

# Renaissance News



Volume 3, No.8

Vision — Integrity — Quality

August, 1989

Special Reading Chapter Issue

## Reading chapter moves full steam ahead.

### Will you miss the train?

Reading, Pa.—The phone was ringing again. Who would it be this time? A transvestite making his very first contact with someone who shares his compulsion; a confused wife with nowhere to get information about her husband's "problem;" or a self-proclaimed decent citizen astonished that an organization would actually go public with this "disgusting" behavior? Only a few days to go till the next meeting and Susan was becoming discouraged.

For the past four months the Renaissance Reading Chapter had labored to get underway. It had been difficult, but there certainly hadn't been a lack of effort. Susan had run ads in the local papers. Alice had published a newsletter. Psychologists and other helping professionals had received an introductory letter. Susan had even been interviewed by the local paper and the story ran on the front page. Reading, a medium sized city (pop. 83,000), certainly had enough people to support a chapter. So, where was everyone hiding?

Susan was beginning to wonder if it was all worth it. She really didn't mind that the advertising expenses had come out of her own purse.

The extra phone line and answering machine wasn't that expensive either; she could always use them elsewhere. Even giving her real name to open a business account at the bank and the post office wasn't that unreasonable. Yes, there were phone calls, plenty of them. But talk is cheap. People would be needed to support the chapter if it was going to thrive.

The phone rang for the fourth time that night and Susan answered. It was Phil. Did she remember him? Thinking back, Susan did remember Phil as being nervous and shy. He had promised to be at the last meeting. Susan had carefully explained exactly how to get to the location, and assured him that there would be people there who had the same feelings he did. He never showed. He had been there, he said. He had walked past the door at least four times, but just couldn't bring himself to go in.

Phil had never met another crossdresser before, and Susan was the first one he had ever talked to. He could never go out in public dressed, he explained,

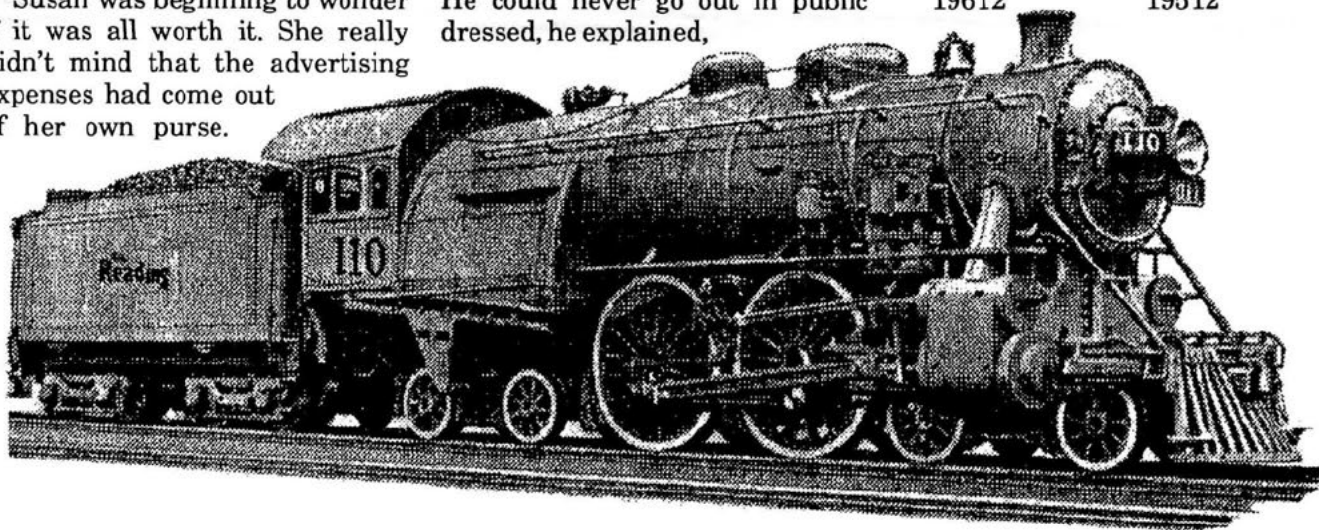
but felt he just had to meet someone who did. Susan explained that it was an open meeting, he could come and go as he wished. But he alone had to take that first step.

