

CROSS-TALK



NOVEMBER 1990

(ISSUE #21)

THIS MONTH'S HEADLINES:

PHILIP SALEM RESURFACES ... PENNSYLVANIA CONSIDERS LICENSING OF ELECTROLOGISTS ... "ESPRIT 91" & "BE ALL" DATES ANNOUNCED ... SISTER MARY ELIZABETH CHALLENGES SENATOR ALAN CRANSTON ... G.G.R.C. HALLOWEEN BALL HELD ... NEW COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER ... MAN CONVICTED IN TRANSVESTITE MURDER CASE ... TRI-ESS BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO DISCUSS NEW BY-LAWS ... TRANSSEXUAL TEACHER LOSES JOB IN NEW MEXICO

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CHOOSING THE RIGHT THING TO SAY, PAGE 17
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NEW LOCATIONS FOR MANY REGULAR FEATURES ... SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS

ADAPTING TO THE MASS MARKET

As most everyone who subscribes to "Cross-Talk" knows, we have recently begun marketing this newsletter to the nationwide gender community. Since up to this point, over 90% of our readership has been within Southern California, we have had a regional flavor that must be necessarily now be reduced somewhat. Effective with this month's issue, I have made some minor changes to better serve our growing nationwide readership:

- ** In addition to the major gender community news of the month which appears to the right of my column on page 2, pages 3 and 4 will now contain the balance of these news stories which have in the past appeared throughout the newsletter. This move is designed to better serve the information needs of the community by providing a monthly overview.
- ** This consolidation of the news section has resulted in the "6:00 T.V. News" section to be moved to page 5, immediately following the "serious" news, and "Odds & Ends" to be moved to page 12.
- ** In order to make our three opinion columns easier to read, "Vox Populi" will move to page 7. This will allow Eileen [redacted] and Anne [redacted]'s columns to run in their entirety on page 6.
- ** Roger Pao's "Notebook" and the significant others column "S.O. There!" will now run side-by-side on page 10, replacing "Southern California Events Calendar".
- ** Phaedra Kelly's articles will now run as a regular column, "The Ombudstran", on page 13.
- ** Advertising for national events will be consolidated for easy reference on page 15 every month, along with the national hotlines' listing from the old "Calendar".

One final note about the demise of the "Southern California Events Calendar": The listings of L.A. area support groups, social organizations, and nightclubs will appear in our companion "Yellow Pages" publication which may be ordered by using the form on page 17. We will continue, for the time being, to run free advertising for local charitable events in the community. I hope that these changes will make "Cross-Talk" more readable, without completely losing the editorial flavor that has made this newsletter a success in the gender community.

MAKING MYSELF PERFECTLY CLEAR: Last month's "Clipboard" made it seem to some that the weekly Saturday night breakfasts at Sitton's would be discontinued, since it was the Valley Girls that started this tradition. Well, that tradition will continue... in fact, I don't think I could stop those breakfasts from happening if I tried! Sorry for the confusion, and thank you to those who called and brought this oversight to my attention.

APOLOGIES (AGAIN): The "Yellow Pages", although back from the printers, have not yet been mailed. And the reason is simple... \$\$\$\$. The slowdown of the nation's economy has taken its toll here at "Cross-Talk" as well. Last month brought in the fewest number of subscriptions in our history, and that reduced cash flow to the point where if we weren't using a bulk permit, we might not have even gotten this newsletter out! (No, I can't use the permit to mail "Yellow Pages" ... but the explanation why is too involved.) Those of you who are still patiently (I hope) waiting will receive the resource guide as soon as things pick up enough to get postage costs covered. In the meantime, you can help us weather this economic slowdown by asking your non-subscribing friends to stop procrastinating and get their \$18 in! "Best of Cross-Talk" has been delayed by a technical glitch in one of the computer text files. I should have it out shortly after "Yellow Pages" gets mailed.

... ♡. Kymberleigh

(kmr) -- After several months of inactivity, Philip Salem's "North Atlantic Transvestite Transsexual Society" has resurfaced.

Salem has apparently completely abandoned his "Ina Rubin" alter ego in favor of using the name "Tanya Ray". A personal ad was placed under that name in the most recent edition of "Feminine", using a different photograph than the one submitted with that ad in other publications. "Cross-Talk" attempted to alert Tania Volen, publisher of "Feminine", of Salem's previous use of the name. Volen refused to comment specifically, but accused "Cross-Talk" of carrying on a "vendetta" against Salem, and demanded proof of Salem's misdeeds. As much of the documentation in our files has been given to us with the understanding that it would not be released other than to law enforcement agencies, we have respectfully declined to comply with Volen's request, and have indicated that our long-standing reciprocal promotion agreement will be suspended so long as she defends Salem and continues to do business with him.

More suspect is a new publication, "T.V. Guy", using a Las Vegas post office box as a mailing address. A copy mailed to "The Valley Girls" (but not requested) featured two "advice" columns written by Salem, an ad for his "Society" listing "Tanya Ray" as screening coordinator, and 14 personal ads using Salem's Seattle address. The magazine also featured two "feature" articles with Salem's address, and the "Tanya Ray" ad with a different photograph than the one accompanying the "Feminine" ad.

In a series of articles in "Cross-Talk" between February and June of this year, it was revealed that Salem is not a doctor, and that "Ina Rubin" is an alias he has used to deceive potential "members" that there is a genetic female involved in his "society". There have also been complaints filed with the Postal Inspector by individuals who have sent Salem money for his "TV-TS Directory" but received nothing in return. In at least one case, Salem's reply to the complaint revealed the complainant as a crossdresser; in that case, the "directory" ultimately consisted of five outdated issues of TV publications.

As in the past, "Cross-Talk" urges members of the gender community to avoid contact with Salem and his organizations, and to boycott those publications that accept his advertising.

SISTER MARY ELIZABETH CHALLENGES SEN. CRANSTON

(kmr) -- Senator Alan Cranston (D-Cal.), who voted to override President Bush's veto of the Civil Rights Act of 1990, has been contacted by Sister Mary Elizabeth of J2CP Information Services suggesting a change of the wording in the Act to provide for equal rights protection for all groups, including the transgendered community.

Responding to Cranston's remark in a letter to her dated October 1 assuring her of his "commitment to make the guarantee of equality for every American a reality", Sister Mary has suggested language for the Act replacing "race, color, religion or national origin" with the following:

"Age; ancestry; color; class or caste; creed; economic position or status; education; ethnic or cultural background; gender or gender identity; handicap or disability; medical, psychiatric, or psychological diagnosis, illness, or condition; nationality or national origin; religion or religious preference; race; sex, sexual status, sexual orientation or preference; social status or social upbringing."

The President justified his veto of the Act by saying he feared its enactment would cause employers to adopt quotas in order to avoid lawsuits. The Senate missed overriding the veto by one vote.

Sen. Cranston has not yet replied to Sister Mary's October 10 letter suggesting the changes.

TRI-ESS BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO DISCUSS NEW BY-LAWS

(kmr) -- The Board of Directors of the Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess) will discuss a new set of By-Laws for the organization at their meeting later this month.

The new By-Laws are intended to set out specific requirements for membership, including the recent addition of wives and partners to the active member category. They will also provide for the direct election of Board members by the active membership and make specific provisions for flexibility in the operation of Tri-Ess chapters, while establishing basic general policies for them.

After the Board's approval, the new By-Laws will be sent to the Tri-Ess membership for ratification. A new constitution was adopted by the Board at last November's "Holiday".

This year's Board meeting will occur during the Saturday afternoon portion of the "Holiday En Femme" convention in Houston, TX this month.

It has also been announced that acclaimed photographer Mariette Pathy-Allen has announced plans to present a program entitled "Opening The Shutters" at the "Holiday". Pathy-Allen is well-known in the gender community for her book "Transformations: Crossdressers and Those Who Love Them". She also worked with actress and director Lee Grant on the HBO documentary "What Sex Am I?".

"Opening The Shutters" was originally presented earlier this year at the IFGE "Coming Together" convention in Boston.

'ESPRIT 91' & 'BE ALL' DATES ANNOUNCED

("Emerald City News") -- Expanding on the success of this year's "90 in 90" event, Emerald City of Seattle has joined forces with Northwest Gender Alliance of Portland, OR and the Cornbury Society of Vancouver, BC to sponsor "Esprit 91" in mid-May.

The weekend will once again take place at the Red Lion Bayshore Inn in Port Angeles, WA, and will be extended by an additional day to four days and five nights. The tentative schedule will include events at Vancouver's Empress Hotel and surrounding area.

Esprit 91 will take place May 15 through 19 of 1991. Specific events, speakers and entertainers have not been announced.

It has also been announced that the 1991 "Be All You Want To Be" will be held June 5 through 9 at the Cleveland Marriott. "Be All", one of the gender community's longest running conventions, is co-sponsored by Paradise Club, Chi Chapter, Transpitt and Crossroads. A specific schedule of events and speakers has not yet been finalized.

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MAN CONVICTED IN TRANSVESTITE MURDER CASE

(Ventura, CA "Star-Free Press") -- Almost three years after a transvestite was killed in an Oxnard bar, a man who admitted the killing has been found guilty of second-degree murder in the case.

