

# CROSS-TALK

The Gender Community's News & Information Monthly

**#58**

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# CROSS-TALK

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**AUGUST 1994**  
(ISSUE #58)



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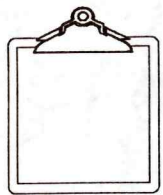
**ASSOCIATE EDITORS:** Anne Blackwood, Linda Peacock, Virginia Prince, JoAnn Roberts.

**COVER ARTWORK** courtesy Creative Design Services.



**Cross-Talk** is printed entirely on recycled paper using soybean oil-based ink by our friends at Arena Press in Point Arena CA. Their phone number is (707) 882-2833. It's okay to mention our name again since we've almost gotten caught up on our past due balance.





## KYMBERLEIGH'S CLIPBOARD

### COULD WE PLEASE TALK TO EACH OTHER?

by Kymberleigh Richards

I just love being in the middle of an argument. (Read that in a voice dripping with sarcasm, if you will.)

Last month, in our "Newswire" section, we published a report regarding IFGE's announcement of the 1997 convention, which is proposed to be held in the Los Angeles area. Unfortunately, none of the local leadership was either consulted before the decision or alerted of the announcement before it was made, and we reported this as well.

Several of the local leadership -- myself included -- were in favor of sending a letter to the IFGE board of directors

expressing their dissatisfaction

with the decision. The argument

reads something like this: In any

IFGE convention, the local

groups play a major role. In

Philadelphia, it was Renaissance;

in Houston, Tau Chi and GCTC;

in Portland, NWGA and

Emerald City. In Los Angeles,

there are four dominant groups

(Alpha, Born Free, CHIC, and

PPOC); two secondary

organizations (Androgyny and PanSocial);

three gender community media companies

(Cross Connection, Crossdresser's Quarterly,

and Cross-Talk), and five

crossdresser-oriented stores (Jim Bridges,

Especially For Me, Fantasy Lingerie,

Lydia's, and Versatile Fashions).

Yet the only "official" contact IFGE made

with any of us before making their

announcement was a casual, non-committal

conversation with Merissa Sherrill Lynn

at this Spring's IFGE convention in which

I said I thought it might be a good idea

to hold it -- someday -- in our region.

While the local leadership debated,

the IFGE board met at the "Be All" weekend

in Pittsburgh and discussed the matter.

(Apparently the grapevine communicated

the local dissatisfaction to several board

members.) The board decided to back

away from the announced commitment to

L.A. long enough for Linda Buten to

communicate with the local leadership.

They also backed away from the

appointment of Melissa Foster as host

coordinator, citing the question of her

status with some of the local

organizations.

However, before any of the board's

actions could be made

There has obviously been a lot of miscommunication, and IFGE takes the most blame for that miscommunication.

known, PPOC's Joan Goodnight wrote a letter to Linda Buten expressing her concerns and dissatisfaction. In it, she points out that the initial impression of the IFGE press release makes it appear that IFGE made the decision "by virtue of who they are and the decision is cast in concrete" and that phrases such as "after lengthy discussion and careful consideration of local and regional issues, it was concluded ..." and "the Southern California representatives have shown beyond all doubt their ability and willingness to make '97 the most successful ..." implies consultation that **did not occur**.

Joan goes on to an obvious conclusion: That the decision was made by Merissa Sherrill Lynn, based on assurances from Melissa Foster about local group participation. Let me add that the decision obviously was made without the consent of the IFGE board. Joan points out that the local organizations need to be involved if a local IFGE convention is to be successful.

Given the number of organizations I listed above, I believe this is **absolutely critical** to the convention's success.

Finally, Joan makes the most obvious potential conflict even more so (if that's possible). IFGE's convention is held in mid-March; "California Dreamin'", which is hosted by PPOC with participation from most of the above-named organizations, is held six weeks later. I do not believe for one minute that the local community is prepared to -- can afford to -- support both, and I do not believe for one second that the two events can be easily and logically combined.

While Joan did react somewhat, being unaware of the board's actions at "Be All" makes her letter appropriate nonetheless. As Joan forwarded me (as well as the rest of the local leadership and the entire IFGE board) a copy of her letter, I also received a copy of a letter Merissa sent to the same distribution list regarding Joan's letter.

Merissa maintains that Southern California was selected because -- in her words -- "it was Southern California's turn". She goes on to explain that IFGE has been moving the convention around the country, and that by 1997 it will

have been held in every region of the country but here.

She also points out that IFGE has a permanent staff to handle convention operations and says the local organizations "can be involved, or not involved as they see fit".

Her letter, contrary to the board's actions, reaffirms Melissa Foster as "host committee chair", and glosses over the question of "California Dreamin'" by saying it would **not** need to be cancelled. (Joan never proposed the cancellation of "Dreamin'", but instead raised the question of its rescheduling or combining the two events.)

There has obviously been a lot of miscommunication, and I believe IFGE takes the most blame for that miscommunication. Had they talked with the local leadership -- recognizing that there are far more of us to deal with here than at any other IFGE convention site -- **before** making any announcements, none of the rest of this debacle would have happened. Further, IFGE still has not issued a new press release clarifying the matter in light of the Pittsburgh board meeting.

I am unaware, as of this writing, of any official communication between IFGE and the local leadership, other than a conversation I had with Yvonne Cook-Riley in which she essentially told me what I already knew from Merissa's letter and from conversations with IFGE board members who were present in Pittsburgh. (At that time, I indicated that I would be happy to act in any liaison capacity between IFGE and the local organizations, if it would help solve the miscommunication problem. They

have not yet taken me up on my offer.)

Yes, Joan Goodnight did jump to some erroneous conclusions, but they were based on information that was miscommunicated by IFGE in the first place and her major objections are valid.

Fortunately for all concerned, this has all taken place far enough in the future that it does **not** have to preclude a successful IFGE convention in Los Angeles some 30-odd months from now. But the lines of communication must be redrawn and reopened for that to happen.

What IFGE must understand is -- to reiterate -- that there are far more local concerns that would logically be involved in the convention than has been the case **anywhere else** they have held it. They must -- **from the beginning** -- keep the local interests informed and involved in the process. IFGE must clarify exactly what they have direct responsibility for and what they would want the locals to take responsibility for. Once the locals know what is expected from them, let them decide among themselves who should act as their liaison with IFGE.

Yvonne says the conflict with "Dreamin'" will be solved by holding the IFGE convention at the other end of the region, near Disneyland (seems appropriate, given the "Mickey Mouse" nature of the communications thus far). That's a good first step, but much, much more must be done to keep this from turning into a political battle ... before this turns into what will be perceived as a "turf war".

Let's hope this really is a "Coming-Together-Working Together" convention.

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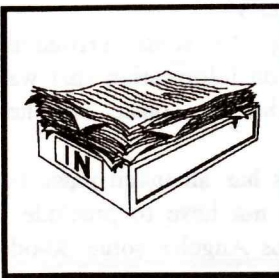
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# "Cross-Talk" Newswire

News of the worldwide gender community

The Tri-Ess board of directors, meeting in Memphis, Tenn. June 25, reacting to television coverage at last year's "Holiday En Femme" convention, has approved a media policy for the organization.

The new policy was designed to take advantage of "a valuable opportunity to reach out to crossdressers in secrecy and educate the public about crossdressing" while reducing the ability of the media to compromise the security and confidentiality of convention participants. It allows the host chapter of each year's convention to decide whether or not local media will be allowed at the event, and to communicate their decision to the national organization six months prior to the convention weekend. Media "hostesses" will be required -- regardless of the decision -- to enforce the policy and answer any media inquiries during the weekend. The national policy calls for any such coverage to be confined to a "media" room away from convention activities. Reporters would not be allowed "to remain outside the hotel or remain in the lobby with camera crews ... [or roam] the hotel, buttonholing participants in the lobby and corridors." Reporters with a reputation for exploitation or sensationalism would not be allowed.

The board also agreed to join in a joint outreach venture with IFGE, Renaissance, and AEGIS at this October's convention of the American College of Social Workers; approved Calgary, Alberta as the site for the 1995 "Holiday En Femme" and Chicago for the 1996 convention; and began the process of developing an overseas outreach program called "Sisters Across The Sea", which would encourage correspondence between Tri-Ess members and members of gender community organizations outside North America,

The next Tri-Ess board meeting will be held at the November "Holiday En Femme" convention in New York City.

○○○

A change of ownership at the hotel that was to be used for this year's "Fall Harvest" event has forced organizers to arrange a last-minute change of venue.

Iowa Artistry, this year's "Harvest" host organization has arranged to hold the event at the Sheraton Inn in Cedar Rapids on the same weekend (November 17 through 20) as previously announced. While room rates are slightly higher, the organization is offering lower registration

rates for the event for those who sign up before September 15). Iowa Artistry has set up a special hotline telephone number, (319) 373-3031, for further information.

The new ownership of the hotel previously contracted with for "Harvest" has announced that they will close for remodeling November 1.

○○○

Renaissance Education Association, Inc. has moved its national headquarters into new office space at the Wayne Counseling center in Philadelphia.

The new offices, which will be shared with Dr. William Stayton, will allow Renaissance to have volunteers answering the phone live -- at present, the "hotline" is answered exclusively by voice mail -- consolidate files presently stored at several sites, and set up a library and reading room.

Other uses planned for the offices will be face-to-face meetings and interviews with the media.

○○○

The husband of well-known gender community photographer Mariette Pathy Allen died July 10 after a long illness.

Memorial services for Ken Allen were held July 14 at Campbell Funeral Home in New York City. The gender community was represented by Merissa Sherrill Lynn and other members of the IFGE staff. Interment was in nearby Connecticut.

Donations may be made to the Ken Allen Memorial Fund at the New York High School for Sciences and Mathematics, and may be sent c/o Mariette Pathy Allen, 100 Riverside Dr. #15/AB, New York NY 10024.

○○○

Drs. Vern and Bonnie Bullough have released the first questionnaire for their research on gender, sexuality and related opinions, with three sections covering general information, crossdressing experiences, and sexual opinions.

The eight-page questionnaire, which was distributed with the most recent issue of the Tri-Ess magazine *The Femme Mirror*, contains 68 questions, about one-third of which requiring comments. The sexual opinion survey is designed completely in a "range of feelings" format.

Those wishing to participate in the survey may contact the Bulloughs directly at (818) 885-0869, or by writing them at

17434 Mayall St., Northridge CA 91325.

○○○

A new weekend event in the Florida area has been planned for this fall by the Serenity and Eden Society organizations.

"Fort Lauderdale Freedom" will take place the first weekend of November with a schedule including a gambling boat cruise, dinner theatre, and a shopping spree at a local discount shopping mall. Programs and seminars will include discussions on cosmetic surgery, hormones, psychological insights, and hormone therapy. Programs are also planned for both M2F and F2M transsexuals.

Information may be obtained by calling (305) 468-9732, or via Internet e-mail to [jgouldgate.net](mailto:jgouldgate.net), or via America OnLine e-mail to [JessicaAN](mailto:JessicaAN).

○○○

A management and training consulting firm has branched into the gender community by producing three specialized videos on crossdressing, gender, and related behaviors.

The three videos produced by Horizon Institute in Florida, feature Outreach Institute founder Ariadne Kane. *Crossdressing and Transgendered Behaviors* is directed toward a general audience, specifically those people outside the community who have the "first contact" with a transgendered person and needs a basic knowledge of the subject; *The Crossdresser and the Transsexual -- First Contact* is directed toward law enforcement and medical personnel, as well as teachers, guidance counselors, the clergy and helpline operators; and *The Crossdresser and His Wife -- Strategies for Coping* is geared at crossdressers and their partners. Horizon production coordinator Steve Keller hopes the videos will gain wide distribution through therapists and organizations within the gender community. Horizon may be contacted at P.O. Box 5757, Deltona FL 32728.

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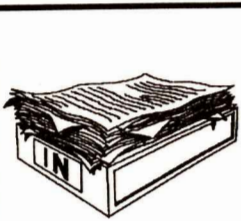
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# The Diva Of Dish

-- Angela Gardner

O.K., kids, fasten your seat belts, it's going to be a bumpy ride! Not really, but if you can use a Bette Davis line in your column, what the hey! I've got oodles of bubbly, fluffy stuff in this column and with out any further ado let's get it whipped to a froth.



**SF TG:** Reader Wendy Smith from Pittsburgh sent me an interesting letter that is too long to print in its entirety. She applauded my mention of Moonchild, a female character in the Wild Card series who is one of the five different characters that are generated when their "host", Cap'n Trips takes different combinations of mind expanding drugs. In Trips' case it transforms his body too. Wendy wanted me to mention that the Wild Card series has a few instances of men turning into women. Most notably, *Double Solitaire*, in which the male protagonist's mind is transferred into a young woman's body. The female character with a male mind is raped and then experiences pregnancy and birth. This particular book is one of the few in the series completely written by one author. Who, you ask? Melinda M. Snodgrass is her name and she sure can write. *Double Solitaire* is one of the later books in the series and it helps if you read all of them but it can be read on its own.



**JIMMY OLSEN'S BLUES:** The absolute gem which Wendy included in her package was a photocopy of a DC Comic from 1966. DC has been mentioned in this column before due to their unkind treatment of Catwoman at the comic convention last September, and that treatment is made all the more ironic by the contents of this photocopied story. It's called *Miss Jimmy Olsen* and yes, it's Jimmy in drag. By 1966 I wasn't reading too many comics and I really don't think I saw this one. I know I would remember it. Jimmy goes under cover to get the goods on a supposedly reformed gangster who is backing a show. The show is auditioning for chorus girls so Jimmy applies. He takes his female disguise out of an old trunk that is actually labeled, "Disguise Trunk". Understandably his dress is all wrinkled (like the attire of some of the girls at Renaissance meetings who are forced to store their clothes in musty old trunks), and so he has to iron it. He accomplishes this task in underwear, stockings, heels and wig. Sexy stuff, Jimbo! At the theater, Jimmy now in full disguise as "Julie" shows his legs to the director and gets the gig. It seems very

apparent that Jimmy is pretty good at this female impersonation stuff. He dances in heels, tucks well enough to wear a leotard and tights and gets the coveted part in the "baseball number". ("She" catches like a guy.) Of course sexy Julie attracts the interest of the gangster and soon they're out for a romantic evening on the town. In other words, it's a total transvestite fantasy. I will admit it got me hot. I won't reveal the surprise ending. The photocopy is enshrined in the Renaissance library for all to read and if you look for it in a comic store it's in the *Giant Jimmy Olsen* dated 1966.

