

Renaissance News



Volume 4, No. 3

Vision - Integrity - Quality

March 1990

Managing Director's 1990 Message

Trudi Henry
1990 Managing Director

It is with a great deal of pride that I accept the position of Managing Director of the Renaissance Education Association for the coming year. The pride I feel is in the organization, the people of that organization, and in my good fortune to be part of Renaissance from its beginning.

Since that beginning, our goal has been to be innovative, pro-active, and helpful to the transgender community and to provide education to the rest of society.

We have now become a large, multifaceted organization. By the end of 1989 we counted over 300 paid members in 30 states and Canada. We ship over 550 copies of the *Renaissance News* to ten countries around the world.

Our commitment to the commu-

nity has been reflected in a number of programs in the past, some within Renaissance and some in cooperation with other organizations.

While we will continue to seek innovative solutions to problems encountered by members of the transgendered community, two constants must remain: service and communication.

We must strive to provide service to all of our members and all elements of the community. Service is not just a job for the chapter or national board members, it is for all of us. If you have an idea for a workable program or a skill you feel you can use to benefit the community, please bring it to the attention of your chapter or national board.

Communication is the life-blood of any organization. In the past we did an acceptable job of moving information throughout the group.

But, like any other enterprise, as we grow larger the opportunities for communication-breakdown increase. All of us must continue to say what we feel needs to be said, ask the appropriate persons when a question arises, and really listen when a response is given. Rumors are not an acceptable form of information transfer.

While I'm on the subject of communication, I would ask any member or non-member who has a question about Renaissance to feel free to direct it to me. You may write me at the Renaissance P.O. box. If you prefer to communicate via computer and modem, you may send me a message on CompuServe (UID: 72070,1544) or Prodigy (member ID: MRHV15B).

May the coming year be the best of your life.

Managers need androgynous traits

Question: Are masculine or feminine traits required for a person to succeed in a managerial position?

Answer: Both.

A major study of 455 employees showed that managers who are perceived by subordinates to be effective have androgynous characteristics—a blend of male and female qualities.

In fact, they have a high level of both masculine and feminine skills. Conversely, strongly sex-typed managers seem to have limited success as managers.

Some implications:

- Findings show that employees are more satisfied with androgynous

managers—and that increasing the number of these managers may decrease employee turnover.

- Companies can predict how satisfied employees will be with a prospective manager by determining the androgynous qualities of the person they plan to hire.

- Companies should consider offering training in androgynous management skills.

Feminine qualities range from a sensitivity to employee needs to alliance building. Masculine qualities cover such things as dominance and possessing a willingness to take risks.

Dr. Rebekah Maupin in *Manage*

F-t-M support offered

Renaissance is open to all transgendered people. Female to Male (F-t-M) transsexuals and transvestites are cordially invited to attend any Renaissance meeting.

While the majority of transsexual members are M-t-F, the group would like to encourage the active participation of F-t-Ms.

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter has named an F-t-M contact for further information. Anyone interested should write to Sam [redacted], Suite 56, P.O. Box 987, Valley Forge, PA 19481 or call the Renaissance office.

Chapters

New Jersey
South Jersey: Kelly [REDACTED],
chapter leader. Write Renaissance
 SJ, c/o P. O. Box 189, Mays Landing,
 NJ 08330. Meets on the first
 Saturday of the month at the
 Atlantic Mental Health Center, Inc.
 2002 Black Horse Pike, McKee, N.J.
 Meetings start at 9:00 p.m. Call
 609-641-3782

Pennsylvania
Greater Philadelphia area:
Angela Gardner, chapter leader.
 Write Renaissance PHL, Box AD,
 Bensalem, PA 19020. Meets third
 Saturday of the month in King of
 Prussia, Pa. Meeting starts at 8:00
 p.m. No phone.

Reading: Susan [REDACTED],
chapter leader Write Renaissance
 RDG, Box 14421, Reading, PA
 19607. Meets twice a month. There
 is a dinner-social held at THIS IS
 IT, 801 Walnut St., Reading, second
 Wednesday of the month and a
 membership meeting on the second
 Saturday. Call 215-376-8886.

Lower Susquehanna Valley:
Elsa [REDACTED], chapter leader
 Write Renaissance LSV, Box 7412,
 York, PA 17404. Meets on the first
 Saturday of the month. Call 717-
 767-4095.

Annual Report

Treasurer's Report for 1989 Period: 1/1/89 to 12/31/89

Starting Balance \$1970.56

Income:

Dues \$1840.00

Donations 614.56

Publication Sales 656.80

Advertising 600.00

Honorariums 290.00

Total Income \$4001.37

Expenses:

Newsletter \$2252.87

Office Expenses 366.76

Postage 962.01

Library Purchases 289.94

Total Expenses \$3871.58

Ending Balance \$2100.35

Membership Count 320

Important Notice

Renaissance now has its own
 phone number. Call 215-630-1437
 24 hours a day for information about
 chapters and events.