She invited him to the next meeting. She told him there would be people there who have gone through the same guilt and frustration he was experiencing and who would be more than willing to talk about it. Phil asked, had she gone through all this herself? "Of course," Susan replied. She remembered her first steps out of the closet.

Sure it takes time. Sure it means getting involved. But we are a community. We are a renaissance. But the rebirth takes one small step at a time. So, come out and visit us in September.

Reading Renaissance meets on the second Wednesday night of each month at a local restaurant in a private setting. Contact us for directions and meeting times:

Susan [redacted]	Alice-Anne
P.O.Box 14421	P.O.Box 13
Reading, Pa.	Boyetown, Pa.
19612	19512



## Chapter news & notes

If no address is given for an organizer, write or call the office.

### New Jersey

**South Jersey:** Tina Louise, chapter leader. Write c/o Box 2, Glassboro, NJ 08028. Meets the first Saturday of each month. The location is the Atlantic Mental Health Center, Inc. 2002 Black Horse Pike, McKee, N.J. Meetings start at 9 p.m.

**No smoking is permitted in the meeting rooms.**

We'd like to thank Mr. Donald Parker, director of AMHC, for his support and cooperation.

The August meeting will feature a free color analysis for a lucky sister chosen by random drawing. L.M.Cozzi & Associates will do the analysis worth \$65 elsewhere.

### Pennsylvania

**Greater Philadelphia area:** Teri Kay, chapter leader. Write c/o Box AD, Bensalem, PA 19020. Meets third Saturday of the month at the original King of Prussia location. Doors open - 9:00 p.m.; new member orientation - 9:30 p.m., main program - 10:30 p.m.

**No smoking is permitted in the meeting rooms.**

**N.B.:** There is no main program for the August meeting. A group will be going from the meeting location to a small club nearby at 11 p.m. The meeting location will stay open for newcomers and those who do not wish to go to the club.

**Reading:** Susan [REDACTED], chapter leader. Write c/o Box 14421, Reading, PA 19607 for the latest information.

The Reading chapter is meeting twice a month. There is a dinner-social held at THIS IS IT, 801 Walnut St., in Reading, every second Wednesday of the month. A regular membership-business meeting is held on the second Saturday of the month.

The chapter has a list of local resources and publishes their own newsletter.

**Harrisburg/York:** Elsa [REDACTED] is coordinating a Lower Susquehanna Valley chapter. Interested parties should write her at Box 7412, York, PA 17404.

## And, don't forget about...

- The PCHA Food Bank: We now have two places to make contributions. Please bring canned and dried food to the Greater Philadelphia Chapter, or to the South Jersey Chapter.

- The Reading Chapter also is collecting for their local food bank. If you attend the Reading meetings, please bring canned or dried foods.

- The last of the Benjamin books, *The Transsexual Phenomena* are back in stock. When these are gone, there are no more. The Deluxe Edition is \$39.95 and the Regular Edition is \$35.95.

- Background Papers are available for \$1 each plus \$.25 postage for each pair ordered. Eight papers are available: 1-Myths & Misconceptions About Crossdressers, 2-

Reasons for Male to Female Crossdressing, 3-PARTNERS: Spouses/SOs of Transvestites and Transsexuals, 4-Telling the Children, 5-An Annotated Bibliography, 6-Telling the Children: A Transsexual's Point of View, 7-What Is Renaissance?, and 8-HIV Safety and Ethics.

- 3R addiction recovery support group meets at King of Prussia on third Sat. of the month.

- The Pen Pal Project. If you are willing to write letters to pen pals, please let Alison know. Write to the office, c/o Dept. PP.

- Believe it or not, the Greater Philadelphia Chapter has already scheduled a date for their 1989 Christmas Party. Pencil in Saturday, December 9.

## Renaissance News

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

Renaissance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing education and support to the gender community at large.

