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Buffalo Belles

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BUFFALO BELLES



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OCTOBER 1998

SISTERS IN CHARGE:
CAMILLE
JEAN
KATHY [REDACTED]
PATTI [REDACTED]

**THE OCTOBER MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THE 3rd,
IN THE UPSTAIRS ROOM LOCATION**

Hello Sisters,

What a wonderful summer it's been! Some of the best weather I've ever experienced here in Western New York. And it looks as though Fall is off to a great start as well. I can't wait to break out my fall wardrobe from the attic closet.

The September meeting saw ten members make their way to our regular meeting place. We greeted two new members: Jennifer and Nancy. Welcome, ladies!

The trip to Toronto is temporarily on hold. The dates we were planning on going were during the time the Toronto Film Festival was in full swing. It is the largest film festival in North America and affordable rooms in the downtown area were impossible to come by. Stay tuned for new trip dates and details.

If you are planning to attend the Riverside Gala Weekend, November 20-22, I have just been informed that they are adding another day/night to their activities. This will occur on Thursday, November 19. If you are interested you'll have to send the hotel an additional \$58.00. Further details will be forth coming at the October 3rd Buffalo Belles meeting and in the next newsletter.

Additionally, Janice has informed me that she will be attending the activities on Saturday, November 21, and is looking for people who want go for the day and return later that night. The cost of attending Saturday only is \$60.00. That includes seminars, vendors, shopping trips in town, the Banquet, awards, entertainment, and group photograph. Changing rooms will be available. See her or me at the next meeting or contact the hotline (446-2661) if you're interested.

Please take note of the letter on the following page concerning our status as a sister sorority of Tri-Ess. This will be a topic of discussion at the next meeting.

Finally, I want to thank a few of my sister Belles for their invaluable assistance in publishing this newsletter, for without their help this publication would not be possible. Applause goes to Kathy [REDACTED], Jean, Patti, Susan and Crystal.

See you October 3.

Hugs,
Camille

Letter sent to the Buffalo Belles from the Board of Directors of Tri-Ess. If you have any comments or concerns regarding this matter, please contact the Buffalo Belles officers, the newsletter or the hotline.

August 9, 1998

Dear Sisters,

It is my sad duty to inform you that the Board of Directors of Tri-Ess has voted unanimously to place Nu Phi Chi Chapter (Buffalo Belles) on probation.

The Board has taken this action because of Nu Phi Chi's flagrant violations of Tri-Ess membership policy. A Tri-Ess chapter is defined as a gathering of Tri-Ess supporting members in one locality; yet, Nu Phi Chi counts as chapter members many who are not members of Tri-Ess. Many months ago, we sent the chapter a letter citing its noncompliance with membership policy, and urging it to rectify the situation. To this date, we have received no response, and there is no evidence that any effort has been made to bring Nu Phi Chi into compliance.

The maximum term of the probation is June 1, 1999. By coming into compliance with Tri-Ess policy, the chapter can lift its probation early. To remove the probationary status, Nu Phi Chi must accomplish the following:

- 1) Supply documentation to my office that chapter bylaws contain a provision that all chapter members must be supporting members of Tri-Ess.
- 2) Supply documentation to my office that all members of the chapter are supporting members of Tri-Ess, or Friends of Tri-Ess, as appropriate.
- 3) Appoint an officer to serve as liaison to Tri-Ess.

Failure by the chapter to fulfill these conditions, or to reply in timely fashion to this communication, will result in decertification of Nu Phi Chi as a Tri-Ess Chapter.

If we are going to succeed together in our work of education, support and outreach, Tri-Ess must have the united support of every chapter. We all must pull together in the same direction. Over the last two years, our leadership has been communicating closely with the chapters, incorporating them into a harmonious team. In the coming years we will continue this bonding process, and we will support our chapters strongly in finding new ways to apply the Tri-Ess vision to local needs. Cooperative projects between Tri-Ess and its chapters will lead to major, sustained growth all around! The Tri-Ess vision is unique! And it is yours!!! If you take pride in it, and put your hearts into it, you will be amazed at what you can accomplish!

Please feel free to write any time with any questions you may have. I will be most happy to work with you so that Nu Phi Chi can achieve its fullest potential as a Tri-Ess chapter.

