

News & views

Vision • Integrity • Quality

Vol. 8, No. 7 • July 1994

RENAISSANCE

Renaissance National Moves In Object: Improve Outreach

The Renaissance Education Association, Inc., has essentially operated from its phone machine, its PO box and the homes of different members of the board of directors for the past seven years. It had to sublet space from the Philadelphia Chapter for national board meetings. Files have been stored all over the Delaware Valley and the Renaissance Library has been living in a closet.

All that changed on June first when Renaissance National moved into its new office. The office is located at the Wayne Counseling Center, sharing space with Dr. William Stayton. Stayton needed more space for his reference books and by splitting the rent with Renaissance, the space is affordable.

The first priority for the office is furniture. Beth Marshall has found some items at area auctions and

these have been put in place. Renaissance is still looking for shelving for the Renaissance Library. During Greater Philadelphia Chapter meetings, the office will be used as a library reading room.

Future plans for the office include having all Renaissance mail sent there and having a phone installed. Currently, the Renaissance phone is connected to a voice mail system. No one answers it and we lose a lot of people who will not leave a number for us to call back. With a phone in the office we will be able to schedule volunteers for phone duty during certain hours and thus expand our outreach capabilities.

Other uses may include face-to-face meetings and interviews with media personnel.

Renaissance finally has a place to call home.

N.J. Gov. Whitman Meets M.O.T.G. Rep.

*By Terry McCorkell, Co-director M.O.T.G.
Office of The Governor, The State House,
Trenton, New Jersey May 9, 1994*

I had the honor of representing Renaissance affiliate M.O.T.G. and the New Jersey Transgender Community in an historic first meeting with New Jersey's Republican Governor, Christine Todd Whitman. As part of a team of twenty-two representatives from the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities, we took part in a round table conference with the Governor and her staff at her office in the state capital of Trenton.

This meeting was initiated by the N.J. Lesbian and Gay Coalition of which M.O.T.G. is an active member. It was also facilitated in conjunction with the Lesbian Issues Task Force of the N.J. Chapter of the National Organization for Women (N.O.W.). Every effort was made to present a group that represented all the diverse elements of our respective communities. Several organizers of this meeting insisted, to their credit, that the transgender community be included. Hence, M.O.T.G. was contacted and involved from the early planning stages.

Special emphasis was placed on five major areas of concern that were brought to the direct attention of Governor Whitman. They were: Civil Rights; Bias Awareness; Youth Issues; Family Issues; and AIDS. All of the representatives gave brief presentations based on their particular areas of expertise.

My presentation spanned both Civil Rights and Bias Awareness, and included a brief introduction to the transgender community. I pointed out to the Governor that we face discrimination on a basis similar to the gay, lesbian, and bisexual communities, yet we have no protection under the N.J. law. In addition, I emphasized the fact that we are very visible targets for those who would commit hate crimes, yet we have very questionable protection under N.J. law.

I explained that the core defining characteristic of the transgender community is one of *gender identification* rather than *sexual orientation*, and as a consequence we are left without any civil rights or bias crimes protection.

Governor Whitman asked me, "When you say

please turn to page 6



Chapter & Affiliate Information

Chapters

Delaware

Renaissance Delaware Chapter: meets second Saturday of each month. Write for info to: PO Box 5656, Wilmington, DE 19808 or call 302-995-1396.

New Jersey

South Jersey/Shore Area: Write Renaissance SJ, Box 189, Mays Landing, NJ 08330. Meets the first Saturday of the month at the Atlantic Mental Health Center, 2002 Black Horse Pike, McKee City. Doors open at 7 p.m. Call 609-435-5401 for details.

Pennsylvania

Greater Philadelphia area: Write Renaissance GPC, Box 530, Bensalem, PA 19020-0530. Meets third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia. Doors open 8 p.m. all year 'round. Call 610-630-1437 for information.

Lower Susquehanna Valley: Write Renaissance LSV, Box 2122 Harrisburg, PA 17105. Meets on the first Saturday of the month. Call 717-780-1LSV (1578) for location and times.

Affiliates

Georgia

The American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS), PO Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033-0724 or call 404-939-0244. Information resources.

Louisiana

The Gulf Area Gender Alliance, PO Box 870213, New Orleans, LA 70187-1300. Local support group.

New Jersey

Monmouth/Ocean Trans-Gender, (MOTG), write PO Box 8243, Red Bank, NJ 07701 or call 908-219-9094.

New York

Metropolitan Gender Network (MGN), write 561 Hudson St., Box 45, New York, NY 10014, or call 201-794-1665, Ext. 332. Local support group.

Start Your Own

Would you like to start a group in your area? If so, we can help with our chapter/affiliate program. Write to the Director of Outreach, Chapter Development, Renaissance National, PO Box 60552, King of Prussia, PA 19406 or call 610-630-1437 and request our Community Outreach Bulletin No. 1.

Renaissance News & Views

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Articles, opinion pieces, and letters to the editor are always welcome. Ideas for articles and opinion pieces should be sent to our editorial office care of Renaissance, PO Box 530, Bensalem, Pa. 19020-0530. Complimentary and irate letters to the editor may be sent to the same address.

Renaissance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing education and support to the transgender community and the general public.



Resources



Background Papers:

- Background Papers are \$1.25 each:
1. Myths & Misconceptions About Crossdressing
 2. Reasons for Male to Female Crossdressing
 3. PARTNERS: Spouses & Significant Others
 4. The Matter of Children
 5. Annotated Bibliography
 6. Telling the Children: A Transsexual's Point of View
 7. AIDS/ HIV Safety and Ethics.
 8. Understanding Transsexualism

Significant Other Support

To network with other partners of transgendered people contact Evelyn Kirkland, PO Box 1242, Newtown, Pa., 18940.

Pen Pal Program:

If you would like to correspond with other people around the country contact Pen Pals, care of Maryann Kirkland, PO Box 1242, Newtown, Pa., 18940. Maryann will put you on the Pen Pal List and give you a copy of that list so you may correspond with as many new friends as you like.

TransParent Forum:

If you are transgendered and have children, that makes you a TransParent. If you'd like to network with other TransParents contact Elsa Larson, PO Box 2122, Harrisburg, Pa., 17105, attention: TransParent.

