

CANADA'S TRANSGENDER READER

MONARCH



FEATURES

Developing a Female Voice

Life in the Passing Lane

Man in a Dress

Divine Lake

Electrolysis

Upcoming Events

Immediate Vs. Delayed Surgery

Micheline's Party Guide

FALL 97 • ISSUE 46

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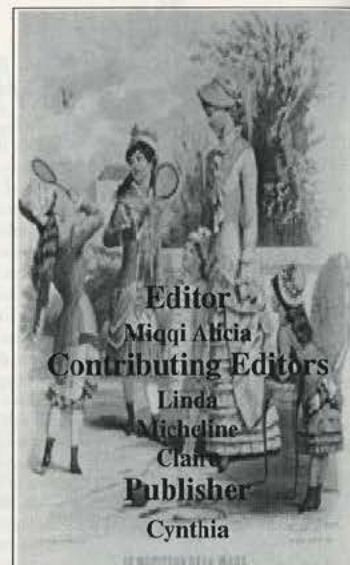
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The Cover

We are pleased to feature Jane Ellen who has just
undergone a major lung operation to remove a
binic tumor. Not to worry she is doing just fine
and is back home recovering.

EDITORIAL



It's a different world out there, and in no small part it's due to the electronic world.

"There are Theories"

Most of us have been cross dressing for quite some time. While it's changing, the average age of members of this club is well over 30, and mostly past 40. That this is changing is a wonderful thing. The internet, publicity, and our own meagre efforts are playing a role in making cross dressing and transsexuality something that is more well known, more recognized, less isolated. That's wonderful. There are university students who dress in their dorms and no one gets excited. It's just, "Hey, the guys are dressing tonight!" University Gay and Lesbian societies more often than not include the term 'transgendered' in their title. This makes young transgendered people feel accepted and recognized and provides them with support and understanding.

It's a different world out there, and in no small part it's due to the electronic world. The internet has provided a means for all sorts of minority groups to make contact and create a community. For me, the very first time I ever had contact, spoke, communicated with another cross dresser, was over the internet. I never looked back. I had discovered that I was not alone, that there were thousands of others like me, and that we were just beginning to mobilize and demand respect. Well, maybe in those days tolerance was enough.

But let me get back to my original line of thought.

I suggested that most of us have been at this for a good long time. And, one of the themes we regularly hear and buy into is that if only we were perfect, if only we were really and truly wholly integrated, if only our personalities were not so screwed up, then we wouldn't have to cross dress, or we wouldn't have this desire to be female, or we would be content and happy with being guys who were able to draw upon their feminine aspects. If you were really together you could access your female personality without having to stoop to wearing panties and brassieres. If only you really had it together.

Well, I'm here to tell you, sister, (and brother, if you're out there,) that that's a crock.

First of all, no one really has a clue why cross dressers of either sex are driven to wear the clothes of the opposite sex. There are numerous theories—Freudian, chemical, social, psychotherapeutic, accidental, or political. There are theories that have to do with your mother, your father, hormones or heredity. And none of them mean anything to the guy who, for reasons he cannot begin to understand, needs to wear women's clothing. None of them mean a thing to the female who is convinced "she" never ever fit the role that some doctor who looked between "her" legs decided "she" should have in life.

Secondly, and most importantly, there is no such thing as integration—it's a myth. We are not composed of various aspects waiting to be melded into one fine solid piece.

We play different roles in different places; we have different jobs to do in different situations. Sometimes you're a father, sometimes a son; sometimes you're a husband, sometimes a lover. Everyone calls upon these parts of themselves as they are needed. No one says that your fatherhood and sonhood should be integrated, because they cannot—they are different roles played by different parts of your personality.

Some of us are more gifted than others. In addition to the multitude of run of the mill aspects managed by most people, we lucky folks have extras. We have parts that emerge as the opposite gender, or, at least, as another gender. When we say that we ought to integrate them in such a way that cross dressing is unnecessary or becomes redundant or that we ought rise above it, then we are saying that it is all some character flaw that can be overcome like smoking or belching in public. But it's not like that because there's nothing wrong with it. We may not understand it—no one does. But we do know that it is harmless to those who do not find it threatening. It is harmless to those who do not have an enormous investment in the dichotomous gender system, to those who can see that there are many of us in each of us.

The young people (and, yes, I am integrating the beginning of this editorial with the end,) are the ones who will find the way. They are the ones who will walk across the gender divide and then come back. They are the ones who will place the myth of integration in perspective—we are a multitude of facets and there is no reason at all to believe or even imagine that if we "had it all together" it would all go away.

And I, for one, am thankful for that.

Miqqi Alicia Gilbert

IF ONLY WE WERE PERFECT

Mellissa

RAMBLINGS

Well, here we are the end of Summer. For some it has been the hiatus as the Summer heat lessens the urge to get dressed up in wigs, pantyhose and all that "stuff" that feels wonderful except when it is "bloody" hot out there! Nonetheless some of the Clubmembers hit the hot spots of Toronto during the Summer. I am told that one of the purposes of these excursions was to keep the fair citizens of Toronto in training for the fall when many of the Members return to the streets in all their finery. Naturally it was the shy-challenged members of the Club who undertook this task. Yeah, right!!!

The Pride Day in July was a grand success. Many members attended the Xpressions display table to talk to passersby and sell badges, magazines and T-Shirts. Talking of T-Shirts—anybody who wants a Transsexual Menace T-Shirt see Miqqi! She has become our official T-Shirt Custodian!

It was great to be part of the Pride Day celebration where we could all celebrate our differences and uniqueness amidst a crowd estimated at about 750,000 people. We can truly be proud to be who we are. Slowly but surely we don't have to hide our passion from the general populace. We have a long way to go, but each time one of us makes a step forward it makes the next person's path just that tinge easier. Rather than fretting about how much further we have to go to be totally accepted by society, let's pause occasionally and rejoice in how far we truly have come.

Divine Lake—a time and place to party without onlookers. I went! The scenery was incredible and the people outstanding, worth every penny.

Start thinking about the IFGE Convention in Toronto next March. It will an opportunity for this Club to shine internationally in the Transgender World. We

already have a fine reputation as a result of some of us going to such places as Provincetown for FanFair and to the Eric celebrations.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS—as in YOU. Don't wait to be asked, come forward and volunteer. True satisfaction comes from contributing. So forget about phrases like: "I would volunteer but..." Remember "but" only hinders one getting to one's goals. Pamela and her Committee troubadours have already got the wheels in motion. We wait for your call on the Club phone line [416] 410-6949 to volunteer. Phone now, don't wait until tomorrow—tomorrow never comes.

Remember things like Pride Day, Divine Lake, Pillar and Post, dinners, shopping trips, and The Monarch Reader just don't appear like magic. They appear due to the creativity and hard work of committed members of this Club. The hours put in by these members can only be truly appreciated if you get involved yourself. If you want the success of this Club to continue we need you to contribute no matter how large or small— it makes no difference— it is the act of contributing that is important.

SURPRISE! I went to Mosport last weekend to watch the car races and I found out that the trucks used to transport the race cars and all their equipment are larger than the truck I use to transport my crinolines! What is the world coming to?

Anyway, all for now. I love you all.

1

Charlady's Chatter



WE NEED VOLUNTEERS as in YOU.

Don't wait to be asked, come forward and volunteer.

"The Pride Day in July was a grand success."

"Start thinking about the IFGE Convention in Toronto next March."

SKIRTING THE ISSUES.

Also the club may reestablish the publication of a yearbook

HIGH(LOW)LIGHTS OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETINGS.

Though the weather begins to get cooler, things are heating up planning club activities. A successful summer of events, highlighted by Pride day and the Kirsch Clinic seminar, continues into the fall with Divine Lake weekend, Niela Millar seminars, and of course the monthly dinners.

Looking further into the future, there is Christmas dinner taking place in Toronto this year, and of course the IFGE '98 Convention in April. All this means your executive will be running their high heels off and working their perfectly coiffured and polished nails to the bone in the next few months. Not to worry though, your executive assures all members that it has brains behind all their beauty to carry off any challenges ahead.

Still, the executive will be looking for more than a few good girls to join their ranks in the new year, both to join the executive and help out at upcoming events. Don't be shy, any help at all will be appreciated.

Other going ons and discussions include the establishment of policy regarding the publishing of photos of club members in the X-files newsletter, and The Monarch Reader. It requires the club to get permission of a member to publish her photo by signing a waiver on the back of the photo.

Also the club may reestablish the publication of a yearbook so members can reflect on the past years' activities with the club, and have a guide to whos whos in the club. A godsend for people like myself who are terrible at remembering names.

That's all for now folks, see you at the summer dresses clearance sales.
Your (cute)Secretary,
Nancy



The Chatt Magazine

PERSONAL CONTACTS
FOR THE SEXUALLY ADVENTUROUS

For a sample copy send \$12.00 to:

CIT Communications
Box 128 - Station A
Mississauga CANADA
L5A 2Z7

Could you please update your ad if you have moved?

By Donna

Treasurers Report

A view of the Club from the treasurer's corner, indicates that the finances are in a very positive position.

The income for our club comes from a number of sources:

Advertising income (vendors buying ads in the newsletter & the Monarch),
Dining out (Club takes some revenue from the monthly dinners out),
Event Income (This is any income from events held, i.e. Pillar & Post, Divine Lake, etc.)
Interest Income (from the bank or other investments),
Magazine Sales (Sales in book stores, etc.)
Membership (fees)
Other Income (books sales, misc. Income)
T-Shirt Sales (Pride Day 'T-Shirt' sales)

The club's expenditures are from a number of directions too:

Advertising (Advertisements we place promoting membership),
Charitable donations
Dinner Expenses (subsidizing shortfalls in dining out expenses),
Event Expenses (expenses at events — Wine tours, make-up towels, membership badges, etc.)
Magazine Expenses (printing, envelopes, postage costs),
Newsletter Expenses (printing, envelopes, postage costs),
Sundry Expenses (postage, bank charges, etc.),
T-Shirts (purchased to sell at Pride Day),
Telephone Expenses (Telephone programmes, as approved by the board).

The Club operates on a fiscal year beginning November 1, 1996, through October 31, 1997. Revenues over this period have continued to grow, adding nicely to the positive side of the ledger. Our main contributor is membership fees, which have produced \$3841.60 to the end of July 97. The second income provider is monthly dinners, at \$759.48, and the third income provider is Advertising income at \$450.00.

Over the last year, expenses have been handled on a timely basis, given the positive position of our financials. The 'Monarch' magazine is still the club's largest expense running at \$-1632.59, year to date. This is followed closely by the monthly newsletter publication, cost of \$-987.78, bring the total these expenditures to \$-2620.37. The good news is that both these expenses are slowly being offset by magazine sales at \$185.00 and the advertising income of \$450.00, for a total of \$650.00. Though we have a way to go, this income of \$650.00 does reduce our publishing cost to: (\$2620.37 - \$650.00) \$-1985.37.

It may surprise some of you, but the 'Event income' category is in a negative position of (-\$51.65). Many of you thought we made a profit at Pillar & Post this spring, but this was not the case. Specifically, we took in \$1843.14 for P & P, but our expenses were \$-1888.84, giving a loss of (-\$45.70). Some of the unseen cost are: wine/beer and munchies in the hospitality suite, the D-J equipment, and of course the dinner expense at \$-1474.20. Alison Lang, one of the speakers at P & P in the spring, stayed in the hospitality suite, which was at no cost to the club, given the suite was part of the group package.

The Club is on the threshold of a fantastic opportunity, with the popularity of the Monarch magazine growing in the book stores. In addition, advertising income has grown through the year, as we have signed new advertisers, for both our Newsletter and the Monarch magazine. If managed properly, the day will come, when the 'Monarch' will be self-supporting and could become a major income producer for Xpressions.

Smalls



NoWay Out

A 27-year-old Taiwanese soldier and his 26-year-old transvestite boyfriend decided to commit suicide as both sets of parents were opposed to their relationship. Several suicide attempts involving plastic bags, drowning, hanging, and gas ovens all failed to do the trick. Eventually, they jumped from the 12th floor of the Samantha Hotel in Taipei, but crashed through the tin roof of a restaurant below, wrecking a lobster tank, and ending up on a banquet table. They were hospitalized with fractures.

[Fortean Times 92, Nov 1996]

TG Minister Defrocked

Cherokee Presbytery, in a special meeting, voted to remove the ordination of one of its ministers, Carla Pridgen. Carla's transgendered status was very much a part of the Presbytery's decision. Cherokee Presbytery is a part of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., and is located in the northwest corner of Georgia, covering roughly from Marietta to Ft. Oglethorpe.

This decision comes after a previous decision by Cherokee Presbytery to place Carla on the inactive roll of ministers was overturned by the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Synod of South Atlantic. It is anticipated that a similar appeal will be filed in this case.

[AEGIS News - 6/6/97]

Smalls...

NARTH Vader

The National Association for the Research, Treatment and Prevention of Homosexuality (NARTH) has favourably reviewed a new book on the use of the psychological definition of Gender Identity Disorder to treat pre-homosexual children.

The practice has been increasingly referred to by gender activists as Psychiatric Abuse of Gender-Variant Children (PAGC).

[AEGIS News 6/10/97]

Turkish TG Awarded

M2F Transsexual Demet Demir is the first person ever considered a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International because of sexual orientation. She will be one of 3 activists given the 1997 Felipa de Souza Award for exemplary service to their communities. The award will be given on June 2nd by the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC).

Ms. Demir is from Cihangir, a district of Istanbul, and has worked on behalf of gay men, lesbians, transvestites, transsexuals, and sex workers throughout Turkey. She has been imprisoned numerous times, tortured, had her home broken into and her telephone cables cut in efforts to silence her.

Ms. Demir was taken into custody again on July 12th, and again on July 22nd, hours after receiving her award when she intervened to stop a police beating of a young girl.

[AEGIS News 6/10/97 and 7/29/97]

Passing and Acceptance: are the two related?

I continually get questioned—what are you? TS, TV, TG etc. First, I find this question very intrusive as I find it no different than asking a stranger what their sexuality is, but more, I find it bothersome because I have yet to find a "label" to use when describing myself. I usually say, "I'm happy."

