

Renaissance News



Volume 2, No. 10

P.O. Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA, 19406

October, 1988

Magazine And Newspaper Feature Renaissance And It's Members

Early September brought lots of good PR for Renaissance. Feature articles about the group appeared in a major local magazine and a daily newspaper.

Carol Saline, author of the current best seller *Dr. Snow*, is also a writer for *Philadelphia Magazine*. Carol became interested in Renaissance after some members appeared on her radio talk show with Dr. William Stayton, a well known area psychologist with extensive experience dealing with TVs and TSs. Ms. Saline visited the group on two occasions and spent hours in conversation with its members.

The article focused on the life of a family where the husband/father is a TV. Carol interviewed a spouse and children of members and even took two members and their daughters out for Sunday Brunch. Photographs for the article were taken by a staff photographer and by Mariette Pathy Allen.

The article ran in the October issue and became available on newsstands about the third week of September.

More positive fallout resulted from the Downey show when Renaissance was contacted by Mary McArdle a feature writer for the Lansdale, PA *Reporter*, one of the Gannett dailies (a la *USA Today*).

Ms. McArdle's editor had seen the Renaissance press release and watched the show. She was intrigued with the group and decided a feature article was warranted.

Mary spent two hours interviewing JoAnn Roberts, and three more hours with Paula Sinclair while a photographer snapped photos of both the "ladies". Finding the subjects of transvestism and transsexualism both puzzling and very interesting she asked if she could "go along" during one of the

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Why Ask For Chapter Status?

How Will A Chapter Benefit From Affiliation?

(The following discussion assumes that the By Laws ammendment is approved)

Any full voting member may petition the Board of Directors, in writing, for chapter status. If the Board approves the request, the chapter then has certain rights and privileges as spelled out in the By Laws. One of those rights is representation on the Board.

If that were all, one might wonder why should anyone affiliate with Renaissance? The answer lies in the support services that will be provided to a chapter. We will help to organize a chapter, show how to build an effective outreach campaign, provide startup programs, and give access to our publications.

The current publications include: Background Papers which discuss a number of TV/TS topics, in plain language, for both the transgendered person and the professional counselor; Community Action Bulletins which give a basic background on how to get chapter activities into the media; and Special Publications which are produced from time to time, available at a discount.

Even better, a chapter will be provided monthly column space in the *Renaissance News*, so that all members will stay informed of national and local activities. A chapter may choose to create its own newsletter in addition to the monthly *News*. If that is the case, we will show them how best to accomplish that as well.

Remarks on TV/TS Research

(Editor's note: I sent an advanced copy of the TV/TS research article [Vol2, No 9] to my friend Veronica Brown at the XX Club for her views and comment. She did not disappoint me.)

To The Editor:

Any research study in the gender field is difficult to do mainly for a lack of willing participants. The majority of transsexual people who have made a successful transition to a higher state of normalcy by means of hormone therapy, reassignment surgery and integration into the mainstream cul-

ture, are the ones least likely to participate in such studies. At a XX Club meeting last year, of the eight post-op people gathered, not one (besides myself) agreed to take part in an anonymous study being done by a California researcher.

Not having access to Dr. Blanchard's data, it is difficult for me to address his findings on a medical level, though my own interpretations would probably differ from his. I would argue, however, that there is indeed a differ-

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September Meeting Notes

The September meetings more than made up for the lack of an August meeting this summer. We were fortunate enough to have an excellent wig styling demo for the meeting on the 19th and two outstanding speakers for the meeting on the 24th.

The Monday night meeting experiment on the 19th was a success, even if the Ladies room was under repair. Angela, Alison and Melanie greeted 42 people, of which more than half were new faces. We will be scheduling more

of these weeknight meetings in the future.

On the 24th our cups overflowed as we hosted Ariadne Kane of the Outreach Institute who spoke about "Gender Issues In the 90's". We also had a lawyer, Turrey Smith, who gave us some insights into the legal issues of interest to TVs and TSs.

