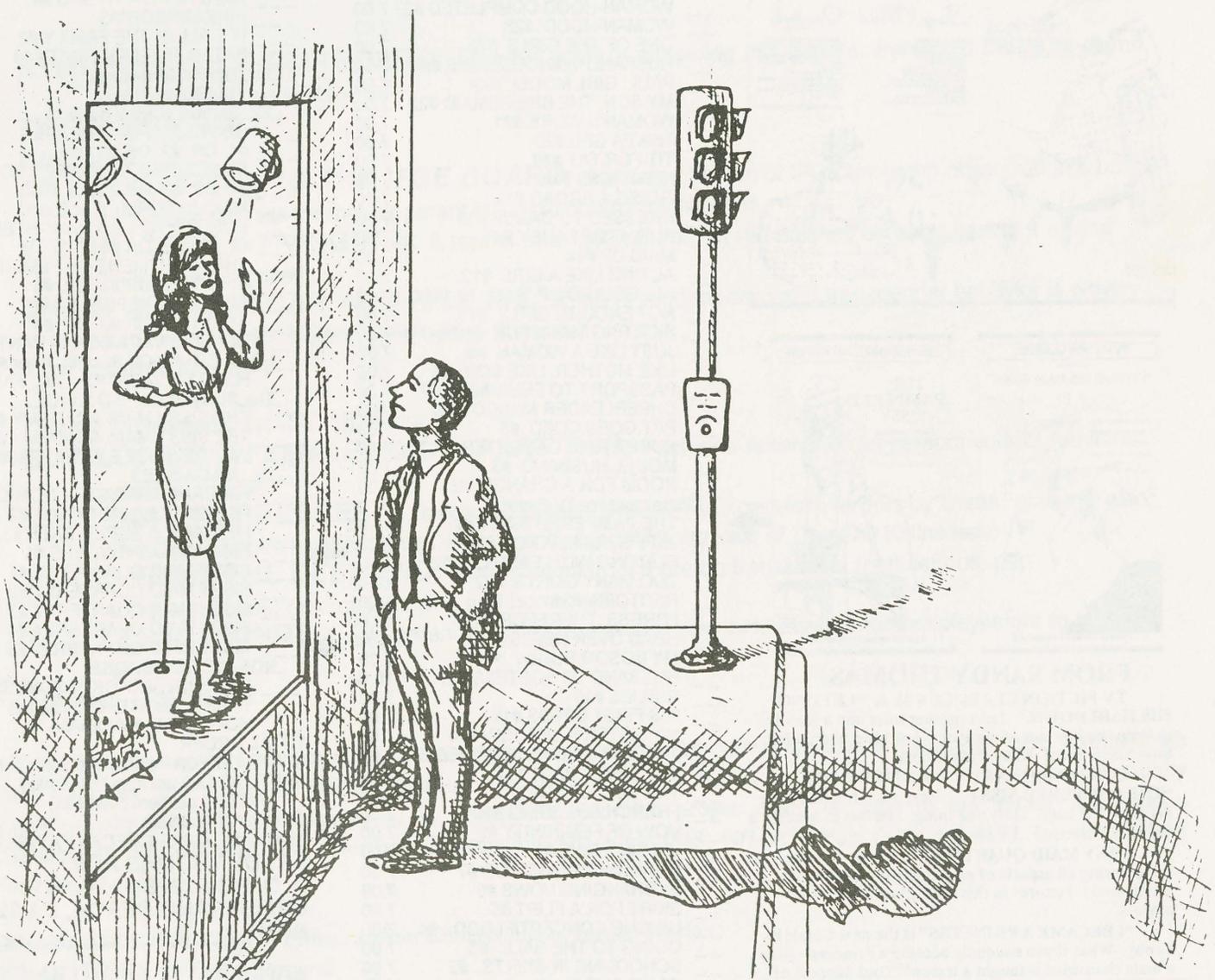


# CROSS-TALK

The Transgender Community News & Information Monthly

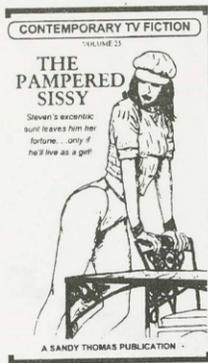
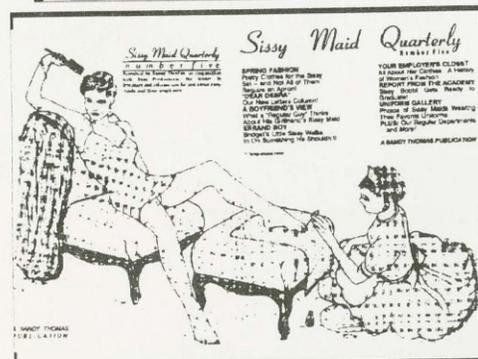
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**HAS OUR COMMUNITY IMPROVED WITH AGE?**  
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# CROSS-TALK

The Transgender Community News & Information Monthly

MAY 1996  
 (ISSUE #79)



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ASSOCIATE EDITORS: Virginia Prince, JoAnn Roberts, Paula Jordan Sinclair.  
 COVER ARTWORK by Tasha Barnard.



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## KYMBERLEIGH'S CLIPBOARD

### CREATIVE INERTIA

by Kimberleigh Richards  
Publisher & Managing Editor

I have written more than 50 editorials in the pages of **Cross-Talk**, starting in February of 1991, when we were still a newsletter, and continuing without missing an issue to the present. Recently, while looking for an article in our archives, I paused to reread one of my early commentaries, and it occurred to me that even as our community has

I also did not foresee that IFGE's Congress of Representatives would recreate itself as a more independent and important voice as the Congress of Transgender Organizations, which just this month took the important step of creating an Internet mailing list through Cross Connection that links those of its representatives

who have e-mail so that the kinds of discussions I felt we needed to have now take place on an almost daily basis.

**Issue #27:** Reacting to a remark by Virginia Prince that transsexualism is the only condition within our community that deals with sexual identity rather than gender

identity, I propose that "transgender" be used only for non-operative people (CDs and TGs) and that "transsexual" be considered separately. The argument both for and against inclusion is *still* going on; in fact, it was the basis for a violent flame war on the Internet earlier this year.

**Issue #29:** I suggest that we work not on "passing" but on creating an image -- both individually and collectively -- that mainstream society can at least tolerate. See issue #24 ...

**Issue #30:** Pointing out the parallels between the women's rights movement and our community, I suggest networking within the lesbian community. (I got a *lot* of mail disagreeing with this at the time.) Now, I find that, even though lesbians have become more tolerant of transsexuality, they are still suspicious of crossdressers in their space, and as a result this remains a stillborn issue, for most part. (It hasn't helped that we have had far from uniform success in having transgender issues added to gay/lesbian politics.)

**Issue #31:** The opening salvos are fired in the fight for our civil rights when Cynthia Howard of the Gender Alternatives League faces off against Renaissance Education Association's JoAnn Roberts over how we should go about the battle. This may be one of the few areas where we have made progress despite initial in-fighting: GAL is history, but the International Conference on Transgender Law & Employment Policy's Bill of Gender Rights owes its heritage to JoAnn's early efforts, and last year, our community took its first steps

**"I have taken a second look at my editorials that appeared pre-1993 and asked the question: 'Are my observations still relevant today?'"**

matured in the past five years, in many ways little has changed. Motivated by that thought, I have taken a second look at those of my editorials that appeared back in our newsletter days (pre-1993) and asked the question: "Are my observations still relevant today?"

**Issue #24:** A pre-op TS, who had been living full time as a woman since the age of 16, joined one of our post-Queen Mary breakfast get-togethers and shared that she had been tormented by people who "read" her from her exaggerated mannerisms. Her attitude was "I'm so beautiful, they shouldn't be able to read me." Meanwhile, yours truly was "a big fat cow who doesn't know shit about this" ...

Sadly, I still see this attitude from time to time, most notably at our community's special events and conventions. There will likely always be those who believe that beauty is everything, and that skin deep is deep enough (if those words sound familiar, you've been reading my column too long, for that is exactly how I said it five years ago).

**Issue #25:** In order to cure some of the "disjointedness" of our community, I propose that our community's leaders meet once a year to reach a consensus on the important issues and relay that consensus to the grassroots membership. Obviously, I didn't see the Internet coming; while we still don't have an annual meeting, the leaders of our community -- for the most part -- have e-mail and communicate with each other with astounding regularity; the Internet has also brought much of the grassroots membership together, with such developments as the *<alt.transgendered>* and *<soc.support.transgendered>* newsgroups and mailing lists such as *TRANSGEN*.

onto Capitol Hill.

**Issue #32:** I accuse IFGE -- and Merissa Sherrill Lynn in particular -- of sending "mixed signals" to the community about who we are, what we call ourselves, and what role IFGE and *Tapestry* play in our community. Four years later, Merissa is gone, *Tapestry* has a new "mainstream" appearance and name, and many in our community have abandoned their support of IFGE. Most still don't know what IFGE really does ...

**Issue #34:** Terminology takes center stage, as the transsexual community begins to adopt "new man" and "new woman", erotic publishers use "transsexual" to describe crossdressers, Phaedra Kelly (now *there's* a name you haven't seen in print here for quite some time!) proposes that we are all "gender transients", Anne Blackwood briefly coins the term "transvitate", GAL (as in three issues previous) says the entire community is composed of "genderists" and Virginia Prince -- who coined the term "transgenderist", from which our community's entire name is derived -- suggests "bigendered" to describe everything short of sex reassignment surgery.

Need it be said that the discussion of semantics is neverending?

**Issue #35:** Responding to complaints about **Cross-Talk's** coverage of bad news along with the good, I suggest that this community is no place for rose-colored glasses, lest we embark on foolhardy adventures and find ourselves in trouble.

I offer you Virginia Prince's column this month as an observation; her words were originally spoken more than 30 years ago, and will probably be spoken again three decades from now. As long as fantasy is confused with reality, transgendered people will get themselves into predicaments that they will be hard pressed to extricate themselves from. That will never change, I'm sorry to say.

**Issue #38:** After one of our community's conventions opts to become more couples-oriented, an agonized cry of "foul" erupts from that segment of the community who believe that conventions are an excuse to parade around hotel lobbies in their sluttiest outfits. Take one look at the "crossdressers from hell" that turn up not only at conventions but at support group meetings, ask the leaders of support groups if they have had to field complaints from hotel managers where their meetings are held, or look at daytime television talk shows, and then try to convince me this isn't still the case.

So, on balance, where are we?

We have matured as a community to a great degree, although we are also still fighting over things like whether our differences preclude our being unified (as witnessed by how vehemently we argue about terminology); we talk more with each other now than we did previously, which has led both to better understanding *and* more conflict as the many once-isolated segments of the community are

brought into contact with other segments; and fantasy still plays far too important a role in the question of transgendered identity, which has also made us far too easy to exploit.

Are we better off now than we were five years ago? Yes, but not as better off as we *could* have been. For every move forward we have taken, those who will not concede that their position is the *only* viable one have forced us to take one or two steps backwards (or at least, sideways). So in many ways it appears that very little has really changed.

As Angela Gardner wrote in an editorial that appeared both in *Renaissance News & Views* and here in **Cross-Talk**: *It takes a lot of difficult work to build a true community. It isn't achieved without some pain. Isn't it time we put an end to the period of chaos and arrived at a point where the entire community is ready to listen?*

We've had enough pain, we've had enough chaos, we've had enough "dissent in the ranks". What we *need* is a willingness to be open with each other, to both share and listen to others' sharing. In that respect, we haven't changed much at all, have we?



**COURTLY LADY**

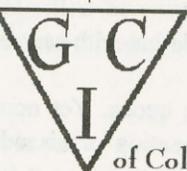
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## The NewsQueen

by Paula Jordan Sinclair

There is a paucity of entertainment this month, so we'll get it out of the way pronto.

Robin Williams flacked his latest film -- and tweaked some noses at the same time -- recently ...

"If it's between *The Birdcage* and *Texas Chainsaw Circumcision*, go see us. People have no doubts about taking a 12-year-old to see a PG-13 movie with heavy-duty disemboweling, but you mention this movie and they say: 'Are they homosexuals? Oh, good God. I'll see zombies, but I will not take my kid to see drag queens, damn it!'"



Of course, drag queens (and men in drag) are not so easily avoided nowadays, especially on television.

In March, Paul Gross, who stars as a Royal Canadian Mountie in the CBS series *Due South*, went undercover as a female teacher at an all-girls school to find a missing student.

Of his macho character, Gross said, "he's not worried about having breasts and wearing pantyhose. His *real* objection is that it could be perceived as a form of lying." Now *there's* an original addition to the list of 101 reasons why not to go out in public in drag.

But Gross was, in fact, sympathetic to the idea of men wearing women's clothes: "The shoes are painful," he said. "I have to wear a corset. You can't breathe. I think every man should dress up in women's clothing for a little insight into what they go through."



And don't switch to cable looking for a refuge from drag queens. RuPaul recently hosted *RuPaul's Party Machine*, a four-hour variety show special on VH1.



Wait til audiences get a load of Marlon Brando in his forthcoming *The Island of Dr. Moreau*. We understand that, after much waiting and build-up for the title character in John Frankenheimer's version of the H.G. Wells story, Brando finally makes his grand entrance -- in a flowing white robe and a Katharine Hepburn-style hat-with-scarves affair. And ... purple lipstick.

His hugeness is said to look like a drag queen. Yet none of the characters in the movie make mention of his odd appearance.



And you thought you had bad seatmates on your last flight!

