

CROSS-TALK

The Transgendered Community's Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 1992
(ISSUE #38)



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SAN FRANCISCO

Five of the eleven gender community support groups comprising the South-central Transgender Alliance Region (STAR) have begun a membership exchange program called the STAR Connection.

The five groups -- Boulton & Park Society of San Antonio, TX; Eta Tau Chapter Tri-Ess of Austin/San Antonio, TX; Sigma Beta Chapter Tri-Ess of Oklahoma City, OK; Tau Chi Chapter Tri-Ess of Houston, TX; and Tri-Plex Gender Association of Waco, TX -- elected to get the program going in order to encourage people to visit with other groups within the region.

The program facilitates the traditional "screening" process by providing a means to validate the individual wishing to attend a meeting. Such an individual need only call the participating organization and give the name and membership number on their own organization membership card. The information can then be validated from a list of names and numbers provided by each participating group to the other groups.

STAR Connection hopes to expand throughout the states of Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and New Mexico in the future.



"California Dreamin'" chairwoman Joan Goodnight has responded in print to numerous allegations in various gender community newsletters that the event coincided with a convention of California Highway Patrol officers.

In the most recent issue of the Powder Puffs of Orange County newsletter "Girl Talk", Goodnight acknowledged the presence of the officers, adding that they had been brought in from other parts of the state to provide police escorts to various fire departments during the civil disturbance taking place approximately 30 miles away in the South-Central region of Los Angeles. Goodnight pointed out that "if it wasn't for the civil disturbance ... there wouldn't have been any reason for the officers to be there at the same time as we were."

Goodnight went on to say that the "Dreamin" steering committee would never be so insensitive as to

schedule the event to coincide with a policeman's convention, and reported that several of the officers camped outside the banquet room doors -- left open for them to enjoy the entertainment -- during the Saturday night performance of "Steppin' Out" and reacted with enthusiastic applause.



The International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) provided an information booth and workshop at the annual convention of the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors, and Therapists (AASECT) in Orlando, FL in early June.

Among the speakers for IFGE was "Cross-Talk" columnist, Tri-Ess national board member, and Eta Tau/HTGA co-founder Cynthia Phillips and her husband, Linda. It was the first year IFGE had been invited by AASECT to provide information on TV and TS issues.



Dates for the annual "Texas 'T' Party" in San Antonio, TX have been set by sponsoring organization Boulton and Park Society.

This year's event, nicknamed "Tea for Two", will be held February 26 through 28, 1993, and will return to the Seven Oaks Hotel, where it was originally held five years ago. Although the event will be largely oriented toward couples and family, event organizers promise a variety of activities for singles and married folks attending without their spouse. A complete listing of seminars is expected within the next month.

The event will be preceded by the "Informal Texas 'T' Party", beginning on February 22, for those who want to spend an entire week in San Antonio.



"Our Sorority", which for many years was the official non-helping professional publication of the Outreach Institute, has ceased publication.

Publisher Betty Ann Lind, in a letter sent to subscribers, indicated that with 1992 income down, Outreach notified her that they could no longer cover deficiencies between the cost of printing and

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NEWSWIRE ... continued

distributing the magazine and revenue from subscriptions and advertising. Lind had published the last several issues of "Our Sorority" at a loss.



Final negotiations have been completed regarding the site of the 1993 International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) convention in Philadelphia, PA.

The Hilton Hotel and Towers in Center City (formerly the Philadelphia Hershey Hotel) has been confirmed as the venue for the five-day-long convention that begins March 17. The national Renaissance Education Association and its three chapters (Greater Philadelphia, Lower Susquehanna Valley, and South Jersey) will act as host organization for the 1993 convention.

Alison Laing, IFGE host organization coordinator, said an attendance approaching 250 is expected, with several program "tracks" planned to serve the needs of crossdressers, M2F transsexuals, F2M transsexuals, spouses of crossdressers, and professionals. Laing said prominent persons both in the gender community and in related areas would be featured as luncheon and session speakers.

Renaissance has already formed a committee to plan social events to complement the workshops and banquets.



The formation of a regional wives' support group serving California and other western states has been announced by Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess) executive director Carol Becroft.

Tri Chi Chapter is heading up the plans for development of the group, Becroft said, adding that approximately 20 wives and girlfriends have already signed up for a planned October conference to be held in San Francisco. Becroft said partners would not need to belong to Tri-Ess in order to participate in either the regional group or the conference.

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KYMBERLEIGH'S CLIPBOARD

--- *KyMBERleigh Richards*

I have seen our community get into an uproar over some pretty inconsequential matters in the past, but never have I seen so many people get so agitated over a decision than I have over the decision to make this year's "Texas 'T' Party" into more of a couples/partners-oriented event.

The announcement that the 1993 edition would encourage the participation of wives and girlfriends caused immediate outraged cries of "foul" from those who jumped to the conclusion that non-partnered crossdressers would no longer be welcome. (To put some of the blame where it is due, it didn't help much that Boulton & Park's "advance registration form", issued one month after the 1992 "Party" did not contain an option for single attendees to pre-register, and came with an admonition that "you've got a year to find yourself a partner and talk them into attending with you".)

There are two philosophies underlying the comments of the outraged that they should be ashamed of themselves for subscribing to. First, that they would expect an event that is essentially put together by Linda and Cynthia Phillips -- probably our community's best known husband-and-wife team -- would NOT be oriented toward couples; and second, that our community does not need or deserve a couples-oriented event.

We (the transgendered community) have spent a great deal of time and effort trying to get better acceptance from our families, friends, and loved ones. It is our need for this acceptance that has resulted in Tri-Ess offering full membership to wives and partners, that has created wives' discussion groups in a growing number of our community's support groups, and makes workshops on partners' concerns (many if which are given by the Phillipses) mandatory at our community's events.

So WHY, when the event coordinated by the best qualified pair to run a couples-oriented function decides to move more strongly in that direction, does everyone cry "foul"?

My best guess is that such an event conflicts with the pervading mentality that our community's events are an excuse to dress up in our trashiest outfits and parade around in a hotel to "show off" to the unsuspecting guests of the hotel and to each other. Well, I have a shock for you: These events are NOT designed to be a larger version of whatever crossdresser bar you hang out at. (I suspect that is also the reason for the newly-adopted policy for the 1993 "Party" banning fetishistic or exhibitionist dress and behavior.) These events are designed to give you an opportunity to express yourself, to learn how to express and understand yourself better, and to show by example to the public you meet at these events that crossdressing DOES NOT equal "drag queen" ... it means a lady who happens to be a male instead of a female.

Much as I hate to set myself up as an example (because doing so runs the risk of sounding like

pontificating): At this past year's "California Dreamin'", I attended the Saturday evening banquet in a grey satin jumpsuit with a black belt and plain, black high-heel pumps. Several of the crossdressed attendees indicated to me that they considered me to be "hopelessly" underdressed (they were in flamboyant gowns and 5" high-heel sandals), yet two of the female vendors there thought I looked wonderful. One pointed out that she was herself wearing a dressy pantsuit and low heel pumps, and said that if this had been a "mainstream" event (and me a "real" girl), I would have been considered perfectly dressed for an evening banquet.

The problem is that our frequently over-exaggerated image of femininity conflicts with reality when placed in a more mainstream setting such as these events. And it's very difficult to explain that to someone whose whole crossdressing existence centers around dressing in a more flamboyant manner.

So I guess this poor little transgenderist, whose day-to-day existence of living fully as a woman has given her a better understanding of what REALLY dressing feminine means (and believe me, sometimes jeans are every bit as feminine as a skirt) will have to smile sweetly and bear the comments of those who think she's underdressed, knowing deep inside that it is the other party who has erred, not she.

But I can ... and do ... commend the Phillipses for possibly being the most committed realists in this community. I wish we had more like them.

COGITO ERGO FEM

--- *Anne Blackwood*

I just turned off the television having last watched "Pacesetters", a local program which KCAL uses to fulfill it's community service obligation to the FCC. The show is hosted by Ray Gonzales and the guest was Paul Rodriguez (the stand up comic and bilingual variety show host). So, what do a couple of Chicanos have to do with the TV community? Well, I'll tell you.

Ray was conducting a routine sort of interview of a celebrity, catching up with Paul since his last appearance on the show. "Blah blah blah, and yadda yadda yadda ... I was the first Chicano to host a ➡

NATIONAL HOTLINES INFORMATION

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game show (The Newlywed Game) ...et cetera et cetera." As the show progressed Paul became more outspoken. He said to call or write the networks and "tell them that you want to see more Chicanos on TV." But it was his follow up statement that caught my attention, he said that the Hispanic community was too passive. He said that the Hispanic community could learn from the Black community and their advocacy and outspoken nature. He said that the Hispanic community was too inclined to accept things as they are, that they would complain but would not act.

Sound familiar? Do you like the status quo? Do you like scurrying about in the shadows hoping that no one will notice you? Are you upset when a television programs treat us as objects of derision? Do you do anything about it? I thought not.

In the January '91 "S.O. There!" column the writer discussed the phenomenon of adolescent behavior in TVs at much later ages than such behavior is normally observed or tolerated. The author was trying to be understanding where I would not be.

I am a transvestite. I am not a transtemporal. I change clothes. I do not change age (the fact that I have never acted my age not withstanding). I am an adult. When I change clothing I remain an adult. I cannot for the life of me comprehend how (or why) a middle aged man can put on a dress and start acting like a teeny-bopper. Except ...

I am appalled by the pervasive lack of understanding of womanhood in these communities. The macho game of proving one's manhood becomes inverted into one of putting on a dress and proving one's womanhood. Both of these behaviors involve playing out stereotypes and have nothing whatsoever to do with being a man or being a woman. The stereotype giggly air head is one which women find offensive, and rightfully so.

Is our community passive because it thinks that passivity is a feminine trait? Do we not act because, "women don't do that sort of thing"? Bullshit. If women didn't act they would not be voting today. If

women did not act they'd all be in the kitchen, barefoot and pregnant. So where did you get the notion that all women had to do was sit home and decide what color to paint their nails? Beats the hell out of me.

If you're in puberty and happen to be a TV then it is perfectly all right to act like a girl when you crossdress (but does your father know you're reading his copy of "Cross-Talk"? Get your own subscription!). But if you're thirty-seven, as I am, what the hell are you doing acting that way when you put on a skirt? If your wife acted that way you'd call for the men in white. One does not need to reiterate the maturation process in crossdressing. If you're an adult act like an adult. Wear a suit, wear a skirt, act like an adult (notice I do not say, "act your age").

If we are going to complain (much less act) about the stereotyped image of the TV then we must ourselves be unwilling to engage in promoting stereotyped images of women. If we are to attain acceptance from women then we must not accept stereotyped images of women. Who says women can't be firefighters? Who says women can't be police officers? Who says women can't be doctors or lawyers or Governors? Wake up! Who says women act like airheads? So why imply those things when you crossdress.