Once again we are indebted to our hosts, Dr. Stayton and his colleagues. The office space was doubled over the summer and we now have room to hold 100 people.

Member Gets Royal Treatment

Susan and Judy P. were vacationing in sunny California this summer and stopped in Los Angeles. While there, Susan contacted a friend, Tara D., that she'd met through the JSS Gender Forum BBS, and they made plans to meet for dinner.

After dinner, Tara invited our travellers to attend a meeting of the support group Androgyny, in

Santa Monica.

Susan says that she and Judy were very warmly accepted. And, when it was learned that they were members of Renaissance, they were inundated with praises for the group and were told, "EVERYONE has heard of Renaissance!"

Susan wanted us to know of the kind reception and that we have friends all over the country.

Photographer Offers Her Services

Irene Mills, a freelance photographer from Philadelphia, is offering her services as a portrait photographer to Renaissance members. For groups of ten or more members, an exclusive date will be reserved at Ms. Mills' studio and she will shoot a 36 exposure roll of color film of each person for \$50 apiece. You get the exposed film. You have the prints made, You

keep the negs. Total privacy!

This is a money back guaranteed deal. If you don't like the technical quality, Irene will refund your money or reshoot the film.

The Editor has seen her portfolio and she does magnificent work. A tentative date for the session has been set for Wednesday, Oct 19th, from 5PM to 11PM. Call the office to get the address of the studio.

And Don't Forget About...

• The PCHA Food Bank: Joanne Sutton reminds us that the Food Bank would like non-perishable food and basic toiletry items. Please, no clothing, they have no space to store it. We resume collections at the 9/24 meeting.

• The Benjamin Book Project with the Outreach Institute. Special member discounts, Regular

Edition @ \$28.50, Deluxe @ \$33.50

• Christmas Party Planning Committee needs volunteers. Contact Alison Laing. Let us know if you will attend the party.

• Henri David's Hallowe'en Ball at the Warwick Hotel, Philadelphia. Coss: \$10 in costume, vouchers-\$15. Starts at 9:00 PM.

• Nominations for Officers.

Renaissance News

Staff

Senior Editor: **JoAnn Roberts**
National Editor: **Paula Sinclair**
Overseas Editor: **Trudi Henry**
Photo Editor: **Angela Gardner**
Admin. Assistants: **Susan P., Beth and Rachel M.**
Copy & Layout: **Creative Design Services, King of Prussia, PA.**

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

Business Report Thru Sept. 19th

September Attendance

On the 19th: 42

On the 24th: 75

Paid Members: 208

Starting Balance: \$1554.05 Income:

Dues & Donations \$205.55

Publications \$17.50

Advertising \$70.00

Benefit Tix \$90.00

Subtotal \$383.05

Expenses:

Deposit for Benefit \$100.00

Subtotal \$283.05

Ending Balance \$1837.10

Coming Events:

October

8th 2nd Annual AIDS Benefit Dinner & Fashion Show in New Hope, PA, 6PM

14th-23rd Fantasia Fair

15th Renaissance Meeting Guest: Monica Rey, Female Impersonator

30th Henri David's Hallowe'en Ball at Warwick Hotel, Starts at 9:00 PM.

November

19th Renaissance Meeting

December

17th 2nd Annual Xmas Party

Opinion - **The Forum** - Information

The Issue of Respect... by Mary (A Spouse)

Reprinted by Permission from The IXE Newsletter Vol. 3 #7.

When a TV is married, it seems to me, that he encounters special problems. Many can be worked out by tolerance and love, but there is one feeling that *must* be present in the marriage, and that is respect.

It is too easy for a woman who feels at ease with her gender to look down upon her husband. The main reason, I think, is that he is (to her) a clumsy imitation of what she is naturally.

He may be a very stunning look-alike but to her, he is merely aping the real thing. She may even think that he is trying to usurp her rights and privileges as a woman, and taking from her the only thing that is uniquely hers.

