

# Renaissance News



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September, 1988

## Help Wanted: You Can Make the Difference

As Renaissance continues to grow, it should continue to expand its services to members and to the transgendered community. But while the growth of the organization has showed no signs of slowing, the development and implementation of new programs and services has. The reason, paradoxically, is a labor shortage: too few members have come forward to volunteer to manage or help with important programs.

This situation is not unique to non-profit organizations. For example, churches have long suffered from a lack of volunteerism. While there are many churches in every community, how many transvestite and transsexual support organizations are there in Bensalem, Norristown or Camden? There is no doubt about

it. Renaissance is both unique and important. Here are some of the ways you can help continue that status.

✓ **Outreach**—Throughout the area there are newspapers, community resource centers, computer bulletin boards and many other channels for telling crossdressers about Renaissance. Everytime we use a new communications vehicle we get inquiries and members, but we are running out of these channels. If these exist in your community, please tell Paula Sinclair about them.

✓ **Education**—Untruths about transvestism and transsexualism creep into many areas, newspaper movie reviews, news stories, television or radio news reports, etc. When Renaissance

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## SOS Groups Rated Significant

Most women married to TVs do not actually support their husband's crossdressing, they only tolerate it. But a majority of these women, however, see their TV mates as having positive qualities when dressed as women.

These are two of the reported results of a recent report by Weinberg and Bullough in the *Journal of Sex Research*, Volume 24, 1988.

The authors say that self-esteem is strongly related to how a woman adjusts to her husband's crossdressing. Women with low self-esteem were more likely to feel that they had somehow failed as wives or as women and were more likely to be afraid of public exposure of their husband's crossdressing. On the other hand, women with high self-esteem, it was found, were able to find some benefit in a mate's transvestism.

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## Research Links Some TSs With TVs

Dr. Ray Blanchard, of the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry in Toronto, believes that there are only two distinctly different types of transsexuals and that one of these types are related to transvestites. Reporting in the *Journal of Sex Research*, Volume 24, Dr. Blanchard adds additional data to a study he conducted in 1985 where he originally tested this hypothesis. Dr. Blanchard's theory is similar to one put forth by Drs. Money and Gaskin.

He used data from the Gender

Identity of the Clarke and decided, in 1985, that there was no difference between heterosexual, bisexual, and asexual TSs, but that there was a distinct difference between this group, taken as a whole, and homosexual TSs. In addition, the non-homosexual group contained a significantly higher proportion of fetishistic cases (i.e. arousal with crossdressing). He also concluded that the non-homosexual groups were all akin to one another AND

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> AIDS Benefit

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Renaissance AIDS Benefit will be a dinner/fashion show on October 8th at the Towpath Restaurant in New Hope, PA. Cocktails flow at 6 PM (cash bar), dinner at 7 PM, and the show starts at 8. For only \$30 a person you get all this, plus door prizes and you help a worthy cause.

Angela and Teri, the coordinators, have lined up several dress makers, locally and from NYC to provide the outfits. The models will be members and friends of the group. The money from this event will go to benefit juvenile AIDS patients. Tickets should be purchased by 9/24 through the office.

## TV/TS Research...from front page

to transvestites. This most recent report adds an additional test of the data for correlation and further supports his hypothesis. He also finds significance in the almost complete absence of female TVs and homosexual female-to-male TSs.

Dr. Blanchard's theory seems to fit with Dr. Harry Benjamin's now famous Gender Scale, where the TV and TS are at opposite ends of a continuum. At the time Dr. Benjamin did his work post-op, M-t-F TS lesbians and F-t-M TSs were virtually unknown.

## Couples Workshop Cancelled

The Couples Workshop planned for September 24th has been cancelled due to a lack of response

from the membership. We hope to have Ari Kane for a Renaissance program in the near future.

## Christmas Party Planning Begins

Before long December will be upon us and we expect a large turnout for this year's Christmas Party. Alison Laing is in charge of the planning for this year's party and she is asking for volunteers now to help out.