Women are not any more passive than men. Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) was started by a mother (and last I heard only women could fill that office). NOW was started by women. Women often choose to get involved in different issues than men. Women often choose different strategies in dealing with those issues than men. So what is your excuse for not writing that letter to say, "We want to see TVs with dignity on TV"?

VOX POPULI

--- Letters to the editor & guest commentary

Re: IFGE vs. Congress of Representatives (COR) debate ("Newswire", July '92): I keep hoping you will use your newsletter to help heal the wounds of our communities, and help promote cooperative action for the benefit of all. But, you keep disappointing me by publishing garbage like this.

I choose not to interpret the private objectives of the author of this piece of destructive trash. Who could possibly benefit by going public with IFGE's private internal business, and do so by telling a series of lies and distortions? Who could benefit by repeating those lies and distortions?

I've numbered nine of those lies and distortions.

#1: "The Congress avoided a takeover orchestrated by Merissa." This is a lie. There was no takeover to avoid. At no time was I or IFGE interested in taking over the Congress.

#2: "Lynn proposed the COR be made a standing committee." This is a distortion. I proposed IFGE form a COR standing committee, not that the Congress becomes (sic) the standing committee. The standing committee would oversee IFGE's activities in regards to the Congress, and provide the Congress with a direct pipeline to the IFGE Board. The committee would have been chaired by a Board member, ➡

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because only a Board member can make proposals and recommendations to the Board. The only involvement the Congress would have had with this committee is to use it as a means to make proposals and recommendations to the IFGE Board. The chairperson of the committee would have been the Congress' liaison to the board. My proposal was tabled, and that was that.

#3: "Laing and Roberts proposed the creation of the Congress." This is a lie. Alison and JoAnn may have been present at the original discussions, but the people responsible for the creation of the Congress were Josephine Williamson (M.O.R.E.), Diane Ingram (Alpha Zeta), and Tammi McIntyre (Crossroads). Give proper credit where proper credit is due.

#4: "Any action would be non-binding since the Board had no authority over the Congress." This is a distortion. The business discussed had to do with IFGE's involvement, and the continuation of IFGE's financial and logistical support. It had nothing what-so-ever to do with the Congress' internal affairs.

#5: "Lynn proposed a definition of membership." This is a distortion. My proposal had nothing to do with putting the Congress under IFGE's thumb, and everything to do with giving the Congress a means to vote for IFGE's board. The whole issue was dealt with in a different way, and dropped.

#6: "Lynn withdrew her proposal to make the Congress a committee of the Board." This is a lie. I did make a proposal, but that wasn't it. For four years IFGE has been providing financial and logistical support to the Congress, and had been doing so without a policy or authorization. My proposal had everything to do with passing a policy so we could continue providing that all-important financial and logistical support, and nothing to do with making the Congress a committee. My proposal was tabled, and so was our ability to provide financial and logistical support.

#7: "Lynn attempted to block Laing from addressing the Board ..." That's a lie. I did want Alison to speak, but at the proper time, and with the proper recognition from the Chair.

#8: "... by stating the COR has no status with IFGE." This is a distortion on top of a lie. The Congress had no constitution, or by-laws, or structure, and IFGE had no policy. Therefore, the Congress had no status, and it was up to IFGE and the Congress to create one. However, the Congress did have an identity and some history, and that was a start. Under no circumstances was it to be implied the Congress did not exist, only that it did not have its act together, and neither did IFGE in regards to the Congress.

#9: "Laing suggested IFGE appoint a Board member as liaison to the Congress." This is a distortion. First, Alison wanted Sheila Kirk to serve as liaison, not just any old Board member. Sheila already is the full-time director of IFGE's medical and research department, conducting her own research project, and serving on the Executive Committee. She could not also serve a liaison. Second, the job of liaison was bigger than one person could handle. The idea was to provide the Congress with access to both the Board and the IFGE headquarters. If the Board had

approved a standing committee, the chairman of that committee would serve as liaison to the Board. In addition, for the last four years IFGE has had a staff COR coordinator. That coordinator would continue to serve as liaison to IFGE's national headquarters (to operations, to the people who would provide the financial and logistical support).

A well organized and effective Congress of Representatives is extremely important. In fact, it is the key to the development of our community. There are many wonderful people from both IFGE and the Congress working very hard to make the Congress work. Publishing destructive items like this undermines their efforts, and divides our community. Please, I'm pleading with you, use your newsletter in a good way.

--Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Executive Director,
International Foundation for Gender Education
(IFGE), Waltham MA

[Editor's Reply:] IFGE did not see fit to issue a press statement regarding the controversy that erupted between the Congress and the IFGE Board at the April convention. In the absence of an official statement, "Cross-Talk" opted to publish a condensed version of the report that appeared in "Renaissance News" (as we -- and many other gender community publications -- frequently do when no other version of a story is available). The story we condensed was written by Renaissance members who were present at both the Congress and Board meetings, and we had no reason to doubt that it was an accurate account. Ms. Lynn obviously disagrees.

I disagree with the description of this matter as "IFGE internal business". Both the COR and IFGE Board of Directors meetings are open sessions, and anyone may attend (to the best of my knowledge this matter was not discussed in closed session). Thus it is inappropriate to cry "foul" by claiming "internal business".



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VOX POPULI ... continued

"Vox Populi" was created in order to promote better discussion of issues of concern to our community. Thus I feel that providing a means for this dialogue to take place does more to "heal the wounds of our community" than would ignoring the issue altogether ... which, in the absence of any official statement for IFGE until now, would have been our only other option.

If IFGE is committed to making the COR work as a community resource, then I hope it will do a better job of releasing information concerning the Congress in the future than it has in the past four years. That would REALLY "promote cooperative action for the benefit of all". -- KMR

Re: "Kymberleigh's Clipboard", June '92: I enjoyed your publication more when you wrote about the good AND the bad about the gender community. I enjoyed the biting political discussions about intra-gender community debates, discussions/in-fighting, etc. Please return to your previous policy. As a dissatisfied reader of ETV's newsletter, I hate the "goody-goody" stuff.

-- Denise Weiss, San Francisco CA

Re: "Terminology for the Crossdressing Community" (January '92): [Editor's Note: "Cross-Talk" subscriber Mary Ann Harris put an e-mail notice on the "TransGen" section of the "UseNet" BBS regarding the proposed term "bigendered" and has forwarded the resulting discussion:]

I'm not sure "bigenderist" really applies to all of us, though I could see calling myself "bigendered". (A psychiatrist who heard a description of me called me "bisexual" in the sense of "being both sexes", as opposed to "attracted to both sexes".) I'll have to think on it more.

-- D. Glenn Arthur Jr.

Bigendered. That's an interesting term and I think I like it. I feel that I fall right in the middle of things anyway. Might be a good way of describing why

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though I am physically male I feel and think female so often. I think I'll probably use it if I get the nerve. A thought though: On forms, should I check both boxes or add one (M[] F[] B[])? It's a Brave New World!

-- Brenda Bates

I don't know about the "new" term. I haven't read anything on this list that convinces me that one single term covers all of us. I feel a lot in common with the likes of Peggy and Chelsea, but we have different outlooks, goals, virtual reality (I like that term) AND we manifest all that in different ways. The other reason I'm not too sure about an umbrella term, is that we all resist firm labels, because none of us will stay in any one label all the time. On the other hand, I do think we need something to anchor our commonalities, and to "unify" our cause (if cause it be). Marge, Jennifer and I may not share much, but we share a sisterhood, and (speaking for me) we rely on one another. So, in the name of unity of our brothers, sisters and those in transition, I would endorse "bigender" as an umbrella, with the understanding that there are variations, just as there are dialects in language.

-- Arianna

Inventing the term covering all of us will be definitely difficult; what will be in common with both the closet underwear fetishistic TV and the TS? The only common may be that both are facing more or less societal unacceptance. But still even both ends of the spectrum do not have nearly anything common; there are many in-between that have common with least one end. Many, even most TSs first think that they are TVs before they can work out their internal feelings, and some TVFs [Transvestite Fetishist -- Ed.] will develop more dress sense and come out from the closet. Comments to terms ... "Crossdresser": The all-encompassing common thing is crossdressing, it fits TVs and TVFs, but TG and TS are much more; crossdressing is only a way to express their gender identity. "Bigender": Does a TVF have any female gender side, or is it just a sexual thing? Does a post-op TS have any male gender left? The terms "transvestite" and "she-male" both target to one specific subgroup, so they are not good as generic terms for all of the community. The term that I like more is "gender community"; it just points out that this has something to do with gender expression (TV) or gender identity and gender role (TS, TG). It may be that it does not fit as well to TVFs but I still think that it is the best term.

-- Kate

I have one nit to pick, Kate. I believe that "gender community" is a fine "blanket" term for those who are more or less "out of the closet" and in contact with others out there. But I don't think it applies to someone who dresses in the closet, and has had no contact with our community. The community may be embraced with open arms upon discovery, or may be shunned if they fear exposure. Using that term would exclude these people. They may be ignorant of us, or deny us, but we don't want to do the same to them with our vocabulary. What is needed is a term that somehow manages to encompass all of us, without giving any connotations of some ➡

VOX POPULI ... continued

particular sub-group. "Bigendered" may not apply to post-op transsexuals who do not want any reminder of the body they once wore.

-- Marge

I agree with both of you, now, that there can really be no single term applied to everyone in any of the categories. Like I did say, it's very hard to even pin down one person into any one category. Like me: While I'm a closet TV now, given the right set of circumstances, I could just as well be on my way to SRS, and crossing several categories on the way.

-- Arianna

Transsexualism is a disorder. Whether it belongs in a manual on mental disorders or physical ones remains to be debated. The fact is that there is a definite and distinct problem requiring a surgical correction. Perhaps it should be placed in both categories in the DSM-IV when it is issued, so that it can be recognized as a problem even when there are other problems clouding the issue (like many of the side disorders TS suffer, including depression) and so that it can be dealt with properly and recognized as a problem and given proper treatment. Putting it in a manual of physical disorders is questionable. Perhaps, so that training in proper hormonal and surgical corrections become widespread, but it will still need the assistance of a psychiatrist to probe the motivation to insure that it is transsexualism and not a TV carried away or a homosexual unable to accept their homosexuality.

-- Danielle

We believe that any group of people has the right to call themselves what they wish. Ms. Prince has made a strong case. Do you think of yourself as a "bigenderist?"

I have a big problem with the polarity of such a term. I do not believe that there are merely two genders so I would rather avoid the implication. I would prefer a term for myself which implies transcending of gender, personally.

