



News & views

Vision • Integrity • Quality

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Renaissance

TG Lobby Days A Huge Success! Transgendered Activists Visit Capitol Hill



We made history last month. On Sunday October 1, 1995, over 100 transgendered people gathered in suburban Maryland to plan their activities for the First Annual Transgender Lobby Days. Monday and Tuesday, October 2 and 3, they walked the halls of Capitol Hill visiting members of Congress and Senators, educating them about transgender issues.

The event, conceived by Riki Wilchins (Transsexual Menace, NY), and organized by Wilchins and Phyllis Frye (TRANSGEN Law Conference, TX) with the help of Sarah DePalma, Karen Kerrin, Jane Fee, and Jessica Xavier of It's Time America!, was the first time the grassroots transgender community worked together toward a common goal.

Overall, about 35 states were represented and almost all the members of Congress and Senators were visited during the two days of lobbying.

An organizing meeting, held Sunday evening, helped the budding lobbyists with advice on how to conduct their visits. The group was addressed by Wilchins, Frye, DePalma and Dawn Wilson (TN), representatives of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), *and* a representative of the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF).

It was the HRCF that sparked the idea for the lobbying effort. The HRCF worked to introduce a bill into Congress to prohibit employment discrimination based on sexual orientation. That bill, The Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) did

not include coverage for transgendered people. Further, HRCF seemed unwilling to work with the transgender community to amend the bill to be transgender inclusive.

Reacting to the rebuff by HRCF, transgender activists began a series of demonstrations at local HRCF fund raising functions and started planning to lobby Congress on behalf of the transgender community. The local actions were so effective in raising the consciousness of gays and lesbians and the HRCF itself, that by the time the Lobby Days arrived, HRCF was providing pro-active advice.

Did it make a difference? Most certainly, according to many of the people present. Several reports were extremely heartening. Gloria Fredericks of Iowa was able to have a face to face discussion with one of her state's Senators, who reacted favorably to the discussion. In fact, he kept a Russian delegation waiting for about 10 minutes, while he spoke with Fredericks. Colleen Harper (MD) reported a very favorable discussion with the staff of a North Carolina congressman. Linda Watson (UT) accompanied by JoAnn Roberts (PA), Frye (TX), Sharon Stuart (NY) and Alison Laing (PA) were fortunate to speak with the Chief Counsel for Utah Senator Orrin Hatch, Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Not all the meetings were productive or cordial. Bobbie Lennox (MD) visited Senator Jesse Helms'

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Thank You For the DC Experience

by Phyllis Frye

Thank you, to the 100+ tgs, the several spouses and teenage children from 35 states who, in groups or individually, and with tremendous courage, went to the offices of 520 of the 535 members of the United States Congress and told either the members of Congress or their staffers about the hurdles that all tgs face in violence, job loss, health care, military and stereotypes, imprisonment and the gender bill of rights.

Thank you for all of the volunteers who helped

before and during the event — even those who helped but could not participate. There are too many of you to name and if I begin, I will forget someone and hurt someone's feelings.

Thanks especially to Riki Anne Wilchins who tirelessly (over a 6 ½ month period since four of us — Jane Fee, Wilchins, Karen Kerin and spouse, Frye and spouse — did a DC lobbying event in March) gave of herself to convince and assist many of those who came and who generated, by herself, a

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Chapter & Affiliate Information

Chapters

Delaware

Wilmington, Delaware: 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 South Jersey, Box 189, Mays Landing, NJ, 08330. Meets first Saturday of the month at the Atlantic Mental Health Center, 2002 Black Horse Pike, McKee City. Doors open 7PM. Call 609-641-3782 for details.

Pennsylvania

Greater Philadelphia: Write Renaissance GPC, 987 Old Eagle School Rd., Suite 719, Wayne, Pa. 19087. Meets third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia. Doors open 8 p.m. all year 'round. Call 610-975-9119 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 (780-1578) for location and meeting times.

Affiliates

California

Orange County: Powder Puffs of California, PO Box 1088, Yorba Linda, CA 92686, or email to <ppoc@aol.com>

Connecticut

Bridgeport/New Haven area: connecticUTview, c/o Denise Mason, PO Box 2281, Devon, CT 06460. Monthly newsletter and activities.

Georgia

Atlanta: The American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS), PO Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033-0724 or call 404-939-0244, or email to <aegis@mindspring.com>. Information resources & referrals.

Atlanta: Atlanta Gender Explorations (A.G.E.), PO Box 77562, Atlanta, GA 30357, 404-939-2128.

Louisiana

New Orleans: The Gulf Gender Alliance, PO Box 870213, New Orleans, LA 70187-1300.

Maryland

An affiliate is forming in the Baltimore area. Write Tran°Quility, c/o Colleen N. [REDACTED] Ave., Baltimore, MD, 21218-3912.

New Jersey

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

New York

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

Long Island: New York GIRL & Partners, PO Box 456, Centereach, NY 11720, Call 516-732-5115 for info.

Oklahoma

Central Oklahoma: Sooner Diversity, part of the Central Oklahoma Transgender Alliance (COTA). Contact, Rachel [REDACTED], P.O. Box 575, Norman, OK 73070.

Pennsylvania

Lehigh Valley/Pocono area: Northeastern Pa. Transgender Alliance, NEPTGA, meetings on the second Saturday of the month in the Allentown area. Call for directions and more information, 610-821-2955.

Interested in having your group join the Renaissance family? Write to Co-director of Outreach/Community Relations at the Wayne address above or send email to <RenInfo@cdspub.com>.

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

Local Calendar

November

- 11 Ren. South Jersey
- 11 Ren. LSV meeting
- 11 Ren. Delaware
- 11 NEPTGA, Allentown
- 18 Ren. GPC
- 25 Balto. Affiliate

December

- 2 Ren. LSV Xmas Party
- 16 Ren. GPC Xmas Party

January

- 13 Ren. South Jersey
- 13 Ren. LSV meeting
- 13 Ren. Delaware
- 13 NEPTGA, Allentown
- 20 Ren. GPC
- 27 Balto. Affiliate

News Beat & Reminder



Well, if you paused to read the cover story instead of just diving directly into this luscious column, you will have noticed that Ms. Gardner and other members of the community were walking the lobbyist circuit in our nation's capital last month. When I say walking, I mean walking. We took the Metro (subway) to the Capitol from our chic College Park hotel (where *something* cavorted all night on the roof of my room. Rats? Squirrels? Tiny drag queens?) and then we walked to the Longworth cafeteria [one of the three House office buildings], got our assignments and walked through the corridors of power in our power pumps, and power suits. (Mine was red.) Due to the pressure of work, I could not be there both days, so I only walked the walk on the second day and that was enough to adversely affect my podiatric condition. Some of the girls will be making some foot doctor's house payments, due to injuries sustained in the line of duty.

I know that others have commented on the impact of the event, how it reached over five hundred of our nation's legislators and is, without a doubt, the beginning of transgendered people being taken seriously by our own government. With that in mind, I will confine my comments to a serious issue that concerns us all: passing.

There were around a hundred of us there and while we weren't all visible at one time, we were a definite presence. A glance around the building or on the Capitol grounds would reveal little clumps of the transgendered here

and there. We were like a bit of spice added to the usual bland mix of tourists and government workers. How well did we blend in? On the ride down in the Metro I traveled with two others and when we were split up by the demands of a packed train car I observed other people from the vantage of my working woman disguise. (Sunglasses, reading a book.) For the most part, no one paid any attention. Folks are wrapped up in their own thoughts on public transit. (Like, how they can get a car and get off public transit.) The only time we got stares was when one of us spoke in a loud male tone, asking why the doors wouldn't open. Even then it was only one of two people who continued to look as we started out the doors.

Walking across the Capitol grounds I was "read" by a man who said to his companions, "That's a man." A few years ago words like that would have made me scurry away to hide in shame. This time I said to myself, A man yes. In a woman's suit, yes. And I've just talked to staff members of four Representatives about how the transgendered are here, proud and demanding equal protection under the law. Just then I spotted three more of our lobbyists coming toward me and thought, People better get used to us, 'cause there's more on the way. See you there next year.

Marketing The Mayor

One political member of the transgender community who we've mentioned before is **Miss Kitty Cole**.

She's the drag queen running for mayor of Palm Springs. Her business card bills her as an "Ultragamourous Drag Celebrity" and should probably also say "Relentless Self Promoter," since who ever heard of her before she ran for mayor?

Miss Cole is running on a one plank platform, she wants to return Palm Springs to the glitz and glamour of the **Clark Gable** and **Carol Lombard** era. A trip to Palm Springs will be like a trip into a '30s musical if Kitty has her way. Slipper satin gowns for everyone. Come on girls, time for the big production number.

Now, thanks to a page of the Rochester Network's *CD•News* sent in by Jessica Brandon, we find that Kitty has an innovative campaign finance scheme. She's selling campaign T-shirts and posters. Ts are \$6.00 plus \$1.75 for shipping, and posters are \$2 each with \$1 for shipping. What kind of shirt can you retail for \$6? I never heard of one **that** cheap. Rock bands sell their shirts for fifteen or twenty bucks and even a plain shirt at a craft store is around five or six bucks. Nancy Anne Howe of the *CD News* provided the info in her commentary, but she didn't say what's on the shirts. I assume it's a picture of Kitty. For more info, or to order one without seeing it first write to: Kitty Cole for Mayor of Palm Springs, 850 East Vista Chino, Palm Springs, CA 92262.

I'll stay on top of her campaign with up to the minute reporting of the latest polls and maybe I'll even have an interview in a coming issue.

Dragus Interruptus

Seamstress to the TG community in the Philadelphia area, **Lorraine Anderson** (The Occasional Woman) gave me a call the other day and said I'd better put on the *Mike & Matty Show*. The show's topic was cross-dressing and they were doing drag makeovers on male audience members so, of course, the host Mike and one of the show's male reporters were also "talked into" dressing up.

continued next page

News Beat...

Mike & Matty is an hour long show and I knew we wouldn't see the results of the makeovers until the second half hour. The first half was taken up by interviews with professional FIs, and with teases of the guys getting changed backstage. Being familiar with the fact that the local ABC station doesn't carry the last half hour of the show, and instead cuts away for the local news at noon, I was not surprised when we didn't get to see any of the transformations. Lorraine was **very** upset. She even called the station and the producers in California to complain. Well, it would have ended there, with greater Philadelphia in the dark, but a glimmer of the transformation's results got through in the *Hollywood Stargazer*. Their October 3rd issue (One of the TG Lobby Days. Coincidence?) carried a photo or two of Mike in his drag rags. His baby face lent itself well to drag and he looked like a big *Barbie Doll* type babe in a sequined dress and feather cape. One word on the outfit, Mike, loose the wig. It was a big drag queen number that did nothing for him. Complete copies of the show can be ordered on video cassette from the producers. Contact your ABC affiliate for their phone number and address. Thanks to Jessica Brandon for sending in the page.