Warmest regards,
Jane Ellen Fairfax, Chair
Tri-Ess Board of Directors

A&E Gives an Investigative Report on the "Transgender Revolution"

On Monday, October 5, at 9 p.m. EST, Arts & Entertainment's Investigative Reports (IR) airs its one-hour feature on the transgender rights movement. IR interviews more than a dozen transgender activists and individuals. This should be most informative as the media attempts to understand and portray this ever growing population. Are they successful?

Passing...

by Yvonne

Is it the Holy Grail of crossdressing? Or the bane of crossdressers?

As time goes on, I feel more and more strongly that for crossdressing as a cultural phenomenon to make any advances toward public acceptance, crossdressers have to stop setting their sights on passing and focus more on simply looking good. So I don't want to give you tips on how to pass because I think you can do better than that. I think you can raise the consciousness of those whom meet you.

As I learned more about this thing that I do, I discovered that, while it is not criminal or in any way harmful to those around me, and crossdressed men rarely behave badly in public, it is, for the most part, socially unacceptable for a man to make himself look very much like a woman and go out in public to perform even the most mundane and routine of chores. A good analogy is the way long hair on men in the 1960s, shaved heads in the 1980s and body piercing in the 1990s "offended" some people. These activities were forms of self-expression, yet they elicited strong emotions from the public at large.

The cultural resistance to crossdressing, I believe, lies in the fact that our culture places an unnecessarily high value on masculinity. Although it is slowly changing, we remain a patriarchal society, and the cultural "norm" for what is "masculine" is intimately wrapped up with what is considered "good", "moral", "just" and "strong". Physical beauty is as much a part of the masculine "norm" as it is a part of the feminine "norm". The difference is that the masculine stereotype is, at this point in time, associated much more with the public image, rather than with the image of family, which is tied to the feminine norm.

Consequently, crossdressing does not represent so much an invasion or co-opting of femininity as it does an undermining or relinquishing of masculinity. To be born male means you must bear the responsibility of masculinity. If you reject that responsibility, as crossdressers seem to do, are you not also rejecting your role as the defender of what is good, moral, just and strong?

Elsewhere on this web site I reported on a Gallup poll done in 1996 that showed that while most people feel women should have equal employment opportunity with men and be paid equally, those same people said they felt more comfortable with men running the largest corporations.

The Gay Rights movement achieved the success and acceptance it did in part because it eradicated the stereotype of the effeminate homosexual and replaced it with the image of a "macho" masculine gay man. Sexual orientation is viewed as being much less threatening to our culture's well-being than images of feminine men and masculine women.

It is true that some women are offended by crossdressing because they feel it "violates" their feminine prerogative. I can't accept this because a prerogative is nothing more than a right or a privilege that one group (men) grants to another (women). It implies that one group is dependent on the other for its well-being. I don't believe that many women feel this way. I think the feminist movement has gone a long way towards shattering this notion.

But I do believe, much to my frustration, that a majority of men and women still harbor a sense that the well being of our culture and our nation is somehow connected to the masculine stereotype. And this is where it gets hard to be a crossdresser.

It's not what "toys" men play with, it's how they play with them. The ranks of the world's most renowned chefs, clothing designers and makeup artists are full of men. But it's OK to do these things because these men are wealthy, influential and powerful. They command status and respect. They are ambitious.

Wealth, influence, power, respect, status, ambition. All attributes of the masculine image. Gianni Versace and Kevin Aucoin may be Gay, but they are not feminine. At least not in the public view.

So on the surface, given this strong cultural aversion to crossdressing, passing seems to be a great way to solve the problem. If only it were that simple! The big question is: how many of us pass in the first place? In my own opinion, not nearly as many of us who brag that we do.

How do you know what someone was thinking when they looked at you? Just because they don't gawk or

say something rude doesn't mean you weren't read as a man. I have been hassled only once during all my time in public, yet I never believed I was passing! At the very best, I generated enough confusion in the mind of a well-bred and polite person that they gracefully avoided a potentially embarrassing moment by deferring to the clothing I was wearing and calling me "ma'am".