Events Calendar

July

- 2 Ren So. Jersey
- 6-10 SPICE-Chicago
- 9 GPC Atlantic City trip
- 9 LSV Meeting (due to holiday) - video tape on SRS.
- 9 Ren Delaware: Angela Gardner - Sex & the Single Crossdresser
- 16 Ren GPC - Native American TG Rituals w/Alison Laing

August

- 6 Ren So. Jersey
- 6 Ren LSV - Ren Bookstore
- 17-21 ICTLEP Law Conf., Houston
- 20 Ren GPC - Fashion & Style w/ JoAnn Roberts
- 27 Ren LSV-Annual Luau

News Beat...

Woman. It's regularly \$60.00 but now you can get it for only \$29.99 plus, you guessed, \$3.50 shipping and handling. Be still my heart!

Last time I checked on things like this there were video stores in most every neighborhood that would rent you a copy of *Tootsie* for around a dollar a day. *Mrs. Doubtfire* was available at one local drugstore chain for around twenty dollars with a mail in rebate of ten dollars. No shipping and handling. If people are so worried that someone will think they are a TV when they go into the local Blockbuster Video to rent *Tootsie* or *Mrs. D.* then I guess they really do need Michael Salem's mail order services. Why would you waste the money otherwise?

I haven't seen Salem's own video so I can't really comment on it, but if you need a video to give you tips on crossdressing, shop around. You don't have to order the first video you see. Ask for brochures and ask other people in the community for their opinion before you pay the "regular price" plus, all together girls: SHIPPING AND HANDLING!

AND IT'S HYPO-ALLERGENIC

Many members of the transgender community fall prey to mail order rip offs because of that good ol' paranoia that most of us have developed over the years. "Oh my God! What if they figure out this pink nightie in size 18 is

for me?" After a while some of us develop a "who cares" attitude, some of us come up with devious ways to obtain our feminine necessities and some of us keep on getting ripped off.

One of the hardest things to buy is makeup. Those with the who cares attitude will make their purchases with a minimum of sweating. Those who are following the devious route will throw that bottle of foundation or lipstick in with a huge order of groceries or stuff at the drugstore. They'll clutch a list. Some will go so far as to mumble loud enough for the clerk to hear, "I hope I got everything on HER list." Then of course the TV who keeps getting ripped off will buy her makeup in industrial sized containers with industrial size prices from unscrupulous mail order outfits.

There is an alternative. Go to a makeup counter that carries a brand you are interested in. Bring a flattering photo of yourself en femme. Be honest with the woman at the counter. (It helps to pick an older woman. They've seen it all.) Tell her the makeup is for you and show her your photo so she will take you seriously. If you don't act strange and you are up front with them, most cosmetics sales women will be glad to assist you. As we've said before in *News & Views*, our money is just as green as the next persons.

Recently a woman named Martha Robertson called us to get more information on crossdressers. She works at the Clinique counter in the Montgomeryville John Wanamaker store. I sent her some of our material and she said that she would welcome

crossdressers at her counter. Stop being afraid girls. Go see Martha or the cosmetic sales woman of your choice, today.

EVENTS, EVENTS

Where will the fashionable crossdresser be found this summer and fall? Let's stroll through some of the events that make the phrase, "All dressed up and no where to go" outdated.

Saturday, July ninth the Greater Philadelphia Chapter flounces down to the shore. The girls will descend on the Brass Rail Lounge at Studio Six between 9 and 10PM. Studio Six is a gay complex at 12 south Mt. Vernon Ave. and they have parking for up to 200 cars. That ought to take care of us but where will the other patrons park? The girls plan to start with Studio Six but who knows where they'll end up? Look out Trump Plaza.

Don't bring any dresses for this one. July 6-10 at the Ramada O'Hare Hotel in Chicago it's SPICE '94 for the spouses of crossdressers. Crossdressers may attend but they are not allowed to dress. Contact SPICE Director Linda Peacock, PO Box 24031, Little Rock, AR 72221.

Transgender attorneys, this ones for you. Discuss fine points of the law and exchange makeup tips at Transgen '94, the 3rd Annual Transgender Law & Policy Conference in Houston, Texas, August 17-21. Contact Phyllis Randolph Frye, Attorney, Executive Director ICTLEP, 5707 Firenza St. Houston, Texas 77035-5515. Counselor, it's about these briefs...

August twenty seventh it's time for

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the LSV Luau. See crossdressers in grass skirts! See giant roasted pigs! See Angela Gardner do a lip sync number! If I can get off my lazy butt and rehearse something. If not, I guess it'll be selected readings from my column. ZZZZZZZ..... Contact Linda C. at LSV for ticket info. 717-845-4158.

Coming September 22-25 to a Pocono resort not that near to you... Paradise In The Poconos, the CDS event that keeps 'em coming back for more. Call JoAnn Roberts at CDS, (That's Creative Design Service, **not Renaissance**) for information. The CDS number is 610-640-9449. Call before midnight tonight! Operators are standing by.

September 27 to October 2 get high on Southern Comfort. The Southern Comfort Conference will be held in Atlanta at a "gender friendly" hotel in the north metro area. All the usual suspects will be on hand and Doctor Roberts will deliver the keynote address. Their address is Southern Comfort Conference, PO Box 77591, Atlanta, GA 30357. Call them at 404-875-5749.

October 4-7 is an event for all of you fans of *Maverick*. You can play the Jodie Foster part if your spouse will dress up as the riverboat gambler on a cruise down the historic Ohio River. Yes, you'll depart from Pittsburgh, PA, home of the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Andy Warhol Museum, and cruise for three days aboard the luxurious Delta Queen. For details on this queenly cruise contact Peggy Rudd, 1811 Crutchfield, Katy, Texas 77449 or give 'em a holler at 713-347-6563.

Traditionalists may wish to save their cash for the 20th Annual Fantasia Fair. It happens October 16-23 in Provincetown, MA. That's on the Cod you know. I mean, the Cape. They even go out whale watching in drag at this event. Dermatologists make a killing after the Fair treating all the girls who did that real close shave two times a day and clogged their pores with foundation. Ouch. Contact the fair's director Alison Laing, PO Box 941, Southeastern, PA 19399-0941 for a lovely brochure.

