

# Renaissance News



Volume 3, No.7

Vision — Integrity — Quality

July, 1989

## Christine Jorgensen, transsexual pioneer, dead at age 62

Thirty four years after she shocked the world by changing her gender, Christine Jorgensen died of cancer May 3. She was 62.

With a blend of amazement and titillation, the news media turned her into a celebrity upon her return from Denmark where the surgery was performed in a government hospital in Copenhagen. She had hoped to keep her sex change private, but a family friend revealed her secret to reporters, setting off a media circus. Not only was she the subject of newspaper and magazine stories, she even became the butt of comedians' jokes.

"I have no regrets over the publicity," she said in the late '70s, "but at first I hated it."

She was born George Jorgensen to parents of Danish descent in the Bronx, N.Y. Jorgensen was drafted into the Army and served a traumatic hitch. Afterwards, he worked as a photographer. At one point he learned that sex change operations were being performed in Denmark, but were not widely publicized. After saving for two years, he sailed to Denmark for a year of hormone treatments and eventually the three operations that made her a woman.

She took hormones for the rest of her life, and when she reached her 50's she began to worry that they could cause cancer. But the cancer that took her life was not related to the sex change operation or to the continuing hormone therapy. Her mother also died from the same sort of bladder cancer.

Regarding her instant notoriety, Jorgensen once observed, "I guess it

was at the beginning of the sexual revolution and I just happened to be one of the trigger mechanisms. I'm very proud that I was there when the movement started. I may not have started it myself, but I gave it a good swift kick in the pants."

Thanks in great part to her willingness to be open about her sex change, she lived to see what was considered a bizarre surgical procedure become much more common, so common, in fact, that today some people cannot imagine the problems she faced. For instance, she was barred from appearing on television. "I think they thought I was going to take off my clothes and run screaming through the studio." In 1953, police in Las Vegas said they would arrest her on charges of masquerading if she appeared on the Sahara Hotel stage in women's clothes. Although Jorgensen was twice engaged, she never married. One reason was the discrimination she faced as a transsexual (a term she never used); New York State refused to issue her a marriage license. The other reason, she said, was quite normal.

"I was deeply in love twice. But I was never in love with anybody I was engaged to. And I was never engaged to anybody I loved. Isn't that a perfectly normal syndrome?"

While she capitalized on her fame to some degree—including 10 years with a touring night club act, stage roles, television talk shows and college lectures—she refused movie contracts and, when she was younger, any offer that she consid-

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## Sometimes "IT" isn't so bad...Angela Gardner, Renaissance Greater

### Philadelphia Chapter

It may have happened to you. You're out in public, all dressed up with hair and makeup perfect. You're with friends and you feel really relaxed. You're having a good time. Maybe you even say to yourself, "Wow, no one's looked twice. I'm really passing."

Then, "IT" happens. A woman two tables away looks right at you. She turns to her companion and they both stare at you. You get that sinking feeling in the pit of your stomach. You've been "read."

Of course, you ignore it. You turn back to your friends and conversation, but you say a little less. Perhaps some of the fun has been let out of the experience. No matter how hard you try not to think about it, a tiny voice in your head is saying, "They know; they know." You may even convince yourself of a domino effect and now the whole room knows you are a male. Each and every glance your way turns into a full stare.

If you are truly comfortable with your feminine side, if you really believe it is okay for you to be crossdressed in public, you won't be bothered by a look or two from across the room. You'll continue to have fun. If, on the other hand, you are uneasy with the attention, maybe you're trying too much too soon. Maybe you shouldn't have chosen the fancy restaurant for your debut.

For a long time, I only dressed at home. When I decided to explore my feminine side in more depth, I found acceptance in a support group.

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## Chapter news & notes

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

### New Jersey

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

### Pennsylvania

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

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

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

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

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

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

### General Information

For those who want to start a group but do not wish to affiliate with Renaissance, we have Community Outreach Bulletin #1, *Creating An Organization*, available for \$1.25.

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

- The PCHA Food Bank: Please bring canned and dried food to the next Philadelphia Chapter meeting.