Renaissance News

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Creative Design Services

For current information call 215-
 630-1437 24 hrs. a day.

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

Events Calendar

March

3rd Ren. So. Jersey Chapter

3rd Ren LSV Chapter

Cosmetology Workshop

4th Jimmy James at Revival

10th Ren. Reading Chapter

17th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter

Mary Kay Cosmetics

& Marilyn's Wigs

27-1 IFGE 4th Annual Conv.

Natick, Mass.

31st Ren. So. Jersey

An Evening At La Cage

Bally's Atlantic City

April

7th Ren. So. Jersey Chapter

7th Ren LSV Chapter

14th Ren. Reading Chapter

21th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter

May

5th Ren. So. Jersey Chapter

5th Ren LSV Chapter

12th Ren. Reading Chapter

11th Ren. 3rd Anniv. Party

Great Valley Hilton

19th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter

17-20 Spring Paradise Poconos

And, don't forget about...

- Background Papers are available for \$1 each plus \$.25 postage for each pair ordered. Eight papers are available: 1-Myths & Misconceptions About Crossdressing, 2-Reasons for Male to Female Crossdressing, 3-PARTNERS: Spouses & Significant Others, 4-The Matter of Children, 5-An Annotated Bibliography, 6-Telling the Children: A Transsexual's Point of View, 7-What Is Renaissance?, and 8-AIDS & HIV Safety and Ethics. A

paper on transsexualism is in work.

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

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

- If you'd like information about starting a Renaissance chapter in your area, or about becoming an affiliate of Renaissance, write to Alison Laing c/o the office.

S *JoAnn Altman Stringer* **SURVIVAL**™

That First Job

One of the hardest mountains for a transsexual in transition to climb is the job market. Some people transition on the job with the aid of an understanding employer, and bypass this hurdle. But the numbers of these lucky people are few. The majority of transsexuals must leave their present job, or career, and are forced to seek gainful employment elsewhere. The British call this situation a "sticky wicket."

After spending several years in a career field or with a certain employer nearly everyone forgets what job hunting is like. If you thought that position you landed in 1973 was hard to come by, baby, you ain't seen nothin' yet! The 1990's are destined to see a major correction in the stock market followed by a devastating recession. Every recession spawns mass unemployment as thousands of companies go belly up. Then, of course, there is the ripple effect throughout the economy as unemployment rises, buying of consumer goods slows, lesser firms fire or lay off still more people due to their decreased sales.

Today, as some of you probably have already discovered, there are hundreds if not thousands of people vying for a single position. Where I live in Colorado we have Coors Brewery which takes in over 45,000 applications every year for approximately 400 openings. Another brewery, Anheuser Busch, recently opened a plant just a few miles from my home. Before they began production in 1988 over 21,000 applications were received from people in 14 states seeking the 200 new jobs. That's what the competition is like out there folks. Trench warfare of World War I was easy compared to job hunting today. So how do transsexuals with two strikes against them find meaningful work that pays the bills?

Let's assume the scenario that

you must change careers altogether. Let's also say that you really don't want to use your old employer as a reference for fear that he may spill the 'beans' about your gender status. Your best bet is to start with the Want Ads in the local paper. They are filled with hundreds of openings that will draw much competition. Each city has a different makeup so the jobs will vary from place to place. Scan the ads with a critical eye. You may notice a number of openings in two or three major job fields.

The medical profession is always short of help. You'll typically find positions for nursing assistants, and medical assistants. Security work is usually plentiful in most areas, and easy to get. Plus, you will also see many positions for administrative assistants (secretaries to you and me). Markets like these that advertise continually see a large turnover in personnel making the chance of getting a job much better.

They may not, however, pay much. Most shell out minimum wage, some slightly more. You have to understand that you're starting at the bottom, again. Never mind what you had been making before your transition. If it was a lot of money that will work against you. Starting from ground zero is difficult yet many people do it every day. A minimum wage job will initiate the track record to better positions down the road...but you gotta start somewhere

Being a nursing assistant in a nursing home is not the most glamorous job in the world but it's tremendously rewarding if you like helping others. Many nursing homes offer free certification courses for all who apply, and certified nurses aides make more than non-certified people. They're also in great demand.

Being a secretary may require some particular skills, like typing 50 words per minute, or operating a

certain type of computer system. If you were business oriented before, this may be the best field for you.

Security work really has few requirements albeit a smattering knowledge of the law would be helpful, and it is open to veterans.

