

CROSS-TALK

THE TV-TS GENDER COMMUNITY'S
NEWS & INFORMATION MAGAZINE



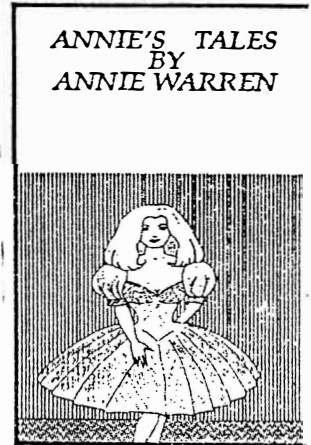
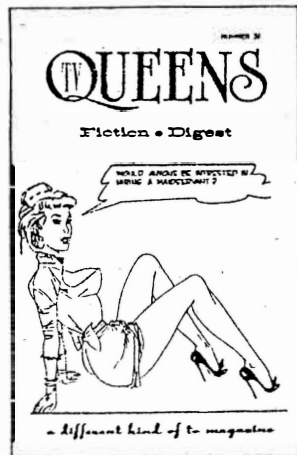
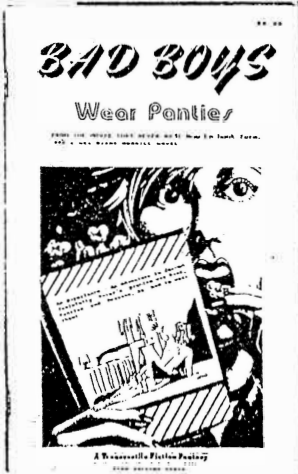
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CROSS-TALK

The Gender Community's News & Information Monthly

JANUARY 1993
(ISSUE #39)



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WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF "CROSS-TALK" in magazine format. If this is the first time you've seen us, we have been publishing in newsletter format for the past four years, and have now expanded to become a monthly magazine for the gender community. Whether you're a new reader or a long-time subscriber, I hope you will enjoy our new format! -- Kymberleigh Richards, Managing Editor and Publisher

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The International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) Board of Directors and the Congress of Representatives (COR) have finally agreed on the autonomy of the Congress and signed an agreement for services between the two organizations.

Alison Laing, current COR chairperson, at the request of IFGE Board Chairman Wendi Pierce, developed a series of documents for the Congress including By-Laws, a Summary Statement, and a Reciprocal Agreement. The Reciprocal Agreement is the important document for IFGE. It stipulates that IFGE will provide space and logistical support for an annual Congress meeting at the IFGE annual convention and assist the Congress in disseminating information of interest to member organizations through its "Update" newsletter. In return, the Congress will assist IFGE by providing nominations for various IFGE awards, plus assistance in developing programs for the community.

IFGE will assign a staff member as liaison to the Congress so that COR concerns will get visibility at IFGE headquarters. The Congress has also asked that a member representative be allowed to attend the IFGE board meetings.

The Reciprocal Agreement in no way obligates the Congress to an exclusive arrangement with IFGE. In fact, according to Congress staff, they want to hold Congress work-group meetings at events other than the IFGE annual convention. Both the Texas "T" Party and California Dreamin' are possible sites for work-group meetings next year.


Though the two chairpersons have signed the agreement, the gender community group members of the COR must still review and ratify the By-Laws for the Congress itself. The By-Laws document defines the Congress as a not-for-profit organization with no fiduciary or legal standing, defines the purpose of the Congress to promote and encourage diverse representations of our community and to facilitate communications within our community at large, and specifies membership requirements for the Congress. Most importantly, the By-Laws do not link the Congress to IFGE, or any other organization, in a way that makes the Congress dependent on that organization for its existence.



After only five issues, "International TransScript" (ITS) has ceased publication, according to publisher and editor in chief JoAnn Roberts.

Roberts cited several obstacles that resulted in the decision, among them a decrease in ad revenues and lack of community support. "I guess the recession really hurt our legitimate vendors and almost every one of them pulled back on advertising," said Roberts. "But what hurt us the most was the almost total lack of support from the so-called 'organized' community. We sent out two dozen ads to be placed in newsletters and only three or four actually put in the ads. I was appalled at the apparent apathy. We sent each issue to almost one hundred domestic groups and about fifteen percent acknowledged receipt of the magazine. That's all. It almost seemed as if someone was actually working against the success of ITS.

"I finally sat down and did a financial analysis while preparing to go to full color," Roberts continued. "The numbers weren't there and I was almost killing myself putting the magazine together alone. It just wasn't worth it."

Roberts said the experiment was a success but the patient died ... "this time". She called ITS' brief history "a learning experience" about magazines, marketing and distribution. She expects to try to revive the magazine in the very near future, but with more money, more help and better 

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distribution: "ITS will blow away everything else around. That's a promise to all the people I let down this time."

While ITS is not publishing, Roberts' "HotStuff" and "Shopping Maven" columns will appear in "Cross-Talk", according to managing editor Kimberleigh Richards. Roberts has also made available several articles that had been slated for publication in ITS for publication in "Cross-Talk".



A campaign against a measure that would have amended the Oregon Constitution to declare that homosexuality is "abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse" and require public schools to teach that view as fact resulted in the failure of that measure to pass on the November 3 ballot.

Northwest Gender Alliance (NWGA) had lent its name to the campaign against Measure 9, sponsored by the Oregon Citizens' Alliance (OCA). If it had passed, it would have mandated that state and local governments do nothing "to promote, encourage, or facilitate homosexuality." Analysts had expected the OCA to use the measure to force Oregon's liquor control commission to deny liquor licenses to gay bars.

According to NWGA's Ellen Summers, literature circulated by the OCA made no distinction between heterosexual crossdressers and homosexuals, and feared that OCA would propose similar legislation to impose legal sanctions on crossdressing activity within the state. Summers says she was concerned that the 1994 IFGE convention, scheduled to be held in Portland, might have become impossible if the measure passed because "no business would want to risk losing their licensing for having served us."

A similar measure in Colorado was passed, but the potential impact on the gender community was not immediately known.



The dissolution of the agreement between Powder Puffs of Orange County (PPOC) and "Cross-Talk"



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regarding the annual "California Dreamin" event is being called amicable by both sides, according to PPOC Chairman Joan Goodnight and "Cross-Talk" publisher Kimberleigh Richards.

Under the agreement which had been in effect for the first two years of the event, "Cross-Talk" had coordinated advertising and publicity for the event. Richards had also acted as workshop coordinator for the 1992 event. "PPOC felt that the management of 'California Dreamin' should remain within the group," Richards said, "and while I would have been more than happy to continue serving as publicity and workshop coordinator, I understand and respect the PPOC Board's decision."

Goodnight indicated that "Cross-Talk's split from the event was not considered to be a sign of any difficulty between the group and the magazine, pointing out that Richards' status as a permanently invited guest at PPOC meetings was unchanged. The free-form discussion of community events moderated by Richards and "Cross-Talk" associate editor Anne Blackwood would remain on the schedule, according to Goodnight.

Separate program tracks have been developed for singles, couples, wives, newcomers, and transsexuals, featuring noted guest speakers and moderators such as Dr. Richard Docter, JoAnn Roberts, Cynthia Phillips, and Wendy Parker. Richards will also briefly address the gathering as part of a luncheon hosted by the Alpha Chapter of Tri-Ess at which Tri-Ess Board Chairman Jane Ellen Fairfax is scheduled as keynote speaker.



The American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS) has issued a warning against the "New Woman Surgical Center" in Tijuana, indicating that one of the surgeons involved is the infamous John "Butcher" Brown.

Brown was, until recently, imprisoned in California for practicing medicine without a license ("Cross-Talk", September '90). He retreated to Mexico after losing his California medical license, doing sex reassignment surgery in disregard of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association (HBIGDA) Standards of Care. The quality of his work was said to be very bad, and aftercare almost nonexistent. AEGIS' Dallas Denny said she had received word that many of Brown's patients required colostomies because of medical problems with their surgically constructed vaginas. In addition, Denny says, patients who ran out of money were often "put out on the street."

Denny pointed out that foreigners who undergo surgical procedures in developing nations are at

the mercy of the surgeon, citing lax governmental regulation and a decreased likelihood to use advance procedures or to adhere to the HBGDA standards. She used Canary Conn's experience, related in her autobiography "Canary", as an example of the potential hostility and neglect when in a Mexican hospital for surgery.

AEGIS, while warning that Brown is most likely using an alias at the New Woman Surgical Center, has compiled a list of qualified sources for reassignment surgery in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Europe. Denny said the sources on AEGIS' list all comply with the HBGDA standards.



A Florida chapter of Tri-Ess has charged a major drugstore chain in the Southeast with bowing to pressure from the American Family Association, which attempts to force "objectionable" material from radio and television airwaves by threatening economic boycott from sponsors.

Phi Epsilon Mu (FEM), reacting to Eckerd Drug's withdrawal from advertising on the television program "Eye On Tampa Bay" following reports on alternate lifestyles aired. In a letter to Eckerd CEO Stewart Turley, FEM president Denise Summers expressed the group's displeasure at Eckerd's action, charging them with refusing to recognize that alternate lifestyles exist in large numbers of the buying public. Summers pointed out that "none of us chose to be a crossdresser ... transsexual ... or any other lifestyle other than what is called 'normal'." FEM also returned door prizes purchased at the drugstore chain and expressed its displeasure to local store management.

Turley, in his response, maintained that Eckerd was adhering to a policy of not advertising on shows "that obviously attempt to build their audiences by airing controversial issues." He said the withdrawal of advertising from "Eye On Tampa Bay" was not due to pressure by or in support of any group or organization.

FEM is urging a letter writing campaign directed at Turley in care of Jack Eckerd Corporation, P.O.Box 4689, Clearwater FL 34618.



The preliminary schedule has been released for the

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1993 International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) "Coming Together-Working Together" convention.

Prominent on the schedule are a three day transsexual issues conference and a two day wives and female partners conference. The former will be augmented by a two day female-to-male issues conference.

Also planned are workshops on building our community from within, developing support group programs, planning of special events, financing of support groups, newsletter editing, and a three-part workshop on public speaking.

The convention schedule also includes seminars on religion, the history of crossdressing, legal rights, fantasies, hair removal, hormones, and a special seminar based on Mariette Pathy Allen's book "Transformations: A Photo Essay On Crossdressers."

Panel discussions are planned on open vs. focused support groups, emerging from secrecy, partner support groups, crossdressing's effect on the family, and living full-time as a woman.

The convention will also include two educational seminars for the general public, and banquets for the presentation of IFGE's Trinity Awards and Virginia Prince Lifetime Achievement Award. ➡

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Keynote speakers, conference/panel discussion moderators and workshop/seminar presenters have not yet been announced. The convention will take place at the Philadelphia (PA) Hilton from March 12 through 21.



The second International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policies has been scheduled for August 26 through 29 in Houston, TX.

Although the first conference, held last summer, has been called a tremendous success, organizer Phyllis Randolph Frye is holding a series of regional planning conferences leading up to the second event in order to obtain information on the topics and issues that merit discussion, as well as to attract more gender community attorneys to the conference and to investigate other areas of the law where study is merited. Frye also hopes to develop a quarterly transgender law newsletter as a result. The first planning conference was held November 7 in the Washington, DC area, and additional planning conferences will be held at San Antonio, TX during the "Texas 'T' Party" in late February and in Denver, CO in late April.

The first conference featured a number of judges from outside the gender community as guest speakers. Topics discussed included determining the "state of the law" in key areas of interest and strategies for the future in those key areas.

Registration information for the second conference may be obtained from Frye at 5707 Firenza, Houston 77035.



The International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) has officially moved its offices to 123 Moody St. in Waltham MA, giving the organization much needed space for expansion of its activities and services.

One new service planned for the new facility is a walk-in bookstore, thought to be the only bookstore in the country specializing in gender related publications.

IFGE's new building is leased by the organization, with an option to buy in the future.



The American Educational Information Service (AEGIS) has assumed the distribution and publication functions of J2CP Information Services.

J2CP had served as an information clearinghouse and publisher for information about gender dysphoria since 1982, and had received referrals from Dear Abby, among others. It was the successor

to the Janus Information Facility, which succeeded the Erickson Education Foundation. Many of J2CP's series of leaflets and booklets had their origins in the 1970's under the previous organizations.

AEGIS executive director Dallas Denny said she and Sister Mary Elizabeth discussed the matter at last year's IFGE convention, and was "proud that of all the gender organizations in the U.S., J2CP chose us as their successor." Denny said AEGIS would continue to revise and re-release J2CP material gradually.

Sister Mary Elizabeth's computer bulletin board will continue to provide the J2CP Online service as long as there is a demand for it.



Brochures will be distributed soon for the Tri-Ess Women Associated with Crossdressers (WACS) Spouses/female Partners International Conference for Education (SPICE) to be held the weekend of July 9 in Dallas, TX.

WACS co-chairman Cynthia Phillips said the conference would feature top name guest speakers and concentrate on the most-asked for topics from significant others. She said many groups in the national gender community have started local drives to sponsor the attendance of at least one wife/partner as their group's representative to SPICE.

Phillips said that while husbands would be welcome at the conference, crossdressing would not be permitted since SPICE was designed "for genetic women only."

Information is available from the Tri-Ess 

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A group of lesbians supporting a post-operative transsexual who was ejected from a womyn's festival in Michigan in 1991 challenged 1992 festivalgoers to consider the subject of gender identity: "womyn-born-women" versus surgically created womyn.

Womyn For Womyn, based in San Francisco, handed out buttons at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival (MWMF) querying "Where's Nancy?", a reference to Nancy Burkholder, the transsexual expelled from the 1991 event. Burkholder, who says she would not have attended either the 1990 or 1991 events had she known of the anti-transsexual policy, had sex reassignment surgery in 1984. She participated in the awareness effort by contributing her account of the incident and an open letter to MWMF producers.

Womyn For Womyn's Janis Walworth, one of the organizers of the awareness movement, said "I was impressed. Festivalgoers were willing to give this matter serious thought, to share their confusion and their feelings about it, and to be educated about transsexualism.

"I'm concerned not only with the question of whether transsexual womyn should be included at Michigan but also with the nature of Festival policy," Walworth said. Fine print in the 1992 MWMF brochure stated that the festival was "for all womyn born womyn," a statement interpreted by some festivalgoers as referring to the fact they were born of womyn. Many male-to-female (M2F) transsexuals consider themselves womyn-born-womyn because they have felt female from birth.

A survey taken at the 1992 Festival the weekend of August 14 revealed that womyn on both sides of the transsexual inclusion question want a clear statement of policy to be promulgated and uniformly enforced. The survey, completed by 633 of the approximately 7500 participants, showed that an overwhelming 73% favor the inclusion of M2F transsexuals after they have had surgery, 23% were opposed, and 4% were undecided. Walworth cautioned against taking the results out of context:

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"This was certainly not a random sample. Many womyn who favor transsexual inclusion did not come to the Festival this year in a gesture of protest (and) some womyn against inclusion may have been reluctant to fill out surveys."

Davina Anne Gabriel, a M2F transsexual who underwent surgery in 1978, attended the Festival despite the policy, saying "I feel that as a woman I belong here." Walworth added that "there is no sure way to tell a transsexual ... except through medical records. In fact, a nontranssexual woman can't prove she's not a transsexual without undergoing expensive medical tests." Gabriel was not ejected, despite publicly coming out twice during the Festival.

Even allowing for a margin of error, Womyn For Womyn claim that the survey results strongly suggest that MWMF participants favor the inclusion of M2F transsexuals after surgery. An effort is currently underway to sample opinion in the womyn's community outside the Festival.



One of the founders of San Francisco's Educational TV Channel (ETVC) group died early in September at her Bay Area home.

Elfrida Kitzing, who arranged for ETVC's earliest meetings to take place at its longtime home, the Chez Mollet restaurant, and is remembered by many as having given the organization its name. She had also been the editor of the local magazine "Highlights" and had been active in the local crossdressing community since the 1950's.



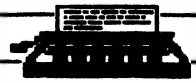
Dr. Peggy Rudd has announced the dates and destination for the 1993 edition of the highly successful Dignity Cruise.

This year's Bahamas cruise, sailing from Miami on May 21, will once again have the private island of Cocoa Cay on its itinerary and a full day in Nassau. There will also be an informal gathering at a Miami hotel the evening before the cruise.

Rudd, pointing out that last summer's cruise was well received both by the ship's crew and by fellow passengers, predicts that there will be considerable demand again this year. She suggests advance deposits with the cruise organizer, Cruise Ahoy, to ensure your reservation. Last year, several who did not send deposits had their booking cancelled by the cruise line as space was needed for other passengers, according to Rudd.

Information on the cruise is available from Anne at Cruise Ahoy, (713) 556-1513.





KYMBERLEIGH'S CLIPBOARD

-- *Kymerleigh Richards*

During the recent Presidential election, something rather disturbing happened. Six weeks before the election, I received a press release announcing the candidacy of a self-described "transsexual", said TS candidate describing herself as "an unrealized, lesbian-oriented transsexual, without romantic interests in men and with disgust toward promiscuity" and claims to represent a coalition comprising disenchanted Democrats and Republicans, as well as Archonists (who or whatever they are).