Daniel Montenegro Delgado, 24, faces 17 years to life in prison in the death of Rosendo Sanchez Reyes, 29. Sanchez Reyes danced with Delgado's brother at the bar on December 26 of 1987. Delgado, who hotly disapproved, has admitted firing his semi-automatic pistol into Sanchez Reyes, who was dressed as a woman. The jury had to decide if Delgado planned the killing or merely fired prematurely in self-defense. Delgado admitted a hatred of gay men who dressed as women, believing they would lure men to isolated places and kill them.

According to testimony, Delgado's brother, Loreno Montenegro was unaware he was dancing with a man. Sanchez Reyes, who apparently had hormone-induced breasts, identified himself as Crystal. After breaking up the dance, Delgado argued off and on with Sanchez Reyes, then went out to his truck, placed a cocked gun under his jacket, returned inside to where Sanchez Reyes was seated and fired, according to testimony.

Delgado, who disappeared afterward, confessed when arrested in Glendale, Arizona in March. The arresting officers testified that Delgado told them his thoughts while retrieving the gun were that he was going to "kill that faggot".

Sentencing of Delgado will take place November 15.

G.G.R.C. HALLOWEEN BALL HELD

(kmr) -- The 31st annual G.G.R.C. Halloween Ball, held for the first time at the old Desilu (now Ren-Mar) Studios in Hollywood, featured a Mardi Gras/Rio Carnival atmosphere this year.

The Ball, which is co-sponsored by the Hollywood Boys' Club, created the carnival atmosphere by providing vendors of hot dogs, pretzels, peanuts, popcorn and soda.

This year's event featured a special appearance by female impersonator Jimmy [redacted] as Marilyn Monroe. [redacted] is currently appearing at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel's Cinegrill. Since a large number of those attending work for the major television and motion picture studios, the evening was a mix of spectacular Hollywood costumes, from huge, gorgeously designed costumes to the barest, most revealing ones.

The Halloween Ball was first held in 1959 by a group of men who belonged to the same equestrian club. Since crossdressing was illegal at the time, they named the sponsoring group the "Gay Girls' Riding Club" to disguise their intent.

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TS TEACHER LOSES JOB IN N.M.

Gallup, NM "Independent") -- School Board members are not commenting on charges made by three Gallup High School students that their math teacher had been fired because of her recent sex change.

Students Jarrod Scarborough, Amy Dawson and Lovette Westbrook have asked for the reinstatement of teach D.A. [redacted] on grounds that the substitute now teaching her class is not qualified to teach. The students maintain they are being deprived of a quality education.

Although [redacted] officially resigned October 1, the students believe she was forced to do so because of the board's reluctance over her sex-reassignment surgery. Scarborough, who had been in [redacted]'s class two years ago, explained that his teacher began presenting himself as a woman in class, finally legally changing his name. The school board refused to release the teacher's full name.

Dawson and Scarborough circulated a petition to have [redacted] reinstated, which was presented to the board with 117 signatures at their October 1 meeting. Board president Cal Foutz said the petition would be kept on file, but maintained that such student petitions "haven't really made a difference" in administrative personnel decisions.

Dawson said she felt it was her teacher's choice, not the board's, and that it was "disturbing to know the administration can't handle this." [redacted] was not present at the meeting.

NEW COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER OPENS IN VENTURA COUNTY

(press release) -- Gay & Lesbian Resources of Ventura County (GLR) will open a Community Resource Center in Camarillo on November 1.

The Center, to be located on Mobil Avenue near Daily Drive, will offer peer and professional counseling for transvestites, transsexuals, gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, same-sex couples, and significant others. GLR, a non-profit social service agency, will also offer facilitated group meetings and free meeting space for community groups.

For information, [redacted] available programs and services, call Rev. Claire [redacted] at (805) [redacted].

IF YOU SEE AN ARTICLE IN A NEWSPAPER OR MAGAZINE ABOUT TRANSGENDERED BEHAVIOR OR FEATURING A MEMBER OF THE GENDER COMMUNITY, PLEASE SEND IT IN!

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PENNSYLVANIA CONSIDERING LICENSING OF ELECTROLOGISTS

("Renaissance News") -- A Pennsylvania State Senate committee is considering a bill that would require state licensing of those permanently removing hair with electrical or heated instruments. Electrologists in the state say the bill would reduce injuries to their clients and protect their professional reputation.

"At the present time, any person in Pennsylvania may go into the business of removing hair on unsuspecting consumers, even though the person has no training," said Rep. William R. Lloyd Jr. (D), the bill's sponsor. Members of the profession attempt to regulate themselves through voluntary membership in professional organizations such as the Pennsylvania Society of Electrologists (PSE).

PSE president Joel Strum testified before the Senate Consumer Protection Committee at hearings on the bill in August. Strum testified that inexperienced or poorly educated electrologists might accidentally draw blood, thus increasing the risk of unsterilized needles transmitting diseases like hepatitis and AIDS. Rep. Lloyd adds that untrained practitioners can cause "permanent disfigurement or scarring."

In order for the bill to have a chance to become law, it must be passed by the entire Pennsylvania State Senate before the end of the current legislative session, according to Lloyd. He added that licensing fees would support the regulation of the profession.

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THE 6:00 T.V. NEWS

WHY MADONNA DUMPED WARREN

("News Extra") -- According to one of Madonna's closest pals, the real reason the 31-year-old superstar dumped Warren Beatty was his crossdressing! According to the friend, Madonna was shocked to discover the "Dick Tracy" star liked to dress up as a woman. He revealed it to her one evening by suddenly excusing himself, then returning in full drag. At first, Madonna took it as a joke, commenting on his great Halloween costume, but when he told her he was serious about his crossdressing and had been doing it for years, she packed her bags and left. Beatty confessed that he'd been dressing up and roaming the streets of Hollywood ever since he'd made it big, said the friend. He claimed it started as a way to go around unrecognized and do things he wouldn't normally be able to. Madonna's parting shot to Beatty: "I'm going to find a man who's proud of being one."

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WIFE DISCOVERS HUBBY IS A WOMAN

("Sun") -- After eight years of wedded bliss, Marsha [redacted] was shaken by the discovery that her macho husband was a woman. "I was fooled all this time," she said. "I still can't believe it." She was 17 and working as a waitress in a truck stop when she met her future husband, Paul. She says it was "love at first sight" for her and the 27-year-old truck driver. Paul told Marsha they couldn't have sex until he was certain he hadn't caught the AIDS virus from a former girlfriend. But as weeks and months turned into years without sex, Marsha became frustrated and the marriage began to crumble. Then, one day when Paul was on the road, a man knocked on the door and asked for "Paula [redacted]". Upon seeing Paul's picture, the man identified "him" as his sister, saying she had always liked to dress as a male. Even though Marsha knows they can't be man and wife, and they have separated, she admits that she still loves her ex-"husband", and is still unsure what she'll do.

ARE YOU READING A FRIEND'S
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WHY NOT SUBSCRIBE YOURSELF ???
SEE PAGE 17 FOR DETAILS



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OPINIONS & COMMENTS

TAG, YOU'RE IT ...

UP ON MY SOAPBOX

WHY TERMS ARE NECESSARY

by Anne [REDACTED]

In September, Kym asked, "What do I call myself?" She credited me with devising the terms "transvitate" and "transvitate" to describe some one who is one sex but lives full as the other gender. During our initial discussion we talked about how to abbreviate it; then and I said I favored TI, Kym said it sounded too much like a computer manufacturer. In her column she said that transvitate sounds too much like transvestite, well, I can't help it that the latin terms for life and clothe are similar. And when you think about it, for a TV life and clothes are similar.

The fact is that the medical communities ... well, all the scientific communities for that matter, use Latin as their universal language. Every new species of insect, or bird, or fish, or plant is given both a Latin proper name and a common name which varies from country to country. While it may confuse things for any one group which speaks the same language, it clarifies things for international understanding. Now, you may say that English is the international language (used to be French), and in business and politics that may be so, but the use of Latin in scientific endeavors has been a tradition since ... since Rome.

It happens that transsexual and transvestite are already accepted terms in the scientific lexicon and, I think it inevitable, once the condition of transvitate is recognized the term "transvitate" will be adopted in the scientific communities.

Now, there will be those who say, "Well of course she's defending the term, after all she coined it." Well yes, I like it. Them. They are short. Succinct. But, I am not married to them. If somebody can come up with a better term(s) I'll use it, just as I use "crossdresser" interchangeably with "transvestite". I won't abandon the term "transvitate" though.

Now, if you were to use the literal translation of "transvitate" you'd get "cross liver", which sounds like something best served with bacon and onions. Kym objected to the phrases "full time transvestite" and "non-surgical transsexual" because they don't accurately describe what the person is, they say it's like something else, but it's different which only serves to confuse the issue more. They classify the transvitate as a sub-type of either transvestite or transsexual, when she is neither. I object to the phrases because they are a mouth full. Do we really need another POSSLQ? Persons of Opposite Sex Sharing Living Quarters. Why not just say co-habitants?