Well big deal! Last week, I was twice referred to as "ma'am" and both times I was dressed in my usual male clothing. I wasn't wearing a wig (my natural hair is longer) and I wore no makeup, although I was clean shaven. In both cases, the people who called me ma'am were excessively apologetic and clearly worried they had offended me. Given their level of discomfort with having used the wrong pronoun, it's easy to understand how an obviously crossdressed man can get manage to be called "ma'am".

I'm not impressed. And you shouldn't be either when it happens to you.

In general, we are too tall, our hands and feet are too big, we are too broad shouldered and barrel chested, our arms are too long, our jaws too large and our legs too muscular. We wear wigs, for crying out loud. So even before we dab on that first blot of makeup, look at what we have going against us! Even with all the right mannerisms, the well-controlled voice, perfect colors and great clothes, we are decidedly male in many ways.

But definitely not masculine. And that is precisely why we are so badly needed as the new millenium is about to begin.

So this is not a condemnation of crossdressing. Hardly. But I have no qualms about being critical of crossdressers who play that obnoxious game of one-upMANship when it comes to the latest episode of "How Well I Pass". It's wasted time and energy.

All crossdressers have complete control over how well they look when they crossdress. As I have said many times throughout this web site, applying makeup is nothing more than a skill that any man or woman can excel at. Fashion sense can likewise be learned by any man or woman. Women do not have a monopoly on this stuff. If you wear an unusually large shoe or clothing size, finding the right items

may be more of a challenge or expense, but it's no excuse for neglecting how you look.

The ultimate in irony is the crossdresser who dresses down, trying to look casual by wearing "unisex" clothing and very little makeup, almost to the point of being frumpy, so as to be more passable.

When you go out in public, most people, contrary to what you want to believe or hope for, will see a man in a dress.

But wow! She looks good, doesn't she?

Yvonne and more of her thoughts can be reached at her website at: www.albany.net/~yms/

Work That Skirt

by Maureen [REDACTED]

Caffeine, New York-based streetwear label, has brought the baggy-jean circumference war to an absurd yet apt denouement with the Victory, a denim skirt for men that definitely trumps the widest of wide-leg jeans (currently a leg width of 69 inches). "It's breakin', it's hittin', it's 80 inches of uncut funk," says Alex That (apparently his real name), the 28 year-old visionary behind the Victory, who adds, a bit defensively, "it's a *masculine* skirt." While high-end couturiers have failed with similar efforts to sell the idea of men without pants, Caffeine sees the Victory as finally bridging the yawning chasm between uptown B-boy machismo and downtown gender-bending. "We know our customers, because we are our customers," says That, whose uncut funk of hyperbole and yo-yo-ese bears him out. "They have the attitude, 'Hey, I'm a guy, I wear a skirt, and I don't care.'" He shrewdly adds that "the Victory puts (Caffeine) on the map," but where on the map remains to be seen. At a recent trade show, That had one of his minions bounding around the stalls in full skirt regalia, raising the roof and soliciting commentary. "Yo, man, how dope (hip) is this?" the junior dude asked a fellow vender. "Man," said his visibly disturbed colleague, "you look like an *asshole*."

Item from Spin magazine, September, '98

TIRED OF SITTING HOME ALONE?

by Gianna Eveling Israel

So here you are, as a transgendered individual you finally have made it. You have developed a position of relative comfort crossdressing and/or crossliving part or full-time. You have shared yourself through disclosure, finding place, building community among friends, colleagues and even hopefully with biological family members. You have refined your presentation skills to reflect your own individuality. Yet, alas, you sit alone early mornings and late evenings wishing the companionship of a significant other. As a transgendered woman and counselor serving our community I have witnessed other's as well as have experienced firsthand the frustration accompanying the transgendered "singles" experience.

For many this is one transgendered life-journey experience in particular which with a well-honed sword frequently pierces the heart resulting in excruciating if not near paralyzing pain. Whether transgendered or non-transgendered as humans we do have relationship and intimacy needs and not having those needs filled is painful. However rather than sitting around teary-eyed and feeling unable, traits which certainly will not attract any potential significant others or dates (except with a crisis counselor), I encourage individuals to take on building a positive relationship environment as well as prospects with the same enthusiasm and hard work they invested while building their transgendered identities.