Armed with a few ideas the only thing you have to do now is apply. Yes, they ask for references. What? You say you don't have any? Here's a situation that can be handled with grace if you approach it right. Before you make your gender move, it might be wise to start doing volunteer work for a local organization, maybe a museum. Networking in organizations like this will provide a valuable wealth of contacts—people who are willing to act as a reference. It is also good if your volunteer work entails handling money, working with customers, or supervising a project to completion. Volunteer work will give you back as much as you give of your time.

After getting that first job you are on your way to establishing an employment track record. Later, you can move on to bigger and better positions. Of course, the more positions you have worked at the more references you also have. But don't make it too many. A prospective employer may detect a record of job hopping, which may prove detrimental if they are looking for someone to fill a permanent spot.

Switching jobs can be scarier than switching sexes. But if you set up preplanning, volunteer time, network, and choose a job field with high turnover, you stand a very good chance of succeeding. Do it with a purpose, have a good, positive attitude, and remember to smile when you walk in the door for that first job interview. You know you'll get it because now you've done everything right!

(Ed. note: JoAnn Stringer is a professional photographer, writer, wife, step-mother and post-operative transsexual. We welcome her to the contributing staff of the newsletter.)

Chrys [REDACTED] FOOTSTEPS™

Welcome to a new, irregular feature, Footsteps. Many years ago a series was produced for public television on parenting and the growth of a child. It was titled Footsteps (...footsteps to follow, footsteps to make...). Discussions in this column will include footsteps of learning — about ourselves, about others, and about growing. Often, it will have personal observations and opinions. May it give you pause to think and respond.

The Big Easy

Some recent discussions on several computer bulletin boards have been concerned with hopelessness and the thoughts of suicide that many transgendered people experience. To understand myself, I have been examining my own feelings and their circumstances. You may find a thread of recognition.

One of the apparent contradictions for transgendered people is that thoughts of suicide as an alternative choice are many times something of a recent memory — not something that has been a fact of life since our earliest years. Why? Why now? Why, if our gender conflict was indeed so intense and so

sincere, have we not considered suicide a long time ago? The answer lies in the following:

There was no hopelessness because previously there was no hope.

This may seem very strange, but consider this. For many years I did not understand what was happening to me. There was no self-knowledge. There were no labels, no alternatives. I only knew that things were wrong; that I was out of place. There were no overt thoughts of suicide, only a gnawing at the soul. Self-destruction was subconscious. Some of us become alcoholic, some anorexic, some seek abusive relationships. I became a work-aholic, burying myself at the office to avoid conflicts at home. Eventually, I learned more about myself and about others. I learned that there were alternatives for life, for coping, for functioning. Thus came hope there was a solution for me to find.

Political revolutions occur when rising expectations are unfulfilled.

Similarly, suicide is contemplated when hope becomes trampled into hopelessness and despair. When other alternatives are pushed farther and farther away, so far that we perceive them as unreachable, that is when hope gives way to despair and to thoughts of suicide.

As long as we understand this, as long as we can have, or believe, that we *can* find a Plan B or a Plan C, then hope remains. It is not squashed. It *will* "spring eternal." By understanding this the temptation of that ultimate denial becomes weaker, and its beckoning call less frequent.

Shalom.

Although Chrys can babble on endlessly, she does get many of her ideas for discussion from her roommate, and from the e-mail on the computer bulletin boards. If you have a discussion topic for her or you just want to disagree with her blather, she can be reached on CompuServe at UID [7341 7,361 4] or leave a message for Chrys C on either Feminet or JSS. For those of you without computers write to Chrys care of the Renaissance office.

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THE Paula Jordan Sinclair NEWSQUEEN™

Transgendered people must put up with all sorts of bureaucratic b.s. This is especially true for those who are in prison. So it comes as no surprise that Nebraska prison officials denied an inmate's request to receive female hormones in preparation for a possible sex change. But it appears that in this case the denial may have been warranted.

The inmate said he wants to become a woman to control his sexual attraction to young girls. Officials replied that his problems resulted from "psychotic features of paranoia" that a sex change would not cure.

♣ ♣ ♣

Not all government officials have such an understanding of transsexualism. For example, transsexuals have legal rights in only a handful of European countries. This issue was one of the topics discussed at a recent meeting in Rome of the Italian Transsexual Movement. The oppression of transsexuals in Argentina was also discussed. Several politicians, including Communist members of the Italian Parliament, attended many of the workshops. Some say the Communist Party was responsible for the legal recognition of transsexuals in Italy.

♣ ♣ ♣

As the old saying goes, "When in Rome..." But Vatican City is not Rome, and different rules apply. Just ask Duran Duran guitarist Nick Rhodes.