What am I describing when I use the term transvitate? I am talking about some one who identifies with the opposite gender role, but not the opposite sex role. Some one who is heterosexual but contragendered (a new term I just coined). When I say contragendered I mean some one who identifies fully, or nearly so, with the gender opposite their sex.

I think I'm getting a headache.

Some of you may be asking, "Why do we need a new term anyway?" My answer is rather academic and relates to linguistics, but the gist of it is this: Something (object or concept) cannot exist without a name. You may be able to describe something, but because the concept does not have a name in that particular language it does not exist to that culture, or at the very least is of very low priority. The classic example is comparison between the Inuit having twenty-seven words for snow, each one meaning a different kind of snow, and English having one or two if you count sleet. The various qualities of snow are not important to us so we don't have names for them, but they are critical to the Inuit and so they have named each type. Our problem isn't that we have too many terms, it is that we don't have enough. The scientific community gave us transvestite and transsexual. We know that those two terms aren't adequate to describe the various transgendered behaviors. It is our community and it is up to us, for whom it is important, to define and name those various

(CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE)

LABELS AND SPECTRUMS

by Eileen [REDACTED]

Labels. Kimberleigh's column in September reopened an old can of worms: what do we want to be called? Can we identify with a single label?

Some of us would much prefer no label at all. Unfortunately, ours is a world in which compartmentalizing is commonly used to help simplify our thought processes. Like it, or not, others are going to use one or more labels to identify members of the cross gender community. Do we want them to do that on the basis of their definitions ... or ours?

Thinking about this put me back into the same mood that brought about an earlier column. Who am I? What am I doing here? Am I what I do?

Until now, the labels most commonly used ... TV, TS, CD, TG ... reflected what we DO. It was very tempting to continue in that vein. For years it seemed to me that, because members of our community span the whole range of gender behavior, the most nearly universal term would be Pan-Gender. Unfortunately, the most logical abbreviation for that has been preempted by a commonly used reference to a female who is gestating a child.

Having to take time to consider other possibilities for a term that will be all our own eventually let me to reconsider the basic assumptions I had been using. What I do comes as a result of what I think. If I am what I think, shouldn't my label reflect that thinking?

OK. So, I think of myself as a woman. However, the females around us also refer to themselves as women. No problem, I'm a Male Woman. Still not very unique. The distinguishing characteristic that lets me claim kinship to womankind is a feminine attitude ... about some things, at least. That brought me back to a term that Virginia introduced, an alternate form of expanding the initials FP ... Femme Person. I always liked that usage better than the original she gave us: FemmiPhile. I chafed at the tendency to clothe our phenomena in (quasi)medical/scientific terms. It made it too easy for others to continue thinking of us as "broke" and therefore in need of "fixing". Well, that would do for one segment of us; now, what about those persons who cross the gender line from F to M?

Oops! This was supposed to help simplify the situation. What can we do about a universal term?

Sometimes I think of myself as a Person of Indeterminate Gender. Nah, that won't work, it was preempted by Law Enforcement during the sixties ... Pride, Integrity, Guts. I suppose that, since we span the whole spectrum of gender identification, that we could think of ourselves as Broad Spectrum persons. Uh, on second thought, I think I'll pass on that one. How about Broad Gendered? No ... between the potential for double-entendre and the vulgar connotation ... too risky.

Aha! Gender Ambiguous. Oh ... that only applies to a few, like Merissa Sherrill Lynn. I tend to be rather binary ... pretty much to one side, or the other. Wait, we don't have to give up on G/A, yet. We're not binary, we're infinitely variable. That's analog. Are we Gender Analogs? Yet another application of G/A: we like to think of ourselves as ahead of our time ... Gender Anachronous?

Many of us tend to move through the spectrum: Gender Variable? Gender Adjustable? (Sigh) Everyone is gender ADJUSTABLE, some just never use the faculty.

This writer is rapidly coming to a point which has been occurring with greater frequency with my maturing offspring. Does the expression "dxxned if I know" mean anything to you? All I know is that I don't fit into our society's polar thinking regarding gender, sort of non-polar. It's too bad that GNP has all ready been preempted by the financial community.

PLEASE TELL A FRIEND ABOUT
'CROSS-TALK'
AND ASK THEM TO SUBSCRIBE!

OPINIONS & COMMENTS

VOX POPULI

NEEDING A NEW TERM: THE SEQUEL

by Kymberleigh Richards

Two issues ago, I wrote a column expressing my discontent with the term "transgenderist" to describe my living full-time in the female gender. This month's "Opinions & Comments" section consists of responses to that editorial. Both Eileen [redacted] and Anne [redacted] have devoted their columns to the subject, and I would like to share three other responses that I have received.

BARBARA [redacted]: Why label yourself with a noun? Why not use a modifier and say you are living "en femme". That would seem appropriate and in keeping with the terms used by crossdressers.

PHAEDRA KELLY: I wouldn't leave it so easily to academia. Their last was TV and TS, which is why we need the change. My term, Gender Transient, is open to all disciplines, as any or all might be right. Where TV and TS seek to be finite within a finite universe, GT accepts the probability of an infinite option. Thus the term describes one who has taken a conscious decision to put their gender identity into motion, rather than a direct swap of one (usually false and self-denying) extreme for another.

SR. MARY ELIZABETH, SSE: Why do we need labels? Then

we can discriminate! I call myself a "terran", and when people ask "what's that?", I say "a person from earth."

Obviously, the answer is not easily arrived at. And I'll admit that if we referred to the "gender community" as a whole, then the term "transgenderist" might not be so objectionable to me. The bottom line is that whatever terms we as a community agree upon must be universally used whenever we are educating the masses. You see, the terms aren't necessary for me to identify myself within our community, but they are when I need to identify my condition to the uninitiated.

[A final note: Phaedra Kelly's remarks were excerpted from a longer response, which will be published in its entirety in a future issue of "Cross-Talk".]

NATIONAL HOTLINES

Beta Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Mississippi:	(601) 982-7679
Boulton & Park Society, San Antonio:	(512) 657-2540
Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Chicago:	(708) 364-9514
Chi Delta Mu Tri-Ess, New York City:	(201) 663-0772
Chicago Gender Society:	(312) 434-5445
Cross-Port, Cincinnati:	(513) 351-6174
Crystal Club, Central Ohio:	(614) 777-0648
Delta Omega Chapter Tri-Ess, Dallas:	(817) 261-3253
Educational TV Channel, San Francisco:	(415) 763-3959
Emerald City, Seattle:	(206) 822-6953
Gender Identity Center, Denver:	(303) 458-5378
Heart of Texas Gender Alliance, Austin:	(512) 392-6454
Lambda Alpha Tri-Ess, Los Angeles:	(818) 303-3858
Long Island Femme Expression, NY:	(718) 446-6753
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TAG, YOU'RE IT ...

gradations. Until we do give names to the various regions of the gender spectrum the scientific community will try and lump us into the two for which they have names. We already know what that's like, don't we? Further, it is as foolish to think that someone else is going to do this for us as it is to think that it is not important that it be done at all. As I said, without a name the concept does not exist at all. If it doesn't exist, it cannot be understood.

I am not concerned so much that we adopt a particular term, transvitate for instance, as I am that we adopt some term. Contragender perhaps. The problem with using "transgenderist", to my thinking, is that in this instance the "trans" implies something that encompasses a wide spectrum of, in this case, behaviors. The Trans Canadian Railway, the TransPac. Things that span continents and oceans. Why is it that this all encompassing implication goes with transgendered and not transvestite or transsexual. Simple, gender is a much less specific term than is clothed or sex. When we talk about gender we talk about a wide spectrum of behaviors. When we talk about wearing clothes we have pre-existing standards for what is and is not appropriate for a person of a particular sex to wear. When we talk about sex ... well, [male] [female].

Ultimately the debate will be resolved through that which is abhorrent to strict grammarians: Common usage. Personally, I will adopt the terms "transvitate" and "contragendered" and use "transgender*" as the umbrella term. I don't think anyone will have any question about what I mean when I use them.

"Cross-Talk" is published monthly as an information and entertainment resource for the gender community. For subscription information, please see page 17.

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THE MAKEUP MIRROR

HIGHLIGHTING WITH BLUSH

by Valerie Driscoll

Ahh... the beauty of a blushing bride. But if her blush looks like two big red circles on her face, the picture isn't pretty anymore. Whether you use rouge or powder blush, the message is clear: Blend, blend, blend!

Powder blush works best with water-based foundation. It can be applied before translucent powder for a more dramatic look, or after for a softer color. Animal hair brushes are preferred over nylon, and quality ranges from goat hair at the bottom to pony, badger and sable at the top. (Hopefully these animals aren't being destroyed for their precious bristles, else we'll have to start a boycott.) Whatever your choice, dip the brush into your blush, then pat the excess in your hand. Making small circles, start the application at the hairline just above the ear and slowly move down at an angle toward the tip of the nose. Stop just past the outer corner of your eye... this should be at least an inch below the eye. Now blend the color in front of the hairline at the temples and forehead, and dot the center of your chin. A brighter, lighter, or iridescent color can be applied just above the blush at the cheekbones, but only if your skin is wrinkle-free. Shiny colors really make wrinkles much more noticeable.

