

CROSS-TALK



OCTOBER 1990

(ISSUE #20)

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THIS MONTH:

"ALPHA" CHAPTER TO REBUILD,
LOCAL FI PERFORMER DIES IN SAN FRANCISCO,
ACLU TAKES ON NAME CHANGE BATTLE FOR TS 2
S.F. DOMESTIC PARTNERS LAW PLACED ON BALLOT,
I.F.G.E. CONVENTION ANNOUNCES CHANGES 5
"ACT UP" BOYCOTT EXTENDS TO TG COMMUNITY 12
EPILADY MARKETERS FILE BANKRUPTCY 13
MERISSA SHERRILL LYNN TO ADDRESS TRI-ESS 16

"WAY OF THE WEREWOMAN", PART 2 7
HOW FAST IS TOO FAST? 16

CHRISTMAS DINNER AT "QUEEN MARY" DETAILS, PAGE 2
"BEST OF CROSS-TALK" AVAILABLE: DETAILS, PAGE 17

VIRGINIA PRINCE ANNOUNCES INTENT TO REBUILD 'ALPHA'

CHRISTMAS: A TIME FOR TG FAMILY

I have found, in the course of my involvement in the transgendered community, that there is a tendency for subsets of the whole to keep to themselves and not mix socially with other subsets. Sometimes it's a question of gender orientation: crossdressers and transsexuals frequently choose paths independent of each other. More often, it's group identification; PPOC members have been known to shun Tri-Ess (although there are notable exceptions), CHIC members usually avoid all outside contact with the rest of the community, etc. I've even seen cliques form at the Queen Mary based upon whether or not you're there for sexual reasons! Well, in my opinion, it's time for this divisiveness to come to an end ... and at what better time than Christmas?

Some of you might have noticed that last month's events calendar had a listing for a Christmas dinner at the Queen Mary on December 23. That tentative scheduling has become a reality: Richard O'Rell, the QM's lovable bar manager, has finished making the arrangements for a catered buffet-style traditional ham and turkey dinner, with the trimmings, and has also promised entertainment in the form of some of the QM's revue performers. Reservations must be paid in advance, at \$20.00 per person. You can make reservations with either Richard or John at the QM back bar, or mail reservations to me here at "Cross-Talk", by December 10. (Make checks payable to the Queen Mary.) All those in attendance will receive a complimentary split of champagne. Richard and I have decided to donate the proceeds to the Pioneer Home AIDS Hospice. Hope you can join us!

VALLEY GIRLS UPDATE: September was not a great month. Not only was it necessary to cancel the Laughlin trip due to the delay in "Cross-Talk" delivery (no one received their copy before the reservation deadline), the attendance at the "house party" on the 22nd was particularly disappointing. Given the low attendance and the proximity of the fourth Saturday to Thanksgiving, Mykee and I have decided to cancel November's house party. The Halloween party has also been cancelled, owing to a conflict with the G.G.R.C. Halloween Ball at the Palladium.

The fourth Saturday in December is the day before the Christmas dinner at the Queen Mary. I NEED YOUR INPUT. We have three months without a "Valley Girls" event, during which I would like to hear from you on the topic of what social activities you would like us to schedule. In the absence of such input, Christine Hochberg will schedule special events like the Laughlin weekend as the opportunities arise, Jaye in Lompoc will coordinate the annual BBQ next summer, and all other Valley Girls activities will be placed on indefinite hold. Given the apparent apathy and the amount of my time needed for "Cross-Talk", this is the best I can do.

YES, VIRGINIA, THERE REALLY ARE YELLOW PAGES: Many subscribers who paid for the "Southern California Yellow Pages" still had not received them by the end of September. The problem, as usual, was a combination of too little cash flow and too much Kymberleigh's busy schedule. I do have the master pages done, and as soon as I can get the money and time together, it will be printed and mailed.

If you do NOT have a "*" after your subscriber number on the mailing label and would like a copy of the September Yellow Pages, send me \$1.00 and your subscriber number and I will mail you one when they are printed.

I also hope to have "Best of Cross-Talk" printed and mailed in the next month or so. If you have paid for a copy, I have kept a list, and you will receive it when it is printed. If you have not ordered a copy, send me \$5.00 and your subscriber number and I'll add you to the list.

Thank you all for your patience!

(CONTINUED, PAGE 18)

(kmr) -- In a letter denouncing the members of the new Lambda Alpha Tri-Ess Chapter for making the basis of forming their chapter personal, Virginia Prince, co-founder of Tri-Ess, has announced her intention to once again rebuild the Alpha Chapter.

Virginia's letter, referring to claims by the new Lambda Alpha Chapter that she has, in the past, "hurt" people with her opinions and attitude, has called for anyone who feels they have been offended to come to a future Alpha meeting so that she can make amends. She further admitted that some of her views on crossdressing would be disagreed with, and that she would continue to enunciate and defend her points of view in the future. However, she maintains that she has no intentions of doing so in a hurtful manner.

While maintaining that Alpha does not belong to her, Virginia admits that the defection of Lambda Alpha's members makes it necessary for her to "go back and start over and build the chapter", as she has done several times in the past. She went on in her letter to call for help from those with "talent, dedication and interest", as she has no desire to take on this project singlehandedly due to her other involvements.

LOCAL FI PERFORMER 'DARLING DIMPLES' DEAD AT AGE 55

("Compass") -- Services were held September 29 for Big Jimmy "Darling Dimples" Nadaus, who died of a heart attack on September 17 while visiting friends in San Francisco.

Big Jimmy was one of the best-known entertainers in the area, having worked many years at the Queen Mary. He had also travelled extensively, having appeared in San Francisco, New York City, Las Vegas, and other venues throughout the U.S. and Canada. He had gone into semi-retirement in recent years, appearing only occasionally for charitable fund-raisers. Within the past year, he had suffered from diabetes and cancer of the foot.

He was born in Chicago, Illinois, on January 1, 1935, and is survived by his mother, sister and brother.

ACLU JOINS IN TRANSSEXUAL'S NAME CHANGE BATTLE

("TGIC News") -- The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is appealing the refusal of a New Jersey Superior Court judge to permit a male-to-female name change for a pre-operative transsexual who has begun her real life test.

ACLU volunteer attorney Margaret Kean, who is representing John William Eck in the appeal, says her client has, in all respects, assumed the identity of a woman as part of treatment for the established medical condition of gender dysphoria. Kean points out that the surgery that completes the transformation of a man into a woman cannot be performed until the person has lived as a woman for some time, as Eck is now doing. She argues that her client needs the legal name change to change his driver license and school records.

Applications for formal name change are normally granted unless the judge sees a specific reason to refuse, usually an attempt at fraud (such as evasion of a financial obligation or criminal charges). Otherwise, people have the right to call themselves anything they please. However, Judge Birger Sween, without support in the court records, declared that "it is inherently fraudulent for a person who is physically a male to assume an obviously 'female' name for the sole purpose of representing himself to future employers and society as a female."

Kean maintains that Eck has no intention of deceiving anyone about his situation, but does want to live with only one name, a "female" one.

THE 6:00 T.U. NEWS

FI POSES AS H.S. CHEERLEADER

("L.A. Times") -- A 26-year-old female impersonator posed as an 11th-grade student at a Colorado Springs, Colorado high school for eight days before being arrested on forgery and criminal impersonation charges. Charles Janlova (James Daugherty), a 5'9", 164-pound man, even became a cheerleader during his brief stay at the school. Student reaction ranged from amused to angry and scared; school officials said they discovered the masquerade within two or three days.

INEPT DRAG BANDIT BUNGLES HOLDUP

("Sun") -- A crossdressing crook had tellers stifling laughter when he burst into their bank decked out in a knee-length mohair coat, tan tights, dangling earrings, red pillbox hat and gawdy blonde wig. Despite the wacky girlish get-up, no one was fooled into thinking the gunman, armed with a blue plastic squirt gun, was really an awful-looking woman.

Security cameras clearly captured the robber in the act, and bank authorities identified him as a man whose loan application had been turned down a few days earlier.

When information on the application led police straight to their "man", 23-year-old Stephen Butler, he claimed he had been in drag because he'd been at the hospital earlier to cheer up an ailing friend, and decided "on the spur of the moment" to rob the bank after finding his nephew's water pistol in his car.

TS MARRIES EX-WIFE'S FATHER

("Sun") -- Family relations have taken on a new meaning in one Argentine family where a husband had a sex change, divorced his wife, and then announced plans to marry her father!

Manuela Zuvella, 29, who divorced his wife Chica, 26, after doctors completed sex-change surgery to complete her transformation into a woman, announced two days after the divorce that she was marrying her ex-wife's widowed father, Guillermo.

Chica, who had opposed the divorce all the way until surgery was performed because she had hoped to raise their three-year-old son, Jaime, in a normal family situation, is at a loss to explain to her son exactly what has happened.

Authorities had no choice but to grant the marriage license, since Manuela is legally a single woman.

THAT'S NO LADY, THAT'S MY HUBBY!

("National Examiner") -- Devoted wife Karen Steen vows she'll stand by her man, even after he becomes a woman. While she says she "cried for days" after her husband Kelvin came home from the doctor and announced his plans for a sex change, she realized their love was too deep for them to separate.

The London, England couple have already explained the situation to their eight-year-old daughter Tracey, who is already calling her father "Daddy Clare".

Thanks to hormone treatments, Clare now has a 36-inch bustline, and plans to have surgery next year. She says "I'm extremely fortunate to have a loving family that understands my need and is willing to make the necessary adjustments."

NO DRESSES ON THE JOB!?!

("Weekly World News") -- A busty brunette in England has gone to authorities about her former employers because they forced her to wear men's clothing after her sex-change operation.

42-year-old Heather Cook says her bosses refused to treat her as a woman after hormone therapy began breast development, even though they had earlier said they supported her sex-swap. "I dressed and lived as a woman outside of work and felt it was ridiculous to wear a suit ... especially since I was wearing a bra," she says.