I told you I thought Jimmy had done this kind of thing before and Wendy confirms it by saying that there are at least three other stories featuring "Miss Olsen". If anyone digs them up, make some copies and send them. They are interesting not only because of the TV angle but also as examples of how attitudes toward and treatment of women have changed (or not!) since the early sixties. Jimmy is called, "sister", "doll", "a skirt", "babe", and "chick". Of course he does get a diamond watch and a mink coat. Mink! How un-PC. I hope he stored it properly in a fur vault and didn't just throw it in the disguise trunk.



**LADIES HOME JOURNAL PERFORMS SEX CHANGE ON STRAIGHT COUPLE!** I had already heard about this from a couple of folks and Wendy sent a copy of the article in *Ladies Home Journal* called, "Trading Places". The *Journal* took a married couple who where also actors and had them switch gender for a week and otherwise go about their lives. I recommend that you read the article. It contains some good information on what it's like to cross the line, and to those of us who are going out as females it's interesting to hear the woman's observations on becoming male. I'm sure you can find it in your local library's periodicals section. They both look pretty convincing and personally I think he makes a more attractive woman. Of course I'm upset since he is an actor and now his agent will be submitting him for all the roles that I, Miss Gardner, should have. Oh, the pain.



**COLLEGE CAMPUS CUTIES:** First up, an informed source at a prestigious, mainline college has informed me that there are transsexual coeds on campus. Gasp! When I queried her as to how she had ascertained that fact, she replied that it was known to all the girls on campus that

three of the college's coeds were former guys. The interesting thing is, the women on campus are not friendly to these ladies and the transsexuals stay together all the time in a separate clique. "Why these barriers?" I asked and my source told me the campus women don't like the transsexuals because they just don't fit in. I thought she meant they didn't fit in because of their "difference". She said it was because these three are always "done" to the nines. They attend classes every day in designer outfits, "with matching hose and pumps".

Must be nice, girlfriend! The regular female students all wear rugby shirts and jeans. No wonder the "TS" students don't seem to fit in. I can't help but feel that if these three girls are spending that much time on their clothes and makeup (I'm told they are done like Christie Brinkley every morning) then they just may be transvestites. Don't you wish you were young and rich, had your parents and therapist bamboozled and got to go to college as a female? Ah to be young and crossdressed ... but, I digress. My source told me everyone would be happier if these three would just enroll at Haverford College. It seems all the coeds at Haverford get all done up everyday. Excuse me, I have to go to some mainline college campuses now.



**SURF'S UP:** On the television waves. It seems like there have been a veritable potpourri (I love that kind of talk) of guys in dresses and references to guys in dresses on television lately. That's not even counting *The Kids In The Hall* every Thursday night. They used to be on Friday, but I guess too many kids in baggy clothes with their caps on backwards were upset by men in women's clothes on Friday nights. Tune in on a Thursday or tape them.

Anyhow, in a one week period back in January I counted seven crossdresser related incidents on my TV set. I know there must be more that I missed and I'm not counting daytime talk shows or news programs. Wanna know what they where? I thought you'd never ask.

First, *NYPD Blue* did some drag bashing. This one wasn't fun since the crossdresser was a strangulation killer. Not only was she evil but after they tracked her down (her hairdresser ratted on her), the guy I can't help but call Buntz, even though they changed his name to Sippowicz, moved in for the bust. (Shouldn't that be plural?) He asked the leggy, blonde TV if she wanted to do it the easy way or the hard way. She replied by pulling her tight, Spandex mini up around her waist and dashing off down the block. One of the other officers blocked her escape and Buntz -- I mean Sippowicz -- tackled her. She lost her long, blonde tresses and when she asked if she could have her hair back as they led her away in handcuffs and a nylon stocking cap one of the cops kicked her hair into the street. Not a very positive appearance, and no way to take care of an expensive wig.

Later, on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, Malcolm

McDowell was Conan's guest. They showed a clip from one of McDowell's early, starring vehicles, *Caligula*. This film was shot in a slipshod manner. In one particular scene McDowell as Caligula makes love to his sister while Sir John Gielgud looks on. The two shots don't match up at all. They look as though they were shot at a completely different time with a different camera, which, as it turns out, they were. To make a joke of this Conan had himself inserted into the Gielgud part. He was dressed in a toga with those olive branches on his head. After the clip ran McDowell said, "Any excuse to get into a dress, eh?" After the applause died down Conan replied, "Maybe." Let me point out that Mr. O'Brien is the producer of *The Simpsons*. I think we've seen Bart and Homer in dresses pretty often. Conan also dressed up as Renee Richards for a tasteless skit about dropping balls in a previous program. As far as I know, the next day passed without any drag stuff on television but on the following day, boy oh boy. First up was *Entertainment Tonight* with not only RuPaul but Elton John taking Ms. Charles to the induction ceremony at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. They made a lovely couple. *ET* ran clips from their video which has Elton in drag too. Then that hot bed of crossdressing, *The Simpsons* featured a plot that had the family in the witness protection program. They packed up and left town but they forgot Grandpa Simpson. He is seen standing outside their old house in Springfield, pounding on the door and calling out for his medicine. Well, the plot is resolved and the Simpsons return to their old home. Still outside the house is Grandpa, but a transformed Grandpa. He has long hair, lipstick and breasts. It seems this transformation happened since the old guy didn't get his pills. Another old guy gives him a bouquet of flowers and as the credits roll we hear his voice saying, "Well, we can go out but there's something you should know about me." Talk about *The Crying Game*!

After *The Simpsons* came *Sinbad*, also on Fox. I don't

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really watch it but it was on while I was getting made up or something. The star of the show, Sinbad (oddly enough) was talking to his little girl. She was telling him how much she hated wearing the dress she had on. He said, "That dress kept me out of Vietnam." In another *Sinbad* the following month he had been making her a costume. At one point he was demonstrating the different types of thing they could make and he wrapped the fabric around his hips. He told the little girl that he could wear a skirt cause big hips run in his family. When she says he can't wear a skirt cause he's a boy, Sinbad replied you don't have to be a girl to wear a skirt. He went on to add, "Boy George wore a skirt. He had to wear a long skirt since his legs' so bad. I could wear a short skirt cause I got good legs."

Sounds like a good positive role model to me. But back to ... *Matlock*, which featured a macho FBI man on the run. This guy was accused of nefarious deeds by the Bureau and Matlock was trying to defend him. The agent was a Col. Flagg type. Remember the guy on *M\*A\*S\*H* who used to spy on them and interrogate Koreans? This FBI agent is just like that only not as much of a putz. While he's hiding out from the Bureau he uses various disguises. Right, one of his disguises is a typical crossdresser outfit. He eats lunch at a restaurant. He is seated at one table and a friend he has made contact with for information about his case is seated at the next table. He's probably about six two or so and when he stands up from this not-very-undercover conversation his friend says, "Your slip is showing." Yuk, yuk!

On the Dick Van Dyke show *Diagnosis Murder* which ran the next evening, the guy using disguises is Dick's son the police detective. When Dick comments on how he thought he had been able to tell it was his son disguised as the stage hand the son tells him he'll probably be in a red Spandex dress the next time he goes undercover. Dick says he hopes not since his son doesn't have the legs for it. The son says it must be Dick's fault since he's his father. Again, big yuks.

●●●  
**MOM, YOU'RE TALLER AREN'T YOU?** Michelle Lynn sent in a short clip from the Newsmakers section of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* which gives the results of a poll

conducted by several alternative newspapers. (We used to call them underground papers in the old days.) Members of Generation X (that's teenagers, not members of the band of the same name.) were asked who they would choose as their parents. Fourteen percent picked Al Gore as dad and twenty two percent wanted Whoopi Goldberg as mom. Point seven percent wanted RuPaul as their father but one point five percent wanted RuPaul as their mother. I think we can see just what percentage of Generation X has all the good taste.

●●●  
**MONTEL MANIA:** Sharon from California sent a clip from the *National Enquirer* about the Montel Williams Show. Not only can you watch the show, but now you can read reports about the show in the tabloids and then later read a rewritten version of that report in a crossdresser newsletter. What a country.

Back to the report. It seems Montel had a woman on the show who said that she was divorcing her husband because he wore dresses. On further questioning by Mr. Williams she admitted that she wanted the divorce not because of the crossdressing but because she had to find his things hidden in a trunk and, "Because he didn't say it to me. I had to find out myself in such a shocking manner, which devastated me ..." She added "had I known, I would not have married him." I think we can see her husband's mistake clearly enough. It is very difficult to come out to the woman in your life but it's better to do it early and not try to hide an important part of your personality.

A ray of hope for husbands in the closet is the woman's further assertion that though she has filed for divorce, she still loves her husband and may seek a reconciliation. Wish we knew who they were. We could ship them a copy of *Coping With Crossdressing*.

●●●  
**GIVE THE SUPREMES A HAND:** The Montana Supreme Court doesn't mind a little crossdressing. (Of course they do prance around the courthouse in robes.) It seems a lower court had awarded custody of a three year old child to its mother since dad confessed to crossdressing. The Montana Supremes said, "Hey, give a crossdresser a break" and reversed the decision. This information came in a another tabloid clip, "Clothes Don't Make The Man" also sent in by Sharon.

●●●  
**GOVERNOR'S A GOOF:** Northern Arizona University doesn't mind a little transsexuality. In a clip from *USA Today*, sent by Wendy Smith, we find out that Governor Symington had demanded that a course in transsexuality be dropped from the University's curriculum. The University said it was up to them to pick the curriculum. Symington has backed down on his request but still says the course is frivolous and an insult to tax payers. Tell

some of the taxpayers struggling with transgender issues that it's frivolous. Maybe Governor Symington needs a few enlightening letters from our readers?

●●●  
**CATCHING A SPY, ER, EYE:** I clipped a piece from the *Philadelphia Inquirer* titled "Eye Catching Headlines II." At least I think I clipped it. It's been so long it may have been sent by someone else. If that's the case, I apologize. The eye-catching headline that caught my eye was the last one in the piece, "Cross Dressing Confederate Spy." It seems that was the lead cover headline of a magazine called *America's Civil War*. I've been meaning to get to the library and look this one up. I can see secret agent Beauregard in his hoop skirt and big hat now. "Oh General, I'd just love to hear about silly old military secrets! Get me a Mint Julep and then tell me everything y'all know."

It's more likely the spy is a female-to-male, but if I ever get to the library, or if one of our Civil War buffs lets us know, I'll pass it along.

●●●  
**FINAL THOUGHTS:** Danielle Lynn sent a page from *New Woman* and circled one item on the page for our attention but I found two that were interesting. Danielle's item was about the Japanese. The government was persuaded by feminists to change the official word-character for woman. The old character translated into English as "person carrying a broom." At least person is in there. The new character means "female gender." Wonder what the Japanese character is for crossdresser?

The other item on the page that spoke to me was the mention that the Vatican is thinking about letting girls be altar girls. Now, if they let girls take over the jobs of altar boys this could have far reaching ramifications. As this is a prestigious, non-sleazy publication I won't go into some of those ramifications. I will only ask the question, how will young boys get the chance to walk around in public wearing skirts with the approval of the Catholic church? Yeah, they could wear their sister's school kilt in Miami but it's just not the same.

●●●  
**GIANT HUMOR FILLED WRAP UP SECTION:** That about wraps up the newsbeat for this month. I've chipped my flawless manicure on these nasty old word processor keys. I really must go to my nail salon now. Let me just close with two pieces of humor sent in by Elsa Larson and a quote from my friend Jayne.

Elsa sent a page from a desk calendar by P.J. O'Rourke. The calendar is *Modern Manners, Etiquette For Rude People*, and on the October 6th page it says, "The only really firm rule of taste about cross-dressing is that neither sex should ever wear anything they haven't yet figured out how to go to the bathroom in."

Piece of humor number two is a one panel cartoon called *Farcus*. In it a man in a dress (who does about as good a job of passing as the "ladies" in that "Ladies' Night" beer commercial) is standing in front of a desk that's labeled "Affirmative Action." The woman behind the desk is saying, "Hey, wait a minute ... only a man would wear green pumps with a blue chiffon dress!"

This closing quote is from my friend Jayne, a woman who knows fashion. "God didn't create human beings without clothes for them to dress without imagination." There's your topic. I'm a little *vaklemt*. Talk amongst yourselves. Ta ta!

●●●  
[If you have an item that you'd like Ms. Gardner to mention in her column, please send it along to her at P.O. Box 530, Bensalem PA 19020.]

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# HotBuzz!

-- JoAnn Roberts

"Nobody can make you feel inferior without your consent."

-- Eleanor Roosevelt



So, after all the foofraw and hooray, the Stonewall 25 march is over. Both critics and supporters agree the numbers were nowhere near the 1 million hyped before the march. By most published accounts, the march was calm and without major incident. Both the *New York Times* and the *Philadelphia Inquirer* carried Monday-morning stories on page one. Neither paper mentioned "transgendered" people. Tabitha Soren did a report for the *Today* show in which she mixed "transvestite," "drag queen," and "crossdresser" willy-nilly. I only heard one mention of "transgender" and that was on the PBS show *In The Life* which did a special on Stonewall 25. Thus, I pose these questions ... Now what? What do we do next? What did we accomplish?