Using rouge or oil-based blush will not only rid you of any guilt feelings over animal sacrifice, but will also take a lot less time. Again, start at the hairline, dip your index and middle fingers in your color and dot the angle over your cheekbones. Go back and forth with a patting motion, then up into the temple area. Here, also make sure your color blends into the hairline. Now use powder to set it.

What color should you use? Sorry, that's a question no column can answer. Only a personal visit to a professional cosmetologist like myself can help you make the right choice. Just remember that blush should not stand out, but should help to highlight and contour the cheekbones and impart a healthy glow.

FASHION NOTEBOOK

THE LITTLE BLACK DRESS

by Valli [REDACTED]
(from "Daily News")

It may be the one uniform that women genuinely like to wear.

The little black dress has been rediscovered as every woman's ultimate fashion necessity. Its graceful lines and slimming color give it a versatility unmatched by any other garment, except perhaps the man's navy blazer.

But the man's jacket doesn't match the LBD for versatility. The best little black dresses go from the office to a black-tie affair or even a nightclub with just a change of accessories.

The dress returned to the mass market last fall, but it has become such a favorite that, this season, many department stores have created sections displaying multiple versions, from all-lace styles starting at about \$60 at such places as Marshalls to cotton lycra styles for as little as \$25 at boutiques. The dress has received a warm welcome from women shopping at both the high-fashion aisles and the discount racks. "It's a staple wardrobe piece that women come back to year after year," says Michelle Healy of Marshalls. "It's very figure-flattering. Almost everybody looks trim, and the shorter length makes you look leggy."

Women have also rediscovered the LBD as the perfect evening dress. Now they wear it everywhere... and own more than one. "They buy a bare, black dress to start with," says Kay Unger of Gillian, Inc. of New York, "then they get a black coat dress or dinner suit." The most popular black dresses are in a satin-backed rayon crepe without overly obvious buttons or trim. Unger says. Bare, sleeveless dresses are the best sellers in Southern California, while the rest of the country is buying long-sleeve version in velvet, wool, and wool crepe.

Robin Givhan, fashion writer for the "Detroit Free Press", says she owns three LBDs: "One is the summer little black dress... one is the winter... one is the funky little black dress." Givhan says she dresses each up or down with accessories, depending on where she is headed with it. For example, with a rayon print jacket and a suede belt, the LBD travels to the office with ease; in her boyfriend's blazer, flats and a mini-purse, she's warm and ready to party all over town. The little black dress is most at home in formal settings. For holidays, it's dressed up with earrings, a headband and gold brocade jacket.

Another fashion writer, Melissa Dunst, calls her LBD "the one dress I can wear to every function because no one recognizes it as the same dress." With that in mind, Denise Cohen-Scher, fashion director of the California Mart, suggests buying a more expensive, quality dress in either a heavy silk fabric or a crepe that resists wrinkles, then pairing a short hemline with a longer jacket to provide the new long-over-short silhouette. Marshalls' Healy agrees: "If you don't have a lot of money to get something new for every party you go to, you just switch the accessories around. In these tight economic times, that's what people are doing."

The little black dress has drawn rave reviews from its fans for other reasons. It may be the only dress that makes everyone feel elegant... and hides those accidental dribbles of champagne.



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THE GENDER COMMUNITY: A POLITICAL AND SOCIAL DISCUSSION

by Wendy Parker
(Part 5 of 10)

MISTRUST

Fear and ignorance together create a catalyst in society for violence. Herbert Spencer has said that there is a principle which cannot fail to keep man in everlasting ignorance; and that is contempt prior to investigation. However, a cycle of mistrust pervades our community as well. Some heterosexual TV's mistrust Gay or Bi-sexual TV's because some say they hurt the cause by allowing society to lump all TV's in with Gays (society not yet being able to recognize the difference between TV's, TG's, TS's, Gay males in drag and Female Impersonators). Some TV's mistrust TS's because they feel TS's have given up on their masculine side or secretly feel jealous of the TS's intense commitment toward femininity. TS's sometimes have nothing to do with Gays or TV's because, after surgery, they just want to disappear into the crowd and do anything but stand out. Street Queens and Gay prostitutes in drag are usually ostracized from most gender groups. Theatrical Female Impersonators, in turn, are not thought as part of either socially aware Gays or the Gender community as a whole.

One popular "T" hangout in Los Angeles is the Queen Mary. I've noticed over the years that the bar crowd cluster themselves in the stratified society that I previously mentioned, based on sexual preference and personal tastes. Performing Female Impersonators don't talk to TV's and TV's huddle together away from the TS's, lest it be catching. The TS's don't consider themselves as Gay men so they don't relate to either the TV's or the performers. The straight "Ozzie and Harriet" type couples out on a voyeuristic night on the town don't talk to anybody because, as we all know, you can catch AIDS from provocative discussions. So on and on and on. To me, this obvious stratification is reenacted in every Gay bar in the country and is perfectly symbolic of the type of communication problem we face. This is another challenge of the Nineties and beyond.

So, all in all, everybody mistrusts everybody just at the time of the greatest need to come together in understanding. Individually, we have no clout, but together, we do. Again, "If you don't hang together, you hang separately". The theme of the IFGE conventions has been "Coming Together"; that more than any other theme should be our goal in the Nineties.

DSM III STATUS

Another goal of the 90's should be working to change our DSM III status with the American Psychological Institute. This will affect future health benefits, housing, and job discrimination. The fact that we are lumped in with DSM III disorders may be our own fault due to apathy and if we're not part of the solution, then we're part of the problem.

One possible solution might be to align ourselves with a broader base in the Women's Movement by stating the obvious: Is a man who does what a woman does, mentally ill? By ridiculing men who wear women's clothes, it discriminates against women by implying that women's tastes and activities are a sure sign of mental illness. This should surely be seen as offensive by feminists.

It seems unfair that women who adopt traditional male ways by asserting themselves and working towards the acquisition of power, money, and status are envied. Women who dress "mannish" get more respect in business or are admired as fashion trend setters. They are not relegated to DSM III status of mental disorders. Our male dominated society sees it as desirable for women to mimic men, thus raising themselves up to a supposed "top position".

This self-flattery by men is an illusion. However, men who choose to mimic women's ways are seen as desirous of a lower rung on society's ladder and take a step down. Traditionally, men regard women as inferior. When a woman acts like a "lady" she is "belittling" herself, but then becomes more acceptable to men. Willingly relinquishing power is seen as mental instability. Men who desire a feeling of

vulnerability and emotional sensitivity that their femme side affords them are ridiculed because it symbolizes a woman's "weakness". The obvious implication is that women and "womanly things" are only for weak or second class citizens and this association of the womanly arts with mental illness should be an affront to all concerned feminists crusading for equality.

The American Psychological Institute removed Gays from DSM III's "mentally ill" status in 1975 and now it's time to remove gender prejudice. The reality is that men who do those "lowly things" that women do are not mentally ill; they are just getting in touch with the beautiful, nurturing quality that women enjoy.

By letting women, who comprise a 53% majority of the world population, become aware of this discrimination, we stand a better chance of acceptance. By allowing men to make fun of us, we are allowing men to make fun of femininity and thus contribute to putting women down. Feminists should resent the implication that "men's ways" are "better ways" since it devalues women.

If politicians thought for a minute that they were alienating women, they couldn't discount us as a minority of "nuts and flakes". We must say to politicians, the American Psychological Institute, and society, don't downgrade women's things and don't look down on femininity as inferior. The key is to get the women's movement on our side (Gloria are you listening?). If you allow politicians to do it to us, then by quiet acceptance, you allow them to do it to you and to jeopardize your hard-earned rights. It's not an issue of sex, it's an issue of gender. Women can do what men do, but men can't do what women do. It's a tired old prejudice that I hope will fall by the wayside in the 90's. To change old attitudes, though, requires active participation on our part. Eternal vigilance may be the price of liberty, but the Women's Movement has taught us that power is not given away, it must be wrestled free.

Try to participate specifically by writing letters to politicians or volunteering to speak at colleges and political groups. A TV/TS speakers bureau should be part of every local gender organization.

(Next month: I.F.G.E., and crossdresser social clubs.)

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ROGER'S NOTEBOOK #53

CAN YOU LAUGH AT YOURSELVES?

by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

Are crossdressing situations such as you experience funny or humorous? These are not words I often hear or read when such subjects are discussed. The tone of most articles are either deadly serious or a description of a pleasant crossdressing experience. Recently I have read some pieces which suggest that persons in the sub-culture are taking themselves too seriously much of the time.

First, a disclaimer. I realize that crossdressing has perhaps more than its share of painful situations. This distress is certainly real but it is not the only aspect of crossdressing. If it were then I suspect there would be far fewer crossdressers.

As many others have written, crossdressing is FUN as well as sensual and erotic. Many writers describe the fun that crossdressers have by participating in different activities. I suspect these enjoyable aspects provide much of the reinforcement for continued crossdressing.