To make matters worse, her employers refused to let her use the ladies' room, and her co-workers locked her out of the men's. In her complaint, Heather says she had to quit her \$18,000-a-year job to preserve her peace of mind.

TULA WANTS TO BE A MOMMY

("Weekly World News") -- Tantalizing Tula, the sex-change stunner, has devised an amazing plan to become a mom.

The 37-25-37 transsexual has gotten her best friend Diana Reeves to agree to become impregnated by using a silver spoon dipped into a champagne glass containing sperm from Tula's husband, millionaire Elias Fattal. Says Reeves, "I love Tula like a sister and would do anything for her."

TOP BALLERINA WAS REALLY A MAN

("Weekly World News") -- After she died in a bizarre accident, doctors discovered that eye-catching Catherine Basset, a ravishing ballerina who had wowed audiences around the world with her grace and beauty, was really a man.

Within days, investigators discovered not only that the 34-year-old tutu cutie was actually a former soccer star named Andre Roux ... but that she had wives in three different countries.

According to longtime pal Paul Pointot, the extensive masquerade began eight years ago when Roux, who had given up his soccer career to devote himself to dancing, decided to audition for a ballet company as a girl. When he fooled them, he decided to go out a fool the world. Pointot calls it "the hoax of the century", which even had the ballerina's wives fooled. One said she had seen "her" on television, never once suspecting it was her own husband.

The charade came to an end when a heavy stage light fell on the dancer during a dress rehearsal in Germany, fatally injuring the bogus belle.

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A feline musical version of "Romeo and Juliet" that made its debut at last month's Venice Film Festival, has but one human character among its all-cat cast: John Hurt, in drag, as a Venetian bag lady who transports the movie's lead characters to the New World where they can purr-sue their romance. Hurt also has the only "speaking" lines ... the cats' thoughts are expressed in voiceovers. No U.S. distributor has been signed on yet. ("L.A. Times")

Notes on passing: (1) Don't look nervous in any situation. A woman may look lost, confused, even dumb, but never nervous. (2) When speaking to someone try to make eye contact. People will hear what they expect to hear as well as seeing what they expect to see. If you talk to a clerk, for instance, when her back is to you she may hear a man talking to her; whereas if you are facing her she will hear a woman speaking even if your voice isn't perfectly feminine. (3) When you travel alone en femme stay at the better hotels and eat at nicer restaurants. You will be less likely to have some redneck pull off your wig or have someone make distressing comments. The help at the better places are more prone to be nice to the customers. And besides, it feels good to flatter your femme-self with a few niceties. (Phi Epsilon Mu newsletter)

Quote of the Month: "When a man visits another man, the last thing in the world they would do is try on each other's clothes. Or shop. I can't imagine saying to another man, 'Hey, that sweater would look really great on you.'" -- "L.A. Times" columnist Margo Kaufman's husband, quoted in her "Private Lives" column.

One of the world's best known transsexuals, Renee Richards, is now saying that surgery is a second-rate solution and that the number of people who should have it is miniscule. She says a more humane solution is a combination of drugs, psychotherapy, and a better understanding of the complex mix of elements that lead a person into gender confusion. ("USA Weekend")

Good Reason #47 for becoming a baseball fan: KCBS-TV's Keith Olbermann has announced that if the Dodgers win the divisional title, he'll deliver a sportscast wearing a dress. One of Bree Walker's, we presume ... ("L.A. Times")

While we're on the subject of TV on TV ... Channel 2's

parent network, CBS, has commissioned Charles Busch ("Vampire Lesbians of Sodom") to write a sitcom pilot. CBS programming chief Jeff Sagansky says he envisions Busch's character as "sort of a Mae West". But Busch is only guardedly optimistic that the project will make the small screen, noting that he's always thought "there's no way the networks will be able to separate sexuality from female impersonation". Besides, as often happens in Hollywood, the whole project can be derailed by CBS at any point after the pilot's production. Stay tuned ... ("Renaissance News")

The American Transsexual Education Center is now making available the following publications at a cost of \$5.00 each: "Information for the Family and Friends of Transsexuals", "Hormones and Hormone Therapy", "The Transsexual and the Law", "Many Shades of Gender Dysphoria", "Starting Electrolysis", and "Groups: Their Why and How". The subject matter, in many cases, will be of interest to the crossdresser as well. To order, send a list of desired titles and payment to ATEC, 1626 Wilcox Ave. #584, Hollywood CA 90028.

The IFGE Educational Resources Committee has announced a historical research project on the history of TV/TS organizations and support groups. The completed project will be a comprehensive history from 1950 to the present, including background on how individual organizations were formed and the people who formed and led them; and detailed information on the history of such organizations worldwide. IFGE intends this work to become an education resource for future reference by the community. The project coordinator, Nancy Cole, can be reached at P.O. Box 241, Leavenworth KS 66048.

According to a recent report released by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, more than 7000 hate crimes against homosexuals were reported nationwide last year. California ranked as the state with the highest number of physical assaults with 198 out of 563 reports. New York was next with 103, followed by Illinois with 82 assaults. North Carolina had the highest number of reports in all categories including violence with 1204, followed by Texas with 997. Since in the eyes of the uninitiated, transgenderism and homosexuality appear to be one and the same, it would be prudent in light of these figures to be extra careful out there, and never walk alone at night. (ATEC)

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PERSPECTIVES ON THERAPY

by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

In the "lingo" of the transgender community, I am a "gatekeeper". This translates into having the power to withhold or grant approval for hormone therapy and genital reassignment surgery. On a broader scale, some of my clients think I have some special power to divine people's innermost thoughts. I also am supposed to have a crystal ball that shows the best course of action an individual should take in the struggle with gender concerns which they bring into my office. All of this is a heavy burden for one person to carry. Further, it places expectations on me that are both unfair and impossible to fulfill.

I am a human being, the same as all the people who come to see me. As I sometimes joke, I failed basic mind reading and never had a course in foretelling the future. If there is anything that sets me apart from my clients, it is the special training and experience I have had in dealing with gender issues. This, coupled with some degree of objectivity, gives me the ability to help my clients. In the end, however, it is they who must make the decisions that shape their future. My task is to help them safely explore all the alternatives and consequences of one path over another. In doing this, my job is to take a conservative approach and ask the tough questions.

In the various publications put out by organizations in the gender community I have recently read several articles that I could classify as "therapist-bashing". The authors' complaints are along the lines of "Why don't they just give me what I want without all this evaluation and counseling?" The thing that distresses me about these tirades is the fact that the authors appear to lack an understanding of the purpose for working with a therapist. It seems to me the main reason someone should go to a therapist is to get objective guidance on some problem they are struggling with. On the other side of the coin, no reputable clinician would authorize radical procedures without appropriate evaluation. If they did and it turned out to be wrong for that person, the consequences for both are disastrous.

While I know there are therapists who are unfamiliar with gender issues and thus may not be able to adequately guide their clients, the attacks I have read are not directed at such professionals. Rather, they are aimed toward those who do know how to work with gender-conflicted persons. These specialists are trying to help their clients make the best choice. This is apparently seen as "getting in the way" of the client's self-diagnosis.

There are many illegal or at least unethical ways to obtain both hormones and genital surgery. There are higher risks with such pathways, but if someone wants to have their own way these means exist. If someone pays a professional for consultation, it seems irrational to blame them for proceeding in a safe and conservative manner.

[If you have something you would like Dr. Peo to write about or have a rebuttal, write him at P.O. Box 4887, Poughkeepsie NY 12602 or call (914) 462-7455. All communications are confidential. This column may be reprinted in any non-profit organization's newsletter so long as Dr. Peo's name and address appear in the reprinted version. All others must obtain written approval.]

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SAN FRANCISCO DOMESTIC PARTNERS LAW GETS 2ND CHANCE

(AP) -- Political leaders in San Francisco have placed a scaled-down version of last year's "Domestic Partners" ordinance on the November ballot.

San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Harry Britt, along with Supervisors Angela Alioto, Nancy Walker and Richard Hongisto, signed a new version of the ordinance without health or other city benefits and presented it to the City Registrar of Voters on July 23. Their action automatically qualified it for next month's election.

A year ago, voters defeated the original ordinance by a more than 2,000 vote margin, after conservative clergymen called it "an attack on the family". However, lesbian and gay political leaders feel this year's high-profile campaigns of two lesbian candidates for seats on the Board of Supervisors will bring out more voters sympathetic to their cause. They also say the removal of economic provisions from the new version of the ordinance will appease many of its' opponents.

The measure, if passed, would make San Francisco the largest U.S. city to officially sanction unmarried domestic partners of gay, lesbian, and non-gay couples.

INNOVATIONS ANNOUNCED FOR I.F.G.E. "COMING TOGETHER"

(IFGE Update) -- The 1991 "Coming Together" convention will include three improvements and additions from previous year's conventions.

The first innovation will be the addition of two introductory seminars, one on Tuesday evening and one on Friday evening, presented by experienced public lecturers from the TG community. These seminars will be open to the general public as well as to registered convention-goers, free of charge.

Second, the Wednesday buffet and reception will become an awards ceremony to present the newly-created "Trinity" awards, given to the person(s) or group(s) that have made a significant contribution to our community.

There will also be a comprehensive two-day program at the convention specifically for wives and partners. This third innovation is designed to bring the IFGE convention a "belonging to everyone" feel.

Other program changes will include the expansion of the IS Program to three days, expanding the F2M Program to two days, and incorporating professional programs into the general schedule.

In addition, Gender Identity Center of Colorado, the host organization for the 1991 convention, has announced that plans are being made for a skiing and sightseeing tour of one of the local venues the day before the convention.

'CROSS-TALK' INVITES YOU TO
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SEE RICHARD OR JOHN AT THE QM BACK BAR

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT PIONEER HOME

OPINIONS & COMMENTS

UP ON MY SOAPBOX

MIXED EMOTIONS

by Eileen McCleary

Mixed emotions. That's what I'm enduring thinking about the woman arrested in Houston for using the men's convenience at a concert.