The press release went on to state that this multipartisan coalition does not expect either electoral success or even placement on the ballot, which leads me to wonder what they expected to achieve by this futile -- even farcical -- campaign. And the only reasonable guess I can make is that they (or at least the candidate) were hoping for a little sensationalistic publicity.

To me, this smacks of the same mentality that brings fringe elements of the gender community into what Andy Warhol would call their 15 minutes in the limelight by appearing during "sweeps week" on the various and sundry tabloid television talk shows. (By the way, there are now eleven such shows being produced in syndication ... and here in L.A., all of them are available sometime during the broadcast day.)

I have long complained, privately, that these programs are increasingly showing the bizarre side of our community, to the detriment of the image the majority of us are trying to present. For example, a recent edition of Montel Williams' program had as its topic "men who live as women". Now we all know that phrase as the definition of a "transgenderist", so the logical assumption was that the show would offer some insights about people like Virginia Prince or myself, right? Well, you know what happens when you "assume" something ... in this case, Montel made an "ass" out of himself, his guests, and my lifestyle.

The guests were dressed like something out of a bondage parlor (or maybe a crossdressers' bar on "fetish" night), and both were outrageously -- flamboyantly -- gay. One even brought her boyfriend along ... I presume to prove that her lifestyle was "normal"!

What am I supposed to say when someone who is aware of my lifestyle, having seen this three-ring circus, asks whether or not I have a boyfriend? If I answer "no", because I'm straight, they say "but ➡

COGITO ERGO FEM

-- *Anne Blackwood*

About a year ago I was with some friends who were shopping along the boardwalk (sans boards) at Venice Beach. I should point out that I was en homme. While one of my friends and I waited for the other three (I was the lone male) to finish looking in one stall, four people -- two of whom were crossdressed -- came around the corner and one stopped to look at a t-shirt.

Now, the two crossdressers ... well, frankly they needed a closer shave and better beard cover ... and a diet ... in other words, you could spot them from miles away. My friend looked at them then looked at me and gave me one of those, "takes all kinds" looks. If that was the worst that happened to them, and I imagine it was, either that says something about Venice Beach, or we've come a long way. I suspect it's a bit of both.

Perhaps, on the other hand, it was because they were so unconvincing (and being convincing may not have been their goal, couldn't have been) and consequently just sort of goofy (by the way, I often describe myself as goofy, it is not, in my lexicon, a pejorative) and non-threatening that they weren't hassled. They also appeared to be unselfconscious. I hope they had a nice day at the beach.

I have long suspected that it is easier for a plain or homely TV to pass in public for the simple reason that no one bothers to scrutinize them. Every day we pass hundreds of plain looking people without giving them a second look, barely giving them a first look in fact.

Around the same time, I saw "Paris is Burning" (if you like travelogues to exotic places I'd recommend it) and I want to use this as a point of departure. The film is a documentary on the "Drag Competitions" in Harlem. While it covers that scene, it does so by looking at a number of the participants in a personal way, in two time frames: 1987 & 1989. One of the interviewees, Venus Extravaganza -- a young pre-op TS -- works as a prostitute (despite the dangers, not the least of which is AIDS) and talks about what happens when a John finds out she's got a penis. Violence is not uncommon. In the end the news comes that Venus was murdered, found strangled by an unknown party. By this time we are saddened, but not surprised.

What happened? We can only surmise. I think it is safe to say that she was picked up by some John, not one of her regulars, who became violent when he discovered she had a penis, and in a rage ➡

... continued

the girl on the Montel Williams program said ..."
 For that matter, our self-declared presidential candidate describes her femme side as an "alter ego", yet uses the word "transsexual" to describe herself, then admits that she doesn't know if she will pursue "clinical feminization" (which I presume is her way of describing sex-reassignment surgery). How, then, do we explain what a crossdresser who uses the word "transsexual" to describe themselves really is?

It has occurred to me on numerous occasions that writing these editorials does absolutely nothing to change the public's perception of us, because those of you who are reading this already understand that we have a problem. Virginia calls it "preaching to the choir": an allusion to the fact that it is not the gender community that needs to be corrected, it is the mainstream community.

I have an idea in mind here, which I hope will result in the reeducation of those who control what the public is learning about us. A copy of this month's "Cross-Talk" is being mailed to the producers of all eleven of the aforementioned tabloid talk shows, with a cover letter calling their attention to this editorial, and inviting them to reply in a future issue. I am also offering my services as a spokesperson for the "serious" (read that "non-fringe") gender community.

You may also wish to write to your local television station whenever one of these fact-distorting programs airs and indicate your disagreement. (You don't have to identify yourself as a member of the gender community if privacy is a concern for you. You can always say you have a friend who crossdresses.) A little-known fact is that such letters are required by law to be placed in the station's "public file", which can be reviewed by the F.C.C. when they conduct an inspection, or under some circumstances when the station's license is up for renewal. They won't be happy to have letters in there saying they were broadcasting distorted information, will they?

The facts that must be faced by these purveyors of sensationalistic half-truths is that the gender community has more crossdressers and transgenderists than transsexuals; that it has more heterosexuals than it does homosexuals or bisexuals; that more members of the community are interested in a mainstream-acceptable look than a fetishistic one; and, most important, that we are NOT a real-life "freak show".

And it is up to us to ensure that they face these facts.

... continued

strangled her. Now, Venus was an attractive young woman and it is probably safe to say that if you didn't know better you would assume she was a GG. The murderer probably did.

It should anger all of us that a member of the transgendered communities was killed because she was different. We don't know what went on behind that closed door, but there is no reason why that man couldn't have simply gotten up and left if Venus' penis was not his thing.

I have written before about expectations and what happens when they are contradicted. Many of us are familiar with this from first hand experience. The response from the sexually insecure is violence, either physical or verbal. In Venus' case the last time this happened she died.

What does this mean to the garden variety transvestite? Well, like all women, it means you have to be careful where you go and when you go there. It means if your car is of questionable reliability you should stay home or arrange to have a friend pick you up. Use the same common sense precautions that women use when going out. It's a sad commentary on our society that one needs to worry about one's personal safety just leaving one's home. That's life in the big city.

In keeping with the potpourri nature of this column, I'd like to say that I am going to phase out the term "transvestite" and substitute something else, most probably "crossdresser". Let me relate the events that lead to that decision. To begin with, and I've referred to this before, I live near a corner which is worked by the boys who would be girls. Gay boys in drag working the boulevard. It's more than an annoyance. Not only do they attract a less than desirable element to the neighborhood, but for me personally, their presence make it less comfortable for me to leave my apartment dressed. I don't want my neighbors thinking I'm one of those things (as opposed to one of these things). I've been performing in a production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and the other day one of the cast members asked where I live, because of some reference I made to something, and I told them and they said, "Oh, you live near transvestite corner." "Great!" I thought, "It's even got a name." I've personally decided to call it the DQZ (Drag Queen Zone). Well, I guess that explains my decision.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS? Write us at P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365, fax us at (818) 347-4190, or send e-mail to "Kym Richards" through the "Cross Connection" BBS at (818) 766-TVTS. Letters received may be edited for length and clarity.

VOX POPULI ... *Letters to the Editor*

Re: Merissa Sherrill Lynn's letter to the editor ("Vox Populi", September '92):

Concerning the Renaissance reports on the Congress of Representatives, I offer the following commentary.

One has only to ask which of us has anything to gain by covering up the truth, or anything to lose by having the truth exposed.

I am not running for any office -- local, regional, or national. I am self-employed and, along with my partner, we are able to pay our bills and put two children through college. I do not depend on my position with any transgender organization for my livelihood.

On the other hand, Lynn is up for re-election to the IFGE board. Once elected to the board, Lynn expects to be re-nominated and re-confirmed as Executive Director. The Executive Director's position comes with; (a) a salary, (b) medical insurance, (c) life insurance, (d) car insurance, and (e) all expenses paid travel to any TV/TS related event.

Since Lynn's real-world work experience is limited in the extreme, if she does not retain her position as Executive Director of IFGE, she is virtually unemployable and she knows it. Q.E.D.

Meanwhile, Lynn is not trying to build any bridges. The 1993 IFGE convention brochure makes no mention of the Congress and that's a conscious omission over previous brochures. So, guess who is the IFGE convention director?

*-- JoAnn Roberts, King of Prussia PA
Member, IFGE Board of Directors
Member, Congress of Representatives*

Re: "Kymberleigh's Clipboard: Reality Check" (June '92): I must say that I feel it's a mistake to drop the reports from the national press, however negative they might be. Many good reasons for this have already been expressed in "Vox Populi". If the intention is to help us folks in the gender community keep in touch with what's going on, the negative is as valuable as the positive. Otherwise there's a real danger of forgetting that anything challenging the status quo around gender identity is usually threatening for much of "mainstream" society.

I encourage you to resume your reports -- for all the pathos, sadness and outrage they might generate.

-- Christie Reed, Venice CA

(Editor's Reply:) I find it interesting that after I responded to those who complained our news coverage was too negative by removing the so-called

"bad news", that so many readers expressing a similar opinion to the above chose to make themselves heard, both as letters to the editor and in personal contact with me.

In September we began carrying Paula Jordan Sinclair's "NewsQueen" column, which had appeared in the Renaissance Education Association's publication "Renaissance News" for many years. Paula and I have had a long discussion about the future of "NewsQueen" as part of the expanded "Cross-Talk", and it is our intention to provide more complete coverage of the mainstream community as it affects the gender community.

If you wish to communicate your support of mainstream news coverage to Paula, or wish to send her newspaper clippings for use in "NewsQueen", you may write her at 1440 Clymer St., Philadelphia PA 19146.

I thank you all for showing your support of more complete (if sometimes negative) news coverage in "Cross-Talk". --KMR

Re: "Kymberleigh's Clipboard" (August '92): I don't think I ever wrote that no one else had adopted the term Gender Transient (GT). What do you think IGTA (*International Gender Transient Affinity--Ed.*) is?

An affinity is the accepted collective noun for a group of GTs. There are quite a few, and IGTA has been quickening of late. Some of the Third World Travesti have opted for it themselves, and in my network there's about ten European GTs -- but they all come and go as they please and some are less decisive than others, which doesn't bother me greatly.

But I do think you might be making a mistake in removing it from wider usage in your assessments. It might be a move akin to the chap who declined management of the Beatles just before they got famous. Or, then again, you might be right ... hard to judge at this stage.

Let's leave it at that for now. It's a transient term for transient people -- possibly a working title, as we say in the literary profession and the sciences -- i.e., the chrysalis stage. You comically suggest a national referendum but ... whose nation? The U.S. being insulated again? Or do you perchance mean a consultation with our "nation within all nations"? If so, that's a damned good idea. We could also use that as a head count.

-- Phaedra Kelly, Freshwater, Isle of Wight, U.K.

(Editor's Note:) Phaedra included information on new IGTA-affiliated organizations in Latvia and ➡

Moscow, which we applaud the creation of as our "nation within all nations" expands to include more of the worldwide community. Donations to IGTA can be made through Creative Design Services, P.O. Box 61263, King of Prussia PA 19405.

Re: "Cogito Ergo Fem" (August '92): Anne Blackwood states that you either must come out of the closet and fight the good fight or you are living a lie and of no use to anyone.

I must reject this simplistic, black/white view of the world. Perhaps it is because I came of age in the 60's, when those in political power would have had us believe that there were only two choices: (1) Uncritical love of country and blind allegiance to the administration or (2) Blackhearted commie-pinko treason. Then, as now, I countered with the immortal words of Mark Twain, "Loyalty to the country: always. Loyalty to the administration when it deserves it." The critical point is that the administration is NOT the country and the country is NOT the administration.

I fear the echoes of this masculine, either/or, yes/no philosophy permeated the Ms. Blackwood's writing. I hate to say this, because it plays into the gender stereotyping that I try to avoid, but her imagery of revolution, war, trials, and domination are distressingly masculine. Pardon me, but I was under the impression that we were trying to explore the feminine side of our nature, and to achieve some kind of integration so that we can live as a whole person. At the risk of letting my own masculine side take over, I must answer Ms. Blackwood as I did the misguided President who told me that I had to fight an unnecessary and unjustified war because he was not to be questioned. Ms. Blackwood: I will not accept the false choice you offer, there is a whole spectrum of choices out there that cover the world like a

rainbow. No one color has precedence, we are each a droplet of water refracting the light from where we are placed at this time. Perhaps we will move in the winds of the world, perhaps we will fall in the coolness or rise in the heat of the sun. Together we are a glorious whole, not a regimented accumulation of sameness.

I would choose to nurture my sisters with my love and advice, to support them and sustain them; helping them to overcome fear and loneliness. I refuse to tell them to go away because they do not share my agenda. Most certainly I would not denigrate any organization even if that organization does not fulfill my particular needs. I came out of the closet earlier this year and found that I did not particularly enjoy it; the negatives outweighed the positives so I simply reopened the door and went back in. This was a personal choice, based on my personal needs at this time, and to have Ms. Blackwood tell me that I am betraying some cause by doing so negates the fundamental reason for our being in an organization: to support each other and find solace from those who share similar concerns. I have said it before and will say it again: Crossdressing is not the only influence on my life and is only one of many things I like to do. I will not let it control me, and I will not let proselytizing dogmatists coerce me into becoming what I am not.

Lastly I resent Ms. Blackwood's misuse of Martin Luther King's vision. Mr. King fought and died for a world where peace and understanding were the norm. The polarization and alienation envisioned by Ms. Blackwood are the antithesis of Mr. King's dream. The glass of water is neither half full or half empty, it is a vessel that offers one of life's necessities; we need not argue over the quantity, but only appreciate and partake of the contents considering our needs and the needs of others.

-- Ricky Hunt, Brockport NY

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The past few months that the NewsQueen has been idle have not been uneventful -- for her or for the nation. The Republican party's attempts at hate mongering fell as flat as Patrick Buchanan's joke about crossdressing Democrats when voters turned out the GOP and their family values fellow travelers after twelve years in power. But the really big news for Miss Sinclair is that in October she became Ms. Sinclair, a title that befits a married woman who retains her maiden name for professional purposes. Her spouse -- Cindy -- is also a transvestite. To avoid an ugly argument that could so easily set their married life off on the wrong foot, both parties opted to wear men's business suits for their nuptials.



Besides avoiding the conflict of who got to wear the bridal gown, the idea of male drag for the wedding also received the endorsement of two leading fashion designers. Donna Karan and Ralph Lauren (neither of whom could attend the ceremony but sent fabulous gifts) have been dressing women in menswear for two seasons now. Perhaps Lauren was thinking of the blushing bride(s) when he observed that there is nothing as sexy as a woman in men's clothes.

Karan seems to believe in the opposite statement, for her collection for this coming spring featured sarong-style skirts for men. These, she says, convey "a state of mind -- that men are loosening up." Other menswear designers are showing body suits, stirrup pants, and even catsuits for men.



Does the mainstream idea of men in skirts mean that the days of the drag queen are numbered? Apparently not, judging by a November party in New York given by Ivana Trump to raise money for the American Foundation for AIDS Research. The high point of the evening was a fantasy fashion show which opened with a 6-foot, 4-inch drag queen popping out of a giant cardboard Kelly bag, wearing a pale blue lace and satin gown over a matching catsuit. Later in the evening, a chorus line of queens danced across the stage throwing condoms to the crowd of New York celebrities and socialites and singing "Condoms Are a Girl's Best Friend."




Maybe the GOP was right about the cultural elite. Take Richard Simmons, for example. A male prostitute in Los Angeles claims that the guru of the exercise videos regularly employed him for a different kind of work-out. Daniel Holt says that among other activities, Simmons "likes to dress up in a baby doll nightgown and being told he's a bad girl," and then Simmons gets off by being spanked.



Of course, there is Michael Jackson who causes more and more confusion as he looks more and more like a woman. The London Sun quotes one Simon Timmons as saying that Michael and his alleged sister LaToya are actually the same person. "No one ever heard of LaToya until a few years ago," Timmons notes. "They both have the same kind of white face and high voice. Michael is well known for being 'Wacko Jacko.' It's just possible he dreamed LaToya up. As far as I can tell, LaToya and Michael have never been photographed together." He adds that LaToya quit an engagement at the Moulin Rouge in Paris just as Michael was gearing up for a world tour.




But not all celebrities are devoid of worthwhile values. Noted female impersonator Jim Bailey is dropping Madonna from his night club act because she can't sing.

"My audiences don't want me to do Madonna, so I've gone back to Judy and Barbra. Madonna is one of a kind, but she's no singer. And I am." 



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But fear not, gentle readers, Bailey's abandonment of the Material Girl will not leave us with a dearth of Madonna wannabes. Dozens of them gathered in Detroit in August for Madonna's 34th birthday and the first International Madonna Appreciation Convention. Reporters covering the event said they thought most of the entrants in the Madonna look-alike contest were women, but they weren't sure.



Roseanne Arnold is sure about one thing regarding drag queen -- they know how to dress.

