Renaissance News



Volume 6, No. 9

Vision - Integrity - Quality

September, 1992

STAFF CHANGES

Change is one of those things that can either sneak up on you, like those crow's feet around your eyes, or it can whip through your life suddenly and rearrange everything in one fell swoop. Something like hurricane Andrew's recent interaction with southern Florida.

Some people are dedicated to maintaining our world ina strict status quo. They will accept no variation from the old routine. Some French people like that actually started an academy to maintain the purity of the French language. I don't think the people in the streets of France pay too much attention to that academy. Things evolve. They change. It's inevitable.

Nineteen Ninety two is one of those years of change. Nations have fallen. Volcanos have erupted. We may have a new President elected in November and of course the new fall TV lineup will soon be on the air. Change is swirling around me as I type. While I was busy dealing with one of those slow, sneak up changes; our Renaissance national budget crunch, another Alf you have skills in editing, writchange hit like a hurricane. Our newsletter is left without an Editor. Paul Hanson has left the staff of the Renaissance News.

Paul has been involved with the Newsletter since near the beginning. His contributions have made our newsletter one of the best written and edited publications in the transgendered community. His wit, inteligence and style, have made the Renaissance News truly superior. His donation of fourty hours a month in solid, professional journalism have made the newsletter possible. Thank you Paul.

You have no doubt noticed that this issue of the News has changed. It's smaller, The News Queen is gone and you probably received it a little later then usual. We have an obligation to provide our subscribers and advertisers with a newsletter. We are going to continue to meet that obligation. In order to do so it is necessary to establish a new staff. Former staffers like Joann, Beth and Rachel and Gloria Lee Mundy will remain on board. An Editor In Chief will have to be found and other editors, writers and layout people are needed. Until the new staff has been assembled we will continue to produce this short version of the Renaissance News.

ing and layout please send me your qualifications as soon as possible. Mail them to P.O. Box 530, Bensalem, Pa 19020 and mark them to my attention.

A PC is one very good qualification. So, let's not be frightened or discouraged by change. Let's embrace it. Now we can build on the past and take the Renaissance News in exciting directions.

RENAISSANCE REMINDERS

Letters! We want letters.... If you have any ideas on how Renaissance might better serve the transgendered community; any article ideals, ambitious schemes or delicious recipies, send them to us. The address is still P.O. box 60552, King of Prussia, PA 19406. Plans or schemes should be marked to the attention of our National Director, Angela Gardner. Article ideas, (and recipies) should be marked, "Newsletter". We won't be able to make use of everything but we'll look at all of it and make sure you get a reply.

KEEP ON CLIPPING

The "News Queen" column will no longer appear in the Renaissance News but don't stop sending those clippings. We will be running a new column on the national scene and since we don't read as many newspapers as our departed editor cont. pg 5

Announcements...

Background Papers are available for \$1 each plus \$.25 postage for each pair ordered. Eight papers are available: 1-Myths & Misconceptions About Crossdressing, 2-Reasons for Male to Female Crossdressing, 3-PART-NERS: Spouses & Significant Others, 4-The Matter of Children, 5-An Annotated Bibliography, 6-Telling the Children: A Transsexual's Point of View, 7-Understanding Transsexualism, and 8-AIDS & HIV Safety and Ethics.

If you are willing to write letters to Pen Pals, please inform Maryann Kirkland, or write the main office, care of Dept. PP.

Chapters & Affiliates...

New Jersey

South Jersey: Meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Atlantic Mental Health Center, Inc. 2002 Black Horse Pike, McKee, N.J. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Call (609) 641-3782 or write Renaissance/SJ, PO Box 189, Mays Landing, NJ 08330. Kara Forward, chapter leader.

Pennsylvania

Greater Philadelphia: Meets on the third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia, Pa. Doors open - 8:00 p.m. year round. Call (215) 630-1437 or write Renaissance/GP, PO Box 530, Bensalem, PA 19020. Michelle Lynn, chapter leader

Lower Susquehanna Valley: Meets on the first Saturday of the month at The Greens at Westgate in York, Pa. Call (717) 780-1LSV for information or write Renaissance/LSV, PO Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105. Brenda Davidson, Chapter leader.

Affiliates

MOTG: PO Box 8243, Red Bank, NJ 07701

American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS): PO Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033, (404) 939-0244

Events Calendar

September

5th So. Jersey Chapter Group rap on relationships

5th Lwr. Susquehanna Vly

19th Gr. Phila. Chapter Dianne Berger: Developing feminine style.