Although I've yet to find a label to use when explaining my orientation, I understand why people need to rely upon them. They offer comfort to someone trying to understand another's situation, but can also be used to ridicule a person or group of people. The bipolar gender system that is typically used to differentiate between genders is the framework that we must observe when out on the streets presenting as either a man or a woman, if we wish to blend into the public.

Acceptance—how important is this to our confidence and our ability to pass? The lessons that I have learned when out in public have taught me that acceptance is the utmost of importance. Not acceptance from the public, but acceptance of the transgendered person for who they are. A short time ago a friend and I were having a conversation on this subject and we noticed a woman walking along the street. My friend and I commented on how she was not blessed with beauty, (speaking of outward appearances only,) and our conversation centred around the fact that she was walking proud, head held high and with a grace and passion that spoke loudly of inner confidence. My friend said, "she passes and you look better than she ever will."

This prompted an evening of conversation. He was right, she was not attractive, but growing up she had obviously come to the conclusion that she is a good person who had something to give to society. She had worked through a process of accepting who she was and moving on with her life. If she hadn't I believe she would have never been able to walk in public, proud and making eye contact with those she passed. The question is, "why does she always pass and I pass only occasionally?"

The answer we came up with was that I had not fully accepted who I am. (Oh, please give me a label that fits) I thought more and more about this and decided I would dig deep inside and start the painful process of settling with my

orientation. I felt that only this way would I be able to interact with the public and be proud of who I am and where my life is going. Some of the questions I pondered were:

What am I? (with regard to my Tgism.) What are my goals? What do I want my progress to be this year, next year etc. Am I ashamed of what and who I am? Am I hurting myself by not coming to terms with my orientation? Am I hurting any of my loved ones by not coming to terms with my orientation? If I was free to take my Tgism wherever I wanted to go, what would I do with it? Do I see my Tgism as a strength or a weakness?

I started the process of acceptance and have come to really love who I am and where my life

By Lynn "Life in the Passing Lane"

*'Acceptance
how important is
this to our confidence
and our ability to
pass?'*

is heading. I find that I have no problems interacting in public, even when the people I encounter know I'm a TG. I just look at them with confidence and smile...9 times out of 10 their smile is more radiant. I have found that most of the time there is a problem when a TG is in public is when they are uncomfortable with themselves and they make the people they encounter nervous. As you are going through this process, take things slow and stay in your comfort zone. Don't try an outing to the Eatons Centre if you are nervous, maybe try an early evening walk in a safe location. You have the rest of your life to enjoy your orientation.

Is accepting yourself difficult? Incredibly tough, but it is the only way of moving forward and enjoying your gift.

As a child I learned a saying:

God, give me the serenity, to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can, and Wisdom to know the difference.

I invite you to ask yourself the above questions and think of more along the same lines. The answers may hold the keys to accepting who you are and start you on the pathway of confidence and the enjoyment of having the entire world as your new "closet."

[Mail to Lynn and The Passing Lane should be address to TMR at Out PO Box.]

Up Coming Events

10-11 October, 1997

Fall Fling '97
Providence, MA
Tiffany Club of New England
P.O. Box 2283
Woburn, MA 01888-0483
1-617-891-9325 (Tues. 7:30-10:30 pm)

16-19 October, 1997

Rainbow Spirit Convergence
Kindred Spirits
P.O. Box 18332
Asheville, NC 28814
Phone: (704) 253-9882

17-19 October, 1997

First Annual Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference
Constructions of the Human: Conflicts in Culture, Identity, Technology
California State University, Stanislaus Interdisciplinary Conference Committee English Department
c/o The Graduate Journal
California State University, Stanislaus 801 W. Monte Vista Avenue
Turlock, CA 95382 209-667-3361
Voice 209-667-3720 FAX
gradjou@toto.csustan.edu

19-26 October, 1997

Fantasia Fair
Provincetown, Cape Cod, MA
Registrar
P.O. Box 2734
Boston, MA 02208
617-522-6033
www.cowart.com/outreach

23-25 October, 1997

Lavender Law Conference
West Hollywood, CA
NLGLA Conference
1279 North Harper Avenue, Suite 3
Los Angeles, CA 90046
213-654-7449

24-26 October, 1997

Genders, Bodies, Borders

Graduate Student-Organized Conference
University of Michigan
Jayne London
Rackham School of Graduate Studies
172 Rackham
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1070
313-647-6341
jplondon@umich.edu

24-26 October, 1997

Reaching Out in the South
Natl. Youth Advocacy Coalition's 1997 Southern Regional Conference
GA State University Conference Center, Atlanta,
GA Reaching Out in the South c/o The Atlanta Gay/Straight Alliance
P.O. Box 3054 Decatur, GA 30031

30 October - 2 November, 1997

First International Transgender Film & Video Festival
Lux Cinema
Hoxton Square, London, UK
For further details contact
FITFVF, 36 Durlston Road, London E5 8RR
0101-806-8074 Voice
0101-880-0930 Fax
TGfilmfest@aol.com

1 November, 1997

Third Annual West Coast Conference on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues in Education:
Opening
Minds James Logan High School, Union City, CA GLSTN 121 West 27th Street, Ste. 804 New York, NY 10001 212-727-0135
http://www.glstn.org

6-8 November, 1997

Joint Meeting
The Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality and
American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors, and Sex Therapists
Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel Arlington VA write Joint AASECT/SSSS Meeting P.O. Box 240 Mount Vernon, IA 52314-0240 319-895-6407
319-895-6203 FAX

12-16 November, 1997

TransPositions: Toward Transgender Studies Cornell University

Smalls...

Rape Case

Christopher Wheatley, a 20-year-old F2M TS, has been convicted of 3rd degree rape in Franklin County Superior Court for having sex with a 15-year-old girl. He was sentenced to 27 months in prison on April 29th.

A local newspaper reported that the 15-year-old told police she believed Wheatley was a male and didn't realize he was using a strap-on penis until they had had sex several times. Seeing the newspaper story, another 15-year-old girl came forward to make similar allegations. Wheatley is currently imprisoned in Pasco awaiting prosecution on the second charge.

[AEGIS News 6/19/97]

Cross Circuits

Kymberleigh Richards, Systems Administrator for Cross Connection BBS was forced to shut down operations due to financial disputes with her phone company. The AEGIS News service, which was housed on the site, was moved to another server.

[AEGIS News 6/29/97]

Same Sex Marriages

While Washington and Colorado governors vetoed their state's respective same-sex marriage ban, other states are lining up to pass same-sex marriage bans, in the wake of the latest court rulings in Hawaii. To date, 25 states (AK, AZ, AR, DE, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, KS, ME, MN, MS, MI, MO, MT, NC, ND, OK, PA, SC, SD, TN, UT, VA) have passed bans, including 9 in the last year.

[AEGIS News 7/3/97]

Smalls...

Fashion Crimes

Paul Jones, a police officer and cross-dresser, was convicted of stealing a \$450 (US) dress in Palmerston North (Jones denies the charge, claiming that it would be impossible for him to get into the size 12 dress).

Jones has been suspended since February and the district commander, Superintendent Mark Lammas said that if Jones should be reinstated he would consider internal disciplinary action "Because I do not think male police officers should go out in public dressed as women. What they do in their own home is no one else's business, but going out in public does raise the issue of police credibility."

[AEGIS News 7/3/97]

Queen of De Nile

Kleo Patra (get it?), a 36-year old transvestite, says that she is the reincarnation of the ancient Egyptian queen. She's also Serbia's most popular fortune teller -- she reads fortunes for Serbian President's wife, and has her own half-hour television show every Sunday.

[Fortean Times 99, July 97]

Hair We Go

A very large person dressed as a woman, but thought to be a man was terrorizing the Partille suburb of Goteburg, Sweden, by cutting hair from the heads of young women and running away. The press called him the "sax maniac", "sax" being Swedish for "pair of scissors". He only struck late at night on holidays.

[Fortean Times 100, July 97]

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ruij8@cornell.edu
or W. Carter Smith
Department of Psychology
Uris Hall
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853, USA
wsc2@cornell.edu

22 November, 1997

Tranny Fest: Transgender & Transgenre Cinema
The Roxie Theater
San Francisco
584 Castro St., #273
San Francisco, CA 94114
415-552-4249
TrannyFest@aol.com

15-19 January, 1998

Holiday at Sea!
Round trip from Miami to CocoCay and Nassau, Bahamas
Brenda Cyrus
5111 Rogers Avenue, #551
Fort Smith, AR 72903
1-800-247-7021

20-22 February, 1998

True Spirit Conference '98
Best Western-Maryland Inn
Laurel MD
The American Boyz/True Spirit Conference '98
P.O. Box 1118
Elkton, MD 21922-1118
transman@netgsi.com

20-22 February, 1998

"Across the Fruited Plain"
The 1998 Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender College Conference
MBLGTCC-98 Program Committee OGLBC
(M/C 369) 1007 West Harrison St
4078 BSB Chicago, IL 60607-7140
Fax: 312-996-4688
e-mail: mblgtcc98@uic.edu

24-29 March, 1998

Crossing Borders
Toronto
IFGE
P.O. Box 229
Waltham, MA 0224-0229
781-899-2212
ifge@world.std.com

3-5 April, 1998

Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality
1998 Eastern Region
Twenty-first Annual Meeting The Future of Sexual Health: Education, Counseling, and Health Care: A Call to Action Boston, MA Jean
Levitani, Ph.D. Dept. of Community Health,
Wm. Paterson U. of NJ Wayne,
NJ 07470 973-720-2216 973-721-2215 FAX
levitanj@nebula.wilpaterson.edu

10-14 June, 1998

16th Annual Be All You Want to Be Weekend
Pittsburgh, PA
Be-All '98
P.O. Box 15237
Pittsburgh, PA 15230

19-21 June, 1998

Gender, Sexuality, and Law Conference
"Reflections: New Directions"
Keele University
Staffordshire, UK
GSL98 Conference
Department of Law
Keele University
Staffordshire ST5 5BG
England, UK
01782-593218
01782-593228 FAX
GSL98@keele.ac.uk

15-19 July, 1998

S.P.I.C.E.: Spouse/Partners International
Conference for Education
Atlanta, GA 510-235-7450 Pacific Time
918-343-1953 Central Time
215-860-9271 Eastern Time
melpeg@phoenix.net

6-9 August, 1998

World Pornography Conference
Universal City, CA
Dr. James Elias
Center for Sex Research
California State University, Northridge
18111 Nordoff Street
Northridge, CA 91330-8318
818-677-3844
818-677-2059 FAX
james.elias@csun.edu

30 September - 4 October, 1998

Southern Comfort Conference
Atlanta, GA
Southern Comfort Conference
P.O. Box 77591
Atlanta, GA 30357-1591
404-633-6470
sccatl@aol.com
http://members.aol.com/sccatl

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY RIDICULOUS

The Monty Python Lumberjack Song

Composers: Terry Jones, Michael Palin, & Fred Tomlinson
Authors: Terry Jones & Michael Palin
Arranger: Fred Tomlinson
Lead Singer: Michael Palin

BARBER:

I'm a lumberjack, and I'm okay.
I sleep all night and I work all day.

MOUNTIES:

He's a lumberjack, and he's okay.
He sleeps all night and he works all day.

BARBER:

I cut down trees. I eat my lunch.
I go to the lavatory.
On Wednesdays I go shoppin'
And have buttered scones for tea.

MOUNTIES:

He cuts down trees. He eats his lunch.
He goes to the lavatory.
On Wednesdays he goes shoppin'
And has buttered scones for tea.

He's a lumberjack, and he's okay.

He sleeps all night and he works all day.

BARBER:

I cut down trees. I skip and jump.
I like to press wild flowers.
I put on women's clothing
And hang around in bars.

MOUNTIES:

He cuts down trees. He skips and jumps.
He likes to press wild flowers.
He puts on women's clothing
And hangs around in bars?!

He's a lumberjack, and he's okay.

He sleeps all night and he works all day.

BARBER:

I cut down trees. I wear high heels,
Suspendies, and a bra.
I wish I'd been a girlie,
Just like my dear Papa.

MOUNTIES:

He cuts down trees. He wears high heels,
Suspendies, and a bra?!

[talking]

What's this? Wants to be a girlie? Oh, My!
And I thought you were so rugged! Poofier!

[singing]

He's a lumberjack, and he's okay.
He sleeps all night and he works all day.

He's a lumberjack, and he's okaaaaay.
He sleeps all night and he works all day.



"I'm starting to worry about you, Earl... Stalking sheep in that outfit is one thing, but wearing it around the house is just a little kinky."

Smalls...

Continued..... Hate Crimes Laws

The Nebraska, Louisiana, and Delaware legislatures all passed hate crime bills, following the recent surprise passage of Arizona's hate crimes measure.

The passage of these four measures crowned 1997 as a critical year in the movement to combat anti-gay bias violence. Not since 1990, when six states passed penalty enhancement laws, have so many states put anti-gay hate crime laws inclusive of anti-gay violence on the books. Arizona's measure has already been signed into law, and the governors of all the other three states are expected to sign their bills into law

[AEGIS News 7/3/97]

No Legal Protection in PA

The Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court ruled in June that a person discriminated against because of transsexual status is not protected by the state's Human Relations Act. The case was filed by Kristine Holt, a transgender woman who unsuccessfully ran for the rural Venango County Commission in 1995. While transitioning from male to female in 1992, Holt was fired for violating dress codes.

[AEGIS News 7/7/97]

Don't Call Him Michelle

The Advocate reported the latest Hollywood gossip on film director Michael Cimino. According to the report, for several months "Tinseltown insiders have been whispering that

Smalls...

Cimino plans to become a transsexual." Cimino told

Daily Variety—that he has no plans to swap genders.

According to Cimino, his "new look" is due to an 80-pound weight loss. But in the face of persisting rumours, syndicated gossip columnist Liz Smith reported, "Maybe some people got mixed up by seeing him all done up with dyed blond hair, pointy boots, outlandish outfits, and makeup."

[AEGIS News 7/11/97]

Finally, Some Useful Information!

The official US Department of Labor Occupational Code for Female Impersonator is:

Female Impersonator (amuse. & rec.) 159.047-018
Try putting that on your unemployment application.

