

CROSS-TALK

The Gender Community's News & Information Monthly

#43

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CROSS-TALK

The Gender Community's News & Information Monthly

MAY 1993
(ISSUE #43)



NEWS & COMMENTARY:

NEWSWIRE: New coalition forms in New York/New Jersey/Philadelphia area ... Preliminary "Holiday En Femme" schedule released ... "Fall Harvest" adopts multi-track program ... Canadian Human Rights Commission adopts gender community-friendly policy ... Feminine Image regroups ... Reno area group falters ... Emerald City proposes rewrite of its By-Laws ... PPOC renames itself ... Cynthia Phillips starts couples-oriented newsletter ... New arts magazine for TG community debuts ... pp. 2-4

EDITORIAL PAGES: Kymberleigh Richards on "mega-groups" ... Anne [redacted] on acceptance ... Reader letters on the January issue ... pp. 5-8

NEWSQUEEN: Proof Michael and Janet Jackson are not the same person ... Liberace isn't dead ... Was Oliver North a CD? ... Makeup for men ... Male Georgia high school students wear skirts to class ... TS runs for city council ... pp. 9-11

HOTSTUFF! Calvin Klein introduces "his & hers" skirts ... Advice for would-be beauty queens ... Finding pantyhose that fit ... Blue eyeshadow is back! ... Why we hate Karl Lagerfeld ... pp. 28-30

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AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE ON HOW YOU CAN HELP US BETTER SERVE THE GENDER COMMUNITY APPEARS THIS MONTH ON PAGE **31**.

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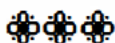
NEW YORK

A new coalition of gender community organizations has formed in the New York/New Jersey/Philadelphia area.

The Garden State Gender Coalition (GSGC) held its first meeting on January 20th with representatives from the Renaissance Greater Philadelphia and South Jersey chapters; the Chi Delta Mu and Sigma Nu Rho chapters of Tri-Ess; the Metropolitan Gender Network; Gender Identity Anonymous; and Monmouth Ocean Trans Gender, which hosted the first meeting.

A major issue discussed was outreach through the media, a speakers bureau, and alliances with gay and lesbian organizations throughout the tri-state area. The coalition also agreed to encourage inter-group networking by exchanging new member contacts and group information among the GSGC members and started discussion on a regional drive to obtain contributions of transgendered literature for distribution to libraries.

The initial GSGC meeting was pleasantly surprised by the attendance of long-time gender activist Jane Peabody, who was active in the FPE Phi Chapter prior to 1973.



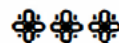
The planning committee for the annual Tri-Ess "Holiday En Femme" has announced a preliminary schedule of special events for the November convention.

Among the events planned are an NBC/Hollywood studio tour, a day-long train ride north along the California coast to Santa Barbara, and a murder mystery during the Saturday evening banquet. Arrangements have also been made with a local "glamour shot" photographer to provide makeovers and photos.

In addition, the local gender community entertainment group "Movin' On" has tentatively

been scheduled to perform. The group has performed for the local "California Dreamin'" weekend for the past two years, and has frequent performances at the local Queen Mary nightclub.

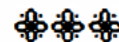
The convention, scheduled for November 10 through 14, was moved from Denver to the Los Angeles area as a result of discriminatory legislation being approved by Colorado voters in last November's election.



A four-track approach has been adopted by the organizers of this year's "Fall Harvest" weekend, to be held the last weekend in October in Kansas City, Mo.

The "new girl" program track will be oriented toward self-improvement for the newly emerging crossdresser, and will consist mainly of workshops and demonstrations; the "active CD" track will be for crossdressers who have established themselves and their image, and now wishes to learn more about their feminine side through seminars and group discussions; a "new woman" track will provide seminars and discussion groups oriented toward transsexuals and those who may be leaning in that direction; and the "partners" track will consist of a series of gatherings for the significant other.

"Fall Harvest" is co-hosted by the five groups comprising MAGGIE, the Mid-America Gender Group Information Exchange. This year's event will be based at Crossdressers And Friends, which originated the weekend three years ago.



A newly drafted policy of the Canadian Human Rights Commission will soon better the lives of the gender community in Canada, according to TransEqual, an Ontario-based gender activist organization.



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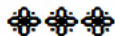
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TransEqual spokesperson Laura Masters, who helped negotiate the new policy, said the major change would be to give transsexuals, transgenderists and crossdressers the right to file complaints about mistreatment under grounds of sex and sexual orientation in addition to the usual reason of disability. Masters calls the new policy a "crucial first step away from the mental illness model" that has limited the gender community in the past. She estimates that 90% of situations will be covered under the new rules, compared to 10% under the old policy.

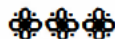
As part of the new policy, TransEqual has obtained the agreement of the Ontario Police Complaints Commission -- the civilian body handling complaints against police officers in that province -- to extend their services to include members of the gender community. They have also secured the cooperation of the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons to similarly modify their complaint process.



The Riverside/San Bernardino (Calif.) area support group Feminine Image has regrouped following the untimely death of its founder late last year.

Feminine Image President Gail Ann Windsor was immediately faced with finding a new meeting location when she took control of the group after the death of Alicia Lichy December 1. Alicia's boutique -- closed after her death to cover expenses of her estate -- had been the group's long-time home. Windsor has arranged for the use of a member's home in the area, and has held three meetings since the forced hiatus.

A new hotline has not yet been installed -- the boutique's number had been doubling as the group's -- due in part to the suspension of annual dues during the reorganization.

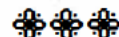


The Tri-Ess affiliated organization serving Reno (Nev.) and the surrounding area has made a public statement regarding its near collapse due to member apathy.

Writing in the Sierra Silver Belles newsletter, editor

Rebecca Ann [redacted] has announced her intention to keep the organization functioning in a limited capacity in an attempt to attract new members in the future. [redacted] indicated that while no officers were elected for 1993 due to the lack of a quorum for election, she would continue to hold meetings at her home with the remaining active membership in order to maintain the Tri-Ess charter, and charge only for production of the monthly newsletter.

[redacted] is one of the founders of the group, which is chartered as the Sigma Sigma Beta chapter of Tri-Ess.

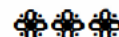


Long-time Seattle (Wash.) gender organization The Emerald City has proposed an amendment to its By-Laws to clarify the roles of significant others in the organization.

Emerald City, which has operated for over ten years without a major rewriting of its By-Laws, is also proposing to clarify such matters as the election and duties of officers, prohibit controversial discussions at social activities, and establish protocols for the groups operation.

The series of amendments also standardize terminology and eliminate "legalese" to make the By-Laws understandable by Emerald City's membership. One proposed change would require members to read and agree to abide by the By-Laws prior to joining the group.

The amendments were proposed by a special committee appointed by the Emerald City board of trustees to make the By-Laws a working document rather than a collection of conflicting past amendments.



Powder Puffs of Orange County (PPOC) has voted to rename itself to better identify with its expanding horizons.


The new meaning for the initials PPOC is Powder Puffs Of California, reflecting the group's increased outreach to other regional organizations. San Diego group Neutral Corner is experimenting with a six-month change in their meeting night to

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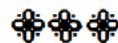
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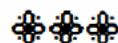
facilitate interaction between the two organizations, and PPOC has been organizing a northern branch chapter in the San Fernando Valley region of Los Angeles since late last year. PPOC is also the host organization for the annual "California Dreamin'" event each spring.



Cynthia Phillips, who recently resigned from the Tri-Ess board of directors, has begun a new publication oriented at couples within the crossdressing community.

The new newsletter, *Partners*, is based upon Phillips' observation while editing the Tri-Ess wives' newsletter that a great deal of her mail came not "from women in the community, but from the men in their lives who are interested in maintaining and improving their relationships." Phillips, who has been married to a crossdresser for 35 years, felt the situation dictated a publication addressing both people involved in a transgendered relationship.

The first issue of *Partners* appeared in March.



A new arts magazine devoted to Eonism (crossdressing, transsexuality, and transgenderism) has launched an international search for contributions.

TransGender EOS and Mail Art, based in London, England, is intended to be a mix of poetry, prose, fact, fiction, drawings, photos and letters. The magazine's creators propose to publish on a non-fixed schedule based on "when sufficient material is received." The magazine has set a definite ban on "porno-orgasmic fantasies" in order to cover positive aspects of Eonism in society.

Submissions to *EOS* can be mailed to Aard Press, 31 Mountearl Gardens, London SW16 2NL, U.K.

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

THE ADVENTURES OF KAREN

by KAREN ANN





KYMBERLEIGH'S CLIPBOARD

-- *Kymerleigh Richards*

Of late, there has been a lot of talk in various parts of the country about merging geographically-close organizations into "supergroups".

Neutral Corner in San Diego has moved its meeting night so as not to conflict with the newly-renamed Powder Puffs Of California, about two hours' drive away, and we hear through the grapevine (and also read between the lines in Neutral Corner's newsletter *Reflections*) that there are discussions taking place on the feasibility of creating one large group that -- with the addition of the on-again, off-again PPOC North chapter -- would cover the entire Southern California region.

In Texas, it has been reported to us that Boulton & Park Society is seeking "affiliate" groups to operate under the B & P banner as a nationwide organization.

And of course, both Tri-Ess and Renaissance continue to operate national organizations with affiliated chapters (although Renaissance has always been somewhat regional, and hasn't added a new full chapter in over three years).

While the last two are well-known and documented facts in our community, the first two examples are pretty much rumors at this point, but the history of two of the three organizations mentioned lend credibility to those rumors.

There has been a history of "we know better than everyone else" and "bigger is better" in our community. These philosophies were behind the formation of the ill-fated Gateway Gender Alliance some dozen years ago (of which, to my knowledge, only the San Jose, Portland and Chicago chapters remain operational). They together were the reason why Mamselle split from FPE in the late '60s, only to merge with the parent organization into Tri-Ess in the early '70s. Indeed, they may well have fueled the discussions that led to that merger, and may have had something to do with the founding of Renaissance.

But these latest rumors seem to be grander in design than Tri-Ess, Renaissance, or even the former GGA. This time the focus seems to be on creating a "mega-group" to take in membership from a much larger geographical area than the original group, for the presumed intent of having more "power" in the community by sheer size.

Well, I don't buy it, and I don't think their members will either.

The one common factor that I have found in every successful gender community (*continued, next page*)

COGITO ERGO FEM

-- Anne [REDACTED]

In recent sessions with my therapist the issue of acceptance came up. Acceptance by whom? Meem. Youm. Them. Which gets back to something that a woman said during the couples workshop at last year's "California Dreamin".

The issue of acceptance seems to be twofold; acceptance by others, and acceptance by oneself. One has a profound influence on the other. In essence, as I recall, this woman said that how you relate to your crossdressing will influence how others relate to it. Her significant other had been very straight forward about it, and they are still together and she attended "California Dreamin" as a vendor. However, she also said that had her S.O. approached the issue as revealing a terrible secret, she would probably not responded well, and that this would have reflected the other persons feelings about who and what he was.

If you are ashamed of what you are, others will be ashamed of you. If you are frightened by what you are, others will be afraid of you. Or quite possibly you will choose to become involved with people who reflect the attitudes you have about yourself. By the same token, if you feel that crossdressing is a positive force in your life, that it makes you more sensitive to women's needs (and this woman felt that this was the case), then that attitude will come across and you will more likely find acceptance.

There is another reason for this. When you feel good about yourself you will surround yourself with the kind of people who will be able to accept this unconventional aspect of your life. We associate with people who fulfill our expectations about how we think we should be treated. Good or bad.

You might think I was about to say, "Well then, just think about the good things and good things will happen to you." I'm not. It is that simple, but it is not easy.

If you are reading this column, it is fair to say that you have probably ventured forth from the confines of your home and gone out into the night *en femme*. It is fair to say that you have had some contact with the non-crossdressing universe. Whether your experiences were good or bad I cannot say. By and large, my experiences have been good. In my column I have related an incident or two in support of that, and yet I still feel uncomfortable going into many situations. In fact I avoid many situations that would probably be harmless, because I fear rejection. What is your fear? And yet I know that I'm being irrational. I'm

only human, after all.

Before we as individuals or as communities can find acceptance from society, we must first accept ourselves. If we want to be embraced by society we must first embrace ourselves. This won't happen overnight, neither individually nor communally. But as each of us are able to do so privately and then publicly we will eventually turn society around on this issue. As we begin to project a positive attitude about ourselves, others will begin to see us in a positive light. But if we continue to skulk about in the dead of night in shame, we will continue to be viewed with fear and loathing. The choice is ours.

KYMBERLEIGH'S CLIPBOARD ... continued

organization -- regardless of size -- is localization. Every group's membership has its own unique set of needs, and successful groups go about meeting that specific set of needs. Here in Los Angeles, where I am in my final term as President of Tri-Ess' flagship Alpha chapter, I find we have little similarity to PPOC, CHIC, and Feminine Image, even though we all serve a common "territory". Indeed, in addition to the four main groups, we have recently seen the creation of a couples-oriented group comprised of PPOC and Tri-Ess members called Ladies Knight Out, and also must acknowledge the presence of the long-running peer counseling/support groups Androgyny and PanSocial Center. All three of these organizations further complement the diversity of the existing "major" groups. I can't see HOW it would work if somehow all seven merged into one organization trying to service the same needs and concerns as the seven.

Both Tri-Ess and Renaissance have long recognized the need for flexibility in the operations of its affiliates, and neither has a requirement to adhere to a constraining set of national policies for its chapters. Neither try to replace an individual chapter's local orientation with a national one. In short, neither is dictating what will be available for its membership.

Compare this to the "mega-group" concept. If PPOC and Neutral Corner merge, what happens when one of Neutral Corner's local activities gets cancelled because PPOC (now the strong parent) doesn't see the need? Are they going to say "Sorry, but that's not the way we do things here"? Are they going to discard objections by the San Diego membership simply because there are more members in Orange County? For that matter, how long before San Diego meetings get cancelled because not enough Orange County members want to drive two hours further to attend?

And if the situation was reversed -- if Neutral



Re: "Cogito Ergo Fem" (Jan '93): Were I fresh back from a mission my reaction would probably have been angry. because I am usually underweight, tired, and still haunted by the flashbacks of the horror and danger I have experienced. But I am presently safe in the U.K., and have regained the weight lost on the Eastern Europe mission, found time to relax and ease the stress. Even so, what Ms. Blackwood presents is very frustrating to me.