While visiting the independent city state, Rhodes ran afoul of ruling Roman Catholic authorities by dressing as a priest. How, you may ask, did they know he was not actually a man of the cloth? Rhodes' heavy eye shadow, thick eyeliner and bright pink lipstick may have been the tipoff.

♣ ♣ ♣

Other than rock musicians, it sometimes seems that it takes death to turn one into a cultural icon

(present company excepted, of course). Just look what has happened to Divine...

According to insider gossip, the late star of such John Waters films as *Female Trouble* and *Polyester*, was the animators' inspiration for Ursula, the evil seawitch in *The Little Mermaid*. And Pat Carroll, who recorded Ursula's voice, told one interviewer she got the part "because Divine is dead."

But that isn't the end of the legend. Blaze Starr, the stripper who caught the eye of Louisiana Gov. Earl K. Long and who has given her first name to the movie starring Paul Newman, told an interviewer, "now that Divine's dead maybe I'll be Walter's next leading lady. The distance between drag queen and exotic dancer isn't so far. It's just a difference of plumbing."

By the way, both *Mermaid* and *Blaze* are both Disney pictures. The next thing you know, we'll be reading about Walt and Divine in the hereafter.

♣ ♣ ♣

The way things are going, Kurt Russell won't have to wait until he is dead to be a famous drag queen. At one brief point in his *Tango & Cash* film adventures with Sylvester Stallone, Russell has to don female clothes to (what else?) escape from murderous gangsters. But the way this is being played up in the movie's ads, you'd think it the film was an action version of *Some Like It Hot*. When *Tango & Cash* was first released, the newspaper ads featured masculine photos of the two he-man stars. A few weeks later, Russell's macho pic was replaced with one showing him in full makeup.

♣ ♣ ♣

Colin Firth, the handsome, young British actor who played one of the gay spies in *Another Country* and the French cad in *Valmont*, seemingly can't wait to follow in Divine's footsteps. Of his penchant for odd

roles, Firth recently told an interviewer, "I wouldn't mind playing a woman for a change, or a man who dresses like a woman to commit crimes. That would be exciting!"

♣ ♣ ♣

We have just the role for Firth, the "female" lead in *M. Butterfly*, the Tony-award winning play about the transvestite star of the Peking Opera who becomes the lover of a naive French diplomat. The only problem is that the play closed in January after more than two years, and there is no talk yet of a film version.

♣ ♣ ♣

"Theatre people" aren't the only ones who do drag for money. We are thinking, of course, of those whose commerce is on the public thoroughfares of our cities. Police in San Diego recently rounded up a large number of these workers in the downtown area and near the U.S. Naval Station. A large number of transvestites and transsexuals were arrested even though the sweep was intended to rid the streets of female prostitutes.

"Most of the time, you can't tell the difference," said Lt. Leslie Lord, who is in charge of the vice squad. "They look awful good." What's more, he said, "at least 95 percent of the young men who do business with transvestites have absolutely no idea with whom they're dealing."

Police, however, know who they are dealing with, but don't know what to do with them after they are arrested. The girls are too much like men to go in the women's jail, and too much like women for the men's jail. Many are illegal aliens from Mexico, and they are quickly turned over to the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

♣ ♣ ♣

Perhaps it was this problem of providing appropriate housing that prompted the deputy director of

continued on page 7

Femininity-1, Masculinity-0...JoAnn Roberts

I was watching a most fascinating show on public television the other evening, *A Gathering of Men*. Bill Moyers was talking with Nobel laureate and poet Robert Bly. The subject was men and their feelings.

Bly has been traveling the country conducting "masculinity" workshops for men. In these workshops, he helps men come to grips with their inner feelings, particularly about their fathers, through lecture and poetry.

"Women," says Bly, "have learned to deal with pain. Like the pain of being a 'devalued' person, as women have been in our culture for over 2000 years. But men don't learn to deal with pain. Men don't show emotion."

One comment really caught at me. Bly said that around age 30-35 men learn that all the "macho" images they cherished in their youth are unrealistic. It is a crushing blow to lose your heroes.

This struck me because so many transvestites knock down the closet door during that same time period. Do we recognize the truth of Bly's words and in response decide to create "heroines" for ourselves?

For transvestites, what often follows the exit from the closet is a period of unbridled fantasy; dress, dress, dress, every spare moment. There is a period of rejection of all things masculine. The ultimate goal is to go "full time." In the process they abandon part of their masculinity. For many it is only begrudgingly restored for work. For some it's never recovered.

It is a shame, really, to deny part of what we are. We should try to find the balance point between masculine and feminine. We should integrate the best qualities of both into the person we are everyday of our lives. The old Chinese philosophers knew the truth: There can be no Yin without a Yang.