[AEGIS News 7/12/97]

Kiwis Axe Sex-Change Funding

The New Zealand Herald ran a story about a transsexual devastated after public funding of SRS was withdrawn. The 50-year-old patient cannot afford to privately fund the surgery, which has been classified as "cosmetic" by the New Zealand health officials.

[AEGIS News 7/12/97]

"Appalling" TG Government Worker

US Representative Cliff Stearns sent a letter to the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives to request that "steps be taken" regarding a transgendered government employee working as female. In his letter, Stearns ignores all

The sole remaining all-female college at Cambridge University has broken 126 years of tradition by admitting to its fellowship a woman who started life as a man.

The decision to admit Dr Rachel Padman, 43, as a Fellow of Newnham College has caused discord among senior academics, including Germaine Greer, the leading feminist who is a member of the college's governing body.

Although Dr Padman, a physicist specialising in star formation, underwent a sex-change operation to become a woman in 1982, legally she remains a man. According to the statutes of the college, which was founded in 1871, all fellows must be women.

Although Dr Padman advised Dr Onora O'Neill, Newnham's Principal, of her past before taking up her fellowship last October, news is only now beginning to circulate in the college. The issue has caused disharmony and brought distress to Dr Padman, who is a committed and well liked teacher.

Dr Greer, who admires Dr Padman's work, is horrified that she has been admitted as a fellow because of the apparent breach of college statutes. "We have driven a coach and horses through our statutes and I can't believe we did it. It's disgraceful that Dr Padman has been placed in this situation. It makes me very angry," she said.

Although Dr Greer regards sex-change operations as mutilations, her opposition is based on principles not personality, she said. "I like Dr Padman. We all know she is a distinguished physicist, but what is the point of having clear statutes if we just ignore them? We should have answered these questions before her appointment. We have to be true to the spirit of the original bequest to the college as a women's college for women."

Dr Greer said her position was supported by a number of senior colleagues. "Our position is not that Dr Padman should resign but that she should never have been placed in this situation in the first place. The dignity of the college is marred by this unfortunate event."

She added that many members of the governing body, which includes all fellows, were unaware of Dr Padman's change of sex. "Dr Padman's past was kept secret from us on the governing body. We were told by people outside the college making fun of Newnham and, frankly, we feel we have been made monkeys of." Dr Greer, whose first instinct was to resign, is now considering calling an emergency meeting of the governing body to discuss the matter.

Dr O'Neill, who became Principal in 1992, declined to discuss the legality of Dr Padman's appointment. "I am not a lawyer."

by Emma

Fellow who had sex change divides all-women college

she said. Dr Padman's status was known to senior staff who wholeheartedly support her, Dr O'Neill said. "Dr Padman's change of state is ancient history. Furthermore it is not secret, covert or unknown among colleagues. Naturally, there will be some colleagues who know more and some who know less. I continue to give all the fellows my full support," she said.

Dr Padman, who, like Dr Greer, was born in Australia, said she would consider resigning if colleagues were unhappy with her position at the college. "If I thought there were any significant number of women in the college who were, despite what I perceived, unhappy about me being there because of my past, then I would resign. Obviously, I don't want to go because it would be losing something I love. It is an exhilarating feeling being surrounded by clever and intelligent women," she said. Dr Padman was initially reluctant to join Newnham because of her operation and rejected the first letter of approach from Dr O'Neill.

"I wrote back to her saying that there was this in my past and that I wouldn't want to bring the college's name into disrepute. I said I didn't think me joining was a good idea," she said.

Dr O'Neill replied saying she was already aware of Dr Padman's sex change and again inviting her to join the college. Last October Dr Padman, who studied as a man at St John's College for her PhD in 1977, took part in a ceremony at the Principal's Lodge admitting her to the Fellowship. She swore an oath promising to uphold Newnham's best interests.

Dr Greer said that one way to resolve the situation could be for Newnham to vote to admit men as fellows. The last time the issue was debated in 1990, it was rejected by a small majority.

Continued on page 25....

By Miqqi Alicia

CD Giggles

First, exciting news on the dressing front—Miqqi Alicia got contact lenses! Now I only have to wear reading glasses, and most of the time nothing. Can even read my computer screen since I like to keep it far away. Wait! I put on eye makeup the first time!

But wait—that's not the funny part. I had to watch a little video to learn the basics of handling my new lenses. Since rule number One is keeping your lenses clean and free from grease, the video very carefully told women to put lenses in before their makeup went on. Great suggestion. But now I'm sitting there wondering how you put makeup on when you have no close vision. I mean, I wear glasses for a reason, right? I'm blind without them, but with the lenses I lose my close vision. When the Doc returned I asked him about it. He said, "That's only a problem for women cause they wear makeup." Me, after a little ahem: "I sometimes wear makeup." Doc: "Oh, then you'll need a magnifying mirror." Looked in one when I got home—it works great.

Second giggle: My dear friend (and sometime TMR contributor) Diane from Boston came up to visit last weekend. We went out to Southern Accents for drinks, then to El Convento Rico II for drinks and people watching. We parked on Church and did the Boytown Stroll to show Di just what it was like. Then, walking from Church along Dundonald to the bar, a car cruised up and some jerk started badmouthing us. I guess it took me a moment to realise we were the targets, but when I did, that street suddenly seemed very dark and isolated. Then I registered a crack about looking like Aunt Jane, then another one about it being too early for Fall colours.

I was too scared for it to really sink in but when we got to the bar Di and I looked at each other and said, Fall colours? What kind of harasser is that? We then imagined his red neck buddy looking at him and saying, "Hey! Rocco! Whadda you know about Fall colours????! There sumfin you ain't tellin' me?"

1

Truly You Wig Boutique

Amalia Ruggiero, Certified Wig Technician & Image Consultant
(905) 821-1092.

Winchester Place
154 Queen St. South Unit 112
Mississauga, On.
L5M 2P4

At Truly You Wig Boutique, we provide the ultimate level of professional service. Over time we learned to be very sensitive to everybody's own particular personal needs. Henceforth, we provide our services in private rooms in complete privacy and comfort. Unlike other places where you are left alone to choose your wig, we sit you down and together select the style, colour and fit that is right for you and provide you with various wig maintenance hints.



Smalls...

issues of gender identity, and criticizes the activity as taking the right to free expression too far.

Stearns refers to the employee's mode of dress as "particularly appalling", even though he has been assured that the employee's performance has not been negatively affected by the transition.

[AEGIS News 7/23/97]

Proud of Toronto Pride?

Brenda Walsh of Peterborough, Ontario wrote a letter The Examiner publicly demanding an answer from police and politicians "as to why charges were not laid when laws were being broken under the guise of a sexually revolting parade in Toronto run by gays."

In her letter, Walsh questioned why "men have to dress up as women", and lamented: "Why can they not just walk down the street as normally dressed people carrying signs stating what their cause is?"

[AEGIS News 7/24/97]

One for Our Side

On July 28th, the Evanston City Council made history as Evanston became the first city in Illinois to extend human rights protection to their transgendered residents and visitors. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the ordinance, which adds transgendered individuals as a protected class to their Human Rights Ordinance. This ordinance prohibits discrimination in employment, public accommodation and housing.

[AEGIS News 7/29/97]

Smalls...

Here and NOW!

After three years of ongoing debate and a final four days of intense dialog, the National Organization for Women (NOW) passed a transgender inclusion resolution at its National Conference. The measure's success owed a great deal to the personal support of NOW President Patricia Ireland — who had arranged for GenderPAC's Executive Director, Riki Anne Wilchins, to address NOW's National Board.

[AEGIS News 8/1/97]

We Crossdress... and We Vote, Too!

Campaigning on a platform of diversity and change, 30-year-old African-American transsexual, Sharon Franklin Brown, has announced her plans to run for City Council in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Brown said she became involved with the City Council in March, when Councilman Mark McBride was quoted as saying, "We don't want this garbage on the Boulevard" and "I don't want to end up seeing transvestites and drag queens and people being led around on leashes in dog collars" in reference to a gay bar opening in Myrtle Beach's Pavilion area.

[AEGIS News 8/15/97]

Proud in Ottawa, But Not in London

The gay rainbow flag flew over Ottawa, Ontario, City Hall July 13 to mark pride-week festivities. About 8,000 people marched in the annual parade.

I stopped at a sandwich shop on my way home Tuesday. There was a tall woman (even taller than I) standing outside. Inside a small elderly woman was asking a cop to walk her to her bus stop because "that woman outside was waiting for her." The cop laughed, and told her that was no woman. She said she knew that; she'd noticed when she'd stood up to leave.

Well, several of the folks in the shop were laughing, but just a little, as if they were nervous or it was the thing to do. My turn to order came along and they were out of what I wanted, so I left. As I was unlocking my bike across the street the elderly woman came up to me and asked me to talk to her as if we were friends. I was surprised, I'd never seen her before that day.

We talked for a little while, and when she confessed to me too that she was afraid of "that" woman, I asked her why? She said that they had been inside at the same time, eating, and had even smiled at each other when their eyes met. But she was afraid, because when the other woman had stood up to leave she had noticed for the first time how tall she was, and then realized that this was no woman. Now she was frightened because she'd noticed, and thought that the tall woman would come after her. (Perhaps to silence her? Who knows why?)

Well, I'm a little over 5'10," was dressed in jeans and sneakers, no makeup, just a small pair of loop earrings, and riding

a bike. Yet she came to me for protection from the big bad transsexual or cross-dresser. I tried for a while to make her see reason. I said that a man out dressed as a woman probably wants to be understood to be a woman, and so would not go looking for a fight, but would avoid one. She wasn't too reassured, so I walked her to her bus stop myself, thinking how ironic it was that the person she looked to for help in this situation was another transsexual. And even more, that I was the only one to humour her and help (not that I believed she had anything to fear.)

Before the woman and I had gotten very far along, a car stopped and the tall (dangerous) woman got in. I pointed this out, and my frightened companion was a little relieved that she hadn't been waiting for her after all.

It had crossed my mind a couple of times to tell her about myself, but I didn't. I didn't want to confuse things. She'd been quite understanding about the other woman, just frightened. What a little irony.

Little Ironies

By Sage

by Katherine Maurer Staff Writer

IMMEDIATE VS. DELAYED SURGERY

Genital Ambiguity Brings New Debate
Clinical Psychiatry News 1997, 1.

"It's easier to dig a hole than build a pole." That simple and crude adage has informed medicine's approach to children born with ambiguous genitalia for almost 50 years. But whereas physicians once hurried to construct a vagina because it was easier to construct than a penis, today investigators as well as the survivors of such surgeries challenge the need for immediate intervention. Infants are not sexual blank slates upon which physicians and families can impose any gender, they argue, and any intervention should be delayed until the child can decide. Much of the renewed attention to this issue has been sparked by the case of "John," whose penis was destroyed accidentally at age 8 months in the late 1960s. Early reports in the literature trumpeted the child's transition from John to Joan.

A follow-up report this year, however, questions that finding. At age 14, Joan decided she was a boy and began living as one. John, now in his thirties, is married, but unable to father children due to his castration. Parents and children born with ambiguous genitalia should be offered "appropriate and periodic long-term counseling, rather than

[be rushed] to immediate surgery and sex reassignment," conclude Milton Diamond, Ph.D., and Dr. H. Keith Sigmundson, authors of the follow-up report (Arch. Pediatr. Adolesc. Med. 151:298-304, 1997).

"What doctors and parents are doing, when they are doing surgery, is depriving the kid of sensitive genitals... Parents put pressure on physicians. They want a child to look normal. They are solving a short-term problem and leaving a long-term one," Dr. Diamond, professor of anatomy and reproductive biology at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine, told this newspaper.

Dr. Sigmundson, a psychiatrist at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, suggested that physicians who are unsure of an infant's sex not do anything immediately. "Raise the child in an ambiguous manner and then the individual will be given the opportunity to gravitate toward particular things, either masculine or feminine."

That approach also is advocated by the San Francisco based Intersex Society of North America, a support group for intersex individuals, many of whom have had genital surgery. "No surgery should be performed unless it is absolutely necessary for the physical health and comfort of the intersexed child," ISNA concluded in its treatment guidelines. It considers "any surgery that does not meet these criteria to be essentially elective cosmetic surgery which should be deferred." "Surgery does not make anything better," Cheryl Chase, founder of ISNA, said in an interview.



Smalls...

Gays also marched in London, Ontario — but many of the 1,500 participants were rankled that Mayor Dianne Haskett refused to proclaim pride week.

Activists have filed suit in the matter and a provincial Human Rights Commission tribunal will hear the case on Aug. 6.

"She's not acknowledging that we're part of the community," said a spokesman for the pride organizers.

[AEGIS News 8/19/97]

And Not So Great In Alberta, Either

A lesbian woman is suing the province of Alberta over its new foster-parent gay ban.

The Department of Social Services implemented the policy because a child's fostering experience should not create tension with his or her peers, a spokesperson said.

The woman who is suing will be permitted to keep her current foster-children. She has foster-parented more than 70 kids.

[AEGIS News 8/19/97]

Holiday En Femme

The Holiday En Femme, which was to have been held in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, November 12-16, 1997, has been canceled. The Board of Directors of Tri-Ess International reached this decision in early August after unspecified circumstances arose that precluded offering the event as originally planned.

[AEGIS News 8/22/97]



Smalls...

The "Other" Toronto Film Festival

A transsexual and transgender film/video festival was held at Toronto's Buddies in Bad Times Theatre on Friday September 12th.

[TGC-L 9/11/97]

She Sure Plays a Mean Pinball

In an Advocate (9/30/97) article titled "Pinball Machines with a Twist," the magazine says "Michael Brown has made some of the toughest pinball wizards in the world 'go girl'. Brown is creator of Go Girl!, a drag-themed pinball game that puts players in high heels, wig, and makeup while they take shots at Senator Jesse Helms and the Reverend Fred Phelps."

The article goes on to describe how the game "literally puts players in drag. The player must stand in high heels at the base of the machine, allowing a camera to capture a graphic image of the player's face." The player then selects a wig and makeup styles for the video image.

[AEGIS News 9/11/97]

Man with a Womb

Mohammed was found to a uterus and ovaries while doctors in the northern Indian city of Meenat operated on him to remove a tumor in his stomach. The Hindustan Times quoted hospital gynecologist Dr. Vinita Agarwal as saying that the uterus was fully developed and could sustain pregnancy.

