

Renaissance News



Volume 7, No. 10

Vision - Integrity - Quality

October, 1993

Someone Cares About Us

by Evelyn Kirkland

Six weeks ago Maryann and I were in Dallas, Texas, attending the first annual meeting of SPICE. Now you might ask, what is SPICE? SPICE stands for Spouses/Partners International Conference of Education; but behind this title is a group of spouses and partners committed to supporting and educating women involved in crossdressing relationships. SPICE is an organization for us, the wives, partners, and significant others of gender-gifted men.

The SPICE conference was about love – the love of women committed to relationships with men whom they do not completely understand; the love of gender-gifted men who were able to leave behind their feminine garb to support their spouse or partner in attending this conference; and the love of women and educators reaching out to other women who can't fathom how to cope or live with a crossdressing mate. The SPICE conference centered on us

as women. The programs helped each of us to find or, in some cases, redefine our self-esteem, our own self-worth. It is only in realizing our own value as women that we can continue in meaningful relationships with gender-gifted men without being threatened by the fear of losing our own femininity or our own identity.

All relationships have their hills and valleys, but relationships with gender-gifted men seem to have more ups and downs than most. At SPICE, through open and honest communication, the spouses and partners of transgendered men shared their painful experiences and the triumphs of learning about the coping with their special men. Somehow in sharing these difficult experiences, they became less painful to bear.

I see SPICE as the beginning of a national network of spouses and partners who share a common bond; that is, a relationship with a gender-gifted man. SPICE can be the end of isolation for many women who feel they have no one to turn to or no one with whom they can share their painful "secret."

The SPICE Board of Directors, a group to which I have been appointed, is assuming the responsibility for establishing meaningful educational programming for partners and spouses at the Annual IFGE "Coming Together, Work-

ing Together" convention. The Board of Directors is also in the process of planning the second annual SPICE conference. The target date is June, 1994, hopefully in Chicago.

I would like to personally thank Renaissance for helping to sponsor the first SPICE conference and would like to see the women involved with Renaissance members form a strong, active support group. I would be happy to facilitate such a group. If anyone is interested in forming a group or has a wife, partner, or significant other who can benefit from such a group, please write to me:

Evelyn Kirkland
P. O. Box 1242
Newtown, PA 18940

See page 6 for related story:

On the Flip Side...

Missing in the Line of Duty

Brenda Davidson got so bogged down reading all those newsletters from all over the country that she didn't have time to get her Vis A Vis column written this month. Miss Davidson will return to these pages in the November issue.

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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) 435-5401 or write Renaissance SJ, PO Box 189, Mays Landing, NJ 08330. Chapter leader - Terri [REDACTED]; Assistant Leader - Phil [REDACTED]

Pennsylvania

Greater Philadelphia: Meets on third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia, PA. Doors open at 8:00 p.m. Write to Renaissance PHL, Box 530, Bensalem, PA 19020 or call (215)630-1437. Chapter Leader - Maryann Kirkland

Lower Susquehanna Valley: Meets on the first Saturday of the month at The Greens at Westgate in York, Pa. Write Renaissance LSV, Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105, or call (717) 780-1LSV. Chapter Leader - Yvonne [REDACTED]

Affiliates

MOTG: Meets on the fourth Saturday of the month. For information contact Terry M., PO Box 8243, Red Bank, NJ 07701

Metropolitan Gender Network: 561 Hudson Street, Box 45. New York, NY 10014 (201) 794-1665 Ext. 332.

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

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.

And, don't forget about...

Articles, opinion pieces and letters to the Editor are always welcome at the Renaissance News. Ideas for articles and opinion pieces should be sent to Renaissance News, P. O. Box 530, Bensalem, PA 19020. Complimentary and irate letters to the Editor may be sent to the same address.

Significant Others who have article ideas or opinions they would like to share should send their ideas to Evelyn Kirkland, c/o Maryann Kirdland, P. O. Box 1242, Newtown, PA 18940.

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-PARTNERS: Spouses & Significant Others, 4-The Matter of Children, 5-An Annotated Bibliography, 6-Telling the Children: A Transsexual's Point of View, 8-AIDS & HIV Safety and Ethics, and 9-Understanding Transsexuality.

Pen Pal Program: If you would like to be a pen pal contact Maryann Kirkland at P. O. Box 1242, Newtown, PA 18940. Attn: Dept. PP.

If you are a transgendered person with children and would like to network with other transparents, contact Elsa [REDACTED] at: Transparent, C/O Renaissance LSV, Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105.

For TS information and peer counseling in South Jersey call Kelly Harris at 609 641-3782.

Events Calendar

Renaissance GP	Renaissance LSV	Renaissance South Jersey	MOTG
Oct. 16: Dr. Sheila Kirk	Oct. 2: Meeting, 8:00 p.m.	October: Terri M. on the	Oct. 23: Bra & Girdle
Nov. 20: Mariette Pathy	Nov. 6: Meeting, 8:00 p.m.	NJ Gay Alliance	Factory night
Allen, Photographer	Dec. 4: Meeting, 8:00 p.m.	November: Halloween	Nov. 27: TBA
Dec. 4: Christmas Party		Party!	Dec. 4: JoAnn Roberts
		December: Elections	Jan. 22: Alison Laing
			Feb. 26: Dr. Roger Peo

Chapters wishing to have their programs listed should get them to the Newsletter at least one month in advance. Two is better.

ROGER'S NOTEBOOK (#82)

by Roger E. Peo, Ph. D.

The phrase "Biology is Destiny" once was used to justify the treatment of any group of people. It was felt that the physical characteristics of a person determined how they were to be treated, women were "emotional," blacks were "inferior," etc. Similar arguments now arise in and about transgenderism although clothed in different terms. There is the age-old question of whether there is a physical or biological component to transgenderism.

Those who argue for such a basis feel that if a biological cause can be found then they can shed the label of mental illness and perhaps gain some social acceptance. Those who argue against biological underpinnings feel that if biology is shown to be a factor it would open the avenue to further discrimination. Their reasoning is that if transgendered people are "different" they need to be cured or controlled.

A similar situation seems to be occurring in the gay community. Here studies seem to show there are genetic and biological predispositions to "gayness" al-

though the evidence is far from conclusive. In spite of these studies, there has been little change in society's acceptance of a gay lifestyle.