Given the wording of the law ... as I understand it ... I'm simply unable to see what the officer used as "probable cause". Indeed, the wording of the ordinance, as reported, was so awkward that I get the feeling that the ordinance was a hasty rewrite to meet the "equal protection" requirements of the U.S. Constitution. News reports make no mention of anyone being "disturbed" over the matter except for the officer.

At first glance, this might appear to be especially bad news for Tri-Ess members who intend to participate in this year's Holiday En Femme. I would bet that many of Houston's GG's will be giving extra attention to who is using THEIR facilities, ready to give "tit for tat". Yet, in the long run, this case may very well establish a helpful precedent ... provided the defendant is acquitted, as I suspect she will be ... namely, that as long as a person is using a public convenience for its nominal purpose, cross usage is not contrary to the public interest.

Unfortunately, such precedent won't be particularly helpful outside Texas, unless the acquittal is appealed ... unsuccessfully. However, the ultimate fallout could actually yield a better situation for TG's than the vaunted one in Seattle, where I understand it is mandatory for a person to use the convenience appropriate to their APPARENT gender.

In the meantime, I have firm assurances from Jane Ellen Fairfax, and independent confirmation from another Houston source, that provisions have been made so that there are "safe" restrooms for the sisters participating. Moreover, I've been informed that one can insure compliance with the law by gaining from the management of other establishments "permission" for using their ladies' room. This is accomplished by such simple means as asking an employee where the ladies room is (even if you all ready know.) If that person doesn't challenge your right to use it, you are presumed to HAVE permission.

It seems that the time is already upon us for insisting on an accurate public image. I honestly wouldn't have expected that it would be become so important SO SOON. For the TG Community (TV/CD/TS/T?)

(CONTINUED, PAGE 18)

VOX POPULI

A TIME FOR ACTION

by Cynthia Howard,
Gender Alternatives League (GAL)

As reported last month in "Cross-Talk". The Gender Alternatives League is now being formed. At present, it is a small organization, but we hope to change that, if in fact the gender community is ready for that change.

GAL consists of the seeds of your ideas. The time is now for the gender community to bring those seeds into fruition. There has been talk and now there will be action!

It is our goal to promote freedom of gender expression.

It is our primary purpose to help and support the gender community as a whole in the area of educational and political activism. GAL will in no way usurp any of the programs, ideas or purposes of any other gender organization, but will instead channel and enhance the ability of all organizations to have the clout necessary to advance their best interests within society at large. In working together, we can achieve what individuals only dream of. Whether you are a crossdresser/transvestite, transsexual (male to female or female to male), a helping professional, a supportive other (as a wife, friend, parent, or associate), it does not matter. As long as you are in

TAG, YOU'RE IT ...

IMAGE AND MOTIVATION

by Anne Blackwood

A couple of months ago, I was watching some news coverage on the Gay Pride Parade in West Hollywood. All the stations seemed to have the same footage of men dragged up in cheerleader costumes. And I started to think about our image and their motivations.

Now I'm sure that most people will say that they did it all in fun, but ask a hundred people what fun is and you'll get a hundred different answers. It is not necessarily all sweetness and light. I find scathing repartee quite fun, yet I know people who are horrified and/or offended by it. I couldn't help but wonder how many of those "cheerleaders" were misogynists.

The footage I saw was broadcast all over Southern California. There are ... what ... some 14 million inhabitants of L.A. and Orange Counties. So figure that maybe two million saw the footage. What message did that send? The people depicted aren't likely to be members of our community, but the majority of the people who saw them will make the association.

It obviously bothers me that this is the kind of image that is being put forth by the media. Whether deliberately or inadvertently is irrelevant (God, I love those 60's words). It is not what these people are wearing that bothers me, it is the context (and I don't mean the Gay Pride Parade). There were no men dressed as lady lawyers. There were no men dressed as female firefighters. No, these men were dressed to the depths of femininity. There is nothing wrong with wearing a cheerleader's outfit; when I was starting out I wore my sisters' ballet costumes (I don't wear them anymore, as, for one thing, I am not a member of Les Ballet Trockadero). Context.

We cannot control what members of other communities do, that is certain. We can tell them how what they do affects us and hope that they respect our viewpoint, but other than that we can do nothing. Education can precipitate change.

We all feel that our particular ... mmmmm ... situation gives us insight regarding women. And for many of us that is true. But (you know what that means), there are a lot of members of both the TV and the TS communities who haven't got a clue. Generally their perception is one of opposites: Female is the opposite of male. Feminine is the opposite of masculine. Weak is the opposite of macho. If men and women were opposites, the species wouldn't exist. Men

(CONTINUED, PAGE 17)

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND YOUR OWN COMMENTARIES
OR RESPOND TO THOSE VIEWS ALREADY EXPRESSED.

"CROSS-TALK"

P.O. BOX 944

WOODLAND HILLS, CA 91365

the gender community or connected to it in some way we are here to help and support YOU.

It is our intention to bring all members of the gender community together as one unified group, regardless of the labels or differences between us, for the betterment of our community as a whole, and for the betterment of all individuals within it. We, acting together, can create a large enough force to make the difference.

It is our intention to support and back women's liberation, gay rights, civil rights and the all encompassing human rights organizations and further to communicate with, cooperate with, collaborate with and form a coalition with any minority in its endeavor for human rights, dignity, and justice for all on a national and international level. Basic human freedoms are for everyone.

It is our intention to become a watchdog for the community and root out the notion that the gender community is a small group of individuals and organizations that through some "mental illness" are practicing something "abnormal". We do what we do

(CONTINUED, PAGE 18)

THE WAY OF THE WEREWOMAN

CONCLUSION

by Fhaedra Kelly

The denial of the complimentary gender within the individual, we call false monism, and attempt to expunge by ignoring the other self. As Jung observed in his study of anima/animas, ignoring it will not make it go away. Instead, it will play tricks on the host and cause subconscious problems which we call false dualism. Thus is society's majority living an inverse, wrongly polled and harshly polarized life, in which culture is arrested, stagnating and if not repeating its wrongs, then surely overlaying them exactly on the map of time. Not even a real vampire could do worse than this self-sucking, self-loathing incestuous mess.

A modern overall trend towards fictional vampires being presented as world weary, having learnt from their centuries of immortality, albeit a certain cynicism, illustrates an awareness to the worlds interlock (which itself is a premise of Satanism, that well known inversion of Catholicism) but the freshness of that clarity goes no further. The four natural enemies of enlightenment are said to be fear, clarity, power and age, and so the closed loop goes. A vampire that won back their soul and applied their knowledge might prove a true risk of the new.

In murder, the murderer may well be attacking himself through the victim. Some victims might be proven to be not so unwilling for a parallel reason ... if only a mistake caused by their own tunnel vision about themselves, which puts them in the way of that fate. Again, the stop-it-I-like-it behavior of a fictional or mythic vampire victim closely parallels this; a sexually climactic "no, no, no...yes, yes, do it."

In insane acts of murder, schizophrenia, the division between thought and emotion, represents the most extreme shock which comes of self denial. Whatever the horror that caused the illness which in turn may cause a murder, the patient was first made susceptible to culture shock and inversion by ignoring himself. It has been recorded as always having something to do with a patient's terror of their own sexuality. In its commonest, less dramatic form, a schizoid patient will loose himself in word salad, a babbling of incoherent data drawn off the subconscious databanks, the junk which goes daily and involuntarily into our brains from what's around us. What they are doing in this seeming talking to themselves, is using the natural white noise of the human condition to block out their fear of their own vampire/pole of gender/worst memory. The schizoid condition is divided persona, not a conscious decision to have a separate identity by dressing, naming and living with the woman in man/man in woman. In its rarest and most powerful form of split or multiple personality, the patient has made several other selves real as an actor would in one sense, to show that they are not waving but drowning, a plea for help. In another, to split that one other self into a myriad of fractions in the hope that it may vanish and shrink away to nothing, with each new character.

The professional working with the split personality must draw out each persona in turn, meeting them slowly over a period of months and years. It has almost always been the case, that the last one to three personas to appear just prior to a self realization by the patient, and a beginning of their healing, have been characters of the other gender to the patient.

Another woman in a man, holding him back, sucking on his soul. Another man inside a woman doing as like to her ... home made internal vampires originating in the Christian esthetic movement. The ascetics sought to establish an all-soul existence, transcending and negating nature. To do so, they were obliged to monitor themselves and each other against nature and physicality to the degree that it became their main obsession, their souls largely forgot or trivialized by the overt double meanings read into the simplest of acts. They were the emotionalization of sex which is latent homosexuality, and which contributes to the sexualization of emotion that is true, actual homosexuality. Both things deny dual gender for a false monism. One is the prude, the other an alternate prude and between the two, only the well-thumbed sexual references can be found.

When a male aesthetic slept, it was fitfully, and being post-pubescent, their glands would need to drain periodically in what we call a wet dream. A similar somnambulist accident would occur for an adult female

aesthetic, and these quite natural bodily needs became for them the succubus demon a female spiritual nymphomaniac, drawing off sexual energy from men, and the incubus demon a male satyrmaniac who drew off women's sexual energy. Obviously, these complimentary gender "demons" were their own other self left unattended, ignored and so free to be rampant sex vampires to their host and hostess.

If we're ever to know soul at all, we can not refuse our body. If we are to trust our body, we can not indulge it overtly to the exclusion of soul. Our middle ground is the mind, unlimited and able to expand beyond temporal confines to the space in which things get done. Paradoxical statement as it seems, we can't afford anymore to anthropomorphize the human animal. As far as possible, without desensitizing ourselves, we shouldn't take ourselves and others too personally. If we get our human magnetics properly poled and stay aware that likes repel and opposites attract, almost anything is possible with sufficient mentality wed to some evolution. Since each of us is our own vampire, whichever way we go with it, if we want to change from man to woman, woman to man or human to beast or wolf, maybe we can. Our shape, our color is not fixed. A chromosomatic rhythmic changing might be evolved through consciousness and practice. Did not the Wolfman of Freud's published case history acquire psychosomatic extra bodyhair? The continued existence of would-be vampires, and certainly of werewomen (my term is Gender Transient) like me is proof that nothing on Earth is unchangeable.