NewsQueen...from page 5
Greenpoint, a men's shelter in Brooklyn, N.Y. to issue this regulation:

"While at the Greenpoint complex...no one would be allowed to wear high heels, wigs, dresses or any type of overt female clothing."

♣ ♣ ♣

If the illegal alien queens in San Diego are fleet of foot, they could copy a San Francisco sister when police close in by seeking sanctuary in a cathedral in hopes of avoiding deportation.

Inga, a colorful drag queen in the City by the Bay, has threatened to do just that if she is forced to return to her native Great Britain. She came to San Francisco just over two years ago, and on Halloween of 1987 she discovered drag. She soon found a following and even became a member of the Imperial Court, but that popularity may have been her downfall; someone snitched to the

continued next page



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NewsQueen...from page 5

Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) that she had overstayed her tourist visa. When threatened with deportation to England, Inga hatched the plan for sanctuary with the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence at Grace Cathedral.

"I saw this political person from Panama seek sanctuary," she said of Gen. Manuel Noriega. "I thought, well, that seems pretty easy because I'm not a drug lord or anything. I'm just a simple drag queen trying to earn a living."

Was she prepared for the possibility that INS agents would surround the cathedral and blast it with rock music? "I would really suffer with Eydie Gorme," she said. "But it could be worse; it could be Patsy Cline."

Inga's deportation was being appealed, but she was not hopeful she would be allowed to stay. She said she will miss San Francisco. "I'm 33 now and it took me 30 long years to realize where I should be."

♣ ♣ ♣

Doing drag in public often leads to all kinds of problems. But sometimes, it isn't the crossdresser who is the victim. In January, a gay man from Maryland was fatally shot outside a Washington, D.C. gay bar as he tried to protect a man in drag from being sexually assaulted by three youths.

The youths accosted the drag queen as he was leaving the Brass Rail, and demanded that she perform oral sex on them. Hearing to commotion outside, Michael Warren left the bar to help her. The youths taunted Warren for sticking up for the drag queen, and challenged him to a fight. As Warren stepped forward with his fists raised, one of the youths pulled out a concealed gun and shot Warren in the chest. The assailant then stepped up to Warren, slumped on the sidewalk, and put another bullet into his chest. He died 45 minutes later.

♣ ♣ ♣

Doing drag in private is no picnic either. Just ask Walter Knierieman, 29, of Columbia, S.C. He used to

break into houses and dress up in the women's clothes he found there.

Knierieman's escapades came to an end recently when Dennis Daye returned home and found Knierieman walking about the house dressed only in a pair of Mrs. Daye's panties and long evening gloves. Daye apprehended Knierieman and held him until police arrived and charged him with a second degree burglary.

♣ ♣ ♣

Knierieman could claim a defense of being under the influence of drugs. But that wouldn't work for two Midwestern female impersonators who got in trouble with the law for drug-related offenses.

According to a dishy, but generally reliable source, a former Miss Ohio Valley U.S.A. is serving a year in prison for selling cocaine to an undercover policeman in Cincinnati.

Meanwhile, in full drag, another female impersonator was stopped by police for a routine traffic check. The girl acted nervous, the officer became suspicious, and he searched her purse, finding a small amount of marijuana. She has already prepared for her court appearance by cutting her flowing tresses and buying a new set of men's clothes.

♣ ♣ ♣

Maybe it was drugs. How else could you explain the behavior at the Miss Memphis pageant for female impersonators held at a club called Reflections?

After the eight contestants competed in several categories, sports-wear, talent, evening gown, etc., Toni Chambers seemed to be the audience's favorite. But when the winners were announced, Miss Chambers was *not* the judges' favorite; she was named first runner-up. She accepted her silver tray award, and then flung it at the judges and flounced from the stage.

One observer noted that Miss Chambers evidently didn't understand what beauty pageants are all about. "Even though each contestant thinks that she is best, the reason one enters the pageant, dearie, is to get an objective opinion," Lady A. said. "One either accepts this

opinion with grace or one shows just exactly what one is made of."

For the record, the *final* first runner-up was Summer Holiday.

♣ ♣ ♣

If you, like I, wonder "where do these girls get their names?" perhaps some research will answer the question

The new Miss Memphis is Vanessa Vogue; one of the contestants was Victor Victoria, two special guests in the audience both carried the last name of *Carrington*, and one guest used the last name of *Cartier*. So it should be obvious that while waiting for their nails to dry, these girls watch television and movies and read fashion magazines.

♣ ♣ ♣

Research can answer *many* of life's mysteries. For example, why did Scotsmen suffer more heart attacks when they traded their kilts for trousers? Dr. Malcolm Carruthers of London's Maudsley Hospital thinks he has the answer. He says testosterone protects men from heart disease, and the hormone's production is highest when the little factories are cool. He hopes to test his theory by putting one group of volunteers in kilts and another in heat-retaining trousers.