Turn To The Left

Do you want to be a model, or just look like one? If you do and you're in the Philadelphia area you need a good agent and have I got the lady for you. Christine Cage is an enterprising young TG lady who has started a modeling agency for the transgendered called **Second Sex Agency**. According to its prospectus the goal of the agency is to place transgendered models in print advertising, art classes, fashion related events and more. Christy also offers personalized image consulting so you can perfect your model pout, and she'll help you with all aspects of crossing the gender border.

Christy reports she is currently

working with a business in Baltimore on a unique transgendered photo project. If you'd like to make sure people in the know see your face better contact Christy Cage at 4807 Cedar Ave., Suite 3F, Philadelphia, PA 19143. OK Christy, I plugged the agency. You'll get me an important spokesmodel position now, won't you? MAC makeup and Baileys' are taken but there must be something. My pix are in the mail. I really need this job!

TS Plot On Fox

A new show on the Fox Network called *Misery Loves Company* had a TS plot element in their first episode. The show is about a group of middle aged guys, played by Dennis Botsakaris, Chris Maloney, Steven Furst, and Julius Carey (from *Brisco County Jr.*) who hang out together. Joe, (played by Botsakaris) has moved in with his brother Mitch and is making Mitch's life miserable by being more of a Jewish mother than a brother. They're in their favorite bar knocking back a few brewskis and talking guy talk when Mitch spots a hot babe at the bar. He chats her up and it's obvious to one and all that he is doing pretty well. After a bit Joe goes to the restroom and as he's washing his hands the hot babe comes in... and uses the urinal. The astonished Joe hurriedly exits the facility with a quandary. He has promised his brother he wouldn't tell him how to live his life. Now he knows something he really thinks Mitch should know, but he can't tell him because of his promise to not interfere.

Finally, when he can no longer bear it, he asks Mitch (who has now been on a date with the beautiful TS) if he got to third base, and "When you got there, was there a man on third?" When Mitch admits he has found out about his new flame's secret and says he has fallen in love with her Joe protests that she's a guy. The younger brother says, "Only for four months."

Of course, she's not really a TS. It's a little plot Mitch has cooked up to see if his older sibling can really not interfere in his life. Before he is let in on the plot Joe actually agrees that if

Mitch is happy with a TS, he won't interfere with his brother's happiness. That's at least a positive presentation, even if the TS turns out to not be a TS.

It's unfortunate that having a brother fall in love with a TS has to be anything special to accept, but at least the character accepts what he thinks is the situation.

Stamps You Gotta Have

Back in June a lady named Susannah sent me a clipping from the *Washington Post*. It was a little speculative humor based on all the new stamps the Postal Service has been issuing. The writer wondered what celebrities of today might end up on stamps in the next millennium. Among the celebrities the *Post* put on mockup stamps were Madonna, Kato Kaelin and (hey, I didn't mention her till now) RuPaul. RuPaul's stamp is a \$3 stamp for "First Class (she) Mail." No doubt it will be the only stamp left in the future that you have to lick. RuPaul always makes you work.

Praise the Goddess and Pass the Leopard Teeth

Michelle [redacted] sent in *Reason #471 For Crossdressing*. Michelle, being a well read young lady who is up on current events, always reads the *World Press Review*. That prestigious publication carried a mention of Liberian rebels who are reputed to be fierce warriors, warriors who wear women's dresses and wigs. It seems it's part of the local magic. (We're familiar with that magic, aren't we girls?) "This is deeply rooted in local magic, where combining male and female attributes is considered a powerful charm." In addition to the dresses and wigs they wear ritual belts, leopard's teeth and magic amulets. A touch of leopard always picks up an outfit.

More Leopard Fun

I mentioned a while back that I worked as a hooker in a movie about the Stonewall riots (I wore leopard in that. It made me fierce.) called *Stonewall*. I have heard that it has been playing in film festivals (Toronto and New York) and that means we might

see it soon in a general release. I'll let you know if it's heading to a theater near you.

ID Info

Last month I wrote about the ID card "service" offered to crossdressers. The author of our "Truck Stop" article, last month — Georgia Hillard, sent me a note with the following information:

"Your News Beat article, 'Your Papers Please,' deserves a comment. People who are interested in a real femme ID could check their states to see if they issue official ID cards. Here in Oklahoma we have a state issued identification card which is fairly easy to get. The card looks like a driver's license except for the color. It can be used as identification to cash checks and so forth but does not permit one to operate a vehicle.

Getting one can be for the courageous, though, since a person must have their photo taken in a license issuing office and use their REAL names, both of which probably would not seem to match. By the way, the cost is less than \$9.99, in fact it's free to those of us who are over 65."

Thanks for the tip Georgia. However, Pennsylvania girls are out of luck. It's illegal here to hold a non-driver state ID **and** a valid driver's license.

Events of Interest

Several events are coming up where you can wear your leopard accessories. In November the **Erie Sisters** are holding their **Riverside Gala** on November 10, 11 & 12th. It happens in an historic Victorian inn in Cambridge

Springs. (Northwestern PA) For more info and reservations fax the Sisters at 814-725-2986 or call 814-725-2986 and ask for Arnie.

On December second the lovely ladies of **LSV** will hold their **Holiday Party**. It will occur at the Holiday Inn East in Harrisburg, PA. If you would like to attend contact LSV. Their contact info is on page 2 and you'll find a flyer in this issue. **Alison Laing** **Founding** Renaissance member and IFGE honcho will be the after dinner speaker.

December sixteenth brings us the **Greater Philadelphia Chapter's Holiday Party**. No after dinner speaker but the dance able tunes of TG DJ, Miranda Thomas will rock the house. And it's happening in a holy house, the Mainline Unitarian church. Food will be a holiday feast with turkey, ham and all the trimmings.

Errata Wrap Up

That's it for another month. We do have to correct an error from the September issue. *Rachel's Qwik Fashion Tips* was not authored by Rachel. The little minx plagiarized it off the Internet. Actually, she just forgot to mention it and we assumed she had written it as well as the *Gen X* article. Sorry.

While I'm correcting errors — a few months ago we voted to raise the price for the National Membership/RN&V Subscription from \$16, where it had been for years, to \$20, effective Oct. 1. But then we forgot to mention it.

Make a note: *all dues have increased by \$4 due to the newsletter increase*. See ya next month.

Vis a Vis...

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lished an article by Phaedra Kelly in the Winter 1995 issue in which she trashed the homosexual community as having no identity, no true philosophy, and no true culture of its own. In Phaedra's own words, "Homosex is just that, SEX."

The rest of the piece is equally strident and mean-spirited towards the homosexual movement and the rest of the TC community. And Phaedra comes clean in this quote: "As director of the ICTA, I do have an axe to grind against both the homo and the Tran community."

Interestingly, in a lengthy letter to the editor of *Tapestry*, and published in the same Winter issue, Elga Remes documents her running problem with Phaedra and her messianic complex. Without knowing a whole lot about the background of the feud, I can say this: that the party throwing brickbats in every direction (and that would be Phaedra Kelly) will always sound like a bigger horse's ass than the targets of her attacks. This is a lesson worth bearing in mind for anyone who desires to shoot their mouth off in a hateful way.

And speaking of shooting off *my* mouth: this is now four pages single-spaced and my agent told me that's all I need to produce.

(Ed note: We're sorry for the jump forward. We won't do it often.)



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Lobby Days...

office and was told no one was available to speak with her. In the office of an Oklahoma congressman, staffers laughed at the delegates and stated there are no transgendered people in Oklahoma. Fortunately, not all Oklahomans feel that way as attested to by a report from Stuart, who was well-received in the office of another Oklahoma congressman.

Thanks to Frye, the delegates were well-prepared for their visits. Each person was provided with a data sheet indicating the name of the member of Congress, their phone number, office

building, room number and the committees on which they serve. The data sheets included a questionnaire which the delegates completed after each interview and returned to the event organizers. These data sheets provide a database for future lobbying efforts and indicate who is sympathetic, who is a "swing vote" and who is opposed to transgender inclusiveness.

Information packets were left with each office visited. These packets contained basic information about transgender concerns including ENDA, Hate Crimes Reporting Statistics, Health Care issues, Military Service issues, Imprisonment issues, and the International Bill of Gender Rights. Also enclosed was a copy of the brochure

developed for the National Association of Social Workers conference providing resource information about AEGIS, ICTLEP, IFGE, Outreach Institute, Renaissance & Tri-Ess.

Although only 35 states were represented, organizers were extremely pleased at the turn-out. Everyone conducted themselves like ladies and gentleman (yes, the FtMs were well-represented). Some of the better-known members of the transgender community were conspicuous by their absence. But one delegate was heard to opine, "Cut them some slack. Everybody has an excuse why they're not here. But that only works this time. Next year, no one has an excuse not to participate."



DC Experience...

goodly portion of what occurred during these several days.

We will do this again next year, so mark the last weekend in September and the first weekend in October 1996. We will try to coordinate the final dates with Southern Comfort which provided an excellent springboard and is an excellent event in its own right.

You probably will not hear much from me for a while. As with Riki and several others, the toll of the past 6 ½ months has caught up with me in mental strain, physical exhaustion and a loss of income from having to defer clients. I will be around for sure, but I must rest and catch up to some extent.

I dream of you, the transgender community, as having now been baptized under the fire of the Washington Lobbying Establishment and of the Washington Press. I know that you *now know* that it wasn't so bad, and nowhere near as bad as you may have imagined. In fact, with only a handful of exceptions, I know that you were treated with dignity and respect as you met with those congressmen or their staffers. I have always known that *you could do it*; now, you know that *you can do it*. To have convinced you of your abilities in this area — that was my special victory, and I do relish it.

I dream of you telling your folks at home just what we did, and either organizing state or regional "It's Time" chapters or strengthening the one that you already have. If you need help, contact the It's Time America! Directors: Karen Kerin in Vermont at [redacted]@vermontlaw.edu or Jane Fee in Minnesota at [redacted]@prodigy.com or Jessica Xavier in Maryland at [redacted]@aol.com or Sarah DePalma in Texas at [redacted]@phoenix.phoenix.net.

I know that there is so much work to be done at the state and local level using the same techniques you learned during Transgender Lobby Days. I know that you will follow up with the people you met in D. C. and with the local offices of the Senators and Representatives in your area.

I dream that you will vote in the Primaries next Spring and go to your Party precinct convention (non-cross-dressed is okay) and get elected to your Party County Convention or Party State Senatorial District Convention and collaborate with those l/g/b/ts who reach that level and push to get elected to your Party State Convention. At most state levels the l/g/b/t caucuses are well established (although the "t" is usually missing), so you must come out as transgendered and get active. This is the way you get to meet elected officials and portray us in non-stereotypical ways for future legislative relief.

I dream that more tg men will get involved and make this into the 50-50 effort that it must be.

I dream that more people of color will get involved and allow us all to build on the strengths of a multicultural experience.