What exactly IS an "organized respectable

Corner had been bigger than PPOC to begin with -- would Orange County's members be any happier being dictated to by San Diego?

Similarly, what makes Boulton & Park's philosophies worth replacing a local group's philosophies with them? Will Ohio embrace Texas' dictatorship any differently than San Diego would Orange County's?

No. We need to celebrate our groups' individuality -- those qualities and differences that make each organization a unique contributor to our overall community. Yes, we need to work together. We need more regional alliances such as MAGGIE and the four-group consortium that rotates responsibility for the "Be All" weekend.

We need the Congress of Transgender Organizations as a central meeting point to share our differences and our similarities with each other, and as a way to find methods of working together as a national community. We need groups like Renaissance and Tri-Ess to bring smaller chapters with a common philosophy into closer sisterhood with each other.

But we do not need "mega-groups".

We have spent the formative years of our community learning how to work together without destroying the uniqueness of each other. Let us not now decide we cannot work together without that destruction.

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community"? IGTA has discovered that there is a fourth world, within worlds one, two, and three, called Transgender. If the free world community thinks it has escaped it, then they are sadly wrong. You know very well that at any time, were your "good Christian neighbor" to discover you, no matter if you do like Ms. [REDACTED] live on the edge of an area used by Trannie vicegirls, or in the heartland of middle class respectability, you would be unfairly targeted before your feet could touch the ground and labelled according to others' presumptions. What then would you do? Round on your accuser? "You call yourself Christian?!?", you might shout. "Your Christ broke bread with thieves and sinners because He was confident that they could not move him from his resolves, so what was good enough for Him ought to be good enough for you!"

Fine. By then you would be INSIDE the fourth world, already thrown in by having been revealed, and when next you went to your own groups what might happen? Might the "respectable group" consider you to be too high profile now? Is there the risk that the people who insisted that they did society no harm and had the right to equality would not come out in your protection? And might you then question why, if they do no one harm, they hide in a group? Or to know how they hope to establish their rights when they are so lacking in self confidence on their right to rights that they won't help their own fourth world for fear of it tainting them?

Of course I can see Ms. [REDACTED]'s problem. She's alone with it, between a rock and a hard place, at the moment. But in her unique location, were her group to appoint her liaison officer to that fourth world community, she might achieve great things for our nation with lessening hazard. (That is, IF

any group she may be affiliated with has itself the confidence to break from hypocrisy.)

Let's face it: The ends and the means MUST be the same throughout if you expect to progress out of a closed loop. Until our free world nation has the guts to echo what the women's and gay's movements have done in helping their own underprivileged with hands-on work, the hypocrisy of "groups" makes the assertion of "respectability" a subject for risibility in the press and media to the public -- to your own worst accuser.

Certainly vicegirls both in the U.S. and the U.K. have alternate options -- other work they might pursue IF they had any support to guide them to it. In the U.S., many of them are from ethnic backgrounds -- from the third world itself, which means they speak and write those languages which we need to translate letters from our overseas contacts. You would find, as did I, that they are a fourth world in that often the racial and ethnic protection groups ignore them -- some because they know nothing about what a Tran is, others because of the social/religious and political bigotry in their own societies toward it. Likewise, gay groups have found it hard to help them and doing so to date has put a strain on their resources because they could find no comparable TV/TS group able (or willing) to take a share, let alone to help gay groups in return on a reciprocal basis.

It IS possible that -- without need to become yourself a vicegirl -- you can live inside their community for a time and study, learn and expand from that experience. The vicegirl is NOT a deadhead; often she is pleasant and a fascinating surprise, with talent in art, interest in science, and with some very useful, well-thought out options. Discover firsthand the reasons WHY they are what they are -- what went wrong. Consolidate on a way

Cross-Talk is published monthly as an information and entertainment resource for the gender community. For subscription information, please see page 40. For information on advertising, please call (818) 776-8503.

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to help them to escape that rut. At least encourage them to form their own group (which for the sake of their lifestyle might be organized IGTA style -- along the lines of an Affinity), so that they may liaise with IGTA; they could help us to communicate overseas, to establish magazines where none have been, to expand your and our influence.

Perhaps Ms. [REDACTED] might help by talking with the girls on "Transvestite Corner" (or as she calls it, the "Drag Queen Zone") about IGTA's dictionary project [Ed. Note: See **Cross-Talk** #42]. It would be very welcome help. If any are Turkish, Lebanese, Syrian, Kurdish, or Russian origin, we could greatly use their help as translators and as U.S. contacts.

I realize that this is as thankless a task as any other. There are hazards; the drug and Mafia connections, police, etc., but then do consider that often I have all those problems PLUS a war zone to contend with, with all the espionage and terrorism that goes with it. Maybe that makes it easier for me in that I can usually see the baddies coming a mile away; the bullets still fly in all directions but I know from whom, and therefore to where I must run. In the U.S., the uniform is less stated and the danger thus more hidden, but you will find a way. Fear not that life may end, rather fear that it may never begin.

-- Phaedra Kelly

*International Gender Transient Affinity (IGTA)
Freshwater, Isle of Wight, U.K.*

Re: "Kymberleigh's Clipboard" (Jan. '93): I saw the Montel Williams Show too, and I nearly passed out.

While I agree this kind of programming is very harmful to us, there is another side to that particular coin; the guests did appear on Montel's show willingly. Sometimes we are our own worst enemy. We can rest assured that so long as we are willing to ditch our dignity, they will happily run that kind of show.

Take away the loonytoons guests -- no more Elmer Fudd hosts.

-- Laura Denise Masters
St. Catharines, ON, Canada

[Editor's Reply:] As readers of the aforementioned editorial know, we sent a copy to the executive producers of all eleven of the syndicated "tabloid" talk shows and invited them to reply. To date, only three have responded, and all three sent form letters thanking us for our input but offering no specific response. I believe this underscores Ms. Masters' comments; it is obvious these programs have no interest whatsoever in providing an accurate portrait of the serious majority in our community, and I believe we would do well to not only steer clear (as Ms. Masters suggests), but to do all we can to educate the public that these programs are NOT indicative of the majority. -- KMR

Re: "National Publication Review" (Jan. '93):

Thank you for your critique. It's nice to learn that what we are doing is noticed, particularly by someone whose work I respect. We have a long way to go, but each issue gets us closer to the tool that *Tapestry* could and should be. (Okay, the graphics in #61 were a mistake, but it was an interesting mistake.) It would be nice if all the incoming materials were good or better, and if they were evenly distributed across the gender "spectrum." As Kurt Vonnegut said at another time in a different context, "So it goes."

-- Vivian D. Allen

*Editor in Chief, Tapestry
Wayland, MA*

VOX POPULI is intended to be the gender community's "town square" for the exchange of opinions and ideas. If you have a response to any editorial, news item, or article appearing in **Cross-Talk**, please feel free to contribute. Virtually all letters received will be published, subject to editing only for clarity, spelling/punctuation, and brevity. You may write us at P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365; fax us at (818) 347-4190; or send e-mail to "Kym Richards" via the Cross Connection BBS at (818) 766-8887 (766-TVTS). Users of CompuServe, Prodigy, and America OnLine: If sufficient interest is shown by our readers, we will establish accounts to allow e-mail to be sent via these services.

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Another talk-show host got the scoop on Eddie Murphy. Joan Rivers' guest Janet Charlton, gossip columnist for the *Star* said that after Murphy and his entourage had visited Miami's Paragon club, they ended up taking a bevy of girls along with

She didn't say which members of the Murphy entourage ended up pairing with the wannabe girls, but she added that, in her opinion, they were included to please Eddie.

No, but he may get a series on the Fox network.

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When members of the Navy's "sister service," the Marine Corps, are embarked on a ship entering the

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Southern Hemisphere, they are subjected to the same indignities. Marines generally object the strongest, and therefore bear the most watching. We are thinking of one Marine in particular, Lt. Col. Oliver North.

During his investigations into the Irangate scandal, special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh discovered this electronic mail message North sent to his White House assistant, Ronald Sable:

"Oh Lord, I lost the slip and broke one of the high heels. Forgive please. Will return the wig on Monday."

●●●

Other men who wish to keep their crossdressing urges secret will be happy to learn that thanks to a male model, they can openly buy mascara and lip gloss in the men's department.

Cameron, who appeared in Madonna's 1989 music-video "Express Yourself," has just brought out the Appearances line of male cosmetics. He says the lip gloss offers protection against chapping and just "a little color." The mascara is colorless, but separates the lashes to make them appear fuller. He added that his line of cosmetics isn't "a feminine thing."

●●●

Colorless mascara and slightly tinted gloss won't help the woman who wrote to Dear Abby recently. Maybe she needs a neon sign.

"The letter from 'Big Problem, Vancouver, B.C.,' the large woman who had been mistaken for a man hit home with me," Standing Tall in Tucson wrote. "I, too, am a large woman - 5-foot 11 1/2 and 170 pounds. I am well-proportioned and not fat by any means.

"I did all the things you suggested in your letter: wore makeup, more feminine-looking clothes and large earrings, and let my hair grow longer. It didn't help; I still got, May I help you sir?" The only time I wasn't mistaken for a man was when I was pregnant."

●●●

It seems that passing is also a problem faced by some women. But we suspect that these were not the sort of women who prompted University of Miami defensive lineman Mario Cristobal to

observe, "New Orleans -- where the men are men, and so are the women."

●●●

A group of male Druid Hills High School students in Decatur, Ga., may not want to be women, but they risked disciplinary action to wear skirts to school recently.

The issue of gender appropriate clothing surfaced when an eighth grade boy was given an in-school suspension for wearing an ankle-length skirt to class. The boy said the skirt was comfortable and "looked good." The next day, seven more boys wore skirts in a show of support. Said one boy, "I'm here to stand up for my right to wear whatever I want to wear."

The boys reported that most students agreed with the their message, but they were harassed by some faculty members. "One of our teachers said, 'I didn't know there were that many homosexuals in the school,'" one boy said. The boys said that another teacher called them "queer."

School officials said that dress code prohibited clothing that was disruptive to the educational process or which poses a danger to students. It seems to us that the most disruption - as well as the greatest danger - came from some of the teachers, not the students.

●●●

Sticking to your guns can pay off. Just ask transsexual Belinda Joelle [REDACTED] who recently was reinstated as a corrections officer in Jacksonville, Fla. after an eight-year legal battle.

[REDACTED] was dismissed for conduct unbecoming a law enforcement officer in 1985 when she was discovered wearing women's clothing. At that time she was still living as a man. In addition to getting her job back, [REDACTED] received \$149,000 in back pay.

●●●

Kaycee [REDACTED] of Denver has just started to fight to get her job back in the Colorado Air National Guard after she was discharged for having a sex change.

For 13 years, Tech. Sgt. Richard Lenny, Jr. received excellent performance evaluations. Donovan said that her military bosses knew long before she had the operation that she dressed and lived as a



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woman outside of the military setting. But they took no action as long as she showed up for work as Sgt. Lenny.

Last October, Lenny took leave to travel to Belgium for the surgery. When she first showed up as a female sergeant, she was placed on administrative leave and was discharged in February.

She has written President Clinton asking to be

reinstated at least to inactive reserve status under the new rules for lesbians and gays in the military.

●●●

A. Minnesota transsexual is hoping to use the political process to get her old job back. But instead of asking for help from Washington, Susan Kimberly has announced her campaign for the St. Paul City Council seat she occupied 15 years earlier as a man.

From 1974 to 1978, Kimberly served as a city councilman named Bob Sylvester. In 1983, he began living as a woman, and had surgery in 1984. She remained active in St. Paul politics and never denied that she was transsexual. She served as an aide to a former mayor, worked on the current mayor's election campaign, and lead the fight to restore gay rights language to the city's human rights ordinance."

No transsexual has ever been elected to anything, anytime" in the U.S., Kimberly said. "It would give a certain completeness to my life by returning to City Council."

●●●

While Ms. [REDACTED] is an avid reader of the supermarket tabloids, she cannot similarly avail herself of the many newspapers published throughout the world. Readers can help her fill this void by clipping articles from said newspapers and sending them to her c/o Cross-Talk. Be sure to note the name and date of publication.

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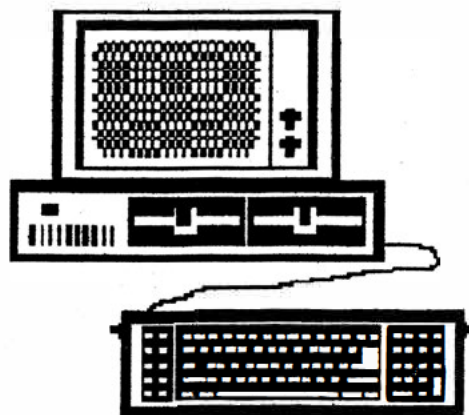
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CHOOSING THE RIGHT BLUSH

by Valerie [REDACTED]

Is there a correlation between blush tones and wardrobe colors? The answer is yes, but it still must match your skin tone.

As we discussed earlier, foundation and eyeshadow colors are matched with skin tone, just the same as wardrobe colors. You either look good in cool blue tones or warm orange tones and every color has one or the other. Some people do look good in both, but that is a small percentage.

If you've found warm toned colors look good on you, then peach is a good blush color for you. If you look good in cool colors, try a blush color with pink tones. Coral is a blush color both skin tones can wear.

To properly apply cream blush, you should start with the contour color, applied in a sideways "V" shape with the base of the "V" connecting at your hairline, just above the ear. Now overlap the blush halfway on the inside and the bottom line of the "V". Blend toward the hairline with the thick end of the sponge wedge, and set with translucent powder.

If you use powder blush, apply in the same way in the same area, but start at the hairline and make small circles while applying with your brush.

Once you've decided which tone you are, you can use that same information to help you choose a flattering complimentary shade of lipstick.

Dear Val: I know you've explained this before, but for some reason I still can't get the hang of blush. I don't want to look like a clown by having too much or the wrong color, but sometimes I just don't like what I see when I look in the mirror after applying my blush. Can you give me any rules of thumb?

-- Patricia, Illinois

Dear Patricia: If you've followed my instructions

of application, you probably don't have the right color and I'm guessing it's just too dark. You might have nervously raced into your local drugstore, made up some reason that you're buying for someone else, and raced out with the wrong color. There are many professional cosmeticians out there that can help you ... maybe not at the department store in the mall, but certainly by appointment.