As Moorcock said through the mouth of his character, the androgyne Jerry Cornelius, when recently metamorphosized with his own sister in The Final Programme. "It's a very tasty world ..."

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See Page 19 of your Summer Edition of *The Femme Mirror* for registration details and a registration form.

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EVENING OUT YOUR SKIN TONE

by Valerie Driscoll

In last month's column we discussed how to get a close shave so as to eliminate as much as possible of that annoying "shadow". The next step is covering what remains of that shadow with makeup.

If you have an extremely light shadow, either naturally or because electrolysis has thinned out your beard, you may be able to get away with a base coat of foundation slightly darker than your regular shade. But for most, beard cover makeup is necessary. If you've never used it before, my advice is to consult with a professional cosmetologist to select the right shade for your skin tone and degree of coverage needed.

Whether or not you need beard cover, though, you need foundation to even out your skin tone and hide minor imperfections. Most of you will apply it on your face and neck, so the color must blend with both. This can be tricky since these two areas are not always the same color. If you're going to wear a low-cut top, you also need to be sure the foundation shade blends with the skin below the neck... it's frequently lighter down there. In this case, you may want to choose a shade somewhere between the two.

Before applying foundation, check your skin to see if you will need a moisturizer. You should use a moisturizer everyday, especially around the eyes and mouth. If you see flaky skin, use a facial scrub first and maybe a mask. Your final masterpiece is only as good as the canvas you paint it on, so take good care of your skin. To summarize my June column (reread it if you still have your copy), use ph-balanced products and avoid added fragrance and mineral oil.

This last point does not necessarily apply, though, in the debate between oil-based and water-based foundation. My personal experience has taught me more than my fifteen years as a cosmetologist. I used to turn my nose at oil-based foundation, especially since I'm prone to oily skin. But guess what? It seems to work the best. It goes on smooth, blends easily, and if you perspire, IT STAYS ON!

Dot foundation evenly over the entire face and neck, then start at the forehead and blend with the thick end of a latex sponge. Check your application to be sure you've blended into the hairline and around the nose. Next apply rouge or blush, then a translucent powder. You might even get a little creative and do some highlighting and contouring. We'll discuss some of those techniques in next month's column, or give me a call if you need to be shown in person!

LEGS, LEGS, LEGS!

(from "L.A. Times" and Fort Worth "Star-Telegram")

Not since the miniskirted '60s have legs been so exuberant, with hosiery the essential accessory for this season's shorter skirts. Leggings and tights, the body-closest wrapping of fall's multilayered look, fit smoothly under anything from a big sweater or jacket to a tailored suit. They can even be worn over each other: Oscar de la Renta mixed new colors by layering three pairs of semisheer tights.

When combined with an outfit of the same shade, opaque tights in new autumnal colors... old gold, bark brown, loden and berry... define a long, flattering silhouette. Casual leggings come in sweater-like ribs and cables or plush-velvet textures. For the more adventurous, a riotous palette of '60s psychedelic colors... acid pink, chartreuse and purple... make legs shimmer. Novelty tights in bold colors, inspired by couture's enfant terrible Christian LaCroix, whose collection kicked off the printed leg earlier this year, are not for the faint of heart. How much you cover (or uncover) depends on your age, shape, and destination.

This season, one thing seems certain: Without tights, you don't have a leg to stand on.

Long, leggy styles pose new challenges where footwear is concerned. The covered-up leg, even when it's covered with opaque tights that fit like a second skin, demands a fairly substantial shoe.

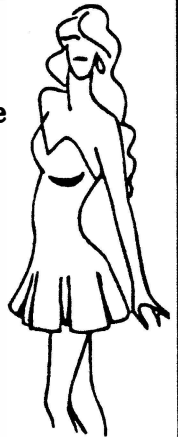
One versatile shoe choice is the ankle-high boot. More daring is the thigh-high boot, which stretches from the ankle to well over the knee. Thigh-highs look best with short, stretchy skirts that expose an inch or two of thigh between boot and skirt hem.

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THE GENDER COMMUNITY: A POLITICAL AND SOCIAL DISCUSSION

by Wendy Parker
(part 4 of 10)

ON CO-OPERATION AND PRIDE

The central point of my text is that we have to work together in the Nineties. Our numbers are proportionately small, so we can't afford indifference on this matter. I maintain that there is a common agenda and "unity" should be one of the answers to the question: "Where are we going in the next decade?" Whether we choose to live full-time as a TG, achieve a personal goal of surgery as a TS, or desire to express our femininity in weekend social gatherings as a TV, it is clear that we want to be able to express who and what we are without obsequious hand-wringing apologies to society. The bottom line is that we need to recognize a need for being proud of who we are.

In order to know where we are going in the next decade, I think we should attempt an answer to the following question: "What is it that we as a group do to evoke such a violent reaction in society?" It's always been curious to me that people who merely choose to express themselves without any harm to others seem to threaten so many people. The less aware, the unenlightened, and the uninformed in our society are upset by our mere existence and seem to find a more understanding attitude toward violent convicted criminals than to us. The Puritan yoke of our legacy has historically allowed us to be more tolerant in issues of violence than sex. You can see it in the movie codes that place more importance on sex than random violence.

The mere existence of Senate Amendment 722 labels all of us as outcasts and misfits. We have become the modern day equivalent of biblical leper colonies. To test this observation, just ask yourself, "What would it take for my family to disown or ignore me?" You see this rejection in many cases of gender shifting. Ironically, in unconditional love, you want a person to become all they can be; to stretch and grow as a human being, not limit their happiness. However, the macho and frail male egos in our society might think that just being near us would cause this phenomenon to rub off on them. I suggest to all bigots, that options in life are limitless and the possibility of gender expression regardless of sex is inherent in everybody. Medical science can certainly prove that there are male and female attributes in both sexes and the quest to explore our other side is simply a goal of personal growth and a total integration of the complete self. The Anima/Animus, Yin/Yang theories of life are as old as history itself, but as Albert Einstein once mentioned, "Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds".

Over the years, I have observed a destructive and vicious cycle of distrust and contempt between the different segments of our community regarding the

variety of lifestyles. Bickering and infighting among various TV, TS, and Gay groups have caused unnecessary discord and hurt feelings. It has even gone so far as to cause the dissolution of valuable networking groups.

Starting anywhere you like along the cycle of mistrust, it is a cycle that feeds on itself. Mistrust breeds fear. Fear is born from ignorance. For example, a gay male might mistrust straight TV's because he may feel that TV's harbor a basically anti-homosexual feeling. Homophobia does permeate our society.

ADDRESSING ISSUES OF HOMOPHOBIA IN THE 90'S

This country is extremely homophobic. There is an irrational obsession to partition all human life as gay or not gay. It is a kind of voyeuristic compulsion by society to assign a slot to everyone's personal sexual preferences as if it were their business in the first place. The whole subject of homophobia in America is insufferably tedious but, like it or not, this community will always be associated with traditional

(CONTINUED, PAGE 19)



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- Mon., Oct. 15 - "An Evening at the Improv" in Irvine, benefit for the AIDS Response Program and Stop AIDS Orange County: Tickets by credit card, (714) 534-0961 or call (213) 659-4778 for other locations.
- Fri., Oct. 19 - "Girls' Night Out" dance party, 9 PM - 1 AM, 13201 Saticoy St., North Hollywood.
- Sun., Oct. 21 - Sunday Afternoon "Tea" Dance, 4 - 7 PM, at the Queen Mary. Admission \$2 at the door: Proceeds benefit Pioneer Home AIDS hospice.
- Fri., Oct. 26 - Tasha & Marlayna's "Cherchez La Femme Night", 10 PM - 2 AM, at Act One, 8612 Garden Grove Blvd., Garden Grove.
- Sat., Oct. 27 - 31st annual G.G.R.C. Halloween Costume Ball, at the Hollywood Palladium, 6215 Sunset Blvd. Call (213) 969-8794 or (213) 656-2960 for ticket information.
- Sat., Oct. 27 - Marlayna & Melissa's "Fantasy Fashions" night at the Queen Mary, 10 PM - 2 AM.
- Fri., Nov. 9 - 21st Annual "Universal Ball", at the Mayflower Ballroom in Inglewood. Call (213) 850-1673 for ticket information.
- Sun., Dec. 23 - Southern California Christmas Dinner, 3 - 7 PM, at the Queen Mary (sponsored by "Cross-Talk"). See "Kymberleigh's Clipboard", pg. 2, for details.

NATIONAL EVENTS:

- Oct. 12-21: "Fantasia Fair": Write P.O. Box 11254, Lincolnia Station, Alexandria VA 22312 for details, or call Kymberleigh for a brochure.
- Nov. 1-4: "Fall Harvest Weekend and Moonshadow Ball": Write CAF, P.O. Box 4092, Overland Park KS for information.
- Nov. 14-19: Tri-Ess "Holiday En Femme" national convention, Houston TX: If you did not receive information, and are a Tri-Ess member, write Tau Chi, P.O. Box 1105, Alief TX 77411-1105.
- 1991:
Feb. 22-24: Third Annual "Texas 'T' Party", sponsored by Boulton & Park Society. Write P.O. Box 169652, San Antonio TX 78280, or call (512) 657-2540 for info.
- Apr. 8-14: I.F.G.E. "Coming Together" convention, Denver CO, sponsored by Gender Identity Center. Details from P.O. Box 367, Wayland MA 01778.
- May 1-5: "California Dreamin'" weekend, co-sponsored by "Cross-Talk" and P.P.O.C., at the Burbank Holiday Inn. Call Kymberleigh at (818) 762-7659 or Joan at (714) 779-9013 for brochure.