But is crossdressing funny? Certainly it is played for laughs in the media ... all of us remember movies where some man crossdresses for some trumped up reason. Usually the results are comical although some have more serious moments such as in the movie "Tootsie". Various television shows (I really resisted the temptation to say TV shows), sitcoms and comedy have used crossdressing as a comic vehicle. What goes through your mind as you see one of these shows? Do you identify with the character? Do you get angry about the misrepresentation of "legitimate" crossdressing? Do you laugh along with the plot? Are you envious of the actor/comedian who can publicly crossdress and get away with it? Regardless of your reaction, crossdressing is played for laughs in most social situations.

Some of the skits use the supposed difficulty that men have in getting into women's clothing girdles, corsets and bras have all been used as the focus for humor. Often there is a ludicrous appearance the man presents when dressed in women's clothing, especially when he is quite large.

Many sexual and racial minorities have a rich tradition of humor. They poke fun at themselves and their situations. Sometimes laughing at otherwise seemingly intolerable situations makes them more bearable. Are you guilty of taking yourselves too seriously? If you can not laugh at yourselves perhaps you need to re-examine your attitudes and approaches to the unique situation you experience.

Aren't there funny situations that occur at meetings of your group? Or are you too serious about crossdressing to see the lighter side? Are you afraid that if you laugh at some crossdressing difficulty it will cause emotional destruction? While I am certainly not suggesting insensitivity to real problems, I see many that could be eased by a small dose of humor.

[If you have something you would like Dr. Peo to write about or have a rebuttal send it to P.O. Box 4887, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602 or call (914) [redacted]. All communications are confidential. This column may be reprinted in any non-profit organization's newsletter so long as Dr. Peo's name and address appear in the reprinted version. All others must obtain written approval.]

S.O. THERE!

DEALING WITH CHILDREN

by JoAnn Altman Stringer
(from "Renaissance News")

[Editor's Note: While Ms. Stringer writes from a TS viewpoint, most TVs will find that there are many parallels, and that this advice is universal.]

For many transsexuals the family problems become a major issue in their daily lives ... more specifically the issue of children. There are no textbooks and no guidelines to tell us how to handle children. What do you say and when do you tell them?

This assumes, of course, that a M2F transsexual is married. Certainly, there are many who aren't, but from my experience, a large majority going into transition are either married or have been previously married and most have children. Many times a transsexual will start transition after only a few years of marriage, while the children are still young ... 10 years old or less. This is where how to tell the children becomes of primary importance.

These early years are, if we are to believe the milk association commercials, the formative years where kids learn most of their values and basic information about life. It is during these years that they learn, or start to learn, who and what they are. Much of their direction comes from the role models of mother and father. As adults, we look back and see that we got this trait or that trait from mom or dad. Little boys, naturally, look to their fathers for self-identity direction and little girls look to their mothers. The question arises of how a transsexual father affects the identity of a young child. As the child looks to the parent for direction and guidance the feedback from a transsexual parent may be very confusing.

To a child, life is black or white, right or wrong, boy or girl. Their first impression of you is as their "Father" and they apply all the trappings that go with that label. They instinctively measure you against other kids' fathers.

How does this perception change if they see their father image adorned as a female? Can it affect them permanently?

Some answers can be found in the cues taken from a partner as they assimilate the changes going on in their transsexual spouse. The TS had best be ready for the firestorm with good answers for the hard questions. What they are doing with their life affects the lives of those closest to them and that is a responsibility that must be shouldered.

Much of the concern with children, I believe, is a false perception. There really isn't a lot of data to draw upon from the professional's viewpoint. Much of their fears are perceived, some rightfully, some wrongfully.

So, how will a child react? Even the best child psychologists have no pat answer. Some would say that exposure to a transsexual parent does not provide the proper role model foundation for preadolescent children. Other professionals would say that kids adapt to almost any situation and seeing their father transformed into "Aunt Jane" over a period of years would not out them into needless emotional strain.

One thing probably all would agree upon is that it really depends on the personality of the child(ren) involved. If a 7-year-old child is not set into who they are, and has a meek personality, indeed the shock of seeing a parent transformed into the opposite sex may be too much for the child to handle. But if the same child is very outgoing, aggressive, with a very strong personality, then s/he most likely could accept the inevitable change.

How does a parent come out and tell a young child what is about to happen? Part of the answer lies in what will be happening with the parental structure. Are the parents separating or divorcing due to the gender issue or other non-gender related matters? If separating, will the "father" have visitation rights?

Here's my story. You judge if it was appropriate. From the time my twins were born, I was not a good "father" image. Most of my actions were guided by what I call the "frustrated mother" syndrome. I would rather have been their mother than father. Too, my children grew up seeing me in various forms of female/androgynous dress. When the Army requested I resign my

(CONTINUED, PAGE 12)

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WHY CAN'T WOMEN HAVE POCKETS?

by Ricky [REDACTED]

Something funny happened the first time my family spent a week at the now infamous home of Jim Bakker, Heritage Village USA. Since I am not a Christian and had to work anyway, I spent the week as a bachelor. Well, not exactly a bachelor, more a bachelorette. I hate that word. It is as awkward as some of the supposed "sexual-bias-free" creations that grace the media these days, and I have a whole new understanding of those libbers who object to those sexist terms. Be that as it may, let's just leave it that Ricky had run of the house for a full week, something that doesn't happen very often.

Of course I spent a good deal of time doing things like reading, washing clothes and dishes, poking away on my computer, sewing, and other more serene and ladylike pursuits, but there comes a time when all the work that needs to be done in an old house like ours can't be ignored any longer. I have been threatening to actually clean up the basement for years, and had been conveniently forgetting the wallpaper for my daughter's bedroom so long that I have forgotten how long I have forgotten it. In other words, it was time for less than ladylike activities, but I didn't want to quit being a lady. So I put on T-shirt over one of my more utilitarian bras, designated one of the oldest skirts as my "work skirt", and, knowing full well how silly it was, I put on an old pair of pantyhose anyway and adjourned to the basement with the broom, dustpan, and several garbage cans.

It did not take me long to raise a prodigious cloud of dust, so I reached for my handkerchief. Or to put it more precisely, I reached for the pocket that should have held the handkerchief, and I had a revelation: Women's clothes do not normally have pockets. I had not noticed this previously, as my dressing was confined to motel rooms or a few hours on a Sunday morning when the family was at church. In that confined area, and when engrossed in such ladylike tasks as writing letters, I had never noticed the lack of pockets. As I ran upstairs for the handkerchief and other small items I usually carry in my pocket, I realized that if women's lib is ever to succeed, someone is going to have to invent a practical pocket for a woman's skirt.

Let's look at the options. The first and most obvious is to abandon the skirt and put on a pair of pants. Practical yes, but who said fashion is practical? Let us assume that the person wearing the skirt or dress is wearing it for a good reason like being a TV, or whirling around a dance floor in an evening gown or working in an office where the successful woman must wear a skirt. Pants will just not do in these situations.

I hear a rousing chorus of "What's the problem, she has a pocketbook!" from the great multitudes reading this treatise. But while a pocketbook (aptly named, what?) may be practical when a lady is out shopping or on the town, it is a bloody pain to tote around the house... and the strap gets caught in the broom handle. I know I can't keep track of the fork I just set down at the dinner table, let alone which room I left my handbag in last. To be useful a pocket must be attached to you, so you don't have to keep track of it. So much for that idea.

Then there is what the girls of my youth referred to as the "womanly". For those of you that didn't grow up in my part of the world, a womanly is the area more generally known as the cleavage. It was a familiar game of my youth for a girl who liked you to drop some object into her womanly and offer to allow you to retrieve it if you had the nerve. This was invariably done in front of a large group of people and I fail to remember a single instance of the object being removed by anyone other than the owner of that particular womanly.

Leaving the memories of my teenage years behind, there is still some possibility that this anatomical attribute of womankind could be made to substitute for the male pocket. There are some obvious drawbacks, of course. Low cut garments would leave the wearer looking like a portable collection of the odds-and-ends

"EN FEMME" ADOPTS LARGER FORMAT

by Kymberleigh Richards
Official Staff TransReader

At first, I thought the large brown envelope from Creative Design Services contained the new issue of "Ladylike"... but no! "En Femme", the bi-monthly sister magazine has undergone a format change to a larger page size, enabling JoAnn Roberts and Robyn Ann Dormer to improve the overall readability and photo reproduction. Included in #20 are articles on shopping for your femme self (including an all-too-true look at credit cards), a review of the video "Wonderland" and the book "Female To Male", and a photo layout of the Miss Gay Pennsylvania pageant.

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AND WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT OF "EN FEMME": Robyn Ann, who remained as editor of "En Femme" after selling the magazine to JoAnn, still publishes "En Femme Fiction Magazine" every other month or so. Issue #4, unlike the first three, is devoted to a single story entitled "Tough Nutt", about a private investigator hired by a rich girl's parents to check out her fiancé. He finds out a lot more than he expected, after which things take a tragic turn. By the way, Robyn [REDACTED] has announced that the story "Growing Up With Bobby", originally serialized in "En Femme" #10 through 14, will be reprinted in book form in the near future.