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

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

- Background Papers are available for \$1 each plus \$.25 postage for each pair ordered. Eight papers are available: 1-Myths & Misconceptions About Crossdressers, 2-Reasons for Male to Female Crossdressing, 3-PARTNERS: Spouses/SOs of Transvestites and Transsexuals, 4-Telling the Chil-

dren, 5-An Annotated Bibliography, 6-Telling the Children: A Transsexual's Point of View, 7-What Is Renaissance?, and 8-HIV Safety and Ethics.

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

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

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

- Articles and opinion pieces for the newsletter are always welcomed. We do want to hear what you have to say about what goes on in Renaissance and in the community at large.

## Renaissance News

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Subscription: \$12 per year.

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Creative Design Services

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

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

## Business Report Thru 31 May

Membership Count: 242

Starting Balance: \$2541.79

### Income:

Dues & Donations	\$394.00
Publications	175.45
Honorarium	100.00
From Chapters	198.00
Subtotal:	\$867.45

### Expenses:

To Chapters	\$182.00
Newsletter	140.00
Office	50.00
Library	24.00
Postage	178.55
Subtotal:	\$574.55

Ending Balance: \$2834.69

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### Renaissance Meeting Calendar

#### July

1st	So. Jersey Chapter
8th	Reading Chapter
15th	Greater Phila. Chapter

#### August

5th	So. Jersey Chapter
12th	Reading Chapter
19th	Greater Phila. Chapter

## Opinion - Forum - Information

### **Renaissance guilty, if caring is a crime...Alison Laing, Managing Director**

The outstanding growth of membership and the success of Renaissance since its founding a little over two years ago is testimony to providing the right services, in the right location, at the right time. From the beginning, the founders envisioned an open group addressing the concerns and needs of all transgendered persons, their families and the community. Our education and outreach programs have been directed at the general public, helping professionals, friends, family and all members of our community. Our education and support goals are being met through the public media, our own publications and chapter meetings.

In our zeal and enthusiasm to

help other "sisters" in different geographic locations, we may appear to be implementing a policy of "aggressive expansionism." We publicize the prospects of new groups and chapters being organized throughout the U.S. (though mostly in the mid-Atlantic region). We do this in an upbeat way, encouraging others to join with the hope of getting a new group off to a good start.

There is no magic in the name "Renaissance", nor are there any "secrets" of success. With or without Renaissance backing, starting a new group, or revitalizing an old one, takes enthusiastic dedication, commitment and just plain hard work. The policy of Renaissance is to help *any* like-minded, "open"

group of transgendered people to mold themselves into an organization that serves their local needs. If using "Renaissance" as a banner helps, then fine. We welcome groups that desire to take advantage of our national newsletter distribution, and other support services, by becoming chapters. If a group desires to remain independent, that's okay with us too. We offer advice, guidance and publicity — no strings attached — to any "open" group.

Aggressive expansionism? Yes, if that's what you call the goal of helping others to develop their organizations to serve their local needs. We, of Renaissance, can think of no greater indictment, and we plead: GUILTY as charged!

### **The secrets of our success...JoAnn Roberts**

Many people have mused, both publicly and privately, on the success of Renaissance. They want to know what our "secrets" are. We're only too glad to share them.

The first secret is hard work. Every person involved in the management of Renaissance, from the local level to national leadership, has made a personal commitment of time and energy to the group.

The second secret is good team building. This is a management skill learned through work experience. A good management team needs special talents that create synergy: the sum being greater than its parts. Those talents are:

- Facilitation — The ability to get things done by working with others.

- Practicality — The ability and the confidence to speak out when others seem to be planting their feet firmly in midair.

- Prudent frugality — The ability to control the purse strings and keep the dreamers from running wild with others' money.

- Creativity — The ability to develop new and innovative ideas.

- Strategy — The ability to project from the present to the future, and provide a backup plan.

Once the team has a few people with these qualities, the rest of the positions should be filled with team players. They help gain support for ideas and make sure that those ideas are carried out.

The third secret is to delegate responsibility. But couple responsibility with authority. It is foolish to expect people to accomplish anything without command of the resources needed. This concept is known as "empowering."

The fourth and final secret is to avoid some typical management "sins." Specifically:

- Avoid autocratic decisions — Get everyone on the team involved to build a consensus. Make decisions based on all the information available.