I dream that both Democrats and Republicans will work together and make our freedom train a truly bipartisan endeavor.

I dream that the remaining homophobes in our community will recognize the wisdom of coalition and the dignity of the homosexual community.

I dream that remaining transphobes in the l/g/b community will melt into transgender inclusion.

I dream of doing as little as I can for the transgender community for at least two weeks. In short I am beat.

But do not worry, when I get them copied and sorted, I will be sending out the score cards from our DC efforts. I also have a volunteer database person who will build this for our future efforts. I also know that you are getting the Job Discrimination forms out to every nook and cranny.

Love to you all and thanks for the ride on the tidal wave. I have never in my life ridden a wave as high and as long in duration.

See you in ENDA,
the Phyllabuster





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If it gets any tougher to dredge material for this column from the murky depths of transgender journals, I may have to tell Angela to run a 'Best Of Vis a Vis' to fill this space.

Of course, that presupposes that there is material in the archives that one could label as 'Best.' And there are two ways of looking at that statement: that there hasn't been anything published here that would qualify for that designation; or that each item is such a gem that to pick and choose to find the 'Best' is an impossible task.

And where do you stand on this question, with the latter position or the former? Just read this month's collection and decide for yourselves.

EVERYBODY OUT OF THE POOL

The August issue of *News Briefs*, published by the Sigma Nu Rho sorority of Tri-Ess in Trenton NJ, contained an interesting controversy surrounding their mid-summer picnic cum pool party. And no, the controversy wasn't over any of the members wearing naughty thong bikinis poolside.

The controversy was centered over the location of the party: at the outdoor pool of the hotel where Sigma Nu holds its monthly meetings. *News Briefs* carried two items on the topic. One, a message from the sorority president defending the location of the party and second, a letter from a member who was disturbed by the public location.

Carol Ann [redacted]'s presidential message cited the fact that the hotel staff was agreeable to their plans and that the location was safe for all members to attend. There were no incidents

during the picnic and except for two boors who were probably 'crossdresser wannabe's' not a discouraging word was heard from any other guest of the hotel. Carol Ann also expressed the belief that it was time for the chapter to take a step outside from the safety of their usual motel meeting room.

Member Stephanie W. wrote a letter to the *News Briefs* staff to say that she, her wife and a friend decided not to attend the poolside picnic after arriving and scoping out the highly public location of the event.

Stephanie made an interesting point that is not often heard in our cross-dressing publications. She cites the right of the non-crossdressing public not to have crossdressing forced on them by a group like the sorority's picnic attendees. When she heard about the two 'rednecks' who made a vocal objection to the group's presence, she said, 'Even the 'rednecks' had the right to be at the pool without feeling uncomfortable.' Her suggestion for future public events is to have them away from the rest of the hotel guests, thereby giving the members a taste of freedom without imposing crossdressing on people who may not wish for themselves or their families to see it.

I know, I know. It sounds like the kind of semi-paranoid hysterics that some say typifies the Tri-Ess membership. But wait a moment - it isn't trepidation that gave Stephanie pause, rather, it was consideration for others. As much as we may demand acceptance, we must also recognize that some people wish not to have someone else's trip dropped into their laps. A family on vacation at a public hotel pool may feel that more than a dozen

crossdressers partying alongside them is an imposition on their right to enjoy their day.

Who's right and who's wrong? Like so many things in life, it requires a balance based on the specific circumstances in question. But Stephanie raises an interesting point for us to consider if we have any room left after thinking about our own rights.

TWO ITEMS FROM ACROSS THE POND

The Beaumont Society in London, England publishes a fine little journal named the *Beaumont Magazine*. In the September issue, there are two items that are worth a mention.

Apparently, the London Transit Authority is issuing photo ID's for its riders. The reason for this is not mentioned, so it must be something that all native Londoners are well aware of, hence left unexplained. After complaints by the transsexual community, the Transit people agreed to issue two ID's, one for each gender role, to medically certified transsexuals. Now the garden variety TVs want a piece of the action and are campaigning to be allowed a second en femme ID card.

I don't know why one would need a photo ID to ride the London Transit underground or buses, but is it really necessary for TVs to demand two ID's? So far, the Transit folks are holding firm against it and I think they should continue to be vigilant. I mean who's next? Will bank robbers begin to demand a second photo ID - you know, one with and one without a stocking mask over their heads?

Political activism is fine when it's directed at something worthwhile, but expending energy on a bad case of "photo ID envy" only trivializes the rest of our position.

The other item in the *Beaumont* was a letter from a reader named Lesley who had some interesting things to say about our public image. She criticizes the "apparent necessity to have psychiatric experts appearing with us at many of our media events." In Lesley's mind, this only reinforces the public perception that we have some kind of mental illness. That's an

interesting spin on the theory that by presenting "experts" who agree with us the public will be swayed. Lesley also takes offense to popular transvestite fiction (found in even respectable TG publications) where young males are subject to forced crossdressing at the hands of mothers, aunts, or nannies. The type of scenarios depicted in these stories is nowadays considered illegal or immoral assault or cruelty to children. If we want to be taken seriously, we need to get this kind of tripe out of our community literature.

DOIN' IT LIKE BUNNIES

Fiesta! is the newsletter of the New Mexico Chapter of Tri-Ess in Albuquerque and it re-published an interesting article that first appeared in 1989 titled "Bunny Hills and Bigger Closets" by Donna [REDACTED].

Donna was tackling the criticism of Tri-Ess (and other support groups) that the regular meetings and events of organized crossdressing are really just an expanded closet for crossdressers.

She draws a parallel between crossdressing support groups and the beginning skier's "bunny hill," where one can safely learn and enjoy new skills without the pressure of flying down a mountain at full tilt. Even after learning the rudiments, some skiers have no desire to move on to the advanced trails. And experienced skiers may revisit the "bunny hill" to work on new techniques without taking risks on the steeper slopes.

In many leisure time activities, hobbyists recognize their own limitations or simply shy away from certain aspects of their pastimes that would create stress or embarrassment, diminishing the joy they get from the activity. Not all golfers play in competitive tournaments, not all animal lovers enter their pets in show competitions, and not all crossdressers have the drive to go out in public. As Donna poses the question, "Why demean those folks for not wanting to become world-class skiers?" – or we could add, golfers, dog fanciers, or crossdressers.

The support group becomes a safe haven where the pastime can be enjoyed without the unnecessary stress of

proving oneself in an arena that is beyond the individual's ability. I would daresay that even the most experienced crossdresser feels a little stage fright when making an appearance in uncharted territory. Many crossdressers feel that the risks of doing so are greater than the rewards. They have reached a level that gives them enjoyment and recognizing that level is a matter of individual choice.

Beginning crossdressers are sometimes under the impression that there must be a natural progression from one stage to another. And sometimes loved ones may have the same question when facing a crossdressing spouse or family member in that beginning phase. The amount of attention given in our community literature to going out in public, or heightening one's profile through crossdressing activism, feeds this conception.

Donna [REDACTED]'s neat metaphor of the bunny hill is an important message for all crossdressers to remember as we search individually for our own level of feminine expression.

YOUR FATHER'S MUSTACHE

The *connecticut View* is a new Renaissance affiliate group in Devon, Connecticut and its September newsletter carried a profile of a member named Jenny. And I have to applaud *cT View* for publishing it.

Jenny is a crossdresser on one end of the transgender spectrum not usually addressed in our community literature. She is a crossdressing fetishist, enjoys playing the submissive role to dominant females, and crossdresses even though she sports a bushy mustache. There are probably those in our community who would say that Jenny represents our worst public relations nightmare. The very image we have been trying so hard to dispel.

Well, Jenny's way ahead of you. One thing she bemoans in her profile is that she is "very surprised at the intolerance of some of 'us' who seek tolerance from others." Although she doesn't say it explicitly, one can read between the lines that her admission of sexual excitation from crossdressing, her enjoyment of female domination,

and (the absolute last straw) that... that... MUSTACHE must have brought her under some thinly veiled, or even blatant, criticism from other crossdressers.

Yes, even as the political leaders of organized crossdressing are fighting for inclusion in human rights draft legislation, and are visiting Washington en masse to lobby our elected representatives for greater protection under the law, there are plenty of crossdressers and crossdressing events that would shun Jenny like she was a member of some minority group, or something.

Jenny's unabashed and even though some crossdressers may have done her dirt she's still willing to make new friends. She says that she and her dominant female partner are always interested in meeting new people who wish to explore an alternative lifestyle. Further, she is looking to employ a passable TV who can work full-time in her new business. If you're interested in either position (so to speak), go ahead, send your resume. You know you want to. I won't tell.

DIDJA HEAR THE ONE ABOUT...

As I peruse the material we receive, sometimes I see things that aren't quite worthy of full-blown treatment but do suggest some comment should be made nonetheless. Here are a few such items.

The *Finesse* newsletter of the Central Illinois Gender Association carried a comment that the *Femme Mirror*, the Tri-Ess house organ (no pun intended), has promised to publish articles on sexual matters. This in response to an observation made expressing disappointment regarding 'the absence - I'm tempted to say, the avoidance - of sex as a topic of discussion.'

If the *Femme Mirror* does indeed take up the challenge to discuss sex in a serious way, then it should be applauded, particularly because Tri-Ess has gotten the rap of being stodgy and sex-o-phobic.

TV-TS Tapestry magazine pub-

please go to page 5

The Angel In The Stone

by Vanessa Kaye

The story is told of an incident long, long ago, that Michelangelo was seen dragging a boulder through the city streets of Rome. A man watched as Michelangelo struggled with the huge load. After a few minutes, the man went out to Michelangelo and asked, "Sir, why is it that you are working so very hard to move this rough stone through our city?" Michelangelo paused briefly from his task and replied to the man, "There is an angel hidden inside this stone and I am taking it home to set it free."

Just as the artist Michelangelo had the vision to see the beauty of a carved angel hidden deep within that rough stone, so do many partners and spouses see the positive aspects of a mate that is free to express their total gender personality.

We crossdressers have long known that there was an angel hidden inside that needed to be carved out and set free. Yet, for those who live with us, this beauty can sometimes be very difficult to see and accept.

Those who live with crossdressers

have a great many issues to contend with. Not only are they faced with questions of sexuality, but they also have to overcome the gross stereotypes of transgendered behavior that society has developed over the years. We may often feel that our partner is not being as supportive and accepting as we would wish them to be. We, as crossdressers, dream of total acceptance and participation. We wish for a partner who says, "Hey, why don't you get dressed up and we'll go have a girls' night out?" I refer to this syndrome as "The Law Of Diminishing Returns." In short, this refers to the crossdresser seeking new experiences and acceptance in their alternate gender role to achieve a sense of satisfaction. This "Law" is typified by the crossdresser progressing through the "levels of transgendered behavior." For example- under dressing, sleeping in a nightgown, "total dressing", going to a meeting dressed, going out to dinner dressed, going shopping dressed—we always want more.