-- Julie

I didn't want to bias others with my opinion on this, so I've waited to reply. Now that the discussion seems to have died out, here's my two cents worth. Ms. Prince has proposed the terms "Bigenderist" and

"Bigenderal". Presumably these are intended to be nouns: "I am a bigenderist" or "I am bigenderal". I like the concept of emphasizing both genders, but the words themselves seem a big difficult to use. On the other hand, the adjective "Bigendered" has a very nice ring to it: "I am bigendered". I like that term. As a crossdresser, or transvestite, or bigendered person, I am comfortable with it. If you must turn it into a noun, I suppose "bigenderist" is OK, although I like the sound of the adjective better. However, does this apply to the rest of, in Ms. Prince's words, "our community"? Well, I'm not sure which community she is referring to. As founder of Tri-Ess, perhaps she is referring to the Tri-Ess community, which is for heterosexual crossdressers only. It seems to fit them fairly well. But Tri-Ess has recently (and wisely) granted full membership rights to wives, and I am not sure a crossdresser's wife considers herself "bigendered". When I think of "our community", I think of the broader community commonly known as the "gender community". This includes crossdressers, transgenderists, transsexuals, significant others, and helping professionals. I wonder if they all consider themselves to be "bigendered"? I think the term fits crossdressers perfectly. However, I am under the impression that transgenderists and transsexuals feel they have only one gender, the one that does not match their birth sex. Significant others and helping professionals are generally not bigendered either, having the traditional match of gender and sex. I do think we need a name for our community. ➡

"VOX POPULI" is your opportunity to comment on issues of importance to the national gender community or to respond to editorials and articles appearing in "Cross-Talk".

You may write us at P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365, fax us at (818) 347-4190, or send us e-mail through the "Cross-Connection" BBS.

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EDITOR & PUBLISHER: Kymberleigh Richards

CONTRIBUTING REGULAR COLUMNISTS: Anne Blackwood, Paul Hanson, Ricky Hunt, Roger Peo Ph.D., Cynthia Phillips, Lynette Tavener.

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS THIS ISSUE: Pamela Barnett, Nicole Phillips.

CONTRIBUTING CARTOONISTS: Sherri Belmar, Kym & Beppi, Kay Lightner, Karen Ann Michaels, Lyn T.

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS THIS ISSUE: Boutlon & Park Society, Neutral Corner, Powder Puffs of Orange County, Swan's Inner Sorority.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT: Trish Anderson.

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SAN FRANCISCO

In the NewsQueen's fast-paced world, news stories often out race our monthly publication schedule. So it is necessary to update our loyal readers on previously reported items. (Hey, even the "Weekly World News" tells you where Elvis was last seen.)

Remember the scare over silicone gel breast implants? One of the health hazards that prompted the federal Food and Drug Administration to remove them from the market was the fear that women with breast implants had a higher incidence of breast cancer, possibly because the implants made early detection of the cancer more difficult. Now from Canada comes news that women with breast implants may actually have a reduced risk of breast cancer.

Researchers working for the Alberta Cancer Board did not claim that the silicone implants protected women from breast cancer, but they reported that among nearly 12,000 women studied who had received implants, only 41 later developed breast cancer. The researchers had expected 86 cancer cases among the women.

Regardless, the FDA ban on silicone gel implants remains in effect except for reconstructive surgery.



Another update from the medical front... For those of you who may want to astound your friends and amaze your coworkers, here are details on how Filipino Edwin Bayron so convincingly faked the pregnancy that garnered him headlines around the world.

Dr. Clarita Paggao said that Bayron used his knowledge as a nurse and a lot of practice to fool doctors and the Philippine health minister. For one, she said, Bayron invented his medical history; he is not a hermaphrodite. Secondly, he skewed the urine test by substituting a pregnant women's urine from his own. Thirdly, Paggao said, hormone injections and muscle control may explain how Bayron faked the movements of a fetus inside his enlarged belly. But Paggao was unable to explain the ultrasound test that she administered and which she said confirmed

VOX POPULI ... continued

"The gender community" works but it's not obvious to a layperson what it means. The Gender Alternatives League proposes we all be called "genderists", which is a term I am not comfortable with at all. Personally, I like the term "transgender", as in "transgendered community", "transgendered", and "transgenderist". The latter term has already been given a rather specific meaning, unfortunately, which is different from what is needed here: "a member of the transgender community". I suppose there's always "transgendered person".

-- Mary Ann Harris, Reynoldsburg, OH

that Bayron's "baby" was a boy. After the hoax was exposed, Bayron disappeared and has not been heard of since.



Griselda Simba Serengeti isn't likely to fade from the scene after her moment of notoriety ... she was named the new Miss Gay Universe in a contest for Filipino female impersonators in San Francisco.

This was a drag show with a difference. Unlike shows in other ethnic communities, the Filipino contests often involve the contestants' families and sometimes the entire community. Observers say that this is partly because drag shows are family entertainment, much like American burlesque theater in the 1920s. Drag is also closely associated with being gay in Filipino culture, so much so that gay men who don't crossdress are prone to be the subject of gossip, and viewed with suspicion because they violate the stereotype.



Here's an update with a happy ending. Sarah Luiz is now a woman. The transsexual who began her transition with the help of Blue Cross but who seriously contemplated suicide after the health insurance company told her it would not pay for the operation, has had her surgery in Trinidad, Colo.

After Sarah went public with her story in 1988, an anonymous New York businessman offered to pay for her sex change at Mount San Rafael Hospital.

"He said he had seen me on 'Larry King Live' and he couldn't put my suffering out of his mind," Sarah said. "There were no strings attached. All he wanted was my promise he would stay totally anonymous."



Earlier, we reported on the mini-scandal surrounding Lady Colin Campbell, the supposedly transsexual biographer of embattled Princess Diana. The Princess Di story continues to take on transgendered overtones.

NBC has purchased the rights to another Diana biography, and recently "People" magazine

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proposed the following casting ideas:

* Dame Edna Everage as the Queen Mother.

* Marilyn Quayle as Prince Charles.

* Hockey star Wayne Gretzky as Princess Di.

Sound far-fetched? Just take a look at photos of the proposed players.



Now for some new celebrity dish...

Teen heart throb Luke Perry from the television show "Beverly Hills 90210" reports that the reason he is so desired by women is that he is in touch with his "feminine side." Sounds nice, but we hear Luke hasn't told the entire story. How did he get in touch with his feminine side? He used to live with a drag queen in Los Angeles before he made it big.

Three years ago, while filming a low-budget movie. Perry roomed with a queen who performs in L.A. clubs under the name Eva Destruction. His real name is Alexis Arquette, brother of Rosanna Arquette and grandson of Cliff Arquette (a.k.a. Charlie Weaver).

Alexis is reportedly thinking of suing The "Globe", the supermarket tabloid that broke the story because it implied that he is laboring in obscurity while his former roommate has made it big. Alexis wants it known that he played a drag queen in the film "Last Exit From Brooklyn" and has a role in an upcoming Fox film "Jumping In The Boneyard".




The "Globe" may soon learn that hell hath no furry like a drag queen crossed. Officials in Birmingham, Ala. may soon learn the same lesson.

Vice cops in Birmingham are threatening to arrest female impersonators who perform at local bars without a license. An old law requires that "adult entertainers" (strippers, male and female impersonators, and the like) obtain a license from the city. Officer John Mohns said that no arrests have been made so far, but as police department manpower permits, cops will be visiting bars checking out the girls' paperwork.

As word of the threatened enforcement spread through the bars' dressing rooms, the license issuing office at City Hall was thronged with drag queens, catching the bureaucrats by surprise and angering the performers.

"I got the impression that the women there looked down on me," said Birmingham impersonator Libertee Belle. "I've seen more professional attitudes from youngsters at a drive-thru."



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And speaking of angry, how do you think Marla Maples, Donald Trump's on-again, off-again main squeeze, felt when she discovered that more than 100 pairs of high heeled shoes had disappeared from the closet of her Trump Parc apartment and that her long-time publicist, Chuck Jones, was the culprit?

After she had trouble finding just the right shoes to wear for a night out with The Donald, Maples installed a hidden video camera outside her bedroom closet. The tape showed Jones sneaking out with pair after pair of heels.

Maples took the tape to police, and when they visited Jones' office to arrest him they found 30 pairs of shoes along with pornographic magazines, including one called "Spike".

Police said Jones had "what do you call it, a fetish."



Police in Damascus, Md., a Washington, D.C. suburb, did not have to search for a word to describe the man who dressed as a woman several months ago for a quick stop at a local bank. They called him a robber.


The man, who was not apprehended, was waiting as employees entered the Citizens Savings Bank to begin their shifts. He threatened the employees with a semi-automatic pistol and collected an undisclosed amount of cash before escaping.

The employees, all women, said the robber was wearing a dress with a scarf tied around his head and sunglasses covering his eyes. While he had no distance masculine characteristics, they said there were certain he was a man.

This was not the first crossdressed bank robbery in Maryland's Montgomery County. In April, a woman, dressed as a man with a moustache drawn in with pencil, held up a bank. She was arrested.



She may fare better than Michael J. McMahon, a convicted armed robber from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

McMahon was sentenced to a 5 to 30 year term in a state prison for a 1990 robbery. A pre-op female-to-male transsexual, McMahon says that being sent to a male prison would be 

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MS. BINTHAR DUNDAT: TIPS ON PASSING TO USE OR NOT TO USE?

compiled by Lynette Tavener

Cosmetic surgery and hormones. Both of these have far reaching effects that not only change your body or face shape but can change your social life, your livelihood, your self esteem and your general levels of physical and mental health. My tips this month relate to aspects that must be considered before you undergo the changes afforded by each of the above.

The main advantage of cosmetic surgery is to your feelings (your self esteem in particular). If you feel discomfort with some aspect of your body or face

NEWSQUEEN ... continued

"unthinkable," and being sent to a woman's prison would be "unbearable." The compromise he proposes? Serving the time in a prison medical center where gender would not be an issue and where he could continue his transition.



We have saved what is perhaps the best for last. With all the gloom and doom often surrounding transgendered persons' relation with society, it is indeed refreshing to hear of a positive program where society makes an earnest effort to help transgendered people. Minneapolis has such a program.

The University of Minnesota has received a nearly \$70,000 grant from the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR) to reduce the risk of AIDS infection among Twin Cities transsexuals and transvestites.

Thought to be the first program of its kind in the nation, the program will provide direct educational services to the target audience as well as work with transgendered organizations.

Walter O. Bockting, coordinator of the Gender Dysphoria Program of the university's human sexuality department, said the AmFAR grant was important because transsexuals and transvestites have largely been ignored by other AIDS-risk reduction programs. "This is an invisible and marginalized group," he said. "It's an oppressed group even within the gay community."

Bockting said transsexuals face a higher risk of AIDS because they may turn to prostitution to pay for sex reassignment surgery. Transvestites, he said, face high risk because they often use prostitutes or meet sexual partners through personal ads or computer bulletin boards.