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TWO NEW BOOKS FROM SANDY THOMAS: "Tit For Tat" (TV Fiction Classics #19) concerns a bet made by two young wives who dress their husbands as women. The first one "read" is the loser, but one of the two gets carried away with "her" new identity! "Exchanging Vows" (Contemporary TV Fiction #6) grows out of complications when two wives in a competitive dance group drop out before the finals. The "alternate" couple gets called into action, as the husband has to pretend to be one man's "wife", while his own wife pretends to be another's. Sandy also advises that the "Best of Transvestia" fiction series is proceeding, with all ten original titles back in print and a new story "It's All In The Family" being prepared for publication.

found in your night table drawer, while a turtleneck sweater would make access difficult and embarrassing. This, of course, would not apply to a nursing mother, who has learned how to get in there without anyone but her baby seeing her breast, but for a TV it is a skill that would be just too revealing. Besides, while Dolly Parton might have no problem, someone built like Twiggy would be unable to carry more than a spare pair of earrings. Let's try something else.

So what about an actual pocket in the skirt? The main objection to that is, unless you are down in the basement helping me and don't have an audience, a full pocket will ruin the flowing lines the skirt was meant to show. No one gives a hoot if a man walks around with lumpy pockets, but let a woman look like one hip is malformed and everyone will notice. I will refrain from commenting on the remarks a front or rear facing pocket would inspire. Scratch this option too.

Maybe we could steal the sporran from some Scotsman's kilt. After all many ladies have stolen the idea of the kilt before this. I am not sure of the etiquette of this situation, however. I know that the kilt requires a lack of underclothing to be worn properly, but does this extend to the sporran as well? I could not get a straight answer out of my Scottish friends... they were too busy laughing. If the prohibition were to apply, a woman wearing garters, stockings and no undies (pantyhose would come too close to underwear for use here) beneath her skirt could create the wrong impression in the coarser of male minds, and TV would literally run the risk of exposure. Sorry 'bout that I couldn't help myself.

So I guess I must leave the question unresolved. If women's lib is ever to succeed someone will have to come up with a way for a fashionable woman to transport those small necessities on her person that a man carries without thinking, but I am all out of ideas. If you have any good ideas, let me know.

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Midnight moviegoers itching to do the Time Warp can do it again ... and in the privacy of their own homes ... when the delirious degenerate cult film "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" makes its video debut on November 3. "We thought releasing it on video would interfere with the midnight showings," says coproducer Lou Adler, "but we decided the video would entice people into the theater." The 1975 movie still plays weekend engagements in 200 theaters, and has grossed more than \$100 million from fans eager to throw rice during the wedding scene, squirt water guns during the rainstorm, and yell expletives at Brad (Barry Bostwick) and Janet (Susan Sarandon), who are terrorized by Dr. Frank N. Furter (Tim Curry), "a sweet transvestite from Transsexual, Transylvania." ("Entertainment Weekly")

Ventura, CA radio sports reporter Barry [redacted] made quite an appearance in the Cincinnati Bengals' locker room after their victory over the Rams in early October. [redacted], 6'3" and 280 pounds, entered the locker room wearing a golden Tina Turner-type wig and a dress. The crossdressed reporter was reacting to Bengals' coach Sam Wyche's attempted barring of women reporters from the locker rooms. (KFVB Radio)

The publication "Women's Wear Daily" has announced that the cover photo of one of its February editions, featuring a woman in a fringed dress, long earrings, high heels and a blonde hairdo, unintentionally was a photo of a man. Either that or they've realized they have a large number of transgendered readers! ("Renaissance News")

One of the Fox Network's new sitcoms is "Good Grief!" which stars Howie Mandel as the proprietor of a funeral home. The October 7 episode dealt with a deceased man who wanted to be buried in a dress ... which, after the requisite shock, outrage and denial from the family, led to such dialogue as "Why did you always attend Halloween parties with you as Sonny and him as Cher?" and "I never believed he lost his eyebrows in a carburetor fire." However, the program went on to quote factual information, pointing out that 85% of all crossdressers are heterosexual, and the wife ended up eulogizing her husband by saying "any woman would have been proud to let him wear her bra." ("Innerview")

Quote of the Month: "If I end up in tights, you'll know there was one hell of a battle." --- Kevin Costner, who will play Robin Hood in the upcoming movie "Prince of Thieves". Costner was talking about his

S.O. THERE! ...

commission, it was time to make the final transition and I informed my spouse of my plans for a divorce. I felt it was necessary to spare the children inordinate role variances. I moved out of the house when the kids were away with relatives and they were told of my departure when they returned. I assured them I would still be a parent even though I wasn't in the house, what I was doing was not their fault, and I still loved them.

During the ensuing months I went through transition, saw the kids sporadically, and they realized I would never be their father again. They had some problems for a couple of years due to the emotional upheaval of the divorce ... but not from the gender issues. I counseled a family with three teenage daughters a while back in which the post-operative TS parent (father) was still present. All the children seemed well adjusted, as far as the transsexual parent was concerned.

The important thing to remember is that each situation is as individual as snowflakes on the mountaintop. The transsexual parent, male or female, must be cognizant of the feelings and emotional stability of the family concerned. All too often the TS sees the world through a tubular looking glass thinking their problem is all that is important. The lives of those kids, and likely the spouse, will be changed forever, better or worse depending on how you handle the situation.

Go slowly, be considerate, and think about how others are being affected by your gender confusion.

uneasiness with the required wardrobe for the role. ("People")


Science has finally discovered the cause of underarm odor ... and why women have less of a problem in this area than men. 3-methyl-2-hexenoic acid, which comes from lipophilic dithioids, interacting with two types of skin bacteria that live in the underarm region is the apparent cause of the odor ... and apparently 90% of all men have this bacteria, while only about 67% of the women. Theories are that since most women shave their underarms, there is less surface area for the bacteria to grow on, thus less acid and less odor. Therefore, the theory concludes, it's more hygienic to shave your underarms! (IXE newsletter)

Having SRS might be unnecessary ... if you were an African reed frog. A pair of West German biologists discovered that this particular type of frog switches from female to male all on its own. The organic version of a sex change operation came to light after the researchers noticed a female frog fighting with a male frog. Over the next few months, seven female frogs developed testicular nodules and four of those seven fertilized the eggs of other females. They speculate that the reed frogs change their sex whenever there is an imbalance in the male-female ratio that would hamper mating and the continuance of the species. ("Omni")

Dr. Peggy Rudd, the author of "Crossdressing With Dignity", is putting together a Caribbean cruise for crossdressers in late July of next year. She plans to include a hospitality room on board to provide a safe haven for those who have never ventured out, as well as those who wish to remain in male attire during the cruise and those who wish to spend the entire trip "en femme". Price with airfare will be approximately \$1000; for details, write Dr. Rudd c/o PM Publishers, 1811 Crutchfield, Katy TX 77449.

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TRAN MUSIC

by Phaedra Kelly

I thought I might write a piece on transgender music. The problem is, some of it's spread across the decades on obscure labels by half-known artists.

Starting in the late '60s and early '70s, there is the Great and Original Mr. Bowie, first, and for my money, the only true gender bender. One can discount such one hit wonders as Herbert Kaury (Tiny Tim).

A contemporary survivor with Bowie is Iggy Pop. His post-modern work proves more enjoyable than his acid/coke-induced, slurred dirges of the past. Likewise, Lou Reed, one-time Drag Queen rocker in the Velvet Underground has emerged, clean of drugs and BS, with a modern tribute to Andy Warhol, "Songs for Drella". (Drella was Warhol's nickname, a combination of DRacula and CinderELLA.)

Alice Cooper began a little later than Bowie and influenced modern Rocky Horror-style Drag Rock. Watchers of MTV can witness the results. But such bands as Poison and Motley Crüe stem from a group of original and genuine GT rockers known as the New York Dolls. Of the four Dolls, only two remain alive and well (one being David Johansen); the third is on skid row and the fourth is dead. New York Dolls albums fetch a small fortune in secondhand dealer shops now.

Of all the '70s Glam Rockers, Gary Glitter has emerged time and again, whereas other Brit contemporaries like Barrie Blue have failed and faded. Among the U.K. gender benders, Steve Strange fulfilled his own prophecy and faded to grey, while Boy George, Marilyn, Tasty Tim and Peter Burns of Dead or Alive have achieved obscurity in only a few short years. Adam Ant is currently seeing a resurgence in popularity but whether or not he survives remains to be seen.

Really obscure is Peter, a Japanese Sisterboy, who predates Boy George by ten years. Very beautiful and untraceable now, Peter's songs were sung in a good alsetto to an interesting beat. Finding one of his albums now would be a real coup.

A native of India, Loren Ring Marcell, sang '60s standards. Sadly, when she arrived in the U.K., it was pointed out to her that she was born a male, a detail she, in her sheltered environs, had never once realized. The shock proved too much for her and the last I heard she was getting support from a TS self-help group. But she did cut some records in the U.K. before the callous ignorance of the West destroyed her.