What a dreadful gang they're casting for the Nicolas Cage-John Cusack *Con Air* thriller, which begins filming June 3. The story has Cage playing a soon-to-be-paroled convict aboard a plane transporting a group of prisoners to a maximum security prison. The bad guys hijack the plane, and Cage tries to stop them.

Among his companions in the feature: a delicate-looking cannibalistic serial killer; the leader of a guerrilla group responsible for 13 bombing deaths; a wheezy convict described as a black Rizzo (remember *Midnight Cowboy?*); a Latin drug lord; a Cajun prisoner known as "Swamp Thing," and another known as "Sally Can't Dance," a transsexual midway through her transition. Nice.



Following a week of intensive discussions with NBC officials, the Transexual Menace of New York City decided to forgo a planned picketing of *Saturday Night Live* at Rockefeller Plaza.

The threatened action in NYC followed what the Menace called "a particularly tasteless joke" referring to the recent death sentence given John Lotter for the murder of transsexual man Brandon Teena and two friends. *SNL* cast member Norm McDonald said, "I believe everyone involved in this story should die." Officials at NBC Office of Standards & Practices originally stated they were unaware of MacDonald's comments. Upon review of a tape of the show, they agreed the joke was inappropriate and ill-considered.

After several days of negotiation, NBC officials agreed to hand-deliver a packet on the Teena case to MacDonald and other *SNL* staff. Menace representatives were assured that Mr. MacDonald agreed the lines were in poor taste, and should never have aired. They were further assured that NBC would not be doing any more jokes of a similar nature in the future. Yet NBC has refused to air a public apology for the incident, stating that it is their corporate practice not to do so.

Said Riki Anne Wilchins of the NYC Menace, "While we are pleased with NBC's responsiveness, it is unconscionable that anyone could find the murder of this beautiful young man -- much less the death-sentence of his murderer -- occasions for humor."

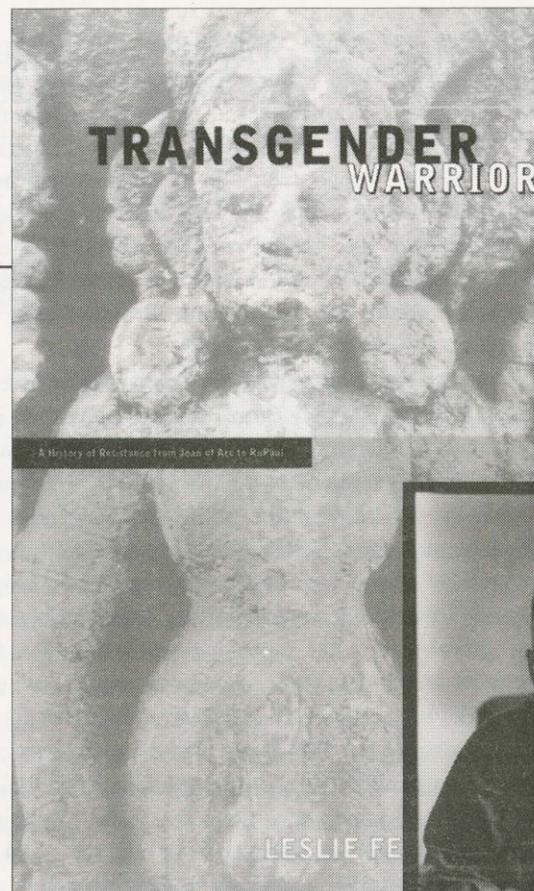
"As transpeople increase our visibility, the fight over public perception is shifting to mass media. Every minority group goes through this process, and now it's our turn to be portrayed as strange, bizarre, and unknown," she added.

Ms. Wilchins must have had *Con Air* in mind when she concluded, "It's going to get a lot worse, before it gets any better."



Now its time for an occurrence that is, regrettably, becoming common in this column -- a correction.

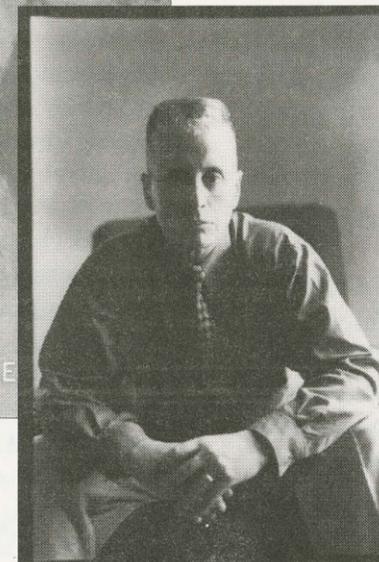
Last month, Ms. Sinclair reported that John Lotter had been sentenced to three consecutive life sentences for



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"Men and women have had their histories. This is the history book for the rest of us."\*

## TRANSGENDER WARRIORS

MAKING HISTORY FROM JOAN OF ARC TO RUPAUL

by LESLIE FEINBERG  
author of the underground classic, *Stone Butch Blues*

In this fascinating, personal journey through history, Leslie Feinberg—one of the most prominent gender rights activists today—uncovers persuasive evidence that there have always been people who crossed the cultural boundaries of gender.

"Illuminating! This work offers fascinating facts, the wisdom of experience, and theoretical insight. Passionately recording the link between the personal and the political . . . Feinberg reminds us that the struggle for justice and freedom was always the issue."—bell hooks, author of *Killing Rage*

"Feinberg's chronicle of transgendered people through time and across cultures, woven into a fascinating personal narrative, is at once disarming and a call to arms."—\*Kate Bornstein, author of *Gender Outlaw*

"Transgender Warriors is not only a moving personal account, it breaks both new historical and new theoretical ground. Written simply, clearly and without academic jargon, the book constitutes a challenge to academic scholars to deepen our knowledge of transgender history. Read this book!"—Dr. Anne Fausto-Sterling, author of *Gender: Biological Theories About Women and Men*

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killing Brandon Teena, a 20-year-old female-to-male transsexual, and two of her friends in 1993. Actually, Lotter was given three *death* sentences. Lotter's accomplice, Marvin Nelson, got the three life sentences.



Transgendered pressure on another front has brought some success.

In testifying for the re-authorization of the Hate Crimes Statistics Act now working its way through Congress, Elizabeth Birch, Executive Director of Human Rights Campaign (HRC), fulfilled promises she made last year to transgendered community leaders. Following nationwide demonstrations by transgender activists against HRC's policy of excluding transvestites and transsexuals from Employment Non-Discrimination Act, Birch promised to drop HRC's opposition. In addition, she suggested in sometimes heated meetings at HRC's Washington offices, that a better place to seek the first-ever Congressional acknowledgment of transgendered needs would be the hate crimes legislation, and she pledged HRC's support for including transgendered in the bill.

In her Congressional testimony, Birch stated: "I would like to point out there is another group of Americans who are targeted for hate crimes. It is HRC's position that they should also be covered under the Hate Crimes Statistics Act. Transgendered Americans, who either live their lives as the opposite gender, or actually go through medical

procedures to change their gender, are not specifically covered by the Hate Crimes Statistics Act. Like lesbian and gay Americans, transgendered persons are often singled out to be harassed, often with violent circumstances. In 1991, Brandon Teena, who was a woman living her life as a man, was brutally raped by two men. Two suspects were identified, but the sheriff refused to investigate on the grounds that since Brandon had 'lied' about his gender, his statement could not be trusted. Brandon was savagely murdered several days later.

"Obviously, Brandon was a victim of hate crimes of the worst kind. I strongly urge this Congress to consider covering transgendered persons under the reauthorized Hate Crimes Statistics Act."

Said Dana Priesing of the national transgender lobbying group, GenderPAC, "HRC has taken a lot of hits from the community about their policies concerning transgendered people. So it's very, very gratifying to see Elizabeth Birch and other HRC staff speaking out and addressing the needs of trans-identified Americans, especially on critical issues like hate crimes. They deserve a lot of credit."

"This is one of the first times I'm aware of any testimony about transgendered people in the Congressional Record, but I sure hope it's not the last," Priesing said. "GenderPAC will be working to create the good will and interest in Congress necessary to have transfolk added to a reauthorized Hate Crimes Statistics Act."



Sadly, it's often the case of one step forward and one step back.

In a move that left transsexual members stunned and angry, the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA), the nation's oldest and most prestigious organizations for sexual minority physicians, has removed all references to transgendered people from its letterhead and mission statement.

Since 1994, GLMA has described itself as "a U.S. and Canadian organization of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered physicians, medical students, and their supporters." But in February, the GLMA board voted to remove the words "transgendered" and "Canadian." But the board emphasized that transgendered members (and presumably Canadians) are still welcome. The act was particularly appalling to some because transsexual physician Joy Shaffer was one of the founding members of the organization.

GLMA president Valerie Ulstad justified the change by noting that less than half of one percent to the association's members are transgendered and the board doubted whether it had the resources or expertise to effectively advocate transgender issues. But the board reportedly did not consult any transgendered members to get their opinion before the vote.

Never one to avoid an opportunity to lob a verbal grenade,

Riki Wilchins declared: "We are shocked, shocked by this blatant display of phobia. While we can certainly sympathize with transphobia, especially national groups' desire to put the gendertrash out for the night, it is absolutely inexcusable that *anyone* would want to treat our wonderful neighbors to the north in this exceptionally thoughtless and cavalier manner. Canad-o-phobia must not go unchallenged."



Or is it *two* steps back? Two Maryland bills aimed at protecting the rights and privacy of transgendered persons died in committee earlier this month.

The House Environmental Matters committee defeated HB323 by a vote of 10-10. The bill would have simplified the process by which post-operative transsexuals may obtain a birth certificate for their new gender and have their original certificate sealed. Twelve votes were needed to move the bill out of committee.

House Bill 325 would have banned job discrimination based on gender identity. Just one day after the Commerce and Governmental Matters Committee heard testimony on the bill, panel members voted 20-0 against the measure.

"We've begun an education process that is going to take a long time to complete," said Jessica Xavier, whose transgender activist group It's Time Maryland! drafted both bills. Xavier said she was "stunned" by the employment discrimination bill's resounding defeat because some of the committee's members supported gay rights legislation and had seemed supportive of her bill.

Nevertheless, she considered the entire affair a victory of sorts, noting that this was the first time that legislation specifically for transgendered people had been introduced at the state level.



Maryland may have been the first, but it isn't the last. California State Sen. Milton Marks has introduced a measure that would amend the state's Fair Housing and Employment Act to ban discrimination based on gender identity.

"It's a crime that transgenders and transsexuals are not expressly protected in any California law," Marks said. "That's what my bill is intended to correct -- years of hatred and bigotry. If this bill is enacted it will be a tremendous historical step on the road to correct centuries of discrimination." Sadly, political experts say the measure has little likelihood of being approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee because of the Republican majority.



People living in Western Australia who have had sex change operations will receive legal recognition of their new gender under proposed new legislation.

The proposed law would establish a Gender Reassignment Board which would issue certificates to those who have

changed their sex in West Australia or elsewhere. The board would have the power to issue a new birth certificate and alter relevant registers. But before the board could recognize a person's "reassigned gender," it would have to be satisfied that the applicant believed their new gender was their new gender, had adopted a lifestyle reflecting that gender, and had received proper counseling about their sexual identity.



Things are looking up in South America as well. The Argentinean Association of Transvestites has filed suit against the Buenos Aires municipal police charging discrimination, persecution, and illegal incarceration.

In a heavily attended press conference, spokespersons Maria Belen Correa and Loana Berkins said about 100 transvestites are arrested nightly in Buenos Aires -- at bars, in shops, in taxis, and on the street. They are usually charged with the crime of wearing clothes of the opposite gender and are frequently physically abused at the police station.

Meanwhile in Brazil, 15 candidates for public office -- 14 of them gay and one transvestite -- gathered for the nation's first conference of sexual minority candidates.



Transgendered folks in Portland, Ore., are hoping to take

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another step forward. Several of them testified publicly about problems they face in employment, housing, public accommodations, medical care, and law enforcement. The city's Human Rights Commission is looking into the level of discrimination faced by transsexuals and transvestites to determine if the human right ordinance should be amended to include protections for transgendered persons. Several male-to-female and female-to-male transsexuals told stories about forms of discrimination that are all too familiar to readers of this column.

But one woman made a frightening charge: "Insurance companies used to just deny coverage of SRS," said Rachel Koteles. "Now a lot of them are denying coverage of 'any supplies and services related to transsexualism.' They're not just denying certain procedures, they're denying treatment to a whole class of people. If I got breast cancer, they could refuse to cover surgery because it might have been caused by taking female hormones." Another woman said that no transsexual has ever won a discrimination case using a statute which protects people on the basis of sexual orientation.

Two transsexuals, however, testified against broadening the law to include them and transvestites. A man who said he was a lesbian activist before his transition said he feared that his lesbian daughter would not have the same legal protection he did as a lesbian if the law were

changed. A transsexual woman also disputed the need for inclusion, saying that education -- not legislation -- was the best way to fight discrimination.



Sometimes, rights don't come from a law; they come from the *absence* of a law. Take the example of Dee Harrison and Kathy Zenter. Wishing to get married, the two applied for -- and received -- an Alabama marriage license. There apparently is no law on the books that bans same-sex marriages in the state. But even if there were, they probably would have got the license anyway.

"I was not sure they were two women," said county clerk Muriel Knowling. She said Harrison looked like a man. Actually, Harrison *was* a man before his 1986 sex-change operation.