Last Christmas forty-five people had a fantastic time at the

Moshulu in Philadelphia. This year could easily top 100 people, so please let us know if you want to help or think you will attend. Alison needs help with decorations, activities, and the like. She also needs a rough count so she will be able to book a place with enough capacity to hold the crowd.

## Nominations Open For Officers

As Fall approaches, so also does the end of the first full year of Renaissance operations. With that closing comes the necessity of electing new corporate officers. Every position is open to any Full voting member of Renaissance.

Nominations are being accepted from September until November 1. Elections will be held at the November meeting. New Officers will

take over at the January 1989 meeting.

The officers of the corporation are: Managing Director, Executive Secretary, Executive Treasurer, Director of Public Affairs (2 positions) and Director of Membership (2 positions).

Nominations before November should be sent to the Renaissance office.

## And Don't Forget About...

- The PCHA Food Bank: Joanne Sutton reminds us that the Food Bank would like non-perishable food and basic toiletry items. Please, no clothing, they have no space to store it. We resume collections at the 9/24 meeting.

- By Laws Amendments: We take a vote on the new amendments at the September meeting.

- The first Renaissance

weeknight meeting will take place on September 19th beginning at 9 PM. If there is a good turnout, we'll do it again.

- The Benjamin Book Project with the Outreach Institute. Special member discounts, Regular Edition @ \$28.50, Deluxe @ \$33.50

- Henri David's Hallowe'en Ball, Warwick Hotel. Cost; \$10 in costume, \$15 for voyeurs.

## Renaissance News

### Staff

Senior Editor: **JoAnn Roberts**  
National Editor: **Paula Sinclair**  
Overseas Editor: **Trudi Henry**  
Photo Editor: **Angela Gardner**  
Admin. Assistants: **Susan P., Beth and Rachel M.**  
Copy & Layout: **Creative Design Services, King of Prussia, PA.**

**For the latest information about events call: (215) 640-9449, 24 hrs. a day.**

## Business Report Thru Aug. 19th

**Aug. Attendance: No Meeting**  
**Paid Members: 180**

**Starting Balance: \$2433.05**

### Income:

Ad sales	\$40.00
Publications	\$72.00
<u>Member Dues</u>	<u>\$162.00</u>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$274.00</b>

### Expenses:

Outreach Inst.	\$1000.00
Newsletter	\$73.00
<u>Office Expenses</u>	<u>\$75.00</u>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1148.00</b>

**Ending Balance \$1559.05**

### Coming Events:

#### September

15-18 "Paradise in the Poconos" weekend

19th Weeknight Mtng, 9 PM

24th Renaissance Meeting

Guest speaker to be announced. Starts 8 PM

#### October

8th 2nd Annual AIDS Benefit Dinner/Fashion Show, \$30

15th Renaissance Meeting

14th-16th Tiffany Wives Outing

14th-23rd Fantasia Fair

30 Henri David's Hallowe'en Ball at Warwick Hotel

#### November

19th Renaissance Meeting

## Opinion - The Forum - Information

### *Pierced Ears—Getting Away With It!...by Alison Laing*


During the week of Fantasia Fair, it has been said, that the sidewalks of Provincetown are littered with Lee Press-on nails and earrings lost by the continuous caravan of crossdressers. I was no exception. At my first FanFair in 1986 I managed to lose five pair of screw-back or clip-on earrings, all favorites and one set 14k gold!

I had noticed with envy, one of my sister's lovely dangling earrings, hanging from pierced lobes. When I learned that she wore a three piece pin-stripe suit in her other role, I had to ask her how she got away with the holes in her ears. She described to me a simple process of making little plastic plugs, which disguise the holes when not in use with earrings.

Since that time, I have had my ears pierced (actually two holes in each lobe to allow for accents) and have refined the design of the plugs.