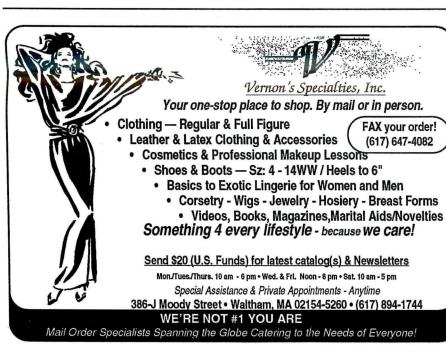
October

3rd So. Jersey Chapter

3rd Lwr. Susquehanna Vly

17th Gr. Phila. Chapter Jacqueline Urania: Universal Spirit

31st Henri David's Halloween Party at the Bellevue



Renaissance News

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Renaissance is a 501[c][3] non-profit organization providing education and support to the gender community and the general public.

WILL RENAISSANCE BE THE "HOSTESS WITH THE MOSTESS?"

A lot of people are looking forward to the 1993 seventh annual Coming Together convention sponsored by the International Foundation for Gender Education and hosted by Renaissance here in Philadelphia. Our job as host organization is to provide the arms and legs for the convention and to plan the fun activities (Tier III) for the event.

Under the capable guidance of Alison Laing, the Host Committee, starting this past summer, began the planning process. One thing became very clear early in the discussions; we're going to need seed money for planning. So, the committee turned its collective mind to fund-raising activities.

First, since Renaissance is a legitimate, tax exempt 501[c][3] organization, members can make direct contributions to national and take all applicable tax deductions on their personal income tax. Any contribu-

tion, no matter how small, will be gratefully accepted. Send contributions to Ren. Convention Fund, care of the national office.

However, the committee realizes this is a rather dry way of giving money and most people would rather have a little excitement added to the giving. So, we're going to have an auction in November. Michelle Lynn, Greater Philadelphia Chapter leader, graciously offered the chapter's November venue for the event. Quality items are needed to make this a successful fund-raiser. For example, JoAnn Roberts has donated a Paradise In The Poconos weekend for one, a \$300 value, and Irene Mills, our event photographer, has donated a portrait sitting, a \$150 value. That's a good start but we need many more items to make the auction a success. We are looking for both goods and services in a wide price range. If you have something that you'd like to donate, please contact JoAnn Roberts care of the national office.

But wait! There's more. Perhaps all the items will not be sold during the auction; what then, you ask. Well, the following month, being December, Renaissance will host its annual Holiday Party. Any unsold items from the November auction will be converted to door prizes along with specific donations designated as door prizes. Tickets will be on sale during the party.

Last, but not least, beginning in September, we're asking each chapter to hold a 50-50 drawing with half the proceeds going to the convention fund. We realize that not all chapters will be able to participate, but every little bit helps.

Now, you'd probably like to know what we're going to do withall this money we collect. So far, the Host Committee has planned:

- · An outing to a concert.
- A bus trip to Atlantic City for a little gambling and maybe a peek at the La Cage show.
 - · A restaurant tour of the city.
- Casino Night Charity Benefit in the hotel.

Each month, the Host Committee will bring you more specific information about convention activities as they develop.

In the meantime, help your organization with cash and quality donations to keep doing what it is most noted for: setting newer, higher standards for the community.



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Continued from page 1

we need you to keep an eye out for stories of interest. Make a note of what publication the item is from and send it to the address in the item above. Mark it, "Newsletter".

PROGRAM NOTES

Brenda Davidson, Leader of the Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter and Angela Gardner of Renaissance National appeared August thirteenth on CNBC's, "Real Personal" program. Sexologist Roger E. Peo, Ph.D. shared the couch with the Renaissance ladies and the three engaged in an informative conversation with the show's co-hosts Wendy Tush and Bob Berkow

itz. CNBC liked the program so much they ran it again just a few days later. "Real Personal" airs at ten thirty PM on CNBC. Check your local television listing and set those VCR's for an up coming Montel Williams Show" featuring "she-males." "The Donohue Show" is working on a program about transsexuals who are experiencing problems with having their names and sexual status legally changed.

COMING UP

Greater Philadelphia's vendor night was a rousing success. The vendors brought a lovely array of wares and the ladies found many bargains to fill their shopping bags. The night was so successful that plans are brewing for another night of retail revels at the November meeting.

Already on deck for November is a special silent auction fund raiser. Auction income will be used to make deposits and cover other expenses associated with our commitment to host the IFGE convention next year in downtown Philadelphia. Alison Laing is in charge of the auction. If you have something you would like to donate for the auction contact Alison thru the National address.