LOCAL SUPPORT GROUPS:

- Androgyny meets every Tuesday. For details call (213) 467-8317.
- Crossdressers Heterosexual Intersocial Club (CHIC) meets on the second Saturday of each month. For security reasons, only members may attend. Write for membership information to P.O. Box 562, Duarte 91010.
- Pansocial Center workshop, rap and social is held on the first Saturday of each month. For directions, call (818) 989-3700 or (213) 873-3700.
- Powder Puffs Of California (P.P.O.C.) meets on the third Saturday of each month. For details call (714) 779-9013.
- Tri-Ess Chapters meet on the first Saturday of each month. For time and location, call (213) 876-6141 (Alpha Chapter) or (818) 303-3858 (Lambda Alpha Chapter).

LOCAL NIGHTCLUBS & BARS:

- "Queen Mary", 12449 Ventura Blvd., Studio City, is open every night except Mondays. A female impersonator revue is featured in the front lounge Wednesdays through Sundays. Socialize with the local TG community in the back bar. "Buffalo Fridays", after 9pm, feature a complimentary buffalo wings buffet.
- "Club 22", 4882 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood, is open seven nights a week, catering to the lesbian community; however, crossdressers (in small groups) are well-received. Happy Hour 3-7pm daily; Live DJ Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights; Complimentary buffet Sunday afternoon & evening.
- "Peanuts", 7969 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, is open to crossdressers on Friday, Saturday, and Monday nights (featuring a drag revue on Fridays and Mondays). Live DJ all nights.
- "Palms", 8572 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, is primarily a lesbian bar, but crossdressers (and other lifestyles) are also welcomed seven nights a week. Live DJ on Friday & Saturday nights.

NATIONAL HOTLINES & SUPPORT GROUPS:

- | | |
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| Beta Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Mississippi: | (601) 982-7678 |
| Boulton & Park Society, San Antonio: | (512) 657-2540 |
| Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Chicago: | (708) 364-9514 |
| Chi Delta Mu Tri-Ess, New York City: | (201) 663-0772 |
| Chicago Gender Society: | (312) 434-5445 |
| Cross-Port, Cincinnati: | (513) 851-6174 |
| Delta Omega Chapter Tri-Ess, Dallas: | (817) 261-3253 |
| ETVC, San Francisco: | (415) 763-3959 |
| Gender Identity Center, Denver: | (303) 458-5378 |
| Heart of Texas Gender Alliance, Austin: | (512) 892-6454 |
| My Choice, Baltimore: | (301) 732-4546 |
| NWGA, Portland: | (503) 774-8463 |
| Neutral Corner, San Diego: | (619) 236-1586 |
| Renaissance, Philadelphia: | (215) 630-1437 |
| Sacramento Gender Association: | (916) 441-8379 |
| TGIC, Albany: | (518) 436-4513 |
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THE BEARDED LADY

A LINE BETWEEN FANTASY & REALITY

by Ricky Hunt

I have had cause lately to muse on fantasy and reality, a subject familiar to the transvestite. My wife and I have become involved with a boy of 12, the same age as our son, who mentally ill. That phrase has never really ment much to me before because I have never come face to face with its reality. I still find it hard to concieve a 12 year old who has uncontrolled fits of violence, starts fires when not closely watched and has made several suicide attempts. The cynic in me can believe this in an adult, but in a 12 year old boy? But I have seen it personally; it's all too true. The kid periodically goes off into a world of his own and stays there until he is ready to come back. The rest of the world, what you and I would call reality, ceases to exist for this boy and it makes not the smallest difference to him what he does to others. His mother is going thru hell trying to cope, his brothers and sisters are scared to be near him, his father is long gone and abused him before he left. It's not a pretty situation, there's not a whole lot anyone can do to help, and even the shrinks can't decide what to do.

So in the midst of this situation, along come several letters from my sisters and their wives. The first thing that crosses my mind is that if I have to have a compulsion, I'm glad it's basically harmless. But when a man has the urge to dress in women's clothing, that urge does not exist in a vacuum; it comes with things like guilt, macho, anti-macho, exhibitionism, self blindness, pride, and a long list of other problems attached.

I'm going to create a sister called Julie to illustrate what I have been thinking about. Of course she isn't real because I would not spread a real person's life out before the world, but all her attributes are from real people, including myself. John is middle aged, married to Sally (who accepts Julie), and a long time crossdresser. She lives too far away from a group to attend meetings, but is an avid correspondent. She can pass if she puts her mind to it, but the hometown is too small for much more than the occasional walk at night. But being Julie around the house is not enough. Being dressed is wonderful, but she thinks that there has got to be more! So Julie, who is a step removed in reality from John, has decided that John is not very exciting and needs something to spice him up. So those who know Julie and John only thru the mail are treated to his exploits in the war or his work with the CIA or the time he killed an elephant with his bare hands and saved the Zulu king's life and got that ceremonial bow over the fireplace. I'm sure by now you have the idea, and Julie's exploits are just as interesting in a more restrained and feminine way.

I, like most people, tend to take a person (or a letter) at face value so long as there is no glaring reason to doubt the story. The rub comes in that I also read some of my wife's mail if both she and her correspondents have no objection. Somehow, Julie has taken another step from reality and ignores the fact the Sally is well acquainted with John and is very troubled with Julie's stories. It all seems a bit sad that the three of them live in their own separate worlds and can't get together and be happy with what

(CONTINUED, PAGE 17)

NATIONAL PUBLICATION REVIEW

"CROSSDRESSERS QUARTERLY" DEBUTS FICTION ISSUE FOR "OUR SORORITY"

The first issue of Danielle Alexis' "Crossdresser's Quarterly" has been published as a companion to the already-successful "Crossdresser's International Shopping Guide". The new magazine has a slightly different approach, however, with articles on fashions; a report on the "Be All" weekend this past June in Pittsburgh; profiles of Diane Ingram and the Tri-Ess chapter she helped found. Alpha Zeta in Phoenix; a photo feature on our own Melisa Moore; book and video reviews; a look at Versatile Fashions in Orange County; and many more interesting articles and features. But if you're looking for "personal" ads, forget it: Danielle maintains that there are enough sources for "poor taste" and that many in the community are offended by such ads. I applaud Danielle for her position and for creating a tasteful new publication.

<-->

"Our Sorority", the subscription publication of the Outreach Institute, replaced issue #23's announced topic of "Survival and Transsexualism" at deadline, due to editor Betty Ann Lind's personal work load. Fortunately, late entries from their recent contest provided sufficient stories and poems to create an issue of fiction.

There are four short stories included in this issue, including a wonderful fantasy on a suburban community where the entire town (both males and females) live in opposite gender roles, and a fairy tale about a magic tunnel that transports a young boy into a parallel world where everyone he (she) knows has changed sexes! Also, in the back of this issue, you will find an updated list of titles available from Outreach's book service.

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IT ALL BOILS DOWN TO LOVE

by Connie
(from "The Texas Rose")

I am the wife of a crossdresser. This was not an easy thing to proclaim. I didn't want it to be but that is the way it is. It is not easy to admit, but admit it I do. I didn't want to be a "significant other". What exactly is an "other"? I wanted to be a wife, partner, cohort or whatever term you would like to use. I didn't expect a lifetime marriage with another woman in the bargain. There are enough insecurities in one's lifetime without looking for new ones. I LOVE HIM! That is the only reason that crossdressing is tolerated in our relationship.

I can understand the feelings that provoke men into becoming a crossdresser. Our society has tied men's emotional hands since the beginning of time. "Big boys don't cry!" "Be a man!" "Grit your teeth and bear it." "Be the man of the house!" "Wear the pants in the family!" "That's a woman's place!"

Politicians aren't the only ones to spout lines of crap to the populace; our forefathers have done it since the beginning of time. They have never been allowed to be tender, loving or caring "in public". This has been reserved for women. "WHY?" I can't answer this questions and I don't believe anyone else can either. All one can do is theorize. Theorizing doesn't help, for without an answer the problem cannot be solved.

Society hasn't hindered only men. Women have had the same problem over the centuries. "Be loving, stay at home and love and take care of your children, your place is in the home not out in the workforce, speak when spoken to, look your best for your man, love your man, etc., etc..." Granted, we have finally been allowed in the workforce, but not as equals. We can speak our mind to a certain degree then we are considered women's activists and radicals. We are still required to take care of the children and home. So both sides have their problems. But it is difficult for a wife to suddenly find out that her spouse wants to be a woman. How do you think most men would feel if they suddenly found out that their wife wanted to be a man!

This is food for thought. If men were to stop and consider what it would be like if the tables were turned, they would get a glimpse of what it is like for the women in question. We feel afraid, threatened, and betrayed. We didn't marry women, we married men. I think the fear is the worst. "Is my husband gay?" "Is he going to leave me and the children?" "What will our friends say?" "Will he lose his job?" These are all valid questions. You ask a lot from us and give nothing in return. We are expected to accept this phenomenon without question. Be realistic! We are talking about centuries of social standards being wiped away overnight. There are those of us who were raised in an era of "free thinking", aka the 60's. We are having an easier time of it than some of the older

(CONTINUED, PAGE 18)

**GENDER COMMUNITY JOINS
'ACT UP' BOYCOTT**

("TGIC News") -- ACT UP, the activist/fund raising group made up those supporting persons with AIDS, has begun placement of flyers around the country urging the boycott of such national companies as Miller Breweries and Philip Morris.

The call for a boycott is a reaction to actions in recent months by Senator Jesse Helms, who has sponsored or co-sponsored several bills which would revoke civil rights for those groups Sen. Helms labels "undesirable". Included among those groups are transvestites, transsexuals, and homosexuals. His best known attempt at such legislation was the "Sexual Deviancy Exclusion Amendment" to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1989.