The whole incident tickled State Sen. Bill Armistead, who will cite it in his campaign to outlaw same-sex marriages. "The public will realize that there are people out there with such perverted minds they would try to marry a person of the same sex," the Republican lawmaker said.



A complicated mating game is going on in California, played by harem-keeping males, female impersonators, and fellas who just want to get along. No, they are not trying to trick state lawmakers; the players are all lizards just doin' what comes naturally.

Scientists studying the side-blotched lizard in rocky outcrops in the foothills of the Coast Range report that there are three types of males: aggressive harem-keepers, less aggressive males with only one or two mates, and males who impersonate females to get themselves the lizard equivalent of a quickie. Each type has different color markings on their throats.

Males with orange throat markings are very aggressive and defend large territories, keeping harems of up to six females. They take females away from the blue-throated male, which is less aggressive and typically has only one or two females.

When the orange-throats are common, it's a bonanza for the third kind of male, female impersonators with yellow stripes on their throats. They invade orange-throats' harems for quick sex, avoiding harm because they look and behave like females. If the impersonators are successful enough to have lots of offspring, the males of which tend to be yellow-throated, then in a generation or two there will be more yellow-throats in a population and far fewer orange-throats.

That opens the door for the blue-throats. Although they don't dare challenge the more aggressive orange-throats, they can easily run off the yellow-throated drag queens who aren't interested in keeping a harem. For awhile, the blue-throats have their day, setting up territories and defending females against the yellow-throats without having to worry about a lot of orange-throats around.

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"What's on the TV Tonight?" is a charming cartoon book depicting transvestites in a variety of amusing situations. Because it is the creation of a TV, none other than Christine-Jane Wilson, the editor of *The Glad Rag*, the book always laughs with, not at, transvestites. The author draws on her own experience, as well as her imagination, to produce cartoons showing the dreadfully embarrassing things that can happen to TVs, whether in social or family context. But it's not blushes all the way: some pages glow with the positive pride a cross-dresser may feel when found out unexpectedly.  
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But in a couple of generations, the burgeoning population of blue-throats means more females are being guarded by them, opening up an opportunity for the aggressive orange-throats. The orange-throats start winning away more females and produce enough offspring to grow in population -- eventually making them vulnerable again to the impersonators, starting the cycle all over again.

"This is just one of those little flukes of nature," said Barry Sinervo of Indiana University in Bloomington, who has been studying the lizards. "There's no real advantage to it."



Here is another animal example of adapting to social pressure. Imagine that you are a male gobi fish peacefully swimming with your harem in the tropical waters off Okinawa. Then along comes a more aggressive male (or a conservative state legislator). What to do? You spontaneously change your sex, that's what.

Scientists say that if something happens to the new dominant male, the transsexual female reverts to being a male. Biologist Matthew Grober of the University of Idaho has been studying the fish. He has told a meeting of the Society for Neuroscience said that the gobi are one of three species of fish who can change sex repeatedly when circumstances require it. He said the discovery is significant because the region of the fish's brain involved in the sex change is the same region linked to transsexuality in humans. Grober has been able to induce the sex changes in the laboratory, where it has discovered that the fish have it better than humans. The average gobi transition takes just four days, and some accomplished it in two.

For the neuroscientists out there, Grober is focusing his studies on the ventral forebrain, specifically cells that produce a hormone called arginine, which is known to control sex-specific reproductive and parenting behaviors in a wide variety of vertebrates. This region is similar to the BSTc area that Dutch scientists said is smaller in women and in male-to-female transsexuals.

"Humans and fish have the same pieces of the engine that drive sexual differences," Grober said. While it is difficult to study the human brain, "we can play with the engine in a fish and find really interesting insights about human behavior." Grober has yet to find the "engine" that drives conservatives.



Another way to confound the political process is to subvert it from within. That is what is what Dan Savage of Seattle is doing to the Republican party. After a battle with local GOP officials, Savage, the outspoken gay author of a sex-advice column -- and a drag queen -- has won the right to be a delegate to the party's King County, Wash., convention.

Officials had tried to disqualify Savage on the basis of residency. But after rechecking party records, they

discovered Savage had filled out all his forms correctly and lives on Seattle's Capitol Hill where he said he lives. And, as Savage has maintained, because he was the only person to attend his Republican precinct caucus last month, he is a bona fide convention delegate.

Normally all this would be lost in the daily minutiae of politics, but Savage got attention by hinting he might attend the convention in drag, but now says he probably won't do that unless the party tries again to keep him out. Savage said he turned Republican hoping either to steer the party to the left or push it so far to the right that mainstream America rejects it. He signed on as a delegate for Pat Buchanan.



In Houston, it's the *Democrats* who are in a tizzy. Incumbent David Minberg says he is preparing for the "embarrassment" of a run-off race against transsexual Leslie Perez to retain his title as Harris County Democratic Party chairman.

Minberg, whose 42 percent of the vote in the regular election fell short, hopes that voters "will focus and realize that she is not a woman, not Hispanic, has a murder record, and gets no official support within the party." Perez, who was convicted of the 1961 killing of an insurance agent, said "the 30 percent of the voters is my endorsement. I've been an upstanding citizen for many years now. Houstonians may not be able to forget, but they

can forgive."

The transgendered rights groups It's Time, Texas! and Transexual Menace Houston were concerned about Minberg's statements linking Perez's transsexuality and her murder conviction. Minberg promised the groups that he would not "tie transsexuals and murderers together in the future" and promised not to make transsexuality the focus of his campaign. But within days, a member of It's Time, Texas! received a mailing from Minberg's campaign that said Perez was a transsexual murderer. So the two groups staged a protest at Minberg's campaign headquarters.



Finally, if as they say imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, Ms. Sinclair is flattered indeed, for her imitator is none other than Ann Landers.

Last month, Ms. Landers spiced up her column with a crossdressing news item sent in by a reader (who noted the name but not the date of the publication): Police in Hiawatha, Iowa, charged a man wearing only makeup, a wig, high heels, and an unzipped sweater in a convenience store with indecent exposure, but the charges were dropped when the county attorney decided no law was violated. When the man, who was from Peachtree City, Ga., entered the store, the clerk noticed he was naked from the waist down (except for his high heels). The man unsuccessfully tried to pull down his sweater to cover his private parts, poured himself a cup of coffee, took money out of his purse to pay the clerk, said "Sorry about this," and scurried away. Ann contacted the county attorney's office and was told that the man may have been mentally disturbed.



In addition to Ann Landers, other contributors this month include Telzey Adams, Suzanne Hensel, Rosemary Lockley, Michelle Steiner, and Vera Rae House. Please send your contributions -- noting the date and name of publication -- in care of Cross-Talk.

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## HotBuzz

by JoAnn Roberta

"First deserve, and then desire." -- English Proverb



First you say you won't and then you will ... Lest anyone think I have nothing else on my mind (and some of you doubt I even have that), I'm starting this month's column on a subject other than IFGE ... the Texas "T" Party. For those of you who missed this year's T, you might have heard this was the last one. According to a press release handed out at the T and signed by Linda and Cynthia Phillips, "... your hostesses are tired!" and so they decided this was to be the last T. However, according to my spy ... err ... news network (they're everywhere, they're everywhere), the Sam'nEric of the transgender set have changed their collective mind and I'm hardly surprised. The T is a gold mine generating, by conservative estimates, between \$10,000 and \$15,000 profit each event. I sure wouldn't want to give that up if the T were my event. Maybe if the Phillips do throw in the towel, the original T sponsors would consider reviving the event under its original aegis. Stay tuned for the latest developments on the 1997 Tentative T Party.



Okay, now comes the IFGE stuff. Early in March, the Chair of the IFGE Fund Raising Committee, Sharon Saypen, sent out a letter asking for donations to help stock the "new" IFGE bookstore. Excuse me ... new? IFGE has been selling books since 1989. I know. They buy my books. So, what happened to the money they made from selling the books they already had in stock? And, if they can't turn a profit selling what they have now, what makes them think they'll turn a profit with a larger inventory? I don't know about you, but I'm tired of listening to IFGE beg for money every year and every year it's a new excuse. Since its inception, this community has poured close to \$2,000,000 into IFGE. Over the past year IFGE raised over \$40,000 in membership fees and slashed its employee costs by almost another \$40,000. So, I have to wonder, where is all this money going? It's time IFGE came clean about its financial health. It's time for IFGE to publish its profit & loss and balance sheets. By law, this is public data. As dues paying members, you and I have a right to know this information.



On the other hand, if your money is burning a hole in your

pocket and you just *have* to make a donation, let me make some suggestions. Charity starts at home, so give money to your local organization first. That's where it will do the most direct good. Next, send some money to GenderPAC c/o P.O. Box 229, Waltham MA 02154. Finally, send some money to ICTLEP at P.O. Drawer 35477, Houston TX 77235. As you read last month, ICTLEP has opened an office and really needs some cash.



A call for papers has been issued for the second International Congress on Sex & Gender Issues, to be held June 19-22, 1997, at Valley Forge, Pa. Papers offering research data and theoretical positions are welcome. Experimental work is particularly desired. Clinical material is welcome particularly to illustrate how counseling helps resolve transgender issues. Non-clinical presentations on the social and legal issues of gender and gender identity are especially welcomed. There will be also be opportunities to present significant material in workshops.

To submit proposals for papers or workshops, contact yours truly for submission guidelines (JoAnn Roberts Ph.D., P.O. Box 61263, King of Prussia PA 19406, phone (610) 640-9449, fax (610) 648-0257, Internet e-mail <cngrs2@cdspub.com>).

The Congress is co-sponsored by the Human Sexuality Program in the Graduate Department of Education at the University of Pennsylvania, and The Renaissance Education Association, Inc. The Center for Sex Research at the California State University at Northridge (CSUN) -- organizer of the first Congress -- endorses this, the second Congress.

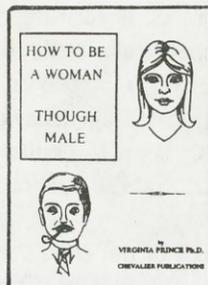
Registration will be \$80 per person, but those registering before January 1, 1997 will pay \$60 per person. (The Saturday evening banquet with guest speaker Kate Bornstein, author of *Gender Outlaw*, is \$37 extra.) Rooms and meals are not included in registration. You can register through Renaissance Education Association, Inc., Congress Registration, 987 Old Eagle School Road Suite 719, Wayne PA 19087.



Sad news from California: Dr. Bonnie Bullough died the morning of April 12 at the age of 69 of pneumonia (she had suffered from interstitial lung disease). She had been hospitalized less than a week before her death.

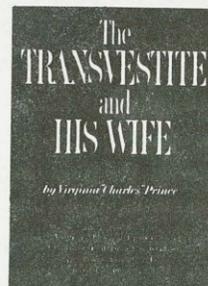
Bonnie was the co-author -- with her husband, Dr. Vern Bullough -- of *Cross Dressing, Sex and Gender* (U. of Penn Press), which I reviewed in *Cross-Talk* #45; she had two other books in press at the time of her death, and was completing the final manuscript on another. Although unable to meet with her class at the University of Southern California on a regular basis, she lectured occasionally, most recently at the Nurse Practitioner Convention in San Diego in March.

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Los Angeles CA 90036

A memorial service was held April 21; besides her husband, she is survived by four children, a daughter-in-law, and a granddaughter. Vern has asked that contributions in her name be made either to the USC Department of Nursing (Los Angeles 90033) or to the School of Nursing at State University of New York at Buffalo (14214), where Bonnie once served as dean.



Cyber-this. Cyber-that. CyberQueen! Everybody and everything is getting into the "cyber" act, so it comes as no surprise that cyber-cosmetics have entered the scene. Yes, girls, L'Oreal announces Cybershine, its latest color line for spring which is all pink and glossy. For you UNIX gurus: \$m cybershine.



If you think that cosmetics and the companies that produce them are frivolous, consider this. L'Oreal made a takeover bid for Memphis-based Maybelline to the tune of \$600 million. Maybelline is the all-time champ when it comes to mascara sales. Its Great Lash mascara in the pink and green container is used by virtually every major makeup artist in the U.S. And, even while it's being snapped up by another company, Maybelline has just introduced Great Finish nail polish which claims "Wet to set in 2 minutes flat." Now that's a major accomplishment.



Revlon isn't sitting on its laurels either. It's just launched two new Spring palettes called "In The Flesh," in both deep and pale tones. Personally I prefer the deep tones. It takes a very feminine face to pull off the no-makeup makeup look.



More on makeup and money ... Cosmetic Queen Estee Lauder is rolling in it. The privately held company went public last November and the market sharks snapped it up.

Since then Lauder has reported second quarter earnings of over \$58 million. Netscape move over.



Faced with having to replace supermodel Cindy Crawford on *House of Style*, MTV hired not one, but two non-super models: Amber Valetta and Shalom Harlow. Who?



The HotBuzz on shoes for Spring is the return of the Spectator Pump. But the newest "specs" bear little resemblance to their sisters of yore. They're clunky and plain ugly. Why can't I just find a nice looking Spectator with a two inch heel and no ankle strap?



Does the name Max Factor ring a familiar note? How about Dean Factor? No? Well, Dean is the 31 year-old great-grandson of Max, he that virtually created the cosmetics industry and the most celebrated makeup artist in the U.S. Factor The Younger has created his own cosmetics line, SmashBox Beauty, for release mid-month. Targeted initially at makeup professionals, SmashBox is expected to make it to department store shelves by late Fall. Watch for it.