## Events Calendar

### August

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 5th  | Ren. So. Jersey Chapter<br>Free Color Analysis |
| 12th | Ren. Reading Chapter                           |
| 19th | Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter                        |
| 26th | Ren. Lwr. Susquehanna                          |

### September

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 2nd   | Ren. So. Jersey Chapter<br>Fashion Critique |
| 9th   | Ren. Reading Chapter                        |
| 15th  | Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter                     |
| 23rd  | Ren. Lwr. Susquehanna                       |
| 21-24 | CDS <i>Paradise In The Poconos</i> Weekend  |

### October

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 7th   | Ren. So. Jersey Chapter                               |
| 14th  | Ren. Reading Chapter                                  |
| 21st  | Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter                               |
| 28th  | Ren. Lwr. Susquehanna                                 |
| 12-22 | Outreach Institute's<br>Fantasia Fair - P'town        |
| 20-22 | Dressing For Pleasure, NY                             |
| 31st  | Henri David's Hallowe'en<br>Ball - Warwick Hotel, PHL |

### November

- |      |                         |
|------|-------------------------|
| 4th  | Ren. So. Jersey Chapter |
| 11th | Ren. Reading Chapter    |
| 18th | Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter |
| 25th | Ren. Lwr. Susquehanna   |

## Opinion - **Forum** - Information

### **The other side ...**by Sunny, Alice-Anne's S.O., Reading Chapter

With all the material available on crossdressing, I wanted to present a fresh, new idea, but the approach at first eluded me. However, anyone who has done a great deal of reading on this subject of crossdressing will agree that there is very little information from the wives' and significant others' points of view. I will try to present this view to crossdressers who are just beginning to accept your feelings, and acting on the need to express them. But most of all, I wish to address this to the women in your lives who are even more confused, disillusioned, scared than you are, and who are ultimately wondering "who is this person I am living with?"

Ignoring the need to crossdress will not make the urge go away. Suppressing it seems to only make the need to crossdress grow even stronger. It is important to understand that your spouse's crossdressing is in no way a reflection of your own sexuality. His need to crossdress does not imply an inadequacy on your part, and you are not in competition with him.

One of the most difficult things for a crossdresser to do is tell his wife about his need to dress. He is baring a very deep secret and making himself vulnerable to your criticism. The fact that he is sharing his need with you shows a rich trust in you and in the relationship.

Once this secret is told, both of you will begin a lot of soul searching. The strength of your relationship will be severely tested. Once he tells you, it may seem that his urge to crossdress becomes more frequent. He has suppressed this need for so long and now, if he has your approval to express himself, he feels a need to make up for lost time.

As a wife, you must be thinking "how can I live with this? What if my friends find out? What about the kids?" These are issues that are very hard to deal with.

You may need to maintain an air of secrecy that could alienate you from your family and friends. But you both can be a source of strength for each other. If you look for it, you can find a lighter side of his crossdressing—new ways to share

the love in your relationship; shopping together; helping "her" learn about make up and clothing; and giving constructive feminine advice.

I don't want to paint a rosy picture and say, "Oh, look how wonderful this has made our lives." It isn't always that way, but it can be. Maybe not at first. Certainly not unless each of you has private time to sort out your feelings and frustrations. The key is working together. As time goes on, his crossdressing can eventually find its place in the relationship. It will not be so all-consuming as it is initially. Meeting others and possibly socializing along the way makes it easier for everyone.

We've been trying to get a local chapter started in Reading. I've seen only one other spouse at our meetings. I hope that this brief discussion will give another wife or significant other the desire to contact us. It will help to talk with another woman. We can help each other better understand the men in our lives. May you find strength and courage in your search for answers.

### **Book Review: The Spirit And The Flesh...**Alice-Anne, Reading Chapter

This is one of the best books that I have read in a long time. If you want a new perspective on transgender behavior, you simply must read *The Spirit And The Flesh* by Walter L. Williams. The theme of the book is sexual diversity in American Indian culture. Williams starts out by explaining that Western culture accepts the notion of only two genders, but many other cultures believe that there is a third sex or half-man/half-woman.

Williams is an anthropologist who has studied native American tribes and lifestyles. It seems that native Americans accepted people who did not fit in what we would call traditional male and female roles. In fact, most tribes held transgendered

people in high esteem. These people, who French explorers labeled "berdache," had ceremonial roles deeply ingrained in the Indian religious culture. Berdaches, or "winktes" as some Indian tribes called them, acted as mediators between the sexes, and were believed to have special psychic powers. Indeed, it was considered very bad luck to offend a winkte. (Now that is what I call culture!) To have a winkte's blessing for a hunting trip or war party was a great honor. Winktes were often taken on expeditions because of their powers and also to provide sex for warriors. Having sex with a winkte was the greatest honor of all so winktes often had more than one husband.