LET ME HAVE THE LAST WORD

In the April issue Dina Amberle carved up Cassie Owens with surgical skill. Cassie is a member of Emerald City and she wrote a little article about her experiences at the Fall Harvest Festival in the Emerald City newsletter. I would like to see a word count on the number of times she used the word "I" in the piece. It read like a tribute to Miss Owens, God's gift to the transgendered community. Just a touch on the self involved side? Yes.

Now, I'll be the first to admit that I have been there myself. (Actually I still am but I have the good sense not to make too many claims about how swell I am in print.) Most of us have been. When I read Dina's column I thought Cassie had it coming and I wondered if we would get a response. We did. A member of Emerald City wrote to defend Cassie but, they did not want *News & Views* to publish the letter. What's the point? I love to print letters to the Editor. Especially letters that

don't agree with something we've said. That's what we're here for. To inform you, to get you riled up and to get dialogue started. Like oatmeal, it's the right thing to do.

And lastly, I have to apologize to our Delaware Chapter. In last month's column I mentioned their new meeting site and gave a contact address for info. Michelle Lynn pointed out, just after the issue went in the mail, that the address I gave was wrong. Oops. The correct address for the Delaware Chapter is on page two.

And now, a quote from that popular quipster, Anonymous; "Every time history repeats itself, the price goes up." That's it folks. See ya AC. That's "After the Comet."

(Ed. Note: Ms. Gardner used "I" 32 times in the preceding column.)



TASK FORCE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

If you would like to help the Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force in their fight for full civil and human rights for gays and lesbians maybe you'd like to give them some of your time. The Task Force is in search of a team of skilled volunteers to support special projects and to provide administrative assistance. If you are interested in joining the Task Force team call Rita Adessa, 215-772-2000 for more information.

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Whitman...

'gender identification' not being covered by the law against discrimination, by that do you mean it is because the language is not specific?"

"That's correct, Governor."

The Governor listened attentively to all speakers and expressed her appreciation to the participants.

To her credit, Gov. Whitman has frequently called for an end to intolerance and discrimination of any kind. When she ran for office, she expressed support for the lesbian and gay community in general. She reaffirmed her stance against bigotry at our

meeting, taking immediate steps to set up a meeting with the State Attorney General and representatives of our communities to implement state wide police sensitivity training.

In addition, she tasked the Director of Community & Governmental Relations to act as our ongoing liaison with the governor's office. Most importantly, Governor Whitman expressed a sincere willingness to work with all of us and to use us as a valuable resource for the state

The lesbian, gay, and bisexual communities have had meetings with previous N.J. governors, as well as with other state and federal representatives. As far as I know, this was not

only the first time a N.J. Governor has met a real, live, transgendered person, it was also the first time that our community has been involved in such a meeting as a full partner. This speaks well about the sincere support that the transgender community receives from the gay, lesbian, and bisexual activists in N.J.

I wish to acknowledge this support and express appreciation to all the various groups represented at this meeting especially: The N.J. Lesbian and Gay Coalition; The Lesbian Issues Task Force of NOW; The Log Cabin Club (Republicans); and others. May we do together what we could not do separately.



Chinese Transsexuals Seek Recognition

by Phaedra Kelly

The transsexuals of the Peoples Republic of China are attempting to gain official recognition. Homosexuality was decriminalized in China sometime ago but transgendered people were not legislated for or, specifically against and so they remain in limbo and at risk.

Also endangered by this cloudy legal situation are the clinicians at No. 3 Hospital in Beijing where sexual reassignment surgery began in 1984. In 1992 the hospital performed the first, revolutionary, complete genital transplant surgery by exchanging a man and woman's genitals. Since 1992 four more operations have been completed with only one case of tissue rejection.

In order to encourage legal reform for transsexuals the hospital has

worked with China's University of Cinema to produce a documentary film. The film is to be shown in theaters throughout China as well as on Chinese television. Due to the legal status of transsexuals, most were not keen on appearing in the film. Fortunately, I had arrived in China in March to investigate the genital exchange surgery and was recruited to portray a western TS seeking surgery. I was filmed at the hospital being interviewed by China's leading surgeon, Prof. Dr. Xia and later at the Silk Market and the Great Wall. The film was to have been released in June.

The doctors at the hospital have been put in touch with their colleagues in the west through the IGTA and the clinic has agreed to act as a conduit for exchanges between transgendered people in the east and west.

In other news from China, Dr. Chaunmin Wang is researching a book on international transsexual law. He is in need of any and all data relating to the legal status of transsexuals. Any copies of legal cases, reforms, policies, papers or essays should be sent to Dr. Chuanmin Wang, M.D., Plastic Surgery Research Centre, No. 3 Hospital, Beijing Medical University, Beijing 100083, Peoples Republic of China. It may take Dr. Wang a while to get back to you but you are most certainly assured of a reply as the Chinese are very polite, grateful and responsive.

(Ed. Note: Michelle Lynn sent us a copy of the June 1993 issue of Life magazine that mentions the genital exchange of Wang and Hou. The couple also exchanged names and wardrobes.)



How To Avoid The Dry Cleaning Blues by Elizabeth Jarrell

Since the summer season is here it's definitely time to put away your winter wardrobe and deal with those cute little dresses and rompers that have been hanging around in the closet for the past six months. What's first? Getting it cleaned of course. Here's

how not to get taken to the cleaners, by the dry cleaners. Just a few things to remember when you're looking for a good, reputable dry cleaner.