The process is quite simple. The best material to use is the milk white plastic stringers used to fasten price tags to clothing. The

shiny and clear type do not work as well. Trim off the excess flat or bulky end and place the tip directly above a flame for an instant, perhaps a second. As soon as a little bulb forms, remove the plastic from the heat and flatten the bulb by pressing it against a thumb nail or another hard surface. Do not use glass or polished metal. Cut off this end about  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{2}{3}$  of an inch. Holding this with a tweezers, heat the newly cut end into a ball. Do not flatten this one.

You should now have a small plug with a flat head on one end and a slightly rounded ball on the other. It should look like :  but a lot smaller. The large flat end covers the front on the hole in your ear and the ball helps keep it in place. The length of the plug and the size of the head are a function of the thickness of your ear lobes and the size of the holes. You will have to practice to get the two ends just right. The best length will be found by trial and error. The plastic is detectable, but appears to be a small blemish and not a hole.

I clean the plugs with alcohol and then place them into the pierced holes leaving them there for weeks at a time. If your earlobe skin is darker than the plug, a tiny dot of makeup helps. The plugs tend to yellow with age which somehow makes them look quite natural.

Since they do come out on occasion, I make six to eight at a time and keep a small vial of plugs, along with a tweezers for inserting them in my shaving kit. I don't need them in my makeup kit!

It had been suggested that by having several holes, it makes your ears appear to have suffered chronic acne, thus providing a good camouflage for what is really there. To some of us, having a pair of shoulder dusters dangling from our ear lobes is as thrilling as a new pair of heels. And, to know they won't drop off while dancing, or that you won't have sore ears the next day, makes it worthwhile.

When you get your ears pierced, have one done at a time. One red lobe is not as suspicious as both.

### *Porcine Operas...opinion by JoAnn Roberts*

One has to be careful in this work of trying to help our sisters. We can easily get caught up in a "helping frenzy" where we think that everyone needs our advice and support. After a few successes in helping someone out of the closet, we tend to approach every new person with that intention. But guess what? Not everyone wants or needs our help. Many are content to march to the beat of their own drummer. They will arrive at their own chosen destinations when they are ready. Be

there for them if they stumble along the way, but don't block the path.

The situation to avoid is one which can pull you under. There are people in this world who will literally suck up every ounce of energy you can muster without it ever showing any effect on them at all. They are 'takers', human vacuum cleaners, biological black holes, absorbing everything and returning nothing. Fortunately, like stellar black holes, these type of people are just about as rare.

But, they do exist, in every class and in every culture. You have to be smart enough to recognize when you are dealing with this type of person and back away. Their problems run much deeper than what may appear on the surface. They don't really want help. They want attention; all of it they can get. They don't care if you get wasted.

Trying to help one of these people is about as rewarding as teaching a pig to sing. It is a waste of your time and it really annoys the pig.

### *Significa*

Christine Jorgensen has had a relapse of cancer. The Editor met Ms. Jorgensen at the IFGE Convention in April. Those of you who may wish to send her a card or letter may do so by sending them

to her c/o Sr. Mary Elizabeth, J2CP Information Services, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693-0184

Happy Birthday Cross-Port ! 3 years old this past July!

Our empathy and moral support go out to Heather Pearson of Cross-Port who lost her job because she was in transition and her company did not know how to deal with her.

## Paula - The NewsQueen - Sinclair

What do you get when you cross an inveterate newspaper reader with a transvestite? *A news queen*. Hence, the new title of this column. But the change is only cosmetic. The column will still lack real substance; it will just be dressed up in a flashy, attractive package, much like some drag queens I know.

However, I also know, if only by reputation, drag queens who are people of *real* substance. Take Tina for example, the 42-year-old black female impersonator from Atlantic City who has opened her home to a three-year-old boy with AIDS.

"He's a fighter," Tina said of the child. "I call him my 'little trooper.' I know he's not going to live forever. I'm trying to build myself up for it, but it's something I can't do."

Tina's neighbors don't know that the child has AIDS, that's why she doesn't want her last name used. Her family in Philadelphia does know and hasn't been too supportive. Tina's sister no longer brings her children into Tina's house.