People who express transgender feelings are found in all cultures and throughout history. So it seems likely that there is some biological basis for transgenderism in much the same way as there is for almost all other human traits. However, it also seems likely that there is an influence from the society in which the person lives. Thus, it is not "either/or" but both.

Whatever the biological causes of transgenderism are, they most likely occur during fetal development with perhaps an additional influence from hormones during puberty. So biology probably sets the stage for the social interactions that influence the development of gender identity. If the person's internal sense of self is at odds with social requirement, "gender dysphoria" can develop. For example, the transsexual's discomfort arises when social disapproval prevents the expression

of their inner feelings. What this argues for is more freedom in social roles. With greater freedom of gender expression the person whose gender identity does not fit his/her anatomy can find an appropriate middle ground.

Unfortunately most societies seem to function in a very polarized way. There are men and there are women. Each sex is expected to follow different social roles. Such "rules" do not allow for crossdressing, homosexuality or bisexuality. The transsexual's sole relief is to modify his/her body in order to be free to express her/his inner identity. Even then, discovery of the past can create problems.

Far more sad is that most cultures abuse and exploit sexuality, keeping it a thing apart from the rest of their humanness. Such separation generates a fear that oppresses everyone, not just the transgendered.

So, in the end even if there is a biological component, its effect is overshadowed by the environment that the culture creates.



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You may contact Dr. Peo at P.O. Box 3445, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 or by phone at (914) 452-8405. All communications are kept confidential.

This column may be reprinted in any non-profit organization's newsletter if Dr. Peo's name and address appear in the reprinted version. Others must obtain written approval from Dr. Peo. A copy of such a reprint should be sent to Dr. Peo.

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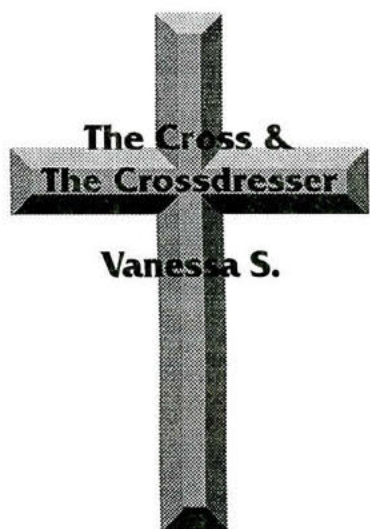
New from CDS

Sacred Cows Make the Best Hamburger — A collection of 39 of the best essays and editorials by JoAnn Roberts from the pages of *LadyLike*, *Femme*, *ITS* and *Renaissance News*. You'll find out why JoAnn is one of the most respected writers in the TV/TS community. 100 pages for \$12.00 postpaid. Pa. residents add 6% sales tax.

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M.O.T.G. JOINS N.J. LESBIAN AND GAY COALITION

by Terry McCorkell

Renaissance affiliate Monmouth Ocean Transgender, M.O.T.G., has recently become the **first** transgender support group to join the New Jersey Lesbian and Gay Coalition. M.O.T.G. was granted status as a full voting member in good standing at the regular monthly meeting of the coalition on June 19, 1993, in New Brunswick, New Jersey. This historic event now establishes a bridge of mutual understanding, support, and cooperation between the transgender community and the gay, lesbian, and bisexual communities in the state of New Jersey.

The New Jersey Lesbian and Gay Coalition is one of the premier statewide organizations in the United States. Since its founding over twenty years ago it has been in the forefront in organizing public education outreach initiatives, legal defense, AIDS support services, and especially political action and civil rights lobbying. In fact, the State of New Jersey, in January of 1992, be-

came the fifth state to bar discrimination based on sexual or affectional orientation largely due to the sustained and courageous efforts of the N. J. Lesbian and Gay Coalition. In addition, the coalition has been and continues to be both active and influential in regards to such national projects as the 1993 March on Washington, the upcoming Stonewall 25 March, and ongoing federal civil rights issues.

A commitment to expand their focus to include both the bisexual and transgender communities has been a special project of the N.J.L. and G.C. They have even amended their by-laws and mission statement with more inclusive language to reflect this commitment. For example, the coalition mission statement now reads (amended terms are noted in **bold**),

"The New Jersey Lesbian and Gay Coalition, ... , is committed to fighting discrimination based on sexual or affectional orientation or **gender identification**, and

to enhancing the quality of the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and **transgendered** people through education, political action, litigation, legal reform and public advocacy."

It is clear, therefore, that M.O.T.G.'s outreach to the gay, lesbian, and bisexual community is by no means a one way street nor an isolated event. Our respective communities are reaching out to one another in earnest. This is happening not only on a local level but on a national and global level as well. Together we may accomplish what we may not do separately. Bigotry, fear, hate, and misunderstanding must not be allowed to continue between ourselves if we ever hope to defeat them in society at large. Those who oppose us would rather keep us divided and thereby silence our collective voices. It is only through unity, through mutual cooperation, understanding and respect that all gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people may thrive as dignified human beings.

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Stonewall 25 Resolution

News from the G.S.G.C.

The Garden State Gender Coalition, an association of seven transgender support groups, met in Hamilton Square, New Jersey, on July 31, 1993. The following resolution was passed unanimously:

"We, the Garden State Gender Coalition, in light of the involvement of transgendered people in the Stonewall Uprising of 1969 and, most especially, in light of the increasing contributions of transgendered people in the current struggle for civil rights alongside of our gay, lesbian, and bisexual brothers and sisters, hereby enthusiastically endorse the Stonewall 25 March and Rally planned for June 26, 1994, in New York City. We, in addition, call upon the leadership of the Stonewall 25 planning committee to adopt policies that **more fully include the transgender community** in this historic event. Furthermore, we stand ready to offer our aid and assistance to enhance the successful outcome of this noble international celebration."

Our coalition supports the efforts and objectives of the Stonewall 25 March and all the related events planned for June, 1994. We recognize the Stonewall Uprising of 1969 as a pivotal event in the history of the universal struggle for human dignity and civil rights. We applaud the courage of all those who stood up for themselves in the face of oppression. We recognize, with special pride, the key roles that our transgendered brothers and sisters played at that historic event. The civil rights struggle that has ensued has proven to be one of the proudest and noblest efforts in both American and world history. We, as transgendered people, know full well that this is our battle for dignity and liberty as much as it is for our gay, lesbian, and bisexual friends. Therefore, we wish to participate fully in this historic commemoration. Stonewall 25 is an event that the transgender community needs to rally around. We, of the Garden State Gender Coalition, wish to help make this possible.