Perhaps taking a cue from the recent Renni awards handed out to female role models by the Renaissance Education Association, *Glamour* magazine handed out Glammie Awards to Hollywood films of 1995. Nominees for the Burt Reynolds Flip Your Lid Award were Shelley Long in *The Brady Bunch Movie*, Anne Bancroft in *Home For The Holidays*, Robert Duvall in *The Scarlet Letter*, Jim Carrey in *Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls*, and Sly Stallone in *Assassins*. And, the winner is: Wesley Snipes in *To Wong Foo ...* Speaking of drag movies, *The Birdcage*, a remake of *La Cage aux Folles* with Robin Williams and Nathan Lane has been a huge hit and is getting great

national reviews. America seems to love drag!



Nationally known for his outstanding reputation as a sex educator, Dr. William Stayton has been asked to testify as an expert witness in the ACLU court challenge of the Communications Decency Act which criminalizes "indecent" speech on the Internet. Fear of the CDA has caused some content providers to shut down their web sites, while others sneer at the law. A federal judge has issued an injunction against prosecution by the Justice Department until the court rules on the constitutionality of the law. Content providers like the Safer Sex Page, the AIDS Education Network, Stop Prisoner Rape, the Queer Resources Directory, Apple Computer, America OnLine and others have joined the ACLU lawsuit. If the CDA is upheld, many of the web sites with information about transgender behavior could shut down. Congress passed the CDA so they could go home and tell constituents they protected their children from smut on the Internet, knowing full well the law is unconstitutional. It's election year and politicians will do anything to get reelected.



The Republicans decry the moral decay of society and a cosmetics company rises to claim the honor. Urban Decay features lipsticks with names like Asphyxia and Smog that coordinate with their nail enamels with names like Frostbite, Bruise, and Mildew. Spurred by the blood-black success of Chanel's Vamp, Urban Decay is the *in* thing. Bruise, the reddish-purple polish, is the most popular at \$9 a bottle. You'll find Urban Decay at, where else, Urban Outfitters, and Nordstrom, or call 1-800-784-URBAN.



According to the Fashion Workshop in the April issue of *Glamour*, definitely "out" are shoulder duster earrings and patterned hose of any kind. We can tell the editors at *Glamour* don't hang with drag queens. How could we possible do without shoulder dusters and who among us doesn't treasure her fishnets? Well, I've got news for them, the Spring fashions on the runway have their share of *faux pas*, like: frills on everything; clothes so sheer nothing is left hidden; skirts so long you'll trip on the hems; and clothes so bare they're only good for summer.



What's up with Frederick's of Hollywood? Maybe they've finally caught on that more men buy their clothes and lingerie than women. After all, a woman has to have a near perfect body to even think about wearing Freddie's clothes in public. The only place I've ever seen these clothes are at TV conventions. So, the latest catalog arrives (yes, I get it) and more than 60% of the clothes are now available in "Plus" sizes. Enticed by such offerings, I placed an order. I'm still waiting after almost two months because what I wanted was out of stock the day the catalog arrived.



Perhaps it's not just Frederick's that is specifically catering to men. Victoria's Secret is being sued by a woman for discrimination. Seems the lady received a Vicky's catalog touting a 10 percent discount off her order, while her boyfriend received the same exact catalog except his offered a 25 percent discount.



Anne Blackwood replied to my jibe about Nielson and Stallone: "Brigitte Nielson couldn't possibly be Sly Stallone in drag. She's too tall ... barefoot. I met her once, when I auditioned for *Cobra*. For some reason she was sitting in on the casting sessions. I had no idea who she was, just thought, 'There's a rather attractive blonde.'" Should there be a TS Rocky movie, would they call it *Rocky XX* or *Rocky XY*?



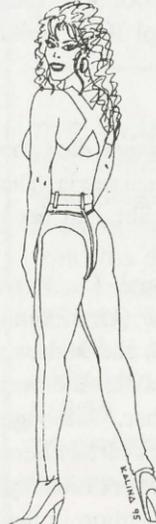
So, those are my opinions, but, hey, what do I know? I think it's indecent the way some organizations beg for money. It's better to give than receive. Comments? Write c/o Cross-Talk or e-mail them to <thebitch@cdspub.com>. Copyright 1996 by Creative Design Services.

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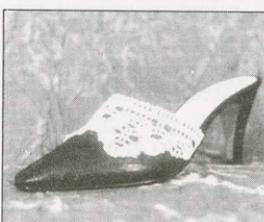
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## GUEST COMMENTARY

### AN OPEN LETTER TO THE IFGE BOARD

Having carefully reviewed your slate of candidates I find it very difficult to vote. Your organization has just gone through a very difficult transition. As a member I note that:

During the transition the staff's and Board of Directors' statements contained nothing of substance about what was going on. IFGE stonewalled its constituents. Instead of trusting the community with real information, you said very little and even that was given a rosy sheen. You allowed other publications, non-IFGE associated individuals and off-the-record statements to serve as our only link to an organization that purports to be "ours." IFGE's version of what transpired is too Pollyanna for belief. It leaves the feeling that IFGE is hiding things; that it's trying to protect itself from its members.

There has never been full disclosure of how the financial mismanagement took place and why the Board of Directors allowed it. It appears that the Board failed in their oversight function. So, the number of terms and length of association with IFGE does not work in favor of the current candidates. Of the eight candidates, five were IFGE Board members and one an alternate. How am I to believe that the Board members who didn't see years of mismanagement before will recognize it now? How many people who weren't already associated with IFGE did the nominating committee consider? Haven't you ever heard of "outreach" and diversifying the Board by identifying FTMs, helping professionals or other qualified candidates *outside* of the organization who share its goals?

This self-perpetuating nature of the IFGE Board is counter-productive, to say the least. Even the election contains elements of power brokering. Though the membership elects four Board members, one is appointed by the Board. Is that so the "old girl network" can reappoint a current member who lacked votes?

How did IFGE react to its financial difficulties? Poorly. Very poorly. It balanced the budget on the backs of the members. IFGE split the membership and subscription into two fees. The result is that IFGE supporters are paying almost double what they paid two years ago and with no appreciable increase in services. Oh, there is the new quarterly newsletter, but its main function has been damage control and promoting IFGE's staff and Board. Do any of the candidates have experience with non-profit fund raising? Have they ever approached a foundation,

corporation, university, the government or anybody except the membership for support?

Are there any guidelines for Board members being enforced? Don't IFGE Board members have to support its mission, policies and the rights of transgendered people? The 1996 ballot states that the IFGE Nominating Committee selected these candidates "on the basis of their ability and willingness to serve the *entire* Transgendered Community *without bias*" (emphasis added). Yet, the IFGE Board chair, Linda Buten, has made it clear that she, as a small businessman, would not hire a transgendered person or a member of any minority. She is against any legislation protecting any minority in the workplace. Protected minorities could bring suit in cases of discrimination and, "The bottom line is, if there are plenty of qualified people for the job, why take a chance and hire someone who may later be a detriment (i.e., has the right to bring suit if discriminated against)? This also holds true for someone who is transgendered. If there was a law in my town protecting, say, transsexuals, I would never consider hiring one." ("Human Rights? Equal Rights? Special Rights?" in *Cross-Talk* #66.) This is contrary to the International Bill of Gender Rights (IBGR) drafted by the International Conference on Transgendered Law and Employment Policy (ICTLEP). Does the Nominating committee believe Linda Buten's views, as expressed in this article, are "without bias?" Do her statements demonstrate that she is qualified to "serve the entire Transgendered Community?" I don't think ICTLEP would agree.

I cannot see how the current slate of candidates can promise anything but business as usual at IFGE. To repeat: according to the biographies of the eight candidates provided in the 1996 Ballot: four are currently on the IFGE Board, one is an alternate, one is staff and one chairs an IFGE committee with greater affiliation implied. Only one doesn't seem to be part of the ineffectual inner-circle. And she, poor dear, would be easily out-voted. IFGE should be embarrassed to present such a slate to the membership at this time.

Sincerely,

*Bob Davis*



## VIRGIN VIEWS BY VIRGINIA

### ALL OR NONE? OR HAPPY ADJUSTMENT?

by Virginia Prince, Ph.D.

[Editor's Note: This month's column is a reprint of an editorial that appeared in the August, 1962 issue of the FPE Femme Mirror (#8).]

In reading the letters that come in, I sometimes get the idea that the writers are striving for conditions that they will never reach. These conditions are of several types; personal appearance, public acceptance, and wifely understanding.

Some of us seem to set goals for ourselves which are unrealistic and when we cannot achieve them we are frustrated and unhappy. For example, all American males have an ideal type of woman in their minds. We are brought up on Shirley Temple, Deanna Durbin, Judy Garland, Marilyn Monroe, or some other "sex symbol" ... then, as crossdressers, we try to conform to this ideal. Since few of us boast feminine enough faces, the chances of approximating any of these feminine ideals is exceedingly remote. But we keep trying to achieve the unachievable. If we happen to be a "gentleman who prefers blondes" we are liable to put a blonde wig on our femmeselves, whether or not it goes with the complexion, facial shape, age, or anything else. In doing this, we don't make the best of what we have.

We read about the adventures of some other girl who is more fortunately endowed (or, in some cases, more foolish or nery) and we feel that we won't have arrived or earned the Order of the Black Garter unless we have succeeded in doing much the same thing. In striving to emulate others some of us abandon the more practical, safe and moderate existence we have led up to that time and sometimes find ourselves in trouble as a result. Some can "pass", others cannot. Passing and public adventures are *not* the hallmarks of a crossdresser; true, they can be fun and satisfying, but there are other satisfactions.

With wives, the same applies. Some of us are fortunate in having wives that understand and accept in one degree or another. All of us would like to have this type. Yet, let us face it: women are not without their worries, insecurities, and maladjustments. Thus, some of them can handle the crossdressing relatively easily without a lot of explanation. Others can make an adjustment of sorts, after they have been given a lot of reasoning about it. Others can deal

with it by the "ostrich principle" of knowing it is going on but not being able to participate visually in the experience. Some are so insecure in themselves that this would be the last straw on the camel's back.

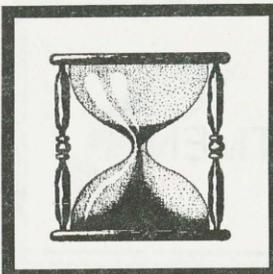
It behooves every crossdresser, then, to evaluate all these factors for himself. Neither life nor our particular problems can be handled on an "all or none" basis and we should stop trying to force this condition. If you are 58 and look like a retired school teacher who never married, then do a good job of looking like a spinster lady of 58 and give up trying to out-Bardot Bardot. If your hands are too stubby, rough, or hairy, don't be foolish and try to cover them with gloves and go to a restaurant because you read about someone else doing it. Try to be satisfied in feeling like a lady, at home or at a group get-together ... but don't take a chance on getting into trouble by going out just because you read that "Miss X" did so.

In the matter of wives, you should not automatically expect your wife to be as understanding as others' may be. There may be things in some wives' backgrounds that give them a broader base of understanding than may be the case with your wife. I don't mean to say that you *shouldn't* try to bring her around, but don't push her too far or too fast. There is a lot more in a good marriage than having a wife who understands crossdressing, so don't jeopardize the rest by forcing the crossdressing further or faster than she can adjust to it.

In short, try to arrive at a position of the most pleasure and satisfaction with the least disappointment, frustration, danger, or domestic resentment. None of us can expect "all" and certainly very few are going to say that "I can't have everything, I will have 'none'." Usually we are left in the middle with a part, so the psychological challenge is to make the most out of that part with a good healthy try at achieving a "happy adjustment" within our own personal and domestic limitations. I recommend Confucius' "Moderation in All Things" as a very useful bit of philosophy. (Think about it.)



Virginia Prince is a co-founder of *The Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess)* and the former publisher of *Transvestia* magazine. She may be contacted at P.O. Box 36091, Los Angeles CA 90036.



## HIS/HERSTORY

# DRAG: AS AMERICAN AS APPLE PIE

by Joseph S. Amster

(Dedicated to the memory of Doris Fish)

The Neanderthals. After a long day of mammoth-hunting and dinosaur-dodging, do you suppose a caveman threw on a tight fitting leopard skin, rubbed his lips with berries and camped it up around the fire?

Drag, which is probably as old as civilization, has its roots in the theater. The Greek and Roman theater or Japanese Kabuki, for example. And in Shakespeare's time, women were not allowed on the stage, so all female roles were played by men. The first Juliet was a man, as were the first Ophelia, Desdemona and Lady Macbeth.

Condemnations of drag can be found in writing as early as the 17th century. In the book *The Gay Past*, Puritan William Prynne's essay "Histrio-Mastix: The Players Scourge" is cited. "Prynne denounced the practice of males donning female garb for any purpose," the book says, "calling it disgusting, revolting, repugnant, counter to the judgments of both pagan and Christian scholars from earliest recorded history and contrary to the revealed will of god. Transvestism was a wickedness, Prynne explained, of 'which my inke is not blacke enough to discypher.'"

In the 1800s, transvestism found its way into the ranks of Custer's Calvary. *Gay American History* cites an example found by Don Rickey Jr. of a Mrs. Nash "who held the post of company laundress in the Seventh Calvary. Always heavily veiled, this person remained with the regiment, married to a succession of soldier-husbands from 1868 to 1878. She did not leave the service when her 'husbands' were discharged, and in 1878 was cohabitating with a corporal at Fort Meade, Dakota Territory. The corporal accompanied his unit on an extended campaign in the summer of 1878, and 'Mrs. Nash' died in his absence. When some of the garrison ladies went to lay her out, the shocking truth was revealed. 'Mrs. Nash' was a man. The corporal's comrades ridiculed him unmercifully, and unable to bear their scorn, he committed suicide with his revolver."