The wife must remember that she did not marry her husband simply because he was a man. (if she did, then she has a problem.) She married him, irrespective of gender, for his human qualities. She loved his kindness, his strength, his abilities, and his love for her. She must remember that these qualities exist in both men and women, and that she is married to a person. That person is a human being who is worthy of respect.

I know that there are many marriages where the husband and wife do not respect each other, but how happy are they? If Mom ridicules Dad in front of the children,

or Dad makes cutting remarks about Mom's extra pounds in front of her friends, that marriage is headed for trouble.

Why do we get married in the first place? For love, companionship and safety, and for the purpose of bringing up children.

I wouldn't want a companion that I couldn't respect, and who had no respect for me. I could not respect a child-abuser, a wife-beater, a lazy slob. My husband is none of these things. He is an ambitious, intelligent, compassionate human being, with a sense of humor. He also lends me his clothes. Who could ask for anything more?



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Paula .. The NewsQueen .. Sinclair

We'll lead off this month with some political news from the Democrats. No, not that old item about Michael Dukakis being a Lesbian, or, more accurately being descended from a long line of Lesbians—residents of the Greek island of Lesbos. This month's flash comes from the lips of Rep. Tom Foley of Washington state, speaking at the Atlanta convention this summer:

"We no longer have a whole series of factional, fractional caucuses like 'Transvestites for the MX Missile' demanding special attention. We no longer see all those groups of hyphenated Democrats running around."

Well, judging by the latest polls, the Democrats could use all the support they could get, even from transvestites.



But if the Democrats get hold of a new report from the United Nations Subcommittee on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, they might decide that transvestites make up one of the fastest growing voter blocs, at least a certain type of transvestite.

Meeting in Geneva in August, the subcommittee heard career diplomat Jean Frenand-Laurent report that "prostitution by transvestites is growing with such worrisome rapidity that it has reached the point of giving serious competition to women prostitutes."

Now, before you head out to the nearest corner to join this "trend," you ought to hear some of Frenand-Laurent's other conclusions. He says that male homosexuality is on the rise because of the pressure put on men "by the social model (of virility) to achieve an exceptionally high level of sexual performance with their female partners." As far as lesbians are concerned, Frenand-Laurent says there would be fewer of them if

"men were able to be more affectionate, more attentive and more tactful."

Despite Fernand-Laurent's beliefs, which seem more directed at preventing sexual minorities than protecting them, the subcommittee's heart seems to be in the right place.



While we have an international focus, here's a bit of crossdressing trivia from Algeria. While veiled Moslem women are the norm almost everywhere else in the world, it is the men who cover their faces in the Touareg tribe of this North African nation.

It is more than a breach of etiquette for a Touareg man to appear in public with a bare face; it threatens his masculinity. Or, as a 60-year-old man said, "Without a veil you are not a man."

Algeria was a former French colony. Do you suppose that the U.N.'s Fernand-Laurent wandered through Algeria, saw the Touareg men, and concluded...



Or, for more supposition, suppose that while location filming for *Ishtar*, Warren Beatty ran into some Touareg tribesmen and decided then and there to play opposite a transvestite in his next film. Or, perhaps the desert location had nothing to do with it. Maybe it was Dustin Hoffman. How else can you explain the talk now going around Hollywood that Beatty is dickering to play the lover of a transvestite Chinese opera star?

The Beatty reportedly wants to portray Gallimard, the French diplomat whose 20-year love affair with the transvestite is the story behind the hit Broadway play *M. Butterfly*. John Lithgow debuted the role in the Eugene O'Neil Theatre, which was a bit of a switch for him, having played the transsexual former football player in *The World According to Garp*.

There was no word on casting the "female" lead for the film. But Hollywood insiders say it will be tough to find an actor as good as 25-year-old Bradd Wong who won a Tony award for his portrayal of the title role.



And finally, this note from our Television Viewer Protection Department. The next time you see a beautifully made up and coiffured person on a talk show claiming to be a transvestite, don't be so sure. It could be a woman posing as a man who is dressed as a woman. It sounds like the plot line from an updated *Victor/Victoria*, but it could be true.