You may contact the G.S.G.C. at:
Garden State Gender Coalition
c/o M.O.T.G.
P. O. Box 8243
Red Bank, NJ 07701

On the Flip Side...

the CD Point of View

by Maryann Kirkland

The men's program at the SPICE conference was conceived and executed rather well considering it was originally an afterthought. It was an experiment and said by many to have been worthwhile. Shocking a little? — a crossdresser receiving some benefit from a non-dressing event.

Twenty men from all corners of the gender community met at appointed intervals. This group represented an amazing cross section of leaders and novices, old and young; the "gender-gifted" and the "gender-troubled." The room contained generals and privates but one could not tell who was who from appearances. Gone were the external trappings of the women we strive to create. Today the tables were turned on us — instead of being the steam engine we were a group of cabooses. Yes, our ego took a hit, but under these humbling circumstances people began to open up and to express what they felt. Some said they enjoyed sharing who they really are, as if the make-up and wig got in their way. Over the course of

(continued on page 18)

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Transgendered Teen Denied Housing

by Marina Brown

On August 3, Brittany DeLoach, a 17 year-old transgendered high school student, was denied shelter at the Youth Emergency Service, a privately owned shelter facility on 1526 Fairmount Avenue in Philadelphia. In a telephone interview, the director of the shelter, Willie Little, claimed that the shelter, which offers dormitory style housing, lacked the resources to house her. Before Brittany arrived at the shelter an employee who was aware of her status said that the shelter would be able to house her temporarily. But a few hours after arriving at the shelter she was asked to leave and was referred to a different shelter that could only house her for a short time. The director of the YES shelter said he was concerned that housing Brittany with females could traumatize sexually confused adolescents. He claimed that employees of the shelter were still working with Brittany and had obtained an apartment for her. Brittany denied having any contact with the shelter after

she was asked to leave. The director said he was not prejudiced against transgendered people and stated that a male crossdresser was housed overnight in the male dormitory of another YES shelter but left to avoid placement.

Brittany, who has been living as a woman for two years, is attending her senior year at Southern High School and is active with "Unity, Inc." an organization for Black gays and lesbians. She is vocal in demanding an end to discrimination against gays, lesbians and transgendered people. In February she was legally emancipated when her parents stopped taking care of her. She has not had reliable housing until she obtained an apartment after leaving the shelter.

The incident with Brittany has drawn considerable publicity as has the city's seeming inability to efficiently house homeless young people. Brittany's problems were reported in the Philadelphia Gay Newspaper (PGN) and in the Philadelphia Inquirer. Another

article in the Inquirer decried the fact that homeless young people often have to miss school while their housing applications are processed. Many city services are provided by private contractors. The city and any contractors providing service must provide quality care and uphold the city's non-discrimination policy which forbids discrimination based on sexual orientation. The city should provide resources to serve the transgendered community as well as gays, lesbians and all oppressed minorities. In addition, private organizations working for the city should provide the resources to serve the needs of any persons needing their service if they expect to keep getting city funds. They must treat every individual with dignity and respect. To insure this we need an independent commission of transgendered people, lesbians, gays and all oppressed minorities to oversee the actions of the city and the private contractors working for the city.

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by Angela Gardner

It's October and the time has come to talk of many things. Of cabbages and Kings and ... Queens! Yes, October is upon us and all the PTQ's (part-time queens) will be visiting the mall to find just the right size fourteen pump to put the finishing touch to their Halloween costumes.

"A drag costume again this year? How come you never go to the office Halloween party as a cowboy? Hon, is there something I should know?" Many an anxious mate will be asking these questions in the coming weeks and many a closet CD will lie her corset off as they look forward to their secret desire on Halloween night.

Those who have already stepped free of the shackles of the closet, (not an S&M reference) will be displaying their fantasy finery throughout the land. The Greater Philadelphia Chapter is getting a jump on it by making their October meeting a costume optional event. Chapter Program Director, Michelle [redacted] said, "If South Jersey can do it a week after Halloween why can't we steal the idea and do it two weeks before the big holiday?"

So girls, get out your feather boas and Arabian Princess outfits for the GPC meeting on October 16th. Now where did I put that feathered bra? No word from Miss [redacted] on prizes for the best costume, etc., but if we whine loud enough ... "Do you know how hard it

was to sneak out of my neighborhood in this headress?" maybe the Chapter will come up with something.

Prizes are offered at Henri David's Halloween Ball on Sunday the 31st. Of course every FTQ (full-time queen), CD and she-male on the East Coast will be there and they all enter the costume competitions. If you don't enter it's still fun to watch so don't miss this one, girls. Rumor has it that the party will happen at the brand new Philadelphia Convention Center this year. If that's the case, and we'll probably know for sure by the time you read this, there shouldn't be any problem with overcrowding like last year when several of the girls could not fight their way in.

Area gay clubs will be having their own Halloween parties and costume contests for the whole weekend so with a little planning you should be able to get your money's worth from your costume in a veritable orgy of party going. Then, on November 6th you can close out Halloween at the South Jersey Chapter meeting by attending their costume optional night.

Remember, if your chapter or affiliate group is planning any events be sure you let me know as soon as possible. I'll get it listed in the News and more people will get excited about it. Send info on events to:

Newsletter
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19020

And now ... the news!

FOXES ON FOX

The Fox Network seems to be drag headquarters on television this fall. In addition to "Martin" who plays several drag characters on his show and "In Living Color" which features drag often, in September they ran a made-for-TV movie starring Corey Haim called "Just One of the Girls." Young Corey in reasonable drag, (How did he learn to do that so fast?) avoids a bully and his nefarious cronies disguised as Chrissie. Of course, in the improbable series of events that follow he ends up having to attend school every day as a girl and even goes out for the cheerleading squad. Yes, he makes it onto the squad and no one even notices that Chrissie's shoulders are a little bit bigger than the other girls'. The writers figured "Why stop there?" The bully falls for this ersatz *femme fatale* and things really get funny. One of the best scenes is