First of all you should feel comfortable when you walk in the door. You hope they won't look at you funny

when you show up with an armload of femme wear. (Ed. Note: You will have to deal in your own way with questions about how she got that much makeup on the collar. "Well, she really likes to

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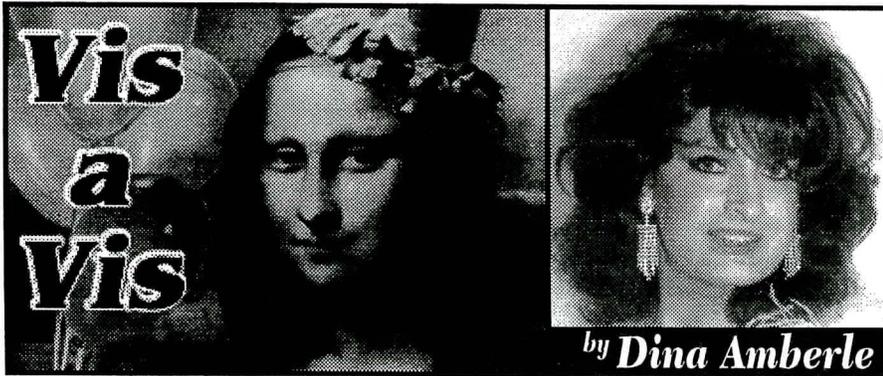
Guess Who's Had A Makeover?



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indicate the legitimacy of the organization from the get-go.

As with a lot of things in this country, history was made first in Philadelphia.

JUMPING OFF OUR HIGH HORSE

Veronica Smith had a very interesting opinion on the controversy surrounding the exclusion of 'Transgendered' from the Stonewall 25 proclamation title. And if you think I was dissin' ETVC in the previous item, I wasn't. Veronica's opinion piece was featured in the same issue of *The Channel*.

While so many in our community are indignant about the politicking behind the exclusion of "TG", she reminds us that the Stonewall celebration is first and foremost a gay celebration. While the original Stonewall incident was spurred by the fighting spirit of the drag queens, these gals were gay first, transgenderist (if they would even use that term themselves) second. Veronica says that although she would rather have had "TG" included in the document title, "I don't think we're in a position to DEMAND inclusion in the title."

Veronica goes on to say that so many heterosexual crossdressers go out of their way to tell the world they aren't gay that it is hypocritical now to be dismayed at not riding on their coattails for equal rights. Further, many of us frequent gay establishments because of the tolerance shown by people who've paid dues to get as far as they have - yet we like to distance ourselves from the gay community when it serves our public relations strategies in promoting hetero crossdressing.

In her closing paragraph, Veronica writes that she "cannot support the demand for transgenderists to share the glory of a victory until our major representative organizations embrace completely and without restrictions the warriors who fought the battle." That about says it all. And says it extremely well, Veronica.

I've noticed a disconcerting trend in my last two columns. I'm agreeing with too many of the articles I read in other newsletters. One of the joys of writing this monthly epistle is finding something stupid or wrong-headed — and tearing into it.

But where are the Cassie Owens', the Joan Goodnight's, or the person who writes the copy of the Vernon's Specialties catalog? I'm seeing far too much common sense and intriguing opinions in other newsletters. They've been making me say 'yes, I agree with that idea,' or using them as a jumping-off point for my own ideas on the same topic.

So to all the poohbahs, the arbiters of what the rest of us should be doing or thinking, the overinflated egoists, and the hopelessly dead wrong essayists out there in newsletter-land, please resume writing your negative opinion pieces, your 'I looked so good in the straight bar' reminiscences, and the 'don't do this because it reflects poorly on the transgendered community' editorials. Lord knows, I need the material - and a good laugh.

UH-OH! THEY'RE USING THE 'F' WORD

The *Crystal Chronicle* is a newsletter out of the Crystal Club in Columbus OH. Their lead article in April's issue was titled 'Because It's Fun!!!'

A lot of groups all over the country talk about enjoying themselves but sometimes when you read the meat of the newsletters it's all about political wrangling, controversies of one sort or another, personal hard-luck stories, or pseudo-scientific rationalizations for our behavior. It's refreshing to see

someone come out and use the 'F' word as a motivational, inspirational factor for crossdressing.

Author and editor Adrienne Walker may not speak for everyone but I think for many of us crossdressing is a fun activity in the same vein as other time and money-consuming hobbies. As Adrienne writes, "Forget about complex neuro-connections, genetic heredity, disregard that inner need to be whole — let's be blatantly obvious and primitively honest. We crossdress because it's fun."

I think we've been trying so hard to convince ourselves and the outside world what we do is normal that we've glommed onto psychobabble to describe the motivations and make it sound more palatable. What's wrong with doing something just because... you like it? I think that sounds a hell of a lot more 'normal' than telling the world we're driven by some indescribable compulsion. And it's nice to see someone brave enough to make it a page one article.

DID IT, DONE IT, BEEN THERE

The ETVC group in San Francisco has a page one story in their newsletter, *The Channel*, about the IRS granting them official non-profit tax-exempt status. The closing paragraph of the article states, "This is a historic moment for ETVC and for the entire transgender community."

Pardon me, ladies, but at the risk of blowing our own horn here in Philadelphia, Renaissance has had IRS non-profit tax exempt status for five years. In fact, our founders decided at the outset to seek IRS non-profit status to

**HOOKERS OVERRUN
HOUSTON (I THINK)**

The Gulf Coast Transgender Community is a group in Houston, TX. In their newsletter they had a dress code reminder for their members. "We require everyone to dress appropriately for the occasion. While a lot of us have a hooker fantasy to live out, remember the place for this..." Then, later on in the newsletter, a gal named Jo Anne Roberts (no, not *our* JoAnn) touts a new place to go with one caveat. "Please make sure you are dressed appropriately (no hookers, please)." Columnist Jackie Evelyn Thorne makes a more subtle point in discussing a trip to Galveston. "It also helps if you dress appropriately as well as conducting yourself in your most ladylike manner."

Wow, they must have some hot babes down there on the Gulf Coast of Texas if it takes three reminders in one newsletter to keep those girls in line. But I kid my Houston girlfriends.

Actually they are my new best friends because also in Jackie Thorne's column she has this interesting nugget: "I will be bringing the GCTC copy of 'Renaissance News & Views' to the May meeting. I commend to your attention the 'Vis a Vis' column by Dina Amberle."

I don't care if they do dress like a bunch of streetwalking tarts down there in Houston. If they like my column, they're aces in my book.

NO FOOLING

Paula Harmston wrote a nice piece

in the Cross-Port *Innerview* newsletter out of Cincinnati, Ohio. She related a story about her sister asking whether Paula tried to fool people into believing she was a woman when she was out crossdressed.