She wowed her fans in a low-cut red dress at the Emmy awards. But she thinks it was less than the perfect outfit. "Drag Queens always look so beautiful, and if anyone knows a drag queen who'd like to send me sketches of a hot costume, maybe we can do some business." Apparently, Arnold is no stranger to drag queens. She has said that when her brother Ben was a boy, he used to dress up as a girl.



Thanks to his diligence above the call of duty, Richard Redd, the attorney for the Baton Rouge, LA police department, is no stranger to drag queens either.

The Louisiana Exotic Dancers ordinance makes it

illegal to hire male or female impersonators to dance or tend bar, and requires exotic dancers to have a \$25 license. Dancers in Baton Rouge had to get the license from Redd. To make sure that no guys were sneaking by, Redd asked the applicants to show him their breasts.

Doing his job the best way he saw fit got Redd arrested on a felony charge of malfeasance in office.



Crossdressing while working in the field of public accommodation is easier in Madison, WI, where the Equal Opportunity Commission has ruled that a taxi driver can wear makeup, nail polish, earrings, and jewelry on the job.

Scott Maxwell, 43, thought he looked better if he used cosmetics, painted his nails, and put on earrings. The Union Cab Cooperative disagreed and threatened to penalize him. The commission agreed with Maxwell's complaint that the cab association was discriminating on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, and physical appearance, all of which are protected categories under Wisconsin law.

The Union Cab has filed suit to overturn the commission's ruling in Maxwell's favor.



A Massachusetts judge sympathetic ruling for a transsexual seeking Medicaid help in having her Adam's apple shaved has got himself in hot water with Gov. William Weld and with a leading Boston newspaper.

Katherine Diane Swan's claim for Medicaid reimbursement for the operation to reduce the size of her Adam's apple was rejected by the state Welfare Department. The department cited regulations that prohibit payments for plastic surgery or sex changes. Swan took the matter before Judge Julian Houston who agreed that with her argument that having a man's Adam's apple caused psychological harm because it made her look like a man. Judge Houston ordered the state to pay for the operation.

But all hell broke out when Weld heard about the ruling. According to a spokesman, Weld was "outraged" by the ruling and will "do whatever is necessary to prevent this from happening again." The Boston Herald likewise thought it was wrong for the state to pay for "making disturbed individuals' twisted medical fantasies come true."

For the record, Weld is a Republican who recently signed an executive order giving certain benefits to the lesbian and gay spouses of state workers. ➡



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With all medical expenses borne by the government, one would think it would be difficult for surgeons to get approval for controversial operations. So how to explain the first true sex swap operation?

Xia Zhoa Ji, a surgeon at Beijing No. 3 Hospital, said that he and a team of colleagues successfully transplanted the sex organs of a man and a woman. The 20-year-old woman received the testicles of a 30-year-old man, who had received her ovaries during operations a week before. Because neither patient will be able to procreate, it was unclear why the surgery involved actual sex organs instead of simply constructing a penis and a vagina for the pair.

Xia said the male patient "thinks that woman are clean and woman are dirty. The woman thinks that it's better for her career to be a man."

This report came not from a supermarket tabloid, but from the respected Reuters news service.



Becoming a man may not have helped a Canadian female-to-male transsexual's career, but it certainly didn't hurt his love life. But because he married a woman, a Canadian court has ruled the marriage void.

The case decided in Toronto in September concerns a woman who met the TS at work as assumed that he was all man. After dating for a year, the pair began living together, but sex was out of the question, he said, because he had had "an accident." Shortly after, the woman discovered the truth about her mate, but decided to stay together and eventually marry as he planned on having a sex change. The marriage broke up after about four years when the husband did not get the operation

to give him male genitalia. The wife sought an annulment and the judge granted it by saying that they were both women and same-sex marriages are illegal.



The law and public opinion may be slow to change, but there is hope among the younger generation. After California Gov. Pete Wilson signed the Golden State's lesbian and gay rights bill, young homosexuals were asked about the law's significance.

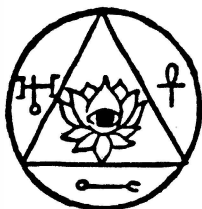
Arnel Valle, 21, noted that the law does not protect transgendered persons or bisexuals, and compared that the the lesbian and gay community's need to expand its borders.

"Bisexuals and transgenderists are just as significant to this community as gay white men. They have to be accepted," he said. "Although we're winning the fight, they're lagging behind because of a lack of visibility."



As Ms. Sinclair transitions to married life, she will try to follow the advice of Lota Tuatt -- "Life is too short to fuck around with brown eye shadow and housecoats and even housecleaning can be glamorous when I'm wearing my favorite pair of pumps." You can help her keep her focus by sending other such pithy sayings and news items about crossdressing to her in care of "Cross-Talk". Be sure to note the name and date of publication.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE AN ARTICLE TO "CROSS-TALK", please first send a #10 SASE to P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365 for our style sheet and guidelines. Thanks!



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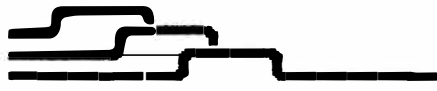
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by Valerie Driscoll

I want to thank all of you who asked for the return of "The Makeup Mirror". What I have done is researched my previous columns, organized them in logical order by topic, and updated the information where necessary.

Before you can achieve the best look possible with makeup, all facial hair should completely be removed. This may sometimes irritate the skin, especially when it is sensitive and you must shave really close.

Try using a water soluble cleansing cream or gel and rinse with warm water. If you must shave often, and use an electric shaver, alternate between it and a manual razor. (Ed. Note: The "Sensor" cartridge-type razor and "Edge with Lanolin" shave cream tend to give good results with little irritation.)

Some tips for a more effective and more comfortable shave with a manual razor:

Keep your razor clean and wipe with rubbing alcohol before use. Also, allow your shaving cream or gel to soften the beard for about two minutes before you shave.

Start at the cheeks and work your way down without stroking each area with your razor more than twice. Rinse with warm water, then with cold. (To help

conserve water, fill the washbasin before you start and use that water supply for dampening the skin pre-shave cream and for clearing your razor during the shaving process. Then you won't feel so guilty using more water to rinse twice!)

After-shaves tend to be loaded with perfumes. These irritate the skin, so use witch hazel or other mild astringent instead. Follow this with a moisturizer ... pat it on; rubbing is too harsh on the skin!

Use powdered alum or a mud mask to stop bleeding on small cuts. Be sure to use alcohol on your skin before using tweezers to pull out ingrown hairs!

(By the way, if you drive a lot or are otherwise out in the sun a lot during the day, a sunscreen is very important to keeping your face soft and healthy. Coppertone makes an excellent SPF 45 that is both waterproof and hypoallergenic.)

Remember, hair growth starts well below the surface layer of the skin so you may still have a dark shadow after shaving. 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.

Next month, we'll cover the basics of applying foundation and answer some of your questions.

[Valerie Driscoll is a California licensed cosmetology instructor and owner of Hair To Wear Wigs in Torrance, CA. Send your questions about makeup to her at 1716 Andreo Ave., Torrance 90501; questions of general interest will be answered in a future column.]

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CROSSDRESSERS' CLOSET GIVING YOUR BODY THE PROPER SHAPE

by Bev Anderson

Season after season, fashions change. Colors & print change. Fabrics are used each year in more creative styles. The one thing that doesn't change is the female form.

Before you decide on your next clothing purchase, take a long look at yourself in a full length mirror and decide which areas of your body need adjusting. Create the foundation on which to drape these fabrics, regardless of price, your clothes will only look as good as your undergarments allow. Be careful not to create a more voluptuous figure than your frame can handle and try to achieve as natural a look as possible. Below is a chart of dress sizes vs. breast form and body measurements for the "average" lady.

Frederick's, under \$30.00. This also flattens the tummy and decreases your waist size not to mention it deletes the necessity of a gender tuck. Hips may be padded but most women strive for the slimmer hips, that Ts come by naturally. A half slip called a "Slim Slip" made from lycra Spandex, some with built-in panties, will give a smooth no-line finish under your clingiest outfits. Some "slim slips" and girdles also have built-in waist cinchers. These type cinchers are available in most department stores for around \$40.00.

Remember, the trend in fashion these days is "Less is Better". A slimmer, less rounded look is very in. As your confidence grows, your favorite looks will be the ones that makes you feel the most comfortable.

BREAST FORM	A	A/B	B	B/C	C	C	C/D	D
Dress Size	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24
Bust	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	46
Waist	25	26	28	30	32	34	36	38
Hips	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48

Choose the proportions that will look best for your frame. For example, if you wear a size 16 dress, a B or C cup breast form will give you a well defined 38C chest. Breast forms range from \$7.50 (Frederick's Falsies) to \$600.00. There is, however, a middle-of-the-road price range for what I consider a wonderful breast form and a comfortable good-fitting bra with a detachable long-line to help the midriff under \$200.00 (Cary's Creations). The breast form attaches to bra straps so there is natural movement of the breast, or can be glued to the body for the braless look.

Waist cinchers are helpful in achieving an hourglass figure. They reduce the waist size by a couple of inches, giving the illusion of feminine curves. They come in many styles and textures, from plain to sexy. Select a cincher that is made of a strong, lightweight material such as Spandex. Avoid the bone-stayed variety as they tend to be very uncomfortable and do not fit the form as well. Choose one that is no more than two inches smaller than your own waist size if you want to remain conscious through your outing.

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[Bev Anderson is the proprietor of Femme Development Services in Studio City, CA. You may send her questions about fashion c/o "Cross-Talk" or send e-mail to "Bev" through the "Cross Connection" BBS. If you live in or plan to visit the Los Angeles area, you may call her at (818) 752-9266 to make an appointment for a personal consultation.]

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MS. BINTHAR DUNDAT: TIPS ON PASSING PROFOUNDLY MASCULINE BEHAVIORS

by Lynette Tavener

Previously I mentioned some of the "profoundly feminine behaviors" that can aid you in developing an ability to pass. This month I wish to introduce the "profoundly masculine behaviors" ... behaviors which will give you away quicker than walking nude down Main Street. These behaviors must be avoided by all transvestites and transsexuals like AIDS.

TIP 1. My first tip is to avoid that profoundly masculine behavior that I call the "ancestor pose", a term coined by myself, which describes the ape-like stance of males wherein they hold their arms out as if they had prickles in their armpits and at the same time relax the arm from the elbow down -- so that they look distinctly like their ancestors -- the apes.

TIP 2. My next tip relates to the profoundly masculine behavior of allowing your clothing "jeans" in particular to relax in the crouch area or to drop low on the waist or hips in typical male fashion. These sagging clothes create the illusion that you have something to hide in the crotch area or that you have a distinct male sloppiness.

TIP 3. Another tip relates to that profoundly masculine behavior of talking to a female's breasts. Here you will notice that men invariably look at your breasts, either continuously or intermittently, while they are talking to you. If you do the same when talking to other females you are sending unconscious signals that you are in fact male. To send the female signal look at their eyes, hair or hands.

TIP 4. Yet another profoundly masculine behavior is that of looking a person up and down, sizing them up and being observed doing it. My tip here is to do it in a feminine way by once again using your peripheral vision. To look without being observed doing so is feminine. Reflections in windows are an excellent way of keeping an eye open for trouble, especially those windows that angle near the

entrances to shops. By using these you can observe people's reactions around you without them becoming aware that you are doing so. By the way an interesting way of developing this skill is to practice while you are in traffic. If you can look at the person in the car next to you without them becoming aware that you are observing them -- you're halfway there, baby! The technique is to focus on something in front of, or across the hood of their car while in fact you are looking at them. If they turn and look at you, the chances are that you have failed, you have attracted their attention. But if you see them look in the direction you are looking you have succeeded in observing them as well as distracting their attention from you. You have succeeded.

TIP 5. Back in the personal area, another profoundly masculine behavior that must be avoided is the fly check, similar to the bra strap adjustment, this subtle slide of the hand to check that your zip is up is a dead giveaway. My tip here is that if you have a loose zip or have any insecurity, use a safety pin to ensure modesty and avoid this masculine signal.

TIP 6. One last profoundly masculine behavior is the habit of striding out when in a hurry. My tip here is to step quicker but keep the stride even. In addition to this, if you do have to stride out, compensate by moving the appropriate hip forward thus visually reducing the length of the stride. If you want to develop a female style walk imagine you are walking barefoot on a gravel area and adjust your steps accordingly. By the way, some actual practice walking on a rough surface is of great benefit in developing your female walking style.

To pass, remember: Keep your elbows in, your eyes up for females, down for males, pin your zip and take short steps.



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by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

When a person of one gender attempts to imitate the other gender, there is bound to be confusion. Men and women each know what it is like to be their own gender but such an awareness is very difficult to describe. It is also hard to explain why someone would want to be like the other gender. When such explanations are attempted within the atmosphere of a marriage, the problems are intensified. The woman is confused when her husband says he is exploring femininity by crossdressing. She intuitively knows that what he is exploring may be sensuality but hardly femininity.

Last month I commented on Deborah Tannen's book "You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation." For me, the most significant observation she made was that women and men are brought up in different cultures even if they live up in the same family! In earlier columns I have written about the different gender roles that men and women are taught to act out. Dr. Tannen extends this idea to the ways in which words are used and interpreted by men and women. Often, men use conversations to establish dominance while women use conversations to strengthen relationships and intimacy.

These differing conversational goals have special consequences for a crossdresser and his partner. Not only are they dealing with a confusing situation, they also have to adjust to different interpretations of the "same" words. Communication is all they have to make their relationship work. If the words one says don't convey the same meaning to the other, then the communication has failed. So it is important that each partner realize the "style" of the other. With such recognition, the conversation of both can be adapted to achieve better communication between them.

For example, when he tells her about his crossdressing, it would seem that such sharing would fit her type of conversation. But content is only a portion of the communication. Style is probably more important in conveying the message. If he uses a masculine approach of giving facts in such an emotionally tense situation, he may convey information but not help her understand the situation. As he tries to explain his feelings and behaviors around crossdressing, it is important that he remember that his masculine style may overpower her ability to participate in the conversation. For example, he may need to stop

talking and encourage her to talk and ask questions. Also, because he may have little experience in talking about his innermost feelings, he may find himself struggling for words that will be understood by her.

Setting aside the biological differences, no man can truly understand what it is like to be socialized as a woman. The thousands of hours and hundreds of thousands of words she experiences create an environment that can not be either intellectually or emotionally understood by him. It is hard for her to explain this to him because he hears her words through a masculine filter.

We generally take for granted that what we mean by a certain word will be plainly understood by the other person. Yet we are aware of different dialects and idioms in English that carry special meanings within a subculture. The treacherous thing is that even in the same culture the men and women can misunderstand the words being used. When two people of different genders want to accurately exchange ideas, thoughts and feelings, they have to remember that it is possible to misinterpret what is being said just because of who they are. Adapting to such possibilities comes the potential for clearer conversations and stronger relationships.

[You may contact me at P.O. Box 3445, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 or by phone at (914) 452-8405. This column may be reprinted in any nonprofit organization's newsletter if my name and address appear in the reprinted version. All others must obtain written approval from me. A copy of such reprints is expected.]



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by Cynthia Phillips

Dear Cynthia: My husband and I go to his crossdressing meetings every month. Occasionally I meet another woman at these meetings. I always find it a great comfort to speak to another woman involved in this. Frankly, I find just knowing another woman is in the same situation I am is a relief!

I have approached the leaders of this group to find out if they would start a group just for the wives and girlfriends of the members. The leaders agreed it would be a good idea, but none of us seem able to figure out just how to go about starting a wives' group.

Can you furnish us any information on this?

-- Sandra F.

Dear Sandra: Glad you asked! As a matter of fact I do have some general ideas on how to form a wives/partners group, and here they are:

First, you need to talk to the CDs about their wives/partners, to see if they feel that their partner would attend. Often the CD may not want his partner to attend, as he is afraid of "CD bashing". You must work around this.

Send out a questionnaire to all women that you think might be potential members. Enclose your phone number and/or self-addressed envelope for a reply.

You must make it clear that anything that is said is strictly confidential ... that what is said, is said in confidence, and won't end up in the newsletter or discussed with CDs.

It is also important to point out that no one is going to try to change their thinking; that this is strictly a discussion group to help the women become comfortable with whatever "level" they have, or are trying to achieve.

When you receive your desired response, set up a time and place for the meeting. You have several options here: (1) You may want to meet during the time of the regular crossdressing meeting, in another room of the facility or home; (2) You may meet at a completely different time, at a member's home; (3) You may wish to meet in the afternoon, before the regular CD meeting starts; or (4) You may wish to rent a hotel room or meet in a private room of a restaurant.

The best seating arrangement is in a circle where everyone feels they are part of the group.

At the beginning, have everyone introduce themselves and tell a little of their history. This

makes everyone more comfortable and at "home". Whoever the facilitator is needs to give a little bit of history of the "crossdressing world". Most of these women will know little or nothing about this phenomena ... most of the information given by their husbands will be either incorrect or sketchy at best. Give them some facts (pamphlets which can help are available from your CD group or directly from Boulton & Park Society).