The book also chronicles the influence on the berdache tradition by Western "civilization". The Spaniards and the church, with their homophobic dogma, considered the acceptance and reverence of berdaches to be a great sin. Soldiers and priests went to extremes to annihilate these people, often resorting to torture and public executions. Williams also writes about the prejudice of early anthropologists who deleted references to the existence of these people because of Western homophobic concepts. Not to be outdone, the Bureau of Indian Affairs also tried to "normalize" the native Americans, succeeding only in driving the winktes underground.

*continued on page 9*





## On The Town, Reading Style



### TV Dinners

Reading has long been known for its excellent eating establishments. One of the most enjoyable places that I have had the pleasure of dining at is **This Is It**, located just out of center city at 801 Walnut St. in a respectable working class neighborhood. This cozy bar-restaurant offers everything a crossdresser could hope for. The owners greet you when you walk in the door, and they go out of their way to make you feel comfortable. The dining area, separated from the bar, is very campy. The walls and ceiling are decorated with all sorts of unusual artifacts and paintings. The elegant table settings are a reflection of the detail and care that is taken to ensure a pleasant atmosphere.

Not to be outdone by the decor, the food is definitely world-class. The menu offers a variety of gourmet entrees from which to choose,

as well as nightly specials that your waiter will describe. The service is excellent and the prices are reasonable. Dinner, with drinks and dessert, will cost between \$25 and \$30 per person. You must try the "Chocolate Charlie."

Wednesdays and Thursdays are the best nights for dining. The weekends are very crowded. Reservations are always recommended. **This Is It** is open Wednesdays through Sundays from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.. The phone number is 215-373-9601. I would highly recommend that you try it.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Wigged out at La Pompadour

I have been in **La Pompadour** several times, and have found the owner, **Annette**, very friendly and most discrete. Upon request, special, private appointments can be made. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. **David**,

a ten-year employee, is responsible for the gorgeous styling of the wigs.

Although I have never seen any wigs priced over \$100 (and many for less than \$50), the meticulous styling makes them look like they cost much more. Annette is planning to move the shop in September, and consequently she is planning a clearance sale. The already low prices will be even lower. You must plan to stop by soon.

Along with the many wigs, **La Pompadour** also sells jewelry, eye-lashes, and nail polish. They can also wash, style and reset an old wig so that it looks like new.

The shop is located at 747 Spring St. in Reading (near the outlet shops, so make it a worthwhile trip). The phone number is 215-373-0500. Call Annette for a personal consultation. I was very satisfied, and I'm sure you will be too.

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# Paula Jordan Sinclair... The NewsQueen

With all those social scientists sitting around thinking deep thoughts and trying to get research projects published in academic journals, it was only a matter of time before one of them tackled the question, "Why do male transvestites make good boyfriends and husbands?" Thanks to a University of Michigan psychologist, we may have an answer.

David M. Buss looked at the age-old "war between the sexes," and came up with a list of things most women do that anger men and the things that most men do that anger women. Aside from unfaithfulness (which ranked high on both lists), some of the female activities that made men most angry was a woman's self-absorption with her appearance, spending too much money on clothes and being overly concerned about how her face and hair looked.

It seems obvious to us that a transvestite spouse or boyfriend wouldn't have the same level of frustration as other men when his wife or girlfriend spent a lot of time or money on her appearance. He, above all other men, would certainly understand even though he may be jealous. We'll leave it to other researchers to determine if jealousy of this nature is worse than anger.

♣ ♣ ♣

There is another gap in the body of social research regarding the families of crossdressers, a gap that we will attempt to fill now. Do female impersonators make good fathers? They do, according to Vanessa [redacted], the 9-year-old daughter of Rick [redacted], who, as Latina Garrett, is the former Miss Gay Indiana.

