yesterday? Wasn't it awesome?" "Here's my phone number..." "Can I use some of your sunscreen?"

Sunday morning, 8AM, aboard the uptown E train, somewhere underneath Eighth Avenue. This must be Pride Sunday: There are a couple of guys holding hands, someone with a rainbow bandana and yet another with a skirt, plucked eyebrows, work boots, five o'clock shadow and a smile.

At the entrance to Central Park lots of uniformed police are milling around. Uncertainty, anxiety and apprehension are on many of their faces. Inside the park there is a last minute flurry of activity: volunteer check-in, orientation meetings, last minute glitches, negotiations and settlements, changes to the list of speakers and expeditions to stores for more sunscreen. Before we knew it the speakers and entertainers were arriving, the marchers were entering the park and we had started!

The opening speech at the Rally was given by Leslie Feinberg, transgendered political activist, labor organizer, crusader, thinker, columnist, member of the Worker's World Party and author of *Stone Butch Blues* and *Transgender Liberation*. As she began people from The Transsexual Menace were right in front of the stage, cheering wildly. The still small but growing crowd in the park responded enthusiastically to her call for full inclusion of transgendered and transsexual people in the international movement for civil rights. "Stonewall means fight back", she said and she called for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, drag and transgendered people to continue to resist oppression and work together for our common welfare.

Speaker followed speaker, bound together by a common goal, a common sense that in this place we were making

history. Talent was abundant, in the speakers themselves as well as in the many entertainers: Liza Minelli, Carol Channing, RuPaul, the Imperial Court of New York and many more.

The drag/transgendered presence on stage included Aidy Griffin, an activist and researcher from the Transgender Liberation Coalition of Sydney, Australia. The Dowager Empress Jose (the Widow Norton) was accompanied by representatives of several Imperial Courts and New York's Lady Bunny of Wigstock fame introduced Carol Channing. The Stonewall Veteran's Yvonne Ritter of the Gender Identity Project, along with Allyson Allante of the Imperial Queens of New York both spoke of how far the community has come since the Stonewall Revolution.

A profoundly moving moment occurred late in the afternoon when the Stonewall Veterans came on stage. As they were introduced, the audience of over a million people began to shout in unison, over and over again, "Thank you! Thank you! Thank You!" The chant continued for near a minute. A minute that seemed like an eternity. Many eyes glistened with tears as we remembered friends and loved ones who were not there with us and as we realized it was only these few- about a

dozen- who remain to remind us of; Where we've been, where we've come from, what the fight has cost us.

Then, suddenly it was over. After many months of planning, working, networking and worrying, it was over. As we exited the park many of us made a point of thanking the Police and Park Service people for being there and being supportive of us, of our community and our celebration.

Stonewall 25 Impressions
by Terry, Elaine, Vicki M.
& Diane W.

On Sunday, June 26, 1994 Renaissance affiliate Monmouth Ocean Transgender participated in the twenty fifth commemoration of the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion. Like the 1993 March on Washington, upwards of one million people attended this huge, international human rights march and rally. The march filed noisily past the United Nations complex and ended in Central Park where the rally was held. This event featured a large and politically aware transgender contingent that was able to make its presence and its issues known before, during and after "Stonewall 25."

Our transgender contingent num-

continued on page 19

Attention Sisters!

Applications are currently being accepted for the:



Tri-State Pageant for Transgendered Persons

Criteria for judging the winner will be based on the following scores: 60% initial interview, 20% evening gown, 20% day wear. Preliminaries will be held August 21, 1994 at the Renaissance* Night Club in Wilmington Delaware. (* Not associated in any way with the Renaissance Education Assoc., Inc.)

Registration Fee: \$50

Applications and eligibility can be obtained by sending your name, address, age, and phone number (optional) in strictest confidence to:

TRI-STATE Pageant, c/o HearSay, 31 Meadowood Dr.
Newark, DE 19711.

News Beat...

Now, when I saw it I chuckled a little and said to myself, "Yeah, ain't no doubt about that." I then forgot about it until Elizabeth [redacted] sent it to me. Liz thought it was great. A real affirmation of the acknowledgment of crossdressers in the world as real people with the same kind of problems everybody has. Then I got the same clipping from George [redacted]. His comment was, "Oh, the trials and tribulations of we different people!"