The boy contracted the disease from his natural mother who is an intravenous drug user. She abandoned the boy in an Atlantic City hotel room. A local government agency placed the boy with Tina after an extensive screening process. Now, Tina wants to take care of more children with AIDS, and she and her boyfriend of several years are looking for a house with four bedrooms.

♣ ♣ ♣

Tina and her boyfriend had better not look for a house in Kentucky; authorities in the Blue Grass State seem to be scared to death of AIDS and they don't particularly care for men who dress as women. Recently, police in Henderson, Ky. drove an injured transvestite across the state line and dumped him on the streets of

Evansville, Ind., because they feared he had AIDS.

The man, who told Evansville police that he went by the name Diane Lynn [REDACTED] apparently suffered an epileptic seizure in Henderson. When paramedics arrived to assist him and discovered he was crossdressed, they took him to Indiana rather than treat him and risk exposure to a virus they thought he may carry.

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The Henderson police are lucky that they didn't have a run-in with the drag queen that funk singer Rick James and a girl friend encountered in a Los Angeles club recently.

James and his date, who was described as a bleached blonde, were standing by the door of Insomnia when a tall, striking "girl" walked by. The blonde made a comment to the drag queen, probably unflattering, and soon both "ladies" were embroiled in an explicit shouting match. Perhaps seeing that she was losing the verbal battle, the blonde got into a karate crouch, announced that she held a black belt, and said "I can kill with these hands!" Rick, ever the gentleman, was heard to say to his date, "Go to it, girl. Kick butt." But it never came to that.

Hopefully, both Rick and his date learned a valuable lesson: Never start trading insults with a drag queen unless both Don Rickles and Joan Rivers are your ghost writers.

♣ ♣ ♣

A jury in Independence, Mo., did kick the butt of a surgeon who messed up the 1979 sex change for Davina Gabriel, 34. The Jackson County Circuit Court jury awarded her \$4,500 to pay for a new operation to correct a major mistake they said was made by plastic surgeon Dr. Robert Coleman. She sued for a bigger vagina.

Gabriel charged in her suit that

the vagina Coleman inserted in her was too small for satisfying sexual intercourse. She further charged that he did not counsel her as to the limitations of her new genitals. The result, she said, were four suicide attempts.

Coleman's attorney had argued that the surgical procedure was correct in every respect. He said that the real issue was Gabriel's psychological problems relating to her gender reassignment. He said she was trying to punish Coleman.

It does seem that the woman had problems, but they were not in her head.

♣ ♣ ♣

From Baltimore comes news of another botched surgical procedure. But it is unlikely that Barrington Silvera will try to sue anyone. You see, he cut off his own penis with a broken florescent light tube while being held in the county jail on drug charges.

Officials are still mystified as to why Silvera, 31, attempted the impromptu "sex change." All they know is that when they heard the breaking glass they rushed into his cell, but they were unable to prevent him from slashing off his penis. "He was lying there and his penis was lying 20 feet away," said Steve Bass, another inmate who witnessed the bizarre incident.

Deputies provided an ironic end to the incident when they rushed Silvera to the Johns Hopkins Medical Center for treatment. The medical center had been the scene for many planned sex change operations in the past.

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We all know that a tourniquet is often recommended to stop severe bleeding like Silvera probably suffered. Belts make good tourniquets. But the report from Baltimore doesn't say if deputies tried that technique. Maybe they didn't

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## Ask Angela

Dear Angela,  
 I have a heavy beard and no matter what I try, I just can't seem to get a close shave. What can I do? Hirsute in Horsham

Dear Hirsute,  
 I find that in order to achieve the extremely close shave required for successful crossdressing, it is important to get the nasty whiskers fully erect. Some people put very cold water on their face. For some this seems to get those little whiskers at attention. Others, who don't have to shave every day, let their beards grow in for two to three days. The whiskers have then all cleared the surface of the skin and can be mowed down readily without carving up your face like a Thanksgiving turkey.