In August, the Omaha *World-Herald* reported that actress Tani Freiwald duped three of the biggest syndicated talk show hosts by posing as a long-suffering wife who hates sex on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, a surrogate sex partner on Sally Jessy Raphael's program, and as a "rescuer" of male virgins on *Geraldo*. The newspaper also reported that actor Wes Baily posed as one of the virgins saved by Freiwald on Rivera's program.

Spokesmen for Winfrey and Raphael said they had no plans to alter their screening procedures for guests on those shows. Meanwhile, Bill Boggs, executive producer for *The Morton Downey Jr. Show*, denied rumors (or should we say threats) that Mort would now personally investigate the attributes of people who claim to be transvestites in order to get on his show.



While Miss Sinclair claims to read many newspapers each day, her eyes aren't what they used to be and she may miss a story or two. If you see an interesting article kindly clip it and send it to her in care of Renaissance, Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406.

Hot Stuff!

"No one gets too old to learn a new way of being stupid."

☛ Hemlines are still in the news. Every designer has just about every length in their line. The buyers are goin' nuts trying to figure out what the women (and us, too) are going to buy this season. In case you're confused also, here a few guidelines: With a hem just at or below the knee, look for a high-waisted skirt with a slim fit. For a skirt with a calf or below length, full and lots of swing is right. A knee-baring skirt should be tailored and trim.

☛ Top off that skirt with the right length coat this Fall. Over a monochrome mini look, wear a three-quarter length full coat in a HOT Fall color, like STOP SIGN Red. To cover those pleated baggy trousers that everyone says are so "IN" you need a long fluid coat that falls strongly from the shoulders to the trouser cuff.

☛ With all sorts of leg expanse being shown, a girl has to start thinking about taking care of her legs too. After shaving, wait a few hours and apply moisturizer. If your skin is chapped, shaving may actually help by removing dead cells. Don't soak in that hot bath too long before shaving your legs, The heat causes the skin to swell and prevents a close shave.

☛ Be good to yourself, buy some silk lingerie. Too expensive, you say? Au contraire, ma cherie! Washable silk camisoles and bikinis are available from Royal Silk, Royal Silk Plaza, 45 E. Madison Ave., Clifton, NJ 07011 (1-800-321-SILK). Sizes are S(4-6), M(8-10), L(12-14) and XL(14-16). The colors are Blue, Red, Ivory and, of course, Black. Price? A mere \$22 plus \$2 shipping and handling.

☛ There are different types of mascara for different applications and people. If your eyes are sensitive, or you wear contacts, try Revlon's

On The Town with Alison

Hallowe'en Happenings

The trick to having a great treat on Hallowe'en is to find the places where you can dress the way you want and have loads of fun, and the Delaware Valley is full of them.

Starting in Downtown Philly we have The New Kurt's - a club frequented by many Renaissance ladies for their fabulous Brunch on Sundays and for dancing. Gary, one of the managers, says that Kurt's welcomes people of all persuasions (over 21). While details for the Hallowe'en celebrations are not yet finalized, Kurt's plans to have two parties; one on Sunday, Oct 30th and one on Monday, Oct 31st. Gary promises that most everyone will be in costume, with lots of wild and beautiful outfits. He also warns that they will fill up early and usually have lines outside the door. Kurt's is on Chestnut St. just below 12th.

Across the river in NJ, Gatsby's is holding their Hallowe'en events on Friday, Oct 28th, and Sat., the 29th. Watch for details in the October issues of PGN, but Gatsby's management did tell me that they will be giving out \$500 in prize money for best costumes; including Female Impersonator. Gatsby's also assures us that everyone is welcome any evening. Gatsby's is located on Rte. 70 in Cherry Hill, NJ, just a mile east of where Rtes. 38 and 70 divide.