Rick recently told Vanessa about his career as a female impersonator. According to reports, Vanessa can't wait for her high school prom so she can wear her choice of Latina's evening gowns.

♣ ♣ ♣

Speaking of Midwest titleholders, we are pleased to announce that 6' 2", more than 200-pound Jeana Jones has won the crown as Miss Mason-Dixon At-Large, a contest exclusively for big and tall queens. The pageant is a preliminary for the Miss Gay U.S.A. At-Large scheduled for late July in San Antonio, Tex.

The pageant was open to any female impersonator who was taller than six feet (without heels) or who weighed more than 200 pounds. "Just like you see speciality shops for big and tall men, this was a speciality pageant for big and tall queens," said Kikki Daniels who produced the Miss Mason-Dixon At-Large contest. "There is a difference between a pageant for someone who weighs 300 pounds, like Ronnie Russell, compared to 125 pounds like Lauren Colby."

The contestants competed in the area of evening gown, personal interview and talent. No bathing suit competition was held. Daniels said the talent portion of the contest was very competitive. "The really talented big girls got up there and worked. They entertained. They didn't just rely on their beauty."

♣ ♣ ♣

There is also sad news from the female impersonator circuit. Michael Andrews, Miss Gay U.S.A. for 1986, the 1985 Female Impersonator of the Year and Miss Gay America for 1977 died in June after a long struggle with AIDS.

Andrews had appeared in drag in several television shows and movies including *Sharkey's Machine* and *Malibu Express*. In 1985, he appeared at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas on the same bill as Ann-Margaret. She and Andrews were both on stage during the opening production number, and audiences generally could not tell which one of the performers was the real Ann-Margaret.

♣ ♣ ♣

In addition to holding a variety of titles, Andrews was also the talent coordinator and show director for the La Cage Circuit which stages female impersonator revues in Las Vegas and Reno, Nev., Los Angeles, New York, Chicago and Atlantic City. In the latter city, "An Evening at La Cage" recently completed its fifth year at Bally's.

One reason the show remains popular with the casino audiences is that the talent roster is always changing. And a new change is in the works. Frank Marino, who does a "mean" Joan Rivers, has reportedly been signed to play a gig at Bally's. Marino inked the pact (that's newspaper talk for "signed the contract") during an East Coast trip earlier this summer that took him to the giant Radio City Music Hall stage and then to Fire Island.

Several years ago, you may recall, Marino was threatened with a lawsuit by Rivers. She claimed that he had stolen a lot of her material. It appears that unlike Ann-Margaret, Rivers never learned that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

♣ ♣ ♣

But it was not impersonating a woman that got Geraldine Elizabeth Carmichael locked up for 1 to 10 years in a men's prison in California. The self-described transsexual was finally sent behind bars for bilking investors of between \$2 million to \$6 million in a scheme involving a low-cost, high-mileage car in the late 70s.

As we reported last month, Carmichael was arrested in Texas where she had been living since jumping a \$50,000 bond and fleeing from California several years ago. At the time of the arrest, she was using the name of Catherine E. Johnson. Neighbors expressed surprise that Johnson was a fugitive from justice. But they were more surprised that she was a man.

continued on page 7

## On The Town, Too with Alison

### Photo exhibit includes crossdresser images

#### Talented photographer chooses Renaissance members for subjects

Ten photographs of members of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of Renaissance were among the featured artworks in a recent exhibit in Philadelphia. The exhibition, titled "13 Virgins," showcased the artistic talents of 13 seniors from the prestigious University of the Arts. The show opened at the Vox Populi gallery on April 14. Over four hundred students, parents, faculty and guests attended the gala opening.

The centerpiece of the exhibit — this reporter admits to a certain bias — was the photographic work of Candace Karch. She began her senior project in October, and over the next six months attended more than a dozen events involving crossdressing. Karch met Charlene

early in the project and as a result decided to focus on Renaissance members and friends. Karch took over 500 photographs and spent hundreds of hours preparing for the exhibit.

The following statement from Karch was displayed with her ten large format black and white photos:

"Much of my imagery deals with the illusion of reality. In this series, I am intrigued by the ambiguity of the identity of Truth. Male and female, in this society, are conditioned to take on conventional roles. Each gender plays out the societal expectations of their genetic makeup. Boys will be boys... girls will be girls. But I try to imagine understanding and accepting

both sides of one's self, masculine and feminine—and becoming two different people in one body."