A sure-fire way for getting the whiskers to stand tall is to take advantage of millions of years worth of reflex and instinct bred into everyone's epidermis. Go to your nearest video store. Rent *Friday The Thirteenth*, *Phantasm*, or *Bonzo Goes to College*. When the scary part makes your hair stand on end, be prepared to lather and scrape. If you don't have a VCR this method can be tricky since you have to wait for something scary on the Late Late Show or the Evening News. Good luck.

Dear Angela,  
 I am a heterosexual TV and people, men in particular, say I am very attractive. How do I deal with their sexual advances? Too Sexy in Secacus

Dear Too,  
 Our gay sisters will say, "What's to deal with?" Being straight, however, you do have a problem. One way to deal with this type of attention is to say "Thank you for your flattering attention, but I am not interested in sexual activity with men." Keep repeating this often enough and even the most persistent admirer will leave you alone. It helps to grind a spike heel into their foot as you repeat this, unless they enjoy this too much.

## On The Town

with Alison

No matter how good you look, how well you pass, or how callused you are to stares and snickers, it's always nice to find places of business in which you feel you are welcome. It would also be nice to be tolerated by the clientele.

This column will attempt to present a review of restaurants, bars, shops, and other places that have been found to be receptive and open to our business. To be included here, a business must be visited several times by members of our community to assure that the welcome is genuine and consistent. The overall goal is to provide a "TV's Guide" for the area served by Renaissance (PA, NJ, DE, NYC, & MD). Suggestions of businesses for review are welcomed and should be accompanied by comments (positive or negative) on how you were treated. As desired, your input will be given credit, or you can remain anonymous. The important thing is to share your experiences with your sisters so that we can expand the world in which we move.

## Soup & Quackers

DUCK SOUP CAFE, Philadelphia

An honest hamburger, good cheesecake and one of the best capucinos in town; and ladies we are welcome! Located in the heart of Center City on 12th street between Spruce and Locust, this cafe is frequented by many of the local gay community. Duck Soup is managed and staffed by some of the nicest and most polite fellows you would ever love to meet.

The dining area seats about 40, mostly four to a table with one row right by the sidewalk windows. The kitchen is open (for all to see) and relatively clean and neat. The menu covers burgers, hoagies and sandwiches in a wide selection (your basic burger is \$2.75). There are a variety of Italian dishes all at \$5.75 (I love the Chicken Parmesan!). They have "mawhvelous" cheesecake in New York, Cherry and Banana styles. Duck Soup is also a Take Out Deli. Beverages include beer and wine coolers.

Open 24 hours a day, 260 South 12th street, duck into Duck Soup for a comfortable welcome and good food.

## Hot Stuff!

*"If God had meant people to be thin, Sara Lee would have been a brick-layer!"*

☛ What's happen' this Fall? Last season clothes were short, tight and heavily decorated. Most women passed them by, sitting out the latest fashion "wave". Dressing this Fall doesn't rely on gimmicks. It takes its cues from the most subtle effect. Here is a look at the Fall lineup.

☛ Jackets are still on top (Ha, Ha). The difference is more ease (softer) in the shoulder lines. The brighter the color the more versatile the piece.

☛ Pants are the big focus for Fall designs. Every shape and size imaginable. Hi-waisted and checked is HOT right now. Pants with a jacket are the new daytime standard.

☛ Pants can help with figure flaws too. For a too thin frame (nobody who reads this newsletter, I'll bet) high waisted and tapered trousers can carve out curves. Heavy thighs are hidden beneath generous pleated pants. Extra full pants with a wide waistband can help cover a bulging tummy.

☛ Shoes take on a new look with the "Louis" heel, stacked and sculpted. The "Right" material for Fall is suede in deep green, wine and purple.

☛ Stockings stay deep and dark, as last season. Black stockings, almost opaque, put with black shoes are right for night.

☛ Daytime makeup for Fall 88 - hushed and subdued. Try this: Terra-cotta shadow in the lid crease, peach on the lid & browbone, skip liner on lower lids, finish with a soft brown mascara.