With friends like this, who needs advertising? Spartacus sent me one of their "Catalog of Fetish Catalogs" recently. I was surprised at the large number of fetish, S&M, and bizarre-sex magazines they handle. But I was most surprised to see a full page of *Tapestry* magazines. And not just teeny-tiny postage stamp sized pictures, but large enough to actually recognize the cover girls, like Nancy Cole, Laura Skaer, Jenny Sand, Nancy Nangerone, and our own Princess Michelle. My-oh-my, what company you girls keep. But, the best part of the page was the tag line which describes *Tapestry* as "The leading clinical magazine for TVs & TSs." Clinical? Wow, that'll make 'em rush to order one. Also included in the catalog was *Crossdresser's Quarterly*, just opposite Bizarre Fetish Video and Bondage Jewelry.



The Community Film Project is progressing, albeit slowly. The Steering Committee has invited several well-known therapists to participate on the Advisory Committee. Both Dr. Richard F. Docter and Dr. William R. Stayton have agreed to participate ... The working title for the film is *All Dressed Up and Nowhere to Go*, so I was both amused and surprised when Maryann Kirkland stumbled across this headline from a 1990 *Philadelphia Inquirer*, "The CD: All dressed up and someplace to go." The "CD" in question was a Certificate of Deposit and the headline appeared in the Business section of the paper. Do you think the editor

who dreamed up that headline knew something about the other CDs? Don't forget, this project is partially funded by contributions from within the transgender community. Please send a tax-deductible donation today.



The **HotBuzz** for Fall Fashion is the knee. After several seasons of skirts so short you dare not bend over or reach above your head, the fashion mavens have declared skirts shall reach just to the knee. Karl Lagerfeld, who always pushes the envelope, showed Chanel suits with jackets cropped to bolero length and skirts to the knees. Of course, Mr. Lagerfeld also went to the extreme absurd with his "second skin" sheer Lycra dress topped by a red bra and black petticoat. Sounds like *Lingerie Night* at RenGPC. Meanwhile, Giorgio Armani has "discovered" a newer, feminine style for his clothes. Jackets fit closer to the body with seams under the bust and snug through the midriff. Dresses are cut the same way with shaped middles and gently flared skirts. Herve Leger, he of the you-better-have-a-great-body bandage dress, takes the concept one step further. He's built padded bras into the bodices of both dresses and shaped jackets. This is a style that will catch on with other designers. The overall trend is to show off the body and that means we need to get into shape if we want to look fashionable for the Fall.



August is a good time to start planning your Fall itinerary. The "CD Season" starts with my "Paradise In The Poconos", followed just a week later by "Southern Comfort", which is on the heels of "Fantasia Fair". The "Fall Harvest", sponsored by MAGGIE (Mid America Gender Group Information Exchange) and hosted by MAGGIE affiliate Iowa Artistry, has had a change of venue, according to a press release. Nevertheless, the event will still be great. If you're interested in attending Fall Harvest, Nov. 17-20, call (319) 373-3031 for details.



There has been much badinage in various transgender publications about whether or not we're really a community. After what happened at the recent "Be All" in Pittsburgh, I think we can reply in the affirmative. The National Association for Social Workers will meet for its annual convention October 19-22, 1994 in Nashville, Tenn. The Transgender Community will have an exhibition booth

at the conference. The booth will be sponsored jointly by the American Educational Gender Information Service, the International Foundation for Gender Education, the Outreach Institute for Gender Studies, the Renaissance Education Association, and the Society for the Second Self. A special brochure, designed just for this conference, will contain mission and contact information on all five organizations. In case you fail to see the significance of this event, never before have these five organizations come together to work together like this. I applaud the boards of the five groups for setting aside parochialism in favor of community. This is just a beginning, but what a beginning!



I imagine that a lot of closeted crossdressers buy clothing, etc., from many of the home shopping networks on television. Anonymity is virtually guaranteed. But, are you getting a bargain? After adding in shipping and handling charges, and for those who just can't wait, Federal Express, the price is often very close to what you would pay in the stores.



There are still some hazy, hot summer days left, and if you are a die-hard crossdresser who doesn't stop dressing through the summer, you may need this next tip. In the olden days, when your grandmother was learning how to be a lady, women used to carry blotting papers. These were squares of tissue-like rice paper that absorbs oil and perspiration. Seeing that "everything new is old" it's no surprise to see rice paper making a comeback. Crabtree & Evelyn, Estee Lauder, Shiseido, and The Body Shop all offer small, beautiful booklets of blotting paper. Simply press a square to a shiny spot and let it make oil disappear without disturbing your makeup. Beats the hell out of applying compact powder.



Diversity is the watchword for the 90's and I was very pleased to hear from a friend that Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) not only had a Diversity Program in place, but that said program included transgendered people. At one time, according to my friend, DEC had 15 transsexuals working in various parts of the company. I am also told that AT&T has an excellent program.



Sometimes diversity comes as the result of one person's frustration. Take, for example, supermodel Iman, who says she has always had problems finding cosmetics that suited her skin color. Her frustration led her to create a whole line of cosmetics for Asian, Hispanic, African, and Native American women. Well, we'll just slip in with transgendered folks too. Advantages to the line, introduced through J. C. Penney this summer, include colors that will never be discontinued; items sold by single colors so you don't end up with duos or trios you'll never use;

oil-reducing primer and oil-absorbing powder; and blush with very dense pigments that show up better against olive or darker skin.



Factoid: Only 3 percent of American women still wear gartered stockings. Yeah, but what percentage of men are wearing stockings? Somebody is keeping the garterbelt trade in business.



Neat trick: If you would like to tweeze your eyebrows but the sting has put you off, try swabbing a little Anbesol on the brow area first. The local anesthetic will numb the pain ... Shameless plug: If you can't tweeze check out the tape trick in my new *Art & Illusion: A Guide to Crossdressing, Third Edition, Vol. 1*.



Hey, you never know, do you. The July issue of *Allure* (my fave mag) had an article about the death of diet-guru Dr. Stuart Berger. The 40 year old, 365 pound (diet guru?), doctor was allegedly found dead in an expensive black negligee. (Well, thank goodness it wasn't white!) The good doctor's penchant for crossdressing in high heels and lingerie was a well-known "secret" among his close friends and associates. He had even adopted the femme name of Michelle when crossdressed.



Here are a bunch of makeup tricks from various New York City makeup artists. Laura Geller: Curling lashes is a must, but first condition them with a little dab of Vaseline, then coat with mascara. Susan McCarthy: Lip balm (unflavored and unmedicated) makes a great eye moisturizer. Also, try lipstick as rouge. Matthew Sky: Apply

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foundation, then press a damp washcloth over your face. Before applying lipstick, go over lips with a toothbrush to remove dead cells. John Rutledge: Buy cheap sable or goat hair brushes at an art supply store.



EuroDisney is going down the "pissoir" in France and here at home we seem to be losing a few support groups. I read a report that A Rose in Tempe Arizona has ceased operation and I read another report that Boulton & Park has stopped having "social" meetings. I don't know how you can a "support" group that has no meetings. However, I have it on good authority that B&P will continue to "sponsor" the "Texas 'T' Party". On the other hand, there can't be too many B&P members left. Certainly the originators of the "Texas 'T' Party", Jan Rupard and Muffy Williams, haven't been involved in quite some time. And, if B&P no longer has social meetings, and the only event they hold is the "T", where does all they money go? With attendance at close to 300 heads, even a modest profit of \$25 each translates into \$7500 cash.



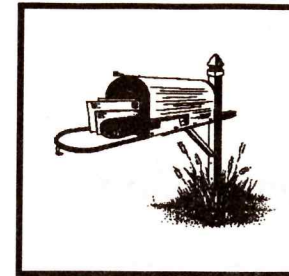
There's been lotsa **HotBuzz** about the Infobahn everywhere. While I haven't made it to the Internet (yet), I do cruise CompuServe. I picked off a download from the GenderLine library titled FAQ Gender Questions. (FAQ is netspeak for Frequently Asked Questions.) I knew we

were in trouble when I spotted transvestism spelled "trans-vestitism." Also when Gender Dysphoria was described as "... unhappiness with your given sex or sexual identity." They still don't get the difference between sex and gender. Then there is the definition of transgendered: "Transgendered was a term put into general usage by Virginia Price (sic). It originally meant a pre-operative transsexual who has no desire to have SRS." Oh, Virginia! The indignity! But wait, there's more. "Some types of transsexualism (the XXXY Syndrome) are genetic." Oh, really. "Secondary transsexualism occurs between the ages of 12 and 20 and thought to be linked to hormonal changes in the body at that time." "Young males with XXY chromosomal structures may sometimes begin developing as females rather than males." The "best" advice is this one: "To hide the penis wear a skirt or a dress." Duh! We have a lot of educating to do and now we have to do it on the nets as well.



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## VOX POPULI

-- Reader letters and feedback

**Re: "Passing" (Virgin Views, July):** I have a great deal of trouble conceptualizing what Virginia is talking about in general, and a few pet peeves.

Somehow the idea that (born) females can be crossdressers has totally escaped Virginia. Her article, written totally from her own perspective, seems to totally exclude those who are F2M to the point that it borders on offensive. Although I am a M2F transsexual, I have many friends who are F2M TV/TG/TS and I must admit that reading articles such as this point out why the F2M side feels as if they have been left out.

Secondly, Virginia didn't self-identify herself as being TV/TG or TS and while from reputation I would assume TG, I would prefer not to assume. I do not wish to make assumptions about her own feelings, which I am sure are authentic, but I, a TS, cannot identify with these feelings at all. I would go so far as to say that my feelings are quite the exact opposite of Ms. Prince's. This isn't to be critical of her feelings at all, but it does point out that self-identification can drastically change one's perspective. It would be very helpful if Virginia were more precise as to what category she self-identifies with and what gender role predominates her life.

My largest problem, which I briefly mentioned is that I feel exactly the opposite from Virginia. A long time ago (but as long ago as I might wish it were) I would stand in front of the mirror and look at a person whom I knew wasn't me. Emily was looking at "some man" who had somehow invaded her physical being and infected it. There wasn't two people inside; I didn't have a "vice-president" of checking out the babes; there was only a very frightened and lonely woman who got sick every time she had to confront the vision in the mirror.

The truth be told, I was gender dysphoric. I loathed the person in the mirror who had taken control of my body and supplanted it with a male exterior. From the time of childhood when I tried to eliminate the offending body organs, to the day in the not so distant future when I will have that done by a qualified surgeon, there was only a frustrated woman looking out at something as alien as could be imagined.

As I began to live in a female gender role more and more, as I entered full time living, navigating through transition, and eventually assimilating into society and my private life with fewer and few remnants of the male facade, looking in the mirror became more tolerable. It was less hurtful to

see that the person who looked back appeared more and more the way Emily imagined she should have all along. No "babe" to be checked out, no glamour to be monitored, just a peaceful, happy woman who looked like she should.

Lest I seem to be unconcerned about my appearance I will point out that I am as concerned with it as any woman. I take pride in how I look when I go to work, go out with friends or even go out for a walk after dinner. I look in the mirror, but instead of the "Vice President..." as a woman I am pleased to take responsibility to look the way I feel, and not rely on the way some superficial male ego, internalized or external, wants me to look.

So for all of you without a vice president in charge of checking you out, take heart. It's okay.

*Emily Clarke  
via Internet*

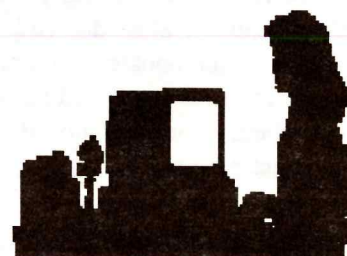
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## DEEP THOUGHTS (NOT BY JACK HANDEY)

by Anne Blackwood

I thought I'd just sit down and write down some musings to while away the hours. Or whatever time frame it turns out to occupy.

Lately I've been writing announcements to friends and family letting them know that I am transsexual -- actually, I'm more likely to say that I'm a woman with the wrong reproductive system -- and that I used to think that I was merely a crossdresser. The fact of the matter is that I always was and will continue to be a crossdresser until I make the transition to full time selfdom. Although I

thought I was a boy who liked to wear girls' clothes and that made me a crossdresser, I actually had it backward, I was a girl who masqueraded as a boy and it was the wearing of boys' clothes that made me a crossdresser. Thus, so long as I present myself as a male I continue to be a crossdresser. It is my goal to some day stop being a crossdresser. Hopefully, that day will come in the relatively near future.

Only a convoluted mind like mine could come up with that notion, even if it is true. So what it comes down to is this, virtually all transsexuals are at some point in their lives crossdressers. Something to think about.

What's the difference between a drag queen -- er, excuse me, an effeminate, crossdressing homosexual -- and a transsexual? One loves his penis, the other hates hers. Actually, I hate this kind of "sloganeering"; it makes for a catchy sound bite, but is far too simplistic to be meaningful. The fact is that many people in the mainstream don't understand the difference, which is why you sometimes hear people ask transsexuals, "Couldn't you just be a gay man (woman)?"

I used to think that crossdressing and transsexualism were closely related, and perhaps some of the causes of some forms of crossdressing are related to the causes of transsexualism, but that's about it. The experiences are totally different. The crossdresser takes time out from his reality to play out a fantasy, how close to the reality of being a female that comes ... well, that is not the issue. The

M2F female is struggling to come to terms with her situation (and the same is true for the F2M TS) and finding some workable resolution to the conflict between her body and soul. The crossdresser spends time in a fantasy world, the transsexual tries to find her place in the real world. Is it any wonder that there is some friction between the two groups?

