

## Pa. house speaker supports bill outlawing hate crimes

The November lobbying by sexual minorities on behalf of an amendment to the Pennsylvania Ethnic Intimidation Act that would hopefully protect them from hate crimes had a surprise impact. House Speaker Robert O'Donnell has become a co-sponsor of the bill, joining 31 other lawmakers in supporting the measure.

Two of the new co-sponsors, Reps. Robert Donatucci of Philadelphia and David Mayernik of Allegheny County, had voted against the amendment last year.

According to Andrea Friedman, legislative aide to chief sponsor Rep. Babette Josephs (D-Phila.), last

November's lobby day was directly responsible for gaining the support of O'Donnell and the other new co-sponsors. During the "lobby day," more than 100 members of sexual minority groups — chiefly lesbians and gays — gathered in Harrisburg Nov. 19 to urge their legislators to support the bill.

House Bill 1353 will add the words "sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation" to the state law that mandates stiffer sentences for crimes motivated by hate. While not specifically including transgendered people under its umbrella, the amendment is believed to provide them protection

because transgendered people are often thought to be homosexual by those who attack them.

For this reason, the national board of Renaissance supports the amendment and provided funds to the Pennsylvania Coalition to Pass the Hate Crimes Bill, a statewide organization to coordinate lobbying efforts in support of the bill. In addition, postcards to be sent to lawmakers urging them to support the bill are available through the chapters.

The next step for the bill is public hearings before the House Judiciary Committee. No date has been set for those hearings.

## 'You look like a man!'

### Transsexual kicked out of nursing school

A transsexual student in Tennessee State University's two-year nursing degree program says she was "kicked out" of school because of complaints of her transgendered status.

Tracy Quiring was told by the dean of the school, Marion Anema,

that she will not be allowed to complete work toward her degree "at this time" because "the institution where you were scheduled for clinical experiences this fall will not permit you to continue your clinical rotation because of a gender issue."

The action by Anema this past

October was not a surprise to Quiring. Earlier, during a meeting in the dean's office, Anema told Quiring that program administrators at Nashville's Park View Hospital complained about her enrollment in the student nursing program. Hospital officials, Enema said, worried that Quiring's "appearance and voice would not be positively perceived by patients."

The concerns by Park View came after Quiring was at the facility for only one day. She said that to her face, hospital staff were friendly and concerned with what she was learning. But, she said, she has since learned that at least one of the

### Allen photos coming to Baltimore

Photographs by Mariette Pathy Allen will be displayed as a part of a group exhibition titled "Decoding Gender" at the School 33 Art Center, 1427 Light St., in Baltimore from Feb. 15 to Mar. 27.

The photos by Allen and eight

other photographers from New York City, Baltimore, and Oakland, Calif. were selected for this exhibit by Robert Atkins, columnist for the *Village Voice*. Atkins will give a talk about the exhibition at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Mar. 7.

(continued on page 15)



## Announcements...

### 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*.

### Pen Pal Project

If you are willing to write letters to pen pals, please inform Maryann Kirkland, or write to the main office, c/o Dept. PP.

### Prisoner Project

A gift of only \$6 gives a trans-gendered inmate 12 issues of the *Renaissance News*. Please help provide this needed support to our sisters in prison.

### *The Transsexual Phenomenon*

A few copies of the deluxe edition of this book by Dr. Harry Benjamin are still available at \$39.95 postpaid.

## Our chapters...

### Greater Philadelphia

Meets third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia, Pa. Fall/winter meetings start at 8:00 p.m. For information, call (215) 946-8887. Dina Amberle, chapter leader. Write Renaissance PHL, Box AD, Bensalem, PA 19020.

### Lower Susquehanna Valley

Meets the first Saturday of the month at Cameron Cut Rate, Cameron and Market Streets, Harrisburg. Call (717) 780-1578 for latest information. Brenda Davidson, chapter leader. Write Renaissance LSV, Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105.

### South Jersey

Meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Atlantic Mental Health Center, Inc., 2002 Black Horse Pike, McKee, N.J. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Call (609) 641-3782. Kelly [REDACTED], chapter leader. Write Renaissance SJ, c/o P. O. Box 189, Mays Landing, NJ 08330.

## Our affiliates...

Groups wishing to become a Renaissance affiliate must pay a small annual fee for services normally afforded to chapters for free. Affiliates have no legal connection to Renaissance and remain autonomous. Services include unlimited access to reference publications and newsletter copy.

Write for details to Alison Laing, Director of Outreach, P. O. Box 552, King of Prussia, PA 19406.

Our affiliated organizations are:

- **Monmouth/Ocean Group**, P.O. Box 1326, Brick, NJ 08723

- **AEGIS**, P.O. Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033 (404) 939-0240

## Events to note...

### January

4th South Jersey Chapter meeting — fashion choices for your shape and figure presented by Lois Cozzi

4th Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter meeting from 8-10 p.m. followed by a New Years party at 10 p.m.

18th Greater Philadelphia Chapter meeting

### February

1st South Jersey Chapter meeting

1st Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter meeting

15th Greater Philadelphia Chapter meeting

### March

7th South Jersey Chapter meeting

7th Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter meeting

21st Greater Philadelphia Chapter meeting — Dr. Shelia Kirk on hormones

## Renaissance News

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P.O. Box 552, King of Prussia, PA 19406

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Articles must be submitted for publication one month in advance.

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



# Breast implants may not be safe says Food and Drug advisory panel

The question of whether or not to have breast implants has gotten tougher. Recently, an advisory committee to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) ruled that breast implants may not be safe, and additional research is required.

Over the past 30 years an estimated 2 million people have received silicone-filled breast implants. Most of these people were women who enhanced their natural bustline or replaced a breast ravaged by cancer. But some of the patients were transgendered persons, either

transsexuals who had breast implants as a part of sexual reassignment surgery or transvestites who wanted a female's figure without taking hormones.

Since 1976, the FDA has required all new medical devices to be tested and reviewed to insure their safety and effectiveness. But because breast implants had been on the market for well over a decade, federal officials did not require them to pass the same standard. However, in 1987, the FDA said that implants would be reviewed. In response, the

manufacturers supplied millions of pages of documents on successful implants. Federal officials said the data covered too few women and for too short a time, and failed to answer concerns over the long-term safety of the implants.

This past fall, hundreds of women testified before an FDA committee of experts. Most told how breast implants had changed their lives for the better. Others told horror stories about breasts hardened with scar tissue, immune system disorders thought to be caused by leaking silicone, and breast cancer undiagnosed because of the implants' interference with mammography.