While we all celebrated Pride Month, there was a person here in San Antonio who sat stuck in the closet. It wasn't her choice to be there, she was ordered by her commander to either stay in the closet (under virtual house arrest) or appear in public cross dressed as a male. To "preserve the good image of the military," etc., etc., the [U.S.] military has ordered a legally recognized female to cross dress!

She is fighting her fight to be herself with very little support from our community and against all odds. She's treading in such new territory that even her civilian attorney is almost completely baffled by her successes doing battle with "the system."

Her commander has denied her request to vote (twice) - unless she cross dresses as a male. Her commander has denied her request to attend church - unless she cross dresses as a male. Her commander has denied her request to participate in the local PTA (she's the vice president) - unless she cross dresses as a male. Her commander has denied her request to participate in the education of her children - unless she cross dresses as a male. In fact, she can't even go to the grocery store - unless she cross dresses as a male.

The military went on a "witch hunt" violating her rights. They interviewed her neighbors; they interviewed her pastor; they sent her for three psychiatric evaluations; they sent her to a discharge physical without informing her of its nature; they gave her two Article 15s, demoted her (subsequently suspended on appeal), and fined her \$300. And they violated "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" by asking her neighbor if she was gay, and then pursuing it by asking if men frequently visited her (you can try to figure out the logic of that question). Her commander even tried to get the State of Texas to investigate her suitability as a single parent.

By all public and private records except one, she is female. The Texas courts ordered an amendment of gender marker; the State of Pennsylvania issued her a new birth certificate with her correct gender; Texas DPS gave her a new driver's license; she has a new voters registration card; the Social Security Administration amended their records and gave her a new Social Security card; and all her personal records reflect her female gender. Military psychiatrists have cleared her

for worldwide duty (as a woman) and access to classified information. They also said that her commander's actions had resulted in a diagnosis of gender identity disorder (GID). Even her military

medical records reflect a female gender, and medical authorities see a need for continuing assistance for her complete transition. She also wears the smaller insignia designated for women on her BDUs (unisex battle dress uniform except for size of insignia). The insignia were issued to her by her Orderly Room personnel.

The only remaining record in the world with a masculine gender marker is her master personnel file. It seems despite all evidence and medical research to the contrary, the Military Personnel Headquarters alone classifies one's gender by the sole criteria, "if you have one, you are one." She attempted to appeal to the Social Actions office (military equivalent of EEOC) citing a long litany of military gender bias abuses of her legal status as a female, but the five sided puzzle palace (AKA: Pentagon) won't touch her case, even though they did determine that discrimination has occurred. It's all because she is in military gender limbo, neither recognized completely as female nor male. She's in the proverbial "Catch 22," because if she has genital reconstructive surgery then it constitutes "mutilation of the genitalia" and is grounds for declaration of unsuitability for military service, in other words, "if you get rid of it, we get rid of you." And by not having surgery she is mired in the military personnel system of gender limbo.

So she lives in forced social exile in her "gulag closet" created by the military. However, she is redefining gender in the military. She's a hero in our lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered struggle for equal rights and fair treatment. ♀

by Tere Frederickson, Major, USAF (Ret.)

US Military Creates Gender Limbo

By Mivhelle

Micheline's Party Guide

MICHELINIE'S PARTY GUIDE - PART TWO
LA BELLE PROVINCE

Bars in Montreal

On Saint-Catherine, between Saint-Laurent and the building of Radio-Canada (between 1 Saint-Catherine East and 1800 Saint Catherine East), there are dozens of gay bars, gay hotels, gay restaurants, gays saunas and so on. You may go anywhere and you always find gay peoples and gay activities. People are very friendly.

Cleopatre Telephone : (514) 871-8061
1230 Saint-Laurent, 2nd floor, Montreal
A very nice place for female impersonators shows and for dancing every night.
You must go there.

Entre-peau (Cabaret l'Entre-peau)
Telephone : (514) 525 7566
1115 Sainte-Catherine East, Montreal
Certainly the finest place for female impersonators shows in Montreal and for dancing.
You must go there at least one or two times.

Bar K.O.X. Telephone : (514) 523-0064
1450 Saint-Catherine East, Montreal
One of the biggest gay bar in Montreal.
If you wish to meet a lot of people, it is one of the finest place. This is also the place for cruising and for dancing

Bars in Quebec City

Le Drague Telephone : (418) 649-7212
815 Saint-Augustin, Quebec city
The biggest gay bar in Quebec city.
If you wish to meet a lot of people, it is the finest place. This is also the place for cruising and a little bit for dancing.

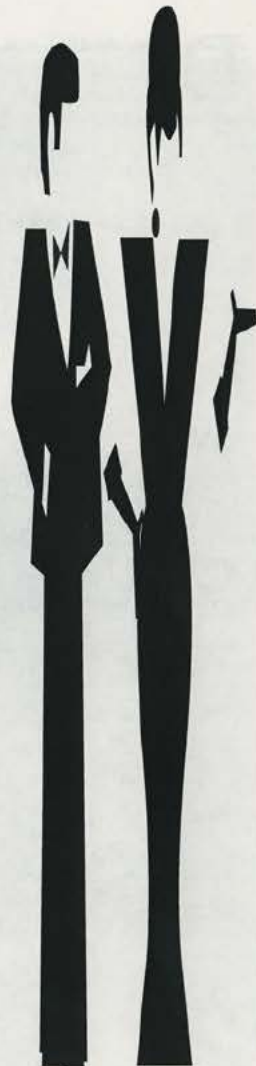
Cafe l'Amour Sorcier Telephone :
(418) 523-3395
789 Cote Sainte-Genevieve, Quebec city
The bar for lesbians in Quebec city.
It is friendly and quiet. A nice place for taking a little rest and talking gently with people around you.

Le Ballon Rouge Telephone :
(418) 647-9227
811 Saint-Jean, Quebec city
The finest gay bar in Quebec city for dancing. If you wish to meet a lot of people, it is a very fine place. This is also the place for cruising and chatting in one of the numerous rooms. From time to time, you will meet there some cross dressers.

Bar Male Telephone : (418) 523-8279
698 d'Aiguillon, Quebec city
The gay bar in Quebec city for cruising, dancing and chatting between "real" men.
No crossdressers there and a lot of persons dressed with leather.

Maurice Night Club Telephone :
(418) 640-0711
575 Grande Allee East, Quebec city
The top high class bar in Quebec city for cruising and dancing. You must be well dressed and this is not a gay bar even if there are a lot of gay men there and some crossdressers.

Studio 157 Telephone (418) 529-9958
157 chemin Sainte-Foy, Quebec city
The best gay bar in Quebec city for meeting crossdressers and to see female impersonators shows on every day except on Monday and Saturday. It is also a good place for dancing between shows and for cruising and chatting.
You will often meet some crossdressers.



Divine 97 was a Dynamite Weekend

Divine lake 1997, was a dynamite weekend. The weather was incredible (78 degrees on the Saturday), the service great, the food and company wonderful! The fall colours were not quite as far along this year.

A few of us went up Thursday night, but most of the girls arrived Friday. On arrival the girls dressed quickly and found the party. At 7:00 p.m. everyone gathered in the main lodge lounge for cocktails and then went into the dining

room for dinner. After dinner everyone mixed and mingled. A few of the girls hung in and closed the bar. We're talking late here! This bar doesn't close easily. After breakfast on Saturday,

some of the girls walked the wooded trails, others visited with each other, some bicycled, some canoed in the lake, while still others tested various beverages (so to speak). A few of the girls drove up to Divine Lake just for

out for sales. Some of the girls set forth with a whole new hair piece and look, while others took advantage of 'Miss-Magic-Fingers's talent with hair. Wow! She is something else when it comes to hair! I have battled for 20 minutes with a wig and at the end, it was worse than when I started. Along comes 'Miss-Magic-Fingers' and in 5 minutes the damn wig is talking to her. A few minutes later, she's finished and I'm not even sure it's the same wig she started with. We are talking talent!

After a quick change of outfits and a little powdering of noses, we all gathered in the main lodge lounge for the pre-dinner cocktails, at 6:30 pm. Cynthia and I did the evening gown routine, everyone looked dazzling.

Dinner was superb and the girls gathered in the lounge afterwards, to chat. Karaoke was a hoot and I think just about everyone tried it too. Again, a number of us closed the bar. Wow!

Sunday morning was difficult for some (really tough for a few), but most made breakfast. A couple of us were dressed 'le-femme', but most arrived 'drab'. It's always fun to see the staff react to all these strange men. They can never tell who is who. This is entertainment in itself!

If you were not at Divine Lake this year, you missed another great weekend, with Xpressions! Don't miss 1998: put it on your calendar today!

1

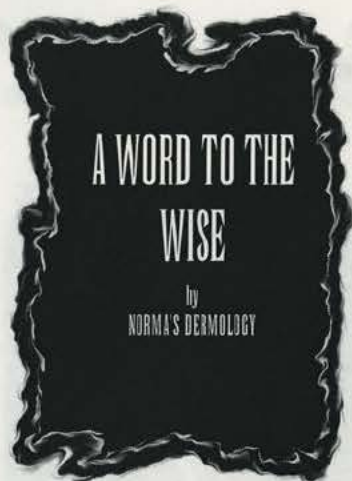


due to the extended warmer weather, which no one complained about. Some of the trees that had turned colour were beautiful.

room for dinner. After dinner everyone mixed and mingled. A few of the girls hung in and closed the bar. We're talking late here! This bar doesn't close easily. After breakfast on Saturday,

the day and everyone met at 3:00 pm in our cabin, where Deborah and I hosted the club cocktail party. Again we tested various beverages. Deborah had a number of wigs with her and put them





A WORD TO THE WISE

by
NORMA'S DERMATOLOGY

Electrolysis is the only medically proven method of permanent hair removal. Even lasers, which are only 3 years old, are considered "experimental." They are so far unable to medically prove performance. The primary problems are that multiple treatments are required and the hair is not destroyed, it is reduced to "peach fuzz." One must also remove the condition for growth, specifically testosterone, or the original condition of the hair will return over time. Electrolysis has, on the other hand, been in use since 1875 and has been proven effective in the hands of a trained professional.

Electrolysis works by applying a mild electrical current to the root of the hair. There are only two types of electrical current—alternating [AC] and direct [DC]. There are a wide variety of names associated with electrolysis—thermolysis, high frequency, kree, oscillating, short wave, Gregory... they go on and on. These are not other electrolysis methods, just other ways of expressing one or the other currents used. Terms such as Ultra Soft, Kree, Gregory are not methods they are electrolysis machines. Under the laws of physics there exists only two electrical currents, alternating, direct and a blend of the two... that's it. These other names are just clever marketing so don't be taken in.

An alternating current produces heat in the hair follicle, effectively killing it by literally cooking it. This method, commonly called thermolysis, shortwave or high frequency, appears to have faster results. True—in the short term. This method is more uncomfortable and has the disadvantage of higher regrowth, therefore longer overall treatment time.

Direct current, commonly called the galvanic method, produces a chemical reaction in the skin. Since it has an adjustable intensity level it is less uncomfortable, a definite plus for sensitive skin, but the probe must remain in place longer. This gives the appearance of being slower which is why many professionals use a multi-needle machine to make the best use of treatment time. There is less regrowth, virtually NO chance of scarring in the hands of a skilled professional and generally a higher satisfaction level.

There is a third method, called "the blend," which is a combination of the two currents. The heat caused with the alternating current acts as a catalyst for the chemical reaction. This is not as effective as galvanic alone as the probe is not in place as long, thereby less of the chemical is produced. It is also more uncomfortable. Short term results do appear greater but there is more regrowth than with direct current alone.

Your electrolysis should be able to explain all this to you, thoroughly and simply with photos. You should be given a free consultation and a realistic estimation of what you should expect. A beard area, for example, depending on the density [amount of

hair per square inch] and coarseness takes 150 to 300 treatment hours and can only be accurately appraised by your electrolysis during your consultation. If you are still getting regrowth after 40 treatment hours you will probably want to re-evaluate

your electrolysis. You should also be given precise after treatment instructions. These should be written and specific to electrolysis and your skin type plus must be at least a THREE STEP process. The products indicated should be formulated just for

skin that has had electrolysis. This is mandatory for proper skin care. If you are not getting these instructions feel free to contact me. [ah541@hwn.org].

IN THE NEXT EDITION

How does it feel? How will I look immediately after... for how long? Is it really permanent? Can it be done on any hair? What kind of skin care?

BIO

Over 10 years working with the transgender community

Certificates

Electrolysis [Clinical and Professional] Esthetics [skin care, esp after electrolysis] Nail Care [hand and foot] Aromatherapy Colour and Style Analyst Makeup Application Specialist

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by Veronica Vera

Miss Vera's Finishing School

For Boys Who Want To Be Girls (tips from her Academy Online)

From the time I created Miss Vera's Finishing School for Boys Who Want to Be Girls, the world's first male to female crossdressing academy, my Princess phone began to ring off the hook. At the other ends of the lines were the often nervous, usually husky, sometimes breathy, mostly polite and always excited voices of the men—the Stephanies and Jennifers, Denises, Melissas and JoAnns—prospective students like you, all of whom wanted to explore what they felt as their feminine side. They felt her like children feel an imaginary friend. Often, she had been with them since childhood. Some could look in the mirror and see her in their eyes.

In reading about the academy they felt they had found someone who believed in her too. Most callers asked me if the school was for real. Could I actually help them to "pass" as female? When I answered, "yes," it was as if someone had confirmed the existence of Santa Claus, or as I prefer to think of myself, Cinderella's fairy godmother.

I quickly felt myself riding the crest of success, uplifted on the broad shoulders of a sea of grateful men in skirts. Not only had I put my well manicured finger on the pulse of every crossdresser's dream, but I had tapped into the rich mother lode of the male psyche.

Crossdressers are not atypical. They are simply the most obvious reflection of a longing that I believe is common to all men. My students are a bold avant garde that represent the other men's movement. You may have heard of the "Iron Johns," well meet the iron butterflies.

When women felt the need to share more in the male experience, to move from the home to the workplace, from the bedroom to the boardroom, to be financially independent and sexually autonomous, we created the women's movement. Men, too, have a need for balance in their lives, to share more in what from their points of view are the most desirable aspects of the female experience. They too want to be pampered and protected, to be glamorous and sexually irresistible, and, yes, even to do

housework—many of the "privileges" that we women saw as confining. For every woman who burned her bra, there is a man ready to wear one.