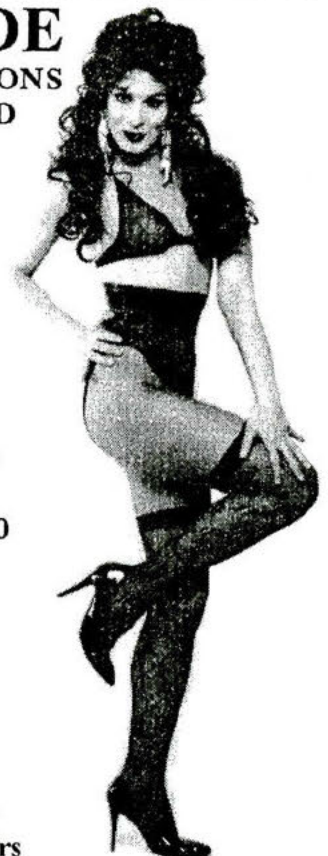
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where the girls' gym coach calls Chrissie into her office to discuss Chrissie's sexual orientation. The coach is afraid she's a lesbian. The L word is never used and poor Chris thinks she is talking about his being crossdressed. He mentions that he is a male and the coach ends up counseling him about his crossdressing. Catch it if it runs again or borrow it from a friend who taped it. "Just One of the Girls" is a cute film that's worth watching.

Then, another Fox character was in drag for his first show of the season. Herman from "Herman's Head" goes to a singles bar in drag and wild times occur. He looks pretty good in drag too. Again, if you missed it the first time be sure to catch it in reruns.

CHANGING ... CHANNELS

Fox is not the only network to

dabble in crossdressed characters. John Larroquette, while not in drag himself, has a crossdresser as a regular on his show on NBC. She has appeared in two episodes so far and is a glamorous DQ who hangs around the bus station that Larroquette manages. She hasn't sat still for a conversation with anyone yet. Both of her appearances have been, literally, walk ons. She walks past Larroquette and says hello in the first show and then walks past him again in another show and makes another comment. In that show she is being followed by a basketball player who tells John that he has just met the most interesting woman. Larroquette refrains from informing the player about the girl of his dreams and the show goes on. I hope we can look forward to the crossdresser appearing in future shows more often and I hope the producers will remember, if she needs a crossdressed buddy, I'm always available.

HERO IN HEELS

The best appearance by a crossdresser so far was on the premier of the CBS series "Rescue 911." How's this for the crossdresser's nightmare scenario? You are all dressed up and on your way out. You stop at the 7-11 to buy breath mints or a spare pair of panty hose. As you stand in line to pay, a gun-toting maniac comes in and takes you and the clerk hostage. Someone sees what's going on and calls 911. Within minutes the parking lot is full of police, the SWAT team is deployed and the whole thing is being videotaped. That's exactly what happened to a CD named Greg. The gun-toting maniac was a crazy woman. Greg and two other GG women were held hostage in the convenience store while police with bull horns tried to get the woman to give up. Then as the psycho pushed them toward the door the crossdresser saved their lives by grabbing the shotgun

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away from the nut case. The police told Greg he was a hero and no one seemed to care that he was crossdressed. Now that's positive media for the transgender community. But, don't go out and start wrestling maniacs for good press coverage. It's much too dangerous. You could get a run in your stockings!

SPICE UP

If you haven't read the front page yet, make sure you catch the articles by the Kirklands on S.P.I.C.E. Better yet, if you have a significant other, a girlfriend, a wife, etc. make sure they read the articles. Far too many crossdressers who are lucky enough to have an intimate relationship are much too insensitive to the needs of their partners. For various reasons, the partner's needs get put into the background. When you put on the dress try to put on some of the empathy and sensitivity that women are credited with and listen to your partner. Is she as accepting as she seems? Are there problems that she has not mentioned? Problems that could cause bigger problems down the line?

If she is so inclined then support her in contacting Evelyn Kirkland concerning participation in a spouse support group within Renaissance. This group could meet on a regular meeting night or could be scheduled for any other night that our meeting place is

available. Remember, it's hard enough to maintain a relationship without crossdressing in the mix. Take some action now. Evelyn's address is on page 2 and it can be found in her article.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

While many crossdressers are saving up their nickels and dimes to go to a crossdresser week or weekend I will be using up my line of credit on a trip to Merry Olde England. That's right, home of the Queen, the Queen Mum and all the rubber dress, PVC wearing, non-royal queens you'd want. How can an American girl like me find out where the hot CD night spots are? What shops carry the sexiest fashions and have the most accepting sales people? How about a place to stay where they won't look askance as I saunter out in my black, sequined, micro mini dress? Well, fortunately a few months ago a girl from London wrote to Renaissance asking for info on the American scene. I wrote back and told her to call me when she got here. She never called but I thought I'd drop her another line and let her know I was coming over. Hands across the sea and all, eh what?

Caroline, for that is her name, responded with a little booklet that she

publishes in England. (She's sort of the JoAnn Roberts of the United Kingdom.) The booklet is called "The Transvestite's Guide to London" and it covers everything the Britain bound babe could want to know. Drag balls, clubs, pubs, restaurants, beauticians, shopping, fetish clubs and more. They even tell you which cab company is most accepting and which one uses Mercedes autos so you'll look more posh and up scale when you arrive at the drag ball.

Listings for clubs, pubs and wine bars include a rating on how accepting they are of men in dresses. The scale goes from tolerated to accepted to welcomed. They include the same information on a number of restaurants too, even though everyone tells me England is not known for its fine dining.

If you are heading to London you might want to purchase a copy of the Guide to help you around the sights that aren't listed in the Fodor's travel books. The 1994 edition is available for nine point ninety five pounds. However much that is. Write to:

The Way Out Publishing Company
P. O. Box 941
London, SW5 9UT
England

Ask them how much they want in American dollars and say hi to Caroline.

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TV PIRATES

"Arrrr matey and avast ye TV Newsletters. Stand to, 'cause we be goin' to board ye and reprint your copyrighted material in our own newsletter." That seems to be the attitude from the other end of Pennsylvania. Although I have yet to see the newsletter in question, informed sources, (people that have read it.), tell me that several items from the Renaissance News have appeared in the Transpitt newsletter, Reflections. Are they really reflections or are they Xerox copies? One of the pieces they used was our article on being a transparent by Elsa [REDACTED]. Doctor Peo's column also appeared. Now that's not a problem since his column runs in many newsletters around the country. That one's only a problem if they didn't bother to ask Dr. Peo. Since they didn't ask me, did they ask Dr. Peo?