Give each woman a list of phone numbers for the members of your group. Check beforehand to make sure no one will mind being on the list. These numbers are for the women that might be having a hard time and need a "kindred soul" to speak with. Remember most women, before they meet with others, feel that they are the only ones in the world with this problem. Most don't feel comfortable talking to their family or friends about this. The group must stick together. Remember, this is what a support group is all about.

At each meeting, take turns being the "hostess" and supply some cookies, coffee, colas, etc. This gives a more comfortable setting and makes it easier to talk.

Dues are optional. Usually you can get the "host" group (the CDs) to pay for any expenses you incur, and they are generally delighted to do so.

Pick one person to be the "facilitator" for the group. She doesn't have to be a professional, just someone to keep the conversation moving in a positive manner. She should have a theme for discussion; however, this should be only loosely adhered to as other problems will arise during the discussion. Be sure, however, to keep from dwelling on any one problem or one person's problems. There are women who will try to monopolize every meeting by insisting everyone listen to their tale of woe. They simply need a "sounding board" and want the group to be it.

You may wish to have a wives/partners column in the CDs newsletter or, if you wish to keep things separate, you might send out a small newsletter to the women in the group to keep everyone up on what transpires, even if they can't come to every meeting.

Don't slip into a "CD bashing" mode. This is very destructive for all of us. It's okay to talk about some of the negatives, but also remember the negatives will come up in any case ... we certainly don't need to search them out. Remember we are here  21

“I AM A MALE STRIPPER”

by Ann

Edited by Sandy Thomas

I am employed as a stripper in a Vegas nightclub, and I have performed in New Orleans, San Francisco, New York, and Los Angeles. My name is familiar to most who frequent nightclubs, and my pictures adorn many of the girly magazines that men like so much.

Being a stripper is an unusual occupation, and not many women would like the work. It is tiring, the hours are long and irregular, and one must suffer the stigmatism that accompanies the profession. But, to those women who are strippers, it is a fascinating job, and if you are good, it can be fairly rewarding.

Still, that's not why my role as a stripper is unique. You see, although not many women are strippers, even fewer men are. . .and I AM A MAN!!!! However, I would like to tell my story from the beginning.

• • •

I was born Gary Nelson in the suburbs of New York on Long Island. In my youth, I was always interested in girl's games. Since I was rather frail, the rough sports engaged in by the boys were just too much for me. The more I tried to live up to my friends activities, the more frustrated I became. Soon, I realized that the girls were much more sympathetic than the boys and didn't mind if I joined them in playing jump rope and hopscotch.

One particular girl, Cheri, was more sympathetic than the others, and she would comfort me when the boys teased me and wouldn't let me play with them. One day, while she and I were playing in her house, her mother left to go shopping. She said she would be gone about three hours and for Cheri to stay indoors.

We played some games, but like most kids, we became bored. Cheri said, "Let's play dress up."

"What's that?" I queried.

"We dress up in our parents clothes," she

answered.

I thought over her suggestion and said, "But, you don't have a father. How can I dress up?"

"Silly, we'll both be mothers. You'd rather be a girl anyhow, wouldn't you?"

I flushed and stammered, "Yes I would, but don't ever tell anybody. They would all laugh at me and call me a sissy."

"I wouldn't ever tell a soul," she promised. "It will be our secret." (And, it remains so to this day.)

This began a yearning within me that has never ended, and it is as strong today as it was that first day. We put on panties, slips, evening gowns, nylon stockings, high heeled shoes, and all the works. We had a ball!

I found that I really liked the feel of nylon and silk, as they gave me goose pimples and made shivers run up and down my back. That feeling was, and still is, like no other in the world. Right then and there, I knew I could never be truly happy unless I could wear these clothes always.

Everything went fine until Cheri's mother came home an hour early and caught us in her best clothes. Cheri was put to bed, and I was sent home. One thing though, my parents were never told of this incident, which was the only time I was caught as a boy in girl's clothes. I guess Cheri's mother thought it a harmless child's game that needed no further punishment than to be caught in the act.

As I grew up, I secretly secured an assortment of feminine articles, although wearing them was done only in the privacy of my room late at night or when the family wasn't home.

I relate my early experiences only to show that my desires and wishes occurred early in my life. My real beginnings as a woman began when I graduated from high school and went to work as a clerk in a large industrial firm. I worked in an office staffed mostly with women, and they greatly resented a male in their domain. As a result, they constantly made my life rough at every turn.

Consequently, I moved even deeper into my shell than ever before. When I was home, I indulged into the fantasy that I was a woman, bought feminine clothing through the mail order houses at every opportunity, and soon, I had as

many clothes as the average working girl.

Until this time, I had never bought a wig, nor did I use cosmetics. I guess I just hadn't reached that stage yet. One day, after I had been with the firm for three years, a girl who had been there only eight months received a promotion. Thereafter, one girl after another went up the ladder as secretaries or senior clerks. When I asked my boss about this, he said that typing and shorthand were essential to these promotions. I explained that I had taken, and become quite proficient at, both typing and shorthand in high school.

"But, you're not a girl," he said. "The executives want women for their secretaries, not men!"

I brooded about this, especially when I learned that a top secretary could earn almost twice my current salary. Then, out of the blue, an idea struck me. If a woman was what they wanted, then a woman they would get!

My strategy began by ordering a wig from a leading mail order company. As soon as it arrived, I began practicing being a woman in spirit as well as in being. I worked hard at makeup, carriage, deportment, and feminine mannerisms. I was determined to be as good a woman as any of them.

All of this took only a few weeks, and strangely, I felt as if I was born to look as I did when dressed as a woman. I was even pretty, though as a man, I appeared small and mousey. I made a very striking woman, and now, I had to venture into the world for the first time. I was afraid and knew that I needed confidence. For my first excursion in skirts, I decided to go to a restaurant and a movie. Frightened but determined, I stepped out of my apartment and into a cab.

To my surprise that first escapade went very smoothly. Though I probably appeared very nervous and talked as if I had a large frog in my throat, no one paid any particular attention to me, and soon, I was home again.

The days became agony, the nights ecstasy, as my life became a regular Jekyll and Hyde existence. I knew this back and forth lifestyle couldn't go on for long, so I took a bold step. I quit my job as Gary Nelson and the next day, I reapplied for that very same position as Laurie Storm.

I was immediately hired and six months later, I was promoted to head of the department. I was in heaven, and I now earned more money than I had in three years as Gary. Life was wonderful, and I got along splendidly with the girls.

Then, it happened! I was told by the section head that I was to be interviewed by J. P. Caldwell, the executive vice president, as his new secretary. This caused me to worry because stories about J. P. went through the ladies washroom almost on a daily basis. He was the son of the Chairman of the Board and was a shiftless, no good individual. As such, he had gone through six secretaries in as many months. I naively thought that was because they were inefficient or lazy, but I could not have been more mistaken!

J. P. liked me from the start, and my salary was almost doubled, much to my astonishment. The first two weeks were routine, and Mr. Caldwell was well mannered and polite. He really had very little to do, but he answered a lot of correspondence, and so, my work was steady.

One day, he called me in and asked me to sit on the couch. He sat beside me and said I was his best secretary since he came with the firm. Then, he began to tell me that I was also one of the cutest secretaries he had ever seen, and that all the other vice presidents were envious.

While we were talking, he surprised me by taking me in his arms and kissing me hard on the lips. Because it had happened so fast, I was in a panic, but all I could do was stare back at him. Suddenly, his hands started roving over my body, and I really became frightened. In self defense, I slapped, kicked, scratched, and screamed! He was caught off guard by my reaction, and in seconds, he was on the floor in obvious pain. In another moment, I was out of a job.

Everything had happened so fast! Tired, scared, and shaken by my ordeal, I hurried back to my apartment. He didn't find out the truth about me, but still, I was out of a job. That night, I cried and wrestled with the question that raced through my head hundreds of times, "Should I forsake my beloved feminine clothes and go back to being a man?" Finally deciding that would be the safest path, I grudgingly packed away my feminine garments.

I got a job as a waiter, and entered an unhappy existence. One day, to my surprise, I spotted a girl who looked remarkably like Cheri. When I got closer to investigate, I found to my delight that she was indeed Cheri. She was also happy to see me, and shortly we were reliving old experiences. To my delight, I found that she wasn't married and that she lived in an apartment barely three blocks from my own.

During dinner later that evening, I asked what she did for a living.

Her head lowered and she seemed a bit embarrassed as she replied, "I'm on the stage."

"Oh! An actress!" I shouted with glee. "How exciting!"

"Well" she said hesitatingly. "I am taking lessons during the day, and I hope to be an actress someday, but in the meantime, a girl must eat."

"Then, tell me," I questioned. "What do you do on the stage?"

"If you must know," she said rather bluntly, "I'm a stripper at the Royal Theater. I know it's sounds terrible, but it puts food on the table and pays my drama coach. If you must know, I really like stripping. I hope you don't hate me."

"Wow! A real stripper, eh? And of course, I don't hate you. Actually, I'm impressed!" I was truly amazed and could talk of little else all evening.

Once Cheri knew I didn't look down on her, she opened up and told me all about her profession. The hours were long, but the pay was not bad and it keeps your body in shape. "It's hard to explain," she said, "but there is a certain thrill that goes along with it."

As we talked, I asked if I could see her the following evening, and she agreed. The thought of the stage and the strippers seemed to hold a strange, yet thrilling, fascination for me that I could not understand. Cheri liked her job, but because of the public perception of strippers, she was ashamed to admit what she did for a living.

• • •

The next night, I saw all of the shows at the Royal. I even went backstage between numbers

and was amazed at the activity that went on there. To me, it was a fairyland of people, costumes, and sets. I felt as if I was in a make believe world where people where people could be whatever they wanted. That's when I was struck by this exciting idea! Could I become a part of this fantasy world? Could I be a stripper? I had to find out.

In Cheri's dressing room, I told her of my thoughts, and we talked about what was required to become a successful performer. I also told her of my escapades as a male file clerk and as a female secretary. I told her everything including the sordid confrontation with J. P. Caldwell and my subsequent change back into a male.

Cheri listened with a sympathetic ear. When I was finished, she said, "I always knew that you would make a better girl than a boy. I tell you what. Why don't you come over to my apartment tomorrow night as a girl? I would love to see how you look."

• • •

The next evening, I was again in heaven. I was back in the clothes I loved so dearly the nylon stockings, the slip, the cosmetics, and the lovely accessories that felt so natural.

When Cheri saw me, she actually reeled back on her heels. "Why, you're beautiful!" she exclaimed. "You're much more beautiful than I could have ever imagined. I can't get over it!"

We sat and talked as two girls for the rest of the evening, and during our conversation, Cheri agreed to help me learn the art of stripping in her spare time. She also agreed to introduce me to the manager when the time came.

I worked hard, and when she thought I was ready, Cheri brought home some of her costumes for me to wear in my practice routines.

I was disappointed that I didn't have the physical attributes to fill out the costumes, after all, a stripper did go a lot further than I could without revealing my true gender. This caused me much despondency, but I continued working very hard. As a result, the feeling had gone out of my life.

Cheri noticed my anxiety over the weeks, but what could she do? She added a new spark to my life. We went out as girls and went to movies,

plays and restaurants. We were becoming very close. She commented, "I love having a friend I can tell anything to. . .the minute I tell any man about my love of stripping, he runs. I wish you could become a stripper too."

"Me too," I said wistfully.

Then, one day, she burst excitedly into my apartment. She said she had talked to one of the girls who had been extremely flat chested in the beginning. Her solution was to visit this woman doctor who gave injections of estrogen hormones and plastic surgery. Now, she had the largest breasts in the show. Cheri gave me the doctor's name and volunteered to go with me to see her.

I was so scared that I couldn't even eat on the day of my appointment. I could barely hold my hand still as I applied make-up. Cheri said I should dress as a female if I wanted the doctor to understand.

I spent extra time on my eyes making them stand out the way Cheri showed me. My lashes were thick enough that I didn't need false ones for day but I used extra mascara. My lips were trembling as I painted them a ruby red.

I slipped on small gold earrings and nude colored pantyhose. When I reached for the white, lacy bra, I looked down at my flat skinny chest. "What am I doing?" I asked myself again as I strapped the brassiere around my chest and hooked the back. I slipped some special breast pads made of silicone in the cups and pulled up my own skin to 'make' cleavage.

The frilly print dress Cheri suggested I wear was low-cut with a wide leather belt that created the impression of a narrow waist. The dress's skirt was full and flowed about my hips and legs. The long blond wig and black four inch high heeled pumps were also Cheri's suggestion.

"Isn't this outfit a bit sexy for day?" I asked.

Cheri laughed, "You are telling the doctor you want to be a stripper--not a school teacher."

• • •

The doctor was very nice and after a complete examination, she listened very intently to my story and motivations. In the end, I felt as though I had made another friend.

Without any prejudice, the doctor asked, "Do you wish to become a woman all the way?"

I looked at Cheri, who held her eyes fixed to the floor. I gulped and said, "No, I wish to look as feminine as possible, but I want to retain my male equipment and sex drive. Is that possible?"

"Somewhat," she replied, "but I don't understand why you want to do this. Although I can see that you are a slight undeveloped male and fairly feminine already. Your hands and feet are small and delicate. . .You understand that what I could do would make you so feminine that being a male in appearance will be impossible. Males will be attracted to you, not females."

"Yes, I guess that's true doctor, but I love women. I could never make love to a man. I guess I am a transvestite in the truest sense of the word. Although what I'm asking is almost like a transsexual, I'm in love with a woman, and I definitely do not want to lose forever the capacity to make love to her. I may be a emasculated male by appearance, but my masculine sexual urges are strong. By all means, I wish to retain them. . .or at least some of them?"

"Who is this woman you love so much?" Cheri asked as her eyes rapidly filled with tears.

"You, of course, my darling Cheri," I replied. "I've loved you since we were kids together because you always understood me. I love you now, more than ever!"

"Oh darling!" she said as she rushed into my arms. "I love you too! My biggest wish is for you to be happy, and I'll even help you become a woman all the way, if that's what you want."

"No," I said, then turning to the doctor, "What can be done with me?"

"Well, we can start you out on extremely potent female hormone treatments. . .killing your sex drive only long enough to make you as feminine as possible. Shortly after some breast budding, I can operate on your chest and place saline breast implants under your skin. This procedure will make your breasts as full as any woman's. It is quick, painless, but not proven safe for long term. We will want to remove them in about a year but by then you should have developed your own. I have helped many flat chested women achieve self respect through this series of treatments," she explained.

"And his sex drive," Cheri asked. "Will it come back?"

The doctor smiled, "After he's fully feminized, we will reduce his dose and his drive will return."

• • •

The die was cast. I would become as feminine as possible but retain my girl, Cheri. The following week, Cheri and I were married, and I moved into her apartment. For the time being, I kept my job and male identity.

We lived together as man and wife for one week before I started the female hormones. She commented to me, "I'm glad you are going to be 'calmed down', you are too much for me."

Excited but filled with misgivings, I received the first of many weekly hormone treatments. Slowly, my mannerisms, looks, and feelings became most decidedly feminine. I added weight to my hips and rounded out. On advice of the doctor, I went to an electrologist, and all of my beard was removed, never to return.

Finally, the day of my operation was scheduled. It was decided that I should have 550 cc implants which I thought would be way too big but Cheri smiled at me and said, "School teacher or stripper?"

I quit my job and I checked into the hospital for a one night stay.

In the meantime, Cheri moved us into a new apartment, where, although we were man and wife. . .at least male and female. . .or something like that, we would live in the public eye as female roommates. I would become Laurie Storm and never dress or appear as a man again.

When I returned from the hospital, I felt odd. They were huge! I was a husband but had a



"Here I am backstage adjusting a stocking. I try to look like a 'nice' girl until I give the men a gentle, sweet look in the eyes and then with a pout lip, I unzip the back of my dress. They go crazy!"

body any woman would be proud to possess. My measurements were 36C-27-37, and now filled out Cheri's stripper's costume to perfection.

To initiate my future career, I practiced for hours each day the routines I learned from Cheri.

The hardest part was getting used to dancing for hours in high heels wearing nothing but a revealing microscopic G-string. The doctor showed me how to position and secure myself with surgical tape. She gave me a special garment to wear so that *everything* was pressed up and out of sight. It was very uncomfortable at first. Cheri insisted that I'd come this far that I couldn't let such a 'little thing' flaw my perfection.

It took weeks of 'persistence' to get it right but I was delighted when I saw the smooth feminine fit of the tiniest G-string. It was troublesome but in about two months, both she and I felt that I was ready to tryout. By this time, my hair had grown to my shoulders, and I had it dyed auburn red.

My new name, Laurie Storm, was a natural, and my body was beautifully feminine. Underneath my skimpy costumes, with my training and a specially designed G-string of flesh colored latex; all signs of my masculinity are eliminated. With this camouflage in place, I could strip to pasties and a G-string with full confidence.