You all know (don't you?) that lovely Amanda [redacted], formerly Peki [redacted], formerly Alain [redacted], is a TS. Her records are still available on order in the U.K. Her husky European voice is sexy and soothing.

A more raunchy TS is Jayne (Wayne) [redacted], who made her name in the cult movie "Jubilee", co-starring Toyah and Adam Ant. Jayne is a cross between punk and rock, with a large following in London. Her most specific "gender" tracks are "Man Enough to be a Woman", and a cover of "Are You a Boy or Are You a Girl?".

Synthesizer music brings to mind any album by Wendy (Walter) Carlos, "Switched On Bach" being her most well known. Walter became Wendy just before cutting (no pun intended) the score for Stanley Kubrick's "A Clockwork Orange".

Many bands have cut at least one Tran track: The Who's "I'm a Boy", the Kinks' "Lola" and Aerosmith's "Dude Looks Like a Lady".

There is one song of late that I feel is significant. "Secret Garden", from the album "Rage" by T'Pau.

"Rage" was T'Pau's second album and it took a dive. Carol Dekker of T'Pau discussed her early life as a barmaid, a cross between a tomboy and nympho, overcompensating, she admits, for a difficult identity crisis. She told the press that she often feels she wants to be a man and that her gender identity is most vulnerable when she is singing on stage.

Dekker told the press that "Secret Garden" was inspired by a "radio talk show with a transvestite" that she'd heard. It's possible that the press used TV instead of TS since the lyrics suggest a surgical change, although they could suggest a spiritual/mental change just as easily.

In the video for "Secret Garden", Dekker is dancing and striding with defiance through a landscaped maze.

DEAR KATHY

by Kathy [redacted]
from "TGIC News"

Dear Kathy,

I'm afraid I have a serious problem. It only started recently, but I can't control it. I find myself in shopping centers buying racks of women's clothing. While I have no desire to wear them myself, and money is no object, I just cannot stop. What's a fellow to do?

-- Macy's Bound

My Dear, Dear, Bound,

You are suffering from an extremely rare disease called "MALE TO MALL SYNDROME". A man's buying of women's clothing is quite common, but the lack of desire to wear them is most odd. However, we wouldn't want to change that part, as I have enough desire for the two of us. Doctors say that once you have this disease you shouldn't fight it, but I am recommending that we begin therapy this very afternoon. It is important for me to learn to control this situation as soon as possible. And the money being no object is the most interesting part. So, call me already!

-- Kathy

Yo, Ms Klatch,

My girlfriend just informed me that she doesn't want me around anymore. She doesn't want to stay at home cooking and cleaning like she should. And, can you believe this, she wants to become a man. Would you tell her how wrong she is?

-- Elliott

Yo-Yo Elliott,

It is difficult to understand why she wouldn't want you around anymore, at least until she knocked the 'ell out of Elliott. I could certainly suggest something for her to cook for you, but you already are what you eat. And she should clean ... the floor ... with you. The only thing wrong with her wanting to be a man would be if that man were you. So I'll say it, though she may already have ... T.S. Elliott!

-- Kathy

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overturning wheelbarrows, pulling people's hats over their eyes, making a statement of personal freedom, regardless of others' bigotry.

She sings, "You'll never know how it feels not to be one thing or the other. If there was a world without hypocrisy, you never know, I might just be something you need."

So, "Secret Garden" has been adopted (by me) as the official international anthem of the Gender Transient movement. And ... it's easy to dance to!

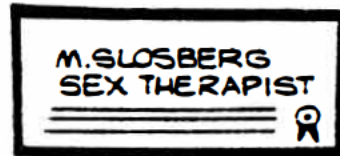
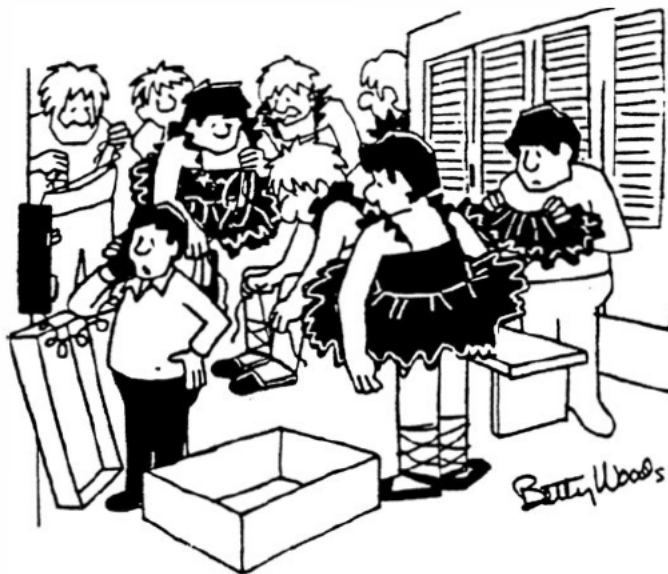
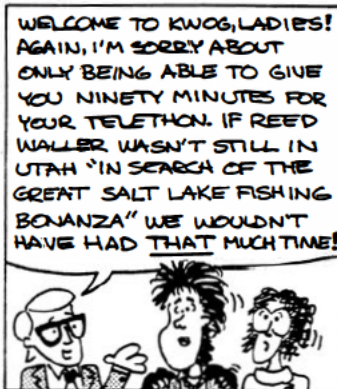
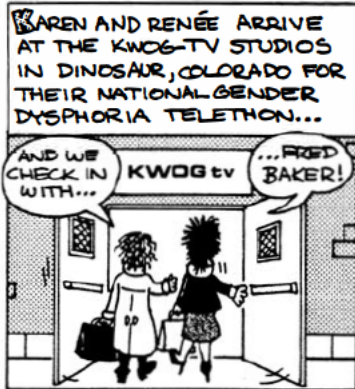
[Editor's Notes: This article originally appeared in "Renaissance News".

The article "The Way of the Werewoman", which appeared in our September and October issues, originally appeared in the magazines of the Vampire Society and the International Society for the Advancement of Irreproducible Vampire & Lycanthropy Research. Both organizations are based in the U.K.]

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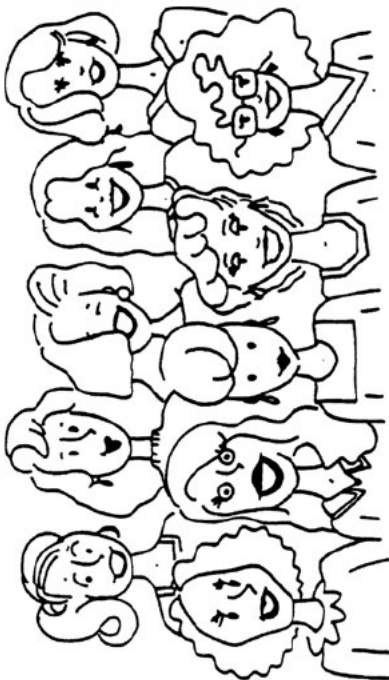
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THE ART OF GIRL WATCHING (REVISED)

by Christie [redacted]
(from "Fiesta!" newsletter)

"I'm a girl watcher.
I'm a girl watcher
Watchin' girls go by
my, my, my."

Today, these lines reflect an attitude certain to raise the blood pressure of any feminist. This old song celebrated the idea of woman as a mere object. An object of beauty perhaps, but an object nonetheless. An attitude which has been rightfully attacked as demeaning and chauvinistic.

I am, and have been for a long time, a very zealous feminist. Right up front, though, I must confess to the occasional brief lapse into transient pig-dom. I admit it. I do enjoy the sight of a pretty woman, and will even pause on occasion to prolong an admiring glance. I have also been guilty (rarely, but as long as I'm confessing...) of unabashed, rampant pig-ness (to the point of openly staring) when presented with the acres of tanned female flesh on a southern California beach.

So, now that I've placed my archaic and shameful attitudes out for public appraisal, I would like to have it known that any comments in this article which may be deemed chauvinistic were written after careful consideration. So give me a break.

See, the thing is, as a crossdresser, I have taken the "instinctive" male wandering eye, and turning it about, have made it a very useful tool for bettering my own femme side. This is another aspect of girl watching which all of us as crossdressers can very well put to use.

Become a "woman-watcher".

The trick is to watch with eyes wide open. You have an opportunity here to learn everything possible about being a woman, from the best teachers in the world... everyday women.

Watch with an appreciative and critical eye. Watch women as much for what you can learn as for the appreciation of their beauty.

Malls, airports, city business districts, theaters... anywhere people gather, will provide opportunities for watching. Those living in large cities will have a distinct advantage in choice of watching sites.

I, however, live in a small, blue-collar city in which about my only choice is the local mall.

As my intention is to learn how to do it right from the women who pass by, I find here unfortunately, I must quickly write off a good 6 out of 10 of these women when it comes to appreciative appraisal. These are guilty of dowdiness, exacerbated by boredom.

Of the remaining, fully half are under 17. Fun to watch. Daydream stuff... how great to be sixteen and be able to wear all those wild kinky outfits. But I would be horsewhipped if I ever entertained the thought of wearing anything like this anywhere more public than my living room. With the lights down.