- Eschew fuzzy goals — Develop precise objectives, or tell people exactly what is expected from them. And give them the authority to do it.

Don't meddle unless there is a serious problem.

- Eliminate inconsistent behavior — Most people can deal with any style of management if they know what to expect. Keeping them off balance with erratic behavior breeds disappointment, frustration and anger.

- Wipe out abuse of privilege — Managers have a right to some perks, but overdoing it sends the message, "I'm better than you are." This leads to unproductive dissent.

- Break rigid traditions — Traditions have their place in every society, but not all traditions are necessarily good ones. Inability to change leads to stagnation.

- Avoid favoritism — Favoritism is, in a word, discrimination. It destroys morale. When only a select few have their opinions heard, confidence in leadership drops. New people may have better ideas. Give them air time and listen.

So, there they are. Not surprisingly, there are no "secrets," just good sense and good management techniques.

## Epilady, Trick or Treat?...Debbie

I want to pass along a few personal observations and a money-saving idea.

First, how many of you have rushed out to buy your very own Epilady hair removal system? How many have been brave enough to use it — more than once? The ads say it may produce a "slight tingling sensation" the first time you use it. Is there anybody out there who has used it who would agree with that claim? It's very obvious to the most casual user that the device literally pulls the hair out by the roots. Funny, I've never felt any "slight tingling" upon having my hair pulled out by its roots—no matter where it may be located on my body. The bottom line here is this "wonderful gift" for the sophisticated woman is also one of the most hideous devices of torture ever perpetrated upon the fairer sex in modern times.

I will admit, through regular use

of the device, one can obtain hairless, stubble-free skin that is exquisitely sensual. And, as most know well, hair that is removed this way may not return for several weeks. I have discovered that if you can survive the trauma during the initial use of this device, you are likely to feel less and less discomfort with repeated use. This is because new hair growth doesn't seem to be as painful to remove.

Since hair does not grow at a uniform rate, repeated use of the device pulls fewer and fewer hairs in any given treatment. You don't have less hair to pull, but fewer hairs will be pulled at any one time. Logically then, the less hairs pulled, the less discomfort.

So, if you are brave enough to participate in this trendy approach to hair removal, I would like to offer some words of advice from my own experiences.

The first place I used the Epilady was on my lower calves, around the ankles. The pain was so unbearable that it took my breath away. I quickly decided that shaving wasn't really all that inconvenient. I also concluded that anybody who would continue the use of this high-tech nightmare must surely be a serious masochist, which upon further consideration might not be such a bad form of pain distraction.

Curiosity finally got the better of me and several weeks later I began a calculated program of regular use. I have detailed here some of the "tricks" that I serendipitously discovered.

Use an electric hair trimmer first: Sears has several models. Trim the hair in the area that you wish to remove to about a quarter inch in length. Longer hairs tend to get caught in the coils and pulled from all the wrong angles resulting in

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## Paula Jordan Sinclair... **The NewsQueen**

Last month, this column started off with an item about Madonna. That was so much fun, we'll do it again. You may recall that we had reported that the rock superstar had said "the most interesting men I've met are the ones who are in touch with their femininity." It appears that she has put that belief into practice with her new "Express Yourself" video. The \$4 million-plus opus features several men, but perhaps the most interesting is the one who appears in a leather dress.



Television recently has had many TV surprises. In April, the NBC program *Unsolved Mysteries* featured a story about con man Jerry Dean Michael who in 1975 posed as Geraldine Carmichael, the inventor of a nonexistent three-wheeled car that he claimed got 70 miles to a gallon of gas and was practically indestructible. After duping investors into giving "her" \$6 million, Michael was arrested and convicted of fraud. But he skipped out on authorities in 1980 and hadn't been heard of since.

After the show aired, authorities received a tip that Michael, now 61, was living in a rural community east of Austin, Tex., and operating a flower shop. At the time of his arrest, Michael was posing as Katherine Elizabeth Johnson.



Johnson (nee Carmichael; nee Michael) isn't the only long-time crossdresser who made it into the news recently. In San Francisco, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence celebrated their 10th anniversary of combining street theater, gender f—k drag, and political activism.