Cheri then secured an audition for me, and I went on stage for the first time in my life. To say the very least, I was very nervous and scared, but despite that, I made the grade and started to work the following week. I had done it! Cheri and I went out on the town and celebrated what hard work and determination could accomplish. . . I was a woman stripper!

After only two months, I became a headliner at the Royal, as my career was quickly blossoming. Not long after that, Cheri and I went on tour with a company that toured the southwest at very good salaries.

As this exciting tour was ending, Cheri gave me an unexpected surprise by announcing that we were to become parents. That put her out of work, and I became the sole supporter of our family.

Our luck was running hot, because about this time, I received an offer from a Las Vegas casino for a lot more than Cheri and I had been making together. In fact they wanted me to choreograph the show and find some of the 'talent'.

In order to find fresh faces, Cheri and I decided to open a training school for aspiring strippers. We ran an ad in a Vegas newspaper that said, "HAVE G-STRING, WILL TRAVEL!" We had over 500 responses from women who were interested in our school and surprisingly 20 from males. After interviewing them all, we began the classes. Most inspiring were the young men who were serious. We put on special 'feminizing' classes for them, then they were put in with the girls and expected to compete on their level. Cheri insisted that the 'boys' be on

high doses of female hormones so that the girls wouldn't feel 'threatened'. After all, this is about stripping and male titillation.

We have a lot of girls (and a few guys) that have become famous strippers. Watch for a future SANDY THOMAS publication ("HAVE G-STRING, WILL TRAVEL") about our school.

With our successful school and my career, Cheri and I are happier than ever.

That was six years ago, and today, I am one of the best known "girls" in my profession.

• • •

Our daughter is now four years old, and in a few years, we will tell her of her unusual family. I'm sure she'll understand because, we're slowly educating her about our lifestyle as we go. The other day, she walked up to a teenaged boy that was being interviewed and asked innocently, "Are you going to be girl dancer?"

The boy blushed to the roots of his longish blonde and wavered, "I don't know."

My daughter smiled and said before skipping away, "You'll be real pretty."

• • •

My life is complete. To everyone, I'm a successful show girl, one to be envied and looked on with desire. My pictures have appeared in many magazines, and I have been on the covers of at least three calendars. My salary is now very high and still rising. I have even been approached about appearing in an upcoming movie.

Cheri is the perfect housewife, and our comfortable Nevada home nestles on three spacious acres of land with a pool. I am full of vigor, and I have the existence I have always wanted. I live with the woman I love, yet I am a woman to all the world.

THE END (for now)

If you liked this 'short' Sandy Thomas Publication, you'll love the longer ones! Write to:

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His boss forced him to join a women's social club hoping they would discriminate against men. Thompson heard the rules: "We expect you to maintain a high level of hygiene. Included are legs smoothly shaven, bras and nylons worn...." Could he face this challenge?
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Chris has to find two boys who are willing to be girls for their fraternity.
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Bill's sister Lilly needed a model for her beauty school training. Kelly, a neighbor boy, was willing to help. A few pictures later all their lives would be changed. Could Bill resist this "dream girl?"
- Acting Like a Girl #13**
Ken was accepted into a Shakespearean drama college. He quickly learned that during Shakespeare's time, boys played the girl's parts!
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Due to an accident, Dave has to "fill in" for Jessica at a dance contest.
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One man's journey exploring the feminine side of his life.

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Skirt for a Flirt #5

Brian didn't realize what a harmless day of flirting at the mall would cost.

Exchanging Vows #6

Randy finds that being a "wife" for a weekend is harder than he thought. Especially when his own wife is living as the wife of another man. By giving up his male role, does Randy also have to give up his wife?

Changing Vows Too #7

Randy and his wife move to live as girlfriends. While his wife works as a model, Randy tries to find work...and himself.

Virgin Vows #8

Randy and his twin sister, Rose, have a yearly picture taken when they're dressed alike. This year it's in prom gowns! A yearly tradition for the twins turns to terror when Randy is asked to wear a prom gown.

Vow of Femininity #9

Randy is faced with decisions. Will he stay married to Mindy or spend the rest of his life as a girl?

French Dressing #10

Something had to change and Emile was it. A fully illustrated story

The New Girl #11

A job is a job...unless it requires too much. Will Stephan do what is necessary to be a good secretary?

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TRANSESTIA REVISTED

Fated for Femininity #1

"...Why not let Lennie compete anyway, of course, he would have to dress as a girl from now on. We could spread the word that Lennie is not a boy, and never was. It might work..."

It's All in the Family #2

John dresses in skirts to show the girls at school how they should dress. His mother and father suggest he try it for the summer. Thus "Jane" is born. Many surprises!

Tales From a Pink Mirror #3

Gerald is removed from his all boy school and is enrolled in a school of his step-mother's choice. He is enrolled to learn how to be dainty and feminine.

His and Hers Equals Theirs #4

Joan always borrowed her husband's clothes. To get even, Stephen borrowed hers. Every passing day found Stephen more feminine in actions, dress, conversation.

If You Can't Lick 'Em, Join 'Em #5

(Double Issue)

Merrill loses a bet and must dress as a girl for six months.

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Feminine Forte #16

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Patrick's story of growing up with the women who encouraged his dressing up.

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I AM OVER 21 YEARS OLD

by Ricky Hunt

I'm sure that you have seen an ad or two (or twenty) for one of those 900 phone services. They usually have neat names like 1-900-HOT-HOTT, which is a real number that a teenage neighbor called twice on my garage phone before I caught him. I never could understand why someone would pay \$25 for the first four minutes of talk when for a smaller monetary investment you could go to a bar somewhere and buy some floozy a few drinks and get the talk live, or possibly something more if you have a golden tongue. Now get your mind out of the gutter ... or wherever else it strayed ... I'm referring to the gift of gab.

So anyway, here I am righteously denigrating these mnemonic numbers when I see amongst a page full of offers of telephonic bliss in any form you can think of an ad for 1-900-DRESS-UP, promising to fulfill any crossdresser's dreams. So to prove I'm as human as any Presidential Candidate, I did an immediate flip-flop and decided there might be something worthwhile here after all.

I didn't want any record of my folly on my phone bill, so I quickly put on my best blouse and skirt, made a short stop at the bank, and searched until I found an isolated, old fashioned phone booth complete with door. With my purse filled with my life savings in quarters, I sat down and dialed. It was an old fashioned phone with a real dial that you have to spin around, so when the artificially pleasant voice mail answerer droned on about pressing 1 for lingerie, 2 for leather, 3 for bras and girdles I gave the round dial a dirty look and clobbered that ancient piece of technology with my coin-laden purse.

Maybe it was dumb luck, or maybe the inner bowels of the phone system took pity on me, but Ma Bell reacted with a symphony of beeps and bleeps, and suddenly I was overhearing someone else's conversation, but apparently they couldn't hear me. I swear on a stack of Lane Bryant catalogs that every word that follows is an accurate transcription of that conversation and the absolute truth.

SEXY VOICE: ... meet a girl like you. You must look so pretty. What are you wearing?

BASHFUL VOICE: A new green satin blouse with a high ruffled neck and a plum flowered skirt, yellow stockings and pink pumps with 5 inch heels.

SV: (In an uncertain tone) Oh yes, honey. It sounds wonderful. (Sounding a bit more sure) I like thinking about what you have waiting under that under that

skirt for me. Tell me all about it.

BV: (Sounding excited) I do have a charming black lace slip with little flowers around the bodice and hemline. It makes me feel so ... so ... feminine.

SV: You can't begin to know how that makes me feel. Tell me darling, If I were to slowly lift that slip over your knees just what would I see?

BV: Well, I am wearing a perfectly wonderful pair of powder blue bikini panties with lace and the most darling bows. Isn't that exciting?

SV: It sure is, I'm drooling at the thought ... But I was thinking more of what you have under the panties, as nice as they might be.

BV: You must mean my garter belt. Do you know how hard it is to find a real garter belt these days, with pantyhose and all the rage? I spent just hours and hours shopping for one and finally found a red and black frilly one that ...

SV: (Muttered) Yeah, about as hard as it is to get you to understand where I'm going.! (Louder) It sounds wonderful to me, dearie, but what I had in mind was a more personal endowment.

BV: You must mean my breast forms. With those babies I'm endowed like you wouldn't believe. They're real silicon filled and wiggle like jello when I walk. Move over Dolly Parton, there won't be room enough for the both of us in a small room.

SV: (Starting to sound peeved) what some people will pay \$3.95 a minute for. Look here, tiger, let me put it bluntly, can get on with things here. How they hanging under that dress?

BV: By my bra straps, how else? Although I have to admit I get ruts there in my shoulders from the straps. Do you run into that problem?

SV: No, I seem to run into brick walls, or maybe brick minds. Honey, all this is turning me on something awful, can't you tell me how hot you're getting?

BV: Yeah, my slip is sticking to my back, it must be 90 degrees out today. I think...

At that point Ma Bell must have developed a conscience, for in another symphony of beeps the conversation faded out and the phone demanded 25 cents for the next three minutes, so I gathered up my purse and went home, wondering if someone will start a 900 number that really deals with what crossdressers want.

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THE BEST OF "CROSS-TALK" TIPS FOR FLYING EN FEMME

by Linda Gorham

As an airline Customer Service Agent for over 10 years, I would like to recommend a few tips for my sisters who fly. I recommend you dress practically for flying. I know that sometimes what we like to wear is not practical. Slacks are definitely a good choice, but if you insist on skirts or a dress, choose something that won't wrinkle or muss, and keep it conservative (no minis or floor length). High heels are out. Airports are too large and most women just do not wear them for that reason. These tips should keep you from standing out like a sore thumb.

I suggest you have your travel agent write the ticket using only an initial for your first name. Tickets are just like a check: You could be asked for I.D. to prove that the name on the ticket is the same name as the person flying. This is a security and fraud check. If you are asked for I.D. don't be embarrassed. The agent has seen a TV before, and doesn't really care what you dress like. May I remind you, this is for security. The agent may pick you out because you're nervous, or by the ticket itself.

Because of all this, I recommend getting a boarding pass from your travel agent in advance. This can be done on most carriers within 30 days of your departure. To use the boarding pass you have to board with the general boarding (don't wait until the last minute). I suggest you check your bags at curbside. This will also keep you out of the lines and away from that possible I.D. check. I bring this up again only because it is so important. If the ticket is issued using only your first initial and last name, it is not a big hassle proving you are that person. Using an alias could be perceived as fraud and would relieve the airline of any liability. So please be careful about this as it could mean no end to the hassle and expense.

One change that has come about in recent years is a restriction on carry-on baggage. The F.A.A. has mandated that carry-on bags be restricted to a maximum of two pieces per passenger. These cannot be larger than that which will fit under the seat forward of the passenger. While this is not strictly enforced, I do suggest that most of you will do better with a single shoulder-strap bag measuring about 10" x 15" x 24". This will fit under the seat and will still not be so large as to be difficult to carry in a ladylike manner. Too large or too heavy a bag is impossible to handle with any feminine grace.

Whichever bag you do carry on, though, should

contain everything you will need for the first 24 hours after landing. Airline liabilities for luggage do not begin until then. Weather can also cause delays in arriving at your destination, and access to checked bags is sometimes impossible. Keep this in mind and pack sensibly -- keep all those necessary items in your carry-on bag, with you.

An I.D. is required on the outside of your bag. I recommend one on the inside as well, along with the address and phone number of a contact. This could be the hotel you are staying at, or just a friend who knows where you are staying. It will help should your bag get lost.

I want to point out that agents and flight attendants don't care what you are. We look only for potential problems and security risks. With this in mind, do not try to hide who you are. This could be mistaken for a security risk. Keep in mind that we deal with a thousand people a day and moralizing for that many personalities would be impossible. You can normally count on airport customer service personnel to be professionals who are there to assist you. When you encounter one, don't panic, even if they can read you. They will not call the police or make a scene. They will see you as a customer and treat you with the same respect, no matter what personal prejudices they might have. (I would like to insert a caution: Do not take the agent's friendly manner to be acceptance or understanding. They are, as I said, professionals, and personal attitudes must be ➡

S.O. THERE! ... continued from p. 19

to try and understand this and keep our relationship intact. Try to bring out some of the "positives". Some women compare crossdressing groups and movements to AA. The difference is, this is not "curable"; it cannot be "controlled" with the same degree of effort drinking can be controlled. This is a way of life which harms no one and which really can -- with the right understanding -- enrich a relationship, not destroy it.

Keep it simple: Don't bother to elect officers, just juggle the various chores (such as facilitator and hostess) around so that everyone has a part in guiding the group.

[Cynthia Phillips is co-director for wives' and partners' concerns on the Tri-Ess national board of directors. She may be reached at (512) 438-7604 or by writing P.O. Box 17, Bulverde TX 78163.]

by Joy

As an enthusiast for grand opera and a dedicated (if wholly unpassable) behind-locked-doors FP. I have searched far and wide to find works which satisfy both my interests. And regrettably I have to report that although there is quite a lot of transvestism in opera it is almost entirely, at least from our point of view, of the wrong type.

Surprisingly there is a very good reason for this imbalance between the two types. Opera in the modern sense of the word was born in the 17th century and at that time a remarkable -- to our way of thinking -- practice existed. It was accepted in those days, mainly in Italy, but also elsewhere, that if a boy had a good singing voice when he was say ten or eleven he could be castrated before he reached puberty -- one wonders how much say the boy had in this or if he just woke up one night to find someone leaning over him with a pair of scissors -- and thus retain his high voice. Such men were true sopranos or contraltos since, as with women, their voices had never broken.

The reason for this practice was that while the vocal range of a male true soprano or contralto is similar to that of a female, the voice is, quoting from the Concise Oxford Dictionary of Opera, "... stronger and more flexible, often voluptuous in tone and capable of the utmost delicacy and technical brilliance." The Dictionary, incidentally, goes on to say that these men were often as vain as any female prima donna. However since the practice existed, composers naturally wrote parts in their operas for such singers -- masculine roles as, for instance, Roman patricians in Mozart's "La Clemenza di Tito" (1791), or both Orpheus and Amor, the god of love, in Gluck's "Orfeo ed Euridice" (1762) and so on. In this latter work, incidentally, there are only four main characters, two masculine and two feminine, but all four are nowadays sung by women.

Now the problem with this was that as the years rolled by and the use of castrati became less and less acceptable it eventually became impossible to produce these operas (many of which are of great musical value) since there were no longer any male singers capable of filling the roles. The apparent alternative solution of transposing the high voice line downwards for a tenor to sing was not usually desirable since it destroyed the fabric and balance of the music.

The answer lay, as it so often does, with women. Opera is an exceedingly artificial art form which

involves the wholesale suspension of disbelief by the audience as the price of hearing marvelous music and, one hopes, glorious singing. And it takes very little of this suspension of disbelief to ignore the fact that a singer who is dressed as a man and is singing a vigorous masculine role is not in fact a man at all but a woman -- possibly a quite beautiful one. And that's really how it all began.

Of course only a small proportion of "breeches roles" -- that is, roles for women singing as men -- actually stems originally from the 17th century. In fact, one of the most glorious of all such parts (Octavian in Richard Strauss' "Der Rosenkavalier") was composed as recently as 1910. But the tradition then formed has continued -- after all male opera lovers are no different from other males and a pretty girl's legs are always attractive -- and opera has greatly benefited from it. The use of a soprano or contralto voice instead of a tenor can produce ravishing sounds and may be essential to the work's musical pattern. The trio of sopranos -- the masculine Octavian and the feminine Marschalin and Sophie -- at the end of the last act of "Der Rosenkavalier" is incredibly beautiful and justly famous.

So on the world's opera stages today the presence of women acting as men, of male roles needing soprano or contralto voices, is accepted without comment or question. Women are in any case frequently cast for non-singing male roles of various kinds -- boys, youths, court pages and so on -- but they also play and sing almost every other type of male character imaginable whether it calls for ➡

TIPS FOR FLYING EN FEMME ... *continued*

excluded on the job. If they want to carry the encounter further, they will excuse themselves and move you away from their work area.)

I would also suggest that when choosing an airline you stick with the major carriers. The personnel at some of the new cheap airlines are "temps" and may be untrained or unprofessional. Also, the class of passengers on these airlines tend to be somewhat lacking in the social graces. I hope some of my suggestions will help to make the skies a little friendlier for you. I do not think that traveling should be perceived as a nightmare.

[This article originally appeared in two parts, in "Cross-Talk" issues #2 and #9 (1988-89).]

only a few notes and a minute or two on stage or is one of the principal roles of the whole work.

The reverse situation, however, is not nearly so happy. There was no tradition (or, I would imagine, any possibility) of a female tenor, baritone or bass, and so no need nowadays for a male to sing such parts. There is (alas) no way of dressing a man on the stage in women's clothes to give the same attraction to women in the audience (even if women would be allowed to enjoy such attraction in the face of the inevitable male prejudice) as a pretty girl in breeches and tights gives to men. And so on the whole man to woman transvestism in opera tends to be the same as in other stage presentations -- grotesque and played for laughs. Because of the voice problem -- a soprano "man" is acceptable but a baritone "woman" is not -- the number of instances of which I am aware is very limited and the number I have personally seen produced on the stage is even less.