I don't think you will ever see a lot of transsexuals involved in any kind of "transgendered movement". For one thing, there aren't a lot of transsexuals to begin with; second, we are transsexual, not transgendered. Our gender is not in question, nor is it plastic (meaning moldable). We aren't caught up in a gender bending fantasy (and that is not intended as a pejorative) we are caught up in dealing with reality, the reality of a mind/body system at odds with itself. When we come to a resolution to that conflict, all we want to do is get on with our lives.

Even before I realized that I am transsexual it was my opinion that we are not one united transgendered group; rather, we were a collection of related groups. The only change in my position is in questioning just how closely related those groups are. From sisters, to cousins, to second cousins thrice removed to people sharing the same first name. I think only the crossdressers could think it was a close relationship and for the same reason that my eldest sister thinks that our dysfunctional family is close, that is, neither is dealing with reality. I am not close to my family (at least I don't think I am), but neither am I estranged from them, and so it is with the crossdressers, transsexuals, and transvestites.

Transsexuals are forever leaving the "communities" because as their own transition takes place they have less and less in common with crossdressers. We don't want one foot in each camp, we want to be unified and whole. Crossdressing becomes ever more incomprehensible, and something of a painful reminder of from whence we came.

I was recently approached by a cable channel to do a story about me and transsexualism for a magazine format show

of theirs. I won't go into the details as to how that came about, but when I met with the producer somewhere in the discussion he asked if I would allow them to show my morning transformation. I declined. I don't have questions about my gender, I am a woman, and it is painful for me to look in a mirror every morning knowing that unless I go through that ritual of makeup and wig the world will not recognize me for what I know myself to be. No, I would not allow that. The fact is, however, that I did live my life as a man for a long time and so I have that history. Later in the discussion I said, "You know, we could look at my history through photographs and video. I am an actor and have a well documented life." I wanted to make it clear that although I thought I was one thing, I know that I am the other and there is no flip-flopping back and forth. It will be years of electrolysis and hormone therapy before I can go out without putting on a "face" and be accepted as a woman, but that doesn't alter the fact that I am a woman. By the way, I am not saying that crossdressers and transsexuals cannot work together to attain some measure of protection of our civil rights, but I do think that before we can work together productively we must understand one another. I used to think I understood crossdressing; now I am not sure that I do. I wasn't a man playing at being a woman, I was a woman pretending to be a man playing at being a woman (I warned you I could get convoluted). An actor playing an historical character doesn't know what it's like to be that historic character,

### WHAT'S ON THE TV TONIGHT?

Cartoons by Christine-Jane Wilson

A book of nearly 100 cartoons drawn by Christine-Jane Wilson. In the magazine 'Forum', editor Isabel Koprowski wrote: " - the answer is not East-Enders, you'll be glad to hear, but delicious feminine clothing such as lacy bras, six inch stilettos and the sheerest of stockings.

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s/he knows what it's like to play that character. The experiences of playing and being are very different and neither leads to a full understanding of the other.

I recently commented in a ... um ... lively discussion at work that men and women could never understand one another because their ways of seeing and interacting with the world are inherently different. I think the same is true for crossdressers and transsexuals, some people may say that the behavior is the same -- wearing women's clothing -- and that is what we have in common, but the fact is that the behavior is not the same even though on the face of it it seems to be. Crossdressers are men who wear women's clothes, transsexuals (M2F) are women who wear women's clothes. One need not understand another in order to like and get along with them, if it were true the species would have long since died out.

Well, so much for this stream of consciousness. Maybe in a few years I'll be able to get all the pollutants out of it.

[Anne Blackwood may be contacted at P.O. Box 1251, Beverly Hills, CA 90213 or via Internet at [anne@xconn.com](mailto:anne@xconn.com).]

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## VIRGIN VIEWS BY VIRGINIA

# NATURE MADE FEMALES ... MEN MADE WOMEN

by Virginia Prince

I love attention getting titles and I'll bet this one caught your eye. It sounds so outrageous that you are reading it to find out what led to such a ridiculous title, right??

At first flush it does sound ridiculous but as you get into it it begins to make sense. Let's take the first statement first. Nature does indeed create females -- and males too. The initiating act is, of course, the act of copulation. Whether in animals or in mankind (womankind) the union of an egg and a sperm starts the process. The chromosomes contributed by each contribute the

necessary genetic information to direct the development of an embryo toward that of maleness or femaleness. Of course there are sometimes mistakes along the way, so the final baby may be

born with some kind of anomalous development. However, we are concerned with the normal not with the abnormal. So in the ordinary course of events, females are indeed made by nature (and so are males). This should be clear enough and does not require any further explanation.

But now the second assertion in the title, the one that sounds ridiculous. Before explaining it let me enter a disclaimer for those with dirty minds: "make" in this context has no vernacular or sexual meaning. I use it in the sense of design and construct, as in "I am going to make dinner now."

This subject is just another manifestation of the difference between sex and gender or between biology and sociology. Nature takes care of the first and humans deal with the latter. So let's consider the status of the two sexes throughout history.

In most species the male is the larger and stronger. His biological duties are to inseminate the females and in many species to protect the female and the young and to supply provisions to them. But, interestingly, it is not very often the male who initiates the process. "Female choice" is the general rule. When the female is biologically ready to reproduce -- that is -- when she is ready to ovulate, she gives forth various color, odor or behavior signals to the males of her species that she is ready. The males complete with each other in a variety of ways that enable the females to choose her mate on the basis of his greater ability to outfight, outsmart or outperform in one way or

another, his other male competitors. Thus biologically speaking the female runs the show.

The female's duty is to allow herself to be inseminated, then to lay the eggs or give live birth to the young, and to nurture and care for them until they are able to take care of themselves.

The male's job is first to compete to be chosen, and then to inseminate the female. After eggs are laid or pregnancy ensues the behavior of males varies widely from the likes

of bears and elephants at one extreme who simply go away and leave the female to give birth and to nurture and rear the young without any help from him. On the other extreme are those species, particularly in

birds, where the father helps feed the brooding mother and takes turn taking care of the young. There are, of course, a number of in-between states in various species.

Now human males and females obviously perform these same tasks because this is part of the nature of things. But humans began to add something to the pot probably starting about 100,000 years ago but really coming to flower about 12,000 years ago when agriculture was discovered and humans started to live in villages to be near the crops.

Then there began to be differences in the lifestyles of males and females over, above and beyond the natural biological sex differences and the differing roles in the reproductive and nurturing processes. Over time these differences involved the performance of differing tasks, wearing of different kinds of clothing and ornamentation and different behavior and expectations in general. All of these differences are subsumed under the heading of **gender** and it was divided into masculine and feminine patterns. Things probably remained about the same for several thousand years. Migrations took place, wars raged and social and class status began to be defined. But after awhile -- especially, I would presume, after warfare became widespread -- classes developed. There would have been soldiers, leaders, workers, slaves, etc. And within each of the classes there would have been gender divisions too if the class was one in which females could participate. Soldiering was probably the only activity in which they did

Nature takes care of the biology and humans deal with the sociology.

not participate directly. There were, however, many cases known to history where women disguised themselves as men, joined the military forces and fought on land and sea. But I am referring to open social participation. Women were of course always present as nurses, servants or camp followers.

But classes have to be visually separable so that others will be easily able to determine the class status of an individual. This became particularly important for soldiers because in the heat and confusion of battle you might become confused as to who was friend and who was foe. You might even attack and kill some one on your own side. So identification of some sort was essential and it was usually in something worn which in more recent times became a "uni-form" (one form) meaning everyone was alike.

So the classes of males and females needed to be distinguished too, over and above the biological distinctions which could not always be perceived once we started wearing coverings of some sort. In early times everyone wore some sort of robe like a toga, a burnoose, a kimono, a caftan or a sari. The difference came in the color, the weave, the material or the way it was worn or tied. Trousers, pantaloons (pants) that is, two legged garments, were only invented a few hundred years ago.

But then came the middle ages and the rise of a wealthier class not limited just to the nobility. Men who controlled the worlds societies began to show off their wealth by their clothing, carriages, great houses, etc. And there was a time when the variety, color, decoration and detail in clothing and the use of cosmetics, jewelry and hairdos of the men rivaled that of the women in the upper classes. Of course the working people and peasantry could not afford such luxuries and were limited to pants, shirts, and dresses of some sort of homespun cloth of wool or cotton.

But all that ended and the modern era began with the industrial revolution and the rise of the various sects of Protestantism. Calvin, Luther and Wesley became the proponents of strongly conservative ideas and the common man and his clothing became the order of the day. The rise of industries meant that more and more people were employed in manufacturing of some sort and fancy clothes were out of place. So the accepted mode of dress for most all men was rather plain like the common man in the factory.

So no more lace cuffs or fancy shoes with heels and

buckles on the toes. Ostentatious displays of wealth were out. So the biological way for males to show off (the peacock complex it might be called) became socially unacceptable. So what to do?

If males could not show off themselves they could still do it through their possessions: Large expensive homes and castles, gold plated china, very fancy carriages and the most precious "possession" of all, his womenfolk. They could be dressed in the most expensive and fanciest laces, silks, brocades, adorned with jewels and expensive cosmetics. Thus the time implied in the title of this piece had finally come. Women were now being "made by men". Constructed in ways that allowed them to be shown off to others in society and constructed in such ways as were most erotically satisfying to men. Women did not own manufacturing businesses so they could not produce corsets, bustles, bras, hoop skirts, high heels, makeup, etc. Does anyone think that such garments were invented by women for their own pleasure and satisfaction? Would women initiate the practice of wearing corsets, heels, etc.? Why then were they willing to be the playthings of fashion and take up every new color, shape, cut, and design that came along? To please the men, of course.

If men found the sight of a well turned ankle and the appearance of fragility and helplessness that high heels provided, then women would wear them. If tight corsets made narrow waists, uplifted bosoms and burgeoning rear ends more obvious to approving male eyes, then women would wear them regardless of the trouble or discomfort they caused. The opposite was also true, of course. If men in general didn't find a new fashion to enhance the femininity of the ladies but rather obscured or minimized the erotic appeal of a woman, it didn't last long. Because society (meaning mostly men) was telling women that their main purpose and duty in life was to find a man and please him with housekeeping, cooking, child rearing and sex any way he wanted it, that became the goal. Since fashion was a business mostly dominated by men, every time they brought out something new it had to be bought and the older clothes discarded because a woman had to "keep up" and be a credit to "her man". She had to be "fashionable". This applied to upper class women first. And such expense was endured or encouraged by the businessman husbands because it enabled them to show off their wives at social functions as indications of their wealth, power and influence. But gradually as cheaper

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copies of the high fashion styles of the upper class ladies became available, the middle class and even the working class women began to wear the new styles and fashions. If men liked to see their women all prettied up for their own purposes, they also liked to display them to others as proof of their own position and power. So it was because of all this that I say nature made females, but men have been "making" women during most of the lives of those of you old enough to read this. However, before somebody else says it (and they always do), I'll say it first -- "things are changing". They certainly are. With the rise of the women's movement women are more independent and wearing what they think looks good on them or which they find more comfortable and practical. And what they are wearing looks less and less like what would have been considered "feminine" 25 years ago with the exception of lingerie, nightwear and lounging garments. These are meant to be seen only by husbands, boy friends and the women themselves. In these circumstances erotic femininity is still very much alive. Women have their own needs and interest in keeping the male satisfied and these garments do it. One is reminded of Mae West's famous comment that "a hard man is good to find" and dainty, wispy little items of lingerie generally have that effect. As we all know, to our own dismay, clothing worn on the street by younger women today looks more and more like what their sons, brothers, or husbands might wear. Those of us coming of age more than twenty five years ago do not generally find this trend appealing. Our idea of what a

really feminine girl should look like was pretty much frozen into our brains (and thereby determines our judgements) in the '60s or before.

By the same token liberation of the female from stereotypes of appearance and behavior have had smaller but nevertheless real effects on male liberation. Men can now wear earrings, necklaces, bracelets, go to beauty shops for hair styling, wear more colorful clothes and of different materials than the broadcloth, gaberdine and worsted materials of earlier years. But one aspect of these changes fascinates me. Will there be any "crossdressers" a/k/a "transvestites" tomorrow?

"Oh, sure," you say, "certainly there will be! The styles and fashions will change but the need for feminine expression will still be there!" But will it? If the clothing of the two sexes is running together aren't the two genders as separate lifestyles running together too? Where will the difference be? Clothing doesn't determine masculinity or femininity, of course, but it is one of the principal indicators of it. Occupation is rapidly losing its gender distinction. Women are now truck drivers, carpenters, telephone linepersons, coal miners, and of recent days have been accepted as Air Force fighter pilots and on Navy warships. Aren't we moving pretty swiftly back to the times before agriculture and village life where most of the important distinctions between the sexes were the biological differences? Males can't produce babies and females can't impregnate other females, but with the exception of those anatomical and physiological differences, what other distinctions are left? Males can't feed babies from the breast but vast numbers of babies are not breast fed now. Males can make formulas and bottle feed babies and change diapers as well as women. I did all these things and got up in the middle of the night too for my child.

So think about it! What are we coming to? Masculinity and femininity are slowly melting together. Except for the biological differences they were artificial, human-made distinctions in the first place. They served a lot of human needs over the centuries, but society, it seems to me, is gradually outgrowing them. We who have been brought up in a genderally divided society are aware that we have been deprived of half of our total humanness and we strive to get back some experience of it by entering into the feminine sphere. But as what has been characteristically "masculine" and was more or less limited to males becomes more and more available to females and as "femininity" to a lesser but ever increasing degree becomes available to males, where are we? Seems to me that pretty late in the day and still pretty incomplete we are all, male and female alike becoming *humna* again with only our biology standing between us. Better enjoy your cross-gender experiences while you can. We are rapidly approaching the day when for one of us to "pass" in the mall we will have to wear an old T-shirt and jeans or

baggy shorts, dirty athletic shoes and socks and uncombed hair long or short ... no lipstick or perfumes either. This is a fair description of what you see on females, old or young, in a mall today. So what is left for us to envy, imitate and enjoy? I, for one, would not consider myself crossdressed in such a costume and I surely would not feel I was expressing femininity by wearing it.