Building prospects for discovering and establishing healthy relationships begins at home hopefully long before actually meeting a potential significant other. First, it is extremely important to acknowledge and work through the individual feelings we may have surrounding being presently single, it is highly possible that we may feel a sense of loss, frustration or anger because our intimacy needs are not getting met. These actual feelings surrounding our individual needs are ours alone to work on and more

often than not if brought into a relationship, serve only to undermine and possibly drive away the individual as a result of our unresolved neediness. If you find yourself having a lot of difficulty understanding your relationship needs or working through feelings associated with being single, I strongly encourage you to make an appointment with a counselor or therapist with whom you communicate with well, discuss these issues, preparing yourself to enter a potential relationship with a healthy mindset not overburdened by unresolved pain.

Of equal importance to acknowledging and working through our own individual feelings is our need to understand the difference between feelings and judgments because it is precisely our judgments which most likely stand in the way of developing a healthy relationship-oriented self image.

"I feel unattractive because I'm not passable" or "No one is possibly going to be interested in me because I'm transgendered."

Do statements like these sound familiar? They very well may since they are among the statements I most frequently encounter in counseling sessions from those who are single. At an earlier time I also was not immune from making those very statements. When hearing statements such as these the very first thing I encourage clients to do is start asking questions! What is the underlying source of those statements, judgments? Society! It is society along with the encouragement of the media which persuades the populace into judging what is attractive, intriguing, sexy, all the while overlooking large populations of perfectly fine individuals. Those negative statements and judgments belong to our society and do not serve us the individual, transgendered individuals are no less attractive than non-transgendered individuals. Passing does not mean attractive. I have always disliked the word "passing" because it indicates perpetration. Being a transgendered man or woman is just that, being transgendered. We can choose to extract and incorporate masculine and feminine traits from within as well as from the larger society into our own individual character and presentation yet we will always be transgendered. I have had hundreds

of transgendered individuals cross my counseling threshold and it has always been my impression that the majority of these individuals put a great deal of dedication into building a positive self-image and a clean, attractive, well-kept presentation, often moving beyond the efforts of many non-transgendered individuals who frequently seem satisfied in solely living out stereotypes.

These positive efforts by us, the transgendered, are traits certainly well-appreciated and needed as an integral part of a healthy relationship. Isn't it time we start acknowledging ourselves for the truly remarkable, insightful, attractive individuals we are and stop dutifully accepting second or third-class judgments from our not-so-healthy society?

Third-class judgments do carry over. They carry over when we feel no-one will be attracted to us because we are transgendered. They carry over when a crossdresser is hesitant to share with a significant other their crossdressing needs. If we are ever to have successful, fulfilling relationships

which recognize our transgendered needs we must first develop for ourselves an understanding of those needs and how they pertain to our relationships with others. Once we have developed that recognition we can then begin developing an open communication with our potential partner about how transgendered issues affect us and them.

Gianna E. Israel is a gender-specializing counselor. In private practice she provides nationwide telephone consultation, individual and relationship counseling; evaluations, referrals and. She is also principal author of the Recommended Guidelines for Transgender Care, a founding AEGIS board member and an HBGDA member. She may be contacted at (415) 558-8058, by writing P.O. Box 424447, San Francisco, CA 94142. On the Internet she may be visited at <http://www.wco.com/~gianna/GIMain.html>. She receives e-mail at Gianna@counselsuite.com.

From the NY Times, August 31, 1998

Nothing Becomes a Man More Than a Woman's Face

By NATALIE ANGIER

A timeless movie scene some of us wish we could forget: Leonardo DiCaprio climbing to the bowsprit of the "Titanic" and crowing, "I'm the king of the world!"

The latest word from scientists: He may have a point.

Or, rather, a fetching bit of roundness.

In a new study of facial attractiveness, researchers from Scotland and Japan have found that, much to their astonishment, people of both sexes prefer feminine-looking men over rugged, manly-miened men. When shown a series of computerized photographs of young men whose images had been manipulated to make them look either more masculine or more feminine than the norm, viewers designated the artificially feminized faces as somewhat more attractive than the average faces, and more appealing by far than the masculinized versions.

The results, which appeared in Thursday's issue of the journal *Nature*, held cross-culturally, whether the faces shown or the people passing judgment were Japanese or Caucasian.