There are, it is true, a number of operas in which a youth is required to dress as a girl but inevitably in these cases the youth's is a part which is being played by a girl already. This happens in, for instance, Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro" and the already mentioned "Der Rosenkavalier" of Richard Strauss, both of which I have seen a number of times. And it is only with a very clever actress indeed that one can get the feeling that here is a boy dressing as a girl (and the clear female voice doesn't help) and all too often one is presented with

a performance of most unboylike movements by an actress who gets by on her singing rather than on her acting ability.

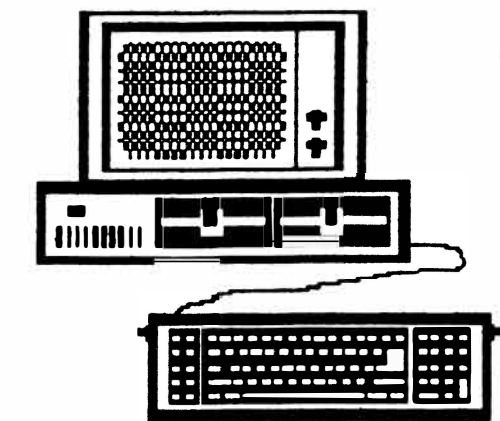
Another situation is that in which the action is influenced by the dressing of a man as a woman but one doesn't actually see it happen. In Puccini's "Tosca", for instance, the sister of an escaped political prisoner has hidden for him an outfit of women's clothes in a church. He finds and takes the bundle but in his haste drops the fan (the date is the year 1800) and this is found and identified by the chief of the State Police. From this moment the plot develops -- ending, incidentally, in the death of the escaped prisoner, the police chief, a friend of the prisoner implicated for helping the escape, and the friend's girlfriend, the Tosca of the title -- but one does not in fact see the man actually dressed in his women's clothes.

A very unusual situation faces the producer of "La Calisto" by Cavalli. This is one of the earliest of operas still in production -- it was composed over 300 years ago -- and deals with mythological characters. Jupiter, the king of the gods, wants to seduce Venus but she's far too aware of his nature to let him get within a mile of her. In a crafty move to outwit her, he transforms himself into an exact double (wish I lived in those days) of the goddess Diana, arguing that Venus will never suspect another woman and anyway Diana is well known to be chaste. From there on he is on stage, sometimes as himself and sometimes as Diana. In the

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production which I saw, Jupiter has a staff of office which he always carries. when he is supposedly disguised as Diana (who is also in the opera herself), then the actress playing that part carries his staff and the audience understands that she is really Jupiter in disguise. When the actress is playing the part of the real Diana herself then she does not carry the staff. This arrangement is explained to the audience in a program note. And very disappointing, too. However, I have seen a photograph of a recent production of "La Calisto" in Germany in which the actor playing Jupiter did really dress as Diana (although his costume was hardly conventional street wear) so it can be done.

And so to actual on-stage impersonations by males. The only one I have seen is "Comte Ory" by Rossini. Here Comte Ory aims to seduce the very virtuous sister of a nobleman who is absent on a crusade. In order to penetrate her castle stronghold he disguises his retainers as nuns and with himself as the Mother Superior represents that they are on a pilgrimage. Because of a thunderstorm they are admitted to the castle and given food but their disguise is penetrated when the liquor, carried in by some of the "nuns," overcomes their discretion and they all become hilariously riotous.

A work I should like to see is "Mavra" by Stravinsky. In this a rich young woman, in order to see more of her soldier boyfriend, introduces him into her all-woman household as her cook. All goes well in this familiar situation which, as a plot, might have come straight from the fiction pages of "Transvestia", until he is caught shaving and has to run for it.

Two others, of which I know virtually nothing, are "Curlew River", by Britten, in which the part of the Madwoman is sung by a tenor, and "Il Campiello", in which, apparently, there is a fight in a market between two women, these parts also being taken by tenors. Another oddity is "Mamelles De Tiresias", by Poulenc, in which, so far as I understand, the hero and heroine change functions and he has a large number of babies, but whether they changes

clothes or not I don't know.

Even as I've been writing this I've read a review of a production of "Le Convenienze e le Inconvenienze Teatrali" by Donizetti. This is apparently produced in Germany as, would you believe, "Vive La Mamma", the Mamma of the title being a bass. So far that's all I know of it.

Finally, just to make your toes curl up, how about this -- some years ago Benjamin Britten composed an all-masculine-character vocal work for the famous Vienna Boys Choir. It was called "The Golden Vanity" and it only had male characters so that, unlike in other such works which the Choir performs, the boys would not have to dress as girls.

How awful --

Not the having to dress as girls --

The not wanting to.

[From "Transvestia" #93. Published 1978 Chevalier Publications/Copyright 1993 Sandy Thomas.]

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CREATING PLACE

by Gianna Eveling Israel

Recently I was sitting in my office doing research when I pulled out a copy of the DSM-III-R, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. This reference is used by the mental health profession in classifying every conceivable human condition affecting one's own sense of self and how others may view you.

References such as these provide a valuable service when a correct diagnosis or label has been applied, thus enabling the caregiver to provide supportive counselling or refer elsewhere for appropriate services. However, these very same labels also prove an irreparable disservice to those dealing with the very humanness of just "being."

Just being in today's society is extremely difficult. We live in what may be called a "dualities mindset" ... resulting in the polarization of individual realities which affect large segments of society. In a polarized mindset, things always must be one or the other. Black or white, good or evil, male or female, masculine or feminine. Thus, making acceptance of natural variations against the "norm" relatively difficult on individual and social levels.

As a whole, we are bombarded with these polarizations through our media, television, advertising, etc. Which invariably portray the narrowest spectrum of humanity. Men are portrayed as aggressive "go-getters" who are resolute in promoting their masculinity through a variety of male-oriented activities. While yet, women are portrayed as weak vulnerable size six's always preening in front of their mirrors for men.

For the transgendered (I use this term broadly), the dualities mindset presents what might be considered an ultimate hell. For transvestites, this means living

partially or completely closeted, for fear that family, friends, co-workers just wouldn't understand. For the transsexual, it means fathoming a partial or full transition under the scrutiny of a hostile society. I admire Kim Stuart's insight on questions of gender in her comprehensive book titled "The Uninvited Dilemma." Her choice of words reflect accurately the journey of those blessed with the "third gender", in a society where self and social integration is relatively difficult when no such gender exists. Like the transgendered, those dealing with alternate sexualities have also had a significant struggle in developing individual, community and social identities. Referring back to the DSM-III-R: Until the early 1970's, homosexuality was classified as a deviant sexual disorder, comparable with pedophilia, zoophilia, etc. After a long difficult struggle, gays and lesbians were able to successfully lobby the American Psychiatric Association to have homosexuality and lesbianism reclassified as an acceptable variance of sexuality. Thus, no more deviant than masturbation or dominant women, a natural inclination amongst humans and certainly not a "mental disorder." Today the gay and lesbian communities have successfully lobbied for the enactment of antidiscrimination statutes on the basis of sexuality in various city, state, and federal jurisdictions. Despite their hard work, the march is not over, as many harmful stereotypes and injustices still exist in a yet uneducated society.

In conversation with my colleague, author Denver Harold, he intuitively suggested that although the gay and lesbian communities appear to have a significantly larger population than the transgendered community, it may very well be that an equal or larger segment of the population may be affected by behaviors stereotyped transvested or transsexualled.

Imagine if all the transgendered people chose to come out of internalized and social closets and refused to accept labels as applied by the "dominant" society.

It has often been suggested that the dominant society displays a wide variety of unacknowledged and unspoken of transgendered behavior. I suggest that stable transgenderism, i.e., transsexualism and transvestism, is in actuality a naturally occurring variation amongst the various extensions of a gender spectrum or continuum. Thus, individuals who have made a naturally occurring shift on the gender spectrum and having found a place of stability as a transsexual or transvestite, are no

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FEMINIZATION THROUGH MEDITATION

PART ONE

by Wendi Seabrecze

Over the last year or more, my articles here in "Cross-Talk" have focused on the metaphysical and spiritual influences on crossdressing, transgenderism and transsexualism. Some of you may reject my theories, while others find what I teach to be quite interesting, while still others of you have continued on in your search for understanding and wisdom, so have become my sorority sister.

In this article you'll discover that it's an extension of thoughts from a "A Gnostic View of Transgenderism" which was published here sometime ago. You may have forgotten by now, but I had then promised to teach you (not preach to you), how control over your own pituitary gland can be a substitute for taking hormones, and/or will enhance and speed the process while going through hormone therapy. As Fantastic as this may sound, you should understand that not everyone has the "willpower" to mediate successfully in order to get results. But it will help you, just for you to know how

your endocrine system operations.

Unfortunately, it would take all the pages of this publication for years to document the functions of your endocrine system, so my main focus will be directed towards the importance of your pituitary gland in relationship to your gonads. In an article to follow, I'll write about a fun way for girls like us to mediate, and then to use the knowledge of this article, mostly on a mundane level, or in a subconscious way. In this article I can only tell you how the endocrine system affects the physiology of your beautiful earthly form.

In preparation, I did have to make a trip to the library. Not because I didn't already know what I wish you to know, but because my knowledge of the endocrine system must be presented as accurately as possible. The flipside to my research, is my lifelong awareness of my own inner selves and etheric body. Briefly, for those of you that don't know, your etheric body is basically your ➡

CREATING PLACE ... continued

less a naturally occurring variation of gender in humanity, than is the individual who has had relatively fewer questions of gender.

Gender dysphoria is usually the term applied by the mental health profession as a label for those who encounter questions of gender. Transsexualism and transvestism are the terms applied which label us as the "other", both suggesting some unhuman abnormality. In working with clients, I have always enjoyed reframing these terms into a more positive human application, thus, being on "The Journey of Becoming" who one is. For indeed, dealing with questions of gender, is just that. Acknowledging, interpreting, and thus developing an individual sense of self and of gender is part of every individual's life journey. As we continually move through the act of becoming, our cycle of life, it is with hope that one at some point will be able to acknowledge internally and externally, "This is where I came from," and, "This is who I am (today)." This cycle of becoming defined within one's own sense of self and of gender is not exclusive to the transgendered experience, because it is basically an innate experience all humans share.

It would thus seem, that an individual who has developed a refined sense of self and a comfortable place along the gender spectrum (in today's society), while furthermore being affordably comfortable with saying "This is where I came from,"

and, "This is who I am today.". They would appear to have found a position of mental health within this lifejourney, and not necessarily be mentally disordered or deviant as the labels would indicate.

As we move through the process of "becoming", as humans, as transgendered, a significantly healthy step involves being able to share our experiences and lifejourney with others. With practice, sharing our inner selves becomes habitual, and as we feel more comfortable, we can thus choose to move on crosseducating our friends, family, colleagues, community, and society. Hopefully as others witness our ability to "share who we are", they too, will feel comfortable moving on, fulfilling their lifejourneys, and designating respect to all lifeprocesses.

In closing, I would like you to take note that even in writing I have often referred to society, in a polarized fashion, as the "other." Remember, we are a part of society that makes up the whole. Therefore, as our journeys continue, as we gain internal strengths, we don't have to become a victim to society...but rather, be encouraged to develop a sense of self, a sense of family, a sense of community, and a part of a society we create and affect.

[Gianna Eveling Israel is a gender and life transitions counselor in San Francisco. She may be reached by calling (415) 558-8058.]

electromagnetic form consisting of many parts and energy centers more commonly called chakras. We will return to the chakras later, because it is by commanding these that your endocrine system is controlled.

The next few paragraphs may be a bit boring, but please read it, so you understand how things occur (and why) with your body. Plainly explained, the endocrine glands are a group of very specially cells that secrete chemical substances called hormones that act in minute amounts on other tissues, organs and all physiological processes. The endocrine glands are as follows: the pituitary (posterior and anterior lobes), your thyroid and parathyroid, pancreatic islets, adrenal cortex and adrenal medulla, ovaries and testes. Also can be included are the pineal and thymus glands, which today still have relatively obscure functions.

The pituitary gland, which is probably the most important organ within our bodies -- excluding our heart and brain -- is located beneath the central portion of the grey matter within our skull. This sometimes mystical gland is divided anatomically into the anterior portion which secretes at least six active substances (proteins or polypeptides), and the posterior lobe which secretes two hormones. These two hormones are not really important to feminization, but are interesting to know. They are somatotrophin (a growth hormone), and intermedin (which defines the tint/pigment of your skin).

It should be explained that the pituitary gland (or master gland) actually controls and maintains the flow of hormones which are secreted by other endocrine glands: such as thyrotrophin (which enhances the rate of secretions by the thyroid gland) and the important corticotrophin (which affects the adrenals). A more familiar one is prolactin, which is found in large amounts in both sexes. It is fascinating that when the mammary glands are primed with estrogen and progesterone, prolactin will promote the secretion of milk.

This should all be interesting to those of you girls who ingest female hormones, or for those of you that are considering it ... please read on. What you need to know is how estrogen and progesterone are generated with the female and male body! This is where the gonadotrophins -- which are secreted by the anterior lobe of the pituitary gland -- find their importance with us. The first of these three gonadotrophins is the follicle stimulating hormone (FSH). The second is the luteinizing hormone (LH), and third is the interstitial cell stimulating hormone (ICSH).

The M2F or F2M TS, or any CD or TG who wishes to experience more of the true essence of the opposite sex, will want to control the flow of these hormones. FSH in a woman causes the Graafian follicle containing the egg to grow to full size, while stimulating the secretion of estrogen by the ovaries. This in return alerts more LH to be produced, and causes the rupture of the corpus luteum (maybe pregnancy) which then secretes progesterone. In males, FSH promotes the LH cells of Leydig to secrete androgens, which are androsterone and testosterone, from the testes. The absence of androgens in our blood stream is our secret to feminization.

Why? The teste of the human male produce considerable amounts of estrogen ... yet it's the adrenal cortex that produces the balance of male hormones to hold this in check! I don't believe those who support the use of hormones or those that sell them, have ever told you this before. And has anyone ever told you that when you inject or swallow Premarin (et al) or Provera (et al), you're ingesting steroids? No, I doubt that they have.

Nevertheless, the question is ... how does any transgendered mortal regulate the ratio of hormones that gush through your veins? This is the difficult part of this article, because the next step is to teach you about your etheric body. Though let us not use the word "etheric," for it portrays an image of something too metaphysical. It's hard enough to comprehend the physiological aspects of creation, much less believe in something unseen. Yet, for

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the sake of at least this article, let's believe in our electromagnetic body (EMB).

Believe this body of energy and light is within you, and a part of you, so you'll have an easier time understanding my hypothesis. Your EMB consists of an aura which emanates from seven (maybe eight) chakras, which we call energy point centers or EPCs. These "mini-blackholes" are voids in your electromagnetic body that absorb vibrations on their each individual level. Through these voids, energy is digested and distributed throughout your EMB. The more energy retained in each EPC, the healthier your physical body will be. This is because each EPC directly affects the seven endocrine glands.

What is called the root EPC is the lowest of all EPCs and in the general location of your testes or ovaries, so it would directly affect their vigor and the amount of hormones which are secreted from there. The navel EPC likewise regulates your adrenals; the solar plexus EPC, your pancreas; your heart EPC, your thymus; your throat EPC, your thyroid; your brow EPC, your pituitary; and your crown EPC, your pineal gland.

Remember, the function of your thymus gland is now being studied. I've known about it for a long time. Because it is related to your heart EPC, the thymus is important. When some emotion is powerful enough to stir you, energy is released throughout your electromagnetic body and your physical body. The rush you experience near your heart when you love someone or something is caused by thymus. Also, if you're anything like me, the sight, the feel and wearing a pretty demure dress can take your breath away, as that rush of energy is released throughout your chest. This all begins in your root EPC in certain instances, which can be good or bad. A person who is "too" sexually active and has "their brain in their pants" will have a difficult time becoming spiritual! Hence the lack of



Reflections

Reflections

by Chrys Julian

I stared at the mirror,
What did I see?
A Beautiful Lady
Looking back at me

I stared at the mirror,
What did I see?
A handsome man
Looking back at me

Eyes so familiar
With lips that shine,
Can this be true?
Are they really mine?

Eyes so familiar
With lips so long,
Can this be true?
Or is something wrong?

A figure curvaceous,
Head all in curls,
Draped in Satin and Lace
Can I be that girl?

Broad shoulders frame
Large strong hands,
Dressed in shirt and tie
Can I be that man?

Imaginations made real?
Can this really be?
Am I finally the girl
I always wanted to be?

Imaginations made real?
Can this really be?
Am I still the man
I always have had to be?

(You'll need a mirror for the whole story.)

control over your pituitary gland and your hormonal balance.

Later in this series I'll teach you some fun ways to mediate. Until then, it's a great idea to accept yourself for who you are, and to realize that having an awareness of the mystics will "show you" that what I'm teaching is true. For proof, just observe a Hare Krishna at the airport or a religious guru on television. Notice how feminine some of them act!



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THOUGHTS ON GOING PUBLIC

by R.E.M.