That stone which Michelangelo struggled with to move through the

city streets of Rome was a great burden. However, due to his vision of the angel within and his great love for his work, the task of moving that rock was well worth the time and effort.

Our partners and spouses have a task equal to that of Michelangelo. At times the load they carry is far greater than Michelangelo's stone. We need to pause and give thought to the already existing support and acceptance that we have from our partners. Rather than emphasizing what our partners are not doing, we need to be thankful for what we currently enjoy.

We, the crossdressers, are the angels hidden within the stone. The stone did not set the pace for its emergence from within, Michelangelo did. Perhaps there is a lesson to be learned from this. Those of us who are fortunate to have supportive and accepting partners, should let them set the pace. As they reach a comfort level let them decide what the next step or experience shall be.

Reprinted by permission from The Sooner Belle, the COTA newsletter.



Secure TRANScEivers

by Rachel [REDACTED]

One thing that's usually on the mind of transgender folks is security. We're always concerned with our names and address, where we go, who we meet with, and most of all, making sure that none of that info gets out. A friend of mine told a story which prompted me to write this article. Hopefully it will kick home a bit of hard information into one of the most overlooked security problems – the telephone lines.

My friend recently began receiving phone calls from a voice she did not recognize. The male caller asked for her by femme name and began to relate substantial personal information that very few people would be privy to. Later, it was determined the caller was a neighbor who had been monitoring the airwaves with a scanner, a perfectly legal device. The scanner had been

picking up my friend's cordless telephone calls. Although it is illegal to monitor personal telephone calls, it didn't stop the electronic voyeur from amassing a fair amount of information about his other neighbors too.

Telephone lines are obviously the most widely used means of communications. Without so much as an ancient Princess phone in today's world, you are not just relegated to the back of the technological bus, you're on the rear bumper. We conduct everyday business, personal business, socializing, you name it, it's all done over the phone. Electronic information is sent all over via fax and modem.

The problem lies in the fact that people often have things to say, or business, that is nobody else's business. If it is private, then why do we broadcast it to the rest of the world so frequently? We do it all the time. Odds are, if you use a cordless phone, the conversation

can be monitored using equipment found immediately nearby. Scanners, baby monitors, walkie-talkies and most cordless phones operate on the same frequency range, 46-49 megahertz (MHz). Any of these devices can be used to pick up your conversations. A cordless phone is a *radio* and all of the other devices mentioned are, too. Even with a cellular phone, scanners can still be used.

Cell phones use towers to broadcast signals to phones. The broadcast area, known as a "cell" is a fairly wide area. You are listening to a radio tower broadcasting its signal to **any** device tuned to the right frequency. Even when the cellular frequencies shift, the scanner is easily adjusted. The only defense against cell phone monitoring is to not say *anything* that may incriminate you, or, get a digital phone. Digital phones essentially work like a computer

continue next page

Candlelight Vigil For Tyra Hunter

Washington, D.C.— A candlelight vigil was held Wednesday night (September 20) in front of the District of Columbia's Fire Department Headquarters to protest DCFD'S cover-up of the actions of their firefighters who responded to an automobile accident that fatally injured Tyra Hunter (born Tyrone Hunter) August 7 of this year. The vigil was sponsored by a coalition led by two local Washington, DC activist groups, Gay Men and Lesbians Opposing Violence, and the DC Coalition of Black Gay Men, Lesbians and Bisexuals, with the assistance of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, and the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

Along with Tyra's family and friends, transgendered persons, gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals of all colors came together to remember Tyra and to demand justice. Present were

members of The American Boys, Tran*Quility, It's Time, Maryland!, and Transgender Nation.

A crowd estimated to be about three hundred persons listened as speakers lead them in prayer, remembrance and demands for justice and accountability. Margie Hunter spoke movingly about the loss of her son Ty, whom we know as Tyra. Mrs. Hunter's pastor asked the crowd "to strip themselves of their rags and let each other live" as Jesus had done when summoning Lazarus from the tomb, and more pointedly, as the still unnamed firefighter had not done with Tyra.

Darren Buckner of the DC Coalition of Black Gay Men, Lesbians and Bisexuals called Fire Chief Otis Latin's attendance the day before at a DC Metropolitan Police Department sponsored diversity/sensitivity training session "an empty gesture." Rayceen, a transgendered friend of Tyra's, spoke

eloquently about Tyra's dignity as a human being, struggling to be herself against all odds. Gospel singers sang two beautiful hymns as the crowd stood in silent tribute. Finally, Elias Faraje-Jones, the nationally known bisexual activist and Professor of Divinity at Howard University, closed the vigil. Quoting from the popular rap song, Elias told the crowd "Don't believe the hype" and urged them to continue to demand justice for Tyra Hunter, an innocent victim of human hatred.

The Together In Tyra's Memory coalition plans additional actions in the future, including a freedom of information (FOI) lawsuit to force the DCFD to divulge the truth behind the events of August 7, and a meeting with Mayor Marion Barry. A civil suit by the Hunter family is also likely. Tyra Hunter's tragedy will not be forgotten until justice has been served.



TRANScEivers...

or compact disc player does, reading 1's and 0's and reconstructing them into data. Digital phones are great because the signal is encrypted. Digital phones aren't much of an option right now because only the most populous areas have service for them.

You may have read of "secure lines" and "secure phones" in various technothrillers. Forget it. No chance. This is James Bond stuff. These are phones that use an encrypted signal sent from one phone system to another capable of decrypting it. It is expensive technology and works beautifully. It is also far more than you need. (Or can afford.)

When using the phone if both parties stay on a corded land line, the odds of being monitored are very remote. To do this would require a physical tap, or a police or phone company monitored call. The odds of these last two are **really** remote. If you prefer the insecurity of a cordless phone, there are several ways more secure ways to go. You could use a standard cordless (46-49Mhz)

with a digital security link. Like digital cell phones, it encodes the signal from the handset to the base. People can still monitor, but all they hear is white noise. A decent phone will set you back from \$100 to \$175. Don't confuse this with cordless phones featuring "security codes". They only prevent somebody with another cordless phone from using your transceiver base to make calls on your phone line. It does nothing to protect against monitoring.

The best way to go is a 900Mhz phone. This is a newly opened frequency that is above the cellular range. Many scanners do not cover cellular and higher so this is a plus. There are very few consumer devices on 900Mhz band, so this means less interference and monitoring. A lot of 900Mhz phones have the digital link in them. The real plus of 900Mhz phones is the greatly increased range and much better clarity. Hundreds of yards in range is not out of the ordinary for some models. Static is much less of a problem, and crosstalk should almost never be a problem. (Not a problem at all with a

digital link) Expect a minimum of \$200 in a 900Mhz with digital link. Expect a minimum of \$145 without digital link.

As far as fax machines go, just be careful, and be sure you know who you're sending your data to. You want to make sure they're on the receiving end and not their boss!

Computers are worth an article by themselves. Someone else can write that one! The best cheap advice is never send any data via Email you can't afford to have seen by prying eyes. This includes names, street addresses, meeting times, credit card numbers, and passwords. This is hard advice to follow, so you may have to just accept the fact that it is not safe and live with it. There are E-mail encryption programs available that can help out. *Any system and software can be easily compromised!* Don't trust anyone you don't know, and don't give them access to your data.

I hope I've given you all some good info on enhancing your communications security. Above all, *think about it every time* and don't forget somebody could be listening in!



Hot Buzz

JoAnn Roberts • CyberQueen



"No one can whistle a symphony. It takes an orchestra to play it."

— H. E. Luccock

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The HOT BUZZ for this month (and months to follow) is the "symphony" orchestrated by the transgender community in Washington, D.C., on October 2 and 3, 1995. What could have been so easily a "jam" session turned out to be the most beautiful sound I've yet to hear in this community. That sound was over 100 voices raised in unity working for transgender rights and inclusion. Our audience was Capitol Hill.

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I want to extend my personal thanks to Riki Anne Wilchins and Phyllis Frye. Without their proselytizing, organization and support, our community would never have *dared* approach Congress on equal terms. Thanks to them we did.

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This column should be titled Short Buzz this month. I am over-scheduled on activities and I'm rushing to get this completed before I leave for Fantasia Fair and Fall Harvest. I promise a full Hot Buzz next month.

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I am tempted to wax on about the Lobby Days activities, but my faithful readers will not be denied their fashion news, so here goes — How much are you willing to pay for comfort? Wolford, an internationally known manufacturer of hosiery

has just announced the world's first completely seamless pantyhose. Say goodbye to those funny looking stretch marks down your abdomen. What's the price tag for these marvels of manufacturing technology? Would you believe US\$50. I'll wait until one of the more economical lines picks up the technique.

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Staying with hosiery, I picked up a pair of Hanes Smooth Illusions slimming pantyhose. You know, the ones where they say buy these instead of liposuction. I don't think they'll replace liposuction or a good diet and exercise regimen, but they do slim you down quite a bit. The secret is lots of Lycra, about 20% or more. Jockey For Her has a similar style called "Sculptures." The Hanes are about US\$8 a pair. Not exactly cheap.

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Fakes are back in fashion news and this time, instead of fake fur, it's fake animal skins. Yes, you too can be a "green" fashion plate with moc croc, and faux reptile patterned shoes, handbags, belts, skirts, and jackets. Also hot are fake leopard, tiger and zebra prints.

.....

If I had 10% of Victoria's Secret's printing budget, this rag would be in full color every month. In the space of one week, I received no less than four different catalogs from Ms. Vicky. The one I liked best, however, is the Victoria's Secret CITY catalog. It's loaded with beautiful and elegant clothes made for a city-girl.

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The latest Hanes' catalog is nothing to sneeze at, though. Except for shoes and wigs, it now carries almost everything a faux girl would need or want, including some very nice and affordable career clothing. Check it out.

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Maybe I'm old fashioned, but this next item was just too over the edge. October's *Cosmopolitan* had an article titled *Chic Pubic Hair*. They actually used an old Belle Barth joke about mixing an extra batch [of Miss Clairol] to

have a snatch to match. Puhleezzee! Is this anyway for a lady to talk? Besides, how will we tell the real blondes from the rest of the pack?

.....

On the other hand, that same issue of *Cosmo* had another article titled *You're Not Fat... You're Just Big*. And that was nice to see a glamour magazine letting all the big, beautiful women in the world know that it is *not* necessary to be anorexic to be attractive.

.....

Look for a very clever set of ads pushing pure wool in fashions with the tag line "Appearances can be deceiving." One ad appears to be a woman holding her head in one hand and another appears to be a man in a business suit but with a woman's face. In both ads, a mirror provides the means for the double take. The most clever of the set I've seen was in an issue of *Esquire*. The scene is a bar and standing at the bar with his back to the viewer is what appears to be a man wearing a business suit jacket with a mini-skirt and high heels. Huh? Actually the "skirt, legs and heels" are the bar stool and the man is seated on the stool. You just can't see his legs. Cool ad.