So it seems to me that gender in the sense of appearance, occupation, expectation and requirements for both men and women has almost run its course. We won't live to see its demise, of course, but it certainly looks to me as though its days are numbered. The basic question to ask is in tomorrow's world what useful purpose it would serve. If all people can wear what they want in color, design, cut and utility ... and anyone can do any job that he or she is capable of and wants to do ... when little males and females are brought up the same and not indoctrinated with arbitrary and artificial concepts of how a penis person should live his life in contrast with how a vaginal person should live hers ... when there is no more need for an individual to manifest his or her sex by way of gender ... what is going to be left except behavior? Such differences as strong vs weak, aggressive vs. passive, selfish and self centered vs. caring and helpful, independent vs dependent, cheerful and outgoing vs. sullen and withdrawn will still be a part of human life, but all of these and many others are manifested even today in both males and females. So

all that would be left would be biology. But biology isn't just anatomy and physiology. Nature has provided both males and females of most species not only with programs of reproductive behavior, the chemical and mechanical means of producing eggs and sperms, but has provided females particularly, with programs controlling birthing of young and feeding and nurturing them to self sufficiency afterward.

I guess the only area of femaleness and "femininity" left for the male to experience will be to become "Male Moms". In addition to taking estrogen to get male breast development the next stage will be to get injected with the hormone known as "Prolactin" that controls the secretion of milk. That, of course, would lead to wearing nursing bras. Of course before you can have a baby to feed you have to be pregnant and go thru labor. I can see somebody coming up with a "pregnancy prosthesis" that can be gradually inflated over nine months until the big moment of birth comes when you open the valve and deflate to more normal dimensions ...

I better stop: This is getting a little out of hand. At this point men will not only have been "making" women, they will be making motherhood too. Wow!

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INSIGHT

CROSSDRESSERS vs. GAYS

by Barbara Jean Jasen

"In Germany first they came for the Communists and I did not speak up for I was not a Communist. Then they came for the Jews and I didn't speak up for I was not a Jew. They came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak up for I was not a Trade Unionist. They came again for the Catholics, and I did not speak up for I was not a Catholic. And then they came for me and by that time there was no one left to speak up against them."

- Martin Niemoeller, a Lutheran Minister during the era of Nazi Germany.

The above quote has been published many and many a times, and yet how easy do we of society tend to forget the message that Rev. Niemoeller was conveying in his words. While reading some of my crossdresser magazines and newsletters I noticed one where a sister was advocating that we of the gender community discontinue our association with the gay community.

For years people have acquainted crossdressing as a gay thing. Those who would advocate that we sever any association with the gays feel that in doing so, society in general will be more accepting of the crossdresser and crossdressing. In reality, I seriously doubt that will be the case; rather, we of the gender community will feel the full blunt of their prejudices.

What ties do we of the gender community have with the gay community? Many of us go to the gay bars and nightclubs, some groups will meet in a place that is provided by the gay community, some of us will rally behind the cause of the gays, some of our magazines are oriented toward the gay crossdresser while others will print news of gay issues. Intended or not, the alliance between the gay community and the gender community has been a good one.

Is society more homophobic than it was five or ten years ago? I think not, but rather in light of many gay issues now being brought to the public eye, like the gays, homophobia has now simply come out of the closet.

As a heterosexual person I admit that I myself am somewhat irked when a person's first question to me is "Are you gay?" when they are informed of my membership in the gender community. I am irked especially in light of

What ties do we of the gender community have with the gay community?

the fact that in almost all surveys of crossdressers the findings are that only about five percent of us are in fact gay. (Studies also show that only about five percent of the general population is gay.) We have gone on talk shows, addressed college classes, and done many other things in a effort to educate the public about the gender community. One would hope that by now the general public would realize that few of us are in fact gay.

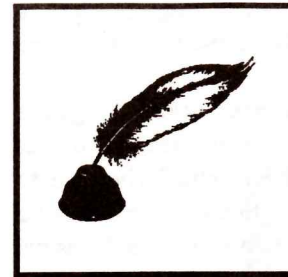
I feel that we of the gender community should not sever ties; rather, we should strengthen our ties with the gay community. In the past we have reaped the benefits of all the battles that the gays have fought. Twenty years ago even in the big cities one had to be very cautious when going out in public. There was the fear that you could actually be arrested simply for crossdressing. I remember

one sister in Chicago who was pulled over for making a U-turn and then hauled to jail simply because she was crossdressed. Today I think that is something that we need only worry about in a very small town. Even there,

charges would be dropped.

Today the gays have become more than just a community. They have also become a political lobby, and one that is gaining power all the time. It is because of this political lobby that many of the antiquated laws have been repealed, including laws against crossdressing. And while many antiquated laws still do exist, most of them simply are not enforced. Let's face it, police today have much more important things to worry about. As laws against gays are repealed, so too are laws against crossdressing. In this sense, the association that society makes between gays and members of the gender community is beneficial to us.

I have always believed that we of the gender community were just one better than society as a whole, that we have been better accepting of people of difference, that we are a community of love and not hate. Any attempt to sever ties with the gay community does nothing more than to show that we are in reality no better than the general society ... that we are just as prejudiced, and just as willing to exercise those prejudices. There is far too much hate in our world today. We of the gender community have the ability to show society that we can show love (continued, page 25)



WOMAN TO WOMAN

THE PAST: DOES IT EVER GO AWAY?

by Linda Peacock

Recently, I had a call from my daughter, who is now 23 and the mother of two little girls. She was crying and it took awhile to get her story out. I had thought at the beginning of the call that I would be hearing another crisis of motherhood or young womanhood; instead, I received an unexpected blow which took me back to 14 years ago.

It seems as though my ex-husband's current wife has been carrying on an affair, and has chosen to leave my ex, and her two very young sons. In today's world, that is not an unusual, though very unfortunate, occurrence. What is unusual in this case is that what she has done is to repeat, almost exactly, what her husband did to me 14 years ago.

My daughter's tearful reaction was not at the loss of a step-mother; rather, it was a painful questioning of why her father had done what he did to me, and her, all those years ago -- "For what? Why did he tear up our lives?" she asked me.

What is interesting about this situation is what I felt when I heard the news. I experienced an emotional blow -- I felt as though I had been punched in the stomach.

My first reaction was very human -- "Yes! Now he knows how I felt when he did this to me! What goes around, comes around! It couldn't happen to a nicer guy!" Bottom line: I was initially very glad that he was hurting just as deeply as I had hurt, and I would have happily dug that knife in deeper if I could. Hearing the pain in my child's voice, after all these years, made the hatred for his past indiscretion, his uncaring attitude at her feelings, and mine, come back, as though hidden just below the surface. In that minute, God, I hated that man, possibly more than I had all those years before.

It is interesting to see (and feel) the gamut of emotions that sear through your mind at certain situations. From that intense hatred, I moved to guilt -- guilt that I could react with such fury after all these years -- guilt that my forgiving heart perhaps isn't as forgiving as I had thought it to be.

From guilt, I moved to compassion -- for his two small sons, age 3 and 6 -- my child's brothers, for the

abandonment of their mother (yes, she doesn't want the kids, either). I know the pain inflicted on my child by her father's abandonment, especially evident as she grew into her teens -- he was so busy with his wife (who is only 7 years older than my child), that he ignored my daughter and her needs during that stressful time of growing up. I could now well imagine what two young children would feel when their mother no longer wanted them.

From compassion, I moved (nastily) to morbid humor -- that my ex-husband, now 48 years old, would now have to face all the problems and hassles and emotions of raising two small children by himself, doing all the jobs that his

How easy it is for your mind to recall emotions of the past when triggered by a current situation!

wife had previously done -- getting up at night, cooking all the meals, going here and there, and still have to maintain a full time job -- and the financial burdens of raising children alone, with high costs of daycare, carpooling, etc. I wanted to laugh at the picture of the

hassled father, who should now be seeing his kids in college, who has two granddaughters older than one of his children, faced with raising two small boys alone. I found it amusing that he would have to go through what I went through.

But my laughter died quickly, as the pain came back. They say women who experience labor don't remember the pain; at least, I found this to be true. However, on occasion, when something triggers remembrance of those times, the pain comes back, and it still hurts deeply. It is an agonizing reliving of what I perceived my failure as a woman, as a wife, as a person. It is almost unbearable. And this time, it overshadowed all other emotions and I was left feeling drained, empty, emotionally scarred once again.

The point of this story is to emphasize how easy it is for your mind to recall emotions of the past, when triggered by a current situation. Emotions you thought long buried and dealt with can come back with an emotional punch. All the human feelings, good and bad, sweep through you, and you have to feel them -- you can't just make them go away.

For those of us who are partners of transgendered men, we all experience emotions, and we have to deal with them



if we are to continue to grow as women, and to salvage our relationship. We feel fury and hatred, disbelief, loss of trust, emptiness, loss of esteem, guilt that we failed. We feel betrayed by our husbands and partners because they are not who and what we thought them to be. We blame them for being themselves, then punish ourselves because we have so little personal esteem, that surely their gender dysphoria is our fault. We must not have been woman enough to prevent his gender needs.

This is a falsehood, and one which we must, as women, erase permanently from the emotions that live deep in our minds and hearts. Just as I had to realize, my ex-husband's leaving was not because I am a failure as a woman, but because he had some unique need inside of him that he thought only she could meet, it is vitally important that each of us learns that we are special, unique persons, who are gifted and beautiful inside, and who have absolutely nothing to do with their husband's or partner's needs to express their "femme" side. We must come to understand that these men feel something that was there long before we came on the scene, and who will continue to have these feelings, despite anything we can say or do.

Our needs are individual, so although what I offered was not what my ex-husband needed or wanted, it was what my current husband wanted and needed. He accepted the love I offered gratefully, and gave me back what I needed but

hadn't received with my ex-husband. I was no less a woman or person; it was simply that my gifts were received rather than rejected.

We must first accept our own uniqueness, acknowledge the gifts we have, before we can begin to deal with our partner's gender needs. We may never actually be able to accept his gender needs, nor tolerate them; yet, we may be able to live with them if we are as open to his needs, as we are now to our own needs. The tools of compromise and setting of boundaries can go a long way to help a couple cope with unique needs, prioritizing and encouraging each partners dignity, self-respect and needs.

As humans, our selfish emotions charge to the surface first, then relent as our unselfish ones follow. Pride, hatred, anger, retaliation, morbid humor can overtake us if we don't come to terms with our inner selves. If we can accept that we have many emotions, good and bad, and emphasize the good ones, then we will be far better able to handle the pain from the past, as well as the pain of today. If we can do that, then we can hopefully look to a future that can be lived to the fullest, with mutual consideration of each other, and fulfillment of the relationship and joy in each other.

*[Linda Peacock is the director of wives' and partners' concerns for Tri-Ess, an IFGE board member, and chairman of the SPICE board of directors. She also publishes The Sweetheart Connection, a newsletter for wives and partners. You may write her at P.O. Box 24031, Little Rock AR 72221.]*

## GREAT MOMENTS IN TV HISTORY

by Ralph Judd



2/1/83: Harry (Herb Edelman, center), with the help of Rita Moreno, Valerie Curtin and Rachel Dennison, dons a disguise to lure a phantom prowler in the office, on *9 To 5*, ABC.

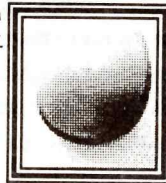


10/17/77: Joyce (Betty White) discusses a scene for her television show with her stunt double Hugo (Charles Cypher) on *The Betty White Show*, CBS.

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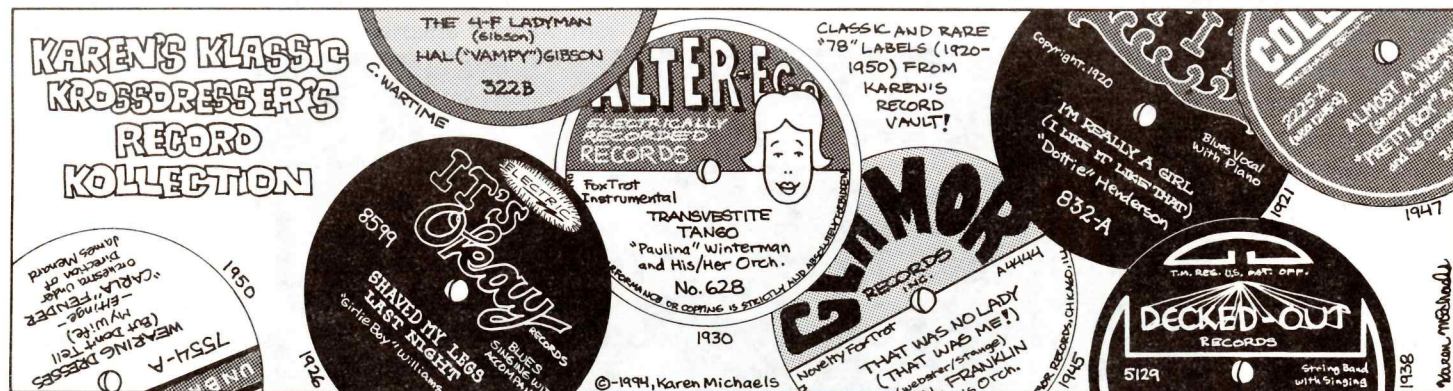
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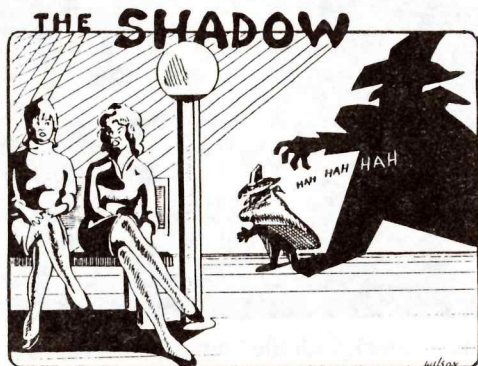
by KAREN ANN MICHAELS