Dear Val: I don't understand what the big deal is about powder. Isn't it enough to just put on your foundation and blush? And how do you choose the right kind of powder? There are all different kinds and I don't know what to look for.

-- Janet, Illinois

Dear Janet: The big deal about powder is that it will absorb oil, set your makeup so it will last, and help to subdue unblended blush and shadow. Most powder is made up of talc, so be especially careful not to breathe while applying it as it is alleged to be harmful if inhaled. Loose powder is best used just after makeup application, and a pressed powder compact is great to keep with you in your purse.

Confused about color? Neutrals can work with almost all skin tones (except blacks), but try to pick a color close to your foundation.

[Valerie [REDACTED] is a California licensed cosmetology instructor and owner of Hair To Wear Wigs in Torrance, California. You may write her with your questions at 1716 Andreo Ave., Torrance 90501; or if you live in or plan to visit the Los Angeles area, you may call her at (310) 320-5015. Questions of general interest will be answered in this column.]

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CROSSDRESSERS' CLOSET

RIGHT SIZE! WRONG LOOK!

by Bev [REDACTED]

You measured. You checked every sizing chart available in the catalog. You try it on ... but what's wrong with the image in the mirror? Where there was once a size 16 is now "Attila the Hun". Those beautiful Gardenias and English Roses look like circus tents, your butt looks so big that you couldn't park it in a two car garage. What did you do wrong? Very few size eights can wear "head-to-toe" florals. If you have average sized shoulders and slim hips, put the prints on your hips and choose a solid color sweater or blouse. On large hips reverse the print and solid colors to balance the body frame.

As a basic rule, if you have a large frame, stay away from bold prints, pleated skirts, plaids, sleeveless anything, shiny fabrics and tight fitting materials. All of these tend to enlarge. You may, however wear deep solid colors, V-neck sweaters, vertical lines, "princess style" jackets or dresses and soft, flowing loose fitting skirts.

Compliment the outfits with accessories that are proportional. A large necklace will make the neck seem thinner while oversized rings and bracelets help the hands and wrists appear smaller. Wear a

small, thin belt or no belt at all.

Try a three piece ensemble in a natural color, an oversized cardigan, a long tunic tank top, loose fitting trousers or a skirt. This is a chic, slimming look for summer.

Willowy tall frames, on the other hand, should never wear head-to-toe solid colors. A friend of mine once remarked of herself, "In a solid brown jumpsuit, I look remarkably like a tree, and in yellow, I look like 'Big Bird'". If solid colors are to be worn, be sure to break up the visual with a wide detailed belt. Never wear vertical stripes, bolero jackets, short waisted dresses or too short sleeves. You will appear ill-fitted and lanky. Wear pleated skirts, long jackets, two piece dresses, low waistlines, some horizontal lines and moderate heels. If your neck is long, wear print scarves, turtlenecks and wide collars.

To create an illusion of balance remember: brights, lights and bolds tend to enlarge, dark colors minimize and vertical stripes elongate. Follow these simple rules to achieve the desired effect in the selection of your wardrobe to always look your best.

Wildside Quiz:

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



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HAIR REMOVAL

compiled by Lynette

Following a request for advice from a reader who has been having difficulty with the removal of superfluous (unwanted) hair, my tips for this month will relate to this contentious area.

TIP 1. The advice given to genetic women with regards to hair removal is most likely inappropriate for the average TV/TS and should therefore be used **ONLY** as a guide to which methods are available. The techniques employed, although basically the same, must be modified for use by TVs and TSs.

TIP 2. For legs and arms the most effective waxing method is as follows:

The only wax that is totally suitable (in my opinion) for the removal of strong hair growth, as in most males, is hot wax. This wax is purchased from any beauty supply store. There are about six different wax formulas, all of which are suitable.

The method is simple, but needs a little practice before you get it spot on. The equipment needed is one medium size empty fruit can (this is the best part because you get to eat the fruit first) washed and dried, a small household paint brush, heating device (stove, hotplate, gas burner or inverted iron), and an old ruler or similar stirring stick.

Break off about half the wax and place it in the tin and then melt the wax until all but a small lump has become liquid. Remove the heat and stir the wax with the stick until the last piece of wax has melted. **DO NOT PUT THE BRUSH IN THE WAX AT THIS TIME AS THE WAX IS TOO HOT AND WILL DAMAGE THE BRUSH.** Allow the wax to cool, giving it an occasional stir. When you can touch the outside of the can you can then put the brush in the wax. It is a good idea to put a small wire hanger on the handle of the brush so that it can be hung from the side of the can and not sink below the level of the bristles.

The wax is ready to apply to your leg or arm when the can be held against that part of your body to be waxed, without being too hot. At this stage you simply "paint" the wax on in strips about 2" wide by 6" or so long. Painting in the direction of the hair growth is recommended but is not a necessity. Allow it to SET but not to cool, pick up one end of the wax -- making sure that the whole end of the wax is starting to lift -- and taking a firm grip rip it all off by quickly pulling back along the direction of hair growth. Continue this process until all hair is removed. Do not work the same area more than twice. Any remaining hairs can be shaved or tweezed.

TIP 3. If the wax stretches you have removed it too soon.

TIP 4. If the wax cracks or is brittle you have left it on too long.

TIP 5. If the hairs remain, you have either pulled

in the wrong direction or pulled too slowly.

TIP 6. The strip of wax, when removed, should still be soft enough to form into a ball and this ball can be pressed against any little pieces of remaining wax to remove them.

TIP 7. There are many things that can be applied to the skin after waxing, but in most cases a simple application of a lotion with a calamine base is best. This simply avoids any infection getting into the (follicles) holes where the hairs were removed from.

TIP 8. This type of wax can be used over and over again as long as you don't share it with a friend. The heating of the wax kills most bugs. Anyhow, they are your bugs as long as you don't share your wax.

TIP 9. After a period of use the wax can be cleaned by heating it beyond the previously recommended temperature until it starts to smell quite strong. At this point the hairs can be scooped out of the container using your ruler. Beware not to drip any of this wax on to yourself as it is at a temperature above the boiling point of water.

TIP 10. If you intend to wax your face in the future, the best way to start is to pluck, using tweezers, as many hairs as possible each day for about two months. After this amount of time each hair on your face should have been removed at least once. The first time a hair is removed it is well embedded in the skin, as it has probably been there for up to eight years being pruned daily and developing one hell-of-a-root; however, having been plucked once recently it now has a much weaker root and will in most cases come out more easily. When you are completely confident that the hairs are weakening you may wax your face. Start with a small area say about 3" by 1" on your lower jaw. Stretch the skin in one direction with one hand and remove the wax with a quick snap back along itself in the other direction. Remember the wax is to set but not cool. By the way, I forgot to mention that the hair must be at least one-sixteenth of an inch long with about an eighth of an inch being the best length before waxing.

TIP 11. WARNING: If you intend having electrolysis to remove your beard at any time in the future **WAXING IS NOT RECOMMENDED** as the hair follicles, that is, the holes the hairs grow from become damage during waxing and the hairs tend to regrow at odd angles. (continued, next page)

ARE YOU A CARTOONIST?

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PERSONS OF COLOR IN THE CD COMMUNITY

by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

Last month I wrote about the female-to-male crossdresser. I suggested that such people were a small minority within the whole transgender community. This month I continue this exploration by looking at another minority – the person of color who has transgender feelings.

I invite you to look about you at the next meeting of your group or when you go to a larger function. If your observation is the same as mine, the majority of people there are white. Does this mean that only the Caucasian race has crossdressers? What might cause such a disproportionate representation of one race in what is likely a more universal phenomenon?

One explanation may be socioeconomic. Crossdressing can be expensive. It also requires some freedom in planning time to prepare for and travel to the meeting location. My guess is that the typical white male has the economic means and a vocation that gives him the freedom to participate in groups and go to conventions. People in other socioeconomic groups are often in less fortunate circumstances.

Another possibility for the small representation of people of color is cultural. We tend to think that

MS. BINTHAR DUNDAT ... *continued*

This makes them difficult to treat using electrolysis and sometimes causes them to become ingrown hairs.

TIP 12. Ingrown hairs can be avoided by the regular use of an defoliant, those gritty substances that scratch the surface of the skin letting the hair grow through. (This is commonly called a facial scrub.) Another good method is to use one of those dishwashing green scouring pads on areas where ingrown hairs occur. A more gentle method is to use a luffa (loo-fah) which is the fibrous substance from the plant *luffa aegyptiaca* which is used as a sponge or flesh brush. These are available at good beauty supply shops. Use the luffa all over your body, under the shower, to remove dead skin cells.

we live in a monolithic society. This is not true. The United States has many different cultures whose differing values strongly influence what a person thinks and how he/she behaves. Studies have found that expressions of gender and sexuality vary widely between cultures. Some societies have a "place" for transgendered persons while others do not. Where there is a strong division by sex/gender, the transgendered person often has few options. When such feelings are at odds with accepted behavior, it can be very risky to share them with anyone else. I recently spoke with a black crossdresser, who observed that most others she knew were either prostitutes or female impersonators. She was further concerned that there were no groups or publications for the black crossdresser. Is it possible that the combination of culture and limited economic opportunities left them few choices?

Also, the typical white culture and the typical black culture tend to stay separate and have few chances to interact. Perhaps the two areas of most opportunity for dialog are in business and the arts, particularly the theater. Sexuality and gender are not discussed openly in business settings because it is not often appropriate. While I suspect show business may be less judgmental, gender issues can still be difficult to discuss. Perhaps this is why some transgendered people go into female impersonation. It gives them both a "cover" and freedom to express their feelings.

What, if anything, can/should the transgender community do about these minorities in the way of outreach and support? First, there needs to be recognition that there are crossdressers who are different from those we see at most meetings. As the overall community gains strength, it can begin an outreach to other cultures. A safe place to start is soliciting and including their news in various community publications. Going further, I am sure they could use help to establish their own support groups and/or publications.

There are many closets. If you remember what it was like before you knew about others, you can understand why it is important to include all segments of your culture in your thoughts and outreach.

[You may contact Dr. Peo at P.O. Box 3445, Poughkeepsie NY 12603 or by phone at (914) 452-8405. All communications are kept confidential. This column may be reprinted in any non-profit organization's newsletter if Dr. Peo's name and address appear in the reprinted version. Others must obtain written approval from Dr. Peo. A copy of any reprint is requested.]

ARTISTS!

"CROSS-TALK" needs tasteful crossdressing oriented artwork for future issues' covers.

Please send a sample for consideration to:
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IS HE MY HUSBAND OR MY BEST FRIEND?

by Cynthia Phillips

Dear Cynthia: I love my husband and we have a pretty good relationship for a fifteen year marriage. We have always done a number of "family" things together. But we have had time to do things with our separate friends. I've always respected the fact that he needed to crossdress from time to time, and I let him go to his "support group". He has, thank heavens, never pressed me to go with him. I consider it "his thing". Now, however, a new problem has cropped up and I don't know how to deal with it. All of a sudden he has started saying that I am his "best friend"! He's my husband, not my best friend! When he isn't at work he wants to spend all of his free time with me. I've always been a fairly private person, and I don't know how to handle this. Help!

-- Clarice

Dear Clarice: You've brought up an interesting subject. This situation has come up in conversations with wives before. When broaching the subject of best friends with your mate, some say "yes", some say "no". The jury is still "out".

Let's talk about this. Why "no"? We were raised with girls as our best friends; they were the ones we confided in. We had a special bond with our best friend. We talked about boys, dates, makeup, school, etc. We can love men, but that special "bond" isn't always there. So often you read in advice columns "Don't tell HIM everything about yourself ... you want to be a little bit mysterious! Always keep HIM guessing!"

In other words, we are "conditioned" by society. It has often caused a certain "insecurity" in us. We are often, deep down, afraid to let our mate know the "inner us". We are also afraid we will bring our mate more into our "female world" -- that it would be too much of an encouragement.

A relationship with a crossdresser can be one of the most rewarding experiences you can ever have.

We shouldn't be afraid to share ourselves with our mate. We need to learn to "give". Friendship with our mate should be "shared", not "rationed".

In my previous newsletter produced for women involved with crossdressers, I noticed an interesting fact. A great deal of my mail and input came not so much from women in the crossdressing community, but from the men in their lives who are interested in maintaining and improving their relationships.

Since Linda and I felt we were ignoring these men in the WACS newsletter, which was for women only -- at least that was the idea! -- and we happen to

have been involved in a long-term (35 years) marriage involving crossdressing, we decided we needed to address BOTH people involved in a transgendered relationship.

We have begun publishing *Partners*, to expand our coverage into couples concerns, thus following the thrust of our interest in relationships within the gender community.

In today's world, we are beginning to see more and more happy and satisfying relationships where one of the partners is transgendered. We hope to bring you their stories, in hopes that you will be able to incorporate some of what makes these relationships successful into your own.

If you are interested in receiving *Partners*, please write us at P.O. Box 17, Bulverde TX 78163. We also solicit your input in the forms of ideas, experiences, and yes, even criticisms.

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Sue, P.O. Box 9573,
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by Ricky
Illustration by Rita

Hey, wow ... me on the television!

It all started when I got a call from someone with the Sally Oprah Donahue Show. Their schedule said it was time to put a crossdresser on exhibit and they wondered if I was interested. Someone down there had been reading my columns, it seems. I patiently explained that I was known as The Bearded Lady for good reason, I had a full, dark, bushy beard and was unlikely to be seen as a woman. The only response was "Hey -- kinky. That's great! The audience will love it."

So I agreed; after all, I consider myself second only

complete outline of my future from the slope, size and nipple placement of my breasts. I was relieved to know I would become pregnant soon if I ordered his tape on stress relief. He knew how long I had been trying and how frustrating it was to be unable to conceive.

Across the room there was a heated discussion concerning Satanic rituals among the homeless in Cleveland. I couldn't resist asking a nattily dressed gentleman why he was holding a large stack of records in his lap, and he informed me in detail of the suicide messages to be found when playing rock records backwards. It made me wonder what the cults promoting this activity are going to do about messages on CDs.