Crossdressers frequently lament the unfairness that women can wear men's clothes with impunity, while it is taboo for men to appear in public dressed as women. Some of the bolder crossdressers argue that crossdressing will never be accepted unless we are willing to crossdress in public. But how? Those who can pass plausibly as women are already venturing out with wigs, brassieres, padding, makeup, and shaved arms, legs, and any other part of the anatomy where women are hairless or shaved.

But I suggest that disguising ourselves as women is not the way to get crossdressing accepted. Mind you, I have no objection to anyone's trying to pass with wigs, makeup, and other paraphernalia. But passing successfully will not accomplish the goal of being accepted as men wearing skirts, since the public will not realize that those passing are men. If they do detect the deception, they may tactfully say nothing, they may snicker, or they may become violent, but there is not likely to be general acceptance of men made over to appear as women.

Women, after all, do not ordinarily try to pass as men except in films like "Sylvia Scarlett" or "Victor/Victoria". When women wear pants, they are usually feminine pants, not men's pants, except for unisex jeans. Below the pants, they may be wearing stockings and heels. Even if they wear a

man's shirt instead of a blouse, they do not bind their breasts, take off their makeup, and get a masculine haircut. They appear simply as women wearing pants.

It seems to me that the way to win acceptance for men's wearing skirts is for them to do just that -- to make no attempt to impersonate women but to appear in public frankly as men wearing skirts. (In half of the world, mostly in Asia and Africa, men often wear skirts.) Faking breasts, wearing makeup and wigs, will defeat the purpose. Among support groups, the whole feminine impersonation is fine, but it is likely either to fool or alienate the public.

What I suggest is that crossdressers try going out in public wearing a man's shirt and/or jacket, no makeup, men's shoes, with a plain long skirt -- a miniskirt will not do. I have sometimes done this myself -- put on a blue workshirt and an ankle-length black skirt or a brown shirt and matching brown skirt. Possibly a plain long dress would do also. Since I have a moustache, which I keep because my wife, who is quite supportive of crossdressing, would be unhappy to have me shave off (she quotes a French proverb that a kiss without a moustache is like salad without dressing), there is no mistaking me for a woman. With a man's shirt or jacket and a plain long skirt, I do not look feminine, even though I may have a lacy half-slip on under the skirt.

Dressed this way, I have gone out shopping, to the movies, to rent videotapes, or simply for a walk, and no one has raised an eyebrow, let alone made a snide remark or offered any hostility. For home or the privacy of support groups, I have a wardrobe of lacy lingerie, dresses and ball gowns, but a man wearing them in public would never be accepted unless he succeeded in passing. And the goal for equal treatment with women, who do not pretend to be men while wearing pants, is not to pretend to be women but to be allowed as men to wear skirts.

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(from "Transvestia" #67, 1971: Author unknown)

Mrs. Cooper looked at her son with a mixture of regret and disgrace -- the latter emotion predominating. After all, it might be expected -- though never hoped for -- that one's child might well run into a snag with the authorities at one time or another during the stormy process of growing up. Nevertheless, it was rather humiliating to have to stand in court and listen while the judge recited the various charges against Peter: vandalism and disorderly conduct (he had been cleared of the stolen car charge when it was pointed out that he had not actually gotten into the car when the rest of the gang had gone joy riding).

The problem was, Peter did not even seem remorseful about it, but had rather stood there sullenly while the judge pronounced the rather lenient sentence of probation to his parents, with the stipulation that continued attendance at school and an improvement in his scholastic averages be maintained. Peter had merely shrugged, a distinctly recognizable sneer on his fourteen year old face. With that, the judge lost his temper; "Young man! It is a shame that the courts are no longer permitted to sentence juveniles to floggings, for it is obvious to the court that you have not the slightest idea of decency or discipline. Recognizing the fact that your parents are in part responsible for this lack in your upbringing, I'm never-the-less further stipulating that if you are seen on the streets -- anywhere -- after six p.m., without either of your parents, you will immediately be sent to the state reformatory." The gavel descended with a resounding smack.

That evening, the Coopers tried to talk to their son, but despite their pleading with him in the name of all that is virtuous, it became obvious that he was paying no mind to them. Eventually he slouched upstairs and began to play the radio very loudly. Mr. and Mrs. Cooper talked for several hours about what they were going to do, but neither had anything constructive to say. The idea of physically punishing the boy was beyond both of them. They were interrupted by the telephone. One of the neighbors was saying something in an excited voice about someone climbing in a window upstairs. Mr. Cooper found his Service automatic and rushed upstairs. A quick search revealed only their son, in bed, asleep. Puzzled, they were about to leave the room when Mrs. Cooper quickly pulled the blankets down, revealing their son, fully dressed. Two

minutes later, they found that he had been the mysterious prowler. The judge's warning had had no effect and the boy had simply climbed out the window, returning via the same route several hours later. Mrs. Cooper sat on the bed, shaking her head back and forth, saying, "What are we going to do with you?" over and over. Peter chose to ignore them.

Neither of the Coopers got much sleep that night. They would have benefitted by the judge's comments had they chosen to remember them. For it is a primary lesson among those who train mules and other stubborn animals that very often the first and most important step in training is attracting undivided attention and that very often, if not always, the best, fastest and most thorough method of obtaining this is a well aimed blow on top of the head -- or other appropriate part of the anatomy.

Peter was sent off to school the next morning with the usual admonition to "Please be good!" He responded in typical fashion: once he had rounded the corner, he simply walked in the opposite direction and spent the better part of the day with some of his friends. By mid-morning the school had called Mrs. Cooper and she immediately called her husband. Whether it was concern or panic, he quickly asked his employer for time in order to find the boy.

The boss was instantly sympathetic, even offering his help in finding the boy before it was too late. Cooper refused, but his employer was not to be deterred. "You know, Cooper, you're too easy on your boy. Why, I had the same problem with my youngest for a long time." Cooper stared at him in disbelief. The boss' youngest son had been an honor student in high school, college, and was now excelling at the Harvard Business School; surely he was jesting.

"Yeah, you're too easy. Look, let me tell you how we handled our situation -- and believe me, it was even worse." After about half an hour, Cooper was still staring in disbelief. If his boss was telling the truth, he had had an even worse case, but the solving of it ... that was something else! "And that's all there was to it!" the boss continued. "Now then, Cooper, we've wasted enough time. Let's find that kid of yours before the police do."

Actually, finding Peter was relatively simple. The boss had suggested several likely spots and in the third of these -- a seldom used part of the ➡

railroad switch yard -- they found him. Locating him was easy; however, he was in company with several other boys, all looking uniformly unkempt with bushy haircuts and greasy jackets. Some of them were throwing knives at a board and all of them had cigarettes dangling from one corner of their mouths. "God, I'm afraid to go down there!" said Cooper.

"You must," said the boss, "And remember, don't back down. Remember what I told you."

With a feeling that his knees had turned to Jell-o, Cooper walked down and embankment toward the group of boys who turned to watch him unconcernedly. Cooper walked directly into the circle and stood between his son's outstretched feet. "Get up, Peter!" he commanded with what he hoped was an authoritative tone. Peter ignored him. Remembering then the tone of voice with which he had once lashed a company of men into a fanatic body of highly efficient assault troops, he roared out the command again and simultaneously placed one foot under the boy's thigh and heaved. Peter went sprawling but rose to his feet quickly, looking at his father with hate in his eyes. Cooper merely stepped over to him, grabbed one arm and quickly twisted it behind the boy's back. Howling in pain, and an unaccustomed fear, the boy danced ahead of him away from the group of boys. A shout from up the embankment of "Look out!" caused Cooper to relapse into forgotten combat skills. With a single motion, he pushed his son forward and onto the ground, turned and with a smooth gesture intercepted the up-flung arm of the attacking boy, and with a sideways step, hooked the boy's ankle and flipped him. The knife dropped at Cooper's feet while the tightly held arm gave out an ominous crack. Cooper dropped the boy, then picked up the knife and broke the blade with his foot and threw the pieces across the yard. none of the rest of the group moved. He turned back to his son who was watching wide eyed. "Get up!" "Y-yes, sir." The boy scrambled ahead of him up the embankment. Once seated in the boss' car, Cooper was aware of a very fatigued feeling as the adrenaline drained from his system.

"Very neatly done," his boss congratulated him. "Thanks. And thanks for the warning." Meanwhile, Peter sat in awed silence.

They dropped the boy off at the school; the boss went in with them and the pair of them talked briefly with the principal. Peter went off to class.

When they left the school, Cooper was told to take the rest of the day off. "Frankly, you look a wreck just at the moment. Besides, you'll need the time to do the rest, right?" "Well ... yes, but haven't we

done enough?"

"Look, Cooper, I'm not doing this for my health, you know. And I'm not saying there's not other ways, but I know this way works. But I can see you won't do it unless I prod you a little. Let's go to your house, I want to call the office and tell my secretary where I am. We can talk to your wife when we get there."

The two men informed Mrs. Cooper of all that had transpired and she was incredulous; however, when the entire plan was laid open, her reaction was different from her husband's. She laughed delightedly. "How wonderful! Well, Henry, I have some shopping to do, it seems. How much can we spend?" The boss snorted and said, "I knew somehow I'd end up paying for all this. Here's your Christmas bonus," as he handed several heroic looking bills to Mrs. Cooper. "But ... but ... it's only April," sputtered Mr. Cooper. "So?" the boss asked, "Well then, you can come over and mow my lawn sometime."



When Peter Cooper returned to his home that afternoon, he received the second major shock of the day. He had been tempted to look up some of the gang, but he decided not to, after all, they might not really appreciate what his father had done, and secondly, he had learned to respect his father in a limited way ... next time it might be his arm that was broken.

He was surprised to see both his parents waiting for him. They usually didn't pay much attention to him. This was, after all, a special occasion, as he soon found out.

"What do you mean?" he squealed. "I'm not going to wear those things!" "Oh yes you are," his father said ominously, "In fact, if you don't start in five seconds, I'm going to beat the living hell out of you!" In the face of such undeniable logic, the boy turned to meet a fate worse than death.

Peter was absolutely humiliated; Mr. Cooper was skeptically neutral; Mrs. Cooper was obviously pleased. "I always wanted a daughter," she said as she finished zipping up the dress' back for her son.

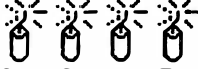
(TO BE CONTINUED. Copyright 1993 Sandy Thomas.)

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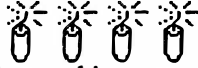
HotStuff!

"You cannot be anything if you want to be everything."

Hello babies! Time for more HotStuff. Have you noticed all the leather in ads lately? Revlon ads use Claudia Schiffer (I want her body!) who bares her midriff for an "Outrageous Lips" campaign. Most of the clothing used in these ads are skin-tight pants. Check out Valentino and Escada -- HOT!



According to the NewsQueen, Paula Jordan Sinclair, the new Revlon nail polish is FABULOUS! It dries faster, looks shinier, and is more chip proof than the old formula. The other good news is that they've taken out the formaldehyde and toluene. Look for the bottles with the four golden rings on the top.



The latest research on skin care reveals that an old stand-by, Vaseline, really does do more than just coat the skin. The jelly penetrates the top layers of skin replacing depleted lipids and healing damaged skin. (You do know about depleted lipids, don't you sweets?) Anyway, before you start slathering the Vaseline all over your face, look for a moisturizer that has petrolatum as the first ingredient.



First came the HipSlip. Then the ThighSlimmer. Now we've got a whole tribe of body-squeezing lingerie. Check these out: Bellybuster, Bustbooster, Bustboosting Bodyslip, Bustboosting Bodysuit, and the list goes on. All are made with DuPont Lycra. Call 1-800-426-SLIP for more info.



I've been asking about "Sugaring" as a form of hair removal for several years and I finally found out it's much like waxing. But, according to "Glamour", it's less irritating and requires only an eighth-inch of growth compared to the quarter-inch with wax. Problem is, very few salons know how to do it. I still don't have a clue as to the actual technique. Anyone care to enlighten us?



Honey, all he had to do was ask us. William Gaylin (there's a clue), M.D. has written "The Male Ego", wherein he claims traditional masculinity is obsolete and dangerous. (Has he been reading "Cross-Talk"?) To wit: "... the biological mechanism that brought us out of the cave -- the fight or flight response -- is now hurting men. They constantly over-respond with

fear and anger."



When Hell freezes over, hon. Every so often a major designer tries to convince the guys that they, too, can wear skirts. The latest attempt at feminizing the hairy masses comes from Donna Karan who showed Mr. Macho in a sarong wrap skirt and wool blazer. Tres chic, but the socks and wingtips have got to go!



Eyeshadow compacts usually contain one shade you'll never wear or one that you use up before the others. Prescriptives is going to change all that with their mix-n-match compact. They have 36 different shadows. You pick the ones you like and the salesperson makes up your compact on the spot.




Okay. Pay attention! Here's a quick course in lipstick-ology: Matte -- unshiny color, used to be dry, but no more, try Christian Dior Rouge Accent or Body Shop Rosewood; Satin -- is the hottest new style, halfway between matte and glossy, try Borghese Bassano Ruby; Cream (or glossy) looks moist and wet, try Maybelline Brown Sugar or Almay Blaze; Frost -- has a pearly shine to it, try Ultima II Oh La La or Coty Hyacinth; Pencils -- can be used to line lips or as a base color, capture Lancome's Le Crayon or Clarins Red #04.



Didya know that just over 51 percent of the population is female, yet only 3 of 50 governors are women, only 2 of 100 senators are women and only 1 out of 9 Supreme Court justices is a woman? As I write, women all over the country are poised to rewrite the political landscape. Should be an interesting election and a very interesting next four years.



I am often complimented on my "youthful" appearance (she says humbly) even tho' I am "forty-something," yet I do have fine lines around my eyes that I wish I could banish. Avon may just have the answer with a product called "Anew." This product contains a patented formula of Glycolic Compounds that work by removing dead surface skin -- sorta like Retin-A. Avon claims you'll 

see smoother skin in two weeks or your money back.



Several waitresses in Atlantic City casinos have taken their employers to court over their skimpy costumes charging sex discrimination since the male waiters don't have to wear revealing clothing. Cited were very sheer hosiery, 3-inch high heels, high cut body suits and deep cleavage. Complaining! Hrumph, the nerve. I know crossdressers who'd kill to be able to wear a costume like that. Hey, maybe the casinos should hire CDs!



The proper eyebrow shape can make a great deal of difference to your look. According to my fave

makeup artist, Rex, here's the scoop: Round face: aim the end of the brow toward the tip of the ear; Square face: slope brow toward the middle of the ear; Oval face: curve brow toward lower part of the ear.



Here's a cheap-trick from my good friend and Ann-Margret impersonator Morgan Stevens. Don't pay those big bucks for glittery pantyhose this holiday season. Buy a regular pair of sheer black hose and a can of silver or gold hair glitter. Put on the hose and spray them with the glitter. Neat, and it washes out too. ➡37



THE ADVENTURES OF KAREN

KAREN'S GLAMOUR TIPS #11

BREAST FORMS

THEY COME IN MANY SHAPES AND KINDS OF MATERIALS - BUT THERE'S STILL ONE THING YOU SHOULD ALWAYS REMEMBER...

©1993 Karen Michaels

DON'T ORDER THEM TOO BIG OR YOU'LL LIKELY END-UP A LITTLE TOO TOP-HEAVY!

WHAM! (RIGHT)

WHAM! (LEFT)

©Karen Michaels

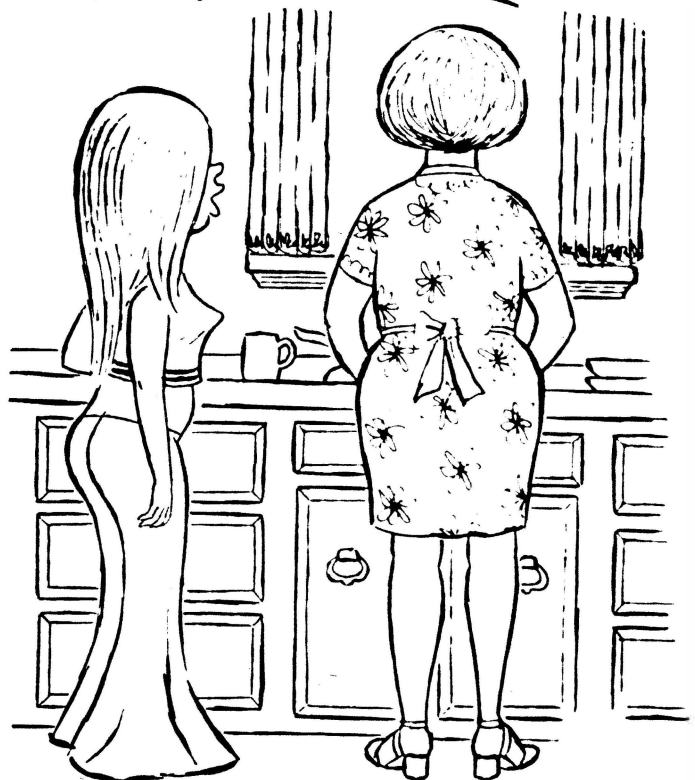
THE PASSING SCENE by Kay Lightner

I'll get you for this, BOB

MY NEXT HUSBAND WILL BE NORMAL

ROBERTA ALWAYS STROVE TO PASS—EVEN AT COUPLES ONLY MEETINGS

Kay Lightner 1992



"Dad, I need your help. My wife doesn't understand me."