In the late 19th century, drag flourished in New York City, with huge drag balls attracting thousands. Many nightclubs offered "pansy shows", which consisted of female impersonators performing for primarily heterosexual audiences. During the 1930s the "pansy craze" swept New

York City. "Most of the gay club acts of Times Square originated in the 1920s, in several Village clubs, which had initially offered gay-oriented entertainment to cultivate a gay following rather than to pander to tourists," Chauncey writes. "Many of the entertainers were female impersonators. Jack (or Jackie) Mason, who was later to become a major impresario in professional female-impersonator circles, ran a club on Charles Street

## A look at the history of both drag and transgendered behavior in American history.

where female impersonators served as masters of ceremonies. Other entertainers were simply gay men who exhibited a camp gay style on stage. The Rubaiyat, a 'queer Greenwich Village dive' that was the best known of the clubs, seems to be the first to try to cultivate an uptown audience by featuring such pansy acts; it may have hoped to duplicate the success of the Greenwich Village balls in drawing slummers with the allure of homosexual erotica. The Rubaiyat began as something of a gay club -- or as one hostile 1931 account stated, it catered to 'boys with falsetto voices and girls who sang in baso profundo,' who gathered there nightly."

Chauncey describes the career of Gene Malin, an early success in the New York drag scene: "Malin was a precocious teenager and took New York by storm in his early 20s. Victor Eugene Malin took the name 'Jean' Malin upon his entry into New York's gay world and when in drag used the name Imogene Wilson, one of the most famous of the Ziegfeld Follies showgirls. He competed for prizes at the city's drag balls while still in his mid-teens, and was said to have won prizes for an outfit of black velvet and silver lace and for more exotic creations consisting entirely of pink or gold feathers." Malin went on to great success, bringing drag from Greenwich Village to the upscale speakeasies of 1920s New York.

In San Francisco, clubs like Finocchio's are still known for

their drag shows. One of the early heroes of the gay rights movement emerged from San Francisco's drag scene of the 1950s. Jose Sarria would later achieve notoriety for being the first gay man to run for public office, staging an unsuccessful candidacy for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1961. Although Randy Shilts book *The Mayor of Castro Street* is the biography of Harvey Milk, it offers a glimpse of Sarria and of the early drag life in San Francisco. "Jose and his sister fell in with the bohemian crowd of North Beach in the late 1940s," Shilts wrote. "They frequently wandered into The Black Cat bar where writers like Bill Saroyan, John Stenbeck and more recently, Allen Ginsberg were known to imbibe. One night the pair spotted a handsome waiter, Jimmy Moore, and promptly placed a bet over who could get him to bed first. Jose invited Jimmy to an Independence Day family picnic. Toward the end of the outing, Jose's mother decided she had at last found the perfect mate for her son. She asked Jimmy to move in with the family. Jose won the bet."

Drag queens have been credited with igniting the 1969 Stonewall riots in New York, considered by many to be the beginning of the modern gay rights movement. Although it has never been definitely settled whether the riot was sparked by drag queens or a lesbian in male drag, Martin Duberman's book *Stonewall* gives the following account of the police raid on the Stonewall Inn: "Everything up to that point had gone so routinely," writes Duberman, "that they expected to see the crowd quickly disperse. Instead, a few people started to boo; others pressed against the waiting van. Sylvia spotted Tammy Novak among the three queens lined up for the paddy wagon, and along with others in the crowd started yelling 'Tammy! Tammy!,' Sylvia's shriek ringing above the rest. But Tammy didn't hear, and Sylvia guessed that she was too stoned to know what was going on. Yet when a cop shoved Tammy and told her 'Keep moving! Keep moving!,' poking her with his club, Tammy told him to stop pushing and when he didn't, she started swinging."

The 1970s brought a more liberal attitude and it suddenly became hip to have female impersonators in movies. Films like *Victor/Victoria*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *Tootsie*. Recent hit movies *Mrs. Doubtfire* and *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* carry on the drag tradition. Some object to the popularity of drag in the cinema for being one of the few ways gays are seen in the popular media. Others object to straight actors playing drag queens.

Drag in the mainstream has gained prominence with the emergence of real drag queens like Divine and RuPaul. Currently drag is celebrated with massive displays in gay ghettos every Halloween and during many annual gay and lesbian pride parades, as well as the Imperial Court's annual Coronations.

Now that RuPaul has become popular in American society, drag has been embraced by heterosexuals as never before. It's become part of our daily lives. Like it or not, drag is on

the cutting edge of gay and lesbian visibility. From Harvard's Hasty Pudding Review to naval equator crossing ceremonies, America has a long history of drag. Some would say drag has been incorporated into the fabric of American society -- as long as the fabric is chiffon.



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**SUBSCRIBERS MAY HAVE NOTICED A DELAY in the delivery of last month's issue (#78). This was due to a variety of factors which ultimately resulted in the magazine not being mailed until the second week of April.**

**While we certainly hope this will never happen again, we are not going to promise that, lest Murphy and his cohorts read this and decide to prove us wrong.**

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## The Bearded Lady

by Ricky Hunt

Illustration by Rita

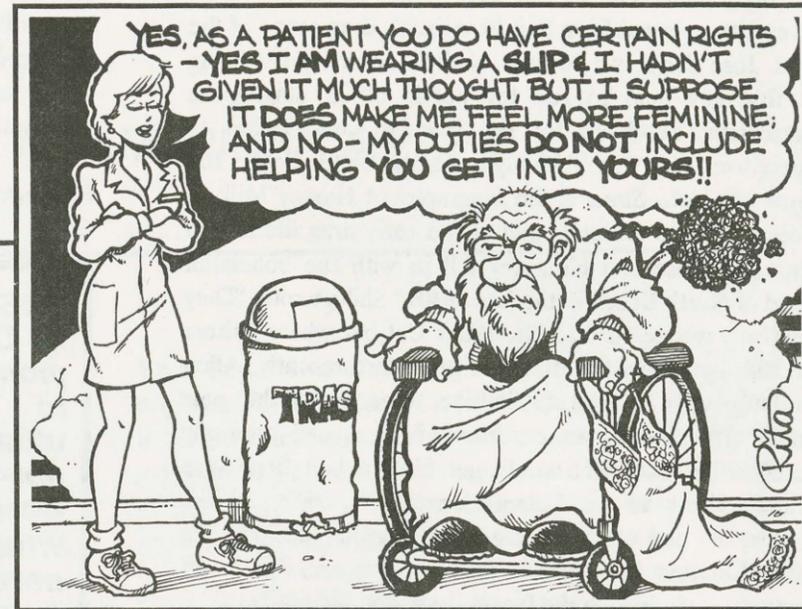
Oh dear, it's finally catching up with me. Age, that is. Don't hand me any of that crap about how life begins at 40; I believed it when I was 40. I just turned 46 and I'm straining to believe it now.

Unfortunately that's not the only thing I'm straining. The pendulum has swung again and I have gone from being able to dress for days at a time to no time for dressing at all. Our houseguest the baby, her mom and mom's boyfriend are almost always present in one combination or another so the lacies stay in the closet. By a whim of the Fashion Gods, I found myself alone in the house last Saturday and finally had the chance to let Ricky out of the closet. But those the Fashion Gods would honor they first make mad, and I was royally annoyed when the kitchen door opened and I had to sprint for the bathroom. (I always keep my civvies in the bathroom, just in case.)

In feverish haste I reached back to unclasp my bra and froze in place. Radiating from my shoulder was a sharp pain that held me transfixed in agony (don't you just love vivid descriptions like that?) before my groping fingers could get near the catch. Even the sweet caroling of "Anybody home?" was unable to free me from my inaction, I was just too involved with my body and its pain. Eventually I found myself able to function again and, feeling a bit foolish, pulled the bra down onto my paunch, rotated it 180 degrees and unhooked it. I quickly hid the evidence and greeted my tenant who had come to pay the rent.

Since we now have health insurance again, I saw the doctor, who diagnosed a mild case of tendonitis. Mild, huh? Glad it's not severe, I guess. He prescribed exercise and every day I do three sets of ten reps ... with a can of pineapple, because I'm not going out to buy expensive weights. All I need is weight to lift. I thought of using one of my breast forms; it's just about the right weight, but it would be hard to explain and the grip I would need to hold onto the thing would cause lascivious talk.

Having lived with a handicapped wife for 24 years now, there is a truism known to those of us who hang out with



disabled folks that "being able-bodied is only a temporary condition". I've only paid lip service to the idea up to now, but it's taking on a new reality, and it raises some interesting questions. If I intend to go to my grave in a skirt and a nice blouse, just who is going to put them on me? I know, the undertaker will -- the last time -- but what about those years in between? Will Medicare or Medicaid pay a home health aid to assist crossdressing? Could we stand another tirade from a certain Southern senator when he finds out? Could you charge your breast forms off as health appliances on the medical insurance? Could you consider 5" heels to be orthopedic shoes and take them off your income tax? My son keeps threatening to send me off to a sleazy nursing home every time I want him to do something that takes a bit of effort; just how in the devil will I convince the staff there to help me on with my slip? Anybody know just how far you can stretch patient's rights? While this has its amusing side when I only have a bit of pain to cope with, what would life be like for a disabled crossdresser? With a severe disability you must depend on someone else to dress you, feed you and help you do most of the things we take for granted. How do you find a caring and accepting someone else? I have many disabled friends, but this subject has never come up, no more so than with my non-disabled friends.

So, if you are a disabled crossdresser I'd like to hear from you. Just send a note to **Cross-Talk** and I'll get it, or e-mail me at [rhunt@cyber1.servtech.com](mailto:rhunt@cyber1.servtech.com). I really do want to hear from you.



Ricky Hunt's booklet on explaining crossdressing to teenagers, *Hey Dad ... Do I Have To Watch The TV?* is available through our back issues and reprints service. See page 32 for ordering information.