I hope that George's tongue was firmly stuck in his cheek when he wrote that. If he really thinks the strip is taking a shot at us then I'm afraid his sense of humor is askew. Of course portraying the crossdresser as a sleazy guy standing in an alley lifting his smock over his head to display his "hot merchandise" isn't that flattering but I know the majority of us don't engage in that kind of activity. At least not without some kind of advance cash up front. A girl's gotta have standards.

I have always been an advocate of maintaining a good sense of humor about what we do. Not just crossdress-

ing. I think most human activities can be hilarious if you look at them from the right angle. (I've seen supposedly erotic films that were a real hoot.) So, lets all lighten up. How about a crossdresser jokes section in this column? I'm running out of classy quotes to close with so if people start sending me crossdresser jokes I might, remember, I'm saying *might*, start closing this column with a CD joke.

Speaking of a closing quote, I feel one coming on. "If we can't turn the world around, we can at least bolster the victims." - Liz Carpenter. So saying, I say Adios Muchachas!





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After Stonewall...

bered over one hundred strong and we were preceded by the venerable I.F.G.E. banner reading, "Transgendered & Proud and We Vote!" Banner bearers included Yvonne Cook, Aaron Davis and Phyllis Frye. Just the day before at the Transgender Caucus sponsored by the Metropolitan Gender Network, Phyllis Frye called off her planned civil disobedience actions against the march. Although no one was content with the exclusion of the word "transgender" from the title we were none the less ecstatic that Ms. Frye and her supporters decided to march with us. Thus we were able to present ourselves with great enthusiasm, pride, unity and dignity.

MOTG members were proud to march alongside transgender brothers and sisters representing groups from coast to coast including MGN (Two Re-

naissance affiliates!), Transgender Nation, Transgender Rights!, Sally's II, IFGE, ICTLEP, Miss Vera's Finishing School and the very transgender friendly Workers World Party who marched with us to show their support.

In addition to myself MOTG was courageously represented by Elaine M., Diane W. and Vikki M. Here are some of their impressions:

"At this time, as we in America celebrate Independence Day, we transgendered people celebrated the beginning of liberation from oppression by marching in the Stonewall 25 parade."- Elaine M.

"Yes, we marched in NYC and MOTG represented the state of New Jersey! Another first for our group! I doubt that any of us marched without a certain pride along with the some hundred and fifty who marched under the banner of transgendered. One could not march and not feel the support others gave to us, bonded together in that common cause. We too are people with

equal rights!—Diane W.

"All in all, it was a very moving experience. It was as moving as Woodstock was supposed to have been. I'll pass on Woodstock '94. I like skirts more than love beads."- Vikki M.

And now, a few parade awards!
Best marching banner:
"gentle MEN."

Best spectator banner: On a fire escape landing packed with gorgeous young guys (bare to the waist):
"WE NEED HUSBANDS!"

Best T-shirt:
"That's **Mr.** Fag to You!"

Editor's Note: We'd like to hear from anyone else who attended the Stonewall 25 celebration. Send us your impressions, care of the address on page 2.



Tough Gender Questions

1. Are you on a trip, a journey, or a quest?
2. How does your inner life fit into your outer life?
3. Do you feel lonely, ashamed, or guilty?
4. How secretive do you have to be?
5. Do you like your situation?

These tough gender questions and many more can be explored through individual and small group sessions with Dr. Lee Etscovitz, Director of Human Dimensions, an organization specializing in gender education. Dr. Etscovitz is also the Renaissance National Librarian and a former Professor of Human Behavior at Drexel University.

Further information, including fees and scheduling, is available upon request. Write: Human Dimensions, PO Box 471, Willow Grove, PA 19090. Or leave a private message at 215•657•1560.

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Zwei Times Encaged

by Felicia

(Zwei is the German word for 2.)

Here I sit, not once, but zwei times encaged. The second cage has hard, cold bars and was put there by my own doing.

"Oh, if I could only turn back the hands of time." The first, well, the first by all means had nothing

to do with what I wanted, but seems to be due to the cold and cruel hand of fate... "Oh fate, you jokester... your heart is that of black ice, your veins runneth thick with the spilled blood of humanity, and your soul smelleth with the stench of black death. Why did ye curse me so?"