All too soon it was time to make my appearance. I sat there nervously watching the monitor tell me that all you had to do to be young and beautiful was drink Poopsie-Cola until the red light went on. Sally Oprah switched on her smile and asked me why I was trying to save the last lighthouse in Nebraska. I think you will be able to share my confusion at the question. Obviously Sally Oprah had the wrong cue card, and how could I tell her that on National TV? What else could I do? I think I came off creditably in explaining why it is impossible to grow wheat on the prairies without a proper government subsidized

lighthouse, and was roundly applauded after asking the audience to write their congressmen to support the cause. The light on the camera winked out and switched to a woman telling how to keep odor under control in well, private, uh, places.

So there went my 15 minutes of fame, gone before I could even notice it. The only regret I had is that I couldn't tell America how crossdressers are as sane and normal as any other guest on a national Talk Show. Maybe Geraldo will call me sometime and I can tell him about the mutant dwarfs tunneling in the basement.

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to Rush Limbaugh as a font of wisdom on all subjects, and even he wouldn't be as well informed as I on crossdressing. I dug the wig out of the recesses of my closet, found something to wear in my \$9.99 or less wardrobe that matched my reddish beard and went forth unto the Studio, suitcase in hand. (You didn't think I would try and go dressed, did you?) The makeup person didn't bat an eye at me, but then there was a four-foot tall green alien on my left and two Elvis clones on my right, one old and one young -- remarkably like the stamp images. It was fun waiting in the Green Room (that's the place where the guests wait until it's their turn to go on camera). I wasn't even nervous as I had a nice talk with a gentleman who was able to give me a

COMMON SENSE SELF-DEFENSE

by Jayne [REDACTED]

Picture this scenario:

It's dark outside and you've left the confines of your apartment or home. Tonight you've taken extra care in doing your makeup and choosing your clothes. As you checked your appearance in the mirror before you ventured out, you felt that you were passable and wouldn't attract any unwanted attention.

Aware of your image and feeling capable of fooling anyone you boldly set forth to strut your stuff! Alone? Without the protection of a group?

As you walk along you notice a group of men standing at the corner, and cat calls hound you as you pass by. More than just words follow you as a member of the group advances towards you.

You are now in a situation that could be potentially dangerous.

Most TVs and TSs are not of huge physical size. This makes you an easy target for an assault or robbery.

You continue on your walk feeling the uncomfortable presence of your follower and you wonder, "How have I gotten myself into this mess?"

I'm going to freeze this hypothetical situation before it goes any further, so we can stop and think.

First: Does this individual have to be alone on the street? Was it wise to go out totally alone? It's important to have some type of companionship when you go out crossdressed into an uncontrolled environment.

Second: Be very aware of all of your surroundings. As one progresses in Martial Arts training, they develop a hyper-awareness of everything going on around them. If you feel that the individual approaching you on the sidewalk may become a threat, move out of harm's way! Cross the street.

Avoid the confrontation before it starts. Remember the three A's: ALERT. AWARE. AWAKE!

Three: Don't walk around looking like a target. If you have an attitude like a meek, mild mouse, than you are inviting any cat that can, to pounce. Don't get me wrong. I'm not saying to become overly aggressive because this type of behavior will also attract the wrong kind of attention. Just try to exude an air of confidence so that everyone around you sees that you are a person in control of yourself and your surroundings.

Most importantly, realize that your most vital weapon is your BRAIN. Your ability to THINK. Use it. Don't ignore it. You will be able to pre-solve any

problems before they become reality.

Avoiding confrontations is the most important idea to grasp. Imagine the possible embarrassment of explaining your true sex to the police, or the emergency room doctor, providing of course that you are still able to do so.

So remember: Be ALERT, AWARE and AWAKE so you can AVOID.

If a confrontation is inevitable:

How serious is the confrontation? Is it one person or more than one? Do they want to joke and play as a method of group support? Is it a robbery? If so, how serious is it? Are you dealing with a professional thief, or someone out of control like a drug addict? Is it an assault? If so are they trying to kill you or just hurt you? Is there a weapon involved? (knife, gun, blunt object)?

All these questions will be analyzed in a split second by the mind of a trained individual. You awareness should keep you constantly informed of the situation. After determining the seriousness of the confrontation, respond with equal force. What good is it to hit a bum asking for a quarter?

Remember: The first rule is survival, the second rule is escape. Respond with all you need in order

Be very aware of your surroundings.

to escape. Do only what is necessary to eliminate the threat, then get away.

Your brain controls everything you do so no matter what, Think, Think, Think!

Your voice can be a powerful deterrent. It is the center of all your physical power and can also be used for balance and control. Oriental fighting styles call it *ki*. It is the power or force that emanates from your diaphragm. It is similar to a cough in its source. Make as much noise as possible to deter your attackers. Certain words attract more attention than others. "POLICE! HELP! KILL! RAPE!" are better than most but use what is comfortable. The surprise of a deep, strong, booming male voice could also be a great shock to an attacker and could prove to be the deterrent necessary.

If you are a good actor/actress try bluffing. Body language, the position of the arms and hands in relation to your pockets, purse etc. can create the correct attitude to thwart an attack.

Your heels are as good a deterrent as anything if swung with force. Other things such as whistles, personal alarms and mace can also be used to your

advantage.

Weapons such as knives, blunt objects and guns are not recommended for they can easily be turned against you. Only use these in absolute life or death situations.

All these ideas are available to you without actually having any training.

One point to remember: Only meet force with exactly the same level of response. Meet deadly force with deadly force. Do what you have to do to subdue your attacker, then escape. Get away clean. Do not hang around and observe your handiwork.

Hands and feet have been studied by various cultures and found to be most capable as weaponry provided the user is as capable. The different styles that are available to be studied in depth are as

numerous as the parts of the body you can strike with. Tae Kwan Do, Karate, Savate, Ken-po, Aikido, Judo, Boxing, Jeet Kune Do, Tai-Boxing, Kung Fu (Gung-Fa), Ju-Jitsu and Shoto Zkow Power Karate are just some of the names. Any one is formidable.

Some areas of the hand to use as a striking zone are the fist (forefist or backfist), heel of the hand, knifehand (edge of the hand), backhand, ridge of the hand and spear fingers.

Some areas of the feet that can be used are the ball of the foot, foot sword, heel and instep.

Hand techniques can be used in place of the fist because in most circumstances when someone is crossdressed, and you have grown your nails long or are wearing false ones, it's quite awkward or nearly impossible to make a fist.

Foot techniques are valuable due to the extended reach created by the longer limbs. Also, most people have stronger legs than arms so it becomes the more formidable weapon of the two.

To use any area of the body as a weapon requires concentration. Anyone intending to do so must be the directory of all body energy at a specific instant to a focussed target. The number of square inches that you strike with also creates greater force. (e.g., heel of the hand vs. backfist.) The concept of force is what separates an art form from street brawling.

It is not intended that this be taken as direct advice as what to do when crossdressed and a potentially dangerous situation occurs. I have long studied martial arts and am an expert in many areas. This article is intended to show how a crossdressed individual might react in a potentially dangerous situation if that person has had some kind of martial arts training, along with a good dollop of confidence.

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MIXED GENDER

by Mary Ann

It's an unwritten rule in our society that there shall be no mixing of the genders. Men are men and women are women, period. Even within our Transgender Community, there is an unwritten rule that people should either completely dress as the opposite gender (making some attempt to pass) or dress entirely as their own gender. This rule is codified by the Crystal Club, which prohibits a person from arriving at a meeting in, say, a dress with male hair.

There is some good reason for this rule. A person with obvious mixed genders attracts a lot of attention. A fully crossdressed male, even one who does not pass well, does not force a bystander to realize that there is anything unusual about her. Indeed, by crossdressing, and going in public, and behaving happily and normally as a woman, people will tend to accept you at face value.

Some of us, however, may not be fully content to remain entirely in one gender role or the other at all times. For me, the whole point of crossdressing is to be allowed to wear the clothing I so enjoy. If I have to wear a wig and makeup, change my voice, my walk, and my mannerisms, I will do it, but it can be a nuisance to go to all the work to complete the illusion. There are times when I just want to wear the clothes and not worry about the rest. Around the house this is easy, if the kids aren't around. But going in public with an obviously male head and some feminine clothes can be another story.

Personally, I believe I have good legs. I see women around me with dresses and nylons, or skin-tight stretch pants, or in slacks with knee-highs and shoes that show off their feet, and I feel pangs of jealousy. Why can't I be dressed like that? Well, of course, if I do and I run into somebody I know, they are going to start asking questions. So I've kept these desires to myself. Until now.

Recently I had the opportunity to travel to California for a few days. Most of the trip was occupied with business meetings, for which I wore the expected suit and tie. But I had been toying with the idea of flying *en femme* for some time, and this seemed like it might be the right time.

When I travel by air, I hate to pack zillions of bags. If I can fit everything into a garment bag and briefcase, I can arrive just in time for the flight and leave without waiting around for baggage claim. I can carry everything instead of hiring a skycap or

renting a cart. If I'm *en femme*, in a dress and heels, I certainly don't want to lug a fat heavy garment bag through an airport and onto a rental car bus. Taking Mary Ann with me involves a lot of baggage that would cross the line from carry-on to skycap.

Flying on the outbound leg of the trip has some other problems. If it's a business trip, I have tickets printed in my male name. The car rental reservation is also in my male name, and they will

insist on seeing my driver's license. The hotel check-in will also involve my male name.

Some of this can be worked around by making reservations using my initials instead of my full name. My corporate travel agent has my initials in the computer (M A Harris) so this will be automatic. But this doesn't solve the drivers license

problem at the rental car. Even with National's new Smart Key system, which does not require that I speak with a person before I get my car, I still have to show my drivers license on the way off the lot. This particular trip was not arranged by my usual travel service, and they made the reservations in my regular male name. So flying out *en femme* was out. Flying back *en femme* seemed possible, if I lug all that stuff with me.

So what do I do? Well, there is another mode of dress in which I feel very comfortable. I have several pairs of black stretch pants, stirrup pants, and leggings. I have a pair of size 13 women's moccasins that are among the most comfortable shoes I own, and which show off the top of my foot very nicely. I took these with me for the return trip, along with a pair of jet black pantyhose. I figured that I was going to be in California on Saturday morning, and unlikely to meet anybody I knew at the hotel or on the airplane. It seemed like a golden opportunity to try out the mixed look: stretch pants, women's mocs, nylons on my feet and ankles, and a T-shirt. I chose my Ohio State University T-shirt, which is oversized and comes down nearly as far as a big top would.

The results could not have been more positive. I checked out of the hotel and discussed the outrageous phone bill their fly-by-night long distance service had charged -- the desk manager was very helpful and apologetic. I ate breakfast at the hotel's complimentary breakfast buffet, which

A person with
obvious mixed
genders attracts
a lot of
attention.

was crowded. Nobody gave me a second glance. At the buffet, a father with his young son remarked to the boy that "we can watch him, he looks like he knows what he's doing."

I ate breakfast and rushed to a nearby grocery store to pick up some wine to take back. (California stores have excellent selections of wine at amazingly reasonable prices.) I picked up four bottles of Charles Krug and headed for the checkout. Finding the express lane backed up, I opted for a shorter regular line. The lady in front of me noticed I had only the wine and offered to let me go in front of her. She, the cashier, and I bantered on for a few minutes as the family in front of us had their groceries bagged and as she rang me up. No mention of my pants.

The same was true for the rest of the trip. Returning the rental car was pleasant, as I told them I was on my way back to Ohio and they pointed to a nearby mountaintop with California snow on it, telling how the locals drive their pickups up the mountain and fill them up with snow to take

When women started to wear pants 100 years ago, it gradually became fashionable for them to wear any item of men's clothing.

home. Even using the men's room was no problem, although I chose to use a stall so I could pull up my nylons.

I anticipated a different reaction in the Chicago airport. After all, Chicago is in the Midwest. While I still didn't expect to meet anybody I knew, I kept a watchful eye open for peoples reactions. Nobody gave me a second glance. Most people were busy dragging their luggage from one terminal to another. But even the people watchers killing time in the airport seats paid no attention.

I did carry my jeans rolled up in one of my carry-on bags, just in case of problems. But I didn't need to change at all until arriving in back Columbus.

I wonder if I would have had the same reaction in a skirt? Maybe some time I'll try it.

There is a person on some of the electronic mailing lists I participate in who routinely wears obvious mixed gender attire. He goes by the name of Glenn, has long hair and full beard, and considers himself a transvestite. Glenn shaves his legs and wears dresses, garter belts, nylons, and heels. He has recently begun to experiment with makeup. Glenn lives in Maryland a half hour's drive from a college town.

Glenn relates that he often gets reactions from bystanders. Children, especially, will often point and say "Mommy, look at the man in a dress!" He also says he often gets compliments on his legs, usually from women.

(I've received compliments on my legs, too, but only while *en femme*. Usually they occur at Halloween parties where the participants know who and what I am. It really feels good to get a compliment! I have a bracelet that seems to attract compliments while I'm *en femme*. The compliments always come from women, for some reason. I guess men just aren't comfortable complimenting a women unless they are making a pass, and I try to avoid being the object of passes.)

Another male, not transgendered (as far as I know), living near Chicago, reports that he carries a purse. He indicates that at work, in public, and even in stores, he gets no comments about it.

When women started to wear pants 100 years ago, it gradually became possible, and even fashionable, for them to wear just about any item of men's

clothing they wished.

As I write this, the flight attendants are wearing shirts, slacks, neckties, and jackets, all with men's styling.

Their attractive

women's head and nyloned feet with high heels are the main indication of their gender. This is widely accepted today.

I view Glenn as a pioneer for gender rights. He has the gumption to wear the clothing he feels comfortable in every day. His friends are used to it and don't think about it any more. He is currently dealing with getting his family to accept it. His job is another issue: he's currently unemployed. In the past, he's worn regular men's attire to work.

I hope more males will take Glenn's lead and be willing to wear women's clothes, in an attractive way, without trying to present a feminine gender. Like the wearing of an earring, it may eventually become accepted.



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SETTING THE STAGE FOR A SUCCESSFUL GENDER TRANSITION

by Gianna Eveling Israel

During the early eighties I reached a point in my life journey where I had become aware that I could no longer continue living with a male presentation. Although I had begun crossliving part-time and even had met other transgendered individuals I found the prospect of crossliving full-time very confusing. All the experiences from my past seemed an inadequate preparation for what lay ahead. In the present as a gender counselor I have witnessed hundreds of individuals adopt a variety of reflections into their own successful transitions some of which you may find helpful developing your own success.