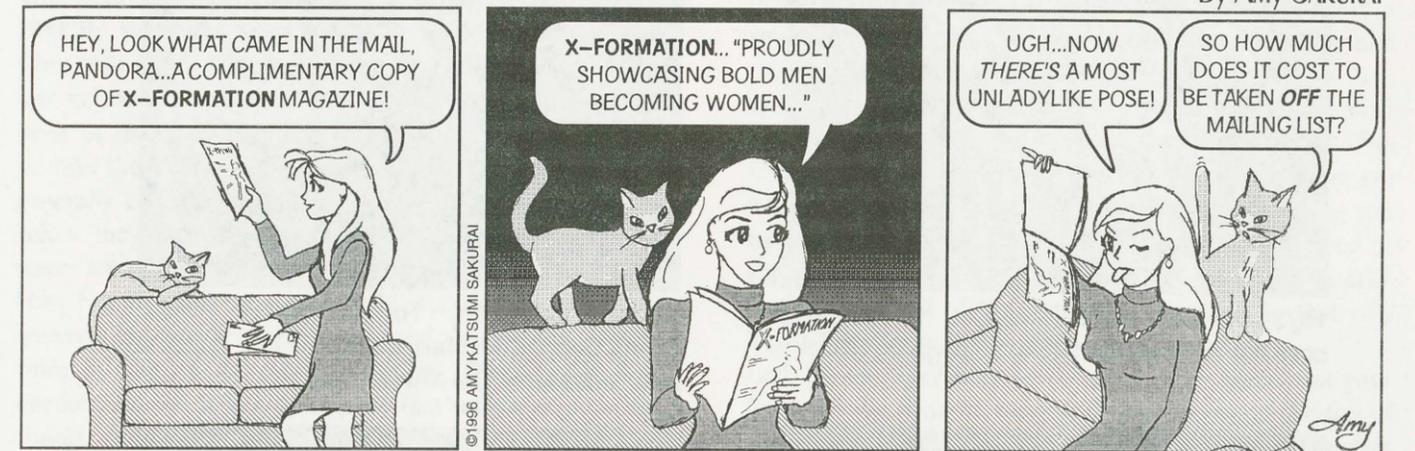
## THE ADVENTURES OF KAREN

by KAREN ANN MICHAELS



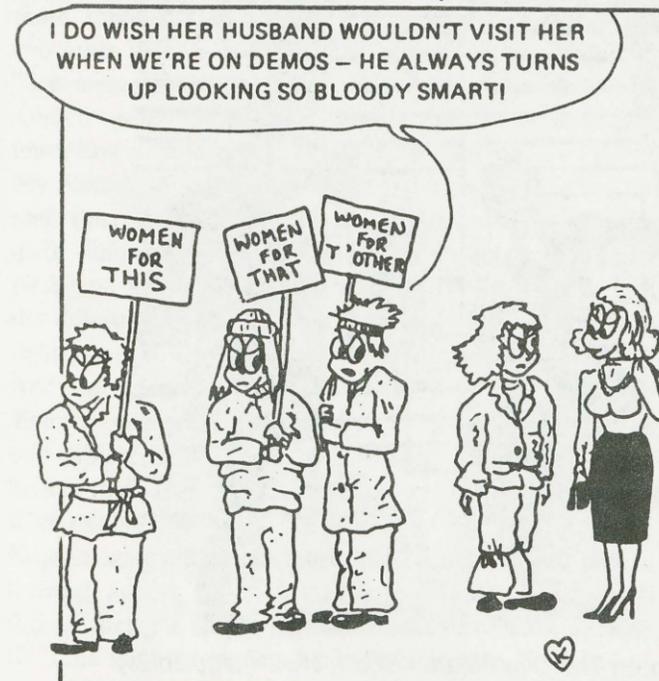
## PANDORA'S BOX

by Amy Sakurai



## WHAT'S ON THE TV TONIGHT?

by Christine-Jane Wilson



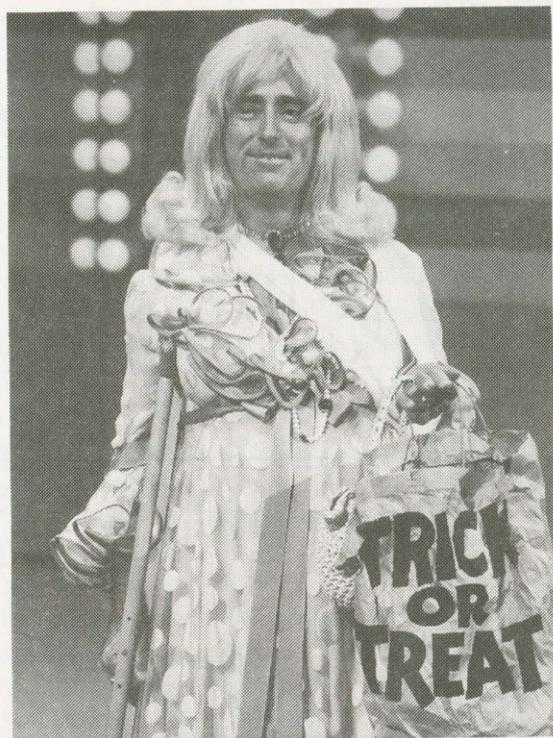
## THE PASSING SCENE

by Kay Lightner



# GREAT MOMENTS IN TV HISTORY

from the archives of Ralph Judd



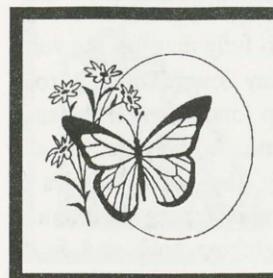
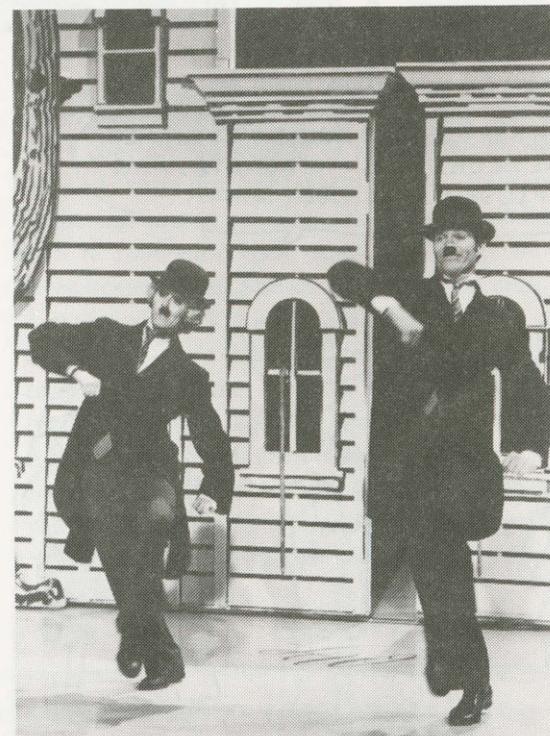
10/30/72: Dick Martin shows off his Halloween costume on *Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In*, NBC.



Airdate unknown: Tootsie (Stuart Pankin) meets Gandhi (Mitchell Laurance) in a spoof on *Not Necessarily The News*, HBO.



Charlie Chaplin drag: Caterina Valente with Dean Martin on *The Dean Martin Show*, NBC (left); Bobby Burgess and Cissy King on *The Lawrence Welk Show*, syndicated (right).



## TRANSGENDER TIPS

### DEVELOPING A FEMALE VOICE, Part Two

by Melanie Anne Phillips

As mentioned in last month's introduction, I have discovered seven important tools for developing a feminine voice. Six of them work on the femininity but the seventh is the "secret" that actually makes one *sound* female. Those tools are Pitch, Resonance, Dynamic Range, Annunciation, Vocabulary, Grammar, and Body English.

This month, we move on to the first two of these in depth.

**PITCH:** What do Suzanne Pleshette, Marlene Dietrich, Cher, and Bea Arthur have in common? They all have *very* low voices! In fact, they have voices *lower* in pitch than most of the male population. However, we would never mistake them for men! In fact at least three of the four are generally considered rather sexy. When women have low voices they are not considered masculine. Rather, their voices are referred to as "husky".

How can they get away with that? Because the difference between the average male voice and the average female voice is only about one-half octave. That's right! Just one-half octave! It is not the *pitch* that makes them sound female, but the *resonance*!

Because each of us has at least an octave and one-half range to their voice and most of us have two octaves or more, there is a lot of overlap between the pitches of the two sexes if there is only a half-octave *average* difference. That means there is just half an octave higher that some women can go that no men can and only a half an octave lower that some men can go that no women can.

My voice now is only two or three notes higher on the scale than it was before I started. But the audible impact is quite different. That is because it is not how *high* you pitch your voice, but where you pitch it *from* that makes all the difference! Once you get your voice coming from the right place, it doesn't really matter what pitch it is at all. And the added bonus is, with the next secret we will discover, you get two or three notes of increased pitch as well (which, though not crucial, doesn't hurt!)

So let's move on to that area without further delay!

**RESONANCE:** What is Resonance? Imagine an orchestra. Now imagine the same music played solo by a violin, a trumpet, and an oboe. They all have different sounds, even though they are all playing the same note. This is because the tone they play is "modulated" differently. Each has its own unique *resonance*.

In a trumpet, that resonance is created in the coils. It is

created in the body of the violin or in a cello. That body is a chamber in which the sound can vibrate, mixing and intermixing to create complex wave forms with many striking and identifying harmonics.

That chamber is like our own voice box. Men have a larger voice box. That's what makes their Adam's apple larger and their voices add more low-end resonance. Women have a smaller voice box and as a result have less low-end resonance. So, in a sense, men have *more* harmonics than women. This is fortunate for those in the masculine gender who wish to be perceived in the feminine. The whole trick is to learn to use *less* of your voice. You've got it already, you are using it already. It's not something you have to add to sound female, but something you need to suppress. The problem is, that when men go into a falsetto, they suppress *all* of the harmonics, resulting in that silly high-pitched voice that is surely a dead giveaway.

Let's try an experiment to drive the point home. Put your finger of one hand on the top of your larynx, at the top of your Adam's apple. Place the fingers of your other hand at the very bottom of your larynx, below the Adam's apple. Now, speak aloud in your normal masculine voice. You will note that both the top *and* bottom of the larynx vibrate almost equally as you speak. Keeping your fingers in place, go into a falsetto and speak. You will note that there is hardly *any* vibration in either the top *or* bottom! The exercises we are going to learn will allow you to create a voice that vibrates *only* at the bottom and *not* at the top. This effectively cuts the part of the voice box used in half and thereby loses the lowest of the harmonics, leaving almost *exactly* the same range of harmonics as a genetic female voice.

**Exercise #1:** The female voice I've discovered feels like it sits "behind" your normal speaking voice. After I had used it for a while, I found there were two easy ways to get to this place -- a place your voice does not usually go while you are speaking. The first way is with falsetto; the second way is by gargling.

Start with your highest falsetto. If you sound like a cartoon character with big round ears that lives in Anaheim, you've got it! Now take that voice and bring the pitch down as low as you can *without breaking your voice*. You see, if you break your voice it will "come out front" again, and you'll be using the full voice box for modulation -- just what you

don't want.

Take your voice down as low as you can go in falsetto. That's the spot. You will notice that neither the top nor bottom of your larynx is vibrating very much, if at all. Now, before I explain what to do once you get to that spot, let's examine the other method of arriving there. If you try both methods, one will work best for you. Also, by trying both, you will have a better sense -- a "cross reference" of where your voice needs to be.

Just go back in your throat the way you do when you gargle and make that standard gargling sound. When you do, you will automatically tighten up your throat. You will find that your voice is resonating from exactly the same place either with the lowest falsetto or the gargling. However, with the gargling, you can actually feel both the top and bottom of your larynx vibrating. The point you want to reach for this voice is the center between where you put your voice to gargle and the lowest falsetto you have. Some people like to do character voices for fun. If you can do a little old man or old woman, Marvin the Martian saying "The Allodium Q38 Space Modulator", or the Wicked Witch of the West, you are very near the spot.

As I mentioned last month, the first time I found this voice I hit it by accident. Then I got stuck. So if you try this exercise and are not living full-time as a woman, make sure you have an hour or so to find your way back to male voice just in case.

Now, what you are actually learning to do is develop one set of the muscles on your larynx while not using the others at all. This is a tough trick -- kind of like wiggling your ears or patting your head while you rub your tummy. It takes practice -- lots of practice.

But don't practice too much right at the start. Once you find the voice it is such a magical experience that you'll want never to come back. But you will find that using the lower set of muscles to do all the work leads to hoarseness at first. This is your body's way of telling you that you should knock off for a while.

I found that during the first week I used this voice, I could only go about half an hour or so before I got hoarse. Then, I had the good sense to rest my voice. Just like doing exercises for the body, you don't want to do too much too

fast of you will injure yourself.

For me, it took about six months to fully develop my voice to the point I could use it all day long. Then, it took another six months to fully develop loudness and dynamic range. But these things did come with practice and patience. I imagine that eventually, the other muscles at the top might atrophy if, like me, you just don't use them at all. However, for those of you switching back and forth, both will stay in tone and like me, even now after four years, I can still call up the old voice if I have to. For me, that's about once a year when I need to demonstrate to a friend that it is possible to do this.

So, don't push it. I'm no medical doctor. I can't tell you exactly what's going on physically, nor can I guarantee you won't cause yourself problems. I can merely say that for me, I have been using this voice for over four years with no apparent ill effects.

**A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR:** Now, trying to describe a voice in a text article is a bit difficult. I understand this. That is why I've created a VHS video tape called *Melanie Speaks!* where I demonstrate these techniques so you can hear them, copy them, and learn to do them on your own. The tape runs 49 minutes long and is available for only \$20 in cash, check or money order, postage paid, by writing to me: Melanie Anne Phillips, P.O. Box 295, Burbank CA 91503. And, if you want to hear a sample of my voice, you can dial my business phone which is always on an answering machine at (818) 840-0381.

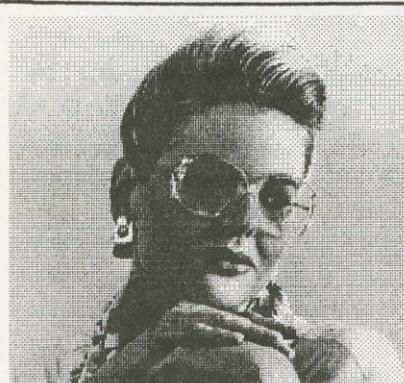
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## Alternative Presses

by Kymberleigh Richards

For many months now, many in the transgender community (myself included) have been awaiting the publication of *Transgender Warriors: Making History from Joan of Arc to RuPaul* by Leslie Feinberg (Beacon Press, ISBN 0-8070-7940-5).

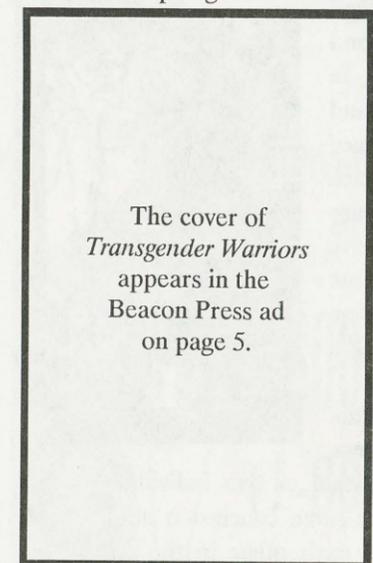
Leslie, who is a journalist and typesetter by trade, is also the author of 1993's *Stone Butch Blues* (Firebrand), which won both a Lambda Literary Award and an American Library Association Award. But while that was ostensibly a work of fiction, *Transgender Warriors* is non-fiction; a history of those transgendered people through the ages whose very lives have made a difference both in how we are perceived and how we perceive ourselves. The common factor in both works is Leslie Feinberg herself; both the earlier novel and this historical volume draw heavily on her experiences as a FTM transgenderist.

Just as *Blues* was written as a narrative -- aren't most novels? -- *Warriors* actually tells the true story of how we got to where we are by drawing on the reality of transgendered life. From the first page of the preface, where Leslie reacts to having heard the question "are you a guy or a girl?" all her life, to the last sentence of Chapter 15, in which the reader is advised to look for transgender warriors in the forefront of the struggle for humanity's liberation, this is Leslie Feinberg's personal catharsis, told using the experiences of those who are not that different from ourselves. And that is why this is such an *important* book; it draws on people and events that are known to many, rather than rely on the personal experiences of the author.