My name is Felicia and I am a male to female transsexual presently imprisoned at the Dodge Correctional Institution in the State of Wisconsin, serving a 105 year sentence. My story is one familiar only to the transsexual who has lost all control, who did everything their parents, friends and society wanted them to do. But there, within, was the deep, dark secret. A secret that would not stay in that so called closet, a secret that has burned

continued on page 22

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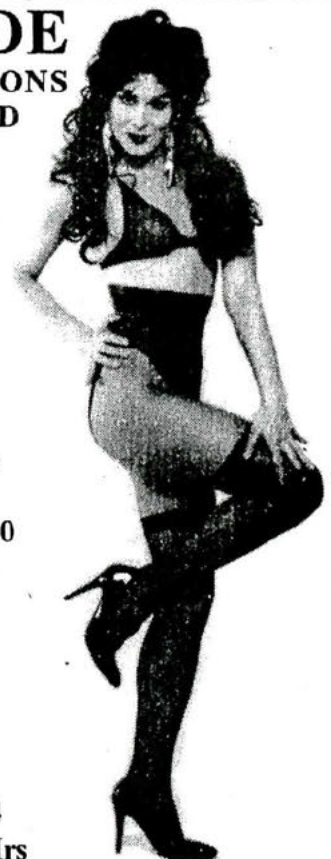
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Love, Nancy

A Pocono Weekend

by Denise Mason

I recently attended my eighth Paradise in the Poconos with my wife and on the trip home we rehashed the events of the previous three days. As always, the home cooked meals and breads, midnight snacks of fried mozzarella sticks and chicken wings, the wine and cheese tasting party and numerous other opportunities to add pounds, were hard to pass up. Dieting was a pre-weekend activity only.

Yes, the food was great but the people were better. Though we hadn't been there for the past three years, it was nice being welcomed and missed by friends we had made over the years, people who were complete strangers except for those three days spent together every few years. We are good friends, yet we share none of the usual information people exchange under "normal" circumstances; names, family and possibly not even our professions, unless it's volunteered.

But there we are, sitting, talking, asking how they have been, and really caring about their answers. We take their pictures, buy them a drink, shoot a game of pool or take a walk. We dance with them, eat side by side, help them with their makeup or clothes. Even literally, give them the clothes

off our back — I know of many TVs giving one another gifts of jackets, high heels, gowns.

We compassionately listen to the woes of someone going through a divorce, we agonize with a dear friend having an illness, and we are elated at someone becoming a first time grandparent.

In friendly competition to be chosen for the Princess' Court, we search for the qualities of friendliness, congeniality, helpfulness, inquisitiveness, and graciousness, while trying not to be prejudiced in our selection.

We compete for best costume, yet applaud another's efforts. We entertain each other without the risk of being laughed at, for we are all sisters.

And when we left, my wife asked why she felt like crying. She had no ties to these people. She might never see some ever again. So why was she upset?

Could it be because she felt the bonding we transvestites do, as a small minority that must hide in the Poconos to enjoy our pursuit of happiness? Does she realize our pain, that we can only go out into the world anticipating ridicule? Did she see the honesty in the eyes and words of people who truly are friends? Did she realize that total

strangers, in three days, can say more than co-workers or possibly even relatives in a lifetime? Did she see how necessary it is that we share our innermost feelings with another, yet we can't do it with our families who we love more — but who wouldn't understand.

Was there a better understanding of who we TVs are, and maybe why her husband wears feminine clothing? Did the other wives in attendance feel the same as she did? Wouldn't it be great if just one wife gave it a chance and attended a future TV weekend? Maybe it would strengthen, or even, save a marriage. Maybe for the first time husband and wife would see and understand each other more clearly.

I always come away from these weekends with mixed emotions. I'm sad that it's over so soon and that I will miss my dear friends until we, hopefully, meet sometime in the future. But I'm happy for the brief time I experienced friendship, understanding, and love of my sisters along with my wife. I'm happy that I could share my feelings and my friends with her.

Maybe that's why when we left, I too felt a tear coming.



Focus on Page Two

I imagine most people who read *News & Views* on a regular basis have their own style or routine that determines how they peruse these pages. Some probably start with Vis A Vis or Reminder Beat. Some may start at the front page and go straight through. Whatever your style, I'm sure you don't linger on page two unless you need info from the Events Calendar or you want the address for a letter to the editor.

That's why we run this Focus On Page 2, to bring some of our projects and resources to your attention. This month the focus is on the TransParent

Forum. It's tucked in just left of the Events Calendar and just south of the Pen Pal Program.