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter's October program will be far above matters like money. The topic scheduled is, "The Universal Spirit." Metaphysician Jacqueline Urana will help members with their she/male spiritual developement. South Jersey's program will stay a little closer to the ground in October with a presentation on relationships.

NEW ARRIVALS

Elsa Larson, our Keeper of The Data Base, has become a transparent. Elsa's wife gave birth August twenty sixth to a baby girl named Sarah Elizabeth. Good luck Sarah. Welcome to the planet. Let's all keep trying to make the place a little bit better for her and all the other new arrivals

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THE I CONOCLAST

ALEXANDRIA, VA. — A different point of view...

In my July column, I reported that the now defunct *Our Sorority*, was *not* an official publication of the **Outreach Institute**. My source for that information was an official of the Outreach Institute.

Not so, says ex-publisher **Betty Ann Lind**. Lind called to explain why and how the little pink magazine came to be associated with the institute. Lind's story sounded good to me, but the point is now moot since OS is no longer in print. However, I do regret the error.

Lind is now associated with **Reluctant Press**, a major publisher of crossdressing fiction.

V A V

waltham, mass. — I understand it was a moving experience...

The International Foundation for Education officially moved its offices to 123 Moody Street in Waltham, Mass., 02154. The building is leased by the organization with an option to buy in the future. The move gives IFGE much needed space for expansion of its activities and services.

One of those new services will be a walk-in bookstore. This will be, perhaps, the only bookstore in the country that specializes in gender related publications. It could be a true national resource. I wish them well in their new digs.

Now, some people think I'm anti-IFGE. Heck, I love IFGE. In fact, I feel very positive about the future of IFGE in relation to the community at large. We need to get more people interested in and involved in IFGE sponsored projects. If I gave anyone the impression that I'm anti-IFGE, I sincerely do apologize.

At the same time, I'm keenly aware of the people and the politics that create impediments to growth for IFGE. These are the things I rail against; not the organization itself. I hope that is now very clear.

V A V

PORTLAND, ORE. — It takes balls to pretend you don't have any...

I was reading the July newsletter of the **Northwest Gender Allaince** when I came across an article titled *Something Is Missing*, by **Roni L.**, who I believe to be a past-president of NWGA.

I mention this article because I think it took some courage to write the piece. In it, Roni says that the "something" that seems to be missing when she's out dressed is a man, or rather a male escort. She says she'd, "…like to have a male friend that would take me places…"

Some folks would be so scared of being labeled a homosexual that they'd *never* admit to such fantasies and yet I believe that such fantasies are quite common among TVs.

So, a tip of the wig to Roni.

VAV

ALTONA, AUSTRALIA — Every coin has two sides...

The other side of the issue that Roni brings up is discussed in the June/July issue of *Nu-Scene International* from the Elaine Barrie Project. **Rosemary Jones** writes So Far – But How Much Further wherein she wonders that if a man finds you attractive (a goal of many TVs), how far would you or should you go along with the flattery?

Says Jones, "If you are reasonably attractive, you are going to receive an advance from a man one day. I suggest you give it careful thought before the crisis emerges."

Jones has a good point. It seems that more and more transvestites and transgenderists are venturing out in the daytime for purely social interactions. So, it is best to be prepared in case you attract a man.

VAV

NEW YORK CITY, N.Y. — Making apple pie in the Big Apple...

It was in these pages that I suggested forming the Mid-Atlantic Gender Coaltition (MAGC). There

hasn't been any progress on that front, but a bunch of "New Yawk goils" took the hint.

Kristine James of Cross-dressers International (CDI) gathered together the NYC-area gender groups for a pow-wow at Muriel Olive's Fem Fashions. The group agreed to meet quarterly for consultation, coordination and communication. Represented at the meeting were Long Island Femme Expression, Girl's Night Out, CDI, Chi Delta Mu Tri-Ess, NJ Chapter of Survivors of Transsexuality Anonymous, and Metro Gender Network.

James is to be congratulated for bringing the groups together to talk. Maybe we can talk her into helping us get MAGC off the ground, but only if she gets a proof-reader. The last CDI newsletter touted a meeting topic of "Building Your Famine Body." Anorexia to the max!

 $\forall \land \forall$

HOLLYWOOD, FLA. — Why ask why?...

One of our sisters, Nancy, writing in the Serenity newsletter, discusses the touchy issue of secondary transsexualism. She notes that the number of people who call themselves transsexual is alarming her.

"...there are far too many of us mere crossdressers claiming to be transsexuals. What I don't know is why. Do some of us justify our crossdressing by claiming to be transsexuals? Do some of us get so wrapped up with our feminine side that we forget that we are men? Are we starting to think that being a mere crossdresser is something to be ashamed of? Are we forgetting that there are many alternatives besides sexual reassignment?"