Here are some of the questions asked most often by students:

Why do I feel this way?

Your femmeself is there for a reason. She is the personification of your needs. She is the uninhibited part of you. The more you nourish her and let her be your guide, the more you will learn about yourself. At the academy, we believe by putting the clothes in your closet and letting the girl out, we can help you to be a happier, healthier, and more loving human being.

Do you have many students?

What you are really asking is, "Are there other 'girls' like me?" According to the International Foundation for Gender Education, publishers of TAPESTRY magazine in Wayland, Massachusetts, approximately 5% of the male population feels the need, at least occasionally, to wear women's clothing. That is millions of men. From the number of calls we get at the academy, from across the country and around the world, I consider this to be a conservative estimate. In other words, you belong to a very big sorority.

What are some of the courses offered at the academy?

We can teach you how to do your own make-up, how to walk in high heels, how to speak in a more feminine manner. We offer French maid training, ballet one and tutu, courses in how to share your femmeself with your partner, and much much more.

Do you think my wife or lover will understand?

You must be the first to understand. So that when you share crossdressing with others, you do so from a place of confidence and fun rather than from a place of terror and shame. You must do your homework, learn as much as you can. There are lots of benefits to your crossdressing that can be shared with others. You will be happy to know that more and more students come to the academy accompanied by their wives. In our first two years since inception, we saw two husbands with wives. Just recently we saw two couples in one month, so participation of wives and partners is on the rise. Just remember, be generous with your clothes, but don't be so quick to borrow hers. Wait to be invited into her drawers.

Do you have a question that involves sharing your femmeself with a partner? Or is there something else bothering your pretty head? I invite you to send me your questions via this column. Please be considerate of other students and of your teacher's time, by keeping your questions short. Cherchez la femme.

You can reach Miss Vera's web site by going to Urban Desires, <http://www.desires.com/>



MORE SOLIDARITY

*NLGLA affirms BI and TG
incorporation in its by-laws: ILGA too!*

On Sunday, 3 August 1997, the Board of Directors of the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association (NLGLA), meeting in San Francisco, voted unanimously to affirm Bisexual and Transgender incorporation in its by-laws.

In 1994 ICTLEP was invited to present two transgender workshops at the NLGLA's Lavender Law Conference in Portland Oregon and were represented by Sharon Stuart, Melinda Whiteway, JoAnna McNamara and Phyllis Frye. Following same, one transgender law student, JoAnna McNamara, was elected to the Board and ICTLEP's Executive Director, Phyllis Frye, was elected to an alternate Board slot. In 1995, the Board unanimously resolved that transgenders should be included in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) and other lesbian/gay ordinances and statutes being offered around the nation. This was largely the work of Sharon, Melinda, JoAnna, and Phyllis plus BATLAW's Kim Stuart. In 1996, the NLGLA's Lavender Law Conference in New Orleans again presented several transgender workshops but also incorporated transgender panelists and issues into other legal workshop subjects. The ICTLEP Executive Director was elected to the Board.

In January of this year, the ICTLEP Secretary, Dee McKellar, was also elected to the Board of NLGLA. A proposal was offered by Phyllis Frye to insure that the Bisexual and Transgendered inclusive spirit of past NLGLA actions was not a fad but was actually an integral part of the by-laws. A committee was formed to study the matter as to the wording that would best work and its implications.

The by-law work was necessary because of evolution of the English language. Just as the word "men" no longer is understood necessarily to mean "men and women," and just as the term "gay" was deemed to not necessarily include "lesbians," the term "sexual orientation" no longer is understood to include transgender "gender identification" concerns and behaviors. Further, NLGLA Board considered transgendered and bisexual persons to be integral parts of the diverse gay and lesbian community and has openly operated in that fashion since 1994. After the committee report and a long Board dialog, including guest speakers from ICTLEP and from the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR), Melinda Whiteway and Shannon Minter, it was decided that this was not a changing of by-laws to initially include bisexuals and transgenders, but instead was a more complete definition of the original by-laws to incorporate both bisexuals and transgenders who have always been a part

of the lesbian and gay community in all of its diversity. The method chosen was the Minnesota method of defining the lesbian and gay community to be diverse and to include, but not be limited to, lesbians, gay men, bisexual and transgendered people. The vote was unanimous.

P.S. During the committee report, it was noted that recently the ILGA (International Lesbian and Gay Association) completely re-did its by-laws and fully incorporated bisexuals and transgenders within the new by-laws.

IF THE
SHOE
FITS,
WEAR
IT!



ENDA Less than Promised

Aegis News Service

Will ENDA achieve its stated purpose of protecting gays and lesbians from employment discrimination? A recent appeals court ruling suggests that ENDA [U.S. Employment Non-Discrimination Act] may not achieve its desired results. The appeals court ruling suggests that preventing employment discrimination on the basis of "sexual orientation" is different from protecting gays and lesbians from employment discrimination. ENDA's narrow language leaves much legal room for continued employment discrimination against gays and lesbians.

Deb Price's newspaper column from the June 14, 1997 New Orleans Times-Picayune entitled "Court ruling is a head-on collision of cultural forces" centers on a May 30th ruling of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. Price says the legal case of Robin Shahar, an attorney who was offered a job in the Georgia State attorney general's office which was later revoked when they discovered she was lesbian, "should have been greeted as an open-and-shut case of illegal job discrimination." The eight member majority of the twelve member court found no evidence that Shahar lost her job because she was gay. The case, the majority said, instead was about "conduct." Shahar's refusal to be secretive. The majority said that Shahar "seemingly did not appreciate the importance of appearances." You read that correctly, the court said that the case was about "conduct" and "appearances" not "sexual orientation."

For two and a half years the transgender community has actively told the leaders of The Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the nation's largest gay and lesbian civil rights organization, exactly what the judges on the 11th Circuit Court of Appeal have said in this ruling. The transgender leaders have repeatedly warned the leaders of HRC that employment discrimination against gays and lesbians would be legal as long as the employer

established that the discrimination was based upon reasons other than "sexual orientation" and that "sexual orientation" had narrow legal connotations. This court ruling does not establish new legal ground. (If there is any new ground, it is that the four judge minority held that the action was a case of illegal job discrimination pointing to last year's Supreme Court ruling that a government action can not legitimately be based on animosity and prejudice towards gay people.)

Rulings in previous employment cases involving gay employees have already established that gays can be discriminated against for other reasons. Indeed, after the court had established that employment discrimination based upon sexual orientation was not protected by Title VII, gays filed cases stating that they were discriminated against because of public appearances of femininity such as wearing an earring at work. The courts established that while displays of femininity was different from sexual orientation and, like transsexualism, it was also not protected by Title VII.

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) which was recently reintroduced in Congress will protect Americans from employment discrimination based upon their actual or perceived sexual orientation. ENDA purposely excludes transgendered persons since "gender identity" is a different legal concept than "sexual orientation" and HRC repeatedly says that ENDA will not pass if it includes protections for gender identity. The courts have once again ruled though that discrimination based upon sexual orientation is different from "conduct." In this case, the conduct was based upon appearances. I can only imagine that if Shahar could "pass for straight" that her failure to make appropriate presentation is related to her status as a married lesbian and her failure to hide her relationship.

The transgender community once again asks our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters to take note of this ruling. Whereas, Deb Price asks the Supreme Court to correct the judicial error, we ask HRC to wake up and realize that gays and lesbians will be legally discriminated against for reasons other than their "sexual orientation." Conduct is one justifiable reason. Conduct can be engaging in "transgender behaviors,"... "presenting in ways that do not conform to traditional gender norms." Conduct can be failing to keep a relationship secret. Conduct can mean many things and we will find the limits of what is considered "conduct" after many gays and lesbians are fired and seek remedies under ENDA. However, it would be fairly clear that if a

female-to-male transsexual could be legally terminated for appearing in masculine clothes at work that a lesbian could be similarly fired for appearing in masculine clothes at work. After all, both are participating in transgendered conduct. (Conservative religious groups have begun to include statements about "transgender behaviors" in their anti-gay fund raising letters. They recognize that gays and lesbians, while they do not self identify as transgendered, participate in transgendered behaviors. They are not just targeting transgenders with this language.) The difference is that one's conduct is related to his gender identity while another maintains the conduct is related to her sexual orientation. It will be very interesting to watch how employers maneuver around the limitations of ENDA and find ground for legal employment discrimination. It is my guess that we will have many gays and lesbians who will find themselves on common ground with transgendered persons. They will find that appearance does matter and that they like transgenders appear too masculine or too feminine.

Price concludes, "No one should have to choose between integrity and employment." Well, at least there is one point where the transgender community agrees with Price. We do, however, think that Congress should offer protections to all American's who face unfair employment discrimination. We do not think the Supreme Court is likely to reverse many years of court decisions which provide legal paths for employers to discriminate against gays, lesbians, bisexual, and transgendered persons. The issue is not limited to "sexual orientation" as the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals has once again established. As long as the gay leaders fail to acknowledge this, employers will be able to legally discriminate against gays. Transgenders join with the majority of Americans and say that employment discrimination is wrong. We differ with gay leaders about how that protection can be achieved. Eventually, they will have a clear understanding that gays and transgenders are discriminated based upon appearances and they will submit appropriate legislation to protect all of us. Sadly, appropriate language is not contained in the ENDA bill introduced in this Congress. Sad for transgendered persons. Sad for gender non-conforming gays and lesbians who may wear clothing items generally considered appropriate for another gender. Sad for gays and lesbians whose mannerisms are a bit too feminine or masculine.

While gay leaders argue that after spending millions of dollars to get ENDA to this point in Congress that it is not worth

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Man in a Dress

OCALA—U.S. Rep. Cliff Stearns is asking state officials to set dress standards for government workplaces after a male state health agency employee in Ocala began reporting for work dressed as a woman.

Stearns, R-Ocala, said several employees in the Ocala offices of the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Department of Juvenile Justice and Developmental Services were offended and distracted by the cross-dressing of Sabrina Marie Theodora Robb, formerly Dale T. Robb, an AHCA human resources counselor.

"It sends wrong signals to our children and people of this county if we tolerate these cultural values," Stearns said. "I think the public would have a high level of discomfort with his work activities. That's why I feel pretty strongly about doing this. It's antithetical to our morals in Ocala."

Sabrina Robb declined to comment to the Star-Banner.

Robb is employed through the AHCA's Gainesville office and works as an assistant to Dotti Pohleven in Ocala. Pohleven said that while Robb's change of dress has been a distraction to some, it has not affected his work performance.

"He's an excellent employee and a great asset to the MediPass program," Pohleven said. "He's very dependable. He's thorough. We have, from time to time, contact with (Medicaid) providers and with clients, and it's been a concern what their reaction is. But it's too soon to really know if there's any reaction at all."

The agency's employee handbook does not have a dress code; however, one paragraph says, "employees are expected to be neat and clean in appearance and to dress appropriately for the office and for contact with the public."

Stearns said he became involved because local officials had not acted on the complaints.

"From our standpoint, we think that this is really a state problem," Stearns said. "This is a state employee in a state agency. However, as an elected fellow officer, I think it's important to point out that there's a legal precedent that a state can act on this particular case. I think the state should address it immediately and set in place something, to set a standard because of this, and that they should implement something to stop this."

In a letter to Florida Senate President Toni Jennings and Speaker of the House Daniel Webster, Stearns cited two cases that he believes allow the government to regulate a worker's appearance. In one case, the Supreme Court decided the government can determine the proper length of a police officer's hair; in the other, the court ruled that "The First Amendment guarantees free speech and assembly, but it does not guarantee

the government employ."

Both Jennings' and Webster's offices are looking into the matter. A staff member from Jennings' office contacted the agency, but no action has been taken, said Colleen David, AHCA spokeswoman in Tallahassee.

The goal of the agency is to protect the rights of all the employees, as well as the public, David said.

"There are issues that are optional and may need clarification," David said. "Uniform dress code is an issue that may require clarification in context with the policy set forth for all state employees."

According to David, Robb works in an administrative position, dealing primarily with health care providers. Although Robb's job description includes some public contact, most of his work is done by telephone or by written correspondence, and he generally does not have contact with Medicaid recipients, David said.

"We are continuing to work with Sabrina and the other employees in that office to assure that the workplace is professional and productive," she said.

In such situations, the constitutional rights of the individual are considered, but the courts usually do not restrict government employers from establishing dress standards, said Robyn Blumner, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida, headquartered in Miami.

"Certainly the employer can and should tolerate differences in personal appearance and dress, but the likelihood is the court would find that the state employer is not constitutionally obligated to tolerate them," she said.

Blumner added, however, that the employer should consider whether the employee is doing his job and whether he is disrupting the workplace.

"If he's acting like a disruptive influence, an employer should respond to that," she said. "The courts would uphold the employer's ability to regulate the workplace. If the employer is interested in leaving this guy alone to let him do his job, then leave him alone, and good for the employer for having an open mind about this."

But some of Robb's associates say his attire is a distraction. When Robb first came to work dressed in women's clothing, it was somewhat of a shock, said Gary Hauge, a human services counselor for Developmental Services.

"While I, personally, am an advocate and supporter of one's individual civil rights, as state employees, we should feel compelled to dress in appropriate attire and project the most favorable impression to the clientele we serve," Hauge said.

Russell S. Crum, a human services program specialist, said Robb changed his appearance gradually, then one day reported to work entirely in female dress. "He was dressing a little bit more feminine, and then he decided to wear dresses and high heels," Crum said. "My question was, basically, 'How do we answer questions from the public?'"

A written dress code would settle the issue once and for all, said Zolika Heath, an AHCA specialist.

"Give me a break. This is a state agency," she said. "If this is all right, then he deserves it in writing. Or, if it's not all right, then he deserves it in writing. You know, let's be fair to everybody."

Continued from page.....12

If there were to be a vote, however, Dr Padman said she would oppose the admission of men. "Newnham is the only college I would like to be associated with because of its special status. I like women and I like the idea of an all-women environment."