For more information about this AIDS prevention program, call the university's Program in Human Sexuality at (612) 625-1500.



The NewsQueen's honor roll this month includes Dee Smith of Phoenix, Md. and Jennifer Ann Michaels of Hanover, Pa. Others wishing to achieve this exalted state need only send timely clippings on transgendered issues to the NewsQueen c/o Renaissance, P.O. Box 552, King of Prussia PA 19406. Please note the name and date of publication.

cosmetic surgery is one answer. It works.


TIP 1. My tip here is to make sure that the person, who you get a GP's referral to, is one that has dealt with TV/TS's before and that he/she is also a member of the local Society of Plastic Surgeons. Remember that this surgery involves opening the skin and offers the risk of infection regardless of how good the treatment is.

The advantages of taking hormones are often over-shadowed by their many disadvantages. Hormones reduce your male sex drive, promote risks involving high blood pressure, thrombosis, cancer and major organ failure. They provide you however with a far more female body shape ... which can also be very hard to live with, especially if you intend to remain living in a male role.

TIP 2. My tip, if you are considering hormones, is to wear your padded bra under your male work clothes and go about your normal routine. If you can survive the comments, stares and "two weeks" you just may be able to handle hormones. Just remember that contrary to what many people say the effects of hormones are not completely reversible and you will be left with some changes, mental and physical. Such changes can be extremely difficult to come to grips with and should be considered before starting. I don't recommend the use of hormones to anyone as I feel that each individual should make their own fully informed choice.

If you have any questions you would like answered please write to me c/o "Cross-Talk".

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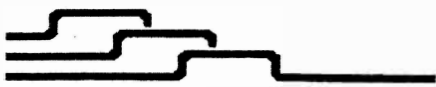
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ROGER'S NOTEBOOK #69
COMMUNICATION INSIGHTS, PART 1

by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

The past three columns were centered around the exploration of masculinity using Robert Bly's "Iron John" as a place to start. Another current book that has several things to say about gender issues is "You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation" by Deborah Tannen. Popular book reviews describe this book as providing new insights into the way men and women talk to each other. While Dr. Tannen's main theme is directed toward the "average" person her observations have significant value to the transgendered person.

To set the stage for the next two columns let me do a brief overview of the book. In later columns I will tie her ideas and observations to the transgender culture.

In the preface of her book, Dr. Tannen writes: "Each person's life is lived as a series of conversations. In this book I listen to the voices of women and men. I make sense of seemingly senseless misunderstandings that haunt our relationships and show that a man and a woman can interpret the same conversation differently even when there is no apparent misunderstanding." The book examines wide-ranging but very common situations in which we interact with people of the same and the other gender. She interprets and evaluates these interchanges in light of her fundamental premise -- women and men live in different cultures. Thus, all communication between them is, in fact, cross-cultural! She believes that this fundamental dissimilarity between women and men is a social construct. From birth onward male and female children are treated differently. This gives rise not only to different conversational styles as she explored in her earlier book "That's Not What I Meant!" but also to a difference in interpretation of the words and phrasing being used.

I have noted in earlier columns and in some of my speaking engagements that the first thing most of us notice about another person is their gender. This is designated by the "uniform" that person wears together with a host of non-verbal cues. To some extent, these cues guide how we interact with that person. Since we use the same language we make the assumption that everybody interprets the words we use in the way we intend them. However, we can all attest to incidents when we thought we were being clear and yet were badly misunderstood.

In many cases, this difficulty can be traced to different cultural translations of the words. This is clear when we are talking to someone from a different country or race because there are many clues to this difference however when talking to a person of the other gender from our own culture, we can lose sight of the fact that their interpretation may be quite different from what we intended.

Dr. Tannen uses many examples from everyday life to expand and illustrate these differences. Perhaps the fundamental concept that she puts forth is that

men use conversations to establish hierarchy while women use conversations to establish intimacy. Thus women and men have different and sometimes subconscious goals for the conversation. When something "goes wrong" both may be at a loss to figure out what happened and so the pattern continues.

I believe that Dr. Tannen's observations apply both to the crossdresser who is talking to his wife and to the transsexual. Next month I will begin exploring these aspects of communication.

[You may contact me at P.O. Box 4887, Poughkeepsie NY 12602 or by phone at (914) 452-8405. All communications are confidential. This column may be reprinted in any non-profit organization's newsletter if my name and address appear in the reprinted version. A copy of such reprints is expected. All others must obtain written approval from me.]

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WHAT IF YOU REALLY CAN'T ACCEPT THIS?

by Cynthia Phillips

Dear Cynthia: Never in my wildest dreams did I ever imagine that my husband was a crossdresser. For 15 years I've cherished his masculinity. That was a very important part of loving my husband. I am not saying now that I do not love him, because I love him more than ever. What I feel now is much anger for not understanding all of this.

All the articles I've read say it takes a "special" person to accept this crossdressing. I am sorry, but I feel less of a person because I have not accepted this about my husband. I don't know if I ever will. I have not turned against him and I don't think I will, but at this point I do not understand the other part of him.

I wish this was not happening to us! I know he has not accepted the full range of all of this himself, so how can I?

When I bring up the subject, he said, "I don't have those feelings now, let's not talk about it." I realize this is very hard on him and I know he wishes this wasn't happening to him, but the fact is -- it is! I've seen his face actually "glow" when he was dressed. I don't know if I will ever accept him being a "her". I want to, because I do believe it means a lot to him, but what happens if I can't?

Right now I feel us drifting apart. We are not as close as we were. I don't know if it's because of me or him!

I don't want to lose him, and he says he wants our marriage and family to survive all of this. I believe he wants to stay married -- but I question why.

He has admitted to the fact that if he were a girl, he probably would be a dyke. What does that mean? Does he love me for me, or because he just wants to be with another woman?

Am I making more out of this than there is? Please help!

-- 'B'

Dear "B": I hope you will understand you have a lot of company in your feelings. You must remember

that you will not lose your husband's love, no matter what.

Your feelings and love are foremost in his mind, which is why he is trying to "overcome" his feelings about his crossdressing ... something that is impossible to do for a transgendered person.

You will not lose his "masculinity" either, for this is something he never really possessed. These males construct a false image of masculinity that they are raised to feel is the only acceptable image they can present to society. If you and your husband will try to find his true personality and feelings, rather than concentrate on an image that is really not his real persona, you will find a person you can love even more than the one you think you know now. His "dressing" is merely a search for the real feelings he has denied for a good many years.

It is true that he probably feels himself to be what most of these men think they are -- a "male lesbian", the keyword here being MALE.

Never forget that you are not dealing with a "normal" male; he is not at either end of the gender spectrum. You must help him find his true feelings, and you will be rewarded with a relationship you will never find in another "man". As far as sex is concerned, you will find that sex with one of these males can be extremely satisfying; however, YOU must be in control of the situation, which is what he wants. All this requires a change in your attitude and feelings ... something that is not easy to do, but something you must do to preserve your relationship.

You must simply stop viewing this person you love in the same old light you have been seeing him in. He has never been the person you really believe him to be, and you should be flattered that he loves you enough to see (if only a small part) the person he really is.

I think you will discover a much more interesting and loving person. If you don't make the effort, the result is unhappiness; if you do, the result is a far better relationship than you can imagine.

[Cynthia Phillips is co-director for wives' and partners' concerns on the Tri-Ess national board of directors. She may be reached at (512) 438-7604 or by writing P.O. Box 17, Bulverde TX 78163.]

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by Ricky Hunt

I would like to share the results of a survey that my wife did on crossdressing. She has gone back to college after 20 years of vacation, and for her final project in Human Sexuality she did a survey concerning crossdressing. It was a small survey and thus does not reflect a scientific result, but the results were very interesting.

There were two parts, one concerning crossdressers and their wives, and one concerning the general public. The results from the crossdressers were just about what you would expect if you have been reading about the subject for the past few years, but the attitude of the public was very surprising. The group polled consisted mainly of college students and co-workers and here are the results:

[Editor's Note: The numbers following each response indicate total %/male%/female%.]

When asked to define crossdressing:

Correct or very close: 74/64/84

Had some idea: 12/16/8

Incorrect: 10/16/4

No answer given: 4/0/16

Opinion of crossdressing:

Acceptable: 40/24/56

Neutral: 6/8/4

Uncomfortable: 12/8/16

Unacceptable: 42/60/24

Result of discovering S.O. is a CD:

Leave CD: 32/44/20

Don't know: 14/16/12

Ask why: 6/0/12

Insist on psychiatric help: 10/12/8

Anger: 2/4/0

Stay in relationship: 34/24/48

Kill crossdresser: 6/8/4

Should CDs be accepted in public?:

Yes: 62/56/68

Ambivalent: 4/4/4

No opinion: 4/4/4

No: 30/36/24

Overall reaction:

Very positive: 32/16/48

Somewhat positive: 14/32/24

Somewhat negative: 14/16/12

Very negative: 26/36/16

Acceptance by age ranges:

(# of responses: Male Under 25/26-50/50+; Female Under 25/26-50/50+)

Very positive: 0/16/0; 20/28/0

Somewhat positive: 16/8/8; 16/0/8

Somewhat negative: 4/12/0; 8/4/0

Very negative: 12/16/8; 12/4/0

As you can see, the results were strikingly split between male and female, with the overwhelming majority being acceptable. What doesn't show up in the tables is that the females mostly took crossdressing in stride, but the males had sharp negative opinions, many with violent overtones. While I would have expected there to be more of a difference in opinion based in age, there didn't seem to be much.

Once again I caution that this was a small survey among students, who are more likely to be open to new ideas than the general public, but it gives me hope that the times may indeed be a'changin.

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HAVE YOU ASKED A FRIEND TO SUBSCRIBE TO CROSS-TALK ?

YOU GOTTA HAVE BOOBS

by Nicole Phillips

One of the most obvious distinguishing features of the female of the species is the presence of her breasts. Probably all of us who are not naturally endowed have attempted the gamut of enhancement techniques, from the satisfactory to the utterly ridiculous. Often these efforts began in early childhood when we stuffed socks or rubber balls up under our shirts, just as did our biological female sisters and playmates. Regrettably, we may not have progressed much further over the course of our lifetimes and the results are not much better now than they were when we played dress up as little girls.

Despite the evolution of concepts of equality for women, the raw compulsion to have and display an attractive bustline remains powerful. To a large degree this need may arise from biology and instinct. Yet society reinforces and distorts this requirement in a thousand ways each day. The icons of femininity everywhere proclaim the necessity of a shapely bosom, to the point where we feel that we are not women at all without bulging breasts. Womanhood would seem to include by definition the possession of a voluptuous chest. Even the drawings of young children reflect this understanding. The theme becomes dominant in the consciousness of men as well as women. The fixation of many males upon women's breasts needs no comment other than the observation that it is virtually overwhelming.