*What is helpful to one
May cause another pain,
As when the moon rises
The evening flowers open
the lotuses close.*

This elegant Tibetan saying so beautifully unfolds the wisdom of taking small and large steps only when you feel ready. There are many overeager individuals who gladly would push you in a direction you may not be ready for. Always be true to yourself and your needs as you understand them.

Implementing short and long term goal planning is a key factor to a successful transition. Illusions of immediacy can be very deceiving. Those successful

well-intentioned individuals, licensed and unlicensed may advertise themselves as a "specialist." Talk with several individuals and discuss your needs. As your transition process unfolds a good specialist should be able to listen to your needs, provide you with viable options and point out dangerous pitfalls you may not yet see.

Explore resources and groups in your area. Groups provide the opportunity to meet other people who relate with your needs and feelings. Having trouble locating resources? The American Education Gender Information Service (AEGIS) has a national and individual state directory listing resources. Directories from the National Gender Resource & Professional Database are available at a reasonable cost. Your therapist or counselor also may know of additional resources.

Examine your employment situation. If you are currently working your present source of income can tide you through many "pre-operative" and crossliving expenses such as counseling, electrolysis and developing a new presentation. Although not initially disclosing your transgendered status to your employer can give moments of "discovery worries" it also buys you time in deciding whether to transit on the job or build resources for a new job or career.

Your fears and the stories you may have heard about people losing their jobs are not groundless. Many individuals do lose jobs; others are able to make a smooth on the job transition. It differs from individual to individual. If you should get fired because you are transgendered, remember that they apparently do not deserve a positive, skilled, self-actualizing person such as yourself and you deserve better.

If you are currently unemployed but able to work, seek out a job which utilizes your skills. Many individuals prior to full-time crossliving take on an androgynous (unisex) appearance prior to hiring. This sometime can smooth making a transition on the job. Others, choose to work in their original gender while building resources for a job change.

Examining your present day relationships can prove extremely frustrating, especially when confronted with decisions of disclosure. "Coming Out" can best serve you first by choosing to disclose to or build new relationships which can support your transition. A basic, safe rule of "support" disclosure is to disclose only when you feel telling is going to add quality to the relationship (*continued, next page*)

Many individuals do lose jobs; others are able to make a smooth on-the-job transition.

transgendered individuals you may admire more than likely gained their success along a well planned pathway.

Short term goals can include taking care of unfinished business. If you are presently having difficulties with chemical addictions or depression, allow yourself the opportunity to deal with them first. Initial crossliving steps present a variety of stressful "first time" experiences. Finding a place of emotional stability with pre-existing conditions will give you the added strength and security to move on to new ground.

Build a support team! Regardless of your surgery goals your support team should include a counselor or therapist specializing in gender issues. Their experience can provide significant insight into the transition process and help you decide which options are best for you.

Be a good consumer. Shop around when searching for a therapist or counselor, electrologist or anyone else providing specialized services. Many

SEX REASSIGNMENT SURGERY: SHOULD YOU OR SHOULDN'T YOU?

by Dallas Denny

Why Not to have SRS

If you're over high-school age, not in the military, and can stay out of jail, you should be able to get through life without having to show your genitalia to anyone. Your genital region is ordinarily of concern only to yourself and to your potential lovers. Why? Because nobody sees it. They're called private parts, after all! Think about it: of all the people you've ever known, how many have shown you their genitalia? Genitalia are a matter of faith -- even for transsexual people. Perhaps you know

Sex reassignment surgery is a very expensive and troublesome option. That is what it is: an option. No one need have it.

SETTING THE STAGE ... continued

and result in support. There are times when disclosure "isn't" a choice. Your therapist or counselor can help you build skills for disclosing in these situations. With your confidence built by previous experience you can then move on to the harder task of telling family and friends. When disclosing to a spouse or other committed relationship be prepared for likelihood of significant changes taking place within that relationship. Rejection is not uncommon and can be very painful and is yet another reason to already have your support team there to help you.

Develop Awareness! The transition process you are involved in will open many doorways towards self-understanding and personal growth. As you become knowledgeable about your own gender issues you will develop a sense of strength and position within your presentation. People will witness powerful changes taking place in your life. Safely sharing your new self-awareness with others will provide you with a sense of accomplishment while encouraging others to grow along their own pathways. Finally finding a place of gender stability is hard work, sometimes dangerous but also can be a time of positive, enjoyable self-discovery and acceptance.

[Gianna Eveling Israel specializes in providing individual and small group counseling and education for those dealing with transgendered issues. She is also the Western Regional Director for AEGIS. Ms. Israel may be reached at (415) 558-8058 or by writing P.O. Box 424447, San Francisco CA 94142-4447.]

some post-op transsexual people. Think about it: have you seen the surgery sight? Even considering the propensity of post-op male-to-females to show off their surgeries, I'll wager some could be lying about their status, laughing about saving all that money.

If your presentation is convincing, people will take your genitalia as a matter of faith. Even if you are clocked, your genitalia will be assumed rather than inspected. Know it: your ability to function in the gender of choice is independent of your plumbing.

As with everyone else, people will assume you have the proper genital equipment. The gender police are unlikely to order a panty check.

So why have reassignment surgery?

Good question. It's expensive, hard to obtain, will be likely to result in complications or a need for additional surgeries, may negatively compromise your ability to achieve orgasm or even have genital pleasure, and, depending upon your surgeon and the direction in which you are traveling, your optional add-on may never look or work like factory-installed equipment -- and it will certainly require more upkeep. Surgery won't make you pass better, cause you to be more popular (unless you become highly promiscuous), or make much of a difference in your life one way or another. And it's irreversible. Once you have it, you're stuck with it.

So again, you ask, why have surgery?

The answer is simple: you need not have it.

Sex reassignment surgery is an expensive and troublesome option -- and that's what it is: an option. No one need have it.

If surgery is all that important to you, you should regard it as a warning sign, especially if you are early in transition. Why, exactly, do you want it? How do you think it will affect your life? What will you accomplish by having it? Is it a fetish -- a fantasy? Are your expectations realistic? Do you want it for yourself, or for others to use as a sex toy?

Think about what good use you can put all that money to. Don't have the surgery, and tell everybody you did.

Why to Have SRS

Sex reassignment surgery is the final step in the process of gender reassignment. It is a confirmation of everything that has gone before. It brings the body into consonance with the social role. It gets

rid of an obvious badge of masculinity or femininity, or provides one with the badge of the new gender.

Those who are living in a gender for which they do not have the expected genitalia will always have a fear of exposure. At any time, there it could be: the dreaded mandatory physical, the all-exposing trip to the emergency room, the overenthusiastic lover who comes face-to-face with the unexpected.

Ah, yes, the old love life. One gets tired of saying, "By the way, Tad, you don't know absolutely everything about me," or "By the way, Monica -- although I'm a politically correct lesbian, there's a little something I need to tell you." The lack of proper genitalia can cause disruption of lovemaking patterns, resulting in ongoing frustration.

Having surgery can uncomplicate one's love life, cause an increased feeling of self-ease, and decrease the risk of accidental exposure.

And those are three good reasons to have SRS.

So should you have SRS? Yes, if you have been living and working for some time in the new gender; yes, if you are being who you are and are not just

Should you have SRS? Yes, if it's no longer important.

crossdressing full-time; yes, if you don't overvalue your genitals, or the pleasure they give you, and don't mind the thought of losing them, or that pleasure; yes, if you have the money; yes, if you're healthy; yes, if you've worked through all of your insecurities, doubts, and turmoil; yes, if you've taken care of electrolysis and plastic surgeries, if you need them; yes, if surgery is not the most important thing in the world, but just something you need to do; yes, if the woman at Burger

King uses the right pronoun when you order through the drive-in window; yes, if you have your basic economic needs taken care of; yes, if you're paying for it yourself, and not borrowing money you'll never pay back; yes, if you're prepared for the emotional turmoil and need for follow-up care; yes, if you're prepared to spent a significant portion of each day in the upkeep of your new equipment; yes, if in your most private of thoughts you really want it, then do it. Better yet -- why not go to Belgium for vacation for two weeks and tell everyone you did?

[Dallas Denny is the director of the American Gender Information Service (AEGIS), based in Atlanta GA. This article originally appeared in Twenty, the newsletter of The XX Club in Hartford CT.]

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THE SHOPPING MAVEN

by JoAnn Roberts

Product: Melody Breastforms

Source: Melody Products International,
P.O. Box 2142, Yorba Linda, CA 92686

Cost: \$700, all sizes

Rating: B -

It is not easy to evaluate breast prostheses. Part of the problem is getting samples to "test drive" and part of the problem is the very subjective feelings on the part of the reviewer about breasts -- the real ones, I mean.

I've been interested in the Melody breast form for some time since I had seen them advertised in British crossdresser publications. The ad claims seemed extraordinary and really piqued my interest.

The Melody forms are unlike any I've seen anywhere else. They are actually made with two different kinds of silicone rubber. The outer edges are firm while the center, including the nipple area is very soft and pliable. I've seen this kind of construction before, but not in breast forms. The result is a form that feels almost perfect where it should, in the center, and is more durable and strong at the outer edges where it contacts the body.

Another novel feature of the Melody form is the hollowed back. So, even if you have a little extra fat tissue or possible a bit of real breast development, these forms will fit you quite nicely. There are two small vent holes on the underside of the form to provide for minute air circulation through the back of the form. But, if the air holes were blocked, the form might actually adhere like a suction-cup. In fact, the brochure says they can be worn braless, but I was not able to make them stay put without a bra. I did not want to try blocking the air holes as this pair was on loan for this review.

These forms are surprisingly and pleasantly light. I went back to a review I did in *International TransScript* and dug out the weight numbers for a variety of breastforms: Camp - 14.6 oz. each, Illusion - 8.9 oz., baggies filled with water - 5.9 oz., Melody - 7.4 oz. So these compare favorably. The forms are also available for people of color, although the order may take a little longer.

I only have two negatives to report about the Melody form, one rather minor and one major. First the minor point -- these forms use the triangle shape that you see with some other forms hinting that these might be intended for women who've had radical mastectomies, i.e. removal of tissue under the arm. I prefer the more usual teardrop shape.

The big negative point about Melody forms is the cost -- \$700 a pair. On the bright side, there is only the one price, regardless of size (six sizes are available). But, \$700 is pretty steep. I thought Illusions and Mirage were expensive, until I saw these.

My overall rating is a B-, mostly due to the very high cost. If these were priced at \$450 a pair or less, I suspect they'd sell like hotcakes. The look and feel is almost perfect.

In the end, you'll have to decide for yourself whether or not these are worth the extra money. For some, they will be. Melody Products International has a ten day trial offer with no obligation to purchase. Satisfaction guaranteed or your money back and that's an offer that's hard to beat.

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NATIONAL PUBLICATION REVIEW

by Kymberleigh Richards

This month I would like to draw your attention to two publications that have grown beyond their group-newsletter origin to become national in scope.

Petticoat Junction started as a small booklet-size newsletter back when editor Marlina Dawn Murphy formed the San Angelo chapter of Heart of Texas Gender Alliance. Well, over the past couple of years, HTGA pretty much has faded as an organization, although its members still receive what is now a 20 page monthly magazine at a discount.

Marlina devotes a considerable amount of space to promoting events from all over the country; the March issue, for example, contained full-page ads for Peggy Rudd's "Dignity Cruise", the upcoming Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy, and the advance date for the 1994 "Texas 'T' Party", as well as a full-page of national events calendar listings. She also included five pages of information on groups around the country.

What I personally look forward to are Marlina's and columnist Michelle Anne Michaels' regular columns which contain a considerable amount of interesting tidbits and observations about the gender community from a Southwest point of view.

This issue also reprinted a lengthy article from a Seattle, Wash., newspaper on the Ingersoll Gender Center and the recent "man on the street" survey in San Francisco about dating a man who crossdresses. As you might expect so soon after the event, there was a report on the "Texas 'T' Party" as well.

In past issues, Marlina has carried material from the America OnLine computer service, as well as some original articles. I unfortunately found this issue lacking due to the limited material. I also found that her group information listing largely duplicated the information already available through *Tapestry*, and to be honest, our national hotlines listing had many more phone numbers as well. My suggestion to Marlina is that she not try so hard to "reinvent the wheel" in this area, and my hope is that she attract enough editorial contributions to not need the groups section as a filler.



When my friend Divinity moved from Southern California to North Carolina two years ago, she said she was going to take my inspiration with her. Well,

after having limited success networking with the existing gender community organizations in her new region, she decided to try creating something herself. The result was the Carolina Trans-Sensual Alliance, and its newsletter, now available nationwide, is called *All The Beautiful People*.

Divinity's editorial approach definitely seems familiar, as it is obviously patterned on the way I used to edit *Cross-Talk* when it was the newsletter for the now-defunct social group The Valley Girls. In fact, CTA's newsletter could easily be used as a supplement by our long-time readers who miss our old formula. But she has gone a step farther by including general health information; when I mentioned this to her during one of our frequent telephone conversations, she said her personal philosophy is that "even T's need to stay healthy."

A recent issue borrowed articles from Delta Chi Education Association, the St. Louis Gender Foundation, and such unlikely places as *Self*, *Good Housekeeping*, and even *Bottom Line*. She also reprinted some odds and ends from the magazine you're holding in your hands now, and wrote a good five pages' worth personally. (JoAnn Roberts' "HotStuff!" also appears here, but about a month later than here.)

If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, then I'm definitely flattered. I will say, in all sincerity, that this is one of the gender community publications I most look forward to receiving in my mailbox!

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TRANSSEXUALS ARE NOT HOMOSEXUALS

by Lee [REDACTED]
Director, PanSocial Center

A friend of mine (who is male) is only attracted to men, but he insists that he is not gay ... that he is a straight transsexual ... and I don't understand it. Will you explain this to me?

Your problem is a common one. There are not many people who understand the difference between being homosexual (gay) and being transsexual, but there is a definite difference between the two.

I will start by first telling you that being homosexual is a matter of an individual's sexual orientation, whereas being transsexual is a matter of his or her gender identity; since both are different aspects of human sexuality, every individual deals with both (sexual orientation and gender identity) every day of his or her life.