One specific type of implant, which is covered with polyurethane, has been recalled by its manufacturer, Bristol-Myers Squibb, because of complaints regarding the covering.

FDA Commissioner Dr. David Kessler is expected to act on the advisory committee's recommendation this month.

## Turkish transgender activist arrested, beaten by police

Amnesty International has declared a Turkish transvestite activist a prisoner of conscience within weeks of deciding that sexual minorities would now receive the protection of the organization. He is Ramazan "Demet" Demir.

• See Phaedra Kelly's letter on page 8 •

Demir is still thought to be in Istanbul's Sagmalolilar Prison. He was arrested in late August on charges of engaging in homosexual activity, which is not a crime in Turkey. Demir protested his arrest, saying that Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey in the 1920's, had legalized homosexuality. The next day, Demet was arrested for insulting the memory of Ataturk. Police were seemingly reacting to rumors that Ataturk had homosexual tendencies.

Demet was previously arrested in early August when police raided the homes of several crossdressers in Istanbul after a police official reportedly vowed to "clear the neighborhood of transvestites." He was held for six days, during which time he was beaten with a rubber-covered steel hose. An independent physician corroborated the claim.

Police have also regularly raided the transvestite brothels in the Cihangir district, dragging the "girls" into the street, beating them with plastic pipes. If arrested, the transvestites are usually raped by police.

These brothels are popular among  
(continued on page 15)

## Free holiay party a success

Despite serious, last-minute changes, the annual Greater Philadelphia chapter holiday party was a success. More than 120 Renaissance members and their friends attended the free event, held Dec. 7.

The party had been set for the Great Valley Inne, the site of two previous holiday parties. But only weeks before the event, the chapter was notified that another organization had been booked into the main Inne facility, and the chapter would have to use a smaller and impractical facility.

"We wanted the membership to have their Christmas party even though our reservation at the Inne was canceled at the last minute," said new chapter Managing Direc-

tor Michelle [REDACTED], "So the chapter decided to host this free party for the members."

The jolly event featured door prize drawings of makeup kits, wine, and jewelry, several varieties of wine punch, and hot hors d'œuvres. The latter proved to be extremely popular with the guests, who ate them so quickly the caterer was spared the trouble of final preparation. According to one attendee, the food was eagerly consumed even while it was still being prepared by "men eating like men even though they were wearing dresses."

"We had a great time, a lot of people showed up," [REDACTED] said, some from as far away as Richmond, Va.



# Taking it to the streets

## Gay activists use glamour as a political tool

Drag queens within the gay community got a chance to explain themselves at a lesbian and gay leadership conference held in Washington, D.C. in November. One of the workshops at the weekend-long conference was on "Drag Activism."

While a handful attending the workshop were disappointed that the panelists didn't provide beauty tips, most came to learn how drag has become a political tool among some lesbian and gay activists. The panelists described what they do as "guerrilla drag street theater" and "glamour assault."

But before the tool can be used widely, opposition within the lesbian and gay community ("drag-phobia") has to be overcome.

The main objection expressed toward gay men wearing dresses at public, political events is that the

media focuses on the drag queens to the exclusion of other, less flamboyant, elements of the community.

"The problem is not drag queens," said Robert Bray, spokesman for the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force. "The problem is the myopia of the media. My job is to educate the media on our diversity, not hide the drag queens."

"Drag used to be primarily a parody of women," said Ggreg Deborah Taylor of San Francisco. "Now, if anything, its primarily a parody of drag. I want to challenge gays. I want to make them realize that there is more than one kind of homo."

Taylor certainly fit that description with his shaved head painted white, bright red lipstick, royal blue eyeliner, and a giant rhinestone glued to the middle of his forehead like a third eye.

"A lot of drag used to be misogynistic," said Glenn Belverio, who, along with Duncan Elliott, hosts "The Glenda and Brenda Show" on New York City's public access cable television channel. "I want to counter all of that. We don't wear falsies or shave our legs."

Another drag activist doesn't wear falsies either. Shelly Mars is a female "performance artist" who does male drag. At one point during the workshop, she pulled a huge dildo out of her plaid boxer shorts and squirted the audience. Then she stripped down to her panties and danced to Aretha Franklin's "Natural Woman."

Commenting on her performance, she said "it's very political. I'm commenting on male sexuality, both straight and gay. And my act gets a different reaction every time

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# Getting paid for being in drag; a day in the life of an actor/actress

⇒ Fans of Angela Gardner will be pleased to know that the scintillating star of stage, screen, and instructional brochures will be appearing in an episode of NBC's top-rated cop show *Law and Order*. The show was shot in late November, and will air this month.

Others will be thankful for the warning.

Seriously, folks, Gardner is a professional actor/actress who has portrayed characters of both genders. Her latest part is as a female impersonator. The plot involves a famous soap opera actress who has gotten herself in trouble. As part of their investigation, police question a female impersonator who "does" the soap star in her nightclub act. The scene begins with the impersonator leaving the nightclub stage. Backstage, she passes by two other impersonators (one of whom is Angela) who give her non-verbal "dish" and walk away.

We reached Angela on the set of her new project, an appearance as a Christmas character in a local mall.

—PJS

RN: How did you get the part in *Law and Order*?

AG: You'll have to speak up; these sleigh bells are really loud. Oh, *Law & Order*! All the New York casting people have promo shots of me both in drag and as a guy. I get more work in my male disguise, but when they need a man who looks good in a dress, I'll get a call. Some of the calls actually involve film or television work.

RN: Where was your scene shot?

AG: It was done on location in a Manhattan nightclub called the Ballroom. It was a thrill working there because the noted female impersonator Charles Pierce has performed there and I got to use his dressing room.

RN: Do female impersonators work there now?

AG: Not that many. They present a lot of jazz and Brazilian music. There was a poster of Lipsinka on the wall, but I'm not sure she has performed there.

RN: Who were the other actors in the scene?

AG: She'll kill me if she reads this, but I don't remember the name of the actor who played the "star" impersonator. I know she appeared in New York in *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*, and I know she was very good. But the morning went by so fast that I couldn't get her name into my brain. Series stars Paul Servino and Chris North are the cops who question her while I was standing backstage with another

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"All the New York casting people have promo shots of me both in drag and as a guy."

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actor in drag named Elan. He has appeared on *The Joan Rivers Show* doing an impersonation of Joan.

RN: You called the other impersonator "she," but you called Elan "he." Why?

AG: Elan and I talked a bit while we were doing our makeup. He asked how I came to be doing the role and I said I do female impersonation for fun or profit. He said he really would rather appear as a man on the stage and screen. He considers himself to be a "female impressionist."