The sisters made their first big public appearance at an anti-nuclear parade. Their attendance was at first discouraged by the organizers of the demonstration because the sisters were drag queens and not germane to the issue of nuclear war. "We knew that they were

simply having a lapse of conscience," said Sister Missionary Position, "and that they would love us if we showed up." That was something of an understatement, for the crowd went wild at the sight of the nuns carrying pom-poms, leading anti-nuclear cheers and saying a rosary for the time of nuclear peril.

In time, the sisters took up many social issues, and treated them with a unique style of camp humor that assaulted official pomposity. At the height of their popularity, Sister Boom Boom campaigned for San Francisco city supervisor and garnered over 20,000 votes in the 1982 election. In that same year the sisters were responsible for producing the first safe sex literature.

Eventually, divisions developed in the order resulting in a court case that established The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc. A breakaway group organized as the Unincorporated Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.

Chapters of the main body have been established in Seattle, Toronto and Sydney, Australia.

The idea of men dressing up as nuns has not been well-accepted by many people. But there is no denying that the Sisters have had a profound effect. "Gender identification and roles is the most emotionally charged issue in our culture," said Sister Power Hungry Bitch, one of the order's founders. "Mixing that with the religious references was an incredibly powerful vision."



While the sisters came from the gay community, that community still hasn't totally embraced what the order stands for. For example, the Houston gay pride committee guidelines for last month's (June) parade forbade "offensive drag" which was defined as men in dresses with facial and body hair. Some people, but evidently not those on the committee, found the guidelines ironic seeing as how they were an

attempt to regulate an event that commemorates the Stonewall Riots of June, 1969. The riots began when a group of New York City drag queens resisted what had been common police harassment. That event is considered to be the beginning of the gay rights movement.



Another sort of offensive drag became the target of angry citizens in Washington, D.C., recently. Residents of the Northwest neighborhood around 10th and M streets grew tired of playing host to crossdressed prostitutes and so they erected a banner over the intersection that read "The 'girls' have gone to 5th and K."

For ten years the intersection had been famous for prostitution. But then the area experienced a real estate boom (houses are selling for upward of \$250,000), and the sight of men in bikinis and short skirts doesn't fit the yuppie image. The neighbors responsible for the sign said they had nothing against the 'girls'; they just hoped the banner would confuse their customers.

What did the business owners at 5th and K, primarily a commercial area, have to say about the plan? "We resent someone trying to shove prostitution into our neighborhood," said the owner of one bar. But it looks as if his worries are over. Within a few weeks of its erection, the banner was removed by city workers because it was in violation of a city ordinance.



Police in Turkey have a more direct way of dealing with transvestites, but according to one report, their tactics may be actually increasing prostitution by men dressed as women.

A transvestite from Turkey writes that when they are arrested for wearing women's clothes in public, transvestites are often imprisoned in cells where they have to sleep on

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# "IT" ...from page 1

Group meetings offer a safe, social situation where you can learn to relax and work on your public presentation skills. Once you learn to be at ease with your peers in the group, you may be ready to explore other venues. Your comfort level with your feminine image will increase over time as you practice.

But even the most accomplished crossdressers have moments of insecurity. Recently, I arrived about fifteen minutes early for a Renaissance college lecture engagement. Like nuns, we usually travel in pairs, but this time I was going solo. As I waited in the hallway, many students and faculty passed me by with nary a notice of my presence. Then, "IT" happened.

A young woman came through the doors at the opposite end of the hall. She looked at me, crossed the hall, and spoke with two other women sitting there. She looked at

me again before disappearing into a classroom. I knew my secret was out, but I was there to talk about crossdressing anyway.

The professor arrived and led the way to the classroom for the lecture; the same classroom which held my "discoverer." There she was, in the front row.

After class she approached me while I was speaking with some of the other students. I smiled at her and thought, "Great! This is where she says, 'I knew you were a guy.'" Her actual remarks took me quite by surprise. After commenting on the informative lecture, she said, "When I first saw you in the hallway, I didn't know you were a male. I looked twice because I thought you were an interesting looking person."