Your confusion is understandable, because in our language we use the same words to label anatomical gender and gender identity; these words are "male" and "female". When we are using them to indicate someone's anatomical gender we are describing his or her anatomy, particularly the external genitalia; that is whether the individual has a vagina and breasts or a penis and testicles.

But we also use the words "male" and "female" to describe someone's gender identity; that is, whether the individual perceives himself or herself as having a male or female personality.

Gender identity is an abstraction developed by each and every society around the world; as it happens to be, each society has its own different definitions for male and female. None of this would create any problems if everyone's gender identity would match his or her anatomical gender; yet, in probably as many as one in 250 human beings these two traits do not match, and these are known as transsexuals. We use the words "male-to-female transsexual" to refer to an individual with male anatomy who develops a female identity; conversely, the female-to-male transsexual is born with female anatomy but develops a male identity.

Unfortunately, society expects people who look masculine to be male, and if they look feminine to be female; as a result, transsexuals are constantly being pressured by their families and by society into acting, thinking and outwardly leading a life for the gender they appear to be. This creates tremendous conflicts within the individuals, who may for years pretend to be what society expects them to be; this leads to continual frustration and very often to alcoholism, drug addiction, and/or suicide.

Our gender identity develops during the time when we are developing language, before two or three years of age; we are all born bigendered, that is, we are a perfect blend of what society calls "male" and "female" ... a combination of both. Our society, bipolar in its reasoning, accepts only extremes and is constantly giving us the message that we are supposed to identify with either one or the other gender, but not both. The pressure is on, then, to put an imaginary lid either on the male or the female aspect of our personality; once this lid is on, it is impossible to remove it.

Some individuals -- probably as many as 60% of the world population -- do not buy this message and remain bigendered for life, whereas the rest clearly identify with as only male or only female; when the

Sexual orientation and gender identity are two separate aspects of our personalities.

individual has one anatomical gender but identifies as the other gender, that individual is a transsexual.

This identification develops as a result of countless factors in our environment, but once it develops it cannot be changed; it is much easier to change the body to match the mind than the other way around. The main reason behind this is that while the identification is being completed, we record impressions in our mind through images.

Eventually, by the time we have fully developed language, most of us have lost that innate ability to record and/or retrieve messages in our mind with the use of images; by then, no amount of spoken therapy can change those messages to reverse the gender identity. Since sexual orientation and gender identity are two (continued, next page)

"Nothing so needs reforming as other people's habits."

Important Note for M.O.M: Thanks for the video tape. I needed a two hour tape to save the premiere episode of *Deep Space Nine*. Oh, about your allegations; I don't deal in gossip, especially from anonymous sources. Even the guilty have a right to know who accuses them. If you identify yourself, we'll talk. Call me.

▲▼▲

Calvin Klein thinks he's onto a new trend, but we've already been there and done that. He's showing "his-n-hers" clothing. But, sweets, would you buy a CK gauze wrap skirt for \$400? Not this queen! Go sell it to the grunge poseurs.

▲▼▲

Some transvestites could be in big trouble if research at the Monell Chemical Senses Center pans out. Researchers there are working on a human pheromone sex attractant. So, what happens when a M2F TV wears this stuff? Will he be so attracted to himself he'll never leave the house? We'll soon have a chance to test that theory when Eroxx, a newly created fragrance company, releases its first pheromone-based fragrance later this year.

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So, ya wannabe a Beauty Queen? Then you jes gotta read *Tiara: An Insider's Guide to Choosing and Winning Pageants*. Written by pageant consultant Barbara Howell, you'll find such tidbits as how to choose a gown, how to master your smile, and preparing for the swimsuit competition. Budding BQs should write to Tiara Publications, P.O. Box 305, Whippany, NJ 07981. Send \$19.95 plus \$3 shipping & handling.

▲▼▲

Is an image consultant for you? Well, maybe. Do you want to look your best always? Do you socialize a lot in public when crossdressed? Do you want to make an impression on people? If yes, then perhaps an image consultant is for you. Costs range from \$50 to \$200 an hour and initial visits range from free to \$250. Investigate carefully and ask for referrals before committing any money.

▲▼▲

Being only slightly taller than the average genetic female, this Queen doesn't have problems finding pantyhose that fit, but some of my friends who push

six-feet in height often find the crotch about three inches lower than where it belongs. If you have problems finding longer pantyhose, try Donna Karan or Hanes Ultra Sheer pantyhose. The latter comes in six rather than three sizes.

▲▼▲

Every insomniac TV has watched the Victoria Jackson cosmetics "infomercial" by now, but are the products worth it? The introductory kit, with video, is over \$95. A lipstick replacement is catalogued as "\$14.95 retail," and "\$8.95 wholesale." Yo! That's higher than fancy department store prices, especially when you compare dollars per unit weight. One product tester commented that the foundation provided was about one quarter the size of a comparable Clinique product, but the price was \$25, almost seven times higher.

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If you spot an ad for the "Party Doll" bra, save your money, I checked it out for you. For about \$11, you get three sheets of silicone plastic backed with adhesive. The idea is to pull the breasts together to create cleavage and secure them in place with the tapes. Probably works fabulously if you have breasts to start with. For those of us who've avoided the Siren's call of estrogen, the Party Doll bra is a bust, if you get my drift.

▲▼▲

Color is hot and your choices are greater than ever. Prescriptives has added 20 new eyeshadow shades to their current palette of (continued, next page)

TRANSSEXUALS NOT HOMOSEXUALS ... cont'd

separate aspects of our personalities, transsexuals can be -- and they definitely are -- gay, straight, or bisexual, in the same proportions as the rest of the population. What your friend is trying to tell you is that she is a male-to-female transsexual, and that this female personality is attracted to males; therefore, she is a straight female.

Present her with the best possible gift anyone can give her and accept her for what she says she is ... female; give her your personal support through the time of transition. I can assure you that she will need it and will forever appreciate it.

[Originally from **Cross-Talk** #13 (1990). This article is the first in a series of four articles on sexuality myths.]



EVENTS CALENDAR

May 12-16, 1993: "Esprit 93", Port Angeles WA, sponsored by Cornbury Society, Emerald City, and Northwest Gender Alliance. Information from P.O. Box 876, Stanwood WA 98294.

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

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

June 1-7, 1993: 13th Annual "Provincetown Spring Fling", sponsored by Tiffany Club of New England. Details from P.O. Box 2283, Woburn MA 01888-0483, or call (508) 358-2305.

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

July 9 & 10, 1993: "S.P.I.C.E. (Spouses/Partners International Conference for Education)", Dallas TX, sponsored by Tri-Ess' W.A.C.S. (Women Associated with Crossdressers). Details from P.O. Box 7241, Tallahassee FL 32314.

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

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

September 23-26, 1993: Second Annual New Woman Conference, San Francisco CA. Information from NWC, P.O. Box 67, S. Berwick ME 03908, or by calling (206) 676-5870.

October 28-31, 1993: "Fall Harvest '93 Weekend", Kansas City MO, hosted by the five MAGGIE groups (Crossdressers And Friends, St. Louis Gender Foundation, Iowa Artistry, River City Gender Foundation, Wichita Gender Alliance). Details from Fall Harvest, P.O. Box 35061, Overland Park KS 66214-5061, or call (913) 649-8878.

November 10-14, 1993: Tri-Ess "Holiday En Femme", Burbank CA. Event open only to Tri-Ess members or heterosexual crossdressers. Host chapters: Alpha, Omega Chi, Tri-Chi. Details from Holiday En Femme, 1757-D W. Carson St. #306, Torrance CA 90501.

February 25-27, 1994: 6th Annual "Texas 'T' Party", San Antonio TX, sponsored by Boulton & Park Society. Information from P.O. Box 700042, San Antonio TX 78270.

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

HotStuff! ... continued

36, while Estee Lauder offers 80 individual eyeshadows. Lancome takes a split approach with Essentials, neutral basics for lips, eyes, and cheeks, and Accessories, bolder colors to be used as accents.



OH NO! Get the silver bullets and garlic. Blue eyeshadow is back. But the buzz is not about the solid blue of yore. Shades to play with are Prescriptives Blue Angel, YSL #119, Malice Blue, or deeper blues such as L'Oreal Teal and Givenchy Marine. To keep the blue from looking garish, coordinate it with browns and keep lips, cheeks neutral.



The other bright star in the color palette this Spring is one of my faves -- yellow. Try Prescriptives

Canary or Shiseido Tres Tres Peach. For evening, use yellow-gold shadow with shimmer like Guerlain Gold or Cover Girl Burnished Gold.



A tip of the wig goes to Eve Golden of Seacacus, New Jersey. Ms. Golden, a post-op transsexual, wrote a letter to the editors of *Allure* protesting a passage in a December 1992 article that referred to transsexuals as "sex changes." Says Golden, I do not define myself by a six hour surgical procedure. My transsexualism is a small part of a very full and happy life." We need more folks like Eve willing to stand up against ignorance.



A new technique for distributing disposable contact lenses could reduce costs to the point where lenses could be replaced daily rather than weekly.



A--hole of the Year goes to Karl Lagerfeld who, in response to all the transparent fashions in his collection, said, "Poosy [pussy] is in!" Well, Mr. L, Poosy may be "in" but your brain is definitely "out."



If the March issue of *Vogue* is any bellwether of style, the world has gone mad. I've never seen such a collection of ugly and expensive junk. At the other end of the spectrum, stroll through your local



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Sears and look at the clothing. You'll see why the once mighty have fallen. Sears makes K-Mart and Jaclyn Smith look like *haute couture*.



Words worth repeating I: "Take three Advil before you get your legs waxed and never do it before your period." -- Madonna.



Words worth repeating II: "My only regret in life is that I am not someone else." -- Woody Allen.



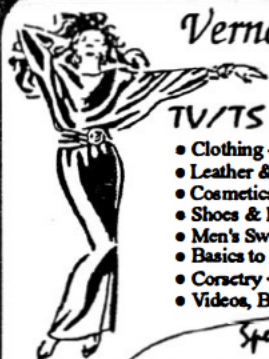
Commentary: I am hearing rumblings out of California and Texas that the Congress of Reps has been sold out to IFGE. Now that gets my pantyhose in a real twist. As I write this, the annual meeting of the congress hasn't taken place yet and already people are talking revolution. Listen up bone-heads! No one sold out anything. The congress is your organization. It is the only organization with the potential to represent everyone. Give it a chance, but more importantly, participate. It's easy to throw stones at other people's efforts when you have no personal investment in the outcome.



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**ARENA
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AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

The last few months have been rather hectic here at the "Cross-Talk" offices. In the aftermath of the February issue's delay, Sandy Thomas opted to dissolve the joint venture under which we had been operating.

I do not fault Sandy for her decision, and you will note that we continue to carry advertising for her fiction novels. However, her departure has left me wholly responsible for the production AND distribution of this magazine. Thanks to Trish Anderson at Cross Connection and Anne Newkirk Niven at Arena Press, we have managed to get roughly back on a normal schedule and I do not anticipate any further delays in remaining on deadlines.

However, I have been overwhelmed with the task of rebuilding the retail distribution network, and I would like to ask the help of our subscribers and the gender community organizations that receive "Cross-Talk" on an exchange basis.

If you know of any gender community-related store or alternative bookstore that we can contact regarding the sale of "Cross-Talk", I would appreciate your not only letting us know, but approach them directly asking them if they are interested. I have constructed a very attractive wholesale price schedule that is profitable for retailers (while obviously keeping enough profit here to keep us in business!) and I will be happy to send a sample copy and the schedule to any retailer who is interested.

Another way our subscribers can be of assistance is to approach their friends and correspondents in the gender community and ask them to subscribe (or to at least pick up a copy every month at one of our retail outlets!). In fact, we have special forms that you can use that will give you subscription credit for the referral. We sent a set of these forms to all subscribers at the end of last year, as well as to all new subscribers, and a set is included with renewal notices. If you misplaced yours, or just want more, please write and ask for them. (I have plenty.)

Of course, advertising revenue frequently makes it possible for us to keep our cover price and subscription rates down, and I have a special word of thanks for our advertisers, many of whom have been with us for a long time. Please -- whether you are a subscriber or a single-issue reader -- mention us when you contact them so that they will know their support of "Cross-Talk" is beneficial to their business.

I want to make certain you all know that we are NOT in any danger of ceasing publication. Nor will it be necessary to return to a newsletter format to continue. While our cash flow situation is occasionally in a quick-turnaround position, the bills are staying paid and we are not that far off from where I expected to be at this point in time.

Many, many thanks for your continued support. I will continue to work hard to deliver a magazine worthy of that support.

Love, Kymberleigh

(P.S.: If you have any suggestions regarding the type of articles or features you would like to see in the future, please either write me at P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365, fax me at (818) 347-4190, or e-mail me through Cross Connection.)

GREAT MOMENTS IN TV HISTORY

by Ralph W.



4/22/79: Mel (Vic Tayback) dons a feminine disguise to hide from a man he saw robbing a jewelry store on *Alice*, CBS.



12/18/72: Bill Cosby is joined by guest star George Kirby (right), who is masquerading as his wife, and by series regular Lola Falana in a comedy sketch on *The New Bill Cosby Show*, CBS.



4/24/86: Dan (John Larroquette, left) grimaces as he learns that his best male friend from college (famed female impersonator Jim Bailey, right) is now a female, on *Night Court*, NBC.



2/12/90: Joe Regalbuto ("Murphy Brown"), left, disguised as a woman and Ted Shackelford ("Knots Landing") play members of a somewhat inexperienced quirkily gang of jewel thieves in the TV movie *The Love Boat: A Valentine Voyage*, CBS.

"CROSS-TALK" NEWSLETTER NETWORK

Reprints from the newsletters of gender community organizations nationwide

A SIMPLE TEST FOR CROSSDRESSERS

by Angela [REDACTED]

Recently, I went to see a doctor for my first routine physical in almost ten years. As he examined me, he asked me the routine questions about diet, lifestyle, and occupation. Finally he questioned, "Is there anything else I should know about you?"

I paused for a moment, and feeling confident, I replied, "I crossdress." Without hesitation he looked at me and asked, "Is it causing any problems in your life at the present time?"

I honestly replied "no."

"Very well," he responded, "if it does cause problems, contact me and I'll see to it you get help."