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I saw a piece in October's *Bazaar* about a do-it-yourself glittery mini-dress by Paco Rabanne. It looks like the dress consists of golden disks held together with split brass rings. The photos shows a clear plastic case with a special tool to close the rings. The kit is supposed to be available at Saks, but no price was given. If anyone has seen this kit dress or knows the cost, please contact me.

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See that, I didn't even mention the Internet once... oops, well just this once.

.....

So, those are my opinions, but, hey, what do I know? I think a kit-bashed metal dress would be cool to wear through airport security. Comments? Email them to <[redacted]@cdspub.com>.

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Current Problem: Heterosexual Transvestism^{1*}

by *Esben Benestad, Berthold Grünfeld and Bernt Krøvel.*
Translated from Norwegian by James S. Morgan.

Heterosexual transvestism is little described in scientific literature, and then most often from the standpoint of case histories based upon transvestites treated by psychologists or psychiatrists for various personality problems or disorders. The authors conducted interviews and sent out a questionnaire among Norwegian transvestites belonging to an interest association for this group (FPE-NE). The letters originally come from the English Full Personality Expression-Northern Europe. The organization uses only the abbreviation with both members and outsiders. 31 out of 50 returned the questionnaire. Those studied represent a resourceful group, but must likewise be seen as being representative for the phenomenon of heterosexual transvestism.

On the basis of the interviews, the questionnaire and available literature, the authors seek to illuminate and explain some of the conceptions on this sexual minority group.

Occurrences/References

The phenomenon of transvestism or crossdressing (there is no corresponding Norwegian term), of donning the clothing of the other (opposite) sex, has up until now awakened a much greater interest in the popular [press] than in the scientific press. The quality of information has accordingly been uneven.

In everyday life, the phenomenon is a relatively frequent element in carnivals, shows, movies and the theater.

From the specialist psychiatric conception, the phenomenon has been to a high degree illuminated through patient case histories and studies carried out the perspective of transvestites who have been under psychiatric treatment for various personality problems and disorders. Information on "normal" transvestites is sparse.

With respect to occurrence, the obscure figures will presumably be much larger. The transvestite association (FPE-NE) has 344 members in Nor-

way, Sweden and Denmark combined.

History

That men and women don the clothes of the opposite sex and thus act as the gender to which they do not belong biologically has traditions as far back as there are human records.

The phenomenon has been embraced with horror or awe, with wonder or worship, with laughter or rejection.

In many cultures, priests have "crossdressed" to represent an almighty deity of both genders. Native American culture was aware of "gender renegades" who assume the position and clothing of the other sex, and are respected for it.

History describes individual persons such as the Frenchman Louis Eon de Beaumont who carried out a major intelligence assignment for France dressed as a woman.

Definitions

In our cultural circle, psychiatrists and sexologists have attempted to define the concept of transvestism.

Bancroft (1) subdivides transvestites into fetishists, transsexuals, homosexuals, and double-role transvestites.

Fetishistic transvestites use women's clothing as objects of fetishes, that is, that the garments exert a sexually stimulating effect. For the transsexual, crossdressing involves a manifestation of the sex to which one feels one belongs psychologically, namely the opposite of the biological gender. In contrast to the transsexual, the fetishistic transvestite has no desire to undergo sex reassignment treatment.

The homosexual transvestite is sexually oriented toward his own sex. Crossdressing is here a manifestation of playing a role without wishing to become perceived as belonging to the opposite sex. Crossdressing can but does not need to be sexually motivated.

The double-role transvestite spends a large part of his life in his role as a man, but wishes from time to time to function in the role of a woman. He wishes to be able to swing between the two existences.

Our subjects appear to be a mixture

of fetishistic and double-role transvestites. The homosexual element is of little significance. Homosexual transvestites are not members of FPE-NE.

As a consequence of the American psychiatric diagnosis list (DSM III 1980), heterosexual transvestism is defined as follows:

A transvestite is a heterosexually oriented man with masculine sex identity who feels an intense urge to dress in the clothing of the opposite sex. Crossdressing gives the person sexual satisfaction and/or an experience of general well being or comfort. If he is hindered in undertaking crossdressing, he feels more or less pronounced frustrations.

[Transvestism was deleted from the DSM-III-R — Ed.]

One notes that this definition does not include female transvestites, this because such have not been definitively described. There is one female member in the Norwegian transvestite association, but to what extent she fulfills [the] elaboration of the definition of heterosexual transvestites is not certain.

Motivation for Consulting Physicians

It is apparent from internal unpublished studies conducted under the direction of FPE-NE that about 40% of the 109 members (28 from Norway, 81 from Sweden) state that they have consulted a physician-psychiatrist.

This was in the 1981-1983 time frame. Seventy percent felt they did not receive help for improving their self-understanding/acceptance. All thought that physicians-psychiatrists need more information on transvestism. Against the background of this problem, among other things, we conducted a questionnaire study among 50 Norwegian transvestites, 31 of whom responded. All are members of the Norwegian division of FPE-NE.

Our results, together with the results of other studies conducted in Scandinavian countries, in addition to available international literature, provide the basis for the following description of heterosexual transvestism.

continued on page 14

Hetero TVs...

We are aware that the group studied is hardly socially /representative for all heterosexual transvestites. Nonetheless it is our opinion that the group studied is representative of the phenomenon of transvestism.

Selection

The material selected in several sections gives in some frameworks a somewhat idyllic description. Whether this is because we are encountering transvestites who have the most sophisticated relationship toward shame and guilt feelings, or whether it is due consciously or unconsciously to idyllization on the part of the individual, is difficult to know with any certainty.

Heterosexual Transvestism:

A Description

Beginning

In our material, age at the time of inception [crossdressing] was 9.4 years on the average, but there are descriptions all the way down to four years of age.

Our 31 respondents predominantly indicated they donned women's clothing on their own initiative both for the first time and upon subsequent occasions. Only to a relatively small extent did it happen that parents, siblings or others suggested or initiated the crossdressing (carnival, games, etc.).

The preferred article of clothing on the first try are panties or another undergarment. Dressing up brings with it intense feelings of pleasure, contentment, satisfaction and excitement, but also fear, confusion, anxiety and shame.

Some experience their first orgasm in connection with crossdressing. We do not know, however, whether the first dressing up was associated with orgasms. What is clear under every circumstance is that among teenagers, crossdressing is often closely associated with masturbation and sexual release.

Cause/Etiology

There are several models for explaining transvestism, both of psychoanalytic and learning psychological character, without any of these satisfying an inquisitive specialist or a trans-

vestite in an adequate manner.

We have found that our 31 respondents felt more strongly attached to their mother alone or to both mother and father while growing up. None felt themselves most strongly attached to their father. Whether this represents some significant deviation from a random sample of men of the same age group is not known. The focal point in our group with respect to age lies between 30-40.

In individual interviews, it emerged that some were extremely "neat children" and accordingly became an object of excessive attention and feminization. We do not, however, have such evidence for the group as a whole.

The first contact or contacts with women's clothing is described with joy, horror or joyful horror. From a learning psychology perspective, it is conceivable that there arises a conditioning toward acceptance in the joyful. This does not transpire so well with the fearful. It is likewise a fact that many boys have orgiastic, transvestite/fetishistic

continued next page

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Hetero TVs...

experiences in puberty experiments, but in contrast to transvestites, they do not continue the practice.

We are again confronted with the impression that it is here a question of men with a somewhat atypical identity and gender role pattern. They seem to have a feminine element in their personality, and this element comes to expression in crossdressing. One can only speculate on the basis for this femininity, but that can for example be assumed to lie in effects upon fetal life.

Transvestite Development

Both our study and observations and those of others confirm that outwardly inconspicuous men are involved. They generally have a masculine behavior, they attend to their family and social duties in an inconspicuous manner. [Transvestites] can accordingly occur among friends, colleagues at work or in our family without our knowing it.

[The average transvestite] man began in prepuberty or at puberty to don women's clothing. He made great use of this, not least in the sexual sphere. He had anxiety, because he felt different, and he has been very much afraid of being discovered. Crossdressing had a fetishistic/masturbatory tendency in his teens. He had periods with frustration and an almost imperious drive toward crossdressing, alternating with self-contempt and negation of the effects which he had laboriously brought into motion. In any case, he marries and has children no less often than

other men. Only 10-20% meet their finances through their tendencies. This is because he is shy about disclosing the truth, and because he believes that this will all pass away when pure sexuality comes in regular forms.

Gradually, he discovers to his perplexity that he has [made a mistake], and after a shorter or longer period of time, his wife hears or possibly sees his condition. His wife generally reacts in a more positive manner than he had thought. The frequency of divorce is not strikingly large among our respondents. Rather there is satisfaction with his marriage where the wife more or less participates in the husband's transvestite activity.

When questioned, some answer that their marriage is good because of transvestism and others that it is good despite transvestism.

It is striking that at this point in time of life, after his transvestism acquires a more "social" content, that the fetishistic/masturbatory element has slackened. It does not, however, stay away altogether. Eighty percent indicated at the time of the study they often, or from time to time, masturbate in connection with crossdressing.

Gender Identification

This circumstance is noteworthy among our transvestites. After having calmed down and gained their own respect, and often also of those around them, they experience themselves both as men and women. This is to some degree situational, according to how they are dressed, but they can also experience this psychological dual genderality without the stimulus of clothing.

They do not indicate any percentage distribution between male and female. It is also reasonable to assume that this is an individual matter. The transvestite thinks it is really splendid to swing between the two identities and roles. At this point in life, he has a complete female wardrobe. He is especially delighted in his smooth, silky lingerie, and he poses often and gladly before himself, his wife, his family, his friends and for some transvestite's sake before the general public.

Relationship to oneself

He places a high value upon his transvestism. Only one out of 31 expressed discontent with his existence as a transvestite. When asked what he would choose if he could manage to live his life over again as a man, the majority would choose again to live as a transvestite. True enough, he has problems with those around him, his colleagues at work and society in general. He has in addition a big problem with his wife not wishing to go to bed with him when he is dressed up. He generally values heterosexual intercourse very highly, but he also wishes to have sex where he himself is dressed in women's clothing. Only 11% can succeed on a regular basis. These are distributed uniformly in groups by age.

Relationship to Children

Transvestites are afraid to tell children about their activities. There are, however, some who have done that, and they describe their daughters' reactions as a little more negative than their sons'. It is noteworthy that those who

continued on page 16

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Focus on Page Two

Baltimore now has a full support group, Tran•Quility (there may be a problem with the name and it may have to be changed in the near future). The group was formerly the Baltimore affiliate of the Delaware Chapter of Renaissance. (Try saying that while putting on lipstick.)

Tran•Quility meets the fourth Saturday of each month at the Gay and

Lesbian Community Center (GLCC), 241 W. Chase. That's the mixed up intersection of the top of Martin Luther King Blvd, Howard Street, Chase Street, and Read Street. Look for the Lambda Rising Bookstore and you'll find the meeting room directly above.