As it turned out, the professor had not told the class about my lecture for that day. This woman, like the rest of the students and

faculty, had no reason to suspect that I was anything other than what I appeared to be: an interesting looking woman. My own insecurities led me to believe I had been "read." I had assumed, since I knew my true sex and gender, it also must have been obvious to anyone who looked at me twice. I let my own awareness of my crossdressing work against me.

Take a lesson from my experience. If you assume your "secret" is out, it will become much more difficult to maintain your feminine poise. Don't create your own sense of failure. Someone may "read" you. That person may, or may not, let you know they have done so. To some degree, their reaction depends on your reaction. You put a lot of effort into your image and your poise. Believe in yourself and then assume the world believes the image you present to it.



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## The absolute last word on the toilet issue, we hope...Tina [REDACTED], N.J.

With regard to the bathroom debate going on in The Renaissance News, some of the opinions expressed made me give thought to the issue. I found one letter, in particular, very interesting. It was so instructional as to cover almost everything one might want to know about the use of bathrooms. Among other points, this letter suggested that one might inquire of a police officer as to which bathroom would be appropriate and also recommended sitting down to urinate. The author revealed significant insight into these issues.

There are, I believe, just a few minor clarifications required to put a wrap on this important subject. Therefore, I offer the following comments.

- Noise abatement — The vocal utterances one makes in a bathroom are often giveaways. When speaking in a ladies' room, try to avoid using phrases like, "How about them Flyers?" or "Where are the urinals?" Coughing can also be hazardous. Consider carrying a kazoo. Coughing through a kazoo may ease the sound to an acceptable level.

- Personal hygiene — Certain actions, while acceptable in one location, may not be acceptable in another. For instance, shave before you leave home. Shaving in the ladies's room only calls undue attention to yourself.

- Position — It is correct that you should sit to urinate, but please make sure your feet are pointed in

the proper direction, toward the stall door. If they face the rear of the stall, you are surely sitting in an erroneous manner. And I cannot emphasize too strongly the need to remove undergarments before sitting.

- Authoritarian advice — Finally, when approaching a police officer for counsel on which facility is appropriate for use, it may be preferable to seek one who is not carrying a firearm.

Your newsletter is one of high quality (this communication notwithstanding). It is therefore my hope that you will continue to address subjects of great importance and that this silliness over bathrooms can be ended.

## NewsQueen...from page 5

a bare stone floor and buy their own food at higher prices charged other inmates. He said they are also held for much longer than the normal period.

When they are released from jail, transvestites are ordered to a hospital for treatment of "sexual illnesses." Other forms of official harassment include "being prevented from entering into our own houses by police."

The writer concluded by saying, "We are not given any jobs and the only thing we can do is prostitution."

But help may be on the way from the new gay movement in Turkey. Following a hunger strike by gay rights activists, the powerful Turkish media has begun to report on issues regarding sexual minorities.

♣ ♣ ♣

Turkey isn't the only place where transgendered people have employment problems. The U.S. Navy has court-martialed a sailor in Washington State for "conduct to the prejudice of good order and discipline and of a nature to bring discredit upon the Armed Forces."

Charles W. Marks had sought

help from Navy psychiatrists, but was denied counseling. He then turned to a transgendered support group near the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard where he was stationed. He began attending the meetings crossdressed and took the name of Karen Davis. But the poop hit the deck when he was spotted several times in women's clothes in the vicinity of the shipyard.

♣ ♣ ♣

Ms. Davis was following a long line of transgendered people who have chosen to serve their country in uniform. One member of the elite corps died recently.

Kenneth Ulane had flown combat missions over Vietnam between 1964 and 1968. He later became a pilot with Eastern Airlines. Then, after 12 years with the airline, Kenneth became Karen in 1980. She was fired for not fitting the "Wings of Man" image. Ulane sued Eastern, charging that the firing was illegal under federal law that banned discrimination on the basis of sex. While a federal district judge agreed with her and ordered reinstatement and \$156,590 in back pay, the ruling was overturned after an appeal

by Eastern. Later, Ulane and the airline reached a private settlement that her attorney said was "substantially more" than what the district court had given her.