RN: Did he do an "impression" of Joan Rivers on your show?

AG: No, his character was more of a punk Liza Minelli. It's very good.

RN: What type of character are you doing in the show?

AG: She is very Sixties. My wig is very Streisand, and my dress is a white mini with big black polka dots and a wide black patent leather belt. Of course, my shoes matched the outfit. It was the matching shoes that made the wardrobe woman give my outfit the okay.

RN: Didn't they provide a costume for you?

AG: No. When they hire you for something special like this, you usually have to provide your own wardrobe. They pay you extra for that. I was told to bring five different outfits. It was hell getting them all on the train to New York. Of course the other stuff I brought didn't even get out of the garment bag. Wardrobe loved the Sixties look.

RN: Wardrobe loved it. How did the other people on the cast and crew relate to you?

AG: First of all, everyone was very professional. I was hired to be a female impersonator, and I was treated with the same respect as any other performer. Show people have seen it all, so there is nothing startling about me or the other men dressed as women.

The funny thing was the way the director treated us. He knew that we were men, and he made a point of addressing us as "gentlemen" when we first spoke. But as he worked with us his own perceptions of masculine and feminine made him refer to us as females. He would say things like "Then I want to see her move this way..." It bothered Elan, but I had no problem with it.

RN: How did you relate to everyone else?

AG: Well, I don't turn my Angela aspect on all the way in a work situation like that. I don't change my body language, speech patterns and pitch unless I'm using them on camera. I am working.

RN: Mmmm?

(continued on page 18)



## THE *Paula Jordan Sinclair* NEWSQUEEN™

The NewsQueen is still in a state of shock over the news from an Arkansas courtroom that the *Sun*, one of her favorite supermarket tabloid sources, actually makes up stories! The revelation was made by Philip Anderson, an attorney for the tabloid, during a law suit filed by a 90-year-old woman the *Sun* identified as being pregnant. "Most reasonable people recognize that the stories are essentially fiction," Anderson said in defending his client.

The tactic didn't work; the *Sun* was convicted of libel.

So what about the other tabloids?

Stories in *The Globe* and *The National Examiner*, which are owned by the same company that publishes the *Sun*, "are definitely factual," said Phil Burton, editorial director of Globe Communications. We were so relieved, because last month *The Globe* reported that Tony Curtis' girlfriend is really a guy. (You'll read that item later.) The queen of the tabloids, *The National Enquirer*, also claims its stories are factual. However, the editor of the *Weekly World News*, Eddie Clontz, replied "no comment" when asked if his stories were true.

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We know this story is true because it came from The Associated Press. A federal court in South Carolina has ruled that a man who posed as a woman and supposedly married a soldier assigned to Ft. Bragg can't collect military benefits from her husband, not because the marriage was invalid, but because the "woman" was married to four other men, including another soldier.

In issuing the ruling, the Fourth U.S. Court of Appeals left open the question that a marriage between two men may be legal in South Carolina. Instead, the three-judge panel ruled that Salviano Alamo Williams was not legally married to Army Staff Sgt. Louis N. Cornelius

because Williams was a bigamist, having married four other men.

In what the court called a "bizarre" case, it upheld Williams' earlier conviction on 14 counts of conspiracy, fraud, and bad check charges

♣ ♣ ♣

Remember Dennis Koopman, the 31-year-old man who dressed as a woman to get a job as a nanny in Washington State, and was charged with raping and molesting two boys in her care? A jury in Wenatchee found him guilty, and he was sentenced to 23 years in prison.

♣ ♣ ♣

Still more court news...

It seemed that Target Stores in California didn't want transsexuals or homosexuals working as security guards. The company had used a psychological screening tests that asked male applicants to answer the question "I have often wished I were a girl." The tests also contained the question "I am strongly attracted by members of my own sex."

Recently, the California Appeals Court banned the test, ruling that it violated an applicant's privacy, especially in the areas of gender identity and sexual orientation.

A company spokesman said the test was administered only to applicants for security job positions "to be sure that when we select people to work in (these) high stress jobs, we have people who are emotionally stable." The court last month said that the questions which force an applicant to reveal or conceal his or her sexual orientation are illegal job discrimination against homosexuals.

Robert Millman, an attorney for Target's parent company, said they would appeal the ruling based on an employers right to test prospective employees. "This decision calls into question the legality of pre-employment psychological testing and pre-

employment drug testing," he said.

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From the court of law, we go to the court of public opinion. Ladies (and gentlemen) of the jury, are these people as normal as they claim to be?

First there is the case of Grae Phillips, a 26-year-old singer who's natural soprano voice prevented him from getting nightclub bookings in New York. Agents and producers love his demo tapes, but they thought Grae was a female singer. Finally, in 1986, one producer suggested that Grae dress up as a woman.

"I turned white, rushed to the bathroom and threw up," Grae reports in a true manly fashion.

But with the encouragement of his wife, Grae tried performing in drag for several years at places ranging from lesbian bars to the Helmsley Palace ballroom. "Her" photo was even selected to appear in a pin-up calender published in Japan.

Grae is still hoping to one day be accepted as a male singer with a different type of voice. But for the past five years he has posed as a chanteuse because "I have to."

And he probably hated every minute of the masquerade.

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Or how about John Offerdahl, Pro Bowl linebacker in each of his five seasons with the Miami Dolphins?

His four sisters are "all big, 5-8 or 5-9 and 130 or 140 pounds, all beautiful, and they were really dominating to me when I was little," he said. "They used to dress me up like a girl. I mean I remember being 12 years old and going to the store in drag. It was nothing kinky or anything, just done in fun, but I had to figure out who I was. The only reason I played football was to prove my masculinity."

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# THE *Paula Jordan Sinclair* NEWSQUEEN™

Then there is the case of fashion designer Halston, who, in his early years, designed all the hats worn by Jackie Kennedy Onassis while she was First Lady.

"Halston would put her hats on his head and sit there and look at them with two mirrors, turning his head at different angles," claims author Steven Gaines in his book on Halston. "It was funny, this wonderful big palooka of a guy with these ladies hats on."

The reason given by Halston to inquiring minds? His head was the same size as Jackie's, and if the hats looked good on him, they would look good on her.

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Now, here's that item on Tony Curtis, the star of the greatest drag film of all time, *Some Like It Hot*.

Curtis was seen in Sicily in the company of Eva Robbins recently, and introduced her as his "girlfriend." But Tony didn't know that Eva is really a man.