THE PASSING SCENE by Kay Lightner

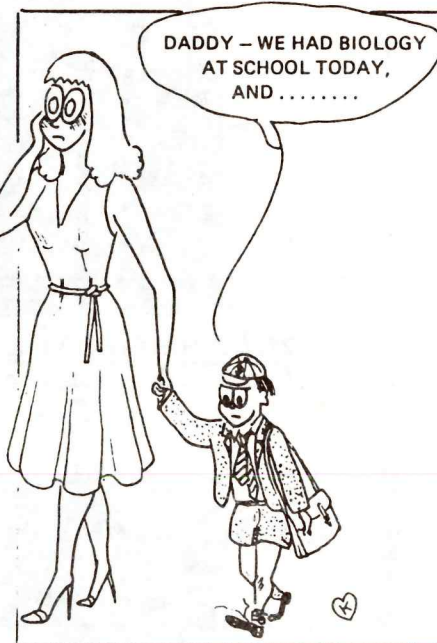


here in the (un)real world by Nancy Wilson



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WHAT'S ON THE TV TONIGHT? by Christine-Jane



Tasha's World by Tasha Barnard



ADS WE'D LIKE TO SEE by Karen Rusnak

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INSIGHT ... continued from page 20  
for our fellow man, love without bias. I firmly believe that showing such love can be the greatest tool in changing prejudicial views of society.  
Like many of you, I am a veteran of Vietnam, perhaps America's most unpopular war. Many believed that we did not belong, that it was not our fight to fight. I believe that it was our fight, just as much as that of the Vietnamese people, for in participating we have shown the world that we are a voice to be reckoned with ... that we will not idly stand by when there is injustice. Also, in coming to the aid of others who are oppressed, we tend to build allies for that day that the oppressor comes to our front door.  
First they came for the Gays ... Will we speak out, or will we remain silent? And then they came for the crossdressers ... You decide how to end the epitaph.

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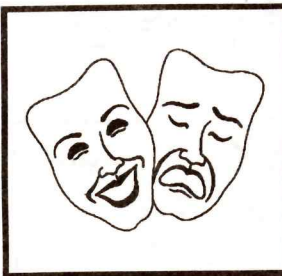


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## THE BEARDED LADY

### WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS

by Ricky Hunt  
Illustration by Rita

I remember way back in prehistoric times I took five years of Latin in high school. I still remember bits and pieces after all these years, but lately I have been remembering a quotation by some famous but forgotten (by me) Roman: "All Things In Moderation".

Girl, does this guy have the right idea! Those of you who read this column regularly will by now know I have been unemployed for some time and have been able to dress immoderately all day, or at least until the school bus arrives. In fact there have been days when I got so involved in the computer that I didn't make it into the telephone booth in time to change back to mild mannered Clark Kent and my daughter has taken it in stride.

I have been able to shave my legs and wear stockings without having them slip down to my ankles in spite of the best efforts of my garter belt. I have luxuriated in the feel of my nightgown hem brushing across my bare legs, and have secretly enjoyed the slightly tacky feel of my pants as they move on my hairless limbs.

I have been able to try out my entire wardrobe, mixing and matching tops and skirts. I have even had time to sew a few new things, and someday I will even get around to sewing the buttons on the blue blouse I finished at Christmas. I have gone through all my undergarments in all their possible combinations from loose luxury to sardine can compression, padded hips and bust with myriad materials and generally had a wonderful time.

I hate to admit it, but I had reached the point of satiation. Believe it or not, there have been days when I didn't rush to the drawer for my bra and panties immediately on waking up. I actually felt no need to dress even when I had the opportunity. I had read this could happen, but never really believed it.

But now I have a job again; it's lousy, but a it's job. The money is wonderful, especially in keeping the oil tank full in this record breaking Northeast winter, but moderation still eludes me. I now am working ten-hour days and Saturdays, with Sunday off to sleep before starting over on Monday. I have stopped shaving my legs, gone through the agony of prickles, and have not had a stitch of feminine

clothing on my body for far too long. It's heavy duty work clothes, grime from head to toe and co-workers who think belching and singing dirty parodies of top 40 songs are the height of culture.

Perhaps I exaggerate a bit, but there are about 100 men on the shop floor and three ... count them ... three women who are seen crossing the vast expanse of concrete on occasion. The surfeit of dressing has long gone and the signs of withdrawal are here. My belt feels too tight, I miss the rush of air under my skirt. My balance is different without a



stuffed bra and heels. I daydream of lace and silky fabrics. I haven't been able to get to the P.O. box in almost two months because I work longer hours than they keep. I'm cut off, cold turkey!

Have you ever found yourself watching a woman walk away from you? The macho types may focus on swinging hips, shapely legs or attractive asses, but I find myself studying the exquisite curve of the bra line through the back of a sheer blouse. I love the simple geometry of the straps and halter as they mold to the back. I marvel at the thin band that holds a small woman's brassiere tightly, contrasting with the three-inch binding needed to hold my own oversize garment together. Maybe I'm crazy for

looking at the back of a bra when the front can be so interesting, especially when filled with a woman. (By the way, staring intently at a strange woman's breasts is not a practice I would recommend.) Besides, the bra manufacturers have managed to make the front far more concealing than the back; there is nothing but a wall of white fabric to be seen. Not worth the potential trouble in my opinion.

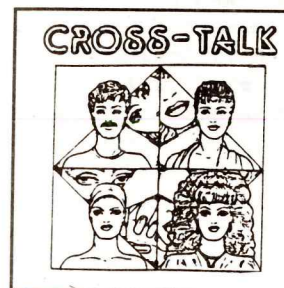
Banks are a particular problem. If you are the old fashioned type who actually leaves your car and walks into the bank to transact business you must have noticed that all female bank tellers are dressed by the same person, and the dress code is stricter than found in a Catholic girls' school circa 1950. There must be a corporate vice president somewhere who has declared that all tellers wear semi-transparent white blouses and dark skirts. Actually, since you rarely can see below the waist in the little booth they occupy they could be wearing jogging shorts -- or nothing at all -- for all I know. I don't dare

make multiple transactions with such feminine distractions scant inches from my person; in my current deprived state I fear the risk of doing something unforgivable in public. Work can be just as bad. There is one woman who especially attracts my interest. She is tall and poised and wears clothes I would cheerfully rip off her body and place on my own if 1) they would fit and 2) I didn't get arrested before I could get them on. As the offices are on the second floor I frequently see her descending the stairs with skirts swirling and short hair bouncing. I want her clothes! I want time to wear them! I want to be six inches shorter and half my weight! I want to look like her! I want, I want, I want ...

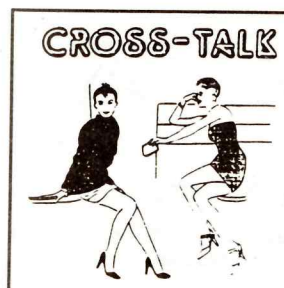
... There, I'm in control again. That felt good; I think they call it catharsis. It's time to go to bed now, in my plain, masculine flannel pajamas. Wish me sweet dreams, preferably of lace and lingerie, until the #\$\$^@# alarm rings at 5:30 tomorrow morning.

## BACK ISSUE EXTRAVAGANZA!!!!

Cross-Talk is reaching more and more people every month, thanks to the many alternative press bookstores and newsstands that now order us for their customers from one of our growing list of distributors. But that exposure means there are many new readers who missed our earlier issues. Fortunately, we plan ahead and keep a supply of back issues for those new readers. Here are the most recent ones we have a good stock of:



**#52 (Feb. '94):** Media coverage of gender community events; theories of male bonding among drag queens; therapists as gatekeepers; the natural approach to femininity; how to write crossdresser fiction; transgendered music; review of the movie *Farewell My Concubine*.

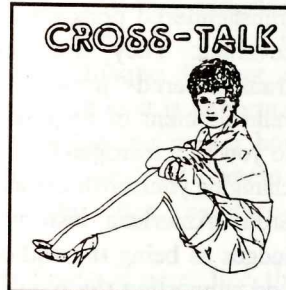


**#54 (Apr. '94):** The difference between constructive criticism and taking potshots; creating terms and then fitting into them; Dr. Roger Peo's final column; the effect of dishonesty on a relationship; rock stars in dresses; overview of 1993 international transgender law conference; memories of DREAM; abusive behavior in crossdressing.

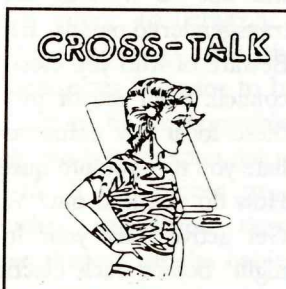
Third World transgenderism; overcoming fear; non-traditional partners' needs.

Most issues of **Cross-Talk** published in magazine format are also available (#1 through #38 were published in newsletter format and are out of print), with the exception of issues #39 and #44, which are no longer available. Send us a stamped, self-addressed envelope (or an IRC if outside the U.S.) for a detailed listing. Look elsewhere in this issue of **Cross-Talk** for details on ordering a complete set of 1993 issues at a discounted price.

To order back issues, send \$7.00 for each issue ordered plus \$1.00 postage per magazine (\$1.50 per magazine outside the U.S.) to **Cross-Talk Dept. BI, P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365.** (California residents, add 58 cents per magazine sales tax.)



**#53 (Mar. '94):** Being misunderstood; differences between men and women; was Magnuss Hirschfeld ahead of his time?; androgyny test; surprises encountered upon leaving the closet; sex-reassignment surgery realities; changing terminology to circumvent the DSM; why wives and partners make good community leaders.



**#55 (May '94):** Hotlines and effective outreach; using clothing as a "passport" to the opposite gender world; hypocrisy about homosexuality; coverage of IFGE convention; trends in military graffiti; Third World transgenderism; overcoming fear; non-traditional partners' needs.



# BECOMING POLITICALLY ACTIVE

by Phyllis Randolph Frye

**D**o not kid yourself that politics don't matter. That is naive, non-thinking and just plain stupid.

Whether you agree or not, look at what is happening now compared to 1980-1992. The Family Leave Act passed, Motor-voter Registration passed, there has been a loosening of restrictions for the poor to exercise choice in family planning, condom ads are finally on the major television networks, Justice Ginsburg sits on the Supreme Court, that court opened wider the right for women to sue sexist employers, that court support the RICO statute against violence at Planned Parenthood clinics, the Energy Department is coming clean on decades of non-consensual human-radiation testing, there is more funding of AIDS research, the Brady Handgun Bill passed, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is becoming friendly again.

On your local, everyday living level, politics effects judges, whether appointed as they are on the federal benches or elected as they are in most state benches.

Beware of political parties that demand judges practice "judicial restraint". Judicial restraint judges believe in positivism -- a jurisprudence based on "black-letter law". They will never be friendly to you as a transgendered person when you go to court for child visitation. They will never be friendly to you as a transgendered person when you go to court for insurance coverage. They will never be friendly to you as a transgendered person when you go to court for reinstatement of employment. They will never be friendly to you as a transgendered person when you go to court for changing your birth certificate.

Study American history and see the "judicial restraint" judges as being the authors of the Dred Scott slavery case and supporting the fugitive slave return law. Repugnant to a freedom proclaiming society. Whatever political party or whichever judicial candidate preaches "judicial restraint" will not be working for the best interest of you as a transgendered person. **BELIEVE THAT!**

Beware of who you elect for sheriff, for mayor and for city council. Your mayor probably appoints the police chief. If these local law enforcement folks hate queers, then they hate you too, **you old queer.**

How do you find out? What can you do at the local level? Get active. Get your local group to hold a "candidates night" before each election and consider with favor those candidates who attend. We do it each October in Houston, and many, many candidates show up.

Be generous with your money to candidates who will support transgender issues. Join your local gay and lesbian


political caucus and get onto their candidate screening committees. Insure transgender questions are placed into those screening procedures. All screening questions must include "AND TRANSGENDER" and have you, a transgendered person at each screening meeting and in each screening panel. Remember, any office holder that is elected or re-elected who sought lesbian, gay and transgender endorsements haa more open mind to our needs.

Whereas, any office holder that gay-baits or that rants on and on for prayer in the schools (their type of prayer only, you can be sure), they would just as soon you be unemployed and in jail. Don't be lulled to sleep. **They would just as soon you be unemployed and in jail.**

**Whatever political party preaches "judicial restraint" will not be working for the best interest of you as a transgendered person.**

*[Phyllis Randolph Frye is a transgendered attorney practicing law in Houston Tx, and is also the founder and chairman of the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy. This article has been adapted from a speech given at this year's "Texas 'T' Party", the IFGE "Coming Together-Working Together" convention, and "California Dreamin'". Previous excerpts from her speech appeared in previous issues of Cross-Talk, covering homophobia, racism and shame, and the non-operative option. Many of the subjects discussed are covered in greater detail in the Proceedings from previous years' ICTLEP conferences. For information on ordering a copy, please contact Ms. Frye's office at (713) 723-1800.]*

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## lay-bull

by Billie Jean Jones (with "Pat People")

*la bel n. 1.* Something functioning as a means of identification, esp. a small piece of paper or cloth attached to an article to designate its origin, owner, contents, use, or destination. [ME (Middle English), ornamental strip of cloth < OFr. (Old French), possibly of Germanic orig.] – The American Heritage Dictionary, Second College Edition, 1985.

**C**heez whiz -- just about every time I go to a "social-support" meeting or event, somebody hands me a small piece of sticky-back paper to write my name on and then stick to my clothing. Or, they get real fancy-smancy and give me a clear plastic pin-on device with a piece of paper with my name typed on it stuck inside the plastic device. In either case, just about the first thing that happens at one-o-these "events" is that I get a label and am expected to wear it.