And yet it does that, since this book is the result of Leslie Feinberg's personal search for identity; in trying to find the reason why her gender identity did not match the sex on her birth certificate, very few (if any) stones were left unturned. Thus we learn not only of the intolerance shown to crossdressers in relatively recent times (raids on "masque balls" in 1939 and court appearances by transgendered people in 1952 whose only crime was attending a movie crossdressed) but also the rich tradition of Native Americans, transsexual priestesses in ancient times, women who masqueraded as men in order to do battle -- not only in well-known cases like Joan of Arc and Civil War soldier Sarah Emma Edmonds but also numerous revolutionaries from Mexican and Chinese history -- as well as African tribes where warriors are expected at times to masquerade as women; we learn how

Biblical passages so often quoted against transgendered behavior were challenged even in the times of Greek mythology, when the Old Testament was revered as God's Law; indeed, this book covers, to varying degrees, every time in history that has relevance to the question "who -- or what -- are we?"

I could not help but nod my head, reading the later chapters of *Transgender Warriors*, reading of Leslie's attempt to explain what it is like to live with a gender presentation that contradicts what is expected based upon physical sex; never have I seen the enigma of language as it comes up against our reality expressed with such



The cover of *Transgender Warriors* appears in the Beacon Press ad on page 5.

accuracy and frustration. And I knowingly laugh at the concept of the parents of a newborn baby being asked "is it a boy or a girl?" only to be told "we don't know, the child hasn't told us yet." For this is the sad reality of all this history: Even with all the examples, stretching from the centuries before Christ to the present day, of people who did not "fit" society's concept of gender identity, the vast majority

of humanity has still not learned the lesson. And perhaps that is why we find ourselves continuing a struggle that has gone on as long as this aforementioned history ... the old saying "those who do not remember the past are doomed to repeat it" is applicable not only to the oppressed but to the oppressors as well.

And that is why I find the final two chapters to be of such overwhelming importance that they overshadow the first 13. Including a *Dykes To Watch Out For* cartoon drawn especially by Alison Bechdel for this book (and which seems to be a sequel to the *DTWOF* strip we ran in *Cross-Talk* #64), the parallels between the gay liberation movement, the women's movement, and the fight for transgender acceptance and rights have never been clearer. In this context, the long-running argument over transsexual inclusion in events such as the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival seem sillier than they have ever been. And those (both transgendered and cisgendered) who do not come away from reading this book with new knowledge and insight about how we have fit into history and how we may fit in to that part of history as yet unwritten, simply did not read this book.

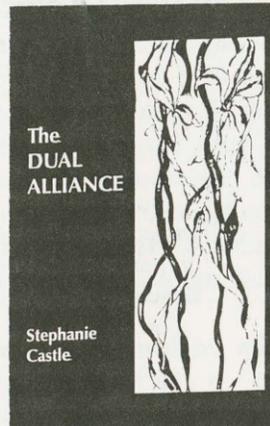
It is, of course, impossible for me to write an impartial review; this magazine is dedicated to transgender issues, the author's perspective is the flip side of my own coin, and Leslie Feinberg is a personal friend. Despite those

disclaimers, it should be obvious that *Transgender Warriors* is probably the most relevant book ever written about this community.

You have absolutely no excuse, in my opinion, not to read this book.

□□□

Many fictional novels have been written with transsexualism at its roots; in addition to the voluminous output from Sandy Thomas, Reluctant Press, and other publishers of "fantasy", there have been entries by mainstream publishers into the genre (such as Signet's *Girl* by David Thomas, released in the U.K., Canada and Australia, reviewed in *Cross-Talk* #75) and sub-themes in novels by science fiction authors like Jack Chalker. However, it is rare that a work of fiction can have transsexuality as its core theme without playing into common media misconceptions in the process.



Stephanie Castle's *The Dual Alliance* (Perceptions Press, ISBN 1-8955-9020-5) is the tale of two individuals who, independently arriving at the same conclusion about their lives, are put in touch with each other in the course of events and provide moral support to each other in the process. It may even be unfair to call this a total work of fiction, given the number of facts woven into the story, but it is because of that crossing into reality that this book can be most valuable for the community.

We all have either faced, or read of, the difficulty in explaining transsexualism to loved ones. Sadly, a great deal of what needs to be said in these circumstances is very technical in nature, and many negative stereotypes must be overcome in the process. *The Dual Alliance* tackles all of this by putting key facts into play at logical points in each of the two intertwined tales that are told. Of strategic importance is that one of the two main characters is from the working class while the other is a respected professional; by doing so, Castle has made it clear that this

condition is not dependent on one's social circumstance. This book's true value, then, is not as a work of fiction targeted at our community, for it has very little to attract the "typical" TG fiction reader; but instead is as a resource to help make the discussion of this serious subject more palatable. Castle has also published an autobiographical book *Feelings* on the subject, which I have not had the opportunity to read, but I suspect that this would make an excellent companion to that earlier work.

As is the case with many small publishing houses, you may have difficulty finding this book, but it is available by mail order from Cordillera Books, P.O. Box 2674, Blaine WA 98231 for \$11.95 plus \$2.00 shipping (Canadian orders are handled through Richmond Book Services, 8415 Granville St. Box 46, Vancouver BC V6P 4Z9, at Can\$14.95 plus shipping).

□□□

Kalina Isato has been very, very quiet on the Internet lately. Perhaps that is because she has been saving her tales for the third volume in her "Sexy Vampire" series, *Walking With the Best of Them* (or perhaps she's just been too busy editing to post to the Net ...).

This time around, Kalina breaks format from her usual format of grouping advice and experiences separately to tell her true experience in participating in Henri David's famous Halloween Ball female impersonation pageant last year, working her tips and tricks into the course of telling the story. That doesn't stop her, though, from devoting the first four pages to high heels -- I can picture a lot of people rushing to order the book now without reading the rest of the review -- and the rest of the first chapter to her early experiences in drag clubs.

By page 70, though, Kalina's usual overwhelming urge to be of absolutely as much help to her readers as possible returns, and she proceeds to talk about what she spent on the contest (surprisingly less than you might suspect) and her health and diet regimen leading up to the event. The fourth and fifth chapters are classic Sexy Vampire, with advice on image and attitude; the sixth chapter is devoted to a 12-page interview with Kalina written by a local journalist which was rejected by his newspaper's entertainment editor because the subject matter was too "deviant". (Go figure.)

And now, the best part: The photo gallery section this time includes three pages of *color* photos.

Order from TransVamp Publications, 2300 Walnut St. #405, Philadelphia PA 19103; \$22.00 for the book, postage \$2.00 in the U.S., \$3.00 to Canada, \$7.00 for airmail to other countries.

Oh, by the way, Kalina won the grand prize at the contest.

□□□

I know I'm running long this month, but I want to acknowledge the receipt of a audio cassette tape from one of our subscribers, Amanda Lynn Richards (no relation), called *Go Lite On The Dressin'*.

This is a compilation of Amanda Lynn's songs about crossdressing, professionally recorded and packaged; while her musical style is not my personal favorite, she *can* sing in a passably female voice, the lyrics are very clever, and this tape is worth owning just for that novelty.

Besides, she only wants \$10.00, including postage, for it (P.O. Box 426, Western Springs IL 60558; checks or money orders payable to "Sounds-Gr8").

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Next month, I plan on reviewing *Sailors and Sexual Identity* by Steven Zeeland; *Dark Angels*, a collection of lesbian vampire stories; and *Passage through Trinidad* by Claudine Griggs. I may even get to Vernon Coleman's new book *Men in Dresses ...* wish me luck ...

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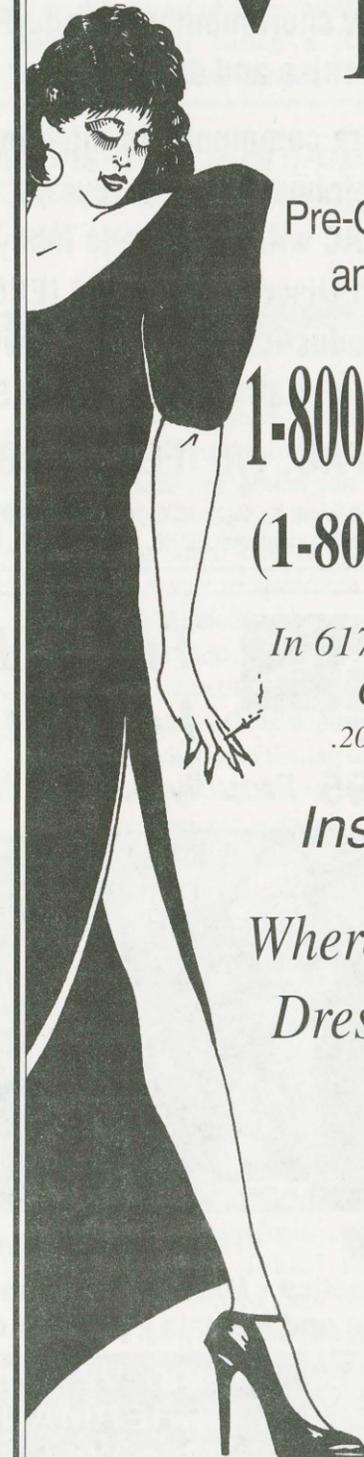
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## NOTES FROM THE DEEP END

by Daralyn Maxwell

I don't want a man who dresses up! I think we can all recognize the context of this, but the truth of the matter is that, in my ultimate aspirations of womanhood, there will be no room for competition.

I can sympathize with any woman who lives with, accepts and assists their spouse in crossdressing. The big difference is that they have had the time to grow into womanhood, acclimated to the pitfalls and benefits, learn or imitate fashions, deal with deference and discrimination. Even at its worst, the average female has had the dubious benefit of self-acceptance to some degree.

My life, on the other hand, has been filled with deceit and denial, lack of orientation and non-assimilation. I have been an outsider in every aspect of my life including family, all for the earnest wish to have my destiny attached to that of the opposite gender.

This does not mean, dear friends and acquaintances, that I disdain crossdressers. *Au contraire*; I believe that we all have a special place on the planet and your personal habits are part of a vastly larger social landscape.

My problem is that in my perceived role as a heterosexual female, Linda Peacock is going to be of small comfort to my fragile female ego when my new beau sits down on the sofa next to me some night and says, quite quietly "Honey, there's something that I think you need to know". It will be a truly strange day when lover boy comes out with the details that although I am woman enough for him, he's too much woman for me. How nice of this to happen to me.

I am in complete sympathy with every genetic female who has heard those mournful words, but I sure as hell hope that I never have to deal with this unique aspect of life from a personal viewpoint. The fact that I am willing to subject myself to years of electrolysis, analysis, hormones and personal and emotional isolation doesn't make me the target for some sensitive soul who needs to share their feminine side.

At the risk of sounding callous, I will have come a long way, baby, and I don't care to share my wardrobe with any guy. Why, I know; I'll get him to a meeting. Yeah, that's it. He can go join a support group and I can sit home fretting that I'm not good enough, woman enough or just plain enough. Or maybe it's not me.

How about, everyone is responsible for themselves. Maybe I could love someone with a proclivity for panties, as long as he doesn't steal mine. Let him buy his own bras; I came by mine honestly. If he's into satin, as long as it is his, perhaps it's okay. Besides, then at Halloween, I know what he'll plan and I can go in drag as a construction worker

and commiserate with all of the other women about how nice our men look.

Now if only he didn't have that scratchy beard!



Over the course of years, most MTF transgendered people fantasize about having a female physique. I am no exception and have, as such, fallen prey to more than a few

**Observations from a pre-op transsexual on the conditions that make up the many parts of our community.**

questionable methods of achieving that. Keep in mind that genetic females do, as well.

Tabloids have for years offered a variety of sure-fire ways to develop that much sought after bust. Unfortunately, no creme, exercise or potion can overcome a healthy run of testosterone. Even in my case, where the hormonal balance was more centered than in most males, I could never find a way to overcome a hairy chest in favor of a fair, smooth skinned but lumpy chest.

Even at this late date, there are ideas that, although far-fetched, attract the attention of the desperate who want to believe that anything is possible if they try hard enough. Just like my chance of dieting down to a size 12. Uh-huh!

In the course of my emergence, both privately and within the Maine support network, I was made privy to "The Breast Plan" (TBP), the latest ingenious attempt to get us to believe that brute strength will prevail. I did, of course, subject myself to a substantial run of torture before I realized that I had a better chance of pulling my kidneys out of my ears than developing breasts by this method.

Subsequently, I performed an uncharacteristically rash act and consulted my doctor about hormone therapy. No quack, my dear physician, she took three months researching the consequences based not only on the general lay of the land, but weighing my personal medical history as well. At long last, and in conjunction with my therapist (plus the two cents my electrologist put in) I was issued that set of sacred elixirs of assisted femaleness. Since November 1995, I have noticed than things not only feel different, they have moved around and look different.

And so I feel that I am now in a position to analyze the physical and psychological benefits of both methods. I share them here with you, not as an enticement to run to your doctor for hormones, but more as an observation of what happens when you take charge of the situation, and under

what circumstances.

On "TBP" I subjected myself to a twice daily regimen of painfully dedicated twisting and massaging of my breasts; on hormones, I am subjected to washing down four tiny pills twice a day with a desirable liquid (usually chocolate milk).

On "TBP" I was reduced to spending at least one half hour after the exercises with a warm washcloth trying to ease the pain and hoping that I wouldn't develop Carpal Tunnel Syndrome instead of breasts; on hormones, I am forced to spend all the time I save not doing epidermal first aid washing the dishes and cleaning up after meals.

On "TBP" I began to feel like a spawn of the Marquis de Sade, inflicting pain beyond reason with no expectation other than the fact that it would hurt regardless; on hormones I feel assured that my femaleness is going to blossom and the only pain will be the tenderness of gentle breast growth.