Meetings start at 8:00 pm and run to about 10. After the meeting the members usually head out for the

Hippo, the Allegro, or one of the other bars in the neighborhood for a night-cap. You can come dressed any way you feel comfortable (although the street is unkind to 5" heels).

For more information write to Colleen N. [redacted] Baltimore, MD 21218-3912.



Hetero TVs...

have told their children about transvestitism generally have more positive reactions than they expected.

Relationship to Partners

Our transvestites believe they have it good in their marriage. Three out of four describe life together as very positive, the rest, nearly all, find it "generally good." One finds it filled with conflicts and difficult. Regarding sexual relations, three out of five say they [derive] great to moderate pleasure from it, but some, rather few, find it difficult and disharmonious.

Relationship to the Body

Our transvestites wish for and dream of bodily modifications, such as removal of male hair, development of breasts and broader hips. Few have a desire to have their penis removed and have a vagina constructed. They generally seem to draw the line at sexual mutilation. They do not have the transsexual's more hateful relationship to their own genitals. The goal all along appears to be to stay within a framework where the possibility of playing both roles is preserved.

Sexual Fantasies

These are differentiated and vary from individual to individual. The desire for femininity in the role pattern again occurs in many. Here are found many fantasies on full sexual transformation (transsexuals), of going dressed up into a business and being seduced

by the saleslady (heterosexual transvestitism), of being dressed in very feminine clothing and becoming a "diva" (fetishistic transvestite), in addition to purely heterosexual fantasies. We did not note any homophile fantasies or inclinations.

Our Task as Physicians Professionals

There is no convincing method of treatment in our teachings and sources regarding heterosexual transvestism. We should accordingly not behave as therapists but perhaps as advisors and mediators of a minimum of information. The transvestite needs help for self-acceptance. His family needs help with fear of transvestism and homosexuality. It is important to make it clear that even if transvestitism is perhaps a rare form of expression, it is equally almost completely possible to function well both with oneself and with those around oneself.

Conclusions

Physicians and psychiatrists generally will meet persons in their practice who have a drive to act in the image of the opposite sex. One portion of these will belong to the heterosexual transvestite group.

This is a sexual minority group which represents a continuum of inclinations from the fetishistic to the double role transvestites. Even if the latter category in some ways resemble the transsexuals, they generally lack several of their characteristics.

The well adjusted resourceful trans-

vestite who has emerged to acceptance both from himself and those around him seems to have an androgynous self image. He experiences being able to swing almost free of conflict between sex roles and identities. This is a situation with which he is happy, and that creates few problems in marriage in its most illustrative form.

The heterosexual transvestite man is in other respects generally well adjusted and inconspicuously masculine.

Some have accused him of living in a no man's land with regard to identity. One of our interviewees replied to this, "How can one say such a thing? That is indeed our land."

The address for FPE-NE in Norway is:
FPE-NE
Postbox 1968 Vika
0125 Oslo 1

¹We have used the English form of the word, even though the official Norwegian designation is **transvestitisme**. [Note with reference to the Norwegian original.]

Literature

Bancroft, J., *Human Sexuality and its Problems*. London: Churchill Livingstone, 1983.

* The original appeared in *Tidsskrift for den Norske Lægeforening* [Journal of the Norwegian Medical Association] 25(106) (1986): 2069-2071 under the title of "Heterofil transvestisme."



A PC & Un-PC Guide To Genderland

by Rachel [REDACTED]

Ed. Note: Ms. [REDACTED] has been extremely prolific this month. In addition to her informative article on cordless communication security, she has thrashed out this piece of trash...

Oops! I mean, this amusing bit of fluff about gender terminology. When sending in your angry letters please mark them to the attention of the PC Department. The Editor disavows all knowledge of her writing and this page will self destruct in thirty seconds.

By now, certainly everyone reading this article has heard of Political Correctness or PC for short. If you think that PC stands for Personal Computer, get your head out of your hard drive and get into the nineties. PC has hanged the world in ways too various to enumerate here. A few notable examples might be changing the word "manhole" to "circular personnel subterranean access way" and "stewardess" to "flight attendant." The whole

point is that PC has permanently affected our lives and the way we interact with all sorts of other people.

PC has also affected our lives as transgendered people. We exist in a group that has many labels for its subgroup members. We've got so many words to describe ourselves that it's really amazing. The list is long, confusing, and sometimes downright idiotic.

Here's a hugely incomprehensive list of transgender words, both PC and Un-PC. If I missed one, whoops. If you don't agree with my opinions, too bad. If you get your panties in a wad (Yes, most of you *are* wearing panties) because you feel offended or feel others might be offended, too bad. If you think I'm an insensitive clod, you're probably right. This is all in good fun. If you think otherwise; *get a life!*

However, if you have a contribution to make to the list, let's hear it. This is a newsletter for all of you, and you should all throw in your two cent's

worth. There are a lot of intelligent people in the world who never say a thing, even though they have great ideas. Of course, there are also a lot of stupid people who have too much to say. (I pray I'm not among them.)

Gender Gifted: This is an interesting one to start with. I hate it with a flaming passion. Just *what* is "gender gifted" anyway? Am I "gifted" with gender cause I wear slinky underthings? Isn't my brother gifted with gender even though he (I think) doesn't? Isn't that cute salesgirl (Sorry, uh huh, Un-PC. That's *sales associate*.) gifted with gender? Oh my God, the poor thing! It has no gender! (Even Barbie has gender, just no genitals!) We all have gender. Some may have more than one, or may blend the two, but it seems quite impossible to be "gender gifted." My sister used to teach retarded kids (Whoops! Un-PC, I meant *mentally challenged*). At her

continued on page 21



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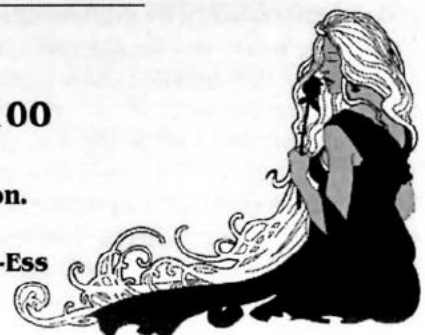
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Dear Doctor

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

Send questions to PO Box 530, Bensalem, Pa. 19020

Dear Doctor,

I enjoy going out in public with a large bra under my male clothes stuffed out to exceptional size. Sometimes I accessorize or put on some makeup but usually I just like to flaunt my chest. I am bald and don't wear a wig and boy do I get some looks from straight people. My question is — is my friend right? Am I an exhibitionist? Am I a crossdresser?

Big Bertha

Dear Big Bertha,

According to the new PDR Medical Dictionary, "exhibitionism" is a "compulsion to expose a part of the body, especially the genitals, with the intent of provoking sexual interest in the viewer." John Money, the recognized authority on gender issues, refers to exhibitionism as "the condition of being responsive to, or dependent on the debasement, shock, and outcry of a stranger (usually female), unexpectedly exposed to the sight of the penis, in order to maintain one's erotic arousal and facilitate or achieve orgasm." From your letter, you clearly *do not* come under the definition of an exhibitionist.

Again, according to the PDR Medical Dictionary, "crossdressing" is defined as "clothing oneself in the clothes of the opposite sex." John Money would add that psychically, if you felt compelled to crossdress, "in relation to sexual arousal and attainment of orgasm" then you would be a transvestite. From your letter, you *do not* seem to come under the definition of a crossdresser or transvestite.

I would say that your gender issue is one of "difference." You are different! To me, "differences are just different," as long as you are not violating someone else or unduly hurting yourself. However, the majority of people in our cul-

ture are uncomfortable with difference, therefore, you will get a lot of strange looks from people. Unless you violate some local ordinance, such as go into a women's restroom, you probably have a right to walk around as you do. Your safety is an issue. There may be some so threatened or uncomfortable with your "difference" that they may threaten your safety. However, this also does not seem to be a problem for you.

Dear Doctor,

I am a 46 year old transsexual, pre-op at this time, and I am just coming out of a 15 year marriage. I never wanted to hurt my wife and while I still love her she is not interested in a lesbian relationship. I guess we will remain friends. I would like to know how I (and some other TS's I have talked to) could have gone ahead and entered into a committed long term relationship and not been totally honest with the other person? I think I thought my feelings of different genderness would go away or something. Now I know they won't and I am having to deal with the pain of separation too.

Jennifer

Dear Jennifer,

Your story is very common. Since there is almost no education regarding gender development offered to young people, those who grow up with "gender dysphoria" (that is, dissatisfaction or discomfort with their biologic gender), often feel confused about who they are. Are they male or female, gay or straight, sick or healthy, sinful or "saved"? Since most people want to be normal, loved and accepted, young people who feel "different" look for other ways of dealing with their gender dysphoria. They may go into denial and try to tell themselves that nothing is

wrong. They may become very secretive and crossdress in private, with all the confusing questions above. If male, they may try to do all "macho" things. Often they turn to alcohol or drugs to deal with their feelings. Some will try marriage, hoping that will cure them of their feelings, only to find that the feelings do not go away. In fact, they may even become stronger.

As you have found, there comes a day when you can no longer hide yourself from either yourself or your family and friends. It can come as a terrible shock to those you love. Sometimes by getting professional help from an understanding and knowledgeable therapist, a person can come up with a strategy for "coming out" that is not so devastating to a loving relationship. It is sad that people who love each other so much have to end up separating. We live in such a homophobic culture that for many the only answer is separation and divorce. We have a lot of work to do, those of us in the helping professions and those who live with difference, in order to change our society to have healthier and more accepting attitudes.



Ask The Professionals!

If you have any questions for Dr. Bill or the Dermatologist, Dr. Jane Ellen Fairfax, fire up the word processor, typewriter, or crayon, and send them to us.

We've set up the two columns, "Dear Doctor" and "Ask The Dermatologist" to provide you with an accurate, safe, and simple way to get you answers to your questions. Your confidentiality is assured.

Write care of PO Box 530,
Bensalem, PA 19020

R. E. S. P. E. C. T.

by Angela Gardner

Here's the text of a piece I wrote for the Trenton Times newspaper concerning what we, the members of the transgendered community, would like from the rest of the world.

What's the average straight person supposed to do if they encounter a bevy of crossdressed beauties, such as those portrayed in *To Wong Foo...?* Fall back on that old standby that's gotten the human race through a lot of close calls; etiquette.

Of course, Miss Manners doesn't exactly cover what you should say if you accidentally bump into RuPaul, but it shouldn't be too hard to figure out that all crossdressed folks would like from the rest of the world is a little respect. "Excuse me Miss Charles. (that's RuPaul's last name, ya know.) My you're looking lovely today." Now there's an appropriate response.

One of the hardest times the straight world has revolves around how to address a crossdresser. Call them Ms. or Miss, first. If they're dressed en femme most crossdressers are prepared to be talked to as a female.

Some, who dress to perform as female impersonators may still want you to address the as "sir." If you think they are uncomfortable with the way you've referred to them, politely ask them what they would prefer.