Several members of Renaissance, a few whose photographs were on display, attended the show "en femme" and mingled easily with the other guests.

*This report was filed by Charlene and we appreciate her contribution. We'd also like to thank Candace for the photos appearing on page 7.*

*Have you been "On The Town" and want to share your experience with us? If so, just send along your report to OTT, care of the Renaissance office.*



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*Diane*



*Charlene*

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art  
exhibit**

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## NewsQueen...from page 5

Upon her return to California, Carmichael was ordered to begin serving the prison sentence for the fraud conviction. Carmichael asked that she be sent to a woman's prison because "chemically, I am a woman" even though she had stopped taking hormones five years earlier. But she was sent to a man's prison, explained Deputy Los Angeles District Attorney Robert Youngdahl, because she had not had a sex change and "the position of medical people is that she has always been a man."

He did say that officials had made some accommodations in light of Carmichael's unique situation; she will be isolated from other inmates in a special section of the prison reserved for gay men.



A group in Los Angeles has a special place in mind for the producer of the television show *Dear John*. It's a place where the sun doesn't shine.

The L.A. chapter of Gays and

Lesbians Against Defamation (GLAAD) are angry about an episode of the show that involved a transvestite and a real woman whom sitcom star Judd Hirsch meets in a bar. The woman comes on to Hirsch, but Hirsch believes her actually to be a him. The laughs (such as they are) come from Hirsch's nervous homophobic rejection of "his" advances. Later in the show, the members of a single's support group make fun of transvestism when Hirsch shares his adventure with them.

GLAAD says this is yet another example of "a pattern of bringing in characters with different sexual identities for just one show—and ridiculing them." GLAAD is asking viewers who feel *Dear John* episodes like this are offensive to write to the show's executive producer, Ed Weinberger, at 5555 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038.



A protest of a different sort oc-

curred recently in Burma's capitol, Rangoon. In a demonstration similar to the protest staged by Chinese students, a million Burmese paraded through the streets expressing anger with government restrictions on freedom and democracy. But spectators saved their loudest cheers for a group of crossdressers and gays holding a banner which read "Beauticians for Democracy."

Crossdressed males are a part of Burmese culture. Many were very popular as entertainers and vendors of snacks and sweets. But their popularity has waned after a recent military crackdown.



*During the next few weeks, Miss Sinclair will be too busy writing protest letters to thoroughly read her daily quotient of newspapers. If you see an interesting article, kindly clip it out and send it to her at The Renaissance News. Please note the name of publication and the date it appeared.*

## Texas 'T' Party...a brief report by Alice-Anne

This past February, Sunny and I decided to take a mini-spring vacation at the first annual Texas 'T' Party. If you haven't been to one of these crossdresser's outings before, you don't know what you are missing (obviously). For example.

On Saturday, we attended several workshops. Sunny met with other wives, and they explored the hotel cuisine and bars. We also discovered we were sharing the hotel with a convention of Air Force officers. To get to where our conferences were held, we had to walk past the fly boy's meeting rooms. I'll bet several cases of sprained necks were reported the following day.

Later, Michelle, Melissa and I were in one of the hotel bars (They made me go! Honest!) when the Air Force guys "flew" in. At first they were cautious and stayed in the corner. But after Melissa went over and sat down at their table, frowns

turned to smiles. Soon we were all laughing and talking together. Once they understood that we were just there to have a good time and not to pick them up, they were most curious. They told us it took them half the day to realize our's wasn't a convention of hookers, but a crossdressers' weekend.

A few laughs, a few more drinks and we parted friends. We returned to our rooms to freshen up for dinner. I selected what I thought to be an appropriate dress, but Sunny desperately tried to cure me of that hooker look.

After dinner, we went with a group touring the bars of San Antonio. We used a double decker bus because there were so many of us. Talk about class! A security patrol had even been hired to protect us. After a night on the town, we settled back into our comfortable hotel rooms for a needed night's sleep.

## Book...from page 3

But with the revitalization of native American culture, several tribes are rejecting the Western notions and winktes are again emerging in their society.