On "TBP" I found myself checking the mirror on a regular basis to make sure that the bruises and contusions that I inflicted were not turning into full blown welts; on hormones I stand at the mirror bent over to check my progress as determined by gravity (it's going nicely, too).

Lastly, on "TBP" I finally determined that I had an equal chance of developing breasts using my vacuum cleaner as I

did with those silly exercises; on hormones, I am reduced to figuring out which outfits I am destined to outgrow in the foreseeable future.

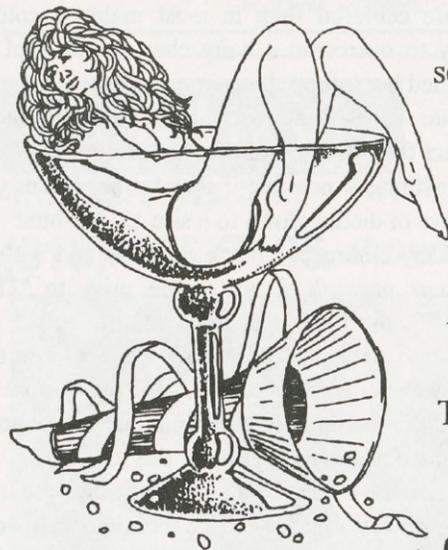
This is not a blanket endorsement of hormone use. You need to be ready to dedicate yourself to the future that you dream about, aspire to and yearn for. On the other hand, depending on your threshold of pain, "The Breast Plan" may be just the ticket. After all, it is only exercises and that is good for you. The consequences of pulling your boobs in unnatural directions are far less severe than messing with your chemical balance and ending up with a body characteristic that really changes your life beyond repair. I believed for years that I was not worthy of enjoying life and, as such, the pain fit right into the scheme of things. Now that I have my head on straight, I can see that my future doesn't look all that bad. I say "Pain, Schmain!" I'll take the little pills any day of the week.

And twist and pull and groan and wince. Yeh, sure.



*Daralyn Maxwell lives and continues to develop in Maine.*

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## IT TAKES ALL KINDS ...

by Emily Alford

What follows was handed out at a talk that I attended recently. It's an excerpt from an Elizabethan play. The subject is male actors discussing what's necessary to do a female part, as was, of course, the normal practice.

**FROMBOSCO:** I'll strike it in the nick, in the verynick, chuck.

**FELICE:** Thou promisest more than I hope any spectator gives you fairh of performance. (To Antonio) But why look you so dusky, ha?

**ANTONIO:** I was never worse fitted since the nativity of my actorship; I shall be hiss'd at on my life now.

**FELICE:** Why, what must you play?

**ANTONIO:** Faith, I know not what, an hermaphrodite, two parts in one; my true person being son to the Duke of Genoa, though for the love of Mellida, Piero's daughter, I take this feigned presence of an Amazon, calling myself Florizel and I know not what. I a voice to play a lady! I shall ne'er do it.

**ALBERTO:** O, an Amazon should have such a voice, virago-like. Not play two parts in one? away, away; 'ths common fashion. Nay if you cannot bear two subtle fronts under one hood, idiot go by, off this world's stage. O, time's impurity!

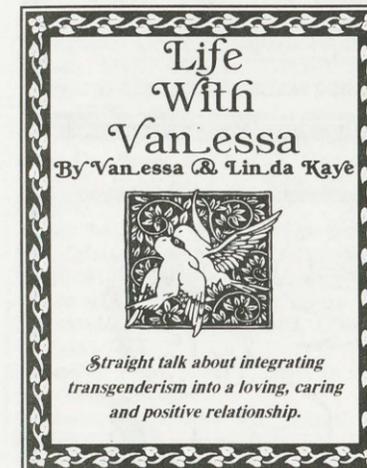
**ANTONIO:** Ay, but when use hath taught me action to hit the right point of a lady's part, I shall grow ignorant, when I must turn young prince again, how to truss my hose.

**FELICE:** Thsh, never put them off; for women wear the breeches still.

-- John Marston, *Antonio and Mellida* (c. 1559), II, 63-85

From the talk that accompanied it, the problem is voice. Appearing en femme was one thing. Talking a la femme was (and, of course is) quite another. There is also a hint in Antonio's last speech of not wanting, or being able, to return to the male part once the actor has gotten used to the femme portrayal.

Sound familiar?



"Life With Vanessa" is a new book just released. Written by Vanessa and Linda Kaye (formerly Linda Peacock), a couple in a transgendered relationship, it deals with many of the issues facing couples in similar relationships. Some of these issues are: *The Woman Within; Developing the Woman Within; Sensuality and Sexual Issues; Religious Issues; Friends and Family; Support Groups; Shopping and Money Issues; The Other Woman; and, Celebrating the Similar.* The book includes a chapter by Dallas Denny, M.A., founder and director of AEGIS, "Why Is Your Partner This Way," and an introduction by Jo Ann Roberts, Ph.D., co-founder of Renaissance, author and publisher.

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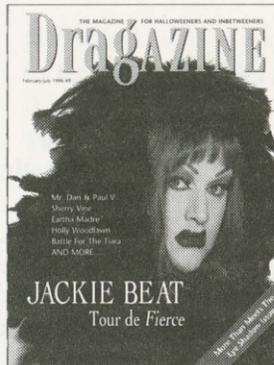
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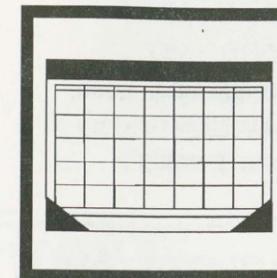
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**EVENTS CALENDAR**

**May 9-12, 1996:** "A Kindred Spirits Circle", Glade Mountain NC. Details from Kindred Spirits, P.O. Box 18332, Asheville NC 28814, or by calling (704) 253-9882.

**May 15-19, 1996:** "Esprit '96", Port Angeles WA, sponsored by NWGA, Emerald City, and Cornbury Society. Information from <nwga@teleport.com> or by writing P.O. Box 1101, Renton WA 98057-1101.

**May 16-19, 1996:** "Paradise in the Poconos", Canadensis PA, produced by Creative Design Services, P.O. Box 19206, King of Prussia PA 19406. Information via Internet: <poco@cdspub.com> or by phone: (610) 640-9449.

**June 5-9, 1996:** 14th Annual "Be All You Want To Be", Detroit MI. This year's host organization is Crossroads, with co-sponsors Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, TransPitt, Paradise Club, and CrossPort. Details from Crossroads Be-All, P.O. Box 430126, Pontiac MI 48343 or by calling (313) 537-3267.

**June 13-16, 1996:** Tiffany Club of New England 16th Annual "Spring Fling", Provincetown MA. Information from TCNE, P.O. Box 2283, Woburn MA 01888-0483, or telephone (617) 891-9325.

**July 3-7, 1996:** "Transgen '96: Transgender Independence Weekend", Houston TX, sponsored by the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy. Details from ICTLEP, P.O. Drawer 35477, Houston 77235-5477, by calling (713) 777-8452, by Internet to <ictlep@aol.com> or by fax at (713) 777-0909.

**July 24-28, 1996:** 4th Annual "Spouses'/Partners' International Conference for Education", Wilmington DE (Philadelphia PA). Details from Dr. Peggy Rudd, P.O. Box 5304, Katy TX 77491, fax (713) 347-8747; from Betsy at (909) 875-2687; or from Evelyn at (215) 860-9271.

**August 9-11, 1996:** Second "FTM Conference of the Americas", Seattle WA. Information from FTM Conference, 1202 E. Pike #1070, Seattle 98122, or by e-mail from <ftmconfer@aol.com>.

**September 1-8, 1996:** "Dignity Cruise VII" to Bermuda from New York, sponsored by Dr. Peggy Rudd. Details from Brenda at Cruises Inc., 1-800-247-7021.

**September 19-26, 1996:** "Paradise in the Poconos", Canadensis PA. See May listing for details.

**September 26-29, 1996:** 6th Annual "Southern Comfort Conference", Atlanta GA. Information from P.O. Box 77591, Atlanta 30357-1591, by telephoning (404) 633-6470, or to <phillida@aol.mindspring.com> by Internet e-mail.

**October 18-21, 1996:** "A Kindred Spirits Vision Quest", Dixon Mountain NC. See May listing for details.

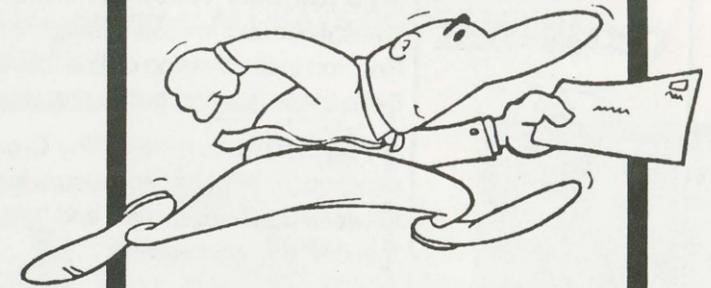
**November 6-9, 1996:** 7th Annual "Fall Harvest", St. Louis MO, sponsored by Mid America Gender Group Information Exchange (MAGGIE) and hosted by Iowa Artistry. Information from P.O. Box 75, Cedar Rapids IA 52406-0075, telephone (309) 755-2310.

**November 6-10, 1996:** Tri-Ess "Holiday En Femme", Chicago IL. Details from Chi Chapter at P.O. Box 40, Wood Dale IL 60191-0040 or by telephoning (708) 262-8707.

**November 8-10, 1996:** "Queer Spirit Conference", for LGBT and Native healers and teachers, Highlands NC. Information from Kindred Spirits, P.O. Box 18332, Asheville NC 28814, or by calling (704) 253-9882.

(Please send information on national transgender community events to Cross-Talk, P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365. Listings must be accompanied by a written authorization by an officer of the sponsoring organization or be listed in their group newsletter. Information will not be accepted via e-mail.)

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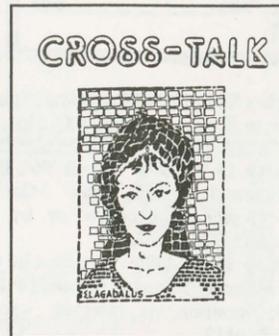
A list of transgender community organizations with contact phone numbers is available upon request by sending a self-addressed #10 envelope with 32 cents postage to Cross-Talk Hotlines, P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365-0944. Outside the U.S., simply send your name and address and one International Reply Coupon to cover postage.

## ▶▶▶ Back Issues & Reprints ◀◀◀



**#75 (January 1996):** Commentary on the lack of common sense in community activism; Transgenderism in eastern religions; Reprint of 1962 *Sexology* study of transvestism; History of Houston crossdressing ordinances 20 years ago; Avoiding common pitfalls in "passing"; Self-acceptance and public presentation.

**#76 (February 1996):** Why *Cross-Talk* ceased mainstream retail distribution; FTM transgendered in medieval Europe; The difference between true transsexuals and "pseudo-transsexuals"; Is the term "gender" really necessary?

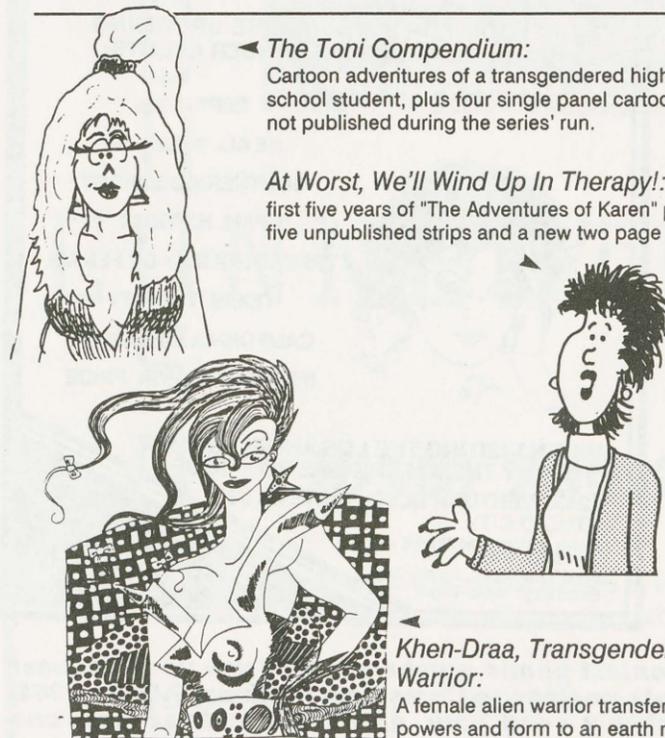


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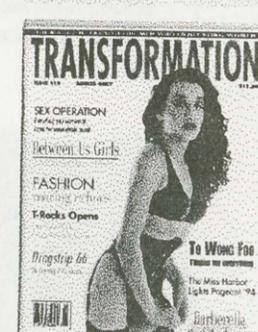
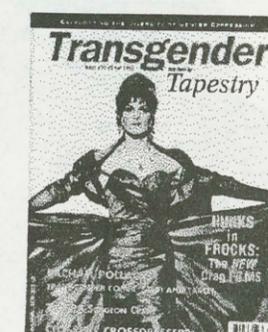
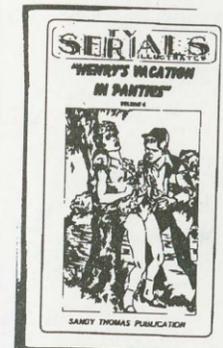
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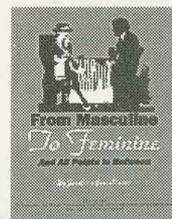


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