Thinking about it, Paula answered that "no, I only try to look my best. The only people I've tried to fool are my life-long acquaintances. I tried to fool them into believing that I was John Wayne."

She goes on to recount some brief anecdotes about overcompensating with macho behavior, pretending to like sports on TV, and trying to act 'cool' with the 'in' crowd.

Paula's essay dealt with her personal reflections on how she hid her feminine side so as to fool her friends into thinking she was 'one of the guys'. But it also points out the universality of role-playing in the human species. How many times have we noticed someone putting on a show of either machismo, know-it-all wisdom, insincere commiseration... you name it and someone (maybe each of us) has turned it into a performance to fool others into seeing something that wasn't really there.

I'm not advocating all of us go out and try to fool people into believing we're real women. In most instances, we couldn't fool anyone who wasn't extremely myopic anyway. But if non-crossdressers would examine themselves, they would see that in their 'normal' behaviors they often try to fool others by creating an image other than who they truly are. Then maybe they'd get off our case.

A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

P-FLAG is a national group for the Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. The Phila. P-FLAG Chapter's newsletter had an item written by Laura Siegel, a mother of a gay man in San Francisco. In it she wrote about the first time she marched in a gay pride parade with the P-FLAG contingent. She tells of her son spotting his parents in the parade and excitedly pointing them out to his friends as they marched by. Other gay and lesbian onlookers applauded the P-FLAG group when they came by. "Thank you. It should be my mom and dad" yelled one person. It was a warm moment because Mrs. Siegel realized then that she was marching not only for her own son but for all the sons and daughters whose parents weren't there for them.

It's safe to say that most parents would prefer that their sons or daughters were not gay, lesbian, or transgendered. Some get over it, accept them as they are, and keep loving them.

Laura Siegel's story illustrated how love and pride works on both sides of the parent-child relationship. And points out the desolation in those relationships when the parents reject their own out of fear or shame.

The P-FLAG newsletter also carried a transcript of Tom Hanks' acceptance speech for his Best Actor Oscar for the AIDS drama *Philadelphia*. I don't remember much about the Academy Awards ceremony except

continued on page 12

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Anita Bryant

.....

The alternative lifestyle communities were handed a number of setbacks in the past few months. In particular, the gay/lesbian community seems to be losing ground after a decade of progress. For example, I mentioned that the state Supreme Court of Hawaii had issued a "show cause" order to the state for denying a marriage certificate to two men. The Hawaiian House of Representatives has moved to counteract that court ruling with a measure that argues the state has a "compelling interest" in denying same-sex marriages.

.....

Meanwhile in Atlanta, officials there are trying to smooth out the wrinkles in the 1996 Olympic Volleyball competition. Actually, the volleyballers are innocent bystanders. The volleyball competition was set to take place in conservative Cobb County. The county commissioners, last August, passed a resolution that the "life style advocated by the gay community" was "incompatible with the standards to which this community subscribes." Gay groups have been campaigning since then for a boycott of the Olympic games. After some of the gay groups disrupted a few of the pre-Olympic events and made it clear they would do so for the actual Olympics, the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games has been seeking a compromise solution.

.....

In Austin, Texas, a city ruling that permitted health benefits for Domestic Partners was overturned. The focus of the campaign to reverse the policy was gay/lesbian relationships.

.....

Do you get the hint here people? If the gays and lesbians are under attack, so are we. What are you going to do about it? If you haven't a clue, then I strongly suggest you get your pretty little butt over to the 3rd International Conference on

Transgender Law & Employment Policy, August 17 – 21. Contact Phyllis Frye at 713•723•8368.

.....

I mentioned the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition* last month and that book was not forthcoming without some controversy itself. Ever hear of "Self-Defeating Personality Disorder?" It was one of the proposed categories for DSM-IV, but it was not included in the final version. SDPD categorizes people who bring misfortune on themselves because of unconscious motives. The disorder was listed in the Appendix of the DSM-III-R. SDPD was not included in DSM-IV because it would seem to add insult to injury by diagnosing a client's problems as self-inflicted. Hmmm. Too bad they didn't keep it in. I know a few people who fit this label to a T.

.....

Biologically speaking, there would be a lot to gain politically if science could show that sexual orientation and gender identification were genetically programmed. That's the premise of an article in the May issue of *Scientific American* by neuroanatomist Simon LeVay and biological chemist Dean Hamer. LeVay is also the author of the book *The Sexual Brain*. LeVay and Hamer postulate that homosexuality, at least in males, is carried by a gene on the X chromosome. In other words, it's passed on by your mother. Countering the arguments of LeVay and Hamer in the same issue is Wm. Byne, M.D., Ph.D. Byne says that even if there are genetic and neuroanatomical links to sexual orientation that does not prove these differences cause homosexuality. This is an area of research that is closely watched by both right and left politicians. If a genetic link is established, then Human and Civil Rights should not be denied on the basis of sexual orientation. But the sword cuts both ways. If a gene is identified, there are those who would want to try gene-therapy to "correct" the

aberration. Science is blind. Thanks to Sharon Ann Stuart for sending me copies of the articles.

.....

While we're dabbling in genetics and the like, let's try to dispel another myth: testosterone is the private hormone of males. Not so according to an article in the May 3 *New York Times*. As women's health issues reach the forefront of research, more information about the role of both testosterone and estrogen are being revealed. Some physicians now believe that a small amount of testosterone is essential to women's health. Doctors in Britain and Australia are likely to include small amounts of the "male" hormone to post-menopausal women on estrogen replacement therapy. It turns out that ovaries make a small amount of testosterone and it is believed this is necessary to maintain muscle and bone mass as well as fuel sex drive. This research holds some consequence for post-op M-t-F transsexuals who may not be receiving any testosterone from their body. According to another *Times* report on May 10, testosterone may actually protect males from heart attacks. The study, performed at Roosevelt-St. Luke's Hospital in Manhattan, found a surprising correlation between a decrease in testosterone levels in aging males and coronary artery disease. The correlation was deemed "highly significant in statistical terms." So, guess what the leading cause of death is for post-op M-t-F TSs?

.....