The scientists had predicted that such traditional hallmarks of male dominance and maturity as a big jaw, square face, prow nose, and heavy brow would prove impressive to men and irresistible to women, who in theory are ever on the lookout for their alpha mate. Instead, appraisers seemed drawn to a touch of girlishness -- slender nose, cupid's lips, lightened brow, adorable chin.

In other words, Leo rules! So, too, do the likes of Johnny Depp, Matt Damon and Ralph Fiennes, and Paul McCartney when his top still mopped, and his Monkee clone Davey Jones, and the young Elvis in white and the young Brando in buff, who were both so pretty you could swear they wore Maybelline. Far from putting a man at a competitive disadvantage, it seems, femininity may be a source of sexual and social strength. "Our team has been working on this

study for four years," said Ian Penton-Voak of the University of St. Andrews in Fife, Scotland. "When it was found early on that there was a preference for feminized male faces, nobody believed it, so we did it again, and again. The preference for a feminized face keeps coming up."

Most recently, he added, "we've even replicated this work among hunter-gatherer tribes in the Amazon." Penton-Voak, an author of the report, is a graduate student in the laboratory of Dr. David I. Perrett, a professor of psychology.

In the same study, the scientists also found that viewers preferred ultra-feminized women's faces over either average female faces or those that had been slightly masculinized. That result, at least, was in keeping with their expectations.

The new report adds to a growing body of evidence that beauty may not be restricted to the eyes of a beholder, and that a sense of it may be more innate and less culturally fungible than people care to believe.

At the same time, the results underscore that the meaning of beauty is still up for grabs and open to any number of Kiplingesque Just-So interpretations. Perrett and his colleagues speculate that women might choose feminine-looking men as their mates because such men give the appearance of being sensitive, honest and potentially reliable

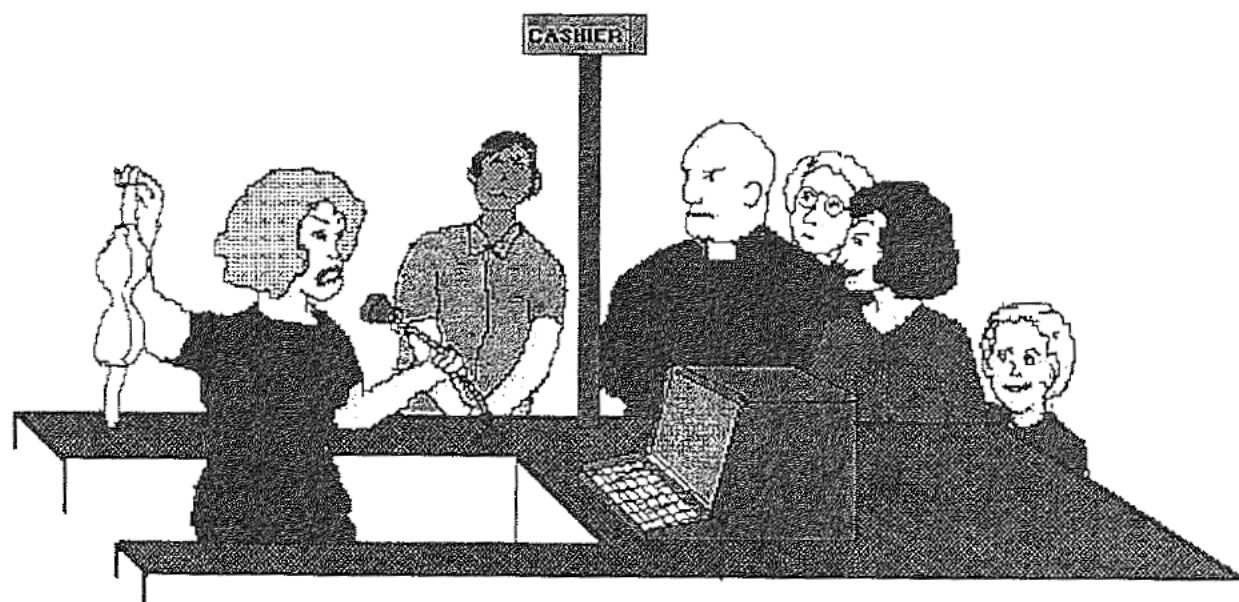
fathers.