Before you hop on to the good doctor's findings as a rational for male-to-female crossdressing, better await the results from a group he *ought* to study—men wearing kilts, garter belts and stockings.

♣ ♣ ♣

Stress is another cause of heart attacks, and some companies are responding to work place pressure by holding "stress down days," according to *Health* magazine. These are specific days when workers can wear casual clothes to the office. Now if we could convince employers to hold "dress up days" for transgendered workers.

While Miss Sinclair (whose name was given to an oil company by her departed husband's grandfather) claims to read several newspapers each day. However, she gets really stressed out when she misses a story. Help her blood pressure by sending clippings, along with the name of the publication and date, to the Renaissance office.

From around the TV/TS community NATIONAL GENDER NEWS™

PHILADELPHIA, PA. — Mark this day on your calendar, May 11, 1990. On that date **Renaissance** will celebrate its third anniversary with a gala dinner party at the Great Valley Hilton in Malvern, Pa.

We don't have all the details yet but the four Renaissance chapters are cooperating with national on the event. The cost for the evening is estimated to run about \$30 per person. More info next time.

Meanwhile, a date of more immediate interest is Sunday, March 4. **Jimmy James**, probably the best **Marilyn Monroe** impersonator on the circuit, will appear at **Revival**, 22 South 3rd St., in Philadelphia at midnight. There is a \$10 cover and \$1 drinks until 11:00 PM.

NGN

BOCA RATON, FLA. — We're always on the lookout for certain items that are difficult to find for our sisters. In the January edition of the **Serenity** newsletter we found an ad for **Sheer Illusions & Co.**, specializing in larger sizes of dresses and lingerie. Of particular interest was the notation that they have shoes in sizes from 8½ to 14. They also sell wigs priced from \$30 and silicone

breast forms at \$100. Contact them at P. O. Box 4405, Boca Raton, FL 33429, or call (305) 722-7184. A catalog is \$4.

NGN

BURBANK, CALIF. — A recent release that will be of interest to many sisters is the second annual **Crossdresser's International Shopping Guide**.

The guide is a nice mixture of ads, vendor listings, and articles put together by Danielle Alexis, whose face and form have graced the pages of many TV publications. This issue of the guide carries an article on bargain shopping by our own **Paula Jordan Sinclair**.

The booklet is \$10.50 postpaid from John Moran Photo-Graphix, P. O. Box 7217, Burbank, CA 91510

NGN

DENVER, COLO. — A very large, thick envelope arrived in the mail. Inside was the January issue of the **Gender Identity Center** newsletter. What an enlightening and interesting issue.

The newsletter staff, **Donna R.** and **Jill B.**, went back through the last six years of the newsletter and reprinted the "best" of the articles

from many issues. They didn't flinch from reality either as they reprinted the tragic suicide death notice of their president in 1988.

Another item that caught our eye was the No-Smoking policy instituted in September 1989. A note accompanying the notice stated that this was probably the "hardest fought conflict in GIC history."

We find this curious as even the heaviest of smokers at the Philadelphia and South Jersey **Renaissance** chapters easily acceded to the No Smoking ban at meetings.

NGN

YORK, PA. — The **Lower Susquehanna Valley** chapter of **Renaissance** seems to be developing nicely according to the chapter newsletter received here recently.

The chapter has been invited to a private screening of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* by **Alois'** restaurant later this year.

We're very impressed and **RHPS** is one of our favorite cult flicks too. Anyone interested in the event should call (717) 767-4095.

NGN

continued next page



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From around the TV/TS community
NATIONAL GENDER NEWS™

HOUSTON, TEXAS — It's now official, the **Tau Chi** chapter of **Tri-Ess** has withdrawn from the **Fantastic Adventure** weekend that was supposed to be jointly sponsored with the **Gulf Coast Transvestite Chapter (GCTV)**.

Leaders from both groups strongly disagree on the issue of children being present at the event.

Looks like they found a solution. No event, no kids, no problem.

NGN

WOODLAND HILLS, CALIF. — The Soapbox in the January issue of *Cross-Talk (The Valley Girls)* began with a piece by Eileen [redacted] in which she states, "For all the complaining that society does about homosexuality, it certainly seems to do all it can to insure that there will be a continuous supply of homosexuals." [redacted] is a staunch Tri-Ess member and no other comment is required.

Meanwhile, Anne [redacted] writing about her TAG concept (Transvestite Action Group) mentioned the **Donohue** show from last October. She lamented that "**JoAnn (Roberts)** got no more than two minutes" air time. Honey, there are some people who think that two minutes was two too much.