The Cartwheel on Rte 202, just outside (west) of New Hope, PA, is actually leading off all the festivities with their costume party and contest on Thursday, Oct 27th. The Cartwheel has a variety of

environments including a Piano Bar-Lounge, several rooms for intimate dining, and a large disco.

The winners of the various New Hope F.I. contests will be assembled for a final contest at Zadar's, also in New Hope, on the BIG night Oct. 31st. The best of the best will be there.

The ultimate Hallowe'en experience in Philly is the annual extravaganza produced by Mr. Hallowe'en himself, Henri David. This year the event, which is expected to draw many hundreds of guests, will be held Sunday, Oct. 30th in the Grande Ballroom of the Warwick Hotel (Locust at 17th). The evening will begin at 9PM and the lobby will be jammed with enthusiastic and appreciative voyeurs (there should be a few at the party, as well). Dancing to a live band and cash bars provide the entertainment until midnight when the costume competition begins. Prizes will be given for costumes in such categories as, Most Ethereal, Most Hysterical, Most Horrifying, Most Beautiful F.I., Most Believable F.I., Original Couple, Best Statue, and many, many more. In addition to the party-goers, there is always the visual treat of Mr. David, himself, wearing his own unique creation. There will be plenty of fantastic costumes, including many crossdressers and gender benders.

Girls, ladies, TVs, TSs, CDs, FIs, DQs, whatever you are, this is the time to get out and be the fantasy woman you've always wanted to be. In the inimitable words of Henri David, "Don't come as you are, but as you want to be!"

Special Eyes Micropure Mascara. To avoid the Raccoon effect, you need Max Factor's No Color Masacara or a waterproof type like Maybelline Magic. For skimpy lashes, try a lengthener like Avon's

Curl & Color.

☛ Makeup for Fall is 60's Revival. Break all the new-old rules. 1-Green eyeshadow is HOT. If you

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A Tale of Tall Heels...Speaking of Spikes

Despite their potential for discomfort, nothing quite makes a woman's legs look as good as they do when she is wearing high heels. Sure they hurt! Sure flats are "in"! But it is also true that legs look longest and slimmest in tall, skinny heels.

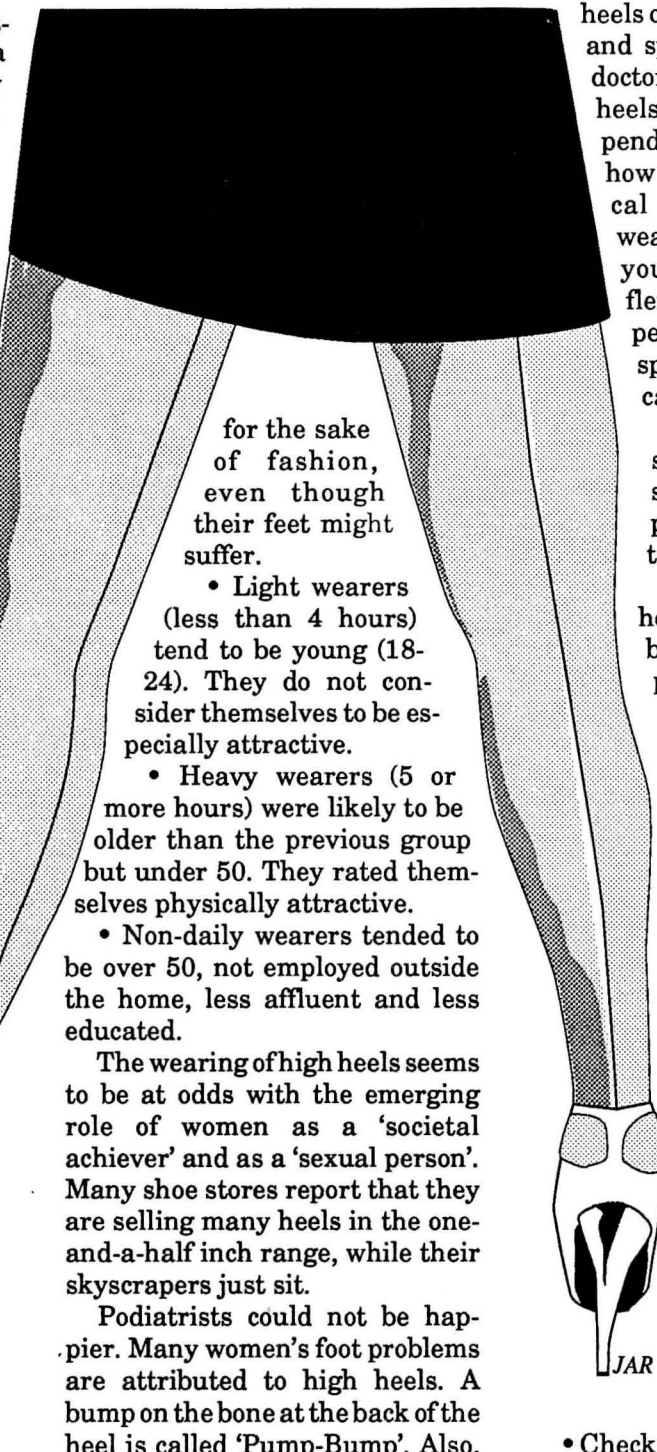
Just ask Mimi Pond, author of *Shoes Never Lie*, (Berkely Publishing, \$4.95). She says, "You wear red high heels and you can make men bark. At the sight of them, men become befuddled and confused. Even if all you do is wear red high heels at home, it makes for a better marriage."