"It is quite interesting that people like feminized male faces," said Dr. Stefano Ghirlanda, a zoologist at the University of Stockholm in a telephone interview. "But the significance of the work is not clear. We understand so little about what faces mean, or what the information content of any particular feature may be."

In the latest experiment, the researchers started with the assumption that people would find most appealing those faces that displayed "sex-appropriate" signs of ostensible genetic and reproductive fitness, and that the more obvious the

PASSING THOUGHTS

By Linda



"PRICE check!!"

signs, the more attractive the face should be. Thus, an attractive female face should look unmistakably female, which means it has been shaped by sufficient stores of estrogen, the principal hormone of female fertility. Estrogen is thought to help make the bottom half of the face narrower than the top half, for example, and to make the cheeks high and round.

And because female fertility declines sharply with age, female attractiveness has also been linked to signs of youthfulness, including wide, bright eyes (the pupils of the eyes shrink with age, the corneas get ever cloudier, and the upper lids tend to droop), a small nose (being cartilage, the nose continues to grow throughout life), and full lips (lips lose their connective tissue and thin out over time).

By comparison, the male hormone testosterone is known to enlarge the jaw and to thicken the brow and upper bridge of the nose. If a woman is looking for a man who is clearly a man and who brims with male hormones, she theoretically should be drawn to a face with a comparatively square jaw and strong brow. In

other species, the traits and behaviors that males use to attract females, like being able to grow a long, showy tail or to sing a complex melody, are also under the control of testosterone.

In addition, if a woman is looking for a mature man who hypothetically has the resources to invest in her and offspring, she should care little for youthfully full lips or wide eyes.

To test the degree of masculinity or femininity preferred, the researchers began by making computer composites. For each ethnic group they studied, they took photographs of 20 men and 20 women in their early 20's, digitized the images and defined 174 salient features -- for example, nose-tip -- as "facial landmarks." Those features were then used to calculate a single image of an average white man and average white woman, or average Japanese man and average Japanese woman.

Notions of beauty appear to cross cultural lines.

The scientists defined "masculinity" and "femininity" as the measurable ways that the composite images of the two sexes differed from one another. "This seemed the best and most logical place to start," Penton-Voak said.

A group of 50 students and university staff members in Scotland and a similar number in Japan served as judges. Sitting at a computer console, the appraisers could manipulate the images with a mouse, morphing the pictures in either a more masculine or feminine direction. All the features would change simultaneously as the mouse moved, which meant that the appraisers did not have the option of shaping features to their particular liking -- say, by enlarging the jaw of the man while keeping his nose and brow comparatively slender.

In the end, the judges preferred, on average, significantly feminized female faces for both sexes. Female faces were rated as most attractive when they were about 20 percent more feminized than the female norm, while male faces were judged most appealing when they were about 15 percent more feminine than the standard male composite. Interestingly, when people were rating the faces of their own ethnic group, they liked an even greater degree of feminization of both male and female faces than when they were ranking the faces of a different ethnic group.

When asked to associate certain characteristics with masculine or feminine faces, appraisers said that masculinized male faces did look more dominant and mature than the average male face, but they also gave the masculinized faces comparatively lower scores in qualities like warmth, honesty, emotionality, cooperativeness and parenting abilities. The feminized male faces were given top ratings when it came to all the sensitive-guy personality traits.

For the female faces, masculinization also lent the women a look of comparatively high dominance and low warmth and trustworthiness, while the feminized faces ranked high in all aspects of sweetness and light. When it came to picking out the aspect of a potentially good mother, though, appraisers preferred the average female face to that of a feminized face.

This quirky result raises the question of what, from an evolutionary perspective, a man is choosing if

he designates as highly attractive an ultra-feminized face that he does not necessarily think belongs to a woman capable of rearing his brood.

Indeed, as Ghirlanda and others point out, the results of the new study raise at least as many questions as they answer. Dr. Perrett and his colleagues suggest that the preferences they have detected show there is a limit to how sexually distinctive, or dimorphic, the faces of men and women can be. In many species, competition between males for the eye of females has resulted in profound sexual dimorphism, the most famous example being the difference between the ostentatious peacock and the drab peahen.