The Renaissance News has reprinted articles. In one recent issue we ran an article that appeared originally in The New Yorker. I didn't just run it through the scanner and put it in the News. I wrote a letter to The New Yorker and after paying a nominal fee I got the right to run John Updike's article in our little newsletter. The New Yorker wanted

a couple of copies of our newsletter for their files and that was it.

If Transpitt had spent the twenty nine cents to send me a letter, they could have obtained reprint rights for nada, zip, nothing. All I would have asked was credit for the News and a byline for the author. They did provide those things in their reprint. What gets my panties in a knot is the fact that these things were reprinted without the written permission of Renaissance.

If you want to reprint something from the Renaissance News send a letter requesting the rights to me at

P. O. Box 530

Bensalem, PA 19020

As Alf would say, "No problem."

PROTESTERS IN PUMPS

Some of the drag performers who work in the gay clubs of Atlantic City were up in arms over the changes in the Miss America Pageant. One of the main changes is the new rule that says the contestants must do their own hair and makeup. As one of the impersonators said in an article in the Philadelphia Inquirer, that change alone put hundreds of queens out of work. Hundreds might be an over statement

but at least a few dozen hairdressers and makeup artists are poorer after this year's pageant.

The impersonators also bemoan the fact that the glamour is fading away. They used to use the contestants as role models. Big hair, sequin gowns, the swimsuit competition and vaseline on the teeth (to keep dry lips from sticking to the smile dried teeth), are all trademarks of the Miss America Pageant and they are all fading into the past. As Bob Dylan sang, the times they are a changing. With feminism and political correctness coming more into play as the pageant rules are decided on, it may not be long before the only glamour in Atlantic City will be in the drag shows. Give it another 20 years or so and maybe they won't allow women to compete in beauty pageants. It will be up to girls like us to carry the torch and keep glamour alive. Maybe one of our crossdressing sons has a chance to be Miss America 2013.

"Look! That's my little boy in the blue sequin gown. Be careful dear. Don't let your heel catch in the hem. Do you need more vaseline?" It could make a mother, er, father proud.

Hasta la vista babies. I'll be back.

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Hot • BUZZ

JoAnn Roberts

"The true worth of a person is to be measured by the objects she pursues."

• • • • •

The August issue of *Allure* magazine mentioned a "different method" of applying mascara. Hold the wand vertically and dab back and forth along the lash line. But we knew that already, didn't we? At least anyone who's read *Art & Illusion* knew that. Next they'll be telling us to do a root-tease with a toothbrush. Oh my, they did that too!

• • • • •

An early report from the International Conference on Transgender Law & Employment Policy — the conference adopted an International Bill of Gender Rights. The original Bill of Gender Rights, presented to the community in March of 1990 specified four gender rights: The Right To Assume A Gender Role; The Right To Freely Express A Gender Role; The Right To Alter One's Body; and The Right To Freedom of Sexual Expression. The new bill expands those four to seven, adding: The Right To Competent Medical & Professional Care; The Right To Freedom From Psychiatric Diagnosis Solely Based On Transgender Status; and The Right To Parent Children. Watch your newsletters for more detailed information. Also from the conference comes a recommendation out of the Health Law Committee that Sex-Reassignment Surgery should be classified as cosmetic surgery and performed on-demand. Now that ought to generate some comments.

• • • • •

Opposing that line of thought is a recent editorial by Kym Richards, editor/publisher of *Cross-Talk* magazine. Richards believes too many folks get SRS much too easily, so she suggests that the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association should "classify" their SRS and Real-Life-Test guidelines so clients won't know what answers they "ought" to give their therapists. That too, ought to generate some comments.

• • • • •

What price fame and beauty? For all you

Hillary-wannabees, I told you about the Hillary wig from Jacquelyn wigs. Well, their newest Hillary reflects the First Lady's shorter do, but you're going to look silly minus the arm and leg it will cost to buy one of these wigs. The price is \$155 and that's for the synthetic hair version!

• • • • •

Cosmetic companies must be flush for Fall because they're giving away lotsa free goodies. BeautiControl Cosmetics has a lipstick "kiss" sample, good for one application. Estée Lauder is offering a week's supply of moisturizer. Lancôme has a free offer of either makeup remover or hydrating gel. Even pricey Chanel is offering a mini-compact of makeup.

• • • • •

FACTOID: According to a poll taken of 500 women, 63 percent who said they were feminists, also said they wear makeup every day. Please, no butch-femme jokes. I just report this stuff, I don't make it up.

• • • • •

The good, the bad and the trendy — real-life fashion advice from the "road-testers" at *Glamour* magazine... Ruffled sleeve blouses and very pretty but not practical. The cuffs get into everything and the only thing you get is a cleaning bill... Tunic tops versus jackets and the tunic wins. Tunics are universally flattering if you watch the proportions. Wear a tunic over slim bottoms, like a narrow skirt (that'd be this Queen's choice) or slender trousers... Flared pants worn with heeled boots will make any leg look good. But form-fitting as they tend to be, you have to watch out for bulges and bumps. In other words, if you don't know how to tuck, don't wear 'em... Granny boots are back (Ugh!) but if you wear them with a short skirt they can make your legs look like stumps. Some folks think these booties look downright geriatric... A cardigan dress can be very comfortable but you better have the figure for it. They tend to cling in all the wrong places.

• • • • •

Stirrup pants have joined the ranks of classic pant styles like jeans and pleated trousers. Ankle boots, a fave for this Fall, look great with stirrups because of the long lean line from waist to toe. Do not wear stirrups with sandals (too strappy) or heels (too formal). Any low heeled, closed toe shoe works here.

• • • • •

Another trend uncovered. Both Max Factor (my main-makeup-man even though he's been down-under a long time) and Cover Girl are offering eye shadow compacts with a special "color locking" base. The base, applied to lids first, keeps colors fresh and vibrant for hours.

• • • • •

Ever wonder what to wear under a suit, especially if it's warm out? Well, one solution might be the Cami-bra by Loveable. The cups on this bra are attached across the bustline with pretty lace so the bra looks like a camisole under a jacket. About \$20 most department stores.