Those of us who strive to establish our femininity fall prey to these influences in a uniquely dependent way. Without nature's equipment, we struggle in our bedrooms in dozens of ways to manufacture what

we believe is required to make us whole. In this endeavor we should remember, of course, that many biological females must fight the same battle. From this context I offer my observations on a few aspects of what seems to be an unavoidable undertaking.

First we must assess what nature has in fact bestowed upon us in the way of original equipment. The good news is that all humans, even males, do have something in the way of breasts. If you look carefully at your figure, you may find that you need very little in the way of enhancement to present an attractive feminine silhouette. Obviously the best look is a natural one, suited to your own physique. I have heard many men say that they find huge breasts only curiosities and that the most attractive women are those whose bodies are fit and healthy with breasts proportionate to their height and build. You don't want to create the appearance that your breasts are merely appendages that you have stuck on to your chest. Try standing in front of a full length mirror unclothed (no matter how shocking it may be!) and carefully evaluate your body to see just how much you need to create a feminine contour. Your curves should be just that, not bulges.

Men tend to be broader in the chest, rib cage and shoulders than women to begin with, so enormous boobs will give you too much of a top heavy look. You may even want to get a snapshot or two of yourself in the buff so that you can experiment by drawing in various size and shapes to see what is going to be most flattering to you. If you have a female partner or friend to help you, draw upon her resources. Most natural women are lifetime veterans of the battle of the bustline.

What about the issue of that unwanted body hair? Certainly a hirsute chest is hard to describe as feminine, and unless you are into camp drag something needs to be done. You may be lucky enough not to have a problem with chest hair, but if you do there are several alternatives. Shaving works as a short term solution if you have only a little hair. Electrolysis is expensive and time consuming but effective. Hormones can help dramatically over time. For many who cannot or do not want to use those methods, waxing or depilatories offer a reasonable compromise. No matter which way you go, do not neglect the skin itself and be sure to use plenty of lotion to keep your skin smooth and supple.

Next comes the matter of brassieres. Measure your chest accurately with a tape measure, and don't cheat. You truly need to know exactly what size you really are, not just what size you wish you were. Then you can buy undergarments that actually fit you. There is an enormous difference in the way bras fit, and you may have to experiment with several before you find what suits you best. Gals who are born as genetic females usually have the benefit of moms, older sisters and girlfriends to help with this, so you will have to make up ground. It is my opinion that in all matters feminine, less is better, and if possible I would go with a bra that is as 

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YOU GOTTA HAVE BOOBS ... *continued*

lightweight and unrestricting as you can get away with. A bra that is too tight will not only make you miserable but will give you an unsightly groove where the straps go across the back that will show through some clothes. One that is too bulky will make you feel like grandma and be less likely to afford that swingy freedom of movement that makes a woman lithe and agile. Personally, I think that given the inherent chestiness of most males, anything larger than a B or C cup will produce the look of a diesel dyke. Straps are important, too, and can drive you nuts if they do not fit properly. For example, I have had to face the fact that my shoulders are a little droopy and find bras that have straps more centrally located so that they don't constantly fall off my shoulders. And, of course, don't ignore the fun and prettiness of your undergarments. It is truly a naughty sensation to have on something sexy underneath your business dress or your suburban pants and blouse.

Then comes the all important question of what you are going to use to fill that pretty bra. Frederick's of Hollywood is known for its inexpensive foam rubber falsies. They work fairly well, especially if you have some boobs of your own. The drawback is that they have no weight and afford none of the natural movement and sway of breast tissue, and will ride up out the bra cup. These falsies can be useful if you are going braless, though, and apply them with tape inside the form. Some have recommended using double layered plastic bags or even balloons filled with liquid, but I am not confident that an embarrassing accident, i.e., springing a leak, may not occur. Another alternative is to construct a form using the foot out of a pair of pantyhose and filling it with rice grains. Such forms do give a natural weight and sense of movement, but I find they tend to be uncomfortable to wear for very long. The ultimate solution is to invest in a set of quality breast forms designed for mastectomy patients. These are quite expensive, costing between \$150 and \$750, but in my opinion are worth every penny. Ideally you should be fitted for these forms by a professional. They are now available in several types, and the best I have found are made so that they attach to the chest with surgical tape backed with velcro. These forms are incredibly natural in size, feel and appearance and can be worn with or without a bra for days or even weeks. You can go swimming with them, sleep in them, or do just about anything at all. Such silicone forms will also tend to naturally adhere to your body, and they will give you just the weight, "hang" and movement of real breasts.

There are a couple of other tricks of the trade that can be useful on occasion. A strip of duct tape can be used across the chest to pull your breasts together and create a mound of cleavage. This may sound barbaric, but it is less bothersome than you might imagine as long as you don't pull the skin too tightly. Also, when wearing something low cut, you can use a touch of blush to outline the vee between the breasts. The effect is remarkable in producing the look of breast cleavage. And be careful not to wear your breasts too high. Only teenage girls have those little bosoms up near the armpits. The nipple

line on a mature woman is approximately halfway between the collarbone and the waistline.

Finally, the clothes you wear have an enormous impact on the way your breasts are displayed. Lacy jabots and high collars will tend to produce a boxy look. Keeping your collar buttoned to the top also makes your neck appear larger and your breasts to be hanging like a sack of potatoes. If you look at the women around you, you will see that the prettiest ones are proud of their bodies and will wear necklines that show off their breasts to best effect. A soft unstructured top with the top two buttons opened, a round or scalloped collar, or a deep vee neckline will draw the eye to a well proportioned bust.

Once you have carefully analyzed you appearance and created the style that is right for you, be proud of yourself. Stand up tall and hold your shoulders back, and let your inner confidence radiate from your smile and your presence. You will feel good about yourself and others will see that in you, and respond in kind. You can be proud of your breasts, too, and the femininity they lend to you. And let's be honest, girls, men do respond strongly and the flattering attention you will receive from them is delicious. All you need is a little boost up front and I still say emphatically the less the better to help you complete the feminine image that reflects the woman within.

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GETTING THE MOST OUT OF CORRESPONDENCE

by Wendi Seabreeze

One of the benefits of belonging to a national organization is being able to communicate with your sisters in other parts of the country. This can be fun because we can get a sense of what is happening all over our nation. The problem is ... we are still really men, and most (but not all) of us still act like men. This, of course, is okay at times because you still must go to work. But when you get home and relax, it's time to let the feminine half live. This means it's time to do and feel what women feel.


What I'm getting at is that most men don't know how to communicate like a woman does. I bring this up because it's important for us to correspond with each other to keep our sorority together. And because it's basically a women's trait to be letter writers, most crossdressers simply don't know how to write a letter. So here are a few pointers that may help you:

1. Try not to write a letter to a sorority sister while you're in your male mode. It is best to get dressed first to get that special feeling.
2. Don't open a letter while in your male mode and read it and simply set it aside. Wait until you're ready to answer the letter before you open one.
3. When you write a letter, be caring and be truthful with your feelings. Tell your penpal sister what's new in your life and ask how things are with her.
4. Make sure you have her letter right next to you so you can comment on what she has said. A good conversation can be carried on, and much can be learned and shared, if you pay attention to what your friend has to say. This means read the letter over and over and comment on the paragraphs or points of interest that you feel will keep the conversation going.
5. Ask questions, like "what kind of clothes do you like to wear?". Get to know your penpal's likes and

dislikes, her fetishes, and even her sexual preference. Find out her birthday and send her a card ... send her one at Christmas, too. Exchange phone numbers and maybe arrange to meet someday. Exchange photos.

6. Become a big or little sister for her!


[Reprinted from "Swan's Bauble", Swan's Inner Sorority]



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ON THE CONTINUUM, AND OFF

by DeAnna Poppe

A continuum is a sum or series whose parts can not easily be discerned. The continuum has become an accepted term for characterizing the diverse transgendered experiences which define the lives of individuals in our community. Clinicians frequently talk about how our individual experience is coincidental with a sum of experiences which places us at a particular point on this continuum in the evolution of our gender dysphoric lives.

As we become members of the community this continuum often becomes, I regret, a measure of our progress or status. Certainly it has its value, especially in the clinical diagnostic context, but within the support community we need to guard against its inherent intent to segregate us. As individuals I think at times we spend a great deal of energy trying to discern where it is that our current experience and desires place us on this continuum, and to some degree I think we even feel the obligation to substantiate our claim to the position we desire, and can lose our authenticity trying to convince others we have attained it, especially by lying to clinicians.

I know that often we tend to think of things in a linear way, measuring our experiences on some sort of vague hierarchical scale, when in fact nothing could be further from the truth. Yet, we frequently hear people characterize the continuum as if it were a line that started at a fetishistic interest in one object and extended ad infinitum until it reached transsexualism. Unfortunately, when we do this, we are prone to stigmatize persons in our own community, because they do not seem to be moving on this imaginary line that we call the continuum. We forget that being gender dysphoric is only one aspect/continuum in their lives. We are frequently uncomfortable with their stasis, perhaps because our own experience may be so different and compelling. Regrettably, in some cases we withdraw our support, and in some we fail to give it at all. We forget that others, who are no less gender dysphoric than ourselves, may not be in a position to pursue the resolution that we are. The reasons may have nothing to do with their gender

conflicts, but instead may be dictated by the myriad of other continua that make up their lives. We are not clinicians looking at patients; we are fellow human beings providing support to others who share our gender dysphoric experience, but providing support entails treating others as whole persons and being part of their whole experience. When we as members of the gender community forget this, we undermine the personal legitimacy and courage to explore this ONE aspect of their life -- their gender -- to whatever degree they can, and they leave our community.

I believe that frequently we become so obsessed with our gender problems, so consumed by their implications, that we lose our perspective on our life as a whole. We forget that what makes us human is that we are a composite of continua, all inextricably intertwined, and all influencing our lives as they evolve separately and interact collectively. We as gender conflicted individuals simply have one more continuum to integrate into our lives, and if we lose site of the others, those which represent every other aspect of our life, the consequences can be catastrophic. I think this idea is perhaps more graphically illustrated by the admonition, "SRS changes what is between your legs, not what is between your ears!" Gender can not remain the focal point of your life; it may for a time during transition become that, but ultimately, ideally, it should be second nature. We all know that change is often the result of and accompanied by discomfort and conflict, an imbalance between those continua that make up our individual experience. But order always returns, it is like looking in a kaleidoscope; with each turn, all the fragments move but then fit back together in a new and complex and (hopefully) beautiful way. But we must remember that no matter how convinced we are of the implications of certain aspects of our life, there is always the possibility that another will emerge that we never anticipated, and that its influence may affect every other aspect of our life and plans in ways which we never imagined. And, even more importantly, we need to remain aware that that is true for every other member of our community as well, and that when these unexpected influences emerge is when they need our support the most. ➔

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GENDER TERMS MIX-N-MATCH

by Justine Sahnjay

This contest challenges you to invent the best new mix-n-match term to describe ourselves. The most original entry wins the eternal devotion of the community for giving us the word to describe ourselves.