Never mind the sticky stuff gooks up my wardrobe, never mind the pins poke holes in my clothing (or me if I'm not careful), never mind maybe I don't "spel" my name the way they decide to.

Never mind that maybe I don't need a label stuck on me -- I know who I am. Who else needs to know? Hey, if ya wanna know who I am, ask me. After all, I am the world's foremost authority on me (go ahead, test me; ask me anything about me).

All this bull ... er, I mean heifer-doo, about labels is a puke-a-rama diversion. Especially the "what's in, what's out" syndrome. Gosh and golly, siblings, if ya wanna spin yer wheels while going nowhere, drive into a swamp and put the pedal to the metal. Of course, the carbon monoxide might get a little toxic, but at least I won't have to breathe it directly.

When I'm out in the culture-at-large, I don't gotta wear no piece of paper or cloth to label me. I guess it must be that I "pass" the "reading" test -- most people can figure out I'm a person without a cue card. Ya know, if everybody had the same name then these labels wouldn't serve any purpose, would they?

I think everybody should be called Pat. Maybe Pat Person. No, the womyn wouldn't go fer that because "son" is patriarchal. Pat Per? Oh! How 'bout Pat People! Yeah! I like that because it really describes how "pat" people consider their opinion as the "correct" opinion.

Ya know, I was just thinking about how the label "humanity" is all wrong, too. It's got the word "man" in it. Way bad. Hmm ... how 'bout Huity? Or, Huitity? No, can't do that, it's got the word "titty" in it. Peopledom? Hues? Hey! That's pretty cool, ain't it? It's like got a rainbow subtext to it: The rainbow hues of peopledom, er, Pats. Damnth, I forgot we are all Pats now.

It's a good thing I got that all straightened out. People

ought to rest easy now that their label is accurate. Gee, I sure am amazing, ain't I? Might as well clean up the gender pronouns next.

**In GenderLand it is very important that words, terms and labels are used Precisely Correct in order to keep everything Vague and Oblique.**

Oh my aching groinette (look, politically correct GenderLingo), have ya noticed the work some people are doing to "fix" the language up? I mean like fixing non gender-specific terms to be specific? Like editress, poetess, authoress; palmette, groinette, hairnette -- in fact, ya just add "ess" or "ette" to most words and ya can make 'em correct, er, I mean correctess. Goddess be praisotted, herstory herselfess will singess myess praisessess. Gee whizess, them words don't seem to cleurette. Oh well, it's just a matter of telling everybody what to do -- it'll all work out. Pat People are cool, they know what's what. But first ... Back to the heifer-doo: In GenderLand it is very important that words, terms and labels are used Precisely Correct in order to keep everything Vague and Oblique. It's not as important what anything means, as much as it is important to argue about it. And, it's important that no matter how many argue, everybody is wrong except one. That's where I come in: I'm The One -- I think I am better, therefore I am.

Let's just get down to some specific cases here, like the correct label for the "gender community" (although, since everybody has a gender, "People" might be a candidate). First, there wasn't a community, and then after a fairly long time, there isn't a community, either. In between, a buncha people wasted a lotta time arguing what the non-citizens should have to call themselves in order to be acceptable. But everybody turned out to be unacceptable. However, just about forty-too many labels were spun out of whole cloth, which means that if all the pieces were gathered up, sewn together, washed and dried, there oughta be enough material to make diapers for the babies who still need 'em.

I am a polygenderous person (poly: more than one, more than usual) by nature. I do drag: man-drag, womyn-drag, leather-drag, weird-drag. In fact, my whole clothed life is a



drag. Or as RuPaul said: "Honey, we're all born naked, the rest of life is drag." I do transvesting, bigendering, trigendering (I'm working on quad-vesting/gendering). I cross-live (well, sometimes I'm not so cranky) even when I don't cross-dress (although sometimes my dresser gets cross -- won't let go of my drawers-and we have words- "Don't you be cross with me!" I yell at my cross dresser. It creaks and mumbles in its wooden way). I translocate, transfer, transform and transcend aspects of myself in order to transliterate the Genderbet, which is kinda like the alphabet only it's the Genderbet. In fact, I just transitioned back from transacting a transference of transitory cash for a can of translocated Genderbet Soup, but after I transported back and opened it up, it transpired that it was full of transparent worms.

I opened the transom, quickly transmuted, took a look at myself -- no help: I was transmogrified.

I crossed myself transthoracically, considered a transfusion, turned off my transistor radio, transposed again, considered my transgressions, and translocated across the universe.

Whoa!! Got a little crossed-up there, didn't I? Okay, let's just get back ... uh, back to ... ya know, I forgot where I was going... going... uh, falling... falling... asleeceep... ZZZZZZ....

[To be continued ...?]

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## WHAT DO CROSSDRESSERS WANT?

by Paul K.

"Ach! Crossdressers! Vot do dey vant?"  
(with apologies to Sigmund Freud)

What do crossdressers want? Crossdressing is such an individual thing, all of us coming from different places, all spending time alone, that it would seem impossible to define anything that all crossdressers, TV or TS, male or female, gay or straight, or anything else, want. While there are many things each of us uniquely desires, there are some desires we share.

Crossdressers want:

**Acceptance.** They need to do something that isn't societally acceptable, and because of that have spent many years trying to deny their needs. They need to feel that the needs they have are OK, that they will be accepted no matter what they need to do, as long as it doesn't harm anyone else.

**Affirmation.** Because they have this deep secret, they feel that there is something wrong with them. They know that they are a good person, but a voice inside tells them that they are somehow less than normal. Crossdressers need to feel the affirmation that they are good and lovable people. They need to have others reinforce what they know but sometimes don't feel, that they are good and lovable.

**Approval.** When you do something, it's nice to have others

approve of it. Comments like "You look great!" or "You do that well!" are fabulous to hear. We all love positive feedback, and we, in our closeted existence, often don't get to hear the good approving comments of others.

**Affection.** It's great to be liked, and we need the affection of others to keep going. The affection that others give you, even when they know the deepest darkest secrets of your

**While there are many things each of us uniquely desires, there are some desires we share.**

soul is very special. That kind of unconditional affection makes us feel whole and happy.

**Fun.** People have fun when their daily cares drop away, and we focus on a pleasurable activity. These activities include, but are not limited to, eating, dancing, talking, dressing, or even sex. Crossdressers want to see their dressing as a fun activity, as far away from their everyday cares, focused and enjoyable. Dressing up and partying should be fun, and things are always more fun when we can share them.

While we all may have other needs, ranging from expressing our true gender to making political statements, if we can get acceptance of our need to dress, affirmation of ourselves as a lovable person, approval of our actions, the affection of others who know that we crossdress, and get a little fun, most of us will be happy people.

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## BOOKS FOR CROSSDRESSERS AND THEIR PARTNERS

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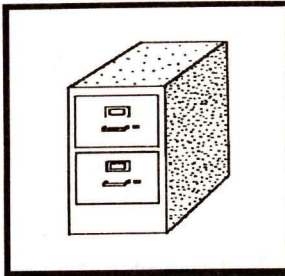
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## THE BEST OF CROSS-TALK

### TRIPPING: THE LIGHT FANTASTIC

by Nicole Phillips

Have you ever taken a trip out of town as a female? Or have you dreamed about it? Since my own experience is limited to a half dozen or so journeys I do not claim to be a travel expert, but I have been around enough to share some reflections with you.

Only in the last couple of years have I been able to crossdress with any frequency. When I was married, my crossdressing was essentially limited to evenings when I was out of town on business, and I would become Nicole in the hotel room and occasionally venture out for a petrified stroll around town. I always fantasized, however, about actually taking a trip as a woman. The fascinating difference is that when dressing around home or going out in your own town you can always quickly scamper home if you are frightened; once you commit to an out-of-town journey, though, you cannot escape your female persona until you return. It is sort of like a survival course as a woman, since by necessity you must depend upon your skills as a female to get by.

This is not a discussion on appearance *per se*, but unless you are prepared for gawking and possible harassment, I think it is most important that you get your skills down so that you can pass as a woman without notice. Everyone has their own opinions on this, of course, but I urge you to look at women whom you find attractive and observe how they dress, wear their hair and deport themselves. Invest in at least one first class wig you can blend into your own hair, and learn to style and soften it. Don't be afraid to comb it back off your face; real girls don't hide under a helmet of fake hair. Wear the simple and elegant clothes that real women wear, and skip the frilly stuff and high collars or you'll look like *Tootsie*. Minimalist makeup will, surprisingly, make you more real and attractive. Practice speaking until you find a feminine voice that you are comfortable with, and then use it. The details are essential, too: simple jewelry, a functional watch, a barrette for the hair, properly located and sized breasts, and maybe a hint of cleavage at the neckline. Most of all, know and revel in the feeling of femininity, so that you walk with a sexy

spring in your step, smile when people speak to you, and maybe even casually toss your hair and pretend that you don't see that handsome businessman admiring you. Hold your shoulders back and your chin up, and be the woman you are.

My most extensive trip was a five day vacation to Boston last fall. The very process of making your reservations is exciting, because you realize that it is for your female side and that if your male counterpart showed up he would be out of character! And Nicole will soon have enough frequent flyer credits to take a free trip herself.

Packing your things is a bit of a thrill in itself. When traveling as Nicole, I go strictly female and do not take any male clothing or accoutrements. I recommend buying or borrowing an appropriate set of ladies luggage, and marking the identification tags with your female name. All you really need is a hanging bag and one suitcase, and you will draw less attention when your bags are

appropriate to your gender. To carry makeup and other personal care items that may be breakable, try a small padded makeup bag to protect them. You would hate to arrive and find that a loose bottle of beige foundation has ruined everything in your suitcase. Be sure to take the basics for a touch-up, such as a hairbrush, lipstick and powder, in your purse because, believe me, you will need them after three hours on an airplane. Lugging along several pairs of shoes creates unnecessary bulk and weight. I like to take one pair of flats or other good walking shoes, and wear black pumps because they are so versatile. Remember to take some socks if you plan to do any sightseeing, because you don't want to walk around all day in pantyhose and pumps. I will usually wear a nice business-type dress or suit (think of how you are going to present yourself at the hotel) and carry one other outfit suitable for going out in the evening, a pair of neutral pants and a blouse in the hanging bag, and an extra shirt and sweater in the suitcase. This gives you plenty of versatility. Don't forget to throw in something to sleep in, too; I usually just toss in an oversized t-shirt. If you are

Once you commit to an out-of-town journey, you cannot escape your female persona until you return.

taking any sex toys, I recommend putting them in your suitcase so that you don't have to face the prospect of hauling your dildo out of your tote bag at the security checkpoint!

I think it is best to take only one purse, so you want to select something that has enough room to be useful but will not make you look like a bag lady when you go to dinner. You are allowed another piece of carry-on luggage, and a canvas tote is ideal for this. You will really kick yourself if you fail to bring along *Cosmo* or a paperback for the plane ride, as in-flight magazines get pretty boring.

One other pre-flight recommendation if you can get away with it: have your nails done professionally, preferably with something versatile like a french manicure, and in a short to medium functional length. You will be so glad you don't have to fret about a press-on nail popping off as you haul your bags off the luggage carousel. And there are few things that really add the feminine touch better than a beautiful set of nails. You will really feel like the lady you are and be ready to travel. A pair of masculine paws signing the hotel register or accepting change from a store clerk is a dead giveaway.

Today the travel world runs on credit cards, so be prepared with your own. Have them issued with only your initials rather than your first name, or get them in your female name. You will not be able to charge airline tickets, check into a hotel, or rent a car without one. This last business of car rental is especially tricky, since you will be required to produce a valid driver's license. The only ways I know of to deal with this are: (1) invest in a first-class fake, but be sure all the information is correct with the exception of the substitution of your female name and sex; (2) find a good female friend who looks sort of like you and will let you borrow hers; or (3) just tell the reservation clerk that you are in the process of transitioning and produce your male counterpart's license. The third option may cause a little embarrassment but it is the safest, and, hey, what do you care what they think anyway? Personally, I do not like to even have my male driver's license with me.

Be sure to make all reservations you need in advance, and that they are in your female name. If you want to see a play or concert, try to order your tickets in advance by mail. I personally like window seating on the airplane when I am traveling as a woman, because you do not have to

constantly get up to let people in and out of their seats. Naturally, before you leave, you need to tell someone you trust where you are going and where you will be staying.

Now you are ready for your exhilarating adventure. The best thing to do, of course, is to have your bags packed and your traveling clothes laid out so that you are not rushing around at the last second. For heavens sake, do go to the bathroom before you get on the plane so that you don't have to fight that battle. Then imagine your feelings as you slip into your dress and shoes, admire your beautifully manicured hands, fix your hair, and head to the airport for a few glorious days totally immersed in femininity. And once you get on that plane, you know you are committed to being a woman for the duration of your journey.

One of the nice things about traveling as a woman is the courtesy that is shown to you. A skycap will scoot over and ask to take your bags, a gentlemen will hold the door for you, and the ticket agent will smile and say, "You're at gate 18, ma'am." And a nice looking woman traveling on her own will always attract the attention of the male of the species. Of course, being the slut that I am, I enjoy being checked out and flirted with. It's so provocative to sit on the airplane, let your skirt slide up to mid-thigh and watch the guy in the next seat start adjusting himself as you politely chat and ignore his arousal like a lady should. Needless to say, of course, you must keep your safety in mind and be careful not to put yourself in a position of true danger. Make sure that you are not being followed into remote areas, and if you think someone is about to bother you do not hesitate to simply ask the nearest gentleman or security officer for an escort. Your best defence is probably just to let your feminine confidence shine through and stay out of bad places, but you must be alert to the hazards that unfortunately go along with being a woman.