☛ Night-time sparkle - dust lids and lips with an opalescent white powder (like Diamonte from Borghese), apply a deep russet to lids, light brown in crease, blend a tawny gold into browbone, smudge a bit of black shadow on upper lashline, lengthen lashes with 2 or 3 coats of black mascara.

☛ See ya next month!

(© 1988 CDS & JSS Gender Forum)

## NewsQueen...from page 4

know where to put the tourniquet. Maybe they weren't wearing belts. Deputies in Chicago wouldn't have the latter problem because Sheriff Jim O'Grady recently ordered all deputies—male and female—to wear trousers. He also wants women deputies to wear men's undershirts.

The women in the department are none too happy with the change in uniforms. "We feel they want us to look just like men," one of them said of the decision by the department's leaders. "We don't want to look like men."

There was no public reaction from the male deputies. But it is a safe bet that some of them probably don't want to look like men either, at least not all of the time.

♣ ♣ ♣

It seems to me that the female Chicago deputies are out of touch with a recent fashion trend reported from New York City where stylish women are paying big bucks for men's underwear, especially boxer shorts. While the Big Apple baked in the summer heat wave, well-dressed women were seen on the streets wearing only T-shirts and boxer shorts.

The Calvin Klein company said that 20 to 25 percent of its cotton boxer shorts (at \$11 a pair) were being

bought by women during the peak of the fad. Another brisk seller was the Charvet brand from France. Bergdoff Goodman was selling them for \$60 a pair.

Because these are men's boxer shorts, truly impeccable women make one alteration before they wear them on the street; they sew up the fly.

♣ ♣ ♣

Of course, no one is saying that these women are transvestites. And they certainly aren't lesbians just because they wear male underwear. How do I know? Because Dear Abby told me so.

In a recent column, the advice maven answered a letter from a Pennsylvania woman who wrote that because she doesn't wear makeup or worry about her hair style or fashion "the way most women do," people think she is a lesbian. She writes that she is not a lesbian and, moreover, "I like myself just the way I am."

Abby's response, in essence was 'be yourself.' While in our society that advice is more easily followed by women, especially when it comes to makeup, etc., it is a tip worth heeding by all of us.

It's especially tough to be yourself when big city newspapers like the *New*

*York Post* take cheap shots at transvestites. Remember their screaming front page headlines about a New York State grant to Marriette Pathy Allen ("Tax \$\$\$ for Men in Dresses" or some such nonsense) several months ago? Renaissance, among many others, wrote to *Post* owner Peter Kalikow to complain. It does seem, however, that there is some justice in the world after all. Kalikow, concerned about declining revenues, replaced Managing Editor Frank DeVine with Jane Amsterdam. The story making the rounds is that because of DeVine's "sexsational" stories, the only people who bought the *Post* read it with their lips moving, not a group highly desired by advertisers.

Now we can't claim that the furor over the Allen grant got DeVine axed, but we are certain that in a small way our outrage added to the Kalikow's decision to change course.

And on that inspirational note, I'll leave and go wash the newspaper ink off my hands.

*While Miss Sinclair claims to read many newspapers each day, her eyes aren't what they used to be and she may miss a story or two. If you see an interesting article kindly clip it and send it to her in care of Renaissance.*

## The Scrapbook



(l to r) Alison Laing, Emily Shelton & Paula Sinclair



Beth & Rachel

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## Downey Show Draws Praise & Fire Letters Pour In. Majority Are Supportive.

Some members thought it was a mistake. Some members thought it was crazy and potentially self-destructive. But, the feedback from the July 5th Morton Downey, Jr. Show has proven otherwise.

The cards and letters that keep arriving at the office have nothing but praise for the "ladies" who braved Downey's scathing style. The majority of the letters are from closeted TVs who want more information about Renaissance and/or other groups in their area.

The flow of mail has been steady since the show went out on syndication. Here is a typical example;

*"This is only the second time I have viewed the show. I watched its debut when adult entertainment personalities...walked off." "How I admired the way you all held your poise, and how you patiently brought home your points. You are exceptional spokespersons, a tremendous improvement over what I have seen, from time to time, try to represent our community."*

J.D. West Hartford, CT.