Use feminine pronouns, like she and her, when you refer to them in conversation. Again, if the crossdresser has a problem with that they should let you know. That's how civilized social interaction is carried out.

Rule number one: no matter how outlandish the queen, treat them like any other human being who is worthy of respect. That way maybe we can all just get along.



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Shopping With Jessica

Jessica
Brandon

Greetings, girlfriends! This month, I address the subject of height. For those of us who, thanks to the roll of the genetic dice, are six feet or taller (like moi), shopping for clothes that both fit properly and look stylish can be more than a bit of a problem. It can be a major league headache.

I don't have to tell any of you out in transgender land that the majority of clothes sold in department stores, boutiques and what not are designed primarily for women five feet seven and under, the hated "Misses" range. Of course, the word's long since gotten out that women aren't tiny anymore. Stores and mail order houses are stocking clothes for the taller gal, but you really have to search to find them, and that's not an easy task. For the most part, both genuine gals and the imitation variety who stand head and shoulders above the crowd still find the going extremely difficult in the stores.

The main problems for tall girls wearing Misses sized clothes are sleeves and inseams. Nothing, and I mean N-O-T-H-I-N-G looks sillier than sleeves that end three quarters down one's arm. A properly fitted sleeve, be it on a blouse, jacket or coat should end at the wrist, or no more than an inch above. Regarding inseams, admittedly, I rarely wear pants (I like showing off my legs!), but standard 29" inseams do us absolutely no good, the cuffs end a good two inches above the ankles, and that also looks

extremely awkward. My advice, gained from experience is to look for pants with an inseam of at least 31" inches.

Perhaps the only good thing about Misses sizes are hemlines. A pedestrian looking skirt that ends at the knee for a woman of 5'6" becomes an attractively short one for us "Long Tall Sallies." There have been occasions when I've bought Misses outfits (mostly suits, can't get enough of 'em!) and found sleeves of proper length and hemlines I could live with. Understand, that's more the exception than the rule. Still, it never hurts to experiment and buy something you think might work. You could be pleasantly surprised. Just make sure to save your receipts if you have to return an item.

Speaking of department stores, I highly recommend **J.C. Penney's** which, I think, has the largest selection of clothes for tall gals in the country. I've shopped there for years and have yet to be disappointed. On the mail order side, retailers like **Sears, Spiegel's** and **Lane Bryant** offer tall sizes, though not in mass quantities like Penney's. I also get catalogs from **Chadwick's of Boston** and **Newport News**. While they don't offer tall sizes, these are places where I've bought Misses size outfits and, surprisingly found them proportionately sized for my build. Again, this is rare, but not impossible. Seek them out.

Hosiery

The word on the street is that ho-

sieri has to be sheer, almost to the point of being invisible. But that raises a problem since sheer hosiery lacks the strength to withstand the rigors of day to day wear, be it by real girls, or us. A few months ago, **Hanes** came out with a new brand of pantyhose (with the catchy slogan: "Sheer Without Fear") called **Resilience Hosiery** which is supposed to combine sheerness and strength. I've put several pairs through their paces (wearing same under my male clothes for a day and to Renaissance meetings) and, so far, they live up to the billing.

Resilience comes in fourteen shades, more than any other brand I've seen to date and can be found in most major department stores. I found Resilience at Macy's, Penney's and Sears in the Phila./NJ area.

On the subject of tall girls and pantyhose, I wear size C-D (talk about irony!) which, in terms of standard hosiery sizing covers height ranges of 5'4" to 6'0" and weight ranges of 120 to 165 pounds, and it works for me. Of course, not all of us possess the same build, so I recommend experimenting to see what size will suit you best.

Angela Gardner passed on a shopping tip from her friend Leslie, for our sisters in the Big Apple. **Daffy's** at 57th & Lexington, 34th Street & Broadway, and 18th Street & 5th Avenue, is home to incredible buys and

continued next page



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Lastly, **One Hanes Place**, the outlet mail order catalog that sells lingerie, hosiery and clothes at cut rate prices is now offering the WonderBra! yes, you too can now own the technological marvel of the 90's at 25% off department store prices! To obtain the One Hanes Place catalog, call 1-800-522-1151 or write: One Hanes Place Outlet Catalog, P.O. Box 748, Rural Hill, NC 27098-0748.

Well, that's it for now, my fingers are tired. Remember, if you know of good places to shop, share them with us via the Renaissance National address on page two or email to <bensalem@cpcn.com>. Until next month, be smart, buy smart and look smart! Happy shopping, sisters!



PC Guide...

school they were called "exceptional students." Hmmmm. Sounds suspiciously like "Gender Gifted" to me.

Gender Friend: (shudder) Same as gender gifted. I'm your friend and I have gender. And I may not even dress in women's clothing!

Transgendered: This is my favorite transgender term (see!) 'cause it's broad, all encompassing, and easy to use. I think it's starting to become Un-PC, but it sounds cool to me. I'll keep using it 'till the PC police arrest me.

Cross-Gendered: The PC replacement for transgendered. It sounds wimpy to me, kind of a cop-out. It's stuffy. I don't like it. I'll avoid using it, 'till the PC Police arrest me.

Transvestite: This is a technical term literally meaning "crossdresser." This person can be straight, gay, bi or whatever. Doesn't really matter anyhow. The term has moved into the realm of Un-PC because it's got negative, and usually sexual, connotations. After all, how often do you turn on Geraldo, Sally, or Charles Perez and see that "crossdresser's" are on? No, the Cannibal Transvestites from Mars are on. Many new, uneducated, or people poking fun, call themselves a

transvestite. I don't know too many veteran "gender friends" (shudder) who call them transvestites. (Ed.Note: I don't mind being called a transvestite. Me either — the other Ed.)

Crossdresser: This is a "friendly" term. When you tell your new girlfriend about your "proclivities," you don't tell her that you're a transvestite. She'll have a mental image of you dressing up in bright red lingerie, heels 12 inches high, and a face painted like Tammy Fay. Even though to you it sounds great, you instead tell her that you're a crossdresser. She'll think that you occasionally sneak a wearing of her prom formal, that you're wonderful for confiding in her, and buy you a pretty skirt and blouse set. See how much better that is?

Transsexual: Spell it with two S's damn it! How many times do I have to tell you: TWOOOOO! These folks feel like they are trapped in the body of the wrong gender. If it was as easy to make the switch, like Gilligan switching bodies with Mary Ann, a lot of us would be signed up. TS's usually fade off into the world when their transition is over. Why not? We've all wanted to drop off the face of the Earth before.

Transgenderist: Generally, this is a person who works and lives in a gender role opposite their genetic sex,

continued on page 22

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PC Guide...

yet is comfortable being the genetic sex they were born with. Jaye Davidson of "The Crying Game" seems to be a transgenderist, as was her character. Whoops. I let the secret out. (As if you didn't know already.)

Intersexual: This is a person born with characteristics of both sexes. A friendlier word for hermaphrodite, which is also technically correct, but rather harsh. True Intersexuals are pretty rare. Finding one might be like being in New York and running into the guy who bagged your groceries in Pasadena.

Androgyne: I haven't seen much info on this one. It's a person who blends both genders into one. Ever seen Pat on SNL? That is an Androgyne. These folks are awful fun to watch. I saw one on campus a few months back, and I couldn't be sure at all. Clothes were perfectly non-gender specific, the person was lithely built with no indication of either breasts or a penis. Yes, I tried to spot evidence! The face was not made up, and showed no characteristics of gender whatsoever. Perfectly unidentifiable. I wanted desperately to talk to the person (him... her... them! that's it - them! Not grammatically correct, but certainly PC!) but I had no idea of what to say. This person may not have even wanted to be androgynous. Who knows. Hard to say one way or the other.

Genderfuck: This crude term describes an attempt to shock the shit out of other people by calling attention to oneself by flagrantly dressing or acting like both genders at once. A Hells Angel with a ratty beard and a tattoo that says "Hog Heaven", could be considered a genderfuck if he was also sporting a tutu, dangly earrings and heels. Stay away from him. Really.

It's very hard for GC's (see below) to do this as it is socially acceptable to wear masculine clothing.

Female Impersonator: Almost always a gay man who dresses as a woman and performs that way as a profession. Contrary to a recent movie they almost *never* wear female clothing when not on stage. The manner of dress may be anything, from sincere flattery to sincere mockery of women or a specific woman. RuPaul is a great example of an FI. Barbie Doll proportions, great outfits, and a killer performer. Some have said that there are hints of transgenderism in RuPaul. Hmmm, Ok. Definite possibility.

Drag Queen: "When a gay man has too much fashion sense for one gender he is a Drag Queen." This quote from *Too Wong Foo...* is a bit optimistic. Most drag queens dress provocatively to attract men for sex. Fashion sense has more to do with Hollywood than real life. Many drag queens pass very well for women but would never be mistaken for one as soon as they speak. They are unabashedly male beneath the girlie stuff.

SO (Significant Other): This could really be anybody close to the person in question, but it usually stands for a partner of sorts, like a girlfriend, boyfriend, or whatever. Your mom could probably be an SO, but that would surely raise a few arched eyebrows.

GG (Genetic Girl): For some reason I think of "genuine girl" every time I see the acronym. It stands for Genetic Girl or female.

Well, you've read this list of a few terms, some PC, some not. Like I said before, it's not all inclusive, but it does provide a general framework for the inhabitants of Genderland. If you have to refer to this list for a clinical definition of something you're in trouble. If you show this to your therapist, point and say, "Look, that's me!" you're in trouble. If you think that I'm one of greatest writers of the twentieth century, you're all right with me, but still in trouble. There are no warranties here—expressed or implied.



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Paradise "Found" in the Poconos

by Carol and Babs

Summer, it's finally over! As short sleeves give way to long sleeves and sweaters, and swim shorts are replaced by slacks, it is the time that the body can approach the mindset. The body hair, it disappears! The ankle bracelet, it reappears! A weight lifts as the alter ego begins to physically materialize!

The autumnal celebration begins on a Thursday morning drive to a small town in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. As we drive through the Village of Canadensis, full of anticipation, we are undaunted by the unexpected detour through the next town (someone could have warned us!). There's the sign! We pull off the main road and up the steep driveway and finally to the circular path leading to the main office. We've arrived! Greeted by JoAnn Roberts and several staff and guests who have now become old friends, we settle into our rooms a little older, wiser and more confident. We still can't figure out how to pack more efficiently with the changeable weather, tag sales and the opportunity to change clothes as often as one wishes. However, our friends, Sandy and Nancy Ann who led our mini-carnavan here, were clever enough to set up a pulley system to expedite the unloading of all the clothing, wigs and cosmetics to our second story walk up!