"If there is another vote I would want to keep Newnham single sex. I think the admission of men would lead to a diminution of opportunities for women in Cambridge and I want to keep the college's special status." ---

Article copied from *The London Times*, June 24th Edn. © 1997 *Times Newspapers*

Term is over, final exams have long been finished and most of the students have drifted away from the bars and riverbanks of Cambridge for the long vacation. The last remaining stragglers are hanging around, waiting for their graduation ceremonies. At Newnham College, the endless internal corridor, tastefully wallpapered with a pattern of birds, is usually peaceful but yesterday it had a different kind of hush.

The all-women college, these days the only one left in Cambridge, cradled prettily among its landscaped trees and shrubs a little off the beaten track of university life, was crouching in the unaccustomed spotlight of media attention. College porters used to evicting excitable young males found themselves in the unaccustomed situation of throwing out females, as several newspapers sent women reporters to infiltrate the college.

The reason for this sudden and unwelcome attention? A teacher has been exposed as an imposter and a trouble maker who has brought scandal on a respect able institution.

The cause of the machstrom is not merely used to the limelight, she thrives on it. She is never happier than when at the cutting edge of a scandal, in full battle cry against a startled colleague, her wit never sharper than when defending her indefensible remarks, preferably on national television. She is, of course, none other than Germaine Greer.

Dr Greer's latest target is an astrophysicist highly thought of by college staff and students: Dr Rachel Padman, like Dr Greer an Australian by birth, who joined the college last year. On Monday, Padman was outed by Greer as having undergone a sex change in 1982.

Greer trumpeted to the *Times* and the BBC World Service that Padman's appointment made nonsense of Newnham's women-only policy. "We have driven a coach and horses through our statutes and I can't believe we did it," she barked. "It's disgraceful that Dr Padman has been placed in this situation.

It makes me very angry."

Was the principal of the college similarly angered by the news? Did she summon Dr Padman for a Show-down about her mysterious Sexuality? She did not. Padman had made her past known to the principal, Dr Onora O'Neill, when she was first invited to join the college teaching staff more than a year ago. She had even demurred when offered the job, knowing that the college has a policy of not employing male teachers, and perhaps dreading just this sort of public exposure. But O'Neill was undeterred, dismissing the eminent physicist's sex change 14 years previously as immaterial. Other staff at Newnham were aware of Padman's past and no one saw any conceivable objection to her appointment.

That is, not until Dr Greer needed a new cause celebre. Colleagues have often felt a creeping unease when all goes quiet in Greer's career - it can only be a matter of time before she explodes on the world in a new and bewildering direction. Ask former Guardian columnist Suzanne Moore, whose appearance was viciously and publicly mocked by Greer after a slight misunderstanding.

The outspoken feminist writer and broadcaster is famously confrontational about sexuality and regards sex-change operations as "mutilations." But what on earth could she have against Padman to out her so damagingly?

Greer was not available to explain her outburst yesterday but colleagues speculated that she was motivated by a desire to change the college's single-sex policy. Her repeated citation of the college statutes - isn't it uncharacteristic of our Germaine to stick so pedantically to the rules? - implies that the rules should change, rather than the unfortunate Rachel Padman. So the maverick feminist has struck again: this time at the heart of a centre of learning reserved for women who want to keep it that way. Watch out, sisters, here she comes.

If radical feminist Germaine Greer had temporarily abandoned them, the sisterhood was still alive yesterday among the few students watching the rain from their rooms in the echoing corridors of the college. Third-year law student Myrto Zambarta, 20, said Greer's complaint was "absolutely atrocious. She [Dr Padman] should be allowed to stay. She is a woman after all."

Second-year French and Spanish student Eleanor Proudlock, 20, agreed: "The best thing about Newnham is that it is a liberal college that protects women."

One of the things about Greer's outburst most irksome to college staff, and the few

students still on site, is that she is not herself a fellow of the college. Who's Who lists her as Special Lecturer and Unofficial Fellow. Yes, she teaches Newnham students (who regard her as "outrageous" and "cultivating eccentricity") but doesn't receive a college stipend.

When Greer wanted to terminate her contract with this newspaper, she attacked another Guardian columnist and said on prime-time television that the features editor was probably a rapist. It is, after all, the end of term. Perhaps she just wants a new job.

Greer Fuss in Britain

Compiled and annotated by Christine Burns Agis News Service

I certainly can't blame the subeditors of *The London Times* today for having great fun with the obvious headline potential of the story which follows .. especially as (on balance) the victim of the piece comes out of it all quite well (measured on a scale only appreciated by transgendered people, of course). There's an interesting shift in the public position of the famous Dr Greer too .. but then the more times I re-read the piece reproduced below, the more I get the sneaking suspicion that the real story perhaps isn't about Dr Rachel Padman, in fact, but (could it be?) someone else entirely?

Sticking to the plot though .. Did the founders of Newnham College really have it in mind that they were creating a space especially for those with proven XX chromosomes, or for those born with a particular external genital appearance .. or was the purpose to create a place of learning and opportunity for those who fulfil certain roles and expectations in life, and who identify one-another by shared experience, motivation and aspiration .. for which the shorthand term "women" covers an astonishingly wide variety of types and backgrounds.

"... A women's college for women ..." quotes Germaine Greer. ... Quite ... So what's all the fuss about?

Newnham college isn't rendered foolish by what it has done in good faith, nor is it a victim to the thoughtful and considerate behaviour of Dr Rachel Padman. The monkey-maker is a system of law which contrives to force the college to treat their colleague as something she most patently is not (and most probably never was in any meaningful sense).

Dr Padman is self-evidently a woman. Only British law thinks otherwise. Until this folly is ended, however, we will go on witnessing farces of this kind on a regular basis.

Kindest regards

by Rev. Yvette Flunder

No Doors on our Huts

Celebrating Community On the Margin an excerpt from a Masters Thesis Pastor, City of Refuge United Church of Christ (UCC), San Francisco

TRANSGENDERED PERSONS

An authentic ethics of inclusion must reach from the center to the farthest margin and work its way back. When we reach for the ones who are the least accepted, we give a clear message of welcome to everyone. Jesus modeled this type of radical inclusivity when He openly received those most despised by society and the Church. The Transgendered community is on the edge of the edge. The Church must be a sanctuary for members of the Transgendered community because most of society has cast them off completely.

Transgendered persons have suffered enormous persecution and misunderstanding from both straight and Gay people. They do not consider themselves Gay and do not identify as such. Men who identify as women seem to have more hardships than women who identify as men, primarily because of the anatomical and external difficulty of a male body passing as female (i.e. facial hair, large bones). Transgendered persons are not well respected in the Gay community and are often blamed for bringing undue attention to themselves and away from the issues of the Gay community. In States of Desire, Edmund White maintains that, The scorn directed against drags is especially virulent: they have become the outcasts of Gay life, the "queers" of homosexuality. In fact, they are classic scapegoats. Our old fears about sissiness: still with us though masked by the new macho fascism, are now located, isolated, and quarantined through our persecution of the transvestite.

Most Transgendered persons do not feel welcomed in any church and very few faith communities. In the last year alone there have been an alarming number of homicides, suicides and AIDS deaths in the Transgendered community. I have met with transgendered groups enough to determine that this desire to be 'other-generated' is not a need to 'act out' or 'show off.' It is rooted in a deep sense of having been born in the wrong body, a self-awareness that is often realized at a very early age. This change in gender identification has led to enormous loss: loss of family, church, job/income, and health. No one would suffer such loss simply to play games. We still have much to learn about human sexuality and how it affects psychological well-being and the possibilities of forming healthy communities.

In order to sustain community, we must not assume that we

understand everyone's issues; rather we must educate and inform each other thereby equipping the community to receive everyone. Our experience with the Transgendered members of our Church and the Tenderloin Transgendered population has resulted in these findings:

- 1) Transgendered persons are at great risk for substance abuse, both due to the types of drugs used and the sharing of needles for illicit drugs such as speed and heroin.
- 2) Transgendered persons are often procuring hormones on the black market and are not under the supervision of a medical professional. Many Transgendered persons have reported becoming ill when experimenting with a dosage or with new types of hormone therapy without the benefit of medical supervision.
- 3) Transgendered persons are often discriminated against in employment and, thus, turn to survival sex to pay for basic living expenses, hormone therapies, and/or sexual reassignment surgery.
- 4) Female-to-male Transgendered persons are deeply in the closet, often pass as male, and require specific care authorities.
- 5) Transgendered persons are regularly discriminated against and harassed by local law enforcement agencies and by health care professionals. Finally,
- 6) Transgendered youth are often run out of their homes and schools and, therefore, have little choice but to engage in the sex industry and experience the myriad dangers associated with the sex industry.

The Church can be made a safer place for transgendered persons by doing three things:

1. Developing spiritual and practical support groups for Transgendered persons within the Ministry.
2. Providing sensitivity workshops for the congregation (all age groups).
3. Involving Transgendered persons in various levels of governance and decision making.

Developing spiritual and practical support groups for transgendered persons:

There is a great need for pastoral care and spiritual support for Transgendered persons because this group has terrible 'church burns' and a real fear of rejection and abandonment by God and people.

The Church must exemplify the love of God to Transgendered people, who are so unaccustomed to a steady and affirming presence of a loving and supportive church community. My Grandmother used to say, "Love is a 'do' word."

Inclusion in the life of the Church is as essential to Transgendered persons as it is to Gay and Lesbian persons. Having a representative at those levels of church governance where decisions are made will empower Transgendered persons and send the message that the Church is not satisfied with a love that tolerates but desires a love that affirms and celebrates diversity. Additionally, those concerns of the Transgendered members that would be otherwise overlooked may be lifted up.

An atmosphere of radical inclusivity that intentionally reaches to the outer edges of society, demonstrates the authentic desire of the Church to sustain a community where all marginalized people can feel welcome. Whosoever will, let them come. ♀

Pride Day 97



We had a great time and handed out
several hundred of our brochure's,
sold several T-shirts and lots of
Monarch mags.

Developing a Female Voice

The following article provides information on developing a truly female voice. You can get additional information by listening to the soundtrack from Melanie's video on voice technique, presented in Real Audio.

Nothing gets you read faster than a voice that doesn't match your appearance. Many gender folk dress up to the nines and look like goddesses... until they open their mouths. Suddenly, in spite of the grace and curves they turn into truck drivers or lumberjacks right before your eyes. Clothes may make the man, but it is voice that makes the woman.

Whether you are a crossdresser or transsexual, developing a truly FEMALE voice - not just a feminine one - is of paramount concern. When I began my transition, there was electrolysis to worry about, mannerisms... but it was voice that seemed to me the greatest obstacle.

Like most, I tried simply feminizing my voice, softening the voice I had. I tried raising my pitch artificially, arriving at that had falsetto that forms the stereotype of the transgendered marking them as parodies rather than the real thing. Eventually I even considered vocal chord surgery as a last resort.

Voice surgery made me nervous though. I had a fairly decent singing voice. I like to do character voices, I liked to sound dramatic when I spoke. But the thought of being read every time I uttered a word was enough to tip the balance to consider voice surgery, even though all end-results I had heard were not very convincing AND I had heard horror stories of those who as a result of the surgery lost their voices completely!

I had just about resigned myself to that risk when, a few months into fulltime, I stumbled into something quite by accident that has made the difference in my career, my relationships, in my life as a whole: I learned to sound female.

Notice I did not say "to talk like a woman," but rather "to sound female." This is because the secret I found is not in the way one speaks but the way one sounds. I had been trying out different voices that day (as I did most days), sometimes trying to sound like a squeaky teenager, other times like a mature matron. For weeks I had been struggling with no progress to speak of. And then, this one day, suddenly something happened.

My voice "slipped gears" and came down in a different place than it had ever been.

All at once, in one broad stroke, the TIMBER of my voice had turned female. I couldn't believe it! I actually SOUNDED female! I tried saying this and that and EVERYTHING sounded female. This was incredible! After all my fears and yearnings... well, it was almost like magically being transformed into a woman!

It was just about quitting time when this happened. At the time, I was working as Melanie, but still going home to my wife as Dave. The kids did not know about my transition yet. So each night, I would leave work, take off the nail polish and make up, change my clothes and go home. So, I decided it was time to go back to my "drab" voice and do Dave again for the night. But when I tried to revert, I couldn't find my old voice. I tried again - nothing! Suddenly I felt that I really HAD been transformed! That somehow my whole voice box had been changed to a female form! But this was terrible!!! My wife was going to kill me!

After half an hour of unsuccessful attempts to get out of voice, there was nothing left to do but face the music. I drove home, stepped inside. Mary said, "How was your day?" I replied, "Fine," but it wasn't Dave's voice, it was Melanie's voice, and Mary threw a fit!

"What's wrong with your voice?!" she demanded. I explained what had happened and how I got stuck. She told me I had darn well better figure out how to get my old voice back before the kids woke up in the morning. Try as I might, I met with no success. But then, over the course of an hour or so, my voice relaxed and the old voice came back. I was saved!!! But then, I worried that I couldn't get the new voice back again. After all, it happened by accident, and I really didn't know what I had done. At first, I DID lose the new voice. But then, I found it again, and practiced and practiced going in and out all the rest of the night.

The next morning, the first thing I did when I woke up was try to find the new voice again, and there it was, mine to command! Over the following months, I worked on the fine points of my voice, adding all the incidental elements that affected not only my sound, but the manner in which I spoke. And now, over four years later and two years after SRS, I can report that my new voice is fine. If I choose I can still slip in and out of it at will. This voice has been crucial in my career advancement, relationships and, best of all, my female voice has helped developed my sense of self as Melanie.

In this article, I will share with you how I did it and provide all the steps you need to find your own female voice.

To begin, as I looked back over the path I had taken, I discovered seven important tools for developing a feminine voice. Six of them work on the femininity but the seventh is the "secret" that actually makes one

SOUND female. I'll describe each briefly, then cover them all in greater detail. By name, the seven tools are Pitch, Resonance, Dynamic Range, Annunciation, Vocabulary, Grammar, and Body English.

PITCH:

Most people assume that the primary difference between men's and women's voices is Pitch. But we shall see that the actually difference in pitch between the sexes is minimal. In fact, the overlap of range between the sexes allows for almost ANY individual to fall well within accepted norms of pitch.