ACT UP, which is dedicated to raising the public awareness of problems related to the treatment of AIDS, has targeted for economic boycott a number of companies which currently or in the past have made sizable donations to the Helms campaign, or have in other ways demonstrated their support for his actions. The list of targeted companies includes Kraft Foods, Oscar Meyer, Shell Oil, AT&T, R.J. Reynolds, Nabisco, Burlington Industries, American Airlines, Kimberly Clark, Brown & Williamson, and the Florida Sugar League.

However, even as participation in the ACT UP boycott is being reviewed by gender community leaders, some are already urging caution. Sister Mary Elizabeth, SSE, of J2CP Information Services, notes that American Airlines, in particular, has been supportive of transsexual rights in employment, evidenced by their hiring practices. Instead of a full boycott, she recommends a letter-writing campaign to the targeted companies, urging them to review their policies and withdraw funding for Sen. Helms.



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THE AGONY OF DIETING

by Jane Kamper Bentley
(from ETVC newsletter)

Are you on a diet? Who isn't.

There's hardly a soul of us, TV, TG or TS, who, after finally admitting to herself that she is what she is doesn't receive a revelation: I'm FAT!

Fat and big. Male big. Big arms. Big neck. Big tum. The only thing not fat is our behind. So we make a resolution: "I'm gonna DIET!"

In our years of all-male impersonation, we may have tried dieting a hundred times, with a hundred failures. But now, for the sake of feminine pulchritude, we are phenomenally successful. Those who remain bulky just don't care about becoming thin. They seem to have this strange idea that it's OK to be who you are even if you don't have the figure of a goddess. Those who do care endure the tortures of medieval monks for the sake of dropping a dress size or two.

"My normal weight," a six-foot-four TV told me, "is 260 pounds but I'm down to 200, which I can maintain if I just eat 800 calories a day."

"I was 240 lbs. Now I'm 180," said a TS, "and I will get down to 165 dammit!" The determination in her eyes was fierce and desperate. I hope she makes it.

My own success with diets is marginal. I'm not completely faithful in my campaign to avoid sweets. Every once in a while I pounce on an Abba Zabba. But I exercise, which helps keep me at about 175 ... not bad for a 48-year-old man ... but I wish I could drop 10 more pounds and lose a couple of inches from my waist. I carry all my flab in my gut, which makes me look barrelly.

I've tried eating what many of my friends eat ... almost nothing ... but then I feel headachy and sick, which is how some of my friends look to me.

An exception is my thin, healthy friend, Sadie. I visited Sadie recently. She's a half-inch shorter than I am (so she says, but I think she's a quarter-inch taller), but only 160 lbs.

"How do you keep it off, dear?" I asked.

"Keep what off?"

"The pounds."

"I don't. I eat like a horse all the time. I love to eat."

"How can you?"

"Honey, eating is life's greatest pleasure. What's more important?"

"Being thin," I said, weakly.

"Hmmm," said Sadie, eyeing me as though my colors mismatched.

"Talking about food. I'm starved. Can you have some lunch?"

"Well," I said, weighing my breakfast of cold cereal and coffee (followed by a long morning helping another friend to move) against the roars of my stomach, "OK."

"Voila!" she said, removing a large salad from the fridge: Lettuce, artichokes, celery, nuts and seeds, sliced black olives, pickles, jalapenos (!), walnuts and diced tofu. Which we accompanied with dark pumpnickel bread, washed down with spring water and glasses of delicious wine. It was not what I would

(CONTINUED, PAGE 19)

**'EPILADY' PARENT COMPANY
FILES FOR BANKRUPTCY**

("L.A. Times") -- Amid charges of non-professional management and secret diversion of funds, the parent company of Epilady, EPI Products USA, has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

Critics are calling the near-collapse of the firm "an example of hype and over-optimism", citing that consumers who got caught up in the Epilady fad ... women who couldn't tolerate the pain ... bought the gadgets anyway, only to return them later. However, a batch of private lawsuits are accusing EPI and some of the people behind the firm of cheating business associates out of millions of dollars and of looting the company.

A suit by the Bank of New York, Daiwa Bank and Bank One charges EPI's officers and controlling shareholders with using the company as a personal piggy bank, charging that the principals diverted "more than \$20 million into other enterprises in which they were personally involved", and that one member of the Krok family, which holds all stock in EPI, received a "preferential transfer" of at least \$3 million from the company. Allan Browne, an attorney representing the family says the banks' suit consists of "wild and reckless charges that have no basis in fact."

"The company simply grew too fast, and in the process of growing too fast, it consumed its capital too quickly," Browne says.

Meanwhile, as EPI scales down operations and looks for a potential buyer (their Santa Monica headquarters is for sale, and the staff is down to 10% of its previous number), the Israeli manufacturer that invented the Epilady has gone to court to attempt to take away EPI's marketing rights for the device.

Geoffrey Lurie, a turnaround specialist hired by the Krok family just before the bankruptcy filing, said the hype surrounding Epilady was the result of improper marketing. He said the device should have been aimed at women who regularly wax their legs. Such a clientele would have accepted the same trade-off of getting smooth, silky legs in exchange for a painful removal process. Lurie said that once women who shave their legs ... who typically will put up with stubble, but not pain ... started buying the Epilady, its popularity waned and returns increased.

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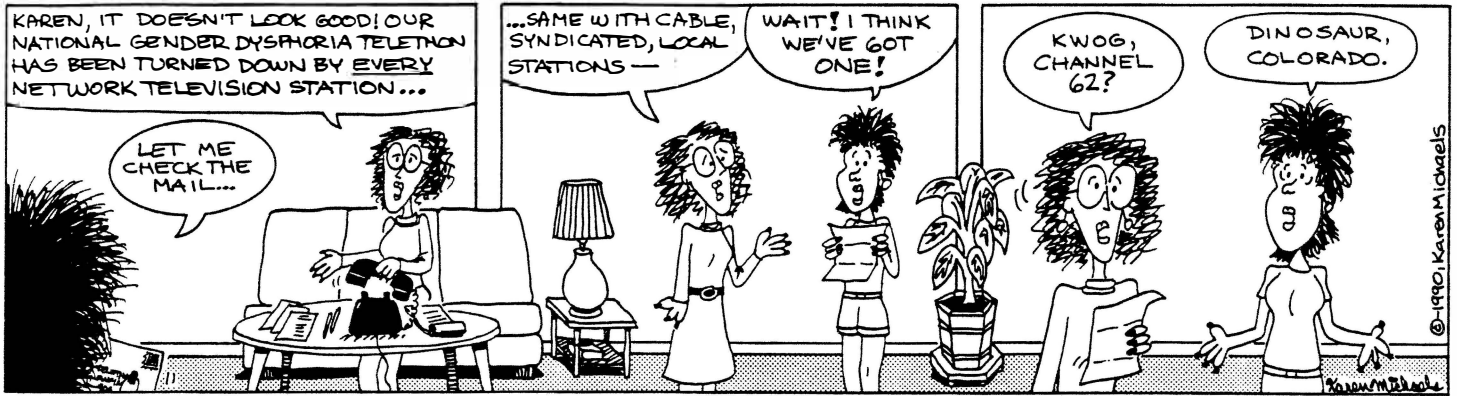
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THE ADVENTURES OF KAREN

by KAREN ANN MICHAELS



Toni

- THE LOGO FEATURES THE FEMALE SYMBOL IN THE MALE POSITION; A SADLY ART SYMBOL
- ABOUT 1/2 THE EVENTS IN THESE CARTOONS ARE AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL, IT IS SADLY TRUE.
- PLAGERISM RULES

"LET'S EXPLAIN THINGS"

• HOW MUCH DOES TONI LOOK LIKE ANGEL? THERE ARE ACTUALLY SEVERAL ANSWERS TO THAT QUESTION...



1. AS CLOSE AS I CAN GET IT
2. ANGEL HAS A MOUTH, WHILE TONI, APPARENTLY, DOES NOT
3. YEAH, RIGHT... I DON'T LOOK 1/2 THAT GOOD!

• WHAT DO THOSE DARK SYMBOLS MEAN?



• THE 'BLEAH' PIN REPRESENTS ANGEL'S MOOD WHILE SHE LIVED AS A BOY.



• THE NEW EVE LOGO, A WHITE BUTTERFLY ON A PINK BACKGROUND, IS THE MATH'S EQUIVALENT OF THE GAY COMMUNITY'S PINK TRIANGLE. —AT LEAST, THAT'S MY PLAN

ANGEL

- THE AUTHORETTE IS A RECENTLY 22-YR-OLD MALE-TO-FEMALE TRANSEXUAL FROM RHODE ISLAND 'ANGEL' IS ONLY A NICKNAME BECAUSE, IN HER FORMER BOY LIFE, SHE DIDN'T TRY TO SLEEP WITH GIRLS LIKE AN ANGEL!
- STOLEN FROM BLOOM COUNTY →



STAN MACK'S REAL LIFE FUNNIES *INSIDE OUT*

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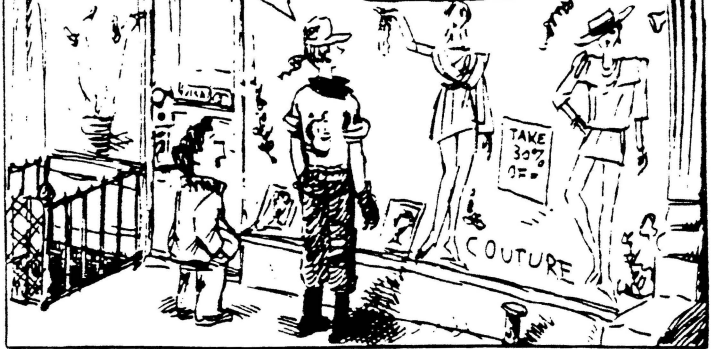
I WAS LIVING IN A HOTEL UPSTATE, LOST, DRINKING HEAVILY, SPLIT FROM MY WIFE AND KIDS... WHEN IT HIT ME - I WAS REALLY A GIRL.

I CAME TO NEW YORK, STARTED WEARING MAKEUP, DRESSES, HEELS, TAKING ESTROGEN... I'D BE A CURVY GIRL LIKE THEY SHOW US ON T.V.