"On top I am all woman," she said to a reporter. "But under my bikini bottoms I am all man. I have the mind of a man and the body of a woman."

According to the model and television hostess, she had a normal life as Roberto Coatti until she was 15 and started growing breasts.

"It was so confusing I had to see psychiatrists, but they didn't really help. This is something I had to come to terms with by myself," she said.

Life is still a bit confusing. Eva says "sometimes I wake up feeling like Roberto, and when I look into the mirror I change to Eva, putting on makeup and brushing my hair."

"It's easy for me to conquer men because I think like them, and I know what they want. We have a lot of fun together in bed, but it stops there."

Did Curtis find out about her special charms? "I never had the

heart to tell him that below the waist I am quite manly," she said.

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In Spain, another woman has been making headlines for supposedly being something she isn't. After several years of being classified as a man by Olympic officials, Maria José Martinez Patino hopes that this year she will finally be able to compete on the Spanish women's track team during this summer's games in Barcelona.

Patino was booted from the team in 1986 when she failed a chromosome test designed to determine if female athletes are really women. Since the tests were established by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1968, about a dozen competitors have been banned from Olympic competition because they failed the test.

The results that Patino was not a genetic female came as a surprise to her and to her boyfriend. She had lived all of her life as a female and had natural female breasts and genitalia. But she also is sterile. It seems that while she carries the genetic coding for a man, her body never followed the instructions. It never produced the testosterone necessary to give her a man's body. So without the hormone, she developed as a woman.

Patino never doubted her femininity, and so she decided to fight the ruling. She appealed her case to a special committee established by the IOC. Late in 1988, the committee reclassified her as a woman and reinstated her amateur status. She began training and hopes to qualify for the 1992 Olympics in the high hurdles.

In writing about this incident, Arthur Caplan, director of the Center for Biomedical Ethics at the University of Minnesota, said, "Sex determination is not that simple."

"The case of Maria Patino is a stark reminder to those who want

to include or exclude people from athletic competitions, jobs, or insurance solely on the basis of genetic tests. Genetic tests don't lie, but they are only as accurate as our interpretations allow them.

"We have a long way to go before we fully understand even a subject as simple as sex. I'd say at least another couple of millennia."

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From time to time we have reported on the wild goings-on at some of the drag beauty contests held around the country — third-place trophies hurled at judges by less-than-regal queens, or cat fights behind the scenes. But this month we have news of two exemplary contestants in the Miss Gay Colorado USA pageant.

The crown was given to Jessica Scott, and Brook Trout was named first runner-up. But an error in tabulating the contestants' final scores was discovered, and Brook had the most points; Jessica was rightfully the first runner-up. When the two were told of the mistake, Brook offered to let Jessica retain the crown, but Jessica declined.

Under the rules of the pageant, both will represent the Centennial State at the Miss Gay USA 1992 pageant in Atlanta.

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Finally, a celebrity frequently mentioned in this column may be heard of no more. Rachel Harlow, acclaimed as Philadelphia's most famous transsexual, has packed her bags and shuffled off to... San Francisco. Why the move? "I decided it was time for a change," she said.

♣ ♣ ♣

*Some of the items in this column may be a bit old because one of our correspondents, Lisa [redacted], evidently held on to them until she has enough to justify the use of a 29-cent stamp. Other correspondents, like Wendy [redacted], are more prompt. But the important thing is to send clippings regarding crossdressing to Miss Sinclair at the Renaissance office and to note the date and name of publication.*



The **For Ideas**  
**FORUM**

# GAL doesn't speak for me!

To the Gender Community:

I am writing about a matter of concern for me and, I believe, the gender community as a whole. You may have heard of an organization called Gender Alternatives League, or GAL. This group purports to speak for the gender community. Though I believe their intentions are good, I question their methods and their attitudes. For this reason, I have resigned from GAL.

When I heard of GAL, my first thought was, "It's about time." Though I was somewhat troubled by the angry, confrontational tone of their Declaration, I assumed that this was just a starting point. I had hoped that the organization would be open to some input.

I have attended two GAL board meetings and spent my own time working on a more moderate message. Unfortunately, I found that GAL is not interested in input from the gender community that doesn't agree with the board's own preconceived notions.

I found their myopic focus on the labels transvestite and transsexual to be defeating of GAL's stated purpose. GAL tells members of our community what to call themselves and insults those who do not choose to accept the label of "genderist." This is a bad approach to foster unity.

GAL's confrontational approach is, at the very least, ineffective for making progress for the rights of the gender community and, at the worst, makes us look like a bunch of angry wackos. Taking potshots at the American Psychiatric Association will not help our cause any more than insulting gender people who choose their own labels.

As an activist and advocate for the gender community, I am sorry to see an organization with great potential fall prey to angry attitudes. This doesn't mean that we in the gender community don't have a right to be angry. Far from it! I am just as angry at the discrimination and name-calling as any of us. But

I don't let my anger enter my message because that turns off all but the most predisposed listeners.

We in the gender community have a tough enough time as it is. Our quest for societal acceptance will be time consuming and difficult. Anger will make our work that much harder. I would hope that people in our community might continue to lobby GAL to adopt a moderate stance, but I can't say that I am optimistic that they will do so. I would at least encourage our community not to publicly support this group until their views become more inclusive of the gender community at large.

—Christine Beatty  
San Francisco

## An international appeal

To the Editor:

Many thanks for the swift publication of my appeal for travel funding for Colombia (RN, Dec. '91). A quick update; I am told that a trip to Cali would cost £587 round trip during the off-season, and Istanbul £379, or a total of \$1,500 for both.

Obviously, Istanbul is the urgent case. We have sisters there known to the world. Despite the interest of Amnesty International, Demet is still, as far as I know, languishing in jail and probably severely ill from

the conditions and the bad treatment. I would fly there first and do what I can to relocate the group members through my contacts with the Radical Green party and journalists. Also, I would confirm Demet's condition and her address. Finally, I would hope to see someone in the government about the future of the community.

On my return I would produce a written report and stay long enough to get that and other material off to

(continued on page 14)

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The **FORUM** For Ideas

## Errors in transsexual pilot article

To the Editor:

I'm writing to point out some errors in an article that appeared in an article (sic) in your November issue. Jessica Stearns is from Lawrence Township, not Princeton, N.J. Jessica was placed on an unpaid leave of absence in July, 1990. She had surgery in August. To quote the article that appeared in the *Trenton Times*, "In November, four months after the suspension and three months after the surgery, the company ruled that Stearns was too much of a psychological risk to entrust with a commercial aircraft, and her presence in the cockpit could distract other pilots during a moment of crisis." Stearns was also making \$48,000 a year, not \$49,000.