My very good friend and ardent supporter of the transgender community Vernon, of *Vernon's Specialities* had a mild heart attack in May. Vernon hadn't felt too good for a few days and when the attack hit, it floored him. He recovered sufficiently to drive himself to the hospital where he remained for several days while they did a "Roto-Rooter" on his arteries. When I spoke with him, he was at home and ordered to rest and recuperate for two weeks. By the time you read this, he'll be back to work.

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203

76

The Community Film Project Needs Your Support.

As we reported in the May 1994 *Renaissance News & Views*, we have agreed to help raise funds for a feature-length documentary film about our community produced by Emmy award-winner Terri Randall. Ms. Randall and Renaissance are committed to the success of this project and your financial support will ensure this film makes it to the theaters. The Congress of Transgender Organizations and its representatives also endorse the project making it a community priority program. Send your contribution today using the reverse of this pledge card. Any amount will be gratefully accepted.

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.....
Let's get some beauty stuff in here. I'm always looking for new products, especially foundations with high coverage. Two new products to try are Estée Lauder's *Maximum Coverage Lightweight Makeup* (\$25 in six shades) and Prescriptives' *Exact Makeup* (\$28.50 in 34 shades). Of course, there's my "old faithful" Max Factor's *Active Protection Makeup* (\$7.50 in 10 shades).

.....
As the weather warms up, so should your makeup palette; no more winter pale for Summer. Even though the GGs are told to go without foundation, we can't accept that advice, so choose a base that's one shade darker than you normally use for a warm summer glow... For lips: try outlining only the lower lip and then fill both lips with lipstick. Makes the lower lip look pouty. Color should be a reddish brown unless you're really dark skinned and then a wine-tint will do... Eyes: since we're emphasizing lips, keep eyes almost bare with a taupe liner and touch of brown mascara... For evening eyes, line and shadow with a burgundy and brown colors. Use the burgundy shadow under lower lid and the brown on the upper.

.....
Dragon Red nails are a turn-on, but the cleanup afterwards can be messy, leaving red-stained, telltale cuticles. I mean, how many times can you tell people you spilled red paint on your hands this weekend? Yet, my hands feel naked without polish and clear seems a waste of time. If I'm painting my nails, I want some color. So, try a pastel nail polish, like those from Monteil Paris. The five soft tints look sexy at night and tres professional by day.

.....
I always have trouble with false eyelashes; usually end up gluing my lids together. Revlon's *Ultima II Falsies* may just change all that. This new mascara lengthens and thickens lashes so much they look like falsies (\$12.50).

.....
Even though we're just getting over that horrible winter and into the swing of summer, the fashion mavens are hard at work on the Fall and Winter clothing lines. The HOT BUZZ for Fall is suits. Both Chanel and Armani showed lotsa suits in many styles and colors. It is interesting to note, though, that the Chanel suit introduced by Gabrielle (Coco) Chanel has really changed very little over its 60 year lifespan... What's really new is the definition of "suit." The skirt is no longer required to match the jacket exactly in color or fabric. Skirts are almost all short, but they can be slim or they can be flared. Trousers and vests often accompanied the suits on the runways. Jackets are long and slim with some shaping under the bust, fitted through the midriff (get on that Nordic Track, girl) and sometimes flared over the hip... Caroline Herrera's new Fall suit is actually a slim sleeveless dress under a jacket that takes the headache out of putting three pieces together.

.....
Back to some politics... Many transgender people have felt the disenfranchisement of organized religion and thus have turned to alternative spiritualities to nurture their alternative gender-alities. That's not so surprising when one realizes that most Judeo-Christian religions treat women like dirt. Well, those women are mad as Hell and they're not gonna take it anymore. Last December some 2000 women gathered in Minneapolis to give praise to a female personification of God. The gathered laughed at the patriarchal tradition of the churches and shared honeyed milk to affirm the sensuality of women. No, this was not a pagan gathering; these were members of mainstream Methodist and Presbyterian theologies. The meeting has drawn the attention and outrage of many Protestants. Why? Because the group roundly rejected the anti-feminine posture of organized religions. "We did not name the name of Jesus," said the Rev. Barbara K. Lundblad of New

York, "Nor have we done anything in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." The Rev. Delores Williams of New York quipped, "I don't think we need folks hanging on crosses and blood dripping and weird stuff." "Whether it's Christian or not is frankly, darling, something about which I no longer give a pope," said Mary Hunt, co-director of the Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual. One speaker called for "lesbian, bisexual, and transsexual women" to join her on stage and the audience responded with applause as 100 women joined her. So, maybe there is a place within the mainstream religions for transgendered people after all. All you have to do is look for it in the right places. While we've got the Pope on the ropes, he reaffirmed the Catholic Church's position against women as priests. This from a man who essentially wears a dress every day.

.....
George Orwell would be proud of the new Budget Chairman at IFGE, Laura Caldwell. Writing in the best tradition of NewSpeak, Caldwell gave us the First Quarter '94 financial report for IFGE. First, she says they made a profit of ca. \$13,000. Next she says there is an expense check outstanding for almost the same amount, so the profit is nil. Finally, she says one of the staff couldn't be paid \$3000 of her salary. Now, unless I flunked Basic Accounting (I didn't), that's a \$3000 loss for the quarter since IFGE didn't have enough money to meet all its expenses. The hole gets deeper each quarter and they expect you to cough-up another \$60,000 in cash donations this year just to break even. However, both donations and revenue from sales are down over last year. Maybe Susan Powter will apply for Executive Director and stop the insanity.

.....
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Dry Cleaning Blues...

slather it on.") Secondly, they should be a member of the American Fabricare Institute which provides guidelines for the industry. A sign or sticker in the window will state this fact. If you don't see a sticker ask them if they are a member. If they are not a member and they ruin your favorite frock you have no recourse. If they are A.F.I. members then the dress can be sent to the Institute for analysis to determine whether it was their cleaning process or a manufacturer's defect in the material (A common occurrence.) that ruined the garment.

Dry cleaners are not magicians. Don't take a rag in for cleaning and be upset when all you get back is a clean rag. Also, don't expect ground in spots of dirt and grease to be removed by a regular dry cleaning process. To take out those troublesome spots the cleaner must use an extra process called simply, Spotting. Make sure you point out any spots, otherwise the garment will come back with your little friend right there in the same place.