Although Eastern would not employ her, a small air taxi and cargo company in the Midwest did. Recently, one of the company's DC-3s crashed in a field near DeKalb, Ill. The three people aboard were killed, including pilot Karen Ulane. She was 48.

♣ ♣ ♣

While our community is saddened by the loss of two brave pioneers—Karen Ulane and Christine Jorgensen—life goes on.

They also say life is a cabaret, and that was certainly true in St. Louis recently when 1,000 cheering spectators saw Netasha Edwards crowned Miss Gay U.S.A. 1989. The Indiana girl competed against 67 other contestants from 36 states to win the crown. Hoosiers, in fact, swept the pageant; first runner-up Candi Stratton and second runner-up Eddie Dee also hail from Indiana.

Besides having its share of glam-

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## Epilady...from page 4

increased pain and broken hair-shafts that are not successfully removed. The trimmed hairs result in a more concentrated local work area, and also increase probability that the removal will be from the correct angle, which is supposed to be less painful.

Start with a less tender area of skin. Everyone's body will be a little different but I started with my hands and fingers. I've kept the hair on my hands shaved and trimmed for several years, so I really wasn't concerned about the implications of total removal. As it turned out, nobody noticed.

The first treatment on my hands took every bit of endurance that I've ever had. Frankly, it was almost unbearable. But now I routinely do my hands (about every two to three weeks) and experience only minor discomfort.

After the experience with my hands, I repeated the same approach on my arms, then my legs, and then my stomach. Each time I achieved similar results. My arms and legs are now always smooth and soft. There is only slight discomfort maintaining them.

Hopefully the pain will decrease through successive uses. My stomach is much more sensitive than my hands or legs and I still experience a lot of agony there. I use the Epilady down to the top of my pubic area which is not a very pleasant experience at all. However, once I began to luxuriate in the sensation of smooth, hairless, stubble-free skin, I developed a passionate motivation that makes it easier to endure the suffering.

I am now struggling with the final frontier — my chest. If you have ever shaved your chest you know just how unfeminine the inevitable stubble is. Regrettably, my chest is the most sensitive area yet. Thankfully it's the last. I prefer to continue shaving my underarms.

The pain of using Epilady on my

chest is so intense that I've almost passed out. I've resorted to tweezing chest hairs for now in hopes that later the hair will sufficiently weakened to allow regular Epilady treatments. Tweezing is definitely painful, but I can stand it better and vary the locations of hairs pulled.

For those who are familiar with the S&M concept of pleasure and pain, you may find this whole process very stimulating, combining reality with fantasy. While using your Epilady, simply dwell on your favorite fantasy and you may discover that you can endure more pain than otherwise possible.

Another thought is be prepared for infections. You may experience some swelling and occasional redness in the form of small spots where the hairs were either removed or broken. If this is the case, use a cotton ball to apply rubbing alcohol. Massage the alcohol into and around the infected area. [Editor's note: alcohol has a drying effect on the skin and may aggravate the infection. We suggest a topical anesthetic/antibiotic like Bactine®.] Keep the area clean with regular bathing. In about a week your skin should clear and be very beautiful and silky smooth.

I sincerely hope that your experience will be more enjoyable than mine. But I don't think anyone who uses an Epilady will actually enjoy it. If you can learn to endure the "torture", you will surely be pleased with the results.

As for the money saving idea. When you are ready to embark on your personal hair vendetta, go to your local flea market, swap meet, or garage sale to purchase your Epilady. I am confident there will be an overabundant supply of these technological marvels, in "slightly used" condition, abandoned by horrified users, at bargain basement prices. Well, with the hefty expense of electrolysis, ain't it great to have a choice?

## NewsQueen...

from page 5

our, the three-day pageant presented, shall we say a less elegant side of life. According to Indianapolis gossip columnist Lucy the Lip, one of the top winners and the "delegation from Atlanta pulled a one-night stand in the Chattanooga Justice Center for carrying non-tobacco cigarettes." Lucy also reported that another contestant missed her chance at the crown because she was "allegedly detained by the St. Louis police for trying to shoplift a pound of bugle beads."