• • • • •

Don't Ask, Don't Tell, but the hottest Fall look is Military. Jackets and suits abound with military details like braid and shoulderboards. Jackets tend to be cropped so you better be in shape. The styles are lean and angular. All this military stuff reminds me of the last night at the Be All in Chicago last June. A bunch of us found the "entertainment" boring, so we skipped for the bar. We no sooner had parked our cute little butts when the bar started to fill with military personnel from every service branch. This, I thought, could get interesting! Anyway, as a lone sailor entered the bar, one of our ladies remarked, "Oh look! Seafood." Everybody, military folks included, had a good time and some got an education.

• • • • •

Rosy cheeks are usually associated with the innocence of childhood, but there's nothing innocent about this Fall's cheek colors. First, you start with a good foundation so there's a smooth surface for the blush. Next apply a layer (thin, please) of cream blush just under the eye to cheek-

Hot • BUZZ

bone and out toward the edge of the face. Blend, blend, blend with a sponge and set with translucent powder. Finish by going back with a deeper shade of blush in the center of the cheeks, just below the cheekbone. Now, the colors you use depend on your skin tone. Pale skin should use a light pink cream and a dark wine or berry powder. Medium tone skin can use a rose cream and a red-coral powder. Dark skin needs something like a honey-russet cream and a darker rust powder.

The boot is really, really the IN item for Fall, but is a "name" worth \$800. That's what you'd pay for Donna Karan, the Lycra-maven, stretchsuede, over the knee boots. Geez, Louise, you can buy KMD&FM boots (spike heels and thigh high) from Classic Shoe Co. for only \$300. Interested? Contact them at 416-769-0970 or write Classic Shoe Co., 2938 Dundas St. W., Box 70561, Toronto, Canada M6P-4E7.

Congratulations to our own Michelle. She not only has an article published in issue #65 of the *TV/TS Tapestry*, she is also the cover girl. But who is the devilishly handsome guy she's clinging to?

You too can look like a million bucks (yeah, all green and wrinkled). Seriously, Leah Feldon (yes, Barbara's sister) has written a gem called *Dress Like A Million*. The book covers: what's worth buying and what isn't in discount malls and stores; how to get instant markdowns; and how to tell a knock-off from a rip-off. Get 20 percent of the cover price by ordering direct from the publisher Condé Nast. Send \$16, plus \$2.50s&h, to Condé Nast Collection, PO Box 10214, Dept. 98049, Des Moines, IA 50326, or call 800-426-9922 and use a credit card.

MAC is a tony makeup salon in the Big Apple that gives one-on-one makeup lessons for \$90 & 90 minutes. Many students at MAC's Christopher street salon

are budding female impersonators, so they shouldn't be put off if you call 212-243-4150 for an appointment. For those who can't make it to NYC, they also do workshops around the country. Call 800-387-0707 to see if a MAC workshop is coming to your locale.

Speaking of female impersonators, I've had the opportunity to see some absolutely fabulous photos of the FI's from Bally's *LaCaged* dinner show. Susan Meyer, a professional photographer who was befriended by my bud Kelly Sheridan, has been shooting the stage queens for a book project called *In The Eye Of The Beholder*. If you'd like a preview of the book and some of the photos, watch for *LadyLike #18* due out in December. (Oh you shameless hussy, pushing your own magazine here.) Well, I'm gonna do some more horn tooting too. After all, no one else is. Anyway, what's important here is a new book called *The Cross & The Crossdresser* by Vanessa S. from out in the heartland of the good ol' USA. Vanessa struggled with reconciling her spirituality and her crossdressing. She spent quite

some time looking for answers and she's written down the results of her research in the hope of helping other crossdressers engaged in that same struggle. *The Cross & The Crossdresser* is available through IFGE, the Renaissance bookstore, or direct from CDS (who else?).

There's a new Pink Panther movie out called *The Son Of The Pink Panther*. There's been so many Panther movies, most people forget that the Pink Panther was a jewel, not a person. This new flick has an Italian, Roberto Benini, playing the son of Inspector Clouseau and it remains to be seen if the Peter Sellers' legacy is upheld. But this isn't the first time someone other than Sellers played Clouseau. QwickiQwiz: Who else played Inspector Clouseau and in what movie? First correct answer mailed to CDS-QQ, PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406, will receive a free CDS video of their choice.

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SHOPPING WITH JACKIE

by Jackie

I want to tell you about jewelry. Some jewelry is necessary to highlight the clothing you are wearing, but it should be simple and make a statement. Too much jewelry looks bad and detracts from your clothing. Where is the balance? It changes with the person, the clothing, and the image. I am sure that you have decided on an image to project through your choice of clothing, and you should keep the same image in your jewelry. If you are wearing classic basic clothing, you don't want to trash it up with mod bulky jewelry, but on the other hand if you project a slutty image (by choice) you want bulk and flash in your jewelry selections.

A basic jewelry collection includes a single strand of pearls, a long strand of beads (that you can double or knot), gold chains (white and yellow gold), earrings (button, hoop and dangle), a selection of brooches (the formal name for pins), a selection of bracelets (all types are okay), rings of choice, and a nice watch (that you can wear with casual or dressy clothing) and if desired, an ankle bracelet.

Since most jewelry is expensive, you want to buy the classic styles that will stay in vogue over the years. It doesn't make sense but buy "fad" items that you are continually replacing because they went out of style. Make your money go further. You don't have to buy solid gold jewelry to get a good look, but, on the other hand, stay away from cheap plated items that will make you turn green or black from wear-

ing. The happy medium is to look for gold filled items. Plated items just have a "flash" of color on the surface.

Solid gold varies with the karat. Pure Gold is 24K (karat). So if you buy an item that is 14K you have 58% pure gold and 42% other metals (divide 24 by 14); 18K is 75% gold; 10K is 42% gold; etc. The higher karat items have the best color. The other metals in gold are necessary for hardness and also color. All gold is yellow; white gold gets its color from the other metals added to it. So if you are buying solid gold jewelry for yourself (or wife) you can keep this in mind.

The best alternative is good gold filled jewelry. These items are made from a mixture of metals with gold stirred in (almost like making a cake). The karat of the gold helps with color and weight. I can show you gold fill and solid gold that you can't tell apart. So instead of \$300.00 for a 14K necklace you are spending about \$50.00 for a 14K gold filled one. A nice alternative for those of us who are on a budget and trying to keep two budgets.

Costume jewelry is available everywhere and varies greatly in price. My advice is to buy carefully and shop for price. Try to stay away from the metals that you wear against your skin. Normal perspiration eats away the surface coating and it can turn black and ugly and also turn your skin color. Stay with plastic beads and glass on nylon elastic cords, or bangle and clip on bracelets of a solid material.