The complete text can be found on pages 2, 3, and 4 of our August,

1991 edition of *News Briefs*. Just thought that I'd set the record straight.

—Donna Marie [REDACTED]  
President, Sigma Nu Rho  
Chapter, Tri-Ess  
Trenton, N.J.

⇒ We appreciate your effort to

correct our errant sentence which read, "A month prior to the August, 1990 surgery, he was fired from his \$49,000-a-year job."

By the way, Stearns is seeking to regain her job with Continental Airlines.

—PJS

### Quote/unquote...

"Being gay is not a political act. To me it's not even the most important part of my life. It's about people and friends and a sensibility that is not political. But to defend one's freedom to exercise that, you must be political at some point."

— Andrew Sullivan, the new, openly gay editor of *The New Republic* magazine. The same points could be made about being transgendered.

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The *For Ideas*  
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## Empathy

by Sheila [REDACTED]

Maybe if you could have seen what I saw  
As you casually plucked your already slender  
brows  
And buffed your lids with color  
Drawing your timid lashes out with black  
alluring mascara  
Defining your lips with some suggestive berry  
sounding stick.

Maybe if you could have stood where I stood  
Admiring the pivot of your heel  
The flash and flesh of your thigh  
And stroked with painted nails, the curves of  
your breasts  
Gently coaxing them into the pampering bra,  
Large nipples face first doing a nose dive.

Maybe if you could have felt what I felt  
Watching you in your new black skirt  
The belt riding on your churning hips,  
The slit peak of the silky rasp of your stockings  
Pointing up, up, to your beautiful moon rear view.

Maybe if you could have seen my face  
As you played your hair  
Flowing, knowing the curl and the flip  
Putting on your blouse, and fixing the red scarf  
Into the shape of a rose.

Maybe then you would understand  
Where I stood, straight, and overly-defined.  
You might have understood  
The haphazard efforts to shave away the signs,  
And to squeeze some evenings  
Into your dress just to sit  
While you look the other way.

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The For Ideas  
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## Why so much bad news in 'The NewsQueen'?

To the Editor:

Generally, I enjoy reading the variety of articles in RN, but I am growing a little tired of seeing all the negative items in "The NewsQueen" about transgendered persons: transsexuals being murdered while engaging in prostitution, transvestites robbing stores, and other "news" items of that ilk.... It seems to me that you are promoting the stereotype that transgendered persons have low morals.... Why don't you spend your time on telling about the good people in our community rather than the few bad ones?

—Cassandra B.  
Lansdowne, Pa.

⇒ Frankly, we are surprised that we haven't received a complaint like

this before now. "NQ" has been published for three years; perhaps we finally reached Cassandra's threshold of tolerance. There are two answers to her complaint, one short and one long, yet both are related.

The short one is "S—t happens."

The long one is a bit more polite. "Bad" people do bad things; that isn't news. But "NQ" is not intended to simply report news events. Its primary purpose is to inform readers of the wide variety of events in the world, events that — whether good or bad — may impact on the lives of transgendered persons and then to, perhaps, move them to do something. We feel it is important for transgendered people to have the same information the "straight" world receives about us. Not only

does this confirm that the worst stereotypes have some basis in fact, it may achieve the higher goal of inspiring the "good" members of our community to work harder to combat those stereotypes.

On a related subject, we would hope that our readers can tell the difference between actual events and reports of events that are supposedly actual. The latter category includes many of the stories originating in supermarket tabloids. We repeat those stories not because we believe them to be accurate, but because we believe our readers should be aware of the slanderous things being printed about transvestites and transsexuals.

—PJS

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## Behind the DSM

# No 'bad guys' or 'good girls'

By Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

There are some members of the gender community who are simultaneously on a witch hunt and looking for a magic wand. I am referring to the current push to persuade the American Psychiatric Association to remove all mention of gender concerns from their *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-III-R)*. Their rationale is that if these categories are removed from clinical definitions everything will suddenly be all right. Then, persons who wish to express non-traditional gender roles will be accepted by society because they will no longer be labeled "sick." The "bad guys" are the clinicians who have formalized definitions about such behaviors and the "good girls" are those who oppose such definitions.

First, some information about *DSM-III-R* and the soon-to-be-released *DSM-IV*. Simply finding definitions for any emotional or behavioral concern listed here does not automatically classify a person with such behaviors as "mentally ill." In fact, it is gross misuse of the manual to make such an interpretation. To support this statement, I will quote at length from the Introduction to *DSM-III-R*. On page xxii it states: "...each of the mental disorders is conceptualized as a clinically significant behavioral or psychological syndrome or pattern that occurs in a person and that is associated with present distress (a painful symptom) or disability (impairment in one or more important areas of functioning)... Neither deviant behavior, e.g., political, religious or sexual nor conflicts that are primarily between the individual and society are mental disorders unless the deviance or conflict is a symp-

tom of a dysfunction in the person..." (Emphasis is mine.)

Thus, simply expressing transgender behaviors is not a mental illness. Only if such expression or the need for expression causes the person significant distress would such behavior be classified as a problem that would benefit from clinical help.

Even if descriptions of transgender behaviors were removed from the *DSM-IV*, the problems facing the gender community will not go away. In fact, I suggest that there will be no noticeable change in public perception and reaction. My reasoning is based on many years of observation. We live in a society that is highly conflicted about human sexuality. There is the sex-negative faction that takes the position that if one forbids all discussion of sexuality and confines sexual behaviors to marriage, then the world will be pure. Contrast that position with media and advertising that use sexuality to sell products and entice people to various movies and publications. Add to this, the treatment of women as second class citizens sexually, politically, and economically. If you think about it, you can come up with more divisions in our culture.

There are many ways that members of the transgender community can change society and, as a result, gain more acceptance of transgender feelings and behaviors. The strategy is to change society's attitudes about human sexuality through education. I mean the basic "stuff" that helps people to understand and value their own sexuality and the sexuality of others. Such education has to start with children in school, church, and home situations. So, get involved there—work

to get comprehensive sex education in the various institutions in our society. Support people who are working in this field. At the adult level, get involved in women's issues. Speak out against sexual discrimination and harassment. Work to make men and women equal partners in our society. Using these tactics, one need not even admit to transgender feelings or behaviors.

As far as clinical definitions are concerned, the problem is in their use or misuse. Here the approach is to work with clinicians to help them understand gender issues. With this new insight they will be able to intervene appropriately with those individuals who fit the descriptions of *DSM-III-R*, that is, those whose lives are disrupted by gender conflicts. By speaking at professional conferences and talking to the future clinicians, this information will slowly be disseminated.