♣ ♣ ♣

Under normal circumstances, Miss Sinclair reads several newspapers daily. But while she prepares her libel defense, she may miss a story or two regarding transgender issues. If you see an interesting article, kindly clip it out and send it to her at The Renaissance News. Please note the name of publication and the date it appeared.

## Jorgensen...

from page 1

ered exploitative.

"I am happy to have become a woman," she once said after her operation, "and I think many more people who are unhappy as I was before should follow my example."

## Notable & Quotable

"Discrimination in any form, whether it be against race, gender, religion, or sexual orientation ... is ultimately anti-human."

*The Honorable Shirley Chisolm, in her address to the Philadelphia Mayor's Commission on Sexual Minorities at its fifth anniversary celebration, June 3, 1989.*

.....

Philadelphia mayor W. Wilson Goode proclaimed the month of June as Gay Pride Month in the city. The mayor made the announcement at the fifth anniversary celebration of the Mayor's Commission on Sexual Minorities.

# National Gender News

from around the TV/TS community

Los Angeles — We note the passing of **Christine Jorgensen** with sincere regret. We were fortunate to have met Jorgensen in 1988 at a convention in Chicago. Her cancer was in remission at that time. She had recently completed chemotherapy and tired easily. Still, she made the journey to share her thoughts about the work of educating the public on transgender issues.

At one point during her luncheon address, she removed the wig she wore to show her hair loss from the therapy and made a joke of it. That was the kind of courage Jorgensen displayed all her life. She was not one to flinch from the truth. We have suffered a great loss, and she will be missed.

NGN

Waltham, Mass. — But Christine will not be forgotten. The International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) plans to establish a Christine Jorgensen Memorial Fund. **Yvonne Cook**, financial director of IFGE, says the fund will be used to educate the public specifically about transsexual issues.

One possible project for the fund is the publication of *Transsexualism and the Law*, by **Sister Mary Elizabeth**, friend and confidant to Jorgensen.

The fund will accept contributions from both individuals and organizations. Contributions may be tax deductible to the extent allowed by federal law.

NGN

Chicago — Speaking of IFGE, **Karen Baumgarten** writes in *The Primrose*: that whenever we encounter someone who requires an explanation of what we are about, we are doing the work of IFGE in our "own little way." She further reports that **Martina** (ETVC, San Francisco) likes to refer to these IFGE educators as Mobile Gender Education Units.

It reminds us of the "Loyal Plastic Robots" from the Mothers of Invention's *Brown Shoes Don't Make It*. Do we get a credit against a *Tapestry* subscription for this?

NGN

Seattle — We have a lot of respect for the ladies of **The Emerald City**. They've had their share of problems this year, but they seem to be making

a strong comeback. The May issue of the *Emerald City News* contained the revised by-laws and protocol (code of conduct) for the group. Their goals and purposes are admirable, and their code of conduct is clear direction for what is expected from the members.

That's the way to do it!

NGN

Scotland, U.K. — We realize that April has long since passed, but this next item is worth sharing, even if it is late.

*The Lumberjack* is a four page newsletter billed as the "Alternative Magazine for the Thinking TV/TS Community." Monty Python fans will recognize the source of the title. The satiric publication appears to originate from Scotland, but the perpetrators are not identified. The funniest bits were the 'Classified Ads.' For example:

"PERSONALS — Pre-op TS collecting cigarette coupons to pay for the Op. 2,500,000 required and at this rate likely to need an iron lung first. All donations welcome."

NGN

Troy, N.Y. — The *Gender Journal* is a publication that we've neglected to tell you about, so we'll rectify that oversight. The editor and publisher is **Jennifer Wells**, known to the "hackers" in our community as the "SysOp" on Compuserve's GenderLine, is. Much of the *Gender Journal* material comes from the GenderLine message base with additions from other computer bulletin board systems (BBSs).

Wells began a year ago to keep *Jennifer's Journal* as an on-line communication and education tool for newcomers to the BBS. She was flooded with requests for hardcopies after the *Journal* was listed in the *TV/TS Tapestry*. So, *Gender Journal* was born.

Wells' approach is very folksy and down home. The subjects range from

*continued next page*



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# National Gender News

from around the TV/TS community

a discussion of makeup techniques to a dialogue about TVs and hormones. There's a little something for everyone here.