What is a high heel? Heels start at 1-inch and can climb to stiletto height at 5 to 6 inches. Height is a matter of personal style. Some women like the sleek, low key, business look of 1 inch heels but others prefer tower-power. Gloria Steinem, writer, editor and feminist wears short skirts and high heels.

In a national poll taken in 1986, it was found that women were wearing their high heels less often than 5 years earlier, but they were not about to give them up.

Among the findings:

- Fifty-nine percent wear heels for at least one hour (up to 8 hours)



for the sake of fashion, even though their feet might suffer.

- Light wearers (less than 4 hours) tend to be young (18-24). They do not consider themselves to be especially attractive.

- Heavy wearers (5 or more hours) were likely to be older than the previous group but under 50. They rated themselves physically attractive.

- Non-daily wearers tended to be over 50, not employed outside the home, less affluent and less educated.

The wearing of high heels seems to be at odds with the emerging role of women as a 'societal achiever' and as a 'sexual person'. Many shoe stores report that they are selling many heels in the one-and-a-half inch range, while their skyscrapers just sit.

Podiatrists could not be happier. Many women's foot problems are attributed to high heels. A bump on the bone at the back of the heel is called 'Pump-Bump'. Also, you can get hammer-toe, a condition that bends the toes and creates corns. Other doctors feel that

heels over 2 inches cause back and spine problems. Not all doctors, however, agree that heels are bad for you. "It depends a lot on good fit and how one stands", says a local female doctor who wears heels quite a bit, "your knees should be flexed slightly and your pelvis tucked in. If your spine is in alignment, you can avoid back pain."

If you buy the right shoes to begin with you should be able to avoid problems. Here's some tips.

- Take new shoes home and break them in by wearing them, on carpeting, for an hour or so. If they don't feel right, take them back.

- Flex new shoes a few times to make them more supple before wearing.

- Feet expand with heat and friction as the day goes on. Buy shoes a half-size larger if you are going to be on your feet all day with them.

- Don't assume you'll wear the same size forever. Feet tend to get longer as you grow older.

- Hosiery must fit well too. Make sure there is room to wiggle your toes; don't be walking on wrinkles.

- Check the lining of the shoe for rough seams that may rub your feet. Some shoes look great on the outside but terrible on the inside.

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Comments on TV/TS Research...from front page

ence between hetero-, bi- and asexual TSs, and this difference is that of choice of sexual partner(s). Choice of sexual partner is one of the current differentiating methods used to classify humans, though I read somewhere that Freud said that all humans are capable of bisexual realtrionships or experiences. It is centuries of religious brainwashing that prevents more of us from doing so. Unfortunately, the articel did not specify if the homosexual TS was that way before, during or after their transition.