[redacted] suggests that our community should make its own video, but doesn't develop the idea further. So, we'll give her a suggestion: contact your local cable provider and inquire about their public access channel. They are required by federal law to provide studio services for anyone who requests access.

Go to it, girls.

NGN

SANTA MONICA, CALIF. — We're not sure how we missed this the first time, but apparently there is a film being screened in the Los Angeles area titled, *Metamorphosis: Man into Woman*, according to our copy of *Transgender Views*.

The film chronicles the three year

journey of transsexual Gary/Gabi. It is reported to be compassionate, yet unsentimental in its treatment of the main character.

The film was directed by **Lisa Leema** and produced by **Clauida Hoover**. *Metamorphosis* has been entered in the 1990 U. S. Film Festival. The print source for the film is **True Stories Inc., 1030 Edgewater Rd., Los Angeles, CA 90026**.

NGN

TORONTO, CAN. — Just when you thought it was safe to go back...

Readers of this newsletter will know the respect we hold for **Veronica Jean Brown**, former editor of *Twenty Minutes*, the newsletter of the **Twenty (XX) Club**, a support group for transsexuals based in Massachusetts.

Brown is noted for her scathing editorials against TVs in ladies restrooms, the "gender elite," and many other subjects. We thought that we had heard the last of her when she resigned her editorship.

Fans of Brown's writing we be pleased to learn that she will be a regular contributor to the *Trans News*, the newsletter of **Transistion Support**, a transsexual group based in Toronto.

So that you won't miss a single acerbic word, you can subscribe to the newsletter by sending \$15 (Canadian) to 519 Church St., Toronto, Ont. M4Y 2C9.

NGN

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — It is always saddening to hear that one of our sister groups has folded tent. So, it is doubly gladdening when we hear that a group has re-organized and restored itself. Such is the case for the **CD-Network**.

The Network is the new name of what used to be **Transvestsites Anonymous (TVA)**. TVA showed all the signs of becoming a strong force in upstate New York. Then, very suddenly, it disappeared about a year ago. Then, two months ago,

just as suddenly, it reappeared as the **CD-Network**.

The group meets on the second Friday of the month, except for special events, like the Buffet Dinner on Friday, March 2.

Anyone interested in contacting the **CD-Network** should write to P.O. Box 92055, Rochester, NY 14692.

NGN

LOS ANGELES, CALIF. — Many people have heard of the famous **Queen Mary** lounge in this city. It is one of the better known drag-bars in the country. But what you may not know is that special nights have been set aside at the Queen just for transvestites.

Local crossdressers, **Marlayna Lacie** and **Melissa [redacted]**, have established **On the Scene Nite** in the back bar on the second Saturday of each month. The event is open to all local and out-of-town crossdressers.

Each 'Scene Nite' has a theme. The March 10 theme is **Feathers & Fur**. The April 14 theme is **Rhinestone Cowgirls**. The May 12 theme is **Fantasy Fashions**.

If you are in the Los Angeles area check out the Queen, even if it isn't a 'Scene Nite.' The phone number is 818-506-5619.

NGN

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND — One of the more interesting publications we receive here is *Transcare*, published by the **Minorities Trust**.

The latest issue, December 1989, contained information about **Wally [redacted]**, otherwise known as **Queen Mary of Mungamuka Bridge**. [redacted] has set up a home for transvestites and transsexuals in an effort to help transgendered members of the Maori return to their homeland. If we understand the lingo correctly, [redacted] has been given a house in Whangarei by a public housing authority.

Visitors to the area are invited to stop and visit with the Queen.

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RENAISSANCE READING

THE READING CHAPTER OF THE RENAISSANCE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

POST OFFICE BOX 14421, READING, PENNSYLVANIA 19612 (215) 376-8886

DINNER CELEBRATION!!

The Reading Chapter of Renaissance invites you to join us in celebration of our first anniversary! Join us for an exciting evening of fine dinning and pleasant company at our special Reading meeting location. Bring a friend and flatter your femme self in your finest attire!

WHEN? Sunday March 18th 1990 6:00 PM

WHERE? "THIS IS IT" the restaurant, 801 Walnut Street, Reading, Pa.

WHAT? Dinner party, awards, socializing, and celebration!