Eight bimonthly issues cost \$16. Write to Hillside Publications, Box 1417, Troy, N.Y. 12181.

## NGN

Trenton, N.J. — *En Femme* magazine is celebrating its second anniversary with a special edition. **Robyn Ann Dormer**, editor and publisher, promises an expansion of the periodical and an upgrade in the production process.

The magazine, which has featured Dormer's fantastic artwork, suffered from poor reproduction quality. We hope the newest edition corrects that problem.

## NGN

New York City — More news in a "literary" vein. A major publisher and distributor of so-called TV/TS erotic fiction has sent a letter to us, and to other groups, asking for submissions for publication. In return for material the publisher will give the submitting group free ad space in their magazines.

Renaissance declined the offer and we hope other groups will do the same. Our community has a difficult time as it is with public opinion stereotypes. Why perpetuate the myths with ads in sexually oriented contact magazines. There are other places to get free listings for our groups. The *Tapestry* and *LadyLike* are two such sources.

## NGN

Londonderry, N. Ireland — At various times, we've mentioned **Dr. Richard Eakins** and the TransGender Archive. The archive, instituted at the University of Ulster in 1986, is an international repository for information about transgender behavior. Eakins, with help from **Phaedra Kelly**, is now publishing a new newsletter, the

*TG Archive News*.

Persons or groups making contributions to the archive will receive a complimentary copy of the newsletter. Renaissance has made significant deposits to the archive in the form of its *Background Papers*, *Community Outreach Bulletins* and this newsletter. We urge all support groups in the U.S. to make similar deposits. Write to: **Dr. Richard Eakins**, TransGender Archive, University of Ulster, Northland Rd., Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

Meanwhile, don't forget that Renaissance has its own archive, and donations are most welcome.

A followup report on both archive activities will appear in a future issue of this newsletter.

## NGN

St. Louis — Our sincere thanks go out to **Roni** of the St. Louis Gateway Femmes for helping one of our correspondents, **Michelle Lee K.**, who was having difficulty finding clothes in her correct size, and who was looking for a local support group. We pointed her to the St. Louis group and gave her some advice on determining clothing sizes.

Michelle wrote back to us, something that doesn't happen very often, to say Roni had been helpful and that there is a nice shop in the St. Louis area sympathetic to transgendered people. So, if you are in the St. Louis area, check out the Smart Shop at 615 North Grand Ave. Thanks, Michelle.

## NGN

Wellington, New Zealand — *TransCare* is a publication we've been receiving from The Minorities Trust down-under.

The quarterly "magazine" is put together by **Leone Neil**, founder and manager of the trust. The Minorities Trust is an education and support group for all transgendered people in New Zealand.

Neil, a transsexual and a fireball

human rights activist, had a very difficult time gaining recognition for herself and the group. Her persistence eventually paid off. The trust now has its own headquarters and a small staff to help with some of the work.

*TransCare* is an interesting mixture of reprints and original materials firmly aimed at all transgendered people. But the most telling fact is: the problems are no different "down-under" than they are here.

## NGN

Essex, England — The latest issue of *Narcissus* (Vol. 1, No. 2) contains an item that will be of great interest to many readers of this column. "Sugaring" is described as a depilating technique using natural herbs and other ingredients. The hair removal is said to be permanent, eventually, and leaves no scarring or damage to the skin. It is further claimed that the technique can be used on face, arms, chest, legs, etc.

We would be in great debt to anyone who has additional information concerning this technique.

## NGN

Kansas City, Mo. — We've just uncovered a "bevy" of trans-people in Kansas City. **Monica G.**, **Cathy G.**, **Elaine B.**, and **Vickie G.** all hail from a group called Crossdressers And Friends. And friendly they most certainly are.

Interested parties may contact them by writing to: CAF, Box NNN, Kansas City, MO NNNNN

## NGN

King of Prussia, Pa. — **JoAnn Roberts** has asked us to help clarify a misconception about her *Paradise In The Poconos* weekend. Renaissance has no connection to the Pocono event. Some folks seem to think that the long weekend is sponsored by Renaissance because of Roberts' involvement.

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