RESONANCE:

Resonance is the real secret of this method. Resonance is the modulation of whatever pitch you have. It puts the envelope on the voice that takes the pitch and assigns it Timbre. In the course of this article I will describe a simple exercise anyone can do to find that special place in their voice and develop a truly FEMALE resonance.

DYNAMIC RANGE:

Dynamic Range describes the difference between the highest highs and the lowest lows that a person uses while speaking. Men use a very narrow dynamic range, even though they are quite capable of extending that range. It is simply a matter of training, not physiology. In contrast, women use a much WIDER dynamic range, which is what gives their voices more of a "sing-song" effect.

ENUNCIATION:

Enunciation is the way you pronounce your words. Just as one might do a dialect, there is a female dialect that transcends languages and cultures. I will describe a means for developing a fully feminine enunciation.

VOCABULARY:

Yes there are masculine and feminine words. In our culture, certain words are almost exclusively reserved for males and others for females. I will cover some of these and show you how to be on the lookout for more.

GRAMMAR:

Being masculine or feminine has a lot to do with brokering power. When one forms words into sentences, the ORDER of words as well as modifiers and parentheticals change the position of power of the speaker. We'll look into ways to adopt the "power level" appropriate to the many roles played by either sex.

BODY ENGLISH:

Body English is the way you move while you talk. In fact, it has an actual impact of how the voice itself will sound. By using the proper Body English while you speak, you can improve the femininity of your voice - even on the phone!

Now that we've seen the overview of what will be covered, let's move on to the first of these areas in depth.

PITCH

What do Susanne Pleshette, Marline Detrich, Cher, and Bea Arthur have in common? They all have VERY low voices! In fact, they have voice LOWER in pitch than

most of the male population. However, we would never mistake them for men! In fact at least three of the four are generally considered rather sexy. When women have low voices they are not considered masculine. Rather, their voices are referred to as "husky."

How can they get away with that? Because the difference between the average male voice and the average female voice is only about octave. That's right! Just octave! It is not the pitch that makes them sound female, but the Resonance!

Because each of us has at least a 1 octave range to their voice and most of us have two octaves or more, there is a lot of overlap between the pitches of the two sexes if there is only a octave AVERAGE difference. That means there is just half an octave higher that some women can go that no men can and only a half an octave lower that some men can go that no women can.

My voice now is only 2 or 3 notes higher on the scale than it was before I started. But the audible impact is quite different. That is because it is not how HIGH you pitch your voice, but where you pitch it FROM that makes all the difference! Once you get your voice coming from the right place, it doesn't really matter what pitch it is at all. And the added bonus is, with the Resonance secret we will discover, you get 2 or 3 notes of increased pitch as well (which, though not crucial, doesn't hurt!)

So let's move on to that area without further delay!

RESONANCE

What is Resonance? Imagine an orchestra. Now imagine the same not being played by a violin, a trumpet, and an oboe. They all have different sounds, even though they are all playing the same note. This is because the tone they play is "modulated" differently. Each has its own unique Resonance.

In a trumpet, that resonance is created in the coils. It is created in the body of the violin or in a cello. That body is a chamber in which the sound can vibrate, mixing and intermixing to create complex wave forms with many striking and identifying harmonics.

That chamber is like our own voice box. Men have a larger voice box. That's what makes their Adam's apple larger and their voices add more low-end resonance. Women have a smaller voice box and as a result have less low end resonance. So, in a sense, men have MORE harmonics than women. This is fortunate for those in the masculine gender who wish to be perceived in the feminine. The whole trick is to learn to us LESS of your voice. You've got it already, you are using it already. It's not something you have to add to sound female, but something you need to suppress. The problem is, that when men go into a falsetto, they suppress ALL of the harmonics, resulting in that silly high-pitched voice that is surely a dead give-away.

Let's try an experiment to drive the point

home. Put your finger of one hand on the top of your larynx, at the top of your Adam's apple. Place the fingers of your other hand at the very bottom of your larynx, below the Adam's apple. Now, speak aloud in your normal masculine voice. You will note that both the top AND bottom of the larynx vibrate almost equally as you speak.

Keeping your fingers in place, go into a falsetto and speak. You will note that there is hardly ANY vibration in either the top OR bottom! The exercises we are going to learn will allow you to create a voice that vibrates ONLY at the bottom and NOT at the top. This effectively cuts the part of the voice box used in half and thereby loses the lowest of the harmonics, leaving almost EXACTLY the same range of harmonics as a genetic female voice.

Exercise:

The female voice I've discovered feels like it sits "behind" your normal speaking voice. After I had used it for a while, I found there were two easy to get to this place - a place your voice does not usually go while you are speaking. The first way is with Falsetto, the second way is by gargling.

A. Falsetto:

Start with your highest falsetto. If you sound like a cartoon character with big round ears that lives in Anaheim, you've got it! Now take that voice and bring the pitch down as low as you can WITHOUT BREAKING YOUR VOICE. You see, if you break your voice it will "come out front" again, and you'll be using the full voice box for modulation - just what you don't want.

Take your voice down as low as you can go in falsetto. That's the spot. You will notice that neither the top nor bottom of your larynx is vibrating very much, if at all. Now, before I explain what to do once you get to that spot, let's examine the other method of arriving there. If you try both methods, one will work best for you. Also, by trying both, you will have a better sense - a "cross reference" of where your voice needs to be.

B. Gargling:

Just go back in your throat the way you do when you gargle and make that standard gargling sound. When you do, you will automatically tighten up your throat. You will find that your voice is resonating from exactly the same place either with the lowest falsetto or the gargling. However, with the gargling, you can actually feel both the top and bottom of your larynx vibrating.

The point you want to reach for this voice is the center between where you put your voice to gargle and the lowest falsetto you have. Some people like to do character voices for fun. If you can do a little old man or old woman, say "The Alludium Q38 Space Modulator, or do the Wicked Witch of the West, you are very near the spot.

As I mentioned before, the first time I found this voice I hit it by accident. Then I got stuck. So if you try this exercise and are not

living full-time as a woman, make sure you have an hour or so to find your way back to male voice just in case.

Now, what you are actually learning to do is develop one set of the muscles on your larynx while not using the others at all. This is a tough trick - kind of like wiggling your ears or patting your head while you rub your tummy. It takes practice - LOTS of practice.

But don't practice too much right at the start. Once you find the voice it is such a magical experience that you want never to come back. But you will find that using the lower set of muscles to do all the work leads to hoarseness at first. This is your body's way of telling you that you should knock off for a while.

I found that during the first week I used this voice, I could only go about half an hour or so before I got hoarse. Then, I had the good sense to rest my voice. Just like doing exercises for the body, you don't want to do too much too fast of you will injure yourself.

For me, it took about six months to fully develop my voice to the point I could use it all day long. Then, it took another six months to fully develop loudness and dynamic range. But these things did come with practice and patience. I imagine that eventually, the other muscles at the top might atrophy if, like me, you just don't use them at all. However, for those of you switching back and forth, both will stay in tone and like me, even now after four years, I can still call up the old voice if I have to. For me, that's about once a year when I need to demonstrate to a friend that it is possible to do this.

So, don't push it. I'm no medical doctor. I can't tell you exactly what's going on physically, nor can I guarantee you won't cause yourself problems. I am merely saying that for me, I have been using this voice for over four years with no apparent ill effects.

Now, trying to describe a voice in a text article is a bit difficult. I understand this. That is why I've created a VHS video tape called "Melanie Speaks!" where I demonstrate these techniques so you can hear them, copy them, and learn to do them on your own.

I have put the entire 50 minute soundtrack from my video/CD on voice up on my web site in Real Audio format at heartcorps.com/journeys/voice3.htm. Make sure to note that the Real Audio tracks are in the 3.0 format, which will not be recognized by earlier versions of Real Audio. The 3.0 player is free, however, at www.realaudio.com/communication.

If you are not on the net or want the video, the tape runs 49 minutes long and is available in VHS or Audio CD for only \$19.95, or on Audio Cassette for only \$14.95 plus \$4.95 shipping and handling in cash, check or money order by writing to me at:

Heart Corps P.O. Box 295 Burbank, CA 91503

By Joanne Roberts

Chatsubo

The Chatsubo, or simply The Chat, is the bar made famous by William Gibson in his 1984 cyber-punk masterpiece NEUROMANCER. The Chat is where the cyberjocks, razorgirls and jeebboys came to gather information and kick back. Please feel free to do the same here.

by JoAnn Roberts - CyberQueen

"Never attribute to malevolence what is merely due to incompetence."—Arthur C. Clarke, 3001

Business must be pretty good for the vendors serving our community because at least two that I know are putting together or have already put together full color catalogs of clothing. The Jim Bridges Catalogue (US\$10) showcases Jim's line of signature cosmetics and wigs, along with his new line of dresses and shoes. One really cool thing about these dresses is the sizing: small, medium and Diva. Small is 12-14, Medium 16-18 and Diva is 20-24. Contact the Jim Bridges Catalog at PO Box 4715, North Hollywood, CA 91617.

New terms for transgendered people keep popping up, mostly made up by people with great angst over the terms transvestite or transsexual. The dumbest one I heard was GEM for Gender Enhanced Male. So where are the GEFs? I'm also seeing the term "gender variant" used to be inclusive of transsexuals, transgendered, hemaphrodites, and those gay men, lesbian women, bisexuals, and straights, whose gender characteristics (including gender identity) and/or expression vary sufficiently from the "norm" to place them at risk. This last term is being used by some of our lobbying activists, so expect to hear it being used in political discussions from now on.

For those of you who find that shine just makes your lips look luscious, there's the new MAC Lip Glass. And that's not a typo either. This stuff is so shiny it looks like glass and looks even more fantastic on your lips. It is said to be sticky though and once you've put it on, you really can't add more but it does shine for hours.

Hosiery is fashionable, affordable, sexy and fun. It's one easy way to make a statement about yourself and these days your choices are astounding. Color on your legs is the most inexpensive way to update a look; it's like adding an exclamation point for US\$10. Here is what the experts from Pennaco Hosiery (they make Anne Klein, Danksin, Givenchy and more) say you should have in your wardrobe for summer: 4 pr. control top sheers in nude... 4 pr. control top sheers in black... 3 pr. sophisticated neutrals, like taupe, pale khaki and pale grey... 2 pr. pastel sheers in pale pink and pale lime... 3 pr. off-white sheers... 4 pr. of fishnets in black and white. For the rest of the year, add: 2 pr. of opaque in loden, brown, navy, red, and forest green... 4 pr. black tights... and 2 pr. textured or openwork tights in off-white, brown, and black. The hot colors right now are the nudes. Fishnets and other openwork styles are "in" for summer. Fishnets? Yes, Fishnets! They let in the air and keep your legs cool.

We've talked in the past about all of the new "won't-come off" products including lipsticks that wear like iron. So, how do you get that stuff off when it's time to crash? You don't need industrial strength scaling compound if you use products specially formulated to remove the long wearing lipsticks like Shiseido Absolute Lipstick Remover, or Coty Color-Off Lipstick Remover, or Revlon ColorStay Makeup Remover pads. If you're hungry, one New York makeup artist recommends eating a salad with lost of vinaigrette dressing.

It had to happen eventually and it did. Hard Candy and Urban Decay had discovered two niches in the nail color market that the "big boys" had missed and pretty much had the run of the market. That's now been rectified with Revlon's introduction of Street Wear, a collection of nail color, lipsticks, eyeshadows and pencils that combine both Hard Candy's gloss with Urban Decay's palette. Some of the color names are just too precious, like Schmutz lipstick or two-toned nails done in White-out and Tar, or a blood-red color called Stain, and a near nude color called Icicle.

The news from upstate New York is mixed. The gay and lesbian community of Syracuse and surrounding Onondaga county has taken a solid stand on the inclusion of bisexual and transgender people in their PRIDE week activities. In past years the gay and lesbian PRIDE Committee sought and received a proclamation from Syracuse's Democratic city councilors. This year, the councilors refused to sign the proclamation which included bisexual and transgender inclusive language. The reason given was fear that Republicans would use the proclamation next year during elections and Democrats would lose seats and their majority. If that happened, the Republicans might repeal the Fair Practices law which protects the employment of gays and lesbians. To their credit, rather than knuckle under to the pressure and delete the bisexual and transgender language, the PRIDE Committee withdrew the request for the proclamation. I guess the Dems forgot that gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders vote, too.

On May 30th, 1997, in Chicago, FiM Loren Cameron accepted two Lambda Literary Awards in the categories of "Small Press" and "Transgender." The Lammies, as they're called, are sponsored by the Lambda Rising bookstore in Washington, D.C. This was the first year that an award was offered in the Transgender Category. An audience of about 300 attended the 9th annual awards ceremony. Cameron's book, Body Alchemy: Transsexual Portraits was also nominated in the Photography/Visual Arts category. He was also nominated for a "Firecracker Award" celebrating books by alternative presses. In his acceptance speech for the Transgender category award, Loren remarked on the significance of this occasion: "The boys are going to be very proud. Everything that happens for Body Alchemy happens for them." Body Alchemy is available at the CDS Bookstand.

And now, more fashion news... No more false eyelashes. That's what the makers of Fast Lash would have you believe, and according to test reports in the fashion mags, it works. How, you ask. Well, you apply mascara as usual, then apply Fast Lash (which is actually chopped up polyester fibers) to the tips of your lashes while still wet. Then apply a second coat of mascara. The fibers absorb the second coat and swell up making your own lashes look longer and more full. Enough, says the manufacturer, that you will not need false lashes. If it's true, I say Kew! I hate lube. If you want to try me, call 800-466-7446 to order a tube at US\$14 plus US\$2 s&h. My tube has already arrived and I'll report after I've had a chance to try it.

I received a review copy of lesbian writer/activist Pat Califia's Sex Changes: The Politics of Transgenderism. I was not at all pleased with it. Califia totally ignores the contributions of crossdressers to tg politics. She builds her case solely on the ideologies of transsexuals, as if they had an exclusive right. In fact, speaking of transvestites she states, "Their cultural history overlaps and is linked with the politics of the transgendered community but is not identical to it." She lost me right there. That one sentence told me Califia doesn't have a clue as to who and what make up the "transgender community" and its "politics." She reviews, extensively, Virginia Prince's The Transvestite And His Wife and refers to Virginia as "he" totally ignoring the fact that Virginia created the word "transgender" and that she has lived as a woman full time for the past 30 years. Instead Califia uses this 30 year old book as if it is the TV Manifesto, and we all know how outdated it is. I find it hard to believe that Califia could not find any positive contributions to tg politics by crossdressers. I wonder if she ever heard of the Bill of Gender Rights? Or maybe she wasn't told that CDs played a major role in forming GenderPAC or that Drag Queens were at the heart of gay liberation? This book needed a lot more research before publication.