A good place for costume jewelry, at a decent price, is

Windsor Collection
6836 Engle Road
P. O. Box 94549

Cleveland, Ohio 44101-4549
(1-800-800-0500). Watches, rings (most to size 10), earrings, necklaces, pins, etc. By the way, ladies, most of us need a necklace that is at least 20 inches long, and a bracelet at least 8 inches long (except for you lucky size 8's).

If I can help you with anything, or if you want to share your sources or experiences, please write me at

LSV Renaissance
P. O. Box 2122
Harrisburg, PA 17105

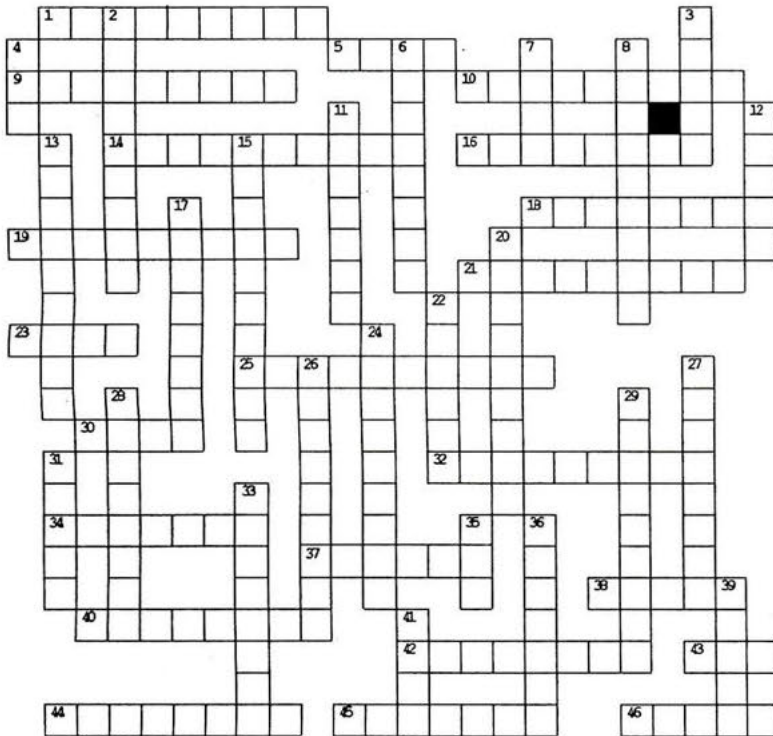
or leave a voice message at 1-717-780-1578.

Happy shopping.

NEED A BACK ISSUE?

Selected back issues of the Renaissance News are now available for \$2.00 per copy. Send requests for specific issues to Renaissance, P.O. Box 60552, King of Prussia, PA, 19406. Attn: Beth Marshal. Include a check for \$2.00 per issue ordered plus another fifty two cents for each issue to cover postage. If the issue you have ordered is not available we will send your check back. You may also ask Beth in person about specific availability if you attend one of our meetings.

La Femme



Designed & contributed by Sami Rae

ACROSS

1. Unfeminine.
5. Circle.
9. Decoration.
10. Tall shoes.
14. Purse.
16. Driving chemicals.
18. Hair puller.
19. Uplifting sup[port.
21. Dissatisfied state.
23. Moth fibre.
25. Short stockings.
30. Precious stones.
32. Leg coverings.
34. Cleaner.
37. Sex.
38. Fasteners.
40. Slippers.
42. Sewn-on fabric.
43. Male/female characteristic.
44. Lid definer.
45. Mammaries.
46. Open end garment.

ANSWER NEXT MONTH

DOWN

2. Self supporting garment.
3. Foot wear.
4. Game piece.
6. Decorative strand.
7. Woman's glory.
8. Advisor.
11. Second skins.
12. Rouge.
13. Surgery.
15. Abrasive stick.
17. Girl's best friends.
20. Lid darkener.
22. Home of the femur.
24. Hair to stay.
26. Medium stockings.
27. Item of makeup.
28. Dr. Harry
29. One-piece stockings.
31. Chest.
33. High-priced store.
35. Underwire "___".
36. Undergarment.
39. Filmy.
41. "Holy" fabric.

The Gender Journey

A small-group exploration of the various stages in the life of a crossdresser, with implications for personal identity and human relationships.

Held at the Wayne Counseling Center (where Renaissance Gr. Phila. meets) with Dr. Lee Etscovitz, Renaissance National Librarian, former Professor of Human Behavior at Drexel University, and currently Director of Human Dimensions, an organization specializing in gender education.

Sessions held Mondays & Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:30 PM. \$25 per person per two-hour session. Advance registration required. Write: Human Dimensions, PO Box 471, Willow Grove, PA 19090 or call 215-657-1560.

Confidentiality Assured

Transsexual Womyn Expelled from Michigan Womyn's Music Festival

by Davina Anne Gabriel and Janis Walworth

Four postoperative male-to-female transsexual lesbians were expelled from the 18th annual Michigan Womyn's Festival (MWMF) by festival security staff on the third day of the event. The four womyn, who had undergone sex change surgery from 2 to 14 years earlier, and a nontranssexual supporter attended the festival to raise consciousness among participants about the festival's policy of excluding transsexual womyn, the unclear and contradictory statement of policy in the festival literature, and issues of gender in general. Womyn opposed to transsexuals at MWMF attempted to silence them by destroying their educational materials.

The five womyn arrived at the festival on Monday, August 9, and none encountered any difficulty gaining admittance to the festival. One of the transsexual womyn was Nancy Burkholder of New Hampshire, who had been expelled from the festival in 1991, she purchased her ticket at the front gate without incident. The other transsexual womyn were Davina Gabriel of Missouri, Wendi Kaiser of Maine, and Rica Fredrickson of Pennsylvania.

The next day, the five womyn set up a table at which they distributed literature and buttons and asked womyn who opposed the exclusionary policy to sign a petition seeking its repeal. The four transsexual womyn freely discussed their experiences as transsexuals with festival participants who approached

the table.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the five womyn did work shifts in the kitchen, at the medical and emotional support areas, and at the Sober Support tent. Transsexual womyn provided medical care, including taking a hemorrhaging woman to an area hospital in the middle of the night, extended a helping hand to those in need of friendly support, and prepared food. They also attended concerts, ate meals, took showers, and shopped in the crafts bazaar with other festival participants, without incident.