I cannot comment on the validity of Dr. Balnchard's findings concerning heterosexual fetishistic TSs being related to treansvestites. Most TSs would vehemently argue this point. All the transsexuals I know have never confided in me whether or not they get turned on by their crossdressing. This mode of dressing usually includes such erotic and fantasy items as blue jeans, denim skirts, sneakers, low heeled comfortable shoes, shorts, t-shirts and unpretentious cotton blouses or simple sweaters.

It can be noted here that of the 'true' male-to-feamle transsexual (the 'guys' are a different matter)

types who come to the XX Club, for their first few visits, many wear dressy or 'going to a party' evening outfits. Once they see, realize and understand that this whole business is not a dress up affair, they usually tone down their attire and makeup to a more sensible, casual and comfortable style, much as what most genetic females would wear on a Saturday afternoon.

There may very well be a correlation of TSs to TVs, as indicated by Dr. Blanchard's research. On a social level, however, this is a different matter. Some TVs like to be around TSs because the latter represents the ultimate fantasy/thrill to the crossdresser. (I wish I had a dollar for every time a TV, over the past five years, has expressed warm feelings of admiration for what I've done.) In the beginning, some TSs will exploit TV/TS organizations for support, information sources and to seek social contacts with other TSs. Once they have their act together, they depart, and many will voice negative feelings toward the TVs. Some may return to the TV/TS socail; scene once in a while but will usually refuse totake part in any gender event where they

might be seen by straight people, and thus be read or pegged as one of those 'weirdo' crossdressers.

Some people agree with Dr. Benjamin's gender scale, that TVs and TSs are at opposite ends of the spectrum. Others (usually TSs) feel that the two groups belong on two entirely different charts. For my part, I am inclined to go with the the latter opinion. While there may be cases where, because of internal confused behavior, wrongfully assumed concepts, and possibly a multitude of other jaded emotional and sociological factors, there may be some individuals whose characteristics may overlap, I believe that TVs and TSs are two completely different life forms and should be considered as such. The TV seeks gender expression to whatever means or extremes of taste at their disposal, while the TS wants nothing more than to permanently alter their external assigned gender characteristics and role to match their inner female psyche.

Sincerely,

Veronica Jean Brown
Community Liason Officer
The XX Club, Hartford, CT.

Articles...from front page

Renaissance speaking engagements to obtain more information.

Mary was denied access to the next class lecture by university officials, but she agreed to join the girls afterward at a local pub. Two of the female students from the class went along to give Mary their insights into what they had learned during the class.

The article ran on the front page of the paper, above the fold, with a color photo, just as Mary promised. She also included the group's name address and phone number.

It is expected that this coverage will result in a sharp increase of inquiries and a subsequent rise in memberships.

HOT STUFF...from page 5

have blue or hazel eyes, use a yellow-green color. If your eyes are blue-green, highlight lids in a gray-green. Dark eyes look great in Emerald. Light brown eyes can wear any shade. 2-Muted pink is a great shadow, just avoid those with blue undertones. Don't use pink beneath the eyes. Draw a fine line along the base of lashes in black or dark brown. 3- Lips and nails must match? Not anymore! Try violet nails and brick-red lips, or burnt pink nails and mauve lips. 4- Try mixing lid liners, too, like Forest green on top lid and Violet on the bottom. Make sure the line is very fine. On the top lid, line between the lashes; on the bottom

line under, not over, the lashes. 5-Bright RED lipstick is "IN" right now. (hasn't it always?) Just stay clear of those with blue undertones. 6- Colored mascara has made it to daytime. Try a soft burgundy against a moss-green lid. Green and deep blue mascara look good with brown eyes. Burgundy and plum go best with blue eyes and lighter.

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**N.B.: Meetings now
begin at 8:00 PM.**

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