While the Pen Pal Program has many participants, the TransParent Forum has had practically no response. Elsa [REDACTED] first came up with the idea after she became a TransParent back in August of 1992. The plan was for transgendered people with children to write to Elsa and get a dialogue started on the subject of raising children when you are differently gendered. Apparently, most TransParents are too busy changing diapers, washing diapers, buying dia-

pers etc. to take any time to network with each other.

How will you tell your children that you like to crossdress? How will you tell them you are considering SRS? There are people out there who have been through these and other problems and they have come up with solutions that did or did not work for them. Share your ideas and experiences in child rearing while transgendered.

Write to TransParent, c/o Renaissance LSV, PO Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105, Att: Elsa [REDACTED]

SHOPPING WITH JACKIE

Well girls, its the bitch of the month. (You can take that several ways.) First, I have been reporting on places and things that help us to attain and maintain the image we want at reasonable prices. Each month I ask you to share your sources with me so that I can report them to the entire community through this column. So far, in over a year and a half, I have had feedback from two, count them, two of you. I know, with the large membership we have, many of you have purchased a lot of things from a lot of sources. Are we so selfish that we won't share these things with our peers? I hope not. It's hard enough to be in a generally not accepted fetish/

habit/desire or lifestyle let alone not be generous with our own group. I write this column as my small contribution to Renaissance for all the things our organization does for me. Take a look in the mirror (I hope it's a cute face) and ask, "What am I doing for Renaissance?" If you have a positive answer, I congratulate you for your contribution. If you have a negative answer, I urge you to make a vow to do something. We wait for a few concerned members to do all the work while we rape the organization of it benefits contributing nothing in return.

Second, I have run out of sources that would be of interest to you. Living in Harrisburg, I have limited shopping

available to me and I have just about tapped out on the reasonable mail order companies. I need your input if you want this column to continue. In fact, I don't even know if you like it or even read it. NO FEEDBACK means no knowledge and at this point I don't know what direction to go with this column. Maybe I should just stop writing it?

Please, stop just taking and give something to others. I'll beg you. Please, please, please give me some feedback.. share with us all. As always, you can drop me a line c/o LSV Renaissance, PO Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105. Until next time, happy shopping.



Zwei...

at your very being and could not be denied, even if it meant the utter destruction of the repressor.

I am 32 years old and I've been imprisoned within the corrections system for 9 long years. I have no memories of ever being free, for I never was. The memories I do have are of long since faded drawing, of what I know not, done upon worn and tattered rice paper, barely discernible, and my dreams are lost in the elusive mists of idealism.

Do I have any regrets? YES! As I look back through the fog of time I clearly see the mistake which I and I alone made. What was that mistake? I ran. I ran from myself, I ran from my parents, I ran from society. I took the hardest road, yet the easiest road. You're probably saying by now, "Look girl, it can't be both. It has to be either hard or easy." But no, it is both.

It was the hardest because I tried to be something that I was not. I tried to be a man and in doing so I self destructed, often, till I ended up where I am today. As I self destructed I hurt a lot of people; parents, friends, family and society. I not only let myself down, I let everyone down and caused more pain than was necessary. The pain continues to this day and will for years to come.

It was the easiest because rather than face myself I climbed into a bottle. The bottle was an easy refuge. I could drink myself silly, into some kind of mystic security. It could take me to a place where I didn't have to face the truth or face the people around me.

My mistake is clear. I should have made my jail break when I was old enough to leave home. I should have faced the truth and everyone else. The pain and the lies would have been long since dealt with and I wouldn't be sitting here, zwei times engaged,

in a bitter battle for my life with corrections officials, surrounded by people that time forgot. (You haven't met a self righteous, self serving bigot until you've met a prison guard or official in his or her natural environment. But, that's another story.)

Please don't misunderstand what I'm saying. I'm not looking for sympathy. My point is, no matter what, as costly as it may seem or as bleak as the outlook may be ; face yourself. Face the truth! The cost, the bleakness are for the most part short lived. The cost of not facing the truth lasts forever and is much higher. Believe me, I know. I am paying the highest and heaviest price for running and it's not worth it. The only question remaining for me is, will I survive.

So, if you're running, I implore you to stop. Turn and face the challenge. Be yourself, spread your wings and experience the ultimate in freedom. Don't make my mistake.



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