THE FEMALE IN ME CAME OUT. I GREW PRETTY BREASTS, WORE A SIZE SEVEN, SHOPPED AT UNIQUE, DREW WHISTLES FROM FIREMEN.

BUT, WHILE I'D BEEN IGNORANT AS A MALE, AS A FEMALE I BECAME A FEMINIST. I LIKED WOMEN. I DIDN'T LIKE BRAGGING, DOMINATING MALES.



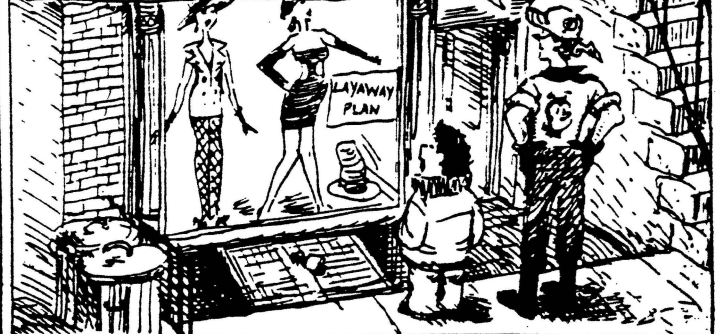
ONE DAY AT ABC NO RIO I MET KAY. ALL TATTOOS AND LEATHER, SHE WAS BRILLIANT AND BEAUTIFUL. SHE INTRODUCED ME TO SQUATTERS. WE HAD A LESBIAN AFFAIR.

SHE WAS EVERYTHING TO ME, TILL ONE NIGHT SHE YELLED, "YOU CAN'T BE MY WIFE!" I WANTED TO DIE. I SNORTED SIX BAGS OF HEROIN.



BUT I DIDN'T DIE. I WOKE UP IN TWO DAYS WITH RINGING EARS, HAIR FALLING OUT, PARTLY PARALYZED. I STARED INTO A MIRROR AND THOUGHT,

"MALE AND FEMALE, EVERYONE IS AN ASSHOLE."



I, A TRANSEXUAL, ALONG WITH A GAY MALE AND A WOMAN DECIDED TO SQUAT A BUILDING AND DISCOVERED YOU DON'T SHOVEL RUBBLE IN HEELS.

I WATCHED THE POLICE DESTROY TYA SCOTT'S BUILDING AND 319 8TH STREET, TRASH PEOPLE'S THINGS. I WAS ENRAGED. I PICKED UP A BRICK AND JOINED THE FIGHT.

I DEFENDED MOONLIGHT SQUAT, HELPED OPEN ABC... TODAY, OPERATION OR NO, I AM A REAL WOMAN: POLITICAL, STRONG, EMPATHETIC, SWEET...

... 6' TALL. I GAVE MY DRESSES TO 7TH STREET WHEN THEY WERE BURNED OUT. I DON'T NEED THEM ANYMORE - CLOTHES DON'T MAKE THE WOMAN.



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HOW FAST IS TOO FAST?

by Rachel Haines
 (from "Trans News")

In trying to find a resolution to our little "dilemma", most of us face an almost overwhelming amount of pressure. On one hand we are "advised" not to go too fast by our friends, our families, and our doctors. On the other hand, we may be under pressure from our TS/TV friends to move faster and more deeply into the TS/TV lifestyle. Push and pull. How should we deal with it? What is the right speed?

For most of us, pain has been the driving force in our search for ourselves. We tend to let ourselves get to a point where we are becoming useless to ourselves and to those around us. At this point the pain of staying where we are is greater than the pain involved in changing our lives. Perhaps to escape this pain we tell a friend our "deep dark secret". Perhaps we tell a family member. Some of us turn to the medical profession seeking answers. By the time we are finally able to admit that we have a problem (God I hate calling it that!), we may be also dealing with intense amounts of guilt and low self-esteem. All this leaves us in an especially vulnerable position.

Having finally worked up the courage to come at least partially into the open we must now face the inevitable "advice" as to how best to proceed with our lives.

What we must remember is that any person who gives another advice, generally does so not only for the reasons which may seem obvious. The advice may be slanted to give an advantage to both the person getting as well as giving the advice. What I mean here is that a family member, for example, may advise caution not solely because it is in your best interest, but because they also need time to absorb and deal with what they have been told. Similarly, a psychiatrist may advise caution because they need more information from you in order to make a more complete diagnosis. On the other side of the coin we may have TS/TV friends encouraging us to dress more often, to start electrolysis, to find a doctor to prescribe hormones. We must understand that this advice may be motivated by that person's own loneliness and pain. They may simply be looking for another "friend" going through the same thing that they are going through. If you are not quite at their "level" they may advise you to speed up until you are at their level. I don't want to sound

(CONTINUED, PAGE 19)

MERISSA SHERRILL LYNN NAMED KEYNOTE SPEAKER FOR TRI-ESS 'HOLIDAY EN FEMME'

(Tri-Ess release) -- Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Executive Director of the International Foundation for Gender Education, has been tentatively slated as the keynote speaker at this year's "Holiday En Femme". "Holiday", scheduled for November 14 through 18, will be headquartered at the Hilton Southwest in Houston TX.

Merissa is well-known throughout the gender community, serves as editor-in-chief of "TV/TS Tapestry", and is a recipient of the IFGE Virginia Prince Lifetime Contribution Award for her contributions to the transgendered community. Her appearance at the 1990 "Holiday" creates an opportunity for all Tri-Ess members to meet this extraordinary lady.



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TAG, YOU'RE IT ...

and women, male and female, masculine and feminine, are all compliments. One's strengths dovetail with the other's weaknesses. Even if we were to get every other group to stop doing things that reflect badly on the TV community, we would still be in trouble. If a large segment of our own community isn't clear on the differences between masculine and feminine, how can the rest of the population take us seriously? If a large segment of our community defines feminine as anti-masculine we are in trouble.

Men, who may or may not be aware of the difference between masculine and feminine, will recognize the behavior as that of a wimp, pansy, fruit ... choose your epithet. Women, who do know what feminine is, won't see it and may even be insulted. If you offer a caricature and say, "This is how I see you," unless you say it in jest you will alienate that person. If we dress up and behave as caricatures of women we will offend them. If we dress up and emulate women then we will flatter them. And isn't emulation what our goal really is?

I will never be a woman, but it is a role I can and do play. And like any actor, I know that I am playing a role. Though there are times when the world of the play becomes more real than the real world, and then magic happens. However (same as 'but'), for magic to happen one must totally, and to the bone, understand the role. For us to be accepted we must take on the role of woman, understand the role, and play it with conviction. To do less demeans the role. To do less demeans the community. To do less demeans ourselves. The magic is when the audience forgets that we are actors and only sees the woman. Ultimately our goal in terms of the outside world is to allow them to deal with us a people rather than men in "cheerleader" costumes. We should share our magic.

BEARDED LADY ...

they are.

Then there's Rose, who has as much chance of passing as a rhino does of winning first place in a contest for Chihuahuas. She has a closet full of dresses, a trunk of jewelry and enough sexy lingerie to outfit a small brothel. She loves being Rose as much as possible, and dresses at home frequently. Her kids and wife are accepting, but it gets old when the bridge party has to be cancelled because Rose just has to get dressed tonight and not later. Rose also doesn't hear the sigh that comes when his son must tell his girl that she can't come over tonight. And why does she have to phone all the time before she comes over for a visit, anyway? Ron knows her family accepts Rose, but has taken that step away from reality and forgets that Rose can be a pain in the neck sometimes. The constant tension on the family is very real, but neither Ron nor Rose is aware of it.

I am not immune from this sort of thing, and am blessed with a wife who is both understanding and willing to let me know when I go too far. But please take a minute and consider the relationship of both yourselves with your family and your friends. Remember that a TV is already in fantasyland. As long as you keep in touch with the reality you are stepping away from, your dressing will remain enjoyable and you can keep things in balance. I hope that I never have to cross off one of my correspondents with the same sadness that I feel when I crossed off that 12 year old boy I started with.

THANKS FOR READING
"CROSS-TALK" ... THE TRANSGENDERED
COMMUNITY'S FASTEST-GROWING NEWSLETTER!

BEST OF "CROSS-TALK" VOLUME 1 AVAILABLE

The project of the year is finally available to our subscribers!

"Best of Cross-Talk, Volume 1" contains over 20 articles from our first twelve issues, going back to the fall of 1988 (when we were all of five pages long, every other month!).

This special compilation includes:

- Pieranna DiMartini's essay on "Why We Do The Things We Do" (first printing as a single article!)
- An interview with hair removal expert Gloria Zucker on waxing and other methods
- Articles on how to better choose clothes, in the right sizes, for your femme self
- Jennie from ETVC's series on why having a master plan is important to living full-time
- Tips on passing better in public, and how to deal with the inevitable "read"

A discussion of the conflict between crossdressing and certain, oft-quoted Biblical passages ... and, of course, my now-famous commentary on my high school reunion last year.

If your library of "Cross-Talk" issues is incomplete, or you're a recent subscriber, you'll find "Best of Cross-Talk, Volume 1" to be a welcome addition to your library.

This special reprint is available only to existing "Cross-Talk" readers (please give your subscriber # in the space provided below), or with a new subscription. It cannot be ordered separately, and is not available in stores! (Much to their relief ...)

Order your copy of "Best of Cross-Talk, Volume 1" ... TODAY!!!

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VOX POPULI ...

because we enjoy it and because it is our "personal preference". There is nothing immoral or abnormal about it. We hurt no one. The pain that those close to us feel because of our preference is not brought on by what we do, but by the stigma placed on our choice by the mental health organizations and those people in our society who cannot tolerate freedom of expression.

It is our intention to provide gender education and understanding to society and to remove transgenderism from DSM-III-R and other psychiatric manuals as a category of "mental illness", which it is not.

It is our intention to make correct information about gender alternatives available to anyone in any public library in any community in the United States or elsewhere and to have old and false perceptions of our situation removed.