One last thing about changing or eliminating the definitions in *DSM-IV*. Without changing how society deals with human sexuality, the clinicians will be no different, except that they now have no way to understand the clients who are struggling with transgender behaviors that society still does not understand nor accept.

The hard thing about these methods is that they take commitment in your everyday life. Further, it will take time to make a change. They are not as glamorous as trying to change some definitions in a book.

So, there are no bad guys nor good girls, and there is no magic wand. If you want society to treat you with respect, then you have to go about the very difficult job of helping them understand human sexuality. It is not easy, for the

(continued on page 18)



# Different feelings

## *Crossdressing is sensory rather than sensual*

by Nancy Ann Howes

I recently identified myself to the crossdressing community and established correspondence with other sisters across the country. The response to date has been very gratifying, and I am busy trying to keep up with my new-found "girlfriends."

The most frequent request that my sisters have made has been to tell them what I think is the basis for our commonality — crossdressing. They suggest that after much reading of literature and hearing of opinions from so-called experts they are just as confused now as ever before. I respond, "welcome to the club." However, I have my own "experience oriented" theory and wish to share it.

I have never believed that crossdressing is a *sexually* derived concept. Instead, I believe that it is a *sensually* derived concept. Yes, that's right, one that stems from the experience of our senses, not from

our need for sexual gratification. We may experience sexual pleasure at times when wearing lingerie, seeing ourselves convincingly made up in a mirror, or passing while out in public. But the basis for what we are, in my opinion, stems from our childhood experiences that must have been sensory related and not sexually stimulated.

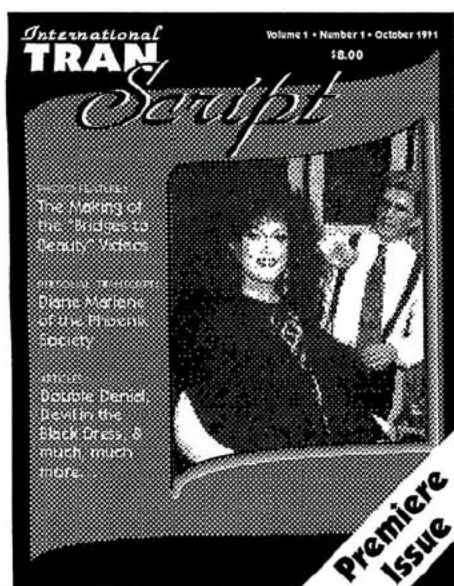
In my pre-puberty years, I quite vividly recall my experiences with the *touch* and *smell* of women's clothing, not only on and off their bodies, but on my body as well. As I achieved puberty, the experiences that came from being close to girls aroused these senses further, and also included the *sight* and *sound* of the female body and of their clothing. Through these senses, I became more aware of what it would be like to be dressed to feel like a female, smell like a female, appear like a female, and sound like a female (not vocally, but when walking in heels,

swishing in lingerie, or hearing jewelry on my body). This is when my feminine characteristics came together. Necking with girls and tasting their lipstick and perfume added the sense of *taste*. This really made the sensual experience of being Nancy Ann complete.

All these sensory stimuli helped create Nancy Ann and really had no direct relationship to sex as some would have us believe. It is my firm conviction that regardless of when these sensory experiences happen or the order in which they are experienced, they create an image in the mind that transposes an imprint on our individual personalities that is indelible and lifelong.

Think about your sensory (sensual) experiences and see if you can identify with a similar growth process.

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The **FORUM** For Ideas

## Atlanta killings require community response

by Dallas Denny

The murders of three transgendered persons in Atlanta during a one-month period is a matter of grave concern. Whether or not the killings are related, they must be stopped. We hope and trust that law enforcement officials will take immediate and thorough action to find the perpetrator(s) and put a stop to these tragic deaths. We urge Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson to make a public statement deploring the slayings and promising prompt action by the police.

Atlanta is not the only city where transgendered persons have been killed in number — nor were these the first such murders in Atlanta. The sad fact is that murders of transgendered persons — crossdressers and transsexual persons — are all too common. And there will be more unless society learns that transgendered persons are people too. One need only substitute words for other members of society for "transsexual" or "crossdresser" to see just how our society devalues transgendered persons: "Three Children Murdered in Inner City." "Another Dentist Found Dead on Interstate." Would the police take immediate action if those were the headlines? Of course!

The horrible fact is that because of one or more unknown parties, three human beings in Atlanta are

no longer alive.

Transsexual people are particularly vulnerable to hate crimes. Due to their often ambiguous appearance, which is attributable to their transition process, many present easy targets for ridicule or abuse. It is difficult for them to change their victim profile, for their body habitus is often at odds with their gender identity and their social role. Unlike the case with other sexual and gender minorities, transsexualism provides visual stigma which pervades every waking moment, even when the individual is trying to blend in.

We must increase vigilance on

the part of our community. Transgendered persons must learn to look out for themselves. But we must also press law enforcement officials to protect the rights of transgendered persons and to speak out against hate crimes against all sexual and gender minorities.

Please express your concern about the Atlanta murders by writing Mayor Maynard Jackson, City Hall, 55 Trinity Ave., SW, Atlanta, GA 30335-0300.

⇒ Ms. Denny is executive director of AEGIS, the American Educational Gender Information Service of Atlanta, a Renaissance affiliate.

## An international appeal

(continued from page 8)

the world. Then I would set off for Cali in Colombia.

I have heard this week that IFGE has now kindly listed Turkey and Pakistan — half a month after Turkey's leaders are arrested and Pakistan is facing its third season of riots against, about, and for minorities.

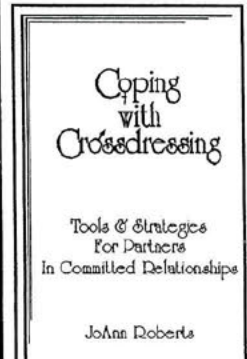
I have been, as the U.S. has it, "bad mouthing" IFGE. I do not apologize for what seems to me to be a necessary spur to remove red tape that should not have been necessary. Ordinary caution is one thing, but a bureaucracy like any government's is another thing.

In South Africa, Thelma [REDACTED], the Phoenix overseas coordinator and International Gender Transit Affinity (IGTA) associate, informs me that she has established a link in Latvia. The U.S.S.R and its expatriot republics are opening up at last. Gays have established contact, but so far my letters to the only gay group listed by GE go unanswered. Can anyone in the U.S. make contact and gain some TV/TS/CD/GT links in Russia through them?