If you haven't yet seen Con Air with Nicholas Cage, John Malkovich, and John Cusack, then you've missed one of the great summer blockbuster movies. But there's another reason to look for Con Air—Sally Can't Dance. That's the name of one of the convict characters in the movie and Sally is transgendered, most likely transsexual. Sally is played by New York actor Renoly (just the one name) who says that, "...Sally is the bravest character in the film. I wanted her to be feminine and sexual and daring, and that's who she is." Apparently some of the gay watchdogs didn't appreciate Sally and were enraged according to the July 22 issue of The Advocate. I say who cares if a few gays were upset over Sally. She isn't one of theirs; she's one of ours, convict or not. I thought Sally was played quite well. Renoly has his thoughts about the gay ire: "I often see gay people making fun of drag queens and looking down on transvestites and cross dressers. To me, for someone to look at their own image and criticize a gay person for being feminine is a sign of not really caring for and accepting your own kind." You go girl! Sally can dance.

Some of the Fashion Buzz was about the auction of Princess Di's gowns and who was after them. It was rumored that RuPaul would be submitting bids. Not bloody likely! Ru is a bit chunkier than Di, doncha think? Actually, I have it on good authority that Joan Rivers impersonator Frank Marino did buy one of the gowns. Frank, who is a slim size 10, has no intentions of wearing the gown. He says it will be used for some good old Vegas-style PR and then probably be re-sold to another collector. Speaking of RuPaul, have you seen him on the new episodes on VH-1? Miss Thing is putting on a little pouch and should not stand sideways to the camera (dish, dish). Come to think of it, he shouldn't turn his back either. And lose the corset, too, while you're at it.

By now you're seriously thinking about the Fall and what fashions are coming into vogue. Fortunately for most crossdressers we're going to be "IN" fashion for a change. The Buzz for Fall is all about stiletto heels and micro-mini skirts. The stilettos can be pumps, sling-backs, short boots or calf-high boots as long as the toes are really pointy and for maximum effect should show toe cleavage. Check

out the fare in our Shopping Mall. I've already got mine. How high is high? On the runways, spikes topped out around 5 inches. In real life, most will be between 3 to 4 inches high, which can be pretty dangerous. Combine that with ankle straps, open heels and pointy toes and you gotta be careful in these things. Sounds kinda like "Don't wear-these-at-home-I'm-a-professional-crossdresser" type shoes.

Meanwhile micro-mini skirts that flirt with indecent exposure laws were seen everywhere on the runways. One can only hope that what shows up in the stores will be designed with a modicum of good taste. Ha! A transvestite with good taste in clothes. There's an oxymoron for you. The micro's for Fall are short, tight, slit, side split, or wrapped, take your choice. Richard Tyler claims that the ultra short skirts are "...not shocking. It's an accepted classic length." What the Hell, if you've got the bod, flaunt it. Everyone else will be jealous.

Also returning for Fall are menswear and the power suit (a.k.a big shoulders) This menswear thing happens every few years and women are encouraged to go raid the men's closets and stores. Now what do you think would happen if men were encouraged to go raid women's closets and stores? They'd be arrested, that's what. There's gender inequality for ya! Meanwhile, the power suit of the 80's has been reinterpreted with strong shoulders, tiny waists, short skirts and stilettos.

The evening look for Fall is another piece of good news for crossdressers—sequins and beads are back in favor. And it's about time, too. I have far too many sequin dresses languishing in my closet and no where to wear them. As usual, there's always at least one eccentric fashion idea per season and this Fall it is pairing something beaded (a top or vest) with some simple, understated daywear. Where is Christine Hochberg when you need her?

Finally, oval or rounded nails are back in style. I favor oval shaped. They make your fingers and hands appear slimmer and longer and I'll take any help I can get to appear more feminine.

Every so often I need to remind people why I write this column. I don't write to be nasty. I write to praise those who are doing good deeds and to point out what I think needs fixin' in our community. Some people think my "pointing" is anti community. I think it's just being honest and calling a spade a spade. Some people don't like my style; I'm too abrupt, they say. Well, if you want sweet and creamy, have a peanut butter and jelly sandwich; it ain't me. I also don't believe in "If you can't say anything nice, then don't say anything at all." That thinking permits a host of evils to exist. Some people say I'm a perfectionist. I see nothing wrong with striving toward perfection, but I also know when good enough is good enough.

So, those are my opinions, but hey, what do I know? I think being "in fashion" is a victimless crime. Comments? Write care of this publication or email them to CyberQueen@cdspub.com.

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by Pamela Beldes

CALIFORNIA UNITY

CROSSING IFGE BORDERS

98

"Ooow-wee baby, don't you want to take on a sea cruise !!!" Well, so what if the ship is the Queen Mary and she is permanently berthed in Long Beach, California and is now a premier hotel and convention centre.

This queen of the waves, an Art Deco masterpiece of engineering and a registered National Historic site was the location of California Unity, co-sponsored by the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) and the Powder Puffs of Orange County as well as a number of other Southern California gender organizations too numerous to mention. It was billed as a combined 11th Annual Convention for IFGE and California Dreamin', which is an annual spring-time event. How's that for a deal, girls!!!!

This was an event that was billed as having something for everyone along the gender spectrum - complete F2M and M2F programmes. With almost 400 attendees, and despite some organizational and logistic difficulties, it certainly did not disappoint. The opening Keynote Address was delivered by Alison Laing, Exec. Director of the IFGE. Alison also co-presented with Dianna Cicotella a special Leadership Workshop on the second day which focussed on the challenge of leadership and a new model for "shared leadership" as well as the concept of team building.

But back to real star of California Unity, the queen of the waves, the Queen Mary. Let me tell you a little of what it is like to stay on board this historic, architectural treasure. Our stateroom was something to behold with its original Art Deco woodwork, fixtures and finishes. This particular cabin had been restored rather than renovated, and staying in it gave you a real sense of the luxury of the era when this mighty ship was in service. California Unity took place on several levels of the ship, which is a hotel of almost 400 rooms. Attractive restaurants, a wonderful and original bar located overlooking the bow which offered live music every nite, and a truly spectacular main ballroom (again completely Art Deco) were real treasures. The convention areas themselves were cavernous, really too large for this event. This gave off a

feeling that was less than intimate or personal, which was to a great degree overcome by a large complement of enthusiastic vendors.

The programme itself had some real hi-lites such as Dianna Cicotella's presentation on "Things Your Mother Never Told You about Being a Girl," Mariette Pathy Allen, on the Emergence of the F2M Community, Dr Sheila Kirk, Niela Miller Sandra Cole, Dr. Richard Doctor and Tonye Barreto-Neto, the highly profiled F2M Florida County Deputy Sheriff.

Evenings were filled with activities including a fundraiser for the Magnus Hirshfield Exhibit which had travelled from Germany to Long Beach to make its North American debut. As some of you know, Dr Hirshfield was a pioneer sexologist in Germany in the 1920's and 30's. He studied transgender behavior as a normal, healthy variant of

human behavior and is probably best known for having coined the term "transvestite." Much of his work and his clinic were destroyed by the Nazi government in the mid 1930's. Another evening fundraiser gala saw the some 400 attendees treated to a show presented by the drag artists from the Queen Mary Club in Los Angeles.

I was really taken by the energy of this event from the attendees, the presenters, the vendors and the administrative staff. California Unity culminated with the Annual Banquet on Saturday nite. Well deserving yet in some cases not well known leaders in both the F2M and M2F communities were recognized and honoured for their contributions to us all.

Returning home from this event I really wished I could bottle some of the great California weather and maybe bring it back to Toronto along with some the Art Deco pieces of the Queen Mary to fix up my place. However, since neither was possible I brought back the excitement of the event along with the realization that next year it's our turn - Toronto - Crossing Borders 98!!!!



by Danielle

Lights Camera Action

Last week I found out that the big movie production Blues Brothers 2000 needed 3000 extras as public for their recital scenes. So (as you can imagine) Danielle was there.

Last night, by 7:30 I reported to the Markham Fairgrounds. There I got the first surprise: the schedule was not to film till 5:00 AM!! So I waited, and ate, and walked till it was dark. Then they sat us on the stand in front of the stage and started filming at us doing different cheerings, applause, looking here, looking there, and so on. They moved cameras a few times so in the meantime the band played and they did raffles to entertain the crowd.

Second surprise, by 3:30 AM, was that the last scene, which was shot THREE times, included a STORM. So we got bombarded with wind fans and a rain machine while dancing and cheering the band. Then we were soaked to the bones and while they gave away towels they finished the raffles, and guess what??? I won a top-of-the-line MICROWAVE oven!!!!

So by 5 in the morning I walked back to my car all tired, in my pretty blue dress, soaked head to toe, white with the dust those blowers threw, carrying my 20 lbs of prize. My grandkids won't believe it....

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jeopardizing efforts by altering the language to offer more protections. Some transgenders point out, however, that if the purpose of ENDA is to protect gays and lesbians from employment discrimination that the language in ENDA will not achieve this stated purpose. When gays and lesbians acknowledge that it is not only transgenders who are not protected by ENDA, then possibly HRC members will ask HRC some difficult questions that need to be answered. It is better to answer the questions now than to have the courts explain why ENDA does not protect gays and lesbians from many forms of employment discrimination that are not strictly due to their "sexual orientation."

Transgendered persons are not the only group which should be upset with the limited protections being offered in ENDA. Gays and lesbians have much reason to be concerned. Will they confront HRC national? Yes, they will eventually confront HRC. The only question which remains is "when?" Will they confront HRC now or many years from now after ENDA becomes law and the courts rule that ENDA only protects gays and lesbians in narrow circumstances...circumstances around which employers can legally maneuver.

It seems somewhat misguided for HRC to continue to spend millions of dollars on an ENDA bill which provides room for employers to continue to discriminate against large numbers of gays and lesbians. More importantly though, many gays and lesbians who are contributing to HRC because HRC is fighting the battle to protect them from employment discrimination need to recognize that ENDA will not fully protect them. They should not be misled by HRC's rhetoric which leads gays and lesbians to think that ENDA will protect them. Yes, ENDA will prevent an employer from discriminating against a gay or lesbian person based upon their sexual orientation. As HRC is quick to point out, ENDA offers protection for all Americans and it will even protect transgendered persons from discrimination based upon their "sexual orientation." However, what HRC fails to disclose is that most employers do not discriminate against most transgendered persons due to their "sexual orientation" and, after ENDA passes they will not discriminate against gays and lesbians based upon their "sexual orientation" either. In its current form, ENDA will most likely protect gays and lesbians who agree to "pass for straight" and remain fairly closeted...a group which is among the least vulnerable to experience employment discrimination. As Robin Shahar recently learned, eliminating discrimination against gays and lesbians based upon "sexual orientation" will not end legal employment discrimination against gays and lesbians. If HRC wants "open and shut" cases, the current ENDA bill does not provide an appropriate mechanism. In many situations, the issue before the court will revolve around an employers argument that the case is really about a gay person engaging in "transgendered behaviors." All the women attending HRC dinners in tuxedos are engaging in "transgendered behaviors" after all, aren't they? Well, maybe they disagree, but one day they will be explaining it in court. It will be interesting! Many of those oppressive to transgendered people will find themselves victims of their own oppression. When the goal is to move the boundaries of discrimination rather than to erase discrimination, some will be surprised to themselves on the wrong side of the newly drawn boundaries.

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Passion Power for Fall

This season's colours for make-up are bold, vampy, and sultry. Inspired by this Fall's fashions, shades of plum, grape, deep red, gold, brown, black and grey are strong looks for eyes and lips. Beware however, when employing these striking colours, choose either the lips or the eyes to play up. If you choose to have dark, sultry eyes, then your lips should be soft in colour and definition. Likewise with the lips. Should you choose to go with a strong grape colour, or a berry stained look, then the eyes should be kept simple and soft. The point is to not have the eyes and the lips competing - choose one or the other to make a bigger impact. Note: if you play up both eyes and lips, you will achieve that heavy '80's look - not good! Also important, match your blush to your lip colour, creating a continuity in your look. (and not a clown look).

Before I continue on with some beauty tips, I must stress exfoliate, exfoliate, exfoliate! Exfoliation clears away anything that is built up on the skin. When the texture is smoother, you use less foundation because you're not working over a lot of dead skin cells, (your make-up will sit better and last longer).

If you're wearing make-up quite frequently, then you should exfoliate twice weekly, (with a product suitable to your skin type, BUT nothing with apricot kernels in it!). Otherwise, once a week is fine.

Some simple tips to update or simplify your look.

•If you put too much concealer around the eyes, it will cake and crease in the wrinkles and crow's feet. To avoid this, cut your cover-

up with moisturizer, then pat into place.

•If you can, use your finger tips instead of sponges to apply your foundation. You have more control about how much you apply, and where, and you'll save on foundation, (sponges absorb!)

•Mix and match your summer and winter foundations while you're in that transitional period. Combine them on the back of your hand until you have created the correct tone of your skin.

•Pencil liner laid down over eyeshadow can sometimes have a harsh look. Instead, apply the eyeliner pencil, then blend a matching eyeshadow over it. This will give you a smokey look, and it will help to set your eyeliner.

•Instead of false eyelashes, try curling them instead, (eyelash curlers can be purchased at any drugstore.) It gives the eye a lift and helps to make your mascara to look fuller and prettier.

•Use a soft lip pencil to line your lips after you've applied lipstick. It is easier to apply this way. Liner is also a great tool to make your lips look full, neat, and tidy. Use it like an undercoat applied all over the mouth, which can be left worn alone or enhanced with a gloss or sheer lipstick.

These tips are only a suggestion. There are very few rules when it comes to the application of make-up; so pick and choose the ones that work for you!

FINAL NOTE: Once you've finished your make-up, walk into another room with different lighting. It should look good in all light.

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