NOTE: Virginia Prince, Merissa S. Lynn, and Kym Richards can't enter because they are "professional termsters", and the idea of trying to invent the best terms is only for amateurs!

| | |
|--------|-----------|
| Bi | self |
| Fem | genderist |
| Cross | ophile |
| Trans | dresser |
| She | vestite |
| Mo | ronic |
| Eo | vert |
| Per | nist |
| Closet | dysphoric |
| Gender | queen |
| Drag | male |
| Homo | phobia |

I thought of Bidysphoric, Femovestite, and Closetophile. But you have your own fun ... send in your terms with an explanation of how you arrived at them!

[Reprinted from "GirlTalk", Powder Puffs of Orange County, Yorba Linda CA.]

ON THE CONTINUUM ... *continued*

So about the continuum. I don't want to get on, and I don't want you to either. When new people come to the community they are almost always, of course, anxious to discover, to explore, to define, who they are as gender conflicted individuals; to find their place in the community. We as individuals are of course anxious to define who they are as well. But I think we do them a disservice when we press them for finite answers about an experience which they are only beginning to examine... often unintentionally coercing them into making projections about their intent or goals when they have not even had the opportunity to understand the implications. We occasionally forget that discovery involves exploration, a sort of going and looking and then perhaps staying or deciding to return to what is already familiar. Such is certainly the case in the lives of gender conflicted individuals. We have all experienced it. Certainty can evaporate with the slightest change in temperature. What it is that we should most admire about our fellow human beings, is their willingness to share in the exploration ... to admire the contribution they make through their own explorations regardless of how perplexed we may be by the subsequent decisions they make as a consequence of that exploration. It is easy to admire the courage and determination that some among us show, but it is certainly equally important, as a support organization, to recognize and acknowledge the frailties and limitations which prevent others from fulfilling our expectations. There is so much to be gained for all of us from our shared experience. No one should feel guilty because they thought they were transsexual and then discovered that they were not. There is much more to being transsexual than just being gender dysphoric, and few of us ever anticipate that. As I said above, we should admire the courage to look, to explore, but we should also

support and admire the humility it takes to acknowledge one's limitations. And no one (!) who is uncertain, should feel compelled to be part of a quest that is beyond their capacity or desire.

A gender dysphoric life has as many possibilities as any other. PLEASE do not leave the community because you believe that you failed to fulfill its expectations; there never were any except that you be true to yourself. We all quickly discover that gender is not an isolated aspect of our life, it is certainly a profound influence in every aspect of it, at least until we resolve our own unique situation. To do what you need to do, is to fulfill the goals of the community and does not mean that you have nothing to offer the or no place in it.

We should compare our experiences, contrast them for the insight that we can derive from that comparison, but know that you are unique and different, and accept that. It is as if we are all trying to reach the headwaters of a stream; one person swims against the current, another paddles a canoe, another walks up the bank, perhaps another loses interest along the way and falls asleep under a tree, and another just asks someone to send them pictures, but all of us whether we reach it or not, have our experience in common. Please remember, that what you bring to the community is your own very unique experience -- as someone I greatly admire often reminds me -- and that experience is what is most valuable to us all.

[Reprinted from "Reflections", Neutral Corner, San Diego CA.]

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THE SUPPORTIVE SPOUSE

by Wanda Watson

It has been my pleasure recently to meet some of the spouses of transgenderists who fully support their husbands. Without exception these women have an aura about them that spells unconditional love, peace and joy. They are outwardly supportive of their spouses and from all reports encourage them in all areas of their lives. Even the spouses who are just beginning to come out of the closet and are seeking to learn about transgenderism have this same aura. This is one attribute that cannot be hidden.

These women possess certain special characteristics that I believe worthy of discussion. First on my list is the special confidence that they have in themselves as independently thinking individuals. These women are neither disquieted by other peoples' opinions nor are they overly concerned about what their actions will bring. Their thinking is not blocked by the garbage of the "masses". Such women are often in the forefront, striving to help solve community problems. I would rank them similar in character to those who have lead this nation to its present greatness.

The second special attribute is their ability to truly love their spouse. True love can be defined as the act of giving their spouses the freedom to be who they truly are, even if it means losing them. To be able to do such a noble thing one must first be secure in their own self-love. In truth, they have been freed from the bondage of depending on people, events and things to provide them with security and self-esteem.

The third attribute is the security they possess in their own sexuality. They are secure in the fact of who they are and the role that they have been called to play. Their gender is in line with their biological sex and they desire to express themselves totally in that role.


Others, regardless of their gender affiliation, are

easily understood by those who possess these attributes. As their own self-esteem has developed to the point that they are free of "genderphobia" (fear of transgenderism). What is so interesting about these special people is that they have already attracted to themselves spouses who exhibit some of their same attributes.

One might ask, "how did she get that way, were they born like that?" The answer is yes and no. Approximately 5% of those who possess these attributes develop them quite naturally at a very young age. The rest must acquire them as a learned behavior.

These resplendent attributes resulted when they came to the conclusion that if they wanted to change the outside of their life they must first change the inside. Thus, they became internally motivated and left behind them the need for any external source of motivation or security. This is not a new concept. In fact an old story relates that history and rumor had alluded to the existence of a great ancient pharaoh. Archaeologists had for years sought the place of his tomb in hopes of finding evidence of his greatness. When they found his tomb, the only thing that was found were the words "as within -- so without" inscribed on his tombstone. Jesus, also related in the Bible similar words; "as man thinketh in his heart so shall he be." Also, James Allen has a great book on this subject, entitled "As a Man Thinketh". For those who want to pursue this topic further, I recommend reading and re-reading this great book.

Another example of this concept is to compare it to flying a small airplane. Located within the United States is a complete network of navigation aids for pilots flying airplanes. These aids, known as Omni stations, radiate radio beacons 360 degrees from the station. The pilot, if he has the equipment on his airplane and it is tuned to that station, can fly directly to the station. We are somewhat like these Omni stations. Similarly we emit signals to the universe. These signals are like magnets that attract to us whatever we are thinking, believing and experiencing on the inside. It has been said, "if we don't like our present life and circumstances, all we have to do is change our thinking thereby changing our circumstances." It is an amazing thing for me to see what takes place when one person within a group changes their thinking and the effect that change has on the whole group.

At first this concept may not make much sense, however, when you really look at your own life from the eyes of such self-knowledge, it is quite 

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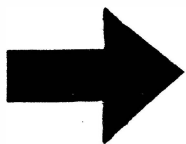
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September 6-13, 1992: "Dignity Cruise" to Alaska, sponsored by Dr. Peggy Rudd. For details, contact Cruise Ahoy at (713) 556-1513.

September 10-13, 1992: "New Woman Caucus", Essex MA. Sponsored by IFGE, P.O. Box 367, Wayland MA 01778. Telephone information: (617) 894-8340.

September 17-20, 1992: "Paradise in the Poconos", Canadensis PA. Sponsored by Creative Design Services, P.O. Box 61263, King of Prussia PA 19406-1263. Telephone information: (215) 640-9449.

September 30-October 4, 1992: "Southern Comfort", Atlanta GA. Sponsored by the Montgomery Institute, P.O. Box 33311, Atlanta 30033.

October 16-25, 1992: "Fantasia Fair", Provincetown MA. Sponsored by the Outreach Institute, 405 Western Ave. #345, So. Portland ME 04106.

November 11-15, 1992: Tri-Ess "Holiday En Femme", Atlanta GA. Hosted by Sigma Epsilon, P.O. Box 7241, Tallahassee FL 32314-7241.

November 19-22, 1992: "Fall Harvest '92 Weekend", Kansas City MO. Sponsored by Crossdressers And Friends, St. Louis Gender Foundation, Iowa Artistry, River City Gender Foundation, and Wichita Gender Alliance. For details, write Fall Harvest, P.O. Box 35061, Overland Park KS 66214-5061.

February 26-28, 1993: "Texas T Party", San Antonio TX, sponsored by Boulton & Park Society. Information from P.O. Box 700042, San Antonio 78270, or phone (512) 545-3668.

March 14-21, 1993: International Foundation for Gender Education "Coming Together" convention, Philadelphia PA. Details from IFGE, P.O. Box 367, Wayland MA 01778.

April 28-May 2, 1993: "California Dreamin", Burbank CA, sponsored by Powder Puffs of Orange County in association with "Cross-Talk". Details from P.O. Box 1088, Yorba Linda CA 92686.

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

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THE SUPPORTIVE SPOUSE ... *continued*

evident that we attract the same type of people and events as we are on the inside. Life is truly a magnet, attracting what we really are and not what we consciously want.

If a spouse is not supportive, no method in the world can make her change unless she changes from within. You can promise anything, do anything or go anywhere, but unless your spouse wants to change, she will remain the same. This can certainly be a waste of energy and will cause mountains of frustration on your part. What it all boils down to is if change is to occur, it's all up to you.

To bring about a successful change in your spouse you must first come to grips with the fact that you are the source of the problem as well as the solution. If this concept is true and the way you have been thinking is the cause of your present circumstance, then if you want to change the circumstance in your life, you must first change your way of thinking.

Change is tough work because most of us want others to change but are unwilling to change ourselves. I have seen the rewards that such work produces and I can assure you it's worth it.

[Reprinted from "Gender Euphoria", Boulton & Park Society]

C
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CONNECTION BBS
S



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24 Hrs - News, Stories, Pictures, Friends & Fun!