It is our intention to notify anyone who, through some misconception, intentional or unintentional bigotry or misinformation, perpetuates and disseminates lies, that their erroneous information is causing pain and damage to the lives and reputations of other human beings.

It is our intention to locate any bad P.R. or bigoted and/or prejudiced information about the transgendered community and eradicate it at its source as well as make its source the subject of public viewing.

It is our intention to take legal action where and when it is necessary.

It is our intention to remove from distribution those publications that would promote gender alternatives as an aberrant sexual lifestyle or mental illness by simply not participating in or purchasing their material.

It is our intention to have bigotry, hate, hate groups, racism, etc., placed into the DSM and any other psychiatric manuals as a mental illness.

The idea and need for this type of format to back the community in general is what is needed at this time. We are ready! Women's liberation and gay rights groups have accomplished much through their endeavors and activism. In the '90s the gender community will reach for and achieve the same or similar goals.

We need each of you to be a watchdog and report to GAL any and all discrepancies in our society that cause us, as a minority, to suffer undue, unethical and possibly illegal discrimination as a group and as individuals.

We need each and every one of you to act in unison when such an occurrence hampers one or more of our sisters and brothers or causes us as a community undue distress. This organization will field those occurrences and put the injustices on the platform and handle them.

We need leaders and committee members. A few people with goals and aspirations are not enough. Yes, a few can start the ball rolling but the few will tire and be unable to cover the ground that many can. Yes, we need leaders, committee members, and general membership and support. We need not only monetary support but ideas and a willingness to take actions when necessary. We need you!

It is estimated that approximately 1 to 3% of the population enjoys wearing the clothing of the other gender. If that estimate is correct we are 2.5 to 7.5 million strong!

First and foremost we need each and every one of you and all of your friends in the gender community to write down your ideas, your concepts, your comments and send them to us now. We want to know what you need now.

Where we go from here depends on you and your input. Do you need GAL?

Your (our) first test of resolve will be communication of your interests. We need to hear from all of you and all of your friends now!

(Cynthia Howard may be reached through GAL, P.O. Box 3392, Napa CA 94556.)

UP ON MY SOAPBOX ...

to benefit from the positive aspects of this case, we'll need to put our best efforts into debunking an all-too-common notion that gender-spanning individuals can be presumed as "up to no good".

The rub: It means RISK for some among us to become sufficiently public to have an effect. Pretty much, all the folks I know who COULD stand the exposure already do. It's not the sort of thing that we can ask of any specific person. Any volunteers?

If You can't participate directly, then, PLEASE, support those entities, such as TAG and GAL, who are out there promoting YOUR interests.

S.O. THERE! ...

generations. But it still doesn't obliterate the fears and apprehensions. Those of us who accept, accept out of pure love ... nothing else will endure. I have received in return a more loving, sensitive, caring husband. This still doesn't relieve the fears and apprehensions. We ask our spouses, "Why do you have to dress as a woman to be these things!" "Why can't you have these qualities dressed as a man?" If we love them, we will accept these attributes whether they are dressed as men or women or naked for that matter. I believe crossdressers are trying to circumvent their own fears about manhood. They don't feel comfortable displaying these qualities dressed as a man.

Love! That is what it all boils down to. Without it our lives would be miserable. Love him, care for him, support him and buy his clothes for him!

KYMBERLEIGH'S CLIPBOARD ...

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♥, Kimberleigh

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WHY NOT SUBSCRIBE YOURSELF ???
SEE PAGE 17 FOR DETAILS

VOX POPULI ...

because we enjoy it and because it is our "personal preference". There is nothing immoral or abnormal about it. We hurt no one. The pain that those close to us feel because of our preference is not brought on by what we do, but by the stigma placed on our choice by the mental health organizations and those people in our society who cannot tolerate freedom of expression.

It is our intention to provide gender education and understanding to society and to remove transgenderism from DSM-III-R and other psychiatric manuals as a category of "mental illness", which it is not.

It is our intention to make correct information about gender alternatives available to anyone in any public library in any community in the United States or elsewhere and to have old and false perceptions of our situation removed.

It is our intention to notify anyone who, through some misconception, intentional or unintentional bigotry or misinformation, perpetuates and disseminates lies, that their erroneous information is causing pain and damage to the lives and reputations of other human beings.

It is our intention to locate any bad P.R. or bigoted and/or prejudiced information about the transgendered community and eradicate it at its source as well as make its source the subject of public viewing.

It is our intention to take legal action where and when it is necessary.

It is our intention to remove from distribution those publications that would promote gender alternatives as an aberrant sexual lifestyle or mental illness by simply not participating in or purchasing their material.

It is our intention to have bigotry, hate, hate groups, racism, etc., placed into the DSM and any other psychiatric manuals as a mental illness.

The idea and need for this type of format to back the community in general is what is needed at this time. We are ready! Women's liberation and gay rights groups have accomplished much through their endeavors and activism. In the '90s the gender community will reach for and achieve the same or similar goals.

We need each of you to be a watchdog and report to GAL any and all discrepancies in our society that cause us, as a minority, to suffer undue, unethical and possibly illegal discrimination as a group and as individuals.

We need each and every one of you to act in unison when such an occurrence hampers one or more of our sisters and brothers or causes us as a community undue distress. This organization will field those occurrences and put the injustices on the platform and handle them.

We need leaders and committee members. A few people with goals and aspirations are not enough. Yes, a few can start the ball rolling but the few will tire and be unable to cover the ground that many can. Yes, we need leaders, committee members, and general membership and support. We need not only monetary support but ideas and a willingness to take actions when necessary. We need you!

It is estimated that approximately 1 to 3% of the population enjoys wearing the clothing of the other gender. If that estimate is correct we are 2.5 to 7.5 million strong!

First and foremost we need each and every one of you and all of your friends in the gender community to write down your ideas, your concepts, your comments and send them to us now. We want to know what you need now.

Where we go from here depends on you and your input. Do you need GAL?

Your (our) first test of resolve will be communication of your interests. We need to hear from all of you and all of your friends now!

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PULLING NO PUNCHLINES ...

have prepared: An Italian meatball sandwich (but no Hawaiian potato chips and no 16-oz. bottle of Dr. Pepper ... probably, Calistoga maybe). But tasty. Really. I ate thirds.

"Sadie, thank you. I needed that. All that washing and chopping, though, how long did it take you to put it all together?"

She swallowed and looked up blankly. "I never timed myself," she said, then laughed. "Who cares? A lot of the enjoyment I get from food is in the preparation." "It looks like it would take forever." "So? It's a nice way to spend forever. What do you think, that food is just stuff to cram in your mouth and swallow fast so you'll get indigestion faster?" "That's the general idea, isn't it?"

"Silly. Food's not superfluous, like television. It's the sustenance of your life. Ranks way up there, right behind air and water. I want to appreciate it, don't you? I say, ritualize and enjoy mealtime, from preparation to dishwashing."

"But you make it sound like some kind of religious experience, like going to church." "Yes!" "So, every time I eat a Twinkie I should treat it like the Last Supper?"

"Sweetie, it could be your last supper. Who knows? If you know it was going to be, would you stuff junk food? Wouldn't you want something you could savor rather than gulp? And wouldn't you approach your meal with reverence instead of silly apprehension that it might make you two ounces fatter?"

"Well, sure," I replied, "but all this reverence stuff ... c'mon, nobody approaches food like that." "I do."

"Wait a minute, Sadie, before this gets from the ridiculous to the sublime ... you, yourself, said that food wasn't as important as water or breathing ... I mean, breathing is something we have to do all the time. So that makes it more important than food, which means we ought to be having religious ecstasies with every breath."

"You're getting the point." "Then how could I keep my mind on my diet?"

"Have some more of my heavenly salad, dear."

HOW FAST IS TOO FAST? ...

cynical, my own experience has been nothing but fantastic. but there is a saying which we have all heard, something about "misery loving company".

So what is my point? Because of the stress we have been under, it can be a great relief to transfer our emotional burden to another person and let them carry us for a while, to take advice, no matter how well-meaning and follow it as the gospel.

Having said all that about advice, I'm going to turn around and give you some advice. Follow it or not. My advice to you is simply this:

NOBODY, not another person on this entire great big wonderful world knows you as well as you. Because only you know you, only you can make decisions about your life.

Your friends (straight and TS/TV), your family, your doctors, could spend the rest of both yours and their lives trying to understand your feelings. Trying to get a handle on where you have come from, how you have developed emotionally. You are the only person qualified, the only person responsible for making decisions about your life.

I'm not advocating that you just jump and do whatever comes into your brain. What I am saying is that you should not give control of your life to any other person.

Because being solely responsible for your own destiny is incredibly profound and powerful, you had better learn how to properly wield this power. Your best guide is your heart. Down deep within you there is something that tells you what is right and what is wrong for you. All you have to do is listen to your heart. Now that may sound trite and cliché, but it is absolutely true. If you somehow gain the ability to get in touch with yourself you will know when holding back and being cautious is not right. You will also know when you are changing directions too fast.

Don't do things to be one of the girls, don't do things to please others, don't live your life by any other person's schedule. Gather as much information as you can. Listen and entertain as many different options as possible. Listen to what your heart is telling you. Make your own decisions. Act upon those decisions.

So how fast is too fast? Sorry, only you can answer that.

I was thinking that I would write another article titled, "Breasts: How Big is Too Big. How Small is Too Small", but you probably already know what my conclusion would be.

GENDER COMMUNITY ...

gay lifestyles as long as most people still feel that the only reason that we dress is to attract men. Outside of the obvious validation of femininity attention from males affords our own psyche, we know that is often not the specific intention. Nevertheless we continue to be thought of as "Drag Queens" by the less educated in society.

Part of the solution is to actively work with the Gay community instead of shunning it. By joining forces, we will be better situated to set the record straight about the spectrum of lifestyle variations along the gender rainbow.

(Next month: Mistrust and the problems with DSM-III.)

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