At approximately 4:30 P.M. on Thursday, Janis Walworth of Massachusetts, the nontranssexual member of the party, and Kaiser, who were staffing the literature table, were approached by two womyn, one of whom identified herself as MWMF security coordinator. She told Walworth that the transsexual womyn were in violation of the festival's "womyn-born womyn" only policy, and that they must therefore leave the festival. Walworth replied that it was not clear that the transsexual womyn were in violation of the policy as stated, since they all identify as womyn-born womyn.

The security coordinator went on to say that some festival participants had complained about the presence of transsexual womyn at the festival, asking security to remove the transsexual womyn from the land and vowing to take matters into their own hands if security did

not do so. Security felt, therefore, that it could no longer guarantee the safety of the transsexual womyn. In addition, the security womyn were reluctant to assure Walworth that she would continue to be safe at the festival, since she had been seen staffing the literature table and associating with the transsexual womyn.

The festival catalogue calls upon womyn who attend the festival to dialogue and listen to one another and explicitly states that "violence against womyn in any form is not acceptable in this community, on



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this land." However, no apparent action was taken against the womyn who threatened Walworth and the transsexual womyn.

The security coordinator pointed out that members of the party had been openly discussing their transsexuality at the literature table, thus alerting many womyn to the fact that there were transsexuals on the land. She implied that if they had not revealed their transsexuality to anyone, they would not have been asked to leave – in effect, "don't ask, don't tell."

The four transsexual womyn returned to their campsite and packed up their belongings. However, they were delayed in leaving the festival grounds until approximately 11:00 P.M. because so many womyn stopped them on their way out to express support. A contingent of leatherwomyn offered to guarantee the safety of the transsexual womyn at their campsite for the duration of the festival and strongly attempted to dissuade them from leaving. However, the transsexual womyn collectively decided to honor their agreement to cooperate with security and declined the offer.

Upon leaving the festival site, the transsexual womyn set up camp across the road on National Forest land. The following morning, they set up another literature table, along with neon pink banners proclaiming "Transsexual Womyn Expelled From Festival" and "Too Out To Be In!" A steady stream of womyn came out from the festival to spend time with the transsexual womyn and to express their support; they brought vegetables, soda, hamburgers, fried chicken, flowers, and encouragement. Throughout the remainder of the festival, the transsexual womyn continued to distribute literature and buttons and to talk with womyn about gender issues and the exclusionary policy. Festival participants who visited the transsexual womyn reported that sentiment inside the festival was overwhelmingly supportive of their participation in MWMF, and there was outrage at their expulsion.

Inside the festival, nontranssexual womyn helped staff the inside literature table, and Walworth conducted two sessions of a workshop entitled "Confronting Transphobia," as well as a workshop on gender and shamanism which had been scheduled to be presented by Gabriel.

On Friday evening, the transsexual womyn were joined by a fifth transsexual woman, Riki Anne Wilchins of New York City, who flew in to present her workshop, "21 Things You Don't Say to a Transsexual." Although Wilchins had originally planned to enter the

festival, she chose to remain outside with the four expelled transsexual womyn. Womyn inside the festival who wanted to attend Wilchins' workshop unanimously agreed to move the location to the area outside the front gate. Approximately 75 womyn walked the mile to attend the two workshop sessions.

Saturday morning, when the literature table inside the festival was left unattended for a short time, all literature, buttons, display racks, signed petitions, and completed survey forms, as well as a donation can and personal property, were stolen by undetermined individuals. A woman reported seeing some of the buttons deposited in a portable toilet, which Walworth reported to MWMF security in hopes of avoiding damage to sewage pumps.

Also on Saturday, Walworth and Laura Ervin of Massachusetts, who had traveled to the festival with

Burkholder in 1991, met with feminist author Kay Leigh Hagan, who was acting as an official representative of the festival producers, and the security coordinator. At that meeting, Hagan disclosed that the festival producers, Barbara Price and Lisa Vogel, are the sole determiners of festival policy and that she did not anticipate that they would change the anti-transsexual policy in the near future.

FLIP SIDE (continued from page 6)

three days, some men initially hostile to this meeting concept mellowed and enjoyed our company.

There was a combined workshop each day, but most of the time the men and women met apart from each other. I believe that crossdressing men as a group are unaware of the issues facing their partners. Some of the issues like self-esteem are so large that they are missed for that very reason. Our narcissistic inward focus may cause us to

look with tunnel vision at the concerns of our wives and significant others.

This was my first up close experience with the Tri-Ess sisterhood. I purchased three *Femme Mirror* publications and have read them. Yes, there are differences here but a discussion of them must wait for a future article.

Renaissance co-sponsored this SPICE conference by donating copies of *Coping with Crossdressing*, written by our own JoAnn Roberts. My attendance at SPICE as a National Board member was politically correct since the Tri-Ess Board of Directors were in attendance.

In conclusion, SPICE is about the issues of women who are in committed relationships with crossdressing men, regardless of their club affiliation. SPICE may be the common friendly ground where "open" and "closed" groups can better understand each other.

"— Electrolysis. I've been through it.
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✂ CLIP AND SAVE TIPS

COTTON—Just because it's a sturdy seeming fabric, don't put your cotton clothing into a hot washer and avoid chlorine bleach. If it's very dirty, pre-soak it and then wash gently. Use fabric softener to reduce wrinkling and improve softness. Hot washing and bleach could reduce your pretty cotton blouse to a disintegrating car wash cloth. Cotton will respond well to dry cleaning but there is a chance it will turn yellow or grey if dry cleaned. Pressing should be done while the cloth is damp. Use a sprayer or a steam iron if the cloth is totally dry when you start to iron.

LINEN—In general linen should be treated like cotton. Don't soak colors since the dyes may loosen. Dry clean only when necessary as whites and pastels may yellow. Of course linen is more prone to wrinkle than most other fabrics. Wear it for two minutes and it looks like a crumbled up sandwich wrapper that was flattened out again and made in to a garment. So, iron it you must. Use the cotton setting and work on the reverse side with a press cloth. Oh, as well as wrinkling, linen scorches easily so don't press too hard with that iron. You can revive faded linen colors by rinsing them in water with a little vinegar added. Rinse out the vinegar before wearing. You don't want to smell like a salad.



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