(818) 766-TVTS

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N-8-1

Good Neighbors Thrift Store

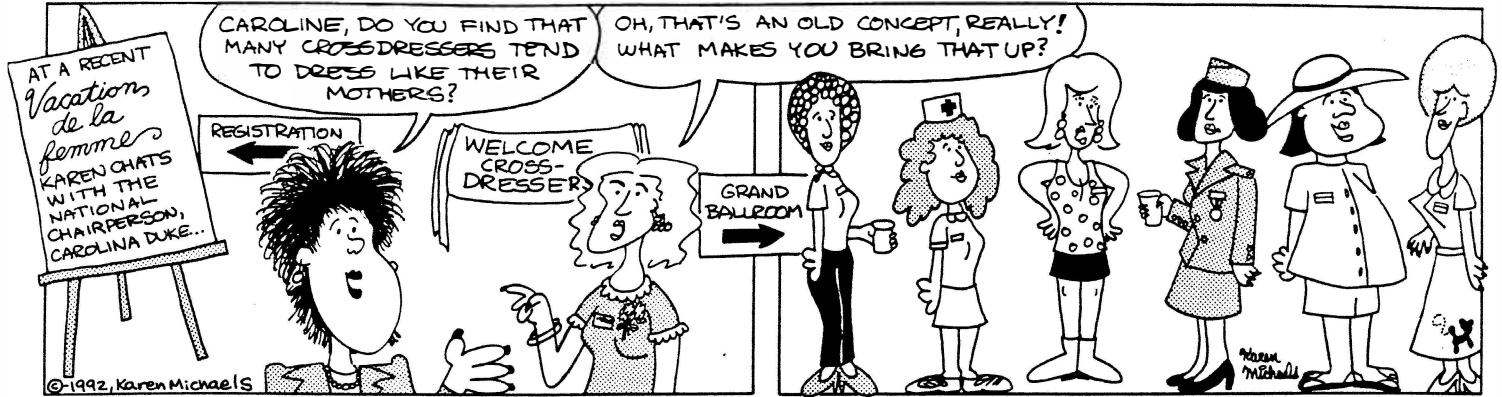
2700 W. Magnolia, Burbank, CA 91505
(818) 566-7701



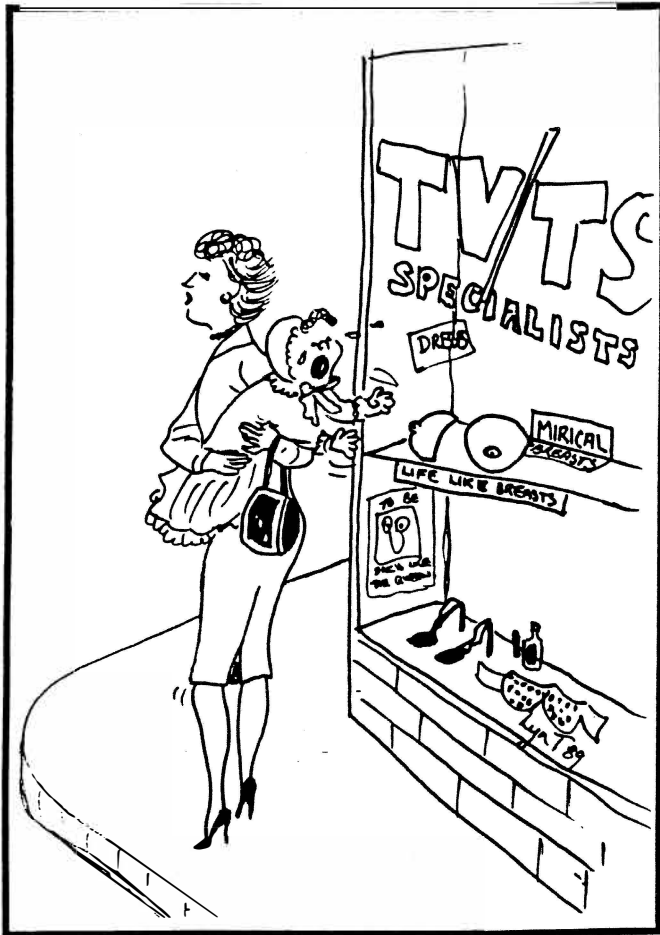
Good Neighbors Inc. is a nonprofit organization which raises money to support hospice and health care programs for people with AIDS.

THE ADVENTURES OF KAREN

by KAREN ANN MICHAELS



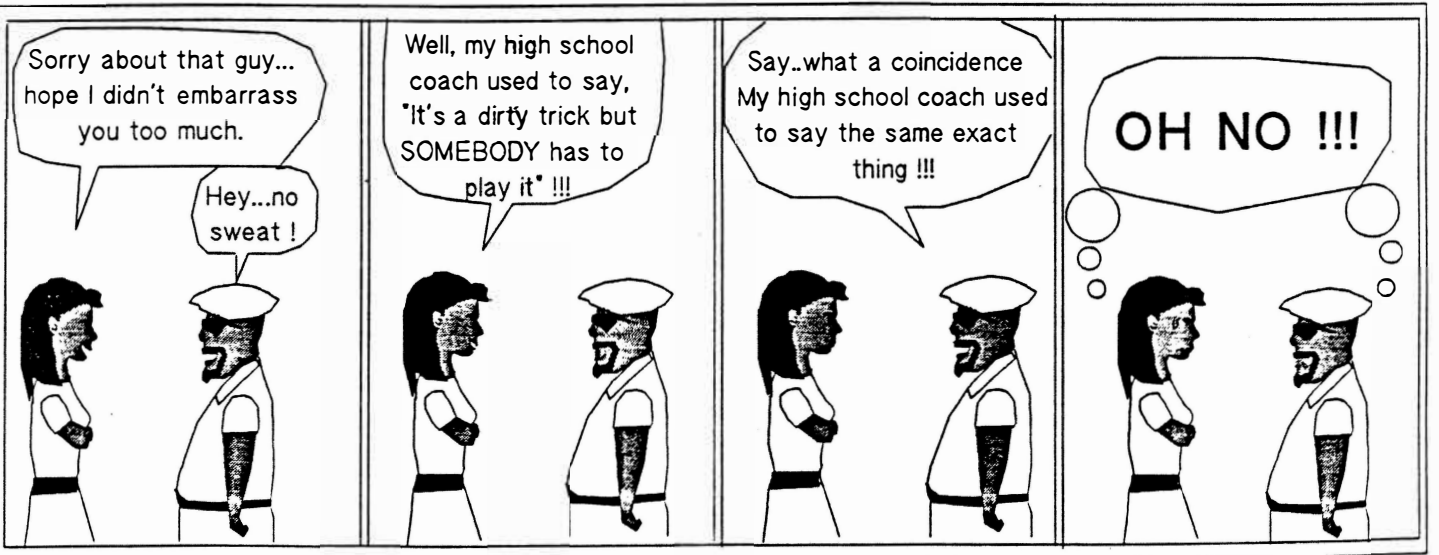
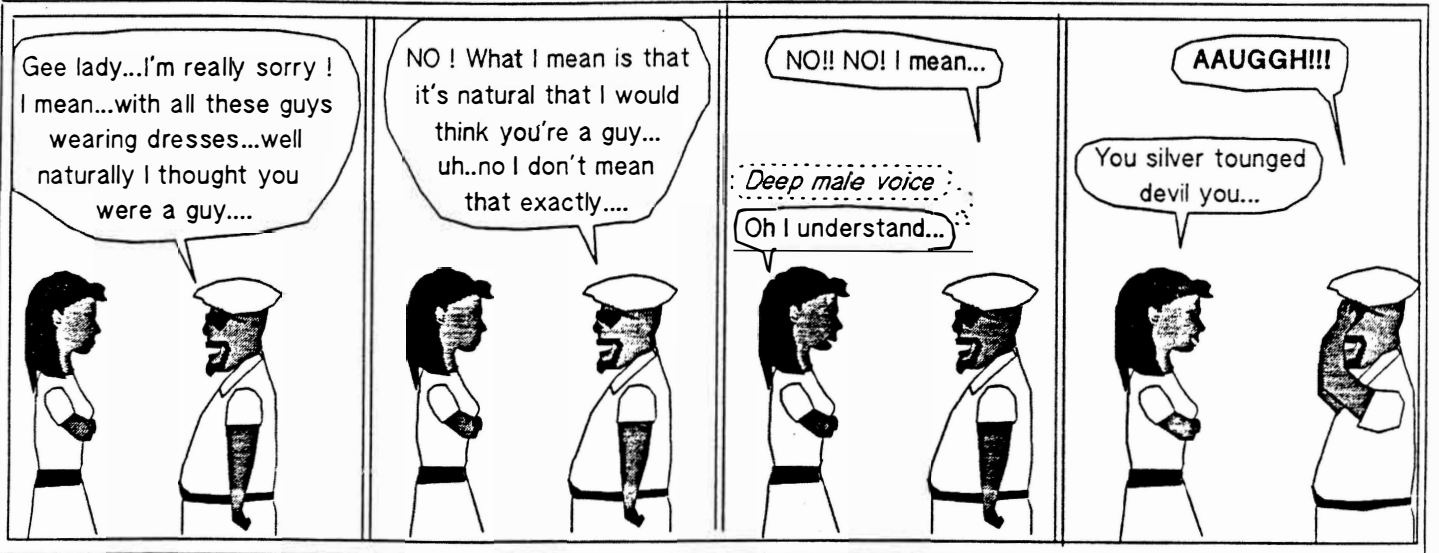
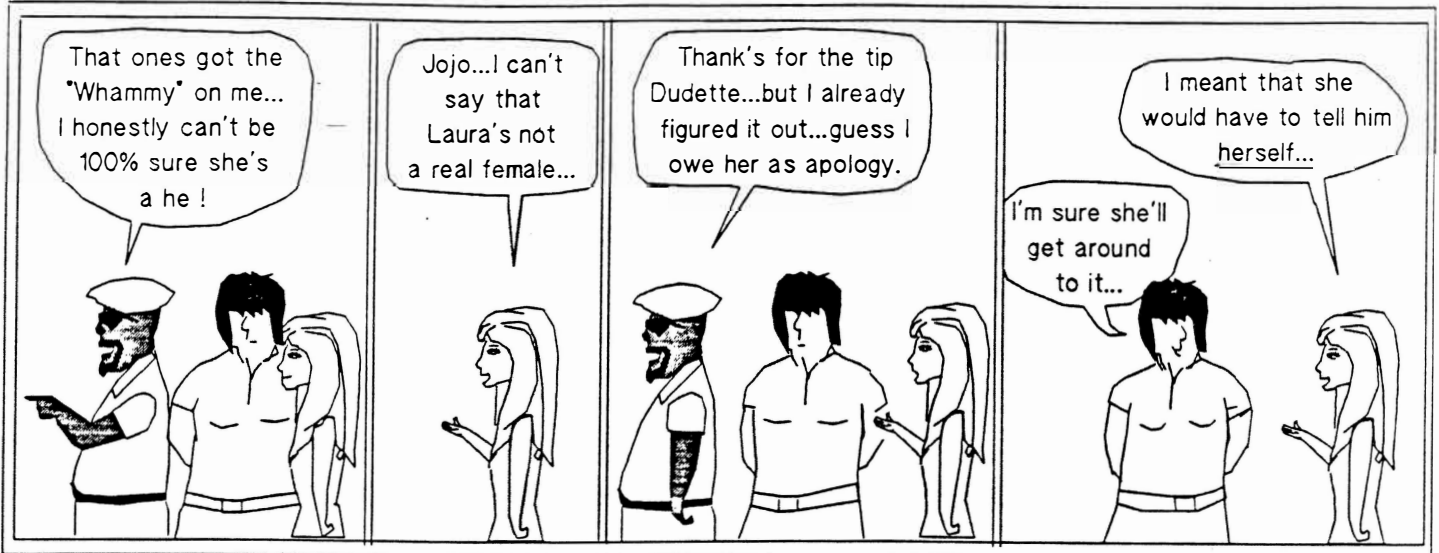
THE SEX-CHANGERS BY LYN T. ©



"THE PASSING SCENE" by Kay Lightner



GIRLS JUST WANT TO HAVE PUNS by Pamela Barnett
 A volatile crossdresser may be referred to as a "tempest in a D cup".
 Crossdressers are often found to be "ladies in waiting".
 In the case of a crossdresser, "the clothes really unmake the man".
 When it comes to crossdressing, there really is a "woman behind the man".
 A crossdressing attorney often "miss-represents" herself.