If you take your things to a local dry cleaner with a plant on the premises your clothes will be handled by less people. This means that there is less opportunity for them to be lost, stolen or soiled again in transit. If you can't find a good neighborhood operation with a plant on the premises or if you would rather patronize a large, impersonal chain for paranoid reasons, they will do a good job. But, your clothes will be handled at least five times before they get back to you. That's four more chances for them to be misplaced, or dirtied again before they reach your hot little hands.

You may ask, "What qualifies you to judge, Elizabeth? Are you some kind of expert?" To that I reply, yes, I am. I worked for one of the biggest operations in the suburban Philadelphia area for four years. That is why our editor has asked me to educate the masses yearning to be clean.

The important points to remember: Are they members of the American Fabricare Institute? Point out all spots and pick a cleaner who does good work. Whether it's the corner cleaners or a larger operation, what's important is how pleased you are with their work. Have a great summer, and good luck at the cleaners ladies.

Dear Doctor

will return next issue.

Dr. William Stayton will answer your questions about crossdressing, sex and gender. Send your questions to "Dear Doctor" c/o Renaissance, PO Box 530, Bensalem, PA 19020.



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ONCE AGAIN, PLEASE - IN ENGLISH (PART II)

Our friends at the Erie Sisters have

a fascinating columnist in Diane L. She writes like no one else I've come across. Her latest piece in the April issue of *Mirror Image* is called "Manly Man."

It's hard to recount exactly what Diane is driving at because... well, let's just reprint a paragraph of her essay. Diane writes (and this is an exact transcript of her text):

"Then Tim benign the manly man that he is, will say some thinking about the opposite sex, and All will put up a sing that say's Tim Tailor % Tool Time. Tim never seems too gain an understanding of what he saying."

Diane is beyond any help a spell-check program might provide. Even my trusty Sanskrit-to-English dictionary could offer no hope of gleaning what she was trying to say. And that brief paragraph is only a morsel of the half-page essay she wrote. Lord knows what the rest of it was about. In fact, Diane herself closes with this sentence: "I am sure by now you are questioning what is Diane talking about."

It's not that I'm questioning what you're talking about, Di, I'm still trying to figure from which planet you flew your saucer.



Like... It's the, like... the Airhead Article, like... test!

Bet you thought we were kidding last month when we said there'd be a test. We weren't. So, to keep it simple (for airheads), it's multiple choice. Here it is:

Question 1: How long had it been since the author's husband had

revealed he was a crossdresser?

- A-9 months
- B-A Fortnight
- C-Too long
- D-Not Long Enough

Q2: What magazine did the author find her husband reading on the couch

while crossdressed?

- A-Field & Stream
- B-Weekly World News
- C-LadyLike
- D-Cosmopolitan

Q3: Which of the following did the

continued on page 15

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Our own Bible scholar, Michelle Lynn has rooted out some highlights of Deuteronomy. Here they are in...

Deuteronomy Revisted

As William Shakespeare said, "The devil can cite Scripture for his purpose." You have probably heard hard-line religious fundamentalists claim that crossdressing is a sin, "It says so in the Bible." This rationale springs from Deuteronomy 22:5 which says a woman shall not wear men's clothing nor shall a man wear women's clothing. But, what is Deuteronomy? Nothing more than the primitive desert code of conduct of the ancient Israelites. The ban on crossdressing was put in to stamp out its use during the ceremonial worship of pagan idols. Now, since there aren't a whole heck of a lot of transgendered support groups into devil worship and since neither Harry Benjamin nor any other clinical researcher lists paganism as a root cause for transgender behavior, I think we are on pretty safe ground as far as Deuteronomy goes. Even sillier is the fact that this passage applies equally to women, effectively condemning every woman who wears pants or anything traditionally worn by men. It even applies to high heeled shoes since they were originally designed for and worn by males.

Biblical scholars established long ago that later passages of the Bible and atonement through the death of Jesus Christ did away with the archaic Mosaic laws of Deuteronomy. (See "Is God Against Us?" by Lee Frances Heller, September 1993.) It's a good thing too, how could you enforce this one selective passage of Deuteronomy and ignore all of its remaining laws? Life wouldn't be fun for anyone, not even fundamentalists, if we had to live by Deuteronomy.

How about a few examples you say? How about these: Troubled by a rebellious son? No problem. Deuteronomy 22:18-21 has the solution. If he isn't responding to

discipline the son is taken to the town gates (try finding them in your town) where the men of the town gather and stone him to death. End of problem.

Check your clothing labels. Besides crossdressing Deuteronomy makes other holy fashion statements. For instance, 22:11 finds it sinful to wear clothes having linen and wool woven together. You thought the fashion police were tough.

At least clothing doesn't have to be plain and boring. Deuteronomy 22:12 mandates that when you wear a cloak you must make tassels on the four corners. One Bible scholar calculated this would amount to about sixty four tassels. Liberace was obviously a very religious man.

Sexual promiscuity is a definite no no (at least for women). Deuteronomy 22:20-21 decrees that if a man finds his bride is not a virgin, she is to be taken to the door of her father's house and stoned to death. This will purge the evil from the land.

Women will be pleased to know that Deuteronomy takes a dim view of rape. According to Deuteronomy 22:28 if a man is caught raping a virgin (offer only good on virgins) he must pay a fine of fifty silver shekels. Then he is required to marry the woman he raped, with no possibility of divorce. (If I were the woman I'd rather be stoned to death than marry my rapist.)

You might also forget about the 13th Amendment outlawing slavery. Slavery is not a sin according to Deuteronomy. If you are a man, you can take captive among your enemies any beautiful woman who strikes your fancy (Deuteronomy 21:10-13). But now comes the breaking-in process. You must dress her in the clothes she was captured in, trim her nails and shave her head. If after one month you are not satisfied with your new, bald

headed slave, you can let her go. (Ed. Note: What! No stoning?)

Brothers must fulfill some rather kinky family obligations. Deuteronomy 25:5 tells us that if your married brother dies without fathering a son, the task then falls on you. You must immediately marry your brother's widow and continually impregnate her until a male heir is conceived.