As I drove away from his office I thought about how nice it would be to have a simple test to determine if crossdressing was a problem. Previously, I'd read about something called the CAGE Test for determining if a problem was seriously affecting a person's life. I've taken the liberty of modifying it for crossdressers:

C -- Can you **CONTROL** your need to crossdress as circumstances dictate? Are you able to give those you are in a personal relationship with the quality time they require from you as a male? Or do you often feel the need to withdraw to your feminine self and abandon them?

A -- Do you **ACCEPT** yourself and your situation for what it is and are you satisfied with it, or do you feel something is missing or incomplete?

G -- Do you feel **GUILTY** when you crossdress because of the time you take from others or because of the money you spend on clothes or other things?

E -- Is your crossdressing an **ESCAPE** from reality? Is it a way for you to shut out the unpleasant world and isolate yourself from what is really going on in your life?

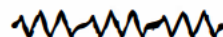
I suppose there is one more thing I would add to this test. It is this question: Is your crossdressing a primary issue in your personal relationships? Does it cause conflict? Do you have arguments over even seemingly small things?

My personal experience has led me to believe that

crossdressing becomes the most visible problem in a relationship when, indeed, many other things may be causing problems. Unfortunately, because crossdressing is so easy to identify, it is often the problem named when a relationship breaks down. A good counselor will look beyond the crossdressing to see what other issues are at play in the relationship.

So there it is, a quick test to determine if crossdressing is seriously affecting your life and your relationships. If you feel that your crossdressing is seriously affecting your life, then counseling is probably recommended. By all means, seek out a qualified helping professional to help yourself live a more satisfying life.

[Reprinted with permission from the CD Network newsletter, Rochester NY.]



GENDER AND ADDICTION

by Renee [REDACTED]

Most of us are addicts.

We abuse alcohol, drugs, food, caffeine, nicotine, gambling, television and sex in an effort to avoid uncomfortable feelings. We may drink to cover up our shyness, eat to fill an inner emptiness, watch television to avoid relating to our families or we may work ourselves to death trying to overcome an inner sense of inadequacy. Addiction is compulsive, destructive and insidious, because we try to deny its existence until it frays or destroys the fabric of our lives.

Is crossdressing just another addictive behavior? It can be, depending on how it is done.

Crossdressing is an unconscious attempt to contact, explore, enjoy and eventually integrate the disowned *anima* or *animus* archetypes, sources of great wisdom and energy in the shadow world of the unconscious. It is not shameful or depraved, but a wonderful means for enriching life with heretofore repressed creative and spiritual energies.

Crossdressing is addictive when kept locked behind closed doors in order to avoid deeper feelings, such as fear and envy of the opposite sex. Then it becomes a kinky, shameful secret, much the same as bingeing on ice cream after the family's gone to bed. Although, like adolescent masturbation, it

**PLEASE ... WHENEVER CONTACTING ONE OF
OUR ADVERTISERS, TELL THEM YOU READ
THEIR AD HERE IN "CROSS-TALK"!**

may relieve stress and provide a forbidden fruit sort of kick, it can be as lonely, fetishistic, guilt ridden and abortive as any other addictive compulsion.

For crossdressing to be a healthy behavior, it needs to come out of the closet. It can take place in a Mardi Gras/Halloween/Gay Pride Parade context, or with other transgendered folks at semi-public gatherings, like RGA, ETVC or FTM support groups, or just out shopping with a friend or lover. The point is to learn to integrate the lessons that each crossdresser's anima/animus can teach. The animus might teach a female to walk tall, be assertive, and not worry what men think of her. The anima can teach a man to listen better, to treat himself and others more gently, and to smell the flowers.

When it is shared, when it goes public, when it becomes an accepted part of life, the way a lesbian or gay eventually comes out of the closet with pride and relief, then crossdressing loses its compulsivity and becomes the balancing agent it was meant to be. Men will begin to understand women and the womanly part of themselves. Women, literally standing in men's shoes, will begin to understand their own power and what it is really like to be a man.

What makes this so devilishly difficult is the rigid cultural myth that men and women are entirely different creatures, doomed to mutual misunderstanding and aggravation. The media reinforces this by endlessly bombarding us with images of macho men and their coy, busty, adoring women. One is either this or that, and anything in-between is generally ridiculed, unless it is a charismatic millionaire like Michael Jackson, who can get away with gender bending. Talk shows do provide alternative gender role models, but unfortunately remind one more of traveling circus freak shows in a Mark Twain novel than respectful attempts at breaking down stereotypes.

Men and women are different. But we all have within us elements of the opposite gender, which is something to be proud of, not ashamed. There are as many ways to express the contragender aspect of self as there are individuals ready to embark on this scary but rewarding endeavor. Some folks express it through crossgender dressing and behavior. They always have and they always will, and it seems as viable a way as any other.

If, however, a crossdresser feels that she or he must drink or get stoned in order to feel authentic in the opposite gender role, it is time to seek support from friends, family, peers or a professional. To crossdress secretly while stoned or tipsy is like

dressing in the closet with the light turned off, an addiction within an addiction, and a sad testament to the strength of society's internalized taboos. To distort the crossdressing experience with substance abuse invalidates and trivializes the lessons it has to teach about self-acceptance, self-love and integration.

[Reprinted with permission from from the Educational TV Channel (ETVC) newsletter, San Francisco CA.]



ARE WE CONCERNED?

by Deborah Lynette

Are women's concerns ours also?

I was reading an article in *Glamour* magazine while having my hair permed. The article was addressing the state of womanhood in the 90's and where they have come in the last thirty years or so since the very beginning of the women's movement. I read about the conditions back then and -- being an avid woman-lover and one myself (buried deep inside of me) -- I kept on reading and remembering the way things were and the way they are now. I know evolution is a slow process and it wasn't all so long ago that women got the right to vote, but it's too darn long! And where are women and their issues now?

I started out asking the question "Are women's concerns ours also?" You bet they are. Whenever there is injustice to any people, bias, discrimination and hate, all people should come to their help. I look around at work and see how the women are treated and paid. Being in a male body, I have the ability to infiltrate the male groups and listen to the sexist and degrading talk about women. Oh, how I remember when I was like them because that is what "being a man" was all about. (More about that later.) It wasn't all that long ago when a truth was revealed to me about the proper attitude towards women. I must turn back to the time when I was living in the ashram. The men were on the third floor and the women on the second floor. How can persons of the opposite sex live in close proximity and still have no incidence of impropriety? How can ten to twelve men live together with fifteen or so women, and yet not speak one wrongful word against any woman living there? It was a time when these same women were protected from debauchees and didn't have to worry about sexual harassment, let alone rape. It had to do with people being Human first, aware of the bigger picture. The fact that we saw each other

as souls and not objects allowed us to co-exist without incident. If we put ourselves in the shoes of the other first, before opening our mouths, there would be fewer ills in our society.

But we do not live in a protective environment like the ashram was and women are seen and used as objects. Funny, isn't it, that the largest segment of our population should still be the "minority" when it comes to equality or justice? If women banded together and changed our society, what a different place this world would be. Maybe not better, but definitely different. The recent publicity of rape cases, involving men of popular social standing either being let off or convicted has certainly drawn more attention to the fact that things are slowly changing.

But what about our personal lives? I know I have said some demeaning things in the past about the girls in school. I can distinctly remember how my own "sex education class" was my lunch class, of which Mike G. had been ordained in the role of headmaster. His dissertations on his expeditions into the "wild world of women" certainly kept us on the edge of our seats. But I was able to determine for myself -- with the help of some of my friends who were girls -- that this attitude was for cavemen and not for a person who cares about themselves and others. The more I hung around with these girlfriends, the more I realized that we are all in the same boat. We are very much alike with our fears, needs and wants. Then why is there apparently so much difference between us?

Our physiologies are radically different, and in general men are stronger and more aggressive, but are these physical differences responsible for ignorance? Is it necessary to evolve a breed of women who can compete on the physical level to draw attention away from our physical differences so we can start addressing the real issues? I don't think so. So what will it take?

I believe education is the answer. As with the AIDS issue, education alleviates the fear. Once fear is removed, then understanding and compassion can come about. The sooner we learn that Human dignity breeds self-esteem and self-esteem allows growth, and growth is evolution, then all people will be free from within. Freedom is our unalienable right, and with freedom comes self-expression and self-expression begets knowledge. This could become an epidemic of the best type. If you feel put upon whenever you wear a dress, think about those who normally, in our society, wear them and how they have to live with the discrimination.

Yes, women's concerns are ours, and we need to

become educated in the way women think and observe our world. This education will only do us good. So pick up those women's magazines; read about women's attitudes nowadays and not what you imagine they "should" be thinking. Let's rid ourselves of our stereotypical women's image that we think we emulate and get know who we are. Get off your duffs and get busy helping to break down communications barriers so we can become useful in our society.

Maybe we should talk about some of these issues so we become aware that our humanity is the issue. What do you think?

[Reprinted with permission from la Femme Silhouette, Alpha Omega Chapter Tri-Ess, Ohio Valley.]



THE ALL-AMERICAN CROSSDRESSER: A VANISHING BREED?

by Shirley

The All-American Crossdresser -- You still remember him don't you? The man who has a facet of his personality which loves the feminine. He thinks looking and acting feminine is just delightful; but he also knows he is a man and derives an equal amount of satisfaction from being and expressing his male side. He's not on hormones, has no desire to live as his femme self full time, and God forbid anyone should even suggest tampering with his male anatomy. He loves his feminine ways -- but not at the total expense of his maleness. Within the gender community today he seems to be a dying breed.

Recently on the way home from a chapter meeting my partner and I were discussing the fact that yet another of our crossdressing friends was taking female hormones. "Am I the only crossdresser not on hormones?," he asked me, obviously upset. This comment led to what we felt was a very productive discussion which resulted in some conclusions we felt should be addressed in print and given some thought by other members of the gender community.

When coming out of the closet, and for the first time, experiencing the total and unconditional acceptance of the gender community, many crossdressers tend to almost become obsessed with their feminine side. They have suppressed and/or hidden their desire for the feminine for so long, that it only seems fair that their male side take a

backseat for awhile, and they throw themselves totally into the safe haven they have found for the expression of their femme self.

Eventually, however, reality must set in and a balance must be reached. Because of the many influences of the gender community, this balance may not be so easily reached and is often difficult to maintain. There is a great deal of peer pressure within the gender community. A fact which often goes unrecognized. Many crossdressers come to realize that while in many ways finding the gender community is a blessing, it can also be a curse; affecting both the individual crossdresser and his personal relationships.

Discussing the need for this balance is important because there are those crossdressers who have expressed the feeling that since coming into the gender community they have felt they have lost contact with their male side. They feel pressured by other members of the community to express only the feminine. They feel that while their femme selves have come out of the closet, their male selves have been forced into one.

Some have also expressed feelings of inferiority because they choose not to have chemically induced curves, or shave their body hair. They feel undue pressure to attend support meetings only *en femme*, or to accept the ultimate goal of living full-time as their femme self. Many have even questioned whether perhaps something is wrong with them because they aren't in fact transsexual -- that relishing in both the female and the male is wrong.

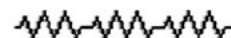
A frequent complaint encountered from family members is that while finding the gender community has enabled the crossdresser to come out of the closet, it has put undue pressure on an already stressed relationship, and does more to undermine the relationship than strengthen it. Usually these relationships are already in varying stages of crisis just dealing with and trying to understand the occasional need to dress *en femme*. These relationships are further stressed by entrance into the gender community and the additional pressures which result. I have heard many genetic women say that the worst thing that ever happened to their marriages and relationships was getting involved with the gender community. This needs to change!

The gender community needs to stop and take a closer look at itself. A balance needs to be struck for those who need it. It should be just as acceptable to express your maleness as it is your femaleness. You should be able to freely express

yourself whatever your needs be -- whether those needs be that of a spouse, crossdresser, transsexual, or anywhere in between.

Society puts enough pressure on ALL of us. We do not need to add to it ourselves. We need to make "The All-American Crossdresser" a more visible and acceptable part of the gender community -- not an endangered species.

[Reprinted with permission from Delta Chapter Chatter, Delta Chapter Tri-Ess, Denver CO.]



EXPECTATIONS AND THE FEAR THEY CAUSE, or RISK vs. REWARD

by Corine [REDACTED]

Now here is a topic that we haven't read much about ... right? Actually, over the years, I'm sure we have all read articles pertaining to this subject, but for this short article, I don't plan on going into all of its facets and ramifications: I'm only going to address one subject -- THE FEAR OF ATTENDING A CLUB MEETING!

We have tried to get new members and first-time attendees to write about their experiences so that many of you who have thought about coming to a meeting would better understand what to expect. "Expectations" can have a profound effect on the level of FEAR. Obviously, "expectations" can be both positive and negative. As with most endeavors, the reinforcement of the positive aspects makes for a more pleasurable experience. In the same vein, minimizing the negative facets can increase confidence and again yield a pleasurable experience. Unfortunately, many of us dwell too long on the negative areas, which then increases our level of fear. This can all but obliterate an expectation of a pleasurable experience.

So what does all this mumbo-jumbo mean anyway? Well, let's try to add some realism by dealing with "Expectations". Since I always like to end on a positive note, I will deal with some of the negative, anxiety-producing issues first.

I would really love to attend a meeting, BUT:

1. I don't "pass" well or at all.
2. I don't know much about makeup so I couldn't go dressed.
3. I can't leave the house dressed.
4. I don't have a place to dress.
5. I don't know anyone.
6. What if I meet someone I do know?
7. I really don't want some guy in a dress to make a

pass at me.

8. I'm shy and would probably feel very uncomfortable and extremely self-conscious.

9. I don't have any acceptable clothes (since I'm into lingerie mostly anyway!).

10. I just COULDN'T walk in there!

11. I have never been out of my house dressed like this.

12. None of my family knows about this and I couldn't deal with the embarrassment of exposure.

13. What if I was stopped by a policeman?

14. I'm so concerned with confidentiality.

15. No one would understand why I have had to continue my macho image by sporting facial hair.

16. I did drive to the meeting place, but I couldn't get my legs out of the car, so I turned around and went home.

Although these are only some of our rationalizations, I'm sure that at least one of these have occurred to us when we have considered attending a meeting but didn't go. It's evident that the above list are negative "expectations" and the majority have usually won the battle - BUT NOT THE WAR. Now, why do I say that? Simply because in a month or two (or three) we again find ourselves fighting the same battle with unsatisfied needs.