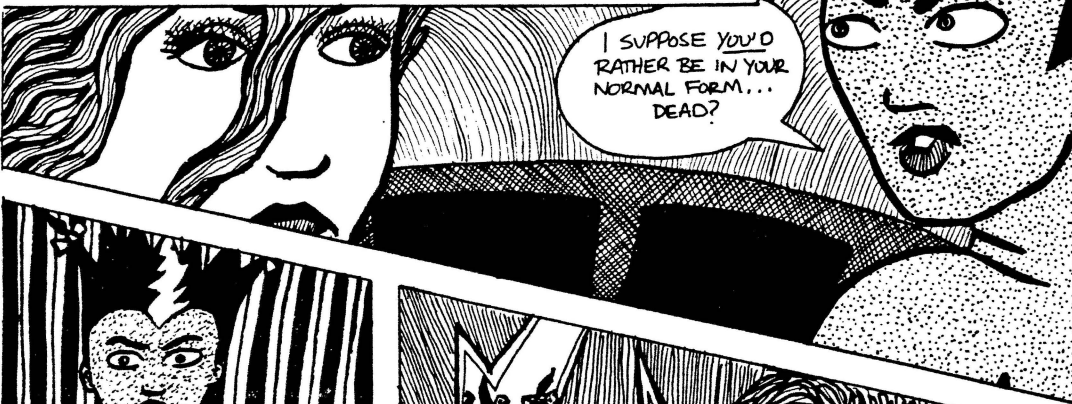


KHEN-DRAA, TRANSGENDERED WARRIOR

by Kym & Beppi



THE CURRENT POSSESSOR OF THE POWERS OF THE ALIEN WOMAN-WARRIOR KHEN-DRAA, AN EARTH MALE NAMED MARK TAYLOR, IS ALSO (AGAIN) THE POSSESSOR OF HER FORM...





WELL, PERHAPS SOON YOU WILL GET THE CHANCE I THINK I HAVE FOUND A WAY TO SHIELD YOUR SHIP'S AUTOMONITOR FROM L HAR-ZHIL.



GOOD. THE SOONER I GO BACK TO BEING MARK, THE BETTER

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE. I WAS ONLY KIDDING WHEN I SAID I WAS MORE COMFORTABLE IN A MINISKIRT!

ACTUALLY, SINCE L HAR-ZHIL HAS SEEN YOU IN THAT MODE, IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR YOU TO RETURN TO THE FORM YOU HAD WHEN I MET YOU...



IF YOU ASSUME THIS "MINISKIRT" FORM, AS YOU CALL IT, YOU WILL BE BETTER ABLE TO GET CLOSER TO L HAR-ZHIL. WE MUST OBTAIN THE ABILITY OF SURPRISE.



IT MATTERS NOT. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE TAKE WHATEVER ADVANTAGES THAT ARE AVAILABLE.



WHY DON'T YOU JUST ASSUME ANOTHER FORM AND SURPRISE HIM?

BECAUSE I AM A CADET. ONLY WARRIORS HAVE YOUR ABILITIES.

NO CHOICE, HUH? OH WELL...



I HOPE YOU'RE HAPPY...!

ACTUALLY, NO...



I DID NOT HAVE THE SHIELD FUNCTIONING WHEN YOU CHANGED FORM. YOU HAVE MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR L HAR-ZHIL TO LOCATE US.

TO BE CONTINUED !

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL HOTLINES

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

NEW ENGLAND REGION: —

CD Network, Rochester: (716) 251-2312
Chi Delta Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, NYC: (201) 663-0772 @
Connecticut Outreach Society, Hartford: (203) 371-6292
East Coast F2M Group, Cambridge: (413) 584-7616 #
Eulenspiegel Society, NYC: (212) 477-6588 %
Expressing Our Nature, Rochester: (212) 629-5750
Gender Identity Program, NYC: (212) 969-0888 #
Girls' Night Out, NYC: (212) 794-1665 ext 202
Harriet Lane's TV Set, CT: (203) 237-1968
Int'l. Foundation for Gender Education: (617) 894-8340
Long Island Femme Expression: (718) 446-6753
Metropolitan Gender Network, NYC: (201) 794-1665 ext 332
My Choice, Baltimore: (410) 732-4546
Outreach Institute, N. Portland: (207) 775-0858
Pink Flamingoes, Boston: (617) 536-5639
Renaissance Education Ass'n.: (215) 630-1437
Renaissance Greater Philadelphia Chapter: (215) 946-8887
Renaissance LSV Chapter, Harrisburg: (717) 780-1578
Renaissance S. Jersey Chapter: (609) 641-3782
Rhode Island Society, Newport: (401) 847-1035
Tiffany Club, Boston: (508) 358-2305
Transgenderists Independence Club, Albany: (518) 436-4513
Transpitt, Pittsburgh: (412) 781-0257
Transsupport, Portland: (207) 676-5870
Washington-Baltimore Alliance: (301) 277-5475
XX (Twenty) Club, Hartford: (203) 646-8651 #

THE SOUTH:

American Educational Gender Info. Service: (404) 939-0244
Beta Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Mississippi: (601) 982-7678 @
Black Rose, Arlington: (301) 369-7667 %
Carolina Trans-Sensual Alliance, Charlotte: (704) 551-8838
GDA North Carolina: (704) 982-1028
Gender Information Network, Gainesville: (904) 332-8178
Montgomery Institute, Augusta: (404) 603-9426 #
M.O.R.E., Ft. Lauderdale: (305) 966-2138
Mu Sigma Chapter Tri-Ess, Arkansas: (501) 972-1826 @
Phi Epsilon Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, Central FL: (407) 677-9540 @
Reality, Orlando: (407) 425-4527 #
Serenity, Hollywood: (305) 436-9477
Starburst, Tampa-St. Petersburg: (813) 866-0438
Virginia's Secret, Richmond: (804) 741-1187

MIDWEST & VICINITY:

Central Illinois Gender Assoc.: (309) 444-9918
Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Chicago: (708) 364-9514 @
Chicago Gender Society: (312) 434-5445
City of Lakes Crossgender Comm., Minn'pls: (612) 229-3613
Cross-Port, Cincinnati: (513) 474-9557
Crossdressers & Friends, Kansas City: (913) 381-8887
Crystal Club, Columbus: (614) 777-0648
Crossroads, Flint: (313) 446-0782
Gender Dysphoria Support, Shawnee Mss'n: (913) 371-0658 #
Indiana Crossdressers Society, Indianapolis: (317) 894-8109
Iowa Artistry, Cedar Rapids: (319) 842-2654
N.G.D.O., Detroit: (313) 842-5258 #
Quad-City Society for Sex. Ed., Davenport: (319) 324-9641
St. Louis Gender Foundation: (314) 567-8615
Sunday Society, Chicago: (312) 252-7024

SOUTHWEST/MOUNTAIN REGION:

Alpha Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Amarillo: (806) 359-7714
Bluebonnet Coalition, San Antonio: (512) 656-4163
Boulton & Park Society, San Antonio: (512) 545-3668
CrossDressers International, Tulsa: (918) 582-6643
Delta Omega Chapter Tri-Ess, Dallas: (817) 261-3253 @
Eta Tau Chapter Tri-Ess, Austin: (512) 438-7604 @
First Saturday, El Paso: (505) 434-5144
Gender Crisis Help Line, Tucson: (602) 293-3456
Gender Identity Center, Denver: (303) 458-5378

Gulf Coast Transgender Community, Houston: (713) 780-3553
Heart of Texas Gender Alliance, San Angelo: (915) 944-1381
Help Me ... Accept Me, Dallas: (214) 404-1926
ReCast, Dallas: (214) 641-4842 #
Second Image, Austin: (512) 778-5460
TS Peer Support, Houston: (713) 333-2278 #
Tau Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Houston: (713) 988-8064 @
Tri-Plex Gender Association, Waco: (817) 867-1077

PACIFIC NORTHWEST:

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

THE WEST COAST (CA & HI):

Alpha Chapter Tri-Ess, Los Angeles: (213) 876-6141 @
American Transsexual Education Center: (213) 469-4709 #
Androgyny, Santa Monica: (213) 467-8317
CHIC, Los Angeles: (310) 420-2580 @
Diablo Valley Girls, Concord: (510) 849-4122
Educational TV Channel, San Francisco: (510) 549-2665
Feminine Image, Riverside/San Bernardino: (714) 931-1515
Hawaii Transgendered Outreach, Honolulu: (808) 923-4270
Neutral Corner, San Diego: (619) 685-3696
Powder Puffs of Orange County, Anaheim: (714) 779-9013
Rainbow Gender Association, San Jose: (408) 984-4044
Sacramento Gender Association: (800) 585-7742
Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess) Nat'l.: (209) 688-9246 @
Swan's Inner Sorority, San Jose: (408) 297-1423

CANADA:

Canadian Crossdressers Club, Toronto: (416) 864-0420
Club Met, Montreal: (514) 528-8874
Entre Femme, Quebec: (418) 529-1132 #
Gender Mosaic, Ottawa: (613) 749-5203
Illusions Social Club, Calgary: (403) 486-9661
Monarch Social Club, Ontario: (416) 949-6602

U.K.:

Beaumont Society, London: 081-756-1782
Gender Dysphoria Trust, London: 0323-641100 #
GenTrust, London: 071-730-7453
Liverbirds, Liverpool: 051-709-4745
New TransEssex: 0268-583761
Rose's, Sheffield: 0742-342870
Scottish TV/TS Group, Edinburgh: 031-556-4049
TV/TS Support Group, London: 071-729-1466

OTHER OVERSEAS:

Germany: Transidentitas, Offenbach: 069.800.10.08
Transvestitengruppe, Berlin: 030.882.23.70
TV Club Hamburg: 040.250.13.13
Belfast Butterfly, Rep. of Ireland: (0232) 322 023
De Stichting Reborn, Netherlands: 31104503469
Seahorse Society of NSW, Australia: 02-569 6239
Khusra, Pakistan: 05921 6158
Transline Hedesthia, New Zealand: (09) 763-523

CROSS-TALK

THE MAGAZINE

IS COMING !!! ... SEE PAGE 21