VAV

NEW YORK CITY, N.Y. — Roses among thorns...

Through my business I receive all kinds of mail and recently a flyer from **Executive Imports** crossed

THE ICONOCLAST

my desk. The flyer lists all the various "adult" magazines that EI handles. There is an entire page devoted to crossdressing and now I knwo why we "don't get no respect."

How can you expect any respect with magazine titles like, Transvestite Key Club, Meet-A-Mimic, She-Male Rendezvous, and Tapestry. Hey! Wait a minute. Tapestry? Yep and LadyLike, too. Oh, I felt so sorry for Holly Boswell and Marlayna Lacie who appear on the covers of those magazines respectively.



winter park, fla. — A call for action...

I'm always glad to see a club take a personal interest in a political issue, especially if it involves equal rights under the law. Our sisters at **Phi Epsilon Mu Tri-Ess** have gotten pro-active in this area.

Recently, **Eckerd Drug**, the southeast's largest drugstore chain, withdrew its advertising support from a show called *Eye On Tampa Bay*, because the show "...no longer meets the company's sponsorship guidelines for 'appropriate' broadcast material." Bet you didn't know drugstores were television critics.

Actually, the sponsor withdrew after a religious fundamentalist complained about two positive segements; one about gays and one about female impersonators.

The girls at ΦEM routinely purchased their door prizes at a local Eckerd store. They've since stopped that practice and have written a letter to Eckerd CEO **Stuart Turly** to express their feelings about the sponsorship withdrawal.

If you'd like to express your feelings to Turly, you can write to him care of Eckerd Drugs, 8333 Bryan Dairy Rd., Largo, FL 34647



NAPA, CALIF. — I wonder whatever happened to...

This time last year, there was quite a bit of noise coming from the

wine country and the Gender Alternatives League. Since then, nothing of any import. Cynthia Howard, chief architect of the GAL movement, managed to put out one issue of *The Genderist* and that was it. Has anybody heard anything?



overland park, kan. — Harvest in the Heartland...

If you're looking for something that's bound to be a lot of fun and doesn't cost an arm and a leg to attend, check out the Fall Harvest Weekend sponsored by the Mid-America Gender Group Information Exchange (MAGGIE).

The activities begin Thursday, November 9 and run to Sunday, November 12, 1992. There will be seminars and workshops for the novice crossdresser, the more active crossdresser, the transsexual, and for partners. Registration is \$185 and includes all programs and entertainment, plus dinner Thursday night, and lunch and dinner on Friday and Saturday. Rooms are extra (\$62/night) as is the Sunday riverboat brunch (\$25).

For complete details write Fall Harvest, PO Box 35061, Overland Park, KS 66214-5061.



ROCHESTER, N.Y. — A good working definition...

In the August/September issue of the Rochester Network—CD News, I found an interesting article entitled The Supportive Spouse by Wanda Watson. Watson gives us some insight into the special characteristics of a truly supportive partner:

- Confidence in themselves as independent thinkers. They are not disquieted by other people's opinions.
- Ability to truly love their spouse, giving them the freedom to be who they really are.
- Secure in their own sexuality, in who they are and the role

they have been called to play.

She goes on to say that only a very few women develop these characteristics naturally on their own. The rest of you have to work at it.



SYRACUSE, N.Y — While I'm here... I wrote about former EON member Molly Kennedy losing her job with the city here and how she felt she'd been "outed" by someone from the group.

I received a phone call from EON Inc. board member, **Angela S.**, who assured me that no one at EON was involved. She claimed to have knowledge of who did "out" Kennedy, but the person is not a part of the crossgendered community.

That's a relief because I did not want to believe that we'd get into that mode of operation.

VAV

INDIANAPOLIS, IN — A CD by any other name...

Those wacky kids at the Indiana Crossdressers Society, IXE, have done it again. The August issue of IXE News has an article titled New Terminology. But before I hear you groan, "Oh, No! Not again," let me assure you, this one is funny.

Sarah writes, "Why are our labels so obdurate? Why do they fail us? Why? Because they are boring! Our terminology is dry... no longer practical in the New Wave culture. Let me begin by offering suggestions for relevant terminology.

Heel on wheels – CD who sneaks out to drive the car, Fembot–CD who talks computers, Target–CD in public & not passing, The Only Half–a divorced CD, Sears Tower–tall CD in high heels. There's more but my fave is: Fashion Reporter–editor of a CD newsletter.

VAV

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