Fighting dirty can have dire consequences as Deuteronomy 25:11-12 addresses the following situation: A husband is fighting for his life against another man. His wife, in coming to his rescue, seizes the attackers most private parts. For this crime her hand must be cut off. You are forbidden to pity her.

There are many more but they don't get any better. Like any other book ever written, the true meaning of the Bible is understood only when read in context. Selectively quoting Bible passages out of context isn't new. It has been done to justify slavery, to hunt witches, to label blacks as evil, to devalue women and to exterminate the "ungodly." Of course, none of this was ever the intent of the Bible, which is simply meant as an instrument for worshipping God.

Unfortunately, there will always be those who will seek to put a religious stamp of approval on their own narrow personal prejudices. So whenever you hear someone rationalize their hate by saying "I'm right because it's in the Bible" you can be certain they didn't bother to read it very closely.

Postscript: An additional information source used for this article was the *Thompson Chain Reference Bible*, a gift from my sister. It's inscription reads: "God loves you and so do I."



Airhead test...

author reject in the 1970s?

- A-Polyester Pantsuits
- B-Dreadlocks
- C-Stiletto Spikes
- D-Starving Oneself Thin

Q4: How did the author find the fact that some "twisted piece of karma" gave her a husband who likes to wear high heels?

- A-Humorous
- B-Loathesome
- C-Despicable
- D-Heinous

Q5: What type of evidence would the author like to see that indicates crossdressing transforms us into more feminine beings?

- A-Compassion
- B-Communication Skills
- C-Heightened Sense of Aesthetics
- D-All of the above

Q6: What is it that crossdressers attempt to do that annoys the author?

- A-Wear a bikini
- B-Carry tampons in their purse
- C-Try to enter her turf.
- D-Give birth

Q7: What did writing this article help the author "vent?"

- A-Steam
- B-Geyser
- C-Spleen
- D-Bile

Q8: What is the author's closing request?

- A-To be a Playboy centerfold
- B-Readers write in about what it means to be a woman.
- C-We all get stuffed
- D-Her husband return her panties

Answers to quiz on next page



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Further information, including fees and scheduling, is available upon request. Write; Human Dimensions, PO Box 471, Willow Grove, PA 19090. Or leave a private message at 215•657•1560.

Confidentiality Assured

Quiz Answers Revealed

1 - It had been 9 months since she learned of her husband's crossdressing.

2 - She found him reading *Cosmopolitan*.

3 - She'd rejected starving herself thin, along with shoes two sizes too small, heavy makeup, unnaturally curly hair, and long nails.

4 - She found it humorous that her husband likes heels.

5 - She suggests that all of these or "something" would be good evidence.

6 - She resents TVs invading her "turf."

7 - Writing the article helped her vent her spleen.

8 - Her closing request was for readers to write in with their opinion about what it means to be a woman.

We'd like you to honor Ms. Fenton's last request. Send us your opinions on what it means to be a woman in today's world. We'll be happy to print them in future issues.

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SHOPPING WITH JACKIE

by Jackie Thomas

It seems like one of the things that continues to be a problem with a lot of us is what to buy and where to buy it. As a long time retailer I seem to have a feel for merchandise, and while I certainly don't know it all, maybe with your help we can put a resources catalog together for everyone to use. If you have preferred places that have pleased you, will you share them with the community? Please send them to me, in care of LSV Renaissance, P.O. Box 2122, Harrisburg, Pa 17105. I will pass them along to everyone here.

In my opinion, one of the best places to buy clothing, at super good prices, is Second Hand Rose, 3502 Derry St., Harrisburg, PA 17111. Telephone 561-0900. LeeAnn (the owner) is very supportive of cross-dressers and will go out of her way to take care of your needs. At one time or another you can probably meet most of the LSV Chapter girls there. This is a

consignment shop, so almost everything is second hand. But the price is right. Items are in the best of condition and many things carry a designer label. As a special favor for us, Lee Ann has agreed to offer a grab bag. She has an excess of duplicates on hand and is offering them to us at cut rate. A minimum order is \$50.00, including postage, or you can pick your order up at the store (and get more). She promised a real value pack for the money, and I know it will be. Send her a check and your sizes and wait until you see what you get back. A word of caution—larger sizes seem to go first. You can talk freely with her and your identity is strictly confidential.

The next best place for clothing is your local department store. Watch for and take advantage of sales. Don't be afraid to shop in the ladies department. Just go about your business and pick out what you want. My experience has shown that the sales clerks just do

their job and don't pay any more attention to you than they do to the ladies. After all, its just a job.

You should know your sizes before you go shopping. It makes it easier to pick out what you want. When you get it home, try it on and if its not a good fit or looks bad, return it. The store doesn't mind exchanges, in fact they like it because they get you back with another chance to sell you more. Don't just look at the size label. A lot of manufacturers lie. They want you to feel slender so they mark a size 14 dress at size 12. You buy it so you can tell your friends you are now a size 12 (vanity girls). Look at all items carefully; you will avoid being mad when you get it home. You can get a good size chart from any mail order catalog. Just compare your measurements to the ones in the chart and determine your size.

See you next time. Happy shopping, and let me know if you get a grab bag from Lee Ann.



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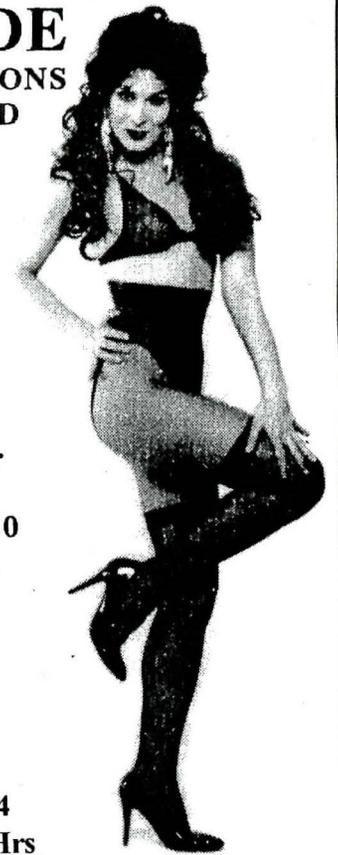
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