This leaves about 15% (or at least so the ratio seems in Farmington, NM) of the women out there that are worth watching. These are not necessarily the best looking or most glamorous (although I must again confess... they do remain my favorites). The women I learn from though, are those who are not beautiful or statuesque, but rather, those who had to deal, with a big nose, a heavy face, a post-Rubenesque physique, and overcame to look good.

When one of these women comes on the scene I shift into my appreciative observer mode. Woman-watching then becomes something akin to an Olympic event, much more so than a beauty contest.

Critical appraisal is made of attitude, demeanor, outfit and poise. I watch how she walks, how she moves, how she carries herself. A woman with head high, walking with graceful, confident step will immediately catch my attention.

I watch how she climbs or descends stairs, how she carries a package or purse, how she maneuvers through crowds, how she avoids careening children. Everything I see is evaluated for my own use.

I critique mercilessly. I appraise her outfit, her

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choice of colors, her hair style, the aura she projects.

A typical mallside woman-watching encounter may follow a silent dialogue such as:

Of an older, office manager type: Bearing, confident, but tired after a long day. Dress, quiet, conservative, but worn well and presented nicely. Colors work well with her hair and skin. A solid 8. Points off for a purse that doesn't match.

Of a heavy-set young woman, secretary type: Bravo. Fashionably and very attractively dressed. Colors and accessories work very well. Proves a big girl can be glamorous. Give her a 10.

Of a young mother: Pretty face, beautiful skin, but unfortunately framed by unkempt hair. Baggy, ratty clothes. Projecting boredom and ennui. No doubt a knockout when she tries, but now sunk in the doldrums of dowdiness. 3.

Every encounter is different. Every woman you see presents herself in a way reflecting her experience, upbringing and lifestyle.

As you develop a sense of the fashion and style most compatible and comfortable with your femme persona, you will find your eye drawn especially to those women who share this style. (If, on the other hand, you rarely see women dressed as you envision yourself, then some serious reevaluation of your own fashion ideas may be warranted, if you hope to interact favorably in your femme role with society. Over-the-hill teenyboppers, mega-sleazy ladies of the street, or high society matrons in full gowns are very infrequently encountered in most public situations.)

Every encounter becomes both a lesson and an exercise in the appreciation of the feminine gender.

Woman-watching, taken several giant steps above the prurience of girl-watching, is an art that is still alive and viable, even in this more enlightened day. It can be especially valuable for those of us who watch with both our eyes and our hearts open, those of us who would seek to learn from and emulate the women around us.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

by Shannon
from IXE newsletter

You are flying en femme on a commercial jet. After a few minutes of conversation, the person in the seat next to you asks, "Are you a man?" You respond:

- A. No, I'm a woman.
- B. I used to be.
- C. What's the matter? Haven't you ever met a transsexual before?
- D. That is a particularly rude and insulting question.
- E. Why, yes, I am. Do you know anything about crossdressers?
- F. Go to hell.

WHAT YOU SAY SAYS MUCH ABOUT YOU.

A. This is an easy answer to give. It can be deceptive and evasive and saves you much explanation. A problem is that it can lead to self-deception, or in other words, you may begin to believe your own lies. Honesty is one of the better policies and it is usually the best policy. By answering "No, I'm a woman," you could mean "I am male but I am not a man and seeing as male and female refer to sex, and man and woman refer to gender, the question was inquiring as to my gender, which is feminine, and therefore I am a woman, but I happen to be male." When your life only makes sense with such definitional monstrosities you may wish to examine the state of your mental wellness even if you are post-op.

B. This is another easy answer. Like the above

example, one could easily twist definitions so that you believe it is actually a true statement. Even if used by a post-op TS, this answer is not the best. It carries an intentional sting designed to put your questioner on the defense. You passively accept being "read" but react by aggressively attempting to make the other person more uncomfortable than you are. Your relationship is very close to becoming adversarial with no resolution in sight. It is a poor means of coping with the situation as you will both will continue to feel uncomfortable.

C. Same as B.

D. This response is a very aggressive one but it honestly communicates your feelings to the questioner while at the same time it defends and establishes your rights (note that none of this happens in B or C). This is an assertive answer. If you stop to consider the true meaning of the question, the person is asking "Do you have a penis or a vagina?"

In any social setting this would be considered the epitome of rudeness. Such questions do not deserve or require an answer. Assert your rights: If someone asks you a question, you are not required to answer it. If you feel you have been insulted, tell the person they have insulted you. Note that responding to a question in this way is not the same as being deceptive or evasive. Deceptions and evasions are the coward's way

(CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE)

A GREAT GIFT IDEA FOR CHRISTMAS . . . ?

For a long time now, I've run little "filler" ads suggesting that you ask a friend to subscribe to "Cross-Talk". Well, now I'm going to make a stronger suggestion.

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I mean, let's face it. TV Guide and Sports Illustrated and all the other "mainstream" magazines have been plugging gift subscriptions for years. And members of the gender community usually have dozens of friends (both local acquaintances and national correspondents) within the community. So I don't think I'm out of line in suggesting that most of our readers have a good friend or two who they wouldn't mind spending \$18 on in order to share "Cross-Talk" with them.

Yes, I'll admit that this is a rather self-serving idea and that it will help our efforts to become a national gender community publication. But on the other hand

I've never been shy about promoting this newsletter, because I'm very proud of it.

So if you think you'd like to give "Cross-Talk" for Christmas, just xerox the form below as many times as you need to, and fill out a form for each friend you want to give a subscription to. Then multiply the number of forms by \$18 and send everything to the P.O. Box.

And as an added incentive, if you send at least one gift subscription by December 15, you can add a year to your own subscription for the old (pre-August) rate of \$15. Just fill out a form for yourself, including your subscriber number from the upper left corner of the mailing label.

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THE THIRD BIG STEP

by Monica
 excerpted from "The Cactus Flower"

The third big step I took after getting my hair styled and getting up in front of a sociology class was having my ears pierced. I felt that the time was right and my hair was long enough to cover them. I also went as a man.

When I sat down, the woman asked me if I wanted one or two done. I told her two, one in each ear. She didn't seem to find that request very strange at all. There was no blood and about as much pain as you'd get from a shot, except it doesn't go away very quickly. It's like having a small annoying itch on each ear.

Wearing an earring in each ear just isn't as acceptable for men in the '90s. You can get away with one, very small earring in one ear only, but two? Not yet! There are ways for you to keep the hole open and still get away with looking as if you only have one in. Everyone has probably heard of the fishing line trick. Well, it works!

What you do is cut a fairly thick fishing line in the length of the posts. At that length they are very stiff. Insert one of those in place of the earring and no one will be the wiser. I have added something to that. Dip the fishing line into Neosporin before putting it in. I found out that it speeds up the healing process.

For a while I was only taking out one earring and replacing it with fishing line. I would put Neosporin on the fishing line as well as the post before I put it back. That ear healed much quicker than the other ear. When I went to wear fashion earrings a week or so after they were pierced, the treated side slipped in very easily, while the other side was still unhealed. I now treat both sides, but I take the one out and put it back in.

I found that you can wear other earrings earlier than eight weeks, but only for a short time and you should try to put the post back as soon as possible. It's now been only five weeks, but I could go for many hours without anything in the ears. I wear the fishing line in both ears at work, and the post when I go to bed. It was amazing that it took three weeks before anyone noticed the earrings at work, and that was after switching to a more obvious looking post.

The pierced ears allow me to wear earrings that would not look good as clip-ons. These tend to make my female appearance more believable.

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HOW TO KILL AN ORGANIZATION

(from "Our Special Joy")

Don't participate beyond paying your dues ... let them handle things. Then complain that members have no say in management.

Decline all offices and committee appointments ... you're too busy. Then offer vociferous advice on how THEY should do things.

If appointed to a committee, don't work ... it's a courtesy appointment. Then complain because the organization has stagnated.

If you attend meetings, don't initiate new ideas. Then play the devil's advocate to those submitted by others.

Don't rush to pay your dues ... they're too high anyway. Then complain about poor financial management.

Don't read the monthly newsletter ... it's not important. Then complain that you're never informed.

Don't volunteer your talents ... that's ego fulfillment. Then complain that you're never asked and never appreciated.

And, if by chance the organization grows in spite of your contributions, grasp every opportunity to tell the others how tough it was and how hard you worked in the old days to bring the chapter to its present level of success.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY? ...

out when one feels obligated to offer an answer or an explanation. Deceptions and evasions are used by people who lack emotional security. Answer D is an honest answer.

E. This is another assertive answer. Like B and C, it acknowledges your transgender nature, but it does so without putting your questioner on the defense. It draws the person into the conversation instead of shutting him up. The person who answers in this way is emotionally secure and not easily offended. However, you should be able to sense the tone of the question and judge your response accordingly. There will be times when, even for the most secure of individuals, D will be the appropriate response.

F. An unassertive, aggressive answer. As with B and C, it solves nothing and you both will feel extremely uncomfortable for the rest of the day. If coping is to face problems and find a way of rising above them, then you will fail with your response.



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