So then what are some of the positive "expectations" that continually work their way into our consciousness? Although they may seem

obvious, it is necessary to list them:

1. To finally meet someone else like me!

2. To spend some time talking to others about our experiences (and finding many of our stories have a strong similarity).

3. To have an understanding person listen to me and offer help, support, and advice.

4. To learn more about myself through others.

5. To learn about a variety of subjects and have questions answered that have been a mystery concerning makeup, wigs, clothes, accessories, and deportment.

6. To have a solution for that age old complaint of "I'm all dressed up with nowhere to go!"

7. Genuine companionship, camaraderie, and the good feeling of participation.

For many, these have all been very real needs and desires ... "expectations", if you will. For some the above are fantasies, almost to the point of being unattainable goals. But they certainly don't have to be!

Almost all of our conscious decisions are made from a risk vs. reward standpoint. So generally, if the reward far outweighs the risk, the decision is an easy one. But, due to the nature of our common bond, many times the risk of meeting others looms too great. We must strive to reduce the perceived risk by minimizing the negative expectations.

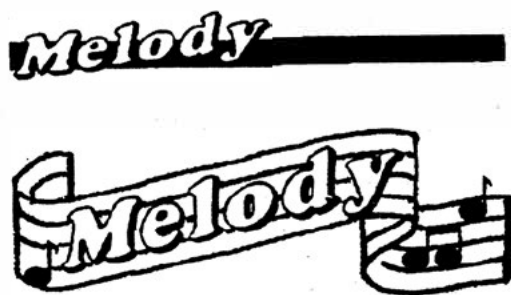
Some excellent suggestions to overcome some of these negative expectations are: Assigning a regular member to a new member or first-time attendee -- kind of a "big sister" approach. A new member will be introduced to other attendees, as well as any officers present. The first-time attendee will be shown the facilities and have someone to share the program with.

Having a seasoned member at the door (or in nice weather, standing outside) to welcome new members and to encourage them to become a part of the group.

We have been toying with the idea of attaching something to our cars (like a piece of pink ribbon or something) out front so that the volume of cars parked in the lot and on the street will not frighten newcomers away.

I can't say that all risk can be eliminated, but we are trying. So the big questions still remains: Do the rewards outweigh the risks? We think so! So why not take a small chance, take a small step, and have a pleasurable experience. Raise your "expectations"!

[Reprinted with permission from Outreach News, Connecticut Outreach Society. The article has been edited to remove references specific to COS' operation.]



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READER PROFILES

Anaheim, CA: Stephanie Marie, 31: I am a cabinetmaker and photographer. Have not yet been to any events; I have just made my first trip out to a nightclub and I am looking to become more involved in the gender community. #1478

Bakersfield, CA: Chrys, employed in marketing, and consider myself a writer. I regularly write for trade publications and have had numerous pieces published in "Cross-Talk". I am currently working on an epic-fantasy (dragons, magic potions, etc.). I like long walks and long talks and would enjoy corresponding with those with similar interests. #1144 Chrystine [redacted], P.O. Box 60089, Bakersfield, CA 93386-0089

Palm Springs, CA: Ayme, 36, M2F TS, living and working as a woman for the last two years. Tall, attractive, feminine, sexy. Confident and comfortable in any social situation. Interests in Macintosh desktop publishing, music, dining and dancing. Seeks male or female friends. Try the desert lifestyle anytime! #1186

Redondo Beach, CA: Diva, looking for musicians to form a crossdressing rock/alternative band! #1201 D.P. [redacted], P.O. Box 207, Redondo Beach CA 90277

Santa Ana, CA: Susan, 45, in business part-time. Enjoy sports, reading, chess and war games. Always dressed at home. Interested in hearing from others; also would like to have a serious relationship with a woman who understands me. #1323

Santa Clarita, CA: Bonnie, 40+, love tennis, golf, shopping, cooking, being Bonnie. Been out in public three times dressed and love it. Mother dressed me as a girl when I was a young boy (she always wanted a girl). Will write to all. #1248 Bonnie W., P.O. Box 801416, Santa Clarita CA 91380-1416

South Pasadena, CA: Christy, an educator and professionally involved with human diversity issues, especially the Berdache tradition. I'm going through my transformation, electrolysis, counseling and such, and am very interested in developing friendships with women, caring professionals and persons like myself for companionship and support. #1122 Christy [redacted], P.O. Box 3402, South Pasadena, CA 91031-6402

Van Nuys, CA: Melissa, 44, electronic tech (repair VCRs, stereos, etc.). My passions are music, dressing, shopping, good talkradio. Guitar player for the past 25 years. I love a good 12-step program, the whole gender community, the hell I plan to raise over the next 20 years. I love kids and dogs and I send money home. #1469

West Hollywood, CA: Michelle, 37, SWM, Bi, 5'11"/150 lbs. TV since 11 years old, attending CD clubs last two years. Writer. Other interests photography, film and cinema. Would enjoy meeting other 30-something TVs, possibly for social outings *en femme*. #1355

Yucca Valley, CA: Elizabeth, 54, currently residing in Southern California. Work as a Supply Specialist. Interests include painting and bicycling. I've been away from our lifestyle for a number of years, so my experience level is re-learning it all. Would love to attend some of the national events in the future. Relationships none, divorced. #1506

Avon, CT: Michelle [redacted], MWM, hetero, 5'10", 170 lbs., blue eyes, dark brown hair, 50s, very passable. Member Tiffany Club, co-founder of Connecticut Outreach Society (COS), participant P-Town outings, program chairlady of COS, director/founder of COS Couples Club. Wife is accepting and started COS wives support group. Interested in corresponding with and meeting other honest, caring, passable CDs or couples. Interests include theater, music (jazz, classical and oldies), travel, cross-country skiing, swimming, boating and water sports. #1457 Michelle [redacted], P.O. Box 679, Avon, CT 06001

Aurora, MN: Lynda, SWM, mid-30s, craftsman in design and building equipment, 20 years of all types of mechanical maintenance. Loves photography, martial arts, reading and writing science fiction. Degree in Art. Spend about 50% of my time *en femme*. Would love to correspond with anyone wishing to receive mail from a caring person. #1329

Kansas City, MO: Barrie, married, age 46. Hobbies include photography, writing, playing several sports, collecting antiques. Go to movies, dinner, dancing, shopping as Barrie. Member of Tri-Ess, RCGA (Omaha), and Sigma Nu Rho. Travel in midwest. Love to hear from sisters. Let's exchange photos. I answer all correspondence. #1203 Barrie [redacted], P.O. Box 412948, Kansas City MO 64141

Roslyn Heights, NY: Jane, 34, married, Northern Italian. 5'7"/135 lbs. LIFE and Tri-Ess memberships (2 years). Also subscribe to *Renaissance News*. Interests: Travel, photography, sportscars, nature, skiing, gardening, music, dance, theater, swimming, art and earth sciences. Go out dressed day and night; dress flamboyantly as a guy when not working (Danskis, stirrups, parachute pants, jumpsuits, accessories). Travel throughout the US regularly. Lived in and love California, which I visit as often as possible. I am anxious to correspond with other TV sisters who would be interested in doing the same. #1348 J. [redacted], P.O. Box 484, Roslyn Heights NY 11577-0484

Trotwood, OH: Fran, senior citizen living in SW Ohio, retired. Interested in most outdoor sports, writing and photography. Out of the closet once, years ago, but now in a small community and spouse not supportive. #1489

Merry Point, VA: Samantha Louise, 76 (going on 50), MWM, retired engineer. Interests: Amateur radio, Rotary, sailing, woodcarving. Attended "Holiday En Femme" in Chicago, "Coming Together" in Houston, "Southern Comfort", "Fall Harvest". Member of Virginia's Secret, DCEA, IFGE, Tri-Ess. Editor of "Secrets", newsletter for Virginia's Secret. Out of the cl [redacted] June 1991 and making up for lost time. #1416 T.W. [redacted], P.O. Box 73, Merry Point VA 22513

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(Submissions on MS-DOS or Macintosh disk preferred; otherwise please typewrite.)



GENDER COMMUNITY "HOTLINES"

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

NEW ENGLAND REGION:

CD Network, Rochester: (716) 251-2132
 Chi Delta Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, NYC: (201) 663-0772 @
 Connecticut Outreach Society, Hartford: (203) 371-6292
 East Coast F2M Group, Cambridge: (413) 584-7616 #
 Eulenspiegel Society, NYC: (212) 477-6588 %
 Expressing Our Nature, Syracuse: (315) 475-5611
 Gender Identity Program, NYC: (212) 969-0888 #
 Girls' Night Out, NYC: (212) 794-1665 ext 202
 Harriet Lane's TV Set, CT: (203) 237-1968
 Int'l. Foundation for Gender Education: (617) 894-8340
 Long Island Femme Expression: (718) 446-6753
 Metropolitan Gender Network, NYC: (201) 794-1665 ext 332
 My Choice, Baltimore: (410) 732-4546
 Outreach Institute, N. Portland: (207) 775-0858
 Pink Flamingoes, Boston: (617) 536-5639
 Renaissance Education Ass'n.: (215) 630-1437
 Renaissance Greater Philadelphia Chapter: (215) 946-8887
 Renaissance LSV Chapter, Harrisburg: (717) 780-1578
 Renaissance S. Jersey Chapter: (609) 641-3782
 Rhode Island Society, Newport: (401) 847-1035
 Tiffany Club, Boston: (508) 358-2305
 Transgenderists Independence Club, Albany: (518) 436-4513
 Transpitt, Pittsburgh: (412) 781-0257
 Transsupport, Portland: (207) 676-5870
 Washington-Baltimore Alliance: (301) 277-5475
 XX (Twenty) Club, Hartford: (203) 646-8651 #

THE SOUTH:

American Educational Gender Info. Service: (404) 939-0244
 Atlanta Gender Explorations: (404) 962-3118 #
 Black Rose, Arlington: (301) 369-7667 %
 Carolina Trans-Sensual Alliance, Charlotte: (704) 551-8838
 GDA North Carolina: (704) 982-1028
 Gender Information Network, Gainesville: (904) 332-8178
 Grace & Lace, Mississippi: (601) 982-7678 @
 Montgomery Institute, Augusta: (404) 603-9426 #
 M.O.R.E., Ft. Lauderdale: (305) 966-2138
 Mu Sigma Chapter Tri-Ess, Arkansas: (501) 972-1826 @
 Phi Epsilon Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, Central FL: (407) 677-9540 @
 Reality, Orlando: (407) 425-4527 #
 Serenity, Hollywood: (305) 436-9477
 Starburst, Tampa-St. Petersburg: (813) 685-9254
 Virginia's Secret, Richmond: (804) 741-1187

MIDWEST & VICINITY:

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 Chicago Gender Society: (312) 434-5445
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 Cross-Port, Cincinnati: (513) 474-9557
 Crossdressers & Friends, Kansas City: (913) 381-8887
 Crossroads, Detroit: (313) 537-3267
 Crystal Club, Columbus: (614) 777-0648
 Gender Dysphoria Support, Shawnee Mss'n: (913) 371-0658 #
 Indiana Crossdressers Society, Indianapolis: (317) 894-8109
 Iowa Artistry, Cedar Rapids: (319) 842-2654
 N.G.D.O., Detroit: (313) 842-5258 #
 Quad-City Society for Sex. Ed., Davenport: (319) 324-9641
 St. Louis Gender Foundation: (314) 567-8615
 Sunday Society, Chicago: (312) 252-7024

SOUTHWEST/MOUNTAIN REGION:

Alpha Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Amarillo: (806) 359-7714 @
 Bluebonnet Coalition, San Antonio: (210) 656-4163
 Boulton & Park Society, San Antonio: (210) 545-3668
 CrossDressers International, Tulsa: (918) 582-6643
 Delta Omega Chapter Tri-Ess, Dallas: (817) 261-3253 @
 Eta Tau Chapter Tri-Ess, Austin: (210) 438-7604 @
 First Saturday, El Paso: (505) 434-5144
 Gender Crisis Help Line, Tucson: (602) 293-3456
 Gender Identity Center, Denver: (303) 458-5378
 Gulf Coast Transgender Community, Houston: (713) 780-3553
 Heart of Texas Gender Alliance, San Angelo: (915) 944-1381
 Help Me ... Accept Me, Dallas: (214) 404-1926
 ReCast, Dallas: (214) 641-4842 #
 Second Image, Austin: (512) 778-5460
 Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess) Couples: (210) 438-7788 @
 TS Peer Support, Houston: (713) 333-2278 #
 Tau Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Houston: (713) 988-8064 @
 Tri-Plex Gender Association, Waco: (817) 867-1077

PACIFIC NORTHWEST:

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

THE WEST COAST (CA & HI):

Alpha Chapter Tri-Ess, Los Angeles: (213) 876-6141 @
 American Transsexual Education Center: (213) 469-4709 #
 Androgyny, Santa Monica: (213) 467-8317
 CHIC, Los Angeles: (310) 420-2580 @
 Diablo Valley Girls, Concord: (510) 849-4112
 Educational TV Channel, San Francisco: (510) 549-2665
 Hawaii Transgendered Outreach, Honolulu: (808) 923-4270
 Neutral Corner, San Diego: (619) 685-3696
 Powder Puffs of Orange County, Anaheim: (714) 779-9013
 Rainbow Gender Association, San Jose: (408) 984-4044
 Sacramento Gender Association: (800) 585-7742
 Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess) Nat'l.: (209) 688-9246 @
 Swan's Inner Sorority, San Jose: (408) 297-1423

CANADA:

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

U.K.:

Beaumont Society, London: 081-756-1782
 Gender Dysphoria Trust, London: 0323-641100 #
 GenTrust, London: 071-730-7453
 Liverbirds, Liverpool: 051-709-4745
 New TransEssex: 0268-583761
 Rose's, Sheffield: 0742-342870

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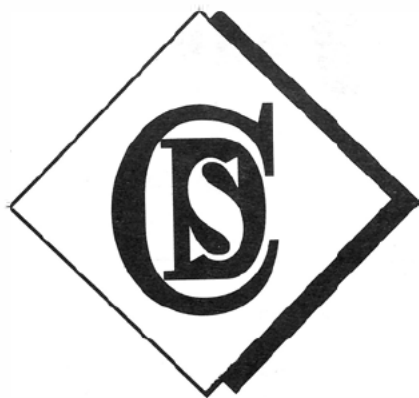
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