—Phaedra Kelly

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by JoAnn Roberts

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# Transsexual kicked out of nursing school

(continued from page 1)

doctors she observed complained about her.

Quiring said that her academic performance had been "good" during her classes at TSU and that she had dealt with some patients without complaints.

"I expected prejudice and discriminatory remarks when I started the program," she said. "And I got some from general students on

campus, but I got none from the nursing program. I thought everything was going to be fine."

She said she cannot remain in the nursing school unless she has the necessary clinical experience. Anema said TSU had contacted other hospitals affiliated with the university, but "because of prevailing practice and philosophy," they also had refused to accept the pre-operative transsexual. Anema told

Quiring that TSU could do nothing more to help her.

Quiring has saved the money for her sexual reassignment surgery, and had hoped to have the operation this summer. "All those plans are up in the air," she said. "If I try to pursue a legal case against TSU because of this, it'll take all that money to pay for lawyers," she said. "I'm not sure what I'm going to do now."



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## Turkish activist

(continued from page 3)

Turkish men because, one source claims, 70 to 80 percent of men in Turkey engage in gay sex but still consider themselves to be heterosexual. Crossdressing prostitutes, the source said, provide the desired sexual outlet, yet still allow the johns to feel straight. However, the transvestites' presence serves as an unwelcome reminder of the wide extent of homosexuality.

Amnesty International has asked concerned individuals to write Turkish officials and demand Demir's immediate and unconditional release. Letters can be sent to Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz, Office of the Prime Minister, Basbakanlik, 06573 Ankara, Turkey. A copy should be sent to Ambassador Nuzhet Kandemir, Embassy of the Republic of Turkey, 1714 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20036.

A female graduate student at the University of California at Santa Barbara with a long history of interest in transvestism is looking for volunteers for a survey.

Diane Wysocki, the former proprietor of a mail order lingerie business called Boys Will Be Girls, is working on her masters thesis on crossdressing at UCSB.

Those wishing to participate may write her at the Department of Sociology, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106.



# THE **ICONOCLAST**™

JoAnn Roberts

DECATUR, GA. - Do the right thing... It would be so easy just to keep their mouths shut, but **Dallas Denny** and the rest of the folks at **AEGIS** have to look at themselves in the mirror every morning.

**AEGIS** has released a *Medical Advisory Bulletin* in which they state that "an organized group is forging referral letters and HIV test results for..." helping self-diagnosed transsexuals obtain surgery. I'm not surprised. It happens frequently. I was even once approached to sign a letter approving surgery simply because of my degree.

I agree with **AEGIS**, this practice is not only unethical and illegal, it's also extremely dangerous. There is a report of at least three HIV positive individuals who obtained surgery through this route.

**AEGIS** recommends that service providers obtain a consent for release of information from the surgical candidate and then check the validity of their paperwork.

▼ ▲ ▼

SAN ANTONIO, TEX. - It's not for me, but it might be for you...

The **Boulton & Park Society** is pushing ahead with its **Transgender Research Project** despite some obvious flaws in the data collection process.

To date, **B&P** has received 150 responses. Their goal is 1000 usable responses, with 500 as a minimum. The plan is to do a statistical analysis of the responses, write a paper, submit it for publication in a refereed journal and send it to the **American Psychiatric Association**, the organization that publishes the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-III-R)* you've been hearing so much about lately.

I don't think that a self-administered survey is going to change any minds on the **DSM-IV** committee, especially since they don't believe we're mentally ill to begin with.

Then there's the **World Health Organization**, that publishes the *International Compendium of Diseases (ICD)*. The **ICD** is used throughout the world, and the latest version still lists transvestism and transsexualism as gender disorders." (See *RN* July '91)

However, if you wish to participate in the survey, write to **B&P** at P.O. Box 700042, San Antonio, TX 78270-0042 and request a form.

▼ ▲ ▼

NAPA, CALIF. - It should be **HAL** not **GAL**...

It looks like the **Gender Alternatives League** is rapidly losing what little support it claimed to have initially. At least three prominent and well-known members of the so-called Advisory Committee have resigned in the last month.

Leading off the exodus was **Miss Phaedra Kelly**, who blasted **GAL** executive director **Cynthia Howard**, charging that Howard had rearranged a personal letter to make it look like **Miss Kelly** unconditionally supported **GAL**.

Following **Miss Kelly** was **Dr. Roger Peo**, well known for his column "Roger's Notebook," which normally appears first in *Cross-Talk* and *Our Special Joy*. (Peo has given permission to reprint column #63 in this issue of *RN*.) Peo noted, "As I have followed (**GAL**'s) activities and have yet to be asked for any advice, I have resigned."

The third person to quit the league is **Dallas Denny** of **AEGIS**, who also claims that Howard has never asked her for any advice nor responded to her suggestions.

Oh yes, **HAL** might stand for the **Howard Avoidance League**.

▼ ▲ ▼

INDIANAPOLIS, IND. - "Illegitimus Non Carborundum"...

I'm not the only iconoclast in the community. The pundits at the **Indiana Crossdressers Society (IXS)** took a pot-shot at **GAL** in their

December newsletter.

The story "Another New PAC for Gender People," described a not-for-profit political action committee, **GALA**, the **Gender Alternatives League Alternative**, dedicated to effecting federal legislation that would require **TV/TS** support groups to be fun. The story goes on to say **GALA** was formed because what the gender community needed was yet another national organization. The **GALA** motto is, "WE DON'T NEED MORE RIGHTS - WE JUST NEED MORE FUN."

And just so their newsletter editor doesn't run afoul of the **Society for the Prevention of Stupid News Stories** ("Iconoclast," Aug. '91), they have instituted a screwing system for their stories. One screw means the story is true. Two screws are for local interest only. Three screws means the article is a parody or satire. Four screws means the article is "wacko."

The **GALA** piece was rated three-screws.

▼ ▲ ▼

DENVER, COLO. - She's got the right idea...

I was surprised to see a letter by **Janet Christon**, former editor/publisher of the now defunct *Gender Expressions*, in the *GIC Journal* (**Gender Identity Center**).

**Christon** writes that she sees abortion and **SRS** as different sides to the same issue; who controls your body? She says that society has invested a particular lump of flesh (the penis) with a value far above its actual worth. Where, she wants to know, is the hidden agenda and why are we afraid to ask questions about the *Standards of Care*.