Settled in, it's still early for the wine and cheese welcome, it's sunny and warm outside, perfect for the swimming pool and yes, Babs forgot to pack

her bathing suit (she brought 10 pairs of shoes, but NO bathing suit), so an opportunity to finally wear it is lost! Never mind, it's time to meet old friends, greet newcomers and make them feel welcome as we were 4 years ago. The wine and cheese, rocking chairs on the porch, buffet dinner, talking at the bar, cocktails, early bird breakfast, brunch, workshops, makeup-I do, you do, wig restyled, sit down dinner, Stella's new photo equipment, stories, jokes, the Joke-off, costume party, listening, one on one, groups, singing, dancing, Showtime!, the Princess Pageant, more pictures, just hanging out! Another announcement from JoAnn! Hissss, booo! "Nice tits, Morgan! Michelle, Where's Cliffy?" Jo and Jaini, ever so sweet with a dash of spice! Julio and Willie! Time flies, it's the last Midnight Munchie platter! We finally get a chance to know people we met here years agothey're nice folks. This is our fifth September trip! It 's become something special to us.

Looking back, our first trip here proved to be one of the singular most significant events in our lives. The dye was cast when a 20 year old moustache suddenly disappeared! We haven't looked back since. The memory is bittersweet because Marilyn Jean and Barbie, the couple that brought us to the event were not here. Our joy was tempered by the death of Marilyn less than 2 weeks before. Wife, mother, and grandmother, the "Teddy bear

Lady" was a "big sister" to Carol, one who exemplified the role of a loving and supportive spouse of a transgendered person. Because of them and the friendships we subsequently made here, our own relationship has been less bumpy. Wonderful friends, wonderful support! Did we find Paradise? It certainly was not the Plaza, The Breakers, Caneel Bay, nor even the Concord! We didn't even mind the one channel TV in the rooms, (we weren't the only ones with reception problems) so long as the REAL TV worked properly! No maid service and a quirky hot water supply. The food, except for Saturday night, was buffet style, plain, wholesome meals prepared well! Saturday's sit-down dinner featured prime rib and was delivered as ordered. Nothing fancy, nothing pretentious, just good and consistent. The wait staff was enthusiastic and accommodating. Even Donna, the D.J., had her hair done and kept the sound at a reasonable decibel level. Now, if Eric will learn to smile again.....?!

Sunday, it's back in the clothes of the OTHER gender, I envy the others who don't have to change. It's time to finish packing and load up. It's raining and the goodbyes are short. It's bittersweet, the farewells are sad. Sweet is the memory of recent ecstasy, the friendships, the new ones developed and the old ones strengthened. In past years we cried on the way home,

continued on page 25

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These cops are TOPS: Transgendered Officers Protect/Serve

By Joyce [REDACTED]

TOPS (Transgendered Officers Protect/Serve) is a national and soon to be international organization, founded by a transgendered sheriff's deputy, for the emotional and legal support of other transgendered persons who protect and serve our society. The current and potential membership of TOPS includes law enforcement officers, fire fighters and paramedics, as well as military personnel, from local police and sheriff's departments, federal agencies, and all branches and ranks of the military. I am a former law enforcement officer having spent 15 years in a municipal and county sheriff's department as well as 4 years in the U.S. Navy.

Many of the researchers and mental health professionals interested in the transgendered community estimate that upwards of 3% of the (primarily) male population is transgendered and that within the traditionally "macho" professions such as law enforcement, fire fighting and the military, upwards of 10% of the males are transgendered. I use males as my example because it is far more acceptable in our society for a woman to wear male style clothing and act in a more male manner than it is for a male to be the reverse. Therefore, transgendered women aren't as easily identified as the transgendered male since they tend to fit into society much more easily.

What can we, as public safety employees, and the public expect from this "coming out" of the transgendered segment of our ranks? I would expect you will see very little if any change at all from the individual officer. The transgendered community is probably the most deeply closeted of any of the alternate lifestyles simply because of the rejection from the macho oriented society we live in. I don't expect this to change for quite some years to come. I was raised in this macho atmosphere, was in the Navy 4 years, Vietnam for 2 of those years prior to being a law en-

forcement officer for 15 years, before it was common to see women police officers. The locker room talk I have heard regarding all of the alternate lifestyles does not create an atmosphere I would expect many officers or firefighters to have the courage to endure in coming out to their coworkers and superiors as a transgendered person. Far too many men and women feel that gender roles are cast in stone and that any crossing of the established gender lines is still very much taboo. Many still feel that a transgendered person is one who deserves the ridicule they receive from the few narrow minded and ignorant people still hanging on to the idea that all people are the same and you don't have a right to be different from others.

"There aren't any transgendered people in my department" is another archaic attitude. I have already mentioned the figure of 10% of the "macho" professions are transgendered. This figure is a conservative one. I have actually heard numbers as high as 15-18%. I would like to use the more conservative 10% figure, though, for this discussion. Why would there be such a high number in law enforcement, fire fighting, or the military? I will again place blame on the "macho" oriented society. In an attempt to overcome the feelings of inferiority and of being less than a "man", many transgendered men enter a profession where they can prove their masculinity to both themselves and the world around them. The most logical professions then would be law enforcement, fire fighting and the military where the individuals can prove themselves on a daily basis. How would you feel if the Chief of Police in your city was a transgendered man? I know one. What if the paramedic or the fire captain who saved your life or home was transgendered? I know them. Or the military officer who makes command decisions regarding the safety of your ship at sea, or your infantry unit in a combat situa-

tion. I know them as well. Would you feel any differently about the Superior Court Judge sentencing a criminal to life in prison if you knew he wore a dress other than his black robe? I know one of them, also. This doesn't include the tens of thousands of bankers, attorneys, doctors, engineers, or any other profession who wear garments traditionally of the opposite sex under their clothing to work and are never noticed. The point I am making here is that the transgendered person is employed in every profession in existence. Does this mean that when an officer is involved in a shooting he/she should ask the gender preference of the officers assisting him? Should the firefighter ask who or what it is helping him out of a burning building before accepting that help? Or should the airborne ranger in a combat situation ask if his brother(?) ranger likes to cross-dress before allowing him to help him when he is under fire? In 15 years in law enforcement, I never had anyone ask such a ridiculous question when they needed help or assistance. I have known (for a fact) no less than a dozen law enforcement officers who were transgendered, prior to my helping to form TOPS. I have suspected far more. I believe in the old adage; "it takes one to know one". Did this lessen their ability to be police officers? Not in the slightest. As a matter of fact, quite the opposite was generally true. These transgendered officers felt that they must excel in order to prove to themselves that they weren't inadequate. It is quite common to see the transgendered officer, firefighter or military person promoted to a rank higher than the common troop. Are there any transgendered persons in your department? You can safely assume that no less than one in every ten of your fellow officers engages in transgendered behavior, to some degree, in his off duty hours.

Returning to the original topic, that of the organization known as TOPS. I

TOPS...

have discussed membership in TOPS with a number of active duty officers. I hear the same concern from each, and rightfully so. That concern is personal security/confidentiality and not bringing embarrassment upon their agency.


Secrecy is an issue which is very near and dear to my heart. Security and confidentiality is one of the corner stones of TOPS. Yes, there are a few of us who are willing to stand at the forefront and face department administrations and the media, but so far as the general membership and any non-TOPS member is concerned, anonymity is not only accepted but recommended. TOPS as an organization and myself as an individual would never ask or advocate any transgendered person, especially one in uniform, to "out" themselves to their department or the general public, or for that matter, their families, unless and/or they are themselves ready for such a major step. As I'm certain you've noticed yourself, crossdressing seems to be a direct affront to the masculinity of some of the more insecure but macho members of the uniformed professions. It is for that reason I feel it necessary for a very few of us to step out from the crowd to

represent the majority who need to remain a faceless, nameless number in the same crowd.

The purpose and goal of TOPS is to give the transgendered member support, understanding and assistance wherever the member needs or wants that support. Support comes in many different forms. The first step is to let the transgendered officer know that they aren't the only one in uniform. There are thousands of others, just as deeply closeted as you and performing the same daily duties, just as they should. The transgendered person is not the deviant we have been led to believe for so many years. The American Psychiatric Association (APA) has removed most categories of transgendered behavior from its diagnostic manual, the DSM IV. Most aspects of being transgendered are not even addressed in the DSM IV, therefore are not considered a mental illness or condition. Once a transgendered person identifies where they fit within themselves, the next hurdle is to decide how this fits into your social and family structure. TOPS is in place to help you in this regard. TOPS has a listing of professionals, both mental health and medical, to help our members cope with the problems society, friends, and most of all family have imposed upon you, the transgendered officer. I spent

2 years seeing a very prominent psychiatrist in Los Angeles. Not for my gender issues as those issues were resolved in the first 3 weeks. I needed some assistance in helping my very supportive wife live with a transgendered husband. TOPS will, at the request of the membership, form and assist local social and self help groups to give the individuals the opportunity to meet with and socialize with other transgendered persons within their own professions.

I would like to close this by assuring you, the individual transgendered officer, the administrator, and the public at large that; we, the transgendered public servant, performs his/her duties as well or better than the straight officer, we don't bite and we aren't contagious, and you will probably never know which of your public safety officers are transgendered. We have always been and will most likely continue to be a very silent minority in society.


For additional information regarding membership in TOPS, or to have one of our experienced public speakers address all or a portion of your agency or military unit, feel free to contact me, Joyce [redacted] at; EMail - [redacted]@AOL.com, snail mail (USPS) at [redacted] Suite G-129, Victorville, California, 92392. 

Paradise...

though not as much as each previous year. This year we didn't cry because following us home were friends who would be staying with us before embarking on a business trip. We also knew that we would see them and several others for mini-reunions in the upcoming months. Paradise? In a sense, it really opened the gates!

"Paradise in the Poconos" is an event open to all in the gender community and is held twice a year, in May and September. It is held in a small resort that is closed to the public for the weekend to ensure privacy and security. Singles and couples are welcome. It is produced by JoAnn Roberts' Cre-

ative Design Services. JoAnn is ably assisted by her wife Betty and their experienced and friendly staff. For specif-

ics, contact them at : PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406, (610) [redacted] 



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. Understanding Transsexualism

Significant Other Support

To network with other partners of transgendered people contact Evelyn Kirkland, 987 Old Eagle School Rd, Suite 719, Wayne, PA 19087.

Pen Pal Program

If you would like to correspond with other people around the country contact Pen Pals, attention of Maryann Kirkland, 987 Old Eagle School Rd, Suite 719, Wayne, PA 19087.

Photos From Transgender Lobby Days



(l. to r.) Alison Laing (PA), Linda Watson (UT) & Maryann Kirkland (PA) visit Rep. Robert Borski (PA).



Over 100 transgendered people from about 35 states gathered for the kick-off Press Conference.



Newly "commissioned" transgender lobbyists: (l. to r.) Alison Laing (PA), Sharon Stuart (NY - ICTLEP), Linda Watson (UT) & JoAnn Roberts (PA).

Also present but not shown were Angela Gardner (PA), Terri McCorkel (NJ - MOTG), Colleen Harper and Bobbi Lennox (MD - both from Tran•Quility).

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between Linda C. and Yvonne [REDACTED]

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