By the Perrett scenario, social skills like cooperativeness, honesty and gentleness proved generically desirable in the early stages of human evolution. Because such nurturing traits are associated with femaleness and juvenility, the appeal of the feminine, youthful look became pansexual, and helped to counter such standard engines of sexual dimorphism as competition between males.

But as some critics have observed, the Perrett study does not account for at least one source of considerable esthetic dimorphism in humans: facial hair. None of the men photographed for the study had beards or mustaches. The role of facial hair in human evolution, and why men have it while women do not, remains a mystery.

In theory, though, prehistoric men had neither the time nor the wherewithal to shave, and so may have looked as distinct from prehistoric women as antlered male elks do from bare-headed does.

The scientific study of beauty is rife with mysteries and contradictions. A number of reports have demonstrated that a composite face is usually deemed more attractive than any one particular face -- that is, a consolidated image of 60 people is voted more attractive than is the image of most of the individual members. The classic evolutionary explanation for the triumph of the norm is that an average-looking person conveys a comforting familiarity, and is unlikely to harbor any unusual genetic mutations.

Yet the exaggerated pretty face has been shown to be favored over the average. If the faces of the 15

people rated as most attractive of the original pool of 60 are merged into a composite image, that averaged face outranks the first composite.

And if the features of the top-15 composite are then pushed to extremes, by raising and emphasizing the cheekbones, for example, the image is reckoned more beautiful still.

What remains to be understood is why one sort of extreme signal, like prominent cheekbones, should be considered alluring, while other extreme features, like a big nose, should be rejected in favor of a mainstream profile. If the norm is the most likely to be genetically healthy, why be drawn to any sign of genetic deviance?

Extreme beauty is not necessarily a sign of superior reproductive potential. For instance, there is a genetic condition called androgen insensitivity syndrome, in which a fetus with male chromosomes lacks the capacity to respond to the male hormones its embryonic testes produce. As a result, the fetus's body develops as female. Girls with the condition often grow into unusually beautiful women, with long legs, clear skin, ample breasts and thick hair; a number of famous models and actresses are thought to have androgen insensitivity syndrome. Yet women with A.I.S. lack normal reproductive organs and are infertile. By a cold Darwinian reckoning, their beauty is deceptive.

And, hey, Leonardo DiCaprio may not be as sweet as he looks, either, but do his lusting young fans really care?

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PFLAG VOTES "YES" TO TRANS-INCLUSION

[Washington, D.C.: September 23, 1998] At their annual meeting in San Francisco on September 12, members of Parents, Families and Friends of Gays and Lesbians (PFLAG) voted over-whelmingly to include transgendered people in the group's mission statement. The By-laws now read: The purpose of this Corporation shall be: To promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons....

PFLAG, based in Washington, D.C., has more than 420 chapters in all 50 states. A group within the organization, The Transgender Special Outreach Network, was directly responsible for the trans-inclusion statement. Network members met several years ago at a PFLAG conference. The Network has published and distributed over 12,000 copies of its popular booklet, *Our Trans Children*, and runs a telephone help line.

Network Chair Mary Boenke said the group looks forward to helping PFLAG members work toward providing the same kind of critical support on behalf of trans-people that they have always provided for lesbian, gay and bisexual people. "We're pleased and excited. We've been working for this trans-inclusion resolution for 3 years. It's a benchmark of a long process that has just begun. We passed the law; now the work of education begins."

SEPTEMBER MEETING ATTENDEES

Becky
Camille
Crystal
Debbie
Jennifer
Kim
Nancy
Patti
Susan
Vaughn



Tips on Passing

1. Never attempt passing approaching a hill, curve or in a "No Passing" zone.
2. Never, I repeat, NEVER attempt to pass for anyone but yourself. It is difficult at best, and usually illegal...
3. Act your age, NOT your dress size...
4. Spikes are NOT appropriate for every occasion.
5. A wig is a wig is a wig...
6. Nobody has breasts THAT size.
7. The only person who should ever dress like Donna Reed is Donna Reed. Do YOU want to look like a rerun??
8. Red is NOT the only color of lipstick.
9. Throw away the blue eyeshadow, pul-leeze...

- Veronica Phillips
from the Transgender Community Forum library