This book was published in 1986 by Beacon Press and is still in print. It can be purchased, at \$21.95, through Beacon Press at 25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108, or you can order it by phone at 617-742-2110. They accept credit cards and it takes about three weeks to arrive.

## Notable & Quotable

"I wouldn't. I'm so comfortable being a man, I'd miss my balls clanging."

— William Shatner in a *Playboy* 20 Questions Interview, June 1989, when asked if he would change his sex, as Captain Kirk did in the last episode of *Star Trek*.

# National Gender News

from around the TV/TS community

**Indianapolis, Ind.** — We prefer to report the news in a light-hearted manner, but the first item this month is deadly serious.

Gay bars in this town are discriminating against drag queens, transvestites and transsexuals and members of the Indiana Crossdresser's Society (IXE) have taken up the cause.

Reported in the *New Works News*, a gay newspaper in Indianapolis, after the closing of two clubs that welcomed our sisters, other clubs in the area began enforcing a "dress" code that prohibits men dressed as women entry to the clubs. One establishment, *Jimmy's*, called IXE and canceled their dinner reservation for ten people.

IXE members, **Kerry**, **Sharon**, and **Bobbi**, did not take this treatment lightly. All three wrote letters which the *New Works News* saw fit to publish. The newspaper is very supportive of IXE in this cause, stating in an editorial, "We cannot expect the straight world to take us seriously if we act like immature children amongst ourselves."

The incident reminds us to never

take our civil rights for granted and that discrimination can appear in any segment of the community.

We applaud IXE for taking a strong, open stand and we support their position. We will keep you apprised of any further developments.

NGN

**San Antonio, Tex.** — **Jan Rupard** writes to tell us that there were a few factual errors in **JoAnn Roberts'** analysis of event costs (May '89 *RenNews* Forum). It seems the calculating Miss Roberts miscalculated the cost of attending the Texas "T" Party. Her estimate of fees and meals was about \$96 too high. Other than that "minor" point, Rupard gave the article high marks.

We regret the error and we're having JoAnn's adding machine overhauled.

NGN

**Waltham, Mass.** — **Holly Cross**, on the other hand, agrees with Roberts' analysis. Holly says she spent just about the estimated \$300 to attend the "T" Party, flying from the Boston area. She also agrees with the estimate for IFGE in San Francisco. But, she says, Roberts missed the mark on the Province-

town outings. Says Cross, "it's easy to go over \$50/day if you drink and eat in the many good—but mostly expensive—restaurants that are available." She concludes, however, "the Visa gets paid off but the memories remain."

Thanks Jan and Holly for your comments. We'll be sure to inform JoAnn that some one reads her stuff.

NGN

**Bellevue, Neb.** — We exchange a lot of newsletters with other groups and so we're seeing a lot of new activity in the Midwest. For those in the Nebraska/Western Iowa area there is **Rivercity**, an open membership group that seem to growing nicely. **Judy Adams** is the editor of their newsletter, *The Transformer*. (Is there "more than meets the eye" here or what?) Interested parties may direct comments, inquiries or articles to Adams at P. O. Box 1305, Bellevue, NE 68005.

NGN

**New York City** — Almost a year ago, we attended the second annual Dressing For Pleasure Fashion Show and Dinner Dance and had a most delightful time.

This year the event will be held on October 20-22 in the Penta Hotel. The cooler weather should bring out some very exotic costumes.

**Mistress Constance**, organizer and producer of the gala, has informed us that a new category has been added to the costume competition: "Belle of the Ball." This category is only for crossdressers. Connie doesn't know the Pandora's Box she's opened with that category, but her intentions are well placed.

If you're into leather, latex, corsets, thigh-high boots or outré accessories, the Dressing For Pleasure gala is where you'll want to be. For more details write to: Constance Enterprises, P.O. Box 43709, Upper Montclair, N.J. 07043 or call 201-746-0072.