KHEN-DRAA, TRANSGENDERED WARRIOR

by Kym & Beppi



AN OVERZEALOUS KHEN-DRAA (AKA MARK TAYLOR) HAS ASSUMED THE EARTH FORM OF "KENDRA" BUT HER ASSISTANT, CADET JHUU-HEE OF THE TZARHEE CENTRAL COMMAND WASN'T READY FOR HER DOING THAT...





BUT... BACK IN MY APARTMENT YOU SAID I DIDN'T NEED THE SHIP'S AUTO-WHAT-CHAMACALLIT TO CHANGE FORMS...?

TRUE, BUT...



... YOU MUST EITHER HAVE A FORM PRESENT TO DUPLICATE OR ASSUME A FORM YOU HAVE USED BEFORE. SO IF YOU DO NOT PREFER THE FORM YOU PRESENTLY HAVE, YOUR ONLY OTHER OPTION AT THE PRESENT IS TO DUPLICATE MINE.



NO THANKS. IF I HAVE TO BE A GUY I'D RATHER BE ONE I'M A LITTLE USED TO.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

SINCE I HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHETHER OR NOT LCHAR-ZHIL WAS ABLE TO TRACE US THROUGH YOUR AUTO-MONITOR, I ACTIVATED CERTAIN SECURITY PRECAUTIONS ON MY SHIP.



SHOULD LCHAR-ZHIL SUCCEED IN FINDING MY SHIP, IT WILL TRANSMIT AN ALARM TO ME THEN DESTROY ITS AUTO-MONITOR RECORDS SO THAT HE CANNOT LOCATE US.

OF COURSE, IF THAT HAPPENS WE COULD NO LONGER TELEPORT...



AND I LOSE FURTHER TRACK OF MY OWN BODY, I SUPPOSE.

POSSIBLY NOT. IT IS NOT LIKELY LCHAR-ZHIL WOULD DESTROY YOUR SHIP. HE PREFERS TO ACCUMULATE AS MANY POSSESSIONS AS HE CAN.



SO IF WE CAN RETURN TO YOUR SHIP AND IF LCHAR-ZHIL HAS NOT DESTROYED YOUR SHIP'S AUTO-MONITOR, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACCESS THE RECORDS.

AND IF WE CAN'T RETURN...?

THEN I HOPE YOU LIKE THE WAY YOU APPEAR NOW...

TO BE CONTINUED !

NATIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

February 26-28, 1993: "Texas T Party", San Antonio TX, sponsored by Boulton & Park Society. Information from P.O. Box 700042, San Antonio 78270, or phone (512) 545-3668.

March 14-21, 1993: International Foundation for Gender Education "Coming Together" convention, Philadelphia PA. Details from IFGE, P.O. Box 367, Wayland MA 01778.

April 22-25, 1993: "Moonlight In Manhattan", New York City, sponsored by the Greater New York Gender Alliance. Information from Lynda Frank, 330 W. 45th St. #3E, New York NY 10036, or by calling (212) 765-3561.

April 28-May 2, 1993: "California Dreamin'", Burbank CA, sponsored by Powder Puffs of Orange County. Details from P.O. Box 1088, Yorba Linda CA 92686.

May 20-23, 1993: "Paradise in the Poconos", Canadensis PA, sponsored by Creative Design Services. Information from CDS, P.O. Box 61263, King of Prussia PA 19406, or by calling (215) 640-9449.

May 20-24, 1993: "Dignity Cruise IV" to the Bahamas, sponsored by Dr. Peggy Rudd. Information from Dr. Rudd, 1811 Crutchfield, Katy TX 77449, or by calling (713) 347-6563. Reservations through Cruise Ahoy (Attention: Anne), 11211 Katy Freeway #300, Houston TX 77079, or call (713) 556-1513.

June 9-13, 1993: 11th Annual "Be All You Can Be" weekend, Chicago IL. Co-sponsored by Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Crossroads, Paradise Club, and TransPitt. Details from Naomi Owen, P.O. Box 342, Chicago IL 60690, or by calling (708) 364-9514.

July 9 & 10, 1993: "S.P.I.C.E. (Spouses/Partners International Conference for Education)", Dallas TX, sponsored by Tri-Ess' W.A.C.S. (Women Associated with Crossdressers). Details from P.O. Box 17, Bulverde TX 78163, or call (512) 438-7604.

August 26-29, 1993: Second International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policies. Houston TX. Write Phyllis Randolph Frye, Attorney, 5707 Firenza, Houston TX 77035 for information.

September 16-19, 1993: "Paradise in the Poconos" (see May 20-23 listing).

(Please send information on national gender community events to P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365.)

HotStuff! ...continued from p.33

Remember "Megatrends"? now the authors John Naisbitt and Patricia Aburdene (since married to each other) have published "Megatrends for Women", a study of the ways women are asserting their power and causing change everywhere. I know a couple of our community leaders who'll need this book.



Laser surgery can remove ugly birthmarks and other unsightly skin marks. Skin laser treatments start at \$300 but many health insurance plans do not cover the procedures (cosmetic surgery). Contact the American Society for Laser Medicine & Surgery, 2404 Stewart Square, Wausau, WI 54401 to find a laser surgeon near you.



Well, the presidential election is over and "our side" won, I think. It would seem that Bill Clinton will be supportive of the concept of diversity. But we cannot afford complacency, especially now after an apparent victory. Even though the anti-gay amendment, Measure 9, was defeated in Oregon, the Oregon Citizens Alliance, the sponsor of the measure, will not take the set-back lightly. Meanwhile, the dunderheads in Colorado did pass an anti-gay amendment to that state's constitution. It is up to us to get off our collective asses and do some real constructive work in the political arena. As we used to say -- If you're not part of the

solution, you're part of the problem.



We've got an IFGE election coming up in a few months for new and renewed board members. Consider these words of IBM's Buck Rodgers when you consider who to vote for: "The world is advancing and that means that an organization must be willing to change and improve. The only sacred cow in an organization is its principles." And these: "Sacred Cows make the best hamburger!" -- Yours Truly (kiss, kiss)



Congratulations to the girls (and family members) of Renaissance, Joanne White, Bonnie Allen, Andrea Susan, her son Gary and Alison Laing's partner Dottie for their awards received at Fantasia Fair 1992. Goes to show that Renaissance people make an impact no matter where they go.



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**IF YOU LIKE THE NEW MAGAZINE-FORMAT
"CROSS-TALK" ... PLEASE TELL A FRIEND !**

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL HOTLINES

- >> These hotlines are run by non-profit organizations, and may not be answered "live" at all times as a result.
- >> Listings followed by % are for groups known to be sexually-oriented; listings followed by # are for primarily TS-oriented groups; listings followed by @ are for heterosexual TV/CDs only. Most other listings are for "open" (both TV/CD and TS) groups.
- >> While we make every effort to keep this listing updated, phone numbers may change without notice.

NEW ENGLAND REGION:

CD Network, Rochester: (716) 251-2312
Chi Delta Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, NYC: (201) 663-0772 @
Connecticut Outreach Society, Hartford: (203) 371-6292
East Coast F2M Group, Cambridge: (413) 584-7616 #
Eulenspiegel Society, NYC: (212) 477-6588 %
Expressing Our Nature, Rochester: (212) 629-5750
Gender Identity Program, NYC: (212) 969-0888 #
Girls' Night Out, NYC: (212) 794-1665 ext 202
Harriet Lane's TV Set, CT: (203) 237-1968
Int'l. Foundation for Gender Education: (617) 894-8340
Long Island Femme Expression: (718) 446-6753
Metropolitan Gender Network, NYC: (201) 794-1665 ext 332
My Choice, Baltimore: (410) 732-4546
Outreach Institute, N. Portland: (207) 775-0858
Pink Flamingoes, Boston: (617) 536-5639
Renaissance Education Ass'n.: (215) 630-1437
Renaissance Greater Philadelphia Chapter: (215) 946-8887
Renaissance LSV Chapter, Harrisburg: (717) 780-1578
Renaissance S. Jersey Chapter: (609) 641-3782
Rhode Island Society, Newport: (401) 847-1035
Tiffany Club, Boston: (508) 358-2305
Transgenderists Independence Club, Albany: (518) 436-4513
Transpitt, Pittsburgh: (412) 781-0257
Transsupport, Portland: (207) 676-5870
Washington-Baltimore Alliance: (301) 277-5475
XX (Twenty) Club, Hartford: (203) 646-8651 #

THE SOUTH:

American Educational Gender Info. Service: (404) 939-0244
Atlanta Gender Explorations: (404) 962-3118 #
Beta Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Mississippi: (601) 982-7678 @
Black Rose, Arlington: (301) 369-7667 %
Carolina Trans-Sensual Alliance, Charlotte: (704) 551-8838
GDA North Carolina: (704) 982-1028
Gender Information Network, Gainesville: (904) 332-8178
Montgomery Institute, Augusta: (404) 603-9426 #
M.O.R.E., Ft. Lauderdale: (305) 966-2138
Mu Sigma Chapter Tri-Ess, Arkansas: (501) 972-1826 @
Phi Epsilon Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, Central FL: (407) 677-9540 @
Reality, Orlando: (407) 425-4527 #
Serenity, Hollywood: (305) 436-9477
Starburst, Tampa-St. Petersburg: (813) 866-0438
Virginia's Secret, Richmond: (804) 741-1187

MIDWEST & VICINITY:

Central Illinois Gender Assoc.: (309) 444-9918
Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Chicago: (708) 364-9514 @
Chicago Gender Society: (312) 434-5445
City of Lakes Crossgender Comm., Minn'pls: (612) 229-3613
Cross-Port, Cincinnati: (513) 474-9557
Crossdressers & Friends, Kansas City: (913) 381-8887
Crystal Club, Columbus: (614) 777-0648
Crossroads, Detroit: (313) 537-3267
Gender Dysphoria Support, Shawnee Mss'n: (913) 371-0658 #
Indiana Crossdressers Society, Indianapolis: (317) 894-8109
Iowa Artistry, Cedar Rapids: (319) 842-2654
N.G.D.O., Detroit: (313) 842-5258 #
Quad-City Society for Sex. Ed., Davenport: (319) 324-9641
St. Louis Gender Foundation: (314) 567-8615
Sunday Society, Chicago: (312) 252-7024

SOUTHWEST/MOUNTAIN REGION:

Alpha Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Amarillo: (806) 359-7714 @
Bluebonnet Coalition, San Antonio: (512) 656-4163
Boulton & Park Society, San Antonio: (512) 545-3668
CrossDressers International, Tulsa: (918) 582-6643
Delta Omega Chapter Tri-Ess, Dallas: (817) 261-3253 @

Eta Tau Chapter Tri-Ess, Austin: (512) 438-7604 @
First Saturday, El Paso: (505) 434-5144
Gender Crisis Help Line, Tucson: (602) 293-3456
Gender Identity Center, Denver: (303) 458-5378
Gulf Coast Transgender Community, Houston: (713) 780-3553
Heart of Texas Gender Alliance, San Angelo: (915) 944-1381
Help Me ... Accept Me, Dallas: (214) 404-1926
ReCast, Dallas: (214) 641-4842 #
Second Image, Austin: (512) 778-5460
Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess) Nat'l.: (512) 438-7788 @
TS Peer Support, Houston: (713) 333-2278 #
Tau Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Houston: (713) 988-8064 @
Tri-Plex Gender Association, Waco: (817) 867-1077

PACIFIC NORTHWEST:

Emerald City, Seattle: (206) 284-1071
Northwest Gender Alliance, Portland: (503) 774-8463
Rose City Gender Center, Portland: (503) 230-1036
Salmacis Feminist Social Society, Eugene: (503) 688-4282
Transsexual Lesbians & Friends, Seattle: (206) 292-1037 #

THE WEST COAST (CA & HI):

Alpha Chapter Tri-Ess, Los Angeles: (213) 876-6141 @
American Transsexual Education Center: (213) 469-4709 #
Androgyny, Santa Monica: (213) 467-8317
CHIC, Los Angeles: (310) 420-2580 @
Diablo Valley Girls, Concord: (510) 849-4122
Educational TV Channel, San Francisco: (510) 549-2665
Feminine Image, Riverside/San Bernardino: (714) 931-1515
Hawaii Transgendered Outreach, Honolulu: (808) 923-4270
Neutral Corner, San Diego: (619) 685-3696
Powder Puffs of Orange County, Anaheim: (714) 779-9013
Rainbow Gender Association, San Jose: (408) 984-4044
Sacramento Gender Association: (800) 585-7742
Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess) Calif.: (209) 688-9246 @
Swan's Inner Sorority, San Jose: (408) 297-1423

CANADA:

Canadian Crossdressers Club, Toronto: (416) 921-6112
Club Met, Montreal: (514) 528-8874
Entre Femme, Quebec: (418) 529-1132 #
Gender Mosaic, Ottawa: (613) 749-5203
Illusions Social Club, Calgary: (403) 486-9661
Monarch Social Club, Ontario: (416) 949-6602

U.K.:

Beaumont Society, London: 081-756-1782
Gender Dysphoria Trust, London: 0323-641100 #
GenTrust, London: 071-730-7453
Liverbirds, Liverpool: 051-709-4745
New TransEssex: 0268-583761
Rose's, Sheffield: 0742-342870
Scottish TV/TS Group, Edinburgh: 031-556-4049
TV/TS Support Group, London: 071-729-1466

OTHER OVERSEAS:

Germany: Transidentitas, Offenbach: 069.800.10.08
Transvestitengruppe, Berlin: 030.882.23.70
TV Club Hamburg: 040.250.13.13
Belfast Butterfly, Rep. of Ireland: (0232) 322 023
De Stichting Reborn, Netherlands: 31104503469
Seahorse Society of NSW, Australia: 02-569 6239
Khusra, Pakistan: 05921 6158
Transline Hedesthia, New Zealand: (09) 763-523

WE REGRET that our reader profile section was not available for inclusion in this first issue of "Cross-Talk" in magazine format. We hope to receive additional profiles from our subscribers in the future, and will include the reader profile section as soon as enough are received.

by Kimberleigh Richards

TAPESTRY #62 is IFGE's latest attempt to create a balance of topics concerning the various segments of the gender community after receiving criticism during 1992 about the magazine becoming too TS-oriented.

This issue contains articles warning against silicone injections (mostly of interest to TSs, but potentially to CDs as well); a horror story about SRS in Mexico (TS-oriented only, but might frighten a few confused CDs away from pursuing a TS lifestyle); a commentary on terms and stereotypes (humorous, yet relevant to our entire community); a reality check on crossdressing (CD-oriented); an examination on exactly what support groups mean to our community (which should be required reading for the officers of all gender community support groups); and reprints from keynote speeches at this past year's IFGE convention (interesting, but the references in the speeches to the convention itself are rather dated eight months later); and the usual fillers and features that have become "Tapestry" stock-in-trade.

I was proud to find two articles reprinted from our pages (one of Ricky Hunt's columns on being a happy crossdresser and an article Janyne Cresap -- who doubles as my secretary/newsletter editor in

the Alpha Chapter of Tri-Ess -- on presenting yourself publicly in a positive manner), as well as Nancy Cole's essay "In Search Of A Community" (which will also appear in our pages in a future issue).

It appears that IFGE is finally beginning to get their act together with "Tapestry". The overdone graphics that plagued issue #61 were missing from this issue, replaced by a simple, standardized headline style at the beginning of each article and simplified yet relevant headers for regular columnists. I also note with pleasure that the letters in the "Mailbag" section no longer all seem to start with praise for IFGE, "Tapestry", and Merissa Sherrill Lynn and instead comment on gender community issues. (It's not "Vox Populi" yet: I get a sense of there still being some subtle editing of readers' remarks ... but it's definitely improving.)

"Tapestry" is finally within reach of regaining its status as the gender community's most prestigious publication. If it continues on its current path of careful balance, it well might again be the most complete overview of all the segments of our community.



Before I close this column, I would like to congratulate Vickie Stone and the rest of the staff of **LIFELINES**, the newsletter of the Long Island Femme Expression group in New York. The November issue marked a return to the "cut-and-paste" format that gave this irreverent publication its unique flavor (even if JoAnn Roberts DOES berate them for violating every copyright in creation).

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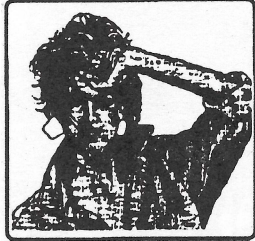
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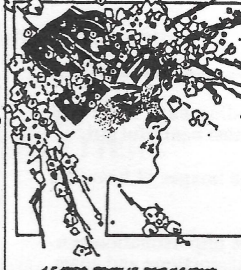
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