Well, **Janet**, there are some who are not afraid to ask questions. I recommend that anyone who is interested in seeing the **Benjamin Standards** revised or replaced to contact **AEGIS** at P.O. Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033-0724. One of



# THE **JoAnn Roberts**™ ICONOCLAST

their projects is to draft a new set of standards for transsexual care.

▼ ▲ ▼

HARTFORD, CONN. - Some people have no compassion nor empathy...

The latest edition of *TWENTY*, the newsletter of **The XX Club, Inc.**, continues to provide excellent articles, so I guess the first issue was no fluke and we can expect this high standard to be maintained.

This issue has a letter from **Vicki F.**, acting spokesperson of **Crossroads of Buffalo**, criticizing a talk radio appearance by **Caroline Cossey** (a.k.a. Tula). The group is also angry that she appeared in *Playboy* (sour grapes?)

Vicki says, "If Tula wishes to speak out for us, she could become more educated on current happenings in and around the issue and help us instead of creating more confusion about the subject."

Which just goes to show how ignorant Vicki is when it comes to the general treatment of transsexuals around the world. Just across the border from Buffalo, in Canada, transsexuals cannot change their birth certificates, nor can they legally marry. This is the situation in most European countries and it is this reason that Tula went to the world court.

In addition, it should be noted that Tula has never been part of the "gender community" as we know it, but she is learning.

So, perhaps Vicki should have offered to educate Tula about who we are instead of playing the typical ego-centric American, who thinks the world revolves around what we do in this country.

▼ ▲ ▼

ANAHEIM, CALIF. - One point of view...

A year or so ago, then president **Joan**, of the **Powder Puffs of Orange County**, led a push to make PPOC a chapter of the **Society for the Second Self** (Tri-Ess). The

move was soundly defeated by the membership and that was the end of the discussion. Or was it?

Apparently not, since once again the leadership of PPOC is talking about Tri-Ess chapterhood once again. Why? Because, they say, they need a "strong national organization" to help them reach acceptance. So what is Renaissance? Chopped liver? I wrote explaining our Affiliate Program, but have had no reply to date. We'll see.

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HOUSTON, TEX. - THE one thing to do in '92...

Is beat the **International Foundation for Gender Education** *Coming Together* convention. I know things are tough all over, and money is tight, very tight. So, you're going to have to choose very carefully what events you attend this year. I strongly urge you to make the IFGE convention April 6-12.

Because Houston is so accessible from either coast, I think this will be one of the largest gatherings yet. This convention is not a "fun 'n games" event (not that there's anything wrong with fun); it's the one time each year that the community gathers to conduct "business" rather than pleasure. I'm particularly interested in the conference on transgender law being put together by **Phyllis Frye**.

You betta be dere!

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NEW YORK, NY. - One for our side...

The December issue of *Mirabella* magazine carried an article titled *Gender Bending* that was about transvestites and crossdressing. While I wasn't crazy about the title, the article presented an extremely positive view of transvestites. The article even mentioned *Renaissance News*, *Tapestry* and the *GIC* news.

The author, **B. Ruby Rich** drew much of her material from a new book, *Vested Interests: Cross-Dressing and Cultural Anxiety*, by Har-

vard professor **Marjorie Garber**.

Garber says the scandal of transvestism is, "...it tells the truth about gender." Rich says, "It's a truth that may not be entirely welcome. Gender bending challenges long assumed roles; it ripples through individual identities like a psychic earthquake." "Which is why," Garber adds, "we cannot look it in the face." Garber's book can be ordered from most bookstores. The publisher is Rout; cost is \$35.

I sent a letter of praise to **Gay Bryant**, editor-in-chief, along with a copy of *RN*, our introductory brochure, and the Bill of Gender Rights. I received a brief thank-you-for-writing-form letter from Bryant and written in her own hand on the bottom was "Thank you for the enclosures. Interesting read!!!"

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NEW YORK, N.Y. - And one for their side...

The December issue of *GQ* carried an article by **John Tayman** titled *Sex Change Capital of America* about **Dr. Stanley Biber** and **Trinidad, Colo.**

I couldn't figure out the point of the article. Was it about Trinidad? Was it about Biber? Was it about Biber vs. the mayor of Trinidad. Or, was it about sex change surgery in Trinidad. Whatever it was supposed to be about, it wasn't very flattering to anybody, least of all the transsexuals who go there for surgery.

Tayman was incredibly insensitive to the transsexual that he interviewed for the article, and Biber claims that Tayman misquoted him several times.

It is rumored that ABC television is interested in doing a piece to rebut Tayman's view of Trinidad.

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NOTA BENE - The opinions expressed here are mine and mine alone. If you have a comment, positive or negative, write me at PO Box 61263, KofP, PA 19406-1263.



# Getting paid for being in drag

(continued from page 5)

AG: Well, all right, I confess. I did wiggle a little when I crossed the street outside the club on my way to the coffee truck. I couldn't help it.

RN: How did the rest of the day go? How long was it?

AG: I arrived at the set a 10:30 in the morning. As soon as I got to the dressing room, I shaved and made up. We didn't start working in the club until 1:30 or 2:00. We only did the scene five or six times, and then they said I should change back into my men's clothes for use as a background character in another scene later that night. But it was pretty late by the time they got to that location, and so they released me for the day. It was a little disappointing since it would have been cool to appear on the show twice, once feminine and then masculine.

RN: Any other exciting show biz anecdotes you'd like to impress, cops, share with our readers?

AG: There was one thing that I thought was kind of wild. The second location we moved to was a mannequin sales place on 29th Street. I had changed to male clothes, and since it was just around the block from the Ballroom, we walked over. As we turned the corner, I noticed a German restaurant across the street, it was Zum Edelweiss, the home of New York's best-known crossdressing nightclub, Club Edelweiss.

RN: Did you stop in?

AG: No, it was after 4:30. They had stopped serving schnitzel, and the club didn't open 'til nine or ten, so I just genuflected as I passed the door.

Oops, I gotta go now. I'm supposed to be passing out candy canes here, and these kids are getting hyperactive from the sugar. Bye.

RN: Well, there you have it; while shooting a drag part in New York, Angela finds herself on the same

block as the city's most famous drag bar. Coincidence, synchronicity, or psychic (psychotic?) transvestite plot? You decide.

## No bad guys or good girls

(continued from page 12)

situation we are in today has taken a long time to develop. There are many people who will fight you every step of the way because they are frightened by sexuality. In the end, if you succeed, our society can be a better and a healthier place.

☞If you have something you would like Dr. Peo to write about or have a rebuttal, send it to P.O. Box 4887, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602, or call (914) [REDACTED]. All communications are confidential. Your thoughts on this topic are also welcome by RN.



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