WHO? Members and friends of Renaissance

HOW? Reservations and money deadline: March 10th Cost: \$16.00 per person (cash bar)

PERSONAL DINNER MENU

DINNER INCLUDES:

I - APPETIZERS:

- <A> Soup du Jour &
- (CHOOSE ONE FROM BELOW)
 - 1. Stir Fry Chicken Livers
 - 2. Veal Tortellini with zesty red sauce
 - 3. Curry Crab Salad
 - 4. Pesto Shrimp Salad
 - 5. Steamed Belgian Sausage with three gourmet mustards
 - 6. Large Stuffed Mushroom - clam & crab baked in morney sauce
 - 7. Fettucine Corbandra - pasta with bacon creme sauce

II - SALAD:

Tossed Garden Greens & Fresh Veggies, Lemon Basil Dressing, Garlic Croutons

III - ENTREE: (CHOOSE ONE)

<A> CHICKEN:

- 1. Chicken au Fromage Dijon: breast of chicken baked on bed of spinich & mushroom, dijon mustard sauce. Topped with swiss & mozzarella
- 2. Chicken Connaluni: lg breast stuffed w/spin,mozzarella & proscutto ham, sour creme & mushroom, wt. wine sauce
- 3. Lemon Herb Chicken Saute' w/mushroom, lemon capers & fresh herbs & creme.
- 4. Chicken & Shrimp Stir-Fry with China Style Veggies
- 5. Grilled Chicken Breast spicy & served on top of pasta primavera

ENTREES: (CONTINUED)

 MEATS:

- 1. Steak This is it"-8oz strip broiled to order w/onions, mush, pepper stir-fry
- 2. Chinese Beef & Broccoli stir-fry w/veggies chinese style.
- 3. Pork Picante w/shrimp, sliced tenderloins saute' lemon, wt. wine, creme sauce garnished with shrimp and capers.
- 4. Steak en Brochette - sirloin skewered w/tomato mush,pepper,onions,etc. texas sauce.

<C> SEAFOOD

- 1. Broiled Haddock w/shell fish - shrimp, scallops, crabclaws & steamed clams, wt wine and fresh herbs.
- 2. Grilled Salmon Steak - in butter, fr. herbs and garnished w/sea scallops.
- 3. Shrimp Scallops & Crab au Gratin - swiss mozzarella & cheddar sauce
- 4. Baked Haddock Sciliano - Filets stuffed w/crab, topped w/scallops, anchovies, tomato, blk olives, mozzarella
- 5. Lemon Sole Stuffed w/ Crab meat imperial poached in white wine, veggies.
- 6. Broiled Stuffed Shrimp - seafood stuffing wrapped w/bacon, w/ hollandaise sauce.

IIII DESSERTS & COFFEE -choose from assortment of cakes and fresh fruit!

CIRCLE YOUR SELECTIONS FROM THE MENU ABOVE AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT TO:

RENAISSANCE READING

P.O.BOX 14421

READING, PENNA. 19612

PHONE: 215 376 8886

NAME: _____

South Jersey Renaissance to Sponsor "An Evening at La Cage"

Saturday evening, March 31st, Renaissance of South Jersey will sponsor the first social event of the Spring season, "**An Evening at La Cage**", in Atlantic City. Planned events include a gala dinner, and, for the evening's highlight, attending the "Evening at La Cage" revue at Bally's Park Place. And that will only be the beginning, given the imagination of the Jersey Girls and the magic of the boardwalk.

Dinner will be at 6:30 pm in a private dining room at **Mama Mott's**, Beach Block and New York Avenue, Atlantic City. The revue is at 9:30 pm at **Bally's Park Place** on the Boardwalk.

It is time to take that beaded, sequined, velvet, lamé, or rhinestoned little number you've just been dying to wear, out of storage, and join in the fun. If you are not going to be at IFGE in Boston, there is absolutely **no** excuse for not attending. Pack your bags, take the kids to Grandma's, and by all means bring that special Significant Other with you to Atlantic City on March 31st.

Please complete and send in the following form. Help us by sending it in **NOW** so that we can make the necessary arrangements. Please include a mailing address for us to mail an information packet to you. Thank you.

For further information, reservations
for dinner and/or the revue,
please contact:

*Renaissance of South Jersey
PO Box 189
Mays Landing, NJ 08330*

Or telephone 609 641-3782 or 609 748-0071. Let's make this a big success, and start a semi-annual T-Tradition.

An Evening at La Cage

March 31, 1990
at Mama Mott's & Bally's Park Place
Atlantic City, New Jersey

Name: _____ No. attending _____
Address _____
City/State _____ Zip _____

EVENTS:	<input type="checkbox"/> Dinner	6:30 pm	\$25.00 per person	\$ _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Evening at La Cage	9:30 pm	\$22.75 per person	\$ _____
			total included	\$ _____

LODGING: ☐ I will need lodging for Saturday night in the price range of \$ _____,
please contact me at the above address, or telephone (____) _____ - _____

*Please note: The number of reservations is limited to 60. Please send in your reservations and money now.
Both the dinner and the revue are optional - you may chose to attend either or both.*