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Springfield, Mass. —Those of you interested in developing a feminine voice should take note of some current recent research in the area. **Micheline Johnson**, writing in the June issue of *Twenty Minutes*, found the following references: "Speech Pathology Consideration in the Management of Transsexualism—A Review," J. M. Oates and G. Dacakis, *British Journal of Disorders of Communication*, Vol. 18, No. 3, pp. 139-151; and "Changing the Vocal Characteristics of a Postoperative Transsexual Patient: A Longitudinal Study," K. H. Mount and S. J. Salmon, *Journal of Communication Disorders*, Vol. 21, (1988), pp. 229-238. Johnson recommends showing these references to your voice therapist.

The last reference suggests that simply raising the mean fundamental frequency of a male-to-female transsexual's voice is not sufficient to disguise the original gender of the speaker. Mount and Salmon believe that vocal tract resonance must also be altered to complete the development of a feminine voice.

## NGN

Essex, England —Along those same lines comes a discussion of "first" and "second" voices from the pages of *Narcissus*, the publication of **TransEssex**.

**Celia** [redacted] of the **Beaumont Society** contributed the article on using your "first" (or falsetto) voice in your femme role. [redacted] says that falsetto has gotten a bad rap mostly from writers on singing.

To prove her point, [redacted] has prepared an audio tape that includes a history, demonstration and exercises for developing your new feminine voice. Those interested may purchase a copy through TransEssex, P.O. Box 3, Basildon, Essex, SS14-1PT, UK. Enclose £4.00, (about \$7.00 U.S. (in an international money order) for the tape and overseas postage).

## NGN

Minneapolis, Minn. —We garnered an intriguing idea from the staff of the *Minnesota Freedom of Gender Expression News*, who picked it up from the **Chicago Gender Society** newsletter. (We apologize for missing it the first time around).

They suggest that transgendered men "act like a woman all the time, even when you're not dressed." The idea is that if your affectations are offensive to you out of your feminine garb, then they are probably offensive to you no matter how you are dressed. Discard the offensive behaviors. Also, never do anything, socially, while dressed that you wouldn't normally do in front of your straight friends.

## NGN

Seattle, Wash. —**Emerald City** celebrated its sixth anniversary in June with a party. We hope they had a sell-out crowd.

EC's secretary, **Debra Darling**, admits to having more personal interests than just crossdressing. One of those is membership in NMRA, the National Model Railroaders Association.

On more than one occasion we have noted a passion for trains among our sisters. Renaissance counts many modelers, railfans, and even a published author in *Model Railroader* among its members.

What is the link between crossdressing and trains? Does anyone have any thoughts? We'd like to hear them.

## NGN

Kansas City, Kan. —It was bound to happen sooner or later; we've received two newsletters with the same name from different groups.

Last month we mentioned a group in the Kansas City area called **Crossdressers And Friends** (CAF). They have now sent us copies of their newsletter, *CROSS\TALK*. That name rang a

bell, and we pawed through our files until we found *CROSS—TALK*, the newsletter from the **Delta Chi** Chapter of Tri-Ess in Woodland Hills, Calif.

It is not a big problem now, but there could be confusion at a later date. The name similarity has been pointed out to CAF.

## NGN

Devon, Conn. —The Northeast gender community has lost another well-known figure. The May/June issue of the *connecticutView* reports that **Dee Dee W.** of Hartford died at age 81 after a bout with cancer.

We never met Dee Dee, but we knew of her from the praise of many mutual friends, particularly **Denise Mason**, editor of the "View."

## NGN

Toronto, Ontario —We recently met **Deb Pike**, owner of **Fantasyland**, a TV boutique in Owen Sound, about two hours drive north of Toronto. Pike promised to get us in touch with the scene in Canada.

*The Transie Times* (TTT) arrived in our mail box last month. We surmised from the title that they don't take themselves too seriously, and our assumption was confirmed by the content.

This delightful little mag covers the TV/drag scene in and around Toronto. Managing Editor **Jennifer** [redacted] has done a fine job developing her sources.

If you're interested in Toronto happenings, check out TTT. It is published monthly and the cost is \$4 (Can.) Write to [redacted] c/o *The Transie Times*, 556 Parliament St. Suite 3375, Toronto, Ontario, M4X-1P8. Or, get a copy from Fantasyland, 274 8th St. Owen Sound, Ontario, N4K-5P1.

## NGN

With all the new sources we're developing, we'll have to change the name of this column to "International Gender News."

## NGN

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