While most of the many letters Renaissance has received in the wake of the show were effusive in their praise of the three girls, a few letters were critical, not of Angela, Paula and

Therese, but of the appearance as a whole. These critics said that because of the show's reputation and because of the hostile treatment the girls received, transvestites suffered a loss in reputation or worse. One critic said that the show would probably keep closeted crossdressers in the closet.

"We evaluated the request from Downey's staff very carefully before we even tentatively accepted it," said Paula who is the Director of Outreach and Public Affairs. "That analysis identified both the risks and the benefits of the appearance. We then viewed tapes of Downey's shows on related topics to make sure that we were prepared for whatever he would throw at us. It is interesting to note that the two or three areas where we thought we could be successful were the areas where we received most compliments from viewers."

Those areas were showing a strong sense of personal worth as a transvestite, the courage to face a hostile audience, and rational behavior. "We tried to direct our statements beyond the studio mob and speak directly to the viewing audience," Paula said. "And by doing so we said, 'We are okay; we like ourselves; a lot of people accept us just as we are.' Remember, despite all the anger and hate in the studio, one

women had the courage to stand up and say that she thought we were okay too."

Paula said that there was another incentive for doing the show. "Americans tend to support the underdog. By exposing ourselves to the Downey show, we clearly showed how irrational discrimination is when it is based on gender role or clothing. A lot of people, not all of them transvestites, have told us that the real kooks in the studio that night were in the audience."

Paula admits that the doing the show was a gamble, but that the six weeks of negotiations with the Downey producers tilted the odds in favor of Renaissance. For example, Renaissance was given veto power on any guest that the Downey staff wanted to have on the show. Paula said that is almost unheard of on the talk shows.

"But there was one more consideration," Paula said. "Downey would have done a show on transvestism even if we didn't cooperate. So we figured, and I'm not being egotistical, that the Renaissance girls would certainly be the best exemplars for transvestism you could find anywhere. So the big question was, 'If not us, then who?'"

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## Help...from front page

learns about them it fires off a letter to the appropriate media official. This does two things. It makes us feel better and it corrects inaccurate information. Once again, bring these to Paula's attention.

✓ **Archives**—We all know how difficult it is to find good information about the transgendered state. To remedy this problem, we have started The Renaissance Collection, an archives of all types of information re-

flecting the diversity of crossdressing, from psychiatry to erotica. Your help is needed in several ways:

**Donate material.** If you have books, articles, clippings or video tapes that you can spare (or can allow us to copy), please let Paula know. And also keep your eyes open for things that you can save to add to the growing collection. Did Dr. Ruth answer a letter from a transvestite? Clip it! Did a man wearing women's clothes rob a bank? Share

the story with us! Have you grown tired of a favorite erotic story? Send it!

**Manage the collection.** you don't need to be a librarian to take over The Renaissance Collection. All you need is a logical mind, a methodical manner some storage space. Interested? Once again, contact Paula.

Your help in these and other projects is really needed. To volunteer, call the contact person via the Renaissance phone.

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## SOS Groups...from front page

Most reported their sex life had improved and some even reported being "turned on" by the crossdressing.

The authors used a questionnaire and received responses from 70 spouses of transvestites. A most important finding was the value of S.O.S. groups. Fifty-nine percent of the respondents in a support group had positive feelings about crossdressing,

whereas only 39% of the women who were not in a group felt that way. Ninety-five percent of the wives in an S.O.S. felt that the groups were helpful. The significance of this result is that membership in an S.O.S. was an excellent predictor of whether or not a spouse had a positive attitude toward her husband's crossdressing.

The authors concluded that "Sup-

port groups may enable women to see that they can develop compromises with their husbands..." They also concluded that participation in an S.O.S. group strengthens self-esteem and helps a spouse to realize that crossdressing is only one facet of the husband's personality.

**Please Patronize These Advertisers**

## *Art & Illusion: A Guide To Crossdressing*

*by JoAnn Roberts*

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