Once you reach the airport in your destination city, you should be prepared for ground transportation. I always carry a good supply of one and five dollar bills in the side compartment of my purse when traveling to handle tips, cab fares, etc. Don't overlook a quick visit to the ladies room on arrival to freshen up, especially if it has been windy or if you have eaten on the airplane. Know where you are going and how to get there, because cab drivers will sometimes take advantage of what they believe to be a naive woman. In New York, for example, tell the cabby,

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"The Waldorf via the Triborough Bridge," or in Boston, know that you can take the water ferry to the Marriott. It is most helpful to study the place you are going to visit beforehand, and talk with people who have lived or traveled there.

It has been my experience that by the time you have reached your destination, you will be so comfortable in your female role that it will be second nature to you. Perhaps it has to do with being in a distant geographical location, or the sense that you have, at least for a while, cut the ties that bind you to your maleness and left all vestiges of that behind you. As for me, at least, I truly become Nicole. I find myself as a woman in a new and challenging environment. I am ready to experience the wonder and the sensations of female life, though we must not be so naive as to ignore the hassles of that life as well.

It is best if you have friends with whom you can visit for at least a while, or if you have someone with whom you can travel. If you are traveling with a friend, they must understand that your journey is an experiment in total involvement in your female side and that no remnant whatsoever of your male personality will be present. As you shop, sightsee and play, you will discover a gentle feminine undercurrent in the world. Moms with babies will smile at you when you wait in line; store clerks will chat like old friends; and, yes, occasionally, men will still offer you a seat on a bus or hold the door for you. On the other hand, you will find that there are unwritten restrictions as well. It is uncomfortable to go out unescorted to some restaurants and nightclubs, and considerations of personal safety are much more significant for women than for men.

Yet to get up each morning completely female, to dress yourself and interact with the world totally as a woman, to prepare yourself in the evening and slip cozily into bed as a female this total immersion of experience allows your woman's heart to swell, your female confidence and pride to grow, and your feminine consciousness to hold sway for a time. Yes, you will be aware of some of the missing male prerogatives of life. But your knowledge and comprehension of the femaleness within you will deepen and you will return home a stronger, more perceptive and understanding human being.

[From *Cross-Talk* #36, July 1992.]

The new *Cross-Talk* style book is now available for those wishing to submit articles for publication. To receive a copy, send a #10 SASE to P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills, CA 91365.

## SUBSCRIBER QUESTIONS

**Q:** Why didn't this month's *Cross-Talk* arrive on time?

**A:** As we finished editing this month's issue, it became obvious that it would not be mailed until August 1st, rather than around July 20th, which would have been our normal timing. This is due to a vacation our printer, Arena Press, took in late June/early July, which resulted in a later print "window" than usual. We apologize for the delay and we plan to be on our usual schedule next month.

**Q:** I'm not getting all my copies of *Cross-Talk* ... some months' issues never arrive!

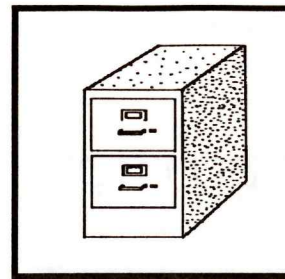
**A:** Much of this is apparently residual post-earthquake difficulties with the Postal Service. While most of these difficulties have been resolved, please let us know if there are any future gaps in delivery.

**Q:** I'm not getting *Cross-Talk* at all and had to buy it at a store. What happened?

**A:** If *Cross-Talk* is returned to us as undeliverable, the subscription is automatically suspended until you contact us and verify the address. We do this to prevent delivery of your issues to someone who you probably don't want to know about your crossdressing (i.e., the new owner of your home, or the new renter of your old P.O. box).

If you put in a change of address order, *Cross-Talk* should be forwarded to you and we will be notified of the new address, but there may still be delivery delays.

Please feel free to write, fax, e-mail or call us if you have any problems with your *Cross-Talk* subscription.



by Kimberleigh Richards

A few people have asked me lately what a 'zine is. Well, the word itself is a slang shortening of "magazine" (and is pronounced the same as the last syllable of the base word), and it applies primarily to alternative press publications such as the one you're holding in your hands now. But in the broader sense, 'zine is also coming to represent an attitude of finding alternative means of distribution. Take, for example, *Global Mail* published by Ashley Parker Owens' Soapbox Junc. It contains a lot of time-sensitive entries in such diverse categories as mail art, boycotts, and computer BBS systems. *Global Mail* is also carried in electronic form on Cross Connection, for example, and so is the electronic version of *Cross-Talk*. So the list of alternative forms of communication is itself distributed by one of the alternatives!

To try to make this all less confusing, several books and magazines have begun to turn up, cataloging and reviewing all of these alternatives. One of the best overviews is Richard Kadrey's *Covert Culture Sourcebook* (St. Martin's Press), which was released late last year. It's a 200+ page book covering most of the current forms of this "information revolution": About a third of the book covers books and magazines, and about half on music. The rest is split pretty evenly between video and "tools for living".

It's not a complete listing by any means. That's pretty much impossible, given the nature of this culture. (For

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## 'ZINE REVIEWS!

example, *Factsheet 5*, which covers the alternative press pretty thoroughly, has to come out several times a year just to keep track of new issues, new titles, and titles that have stopped publishing.) Things come and go all the time in this "underground" counter-culture, and Kadrey has wisely concentrated on those resources that seem likely to be around for a while.

As such, the book is a good introduction to the subject, and has many listings to point you in whatever direction your interests dictate. Just remember that one resource usually leads to others, and you'll be all right.

I recommend this book as a good starting point for anyone who wants to start exploring. While the second edition (entirely new and revised, according to the associate editor at St. Martin's) will be coming out in Christmas, the original is good enough -- and useful enough -- not to wait for the revision.

[\$12.95 at many chain and independent bookstores, or order direct from Publishers Book & Audio, (800) 288-2131.]



If your interests are predominantly in 'zines themselves, you might want to check *Alternative Press Review*, the third issue of which came out a couple of months ago. Billing itself as "Your Guide Beyond the Mainstream", it devotes about a quarter of its space to 'zine reviews, and the rest to selected reprints from 'zines. It also contains news about the alternative press and reader letters.

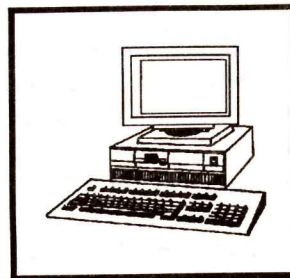
The issue I have also has an excellent article -- apparently written specifically for *APR* -- on the history of the alternative press by Michelle Rau (who did the cover artwork for *Cross-Talk* #54), as well as part one of an interview with an alternative press retailer/distributor in Seattle.

All in all, a pretty interesting publication ... sort of a cross between *Reader's Digest* and a more-focused *Factsheet 5*.

[\$4.50 for a single current or back issue, or \$16.00 for a one-year third-class U.S. mail subscription (ask them about longer subscriptions, first-class postage, and international rates) from C.A.L. Press, P.O. Box 1446, Columbia MO 65205.]

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## THE INFORMATION HIGHWAY AND YOU

### SO I'M ON THE NET ... NOW WHAT DO I DO?

by Emily E. Clarke

The most important part of the Internet provider is the services it provides. The following is a list of very basic services that are available, though remember, many providers may have limited services.

Electronic mail, or **e-mail** is the basic service that users use most. There are two reasons for this, the first being that without an electronic mail address you aren't "on the net". It would be like having a telephone without a telephone number. Many services such as Compuserve, America OnLine, Prodigy and many BBS systems such as Cross Connection, Channel 1, Syslink, etc. provide this level of service. Though the basic exchange of electronic mail itself may not seem to be exciting, there are many resources that operate by bulk mailing lists and subscriber lists that will deliver messages of a specific nature in mail or digest formats. An example of this would be *cd-forum*, which is discussed later.

**telnet** is a very important network tool that allows the user to connect to other systems and services, and while this may not seem that important, getting around between the 200,000 odd systems connected up to access their special services is how the network resources are exploited. Many systems allow access only to users, some allow guest access and some are there only for use by other computer systems. By connecting through telnet you become a user on that computer system and can run programs and use utilities just as if you were doing so locally.

**ftp** or "file transfer protocol" allows users to move files around in the Internet system, the same way that a large truck moves boxes of goods around the highway system. This is important because large collections of files or repositories (usually called ftp sites) exist where vast software and information catalogues are housed. Like telnet, ftp sites may require you to have a user account, but many allow anonymous ftp for guests and others exist for the use of computer-only access.

**archie** is a tool that allows you to search the network for files. This includes partial searches, and is similar to a "dir /s [filespec]" command on a DOS system where it will search all the subdirectories (in this case, systems) starting at the root of the network. It may take a long time to get a result, but the results will be comprehensive. Of course not using wild cards and limiting searches to specific systems will speed things up.

These are the very basic services and all are command line driven. Using them usually requires *a-priori* knowledge of what, where and how to connect, access and retrieve information and software. The next layer up is where the real tools reside.

**gopher** is a tool that does exactly like what the office flunky used to do -- go for stuff. It is a menu driven interface that allows a user to navigate the Internet resources by browsing menus that interconnect to menu systems on other computer systems. It allows access to most of the resources that are available through telnet and ftp, and some archie functions. **gopher** has been recently joined by companion tools **veronica** and **jughead**, which are archie-like search tools to search gopher systems and menus for information.

**USENET** is really not a thing so much as a place. USENET is a collection of forums that are similar to books, and the USENET system is equivalent to a library where all the books are stored. Some USENET forums contain messages and postings, others contain files that have been encoded for easy access. There are a lot of different tools used to access USENET, but the most common are **nn** (or **netnews**) and **gopher**-based menus. USENET is organized in such a way that the basic title of each forum tells something about the topic. For example:

*alt.binaries.pictures.erotica* -- binaries of scanned erotic pictures

*alt.binaries.pictures.erotica.d* -- discussions about the above

The root is a major description and follows a convention like:

*alt* = alternative subjects

*comp* = computer subjects

*soc* = sociology topics

*rec* = recreation and hobbies

*biz* = business

*net* = network information

There are many others and some that are even likely to seem cryptic because they may originate at foreign sites.

**irc**, or Internet relay chat is a system tool that is sometimes the early model for the virtual cyberspace that the so-called X-Generation has highly touted and has been featured in such places as "Doonesbury" and *New Yorker* cartoons with the caption "On the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog." **irc** is organized into channels that closely

approximate topics, and allows message exchange between connected users and supports both public and private messages. Users can be invisible, channels can be invisible, private (which require an invitation) or public. There is a loose hierarchy of users, "chanops" or channel operators and "ircops" or irc operators which maintain the actual irc servers and act as overseers.

**MUDs**, or Multi-User Domains are Internet resources that closely approximate virtual reality games. There is a basic game structure and users can "walk" around virtual spaces, interact with a variety of real and virtual entities, and generally live happily ever after in a virtual world. One note of caution -- while irc may be habit forming, muds are highly addictive. One woman I know got so involved in one mud she spent three solid months "mudding" and lost her job when it was discovered she was three months behind on a three month project.

**mosaic** is a new multimedia environment that provides users access to a whole world of full motion video, audio, hypertext and still photography. **mosiac** was originally developed for X-Windows based systems, but is quickly migrating to Mac and MS-Windows platforms with talk of a basic DOS platform soon. Because it is so bandwidth intensive **mosaic** usually requires a discrete network connection, but faster modem speeds will eventually allow use by dialup connections.

**Okay -- this is all very nice, but where do I look for what interests me?** Everywhere. Okay, that isn't really fair, but with 200,000 computer systems and hundreds of thousands of gigabytes of storage online, there are many resources and places of interest to everyone, including the transgendered. Here are the major attractions.

*cd-forum* is one of the original transgendered resources on the Internet. It is a moderated digest (that is it is monitored for content and approved by an editor) and is mailed to any qualified subscriber roughly one to three times per week. It contains articles written by and for subscribers on all aspects of TV/TG/TS life and provides support, information and announcements. It has an official subscriber size of 363, but it gets propagated and posted on many bulletin board systems and commercial services (despite the moderator's requests to the contrary). In addition to the digest, there is an archive of all articles organized as back issues and by topic. To subscribe send e-mail to *cd-requestvalis.biocad.com*. You will receive instructions by return mail.

**TRANSGEN** is another mailing list, but is not moderated

and is really designed to forward messages sent to it to subscribers. It is available in two formats -- individual messages or digest form which is mailed out on a periodic basis as traffic warrants, usually once per day. It is similar to *cd-forum* in content, but since it is unmoderated, it is subject to more hard critical comments which have resulted in shouted matches or "flame wars". There are many subscribers with no real count since it is also propagated to other BBS and service providers. To subscribe, send the text "subscribe transgen your name" to *listservbrownvm.brown.edu* for additional instructions. *Membership is qualified, so you will be contacted when your subscription request is processed.*

**alt.transgendered**, or **alt.tg** for short, is an unmoderated USENET news group (or forum) that people post to and read. The information is similar to **TRANSGEN**, subject to the same flame wars, but USENET messages hang around so it is easier to follow long threads of postings than using e-mail. The easiest way to read **alt.transgendered** (if USENET news is not available at your service providers site) is to use **gopher** or **telnet** to connect to *wilcox.umt.edu* (University of Montana).

**#crossdress** (the # indicates channel) is a crossdress related chat channel on irc. It is a free-for-all, and the topic is determined by whoever drops in at any one minute and lasts just about as long. Transgendered people of all sorts drop in, but transsexualism is the current hot topic. It is a place where instant support is available, and many people make lasting friendships. It is unmoderated and open to the public so anyone can drop in, including the mildly curious, the inexperienced and sometimes those who are only interested in flaming transgendered people. **irc** access is mostly available only to those who have irc clients at the service provider level, but you can telnet to one of several irc clients who allow guest *(continued, next page)*

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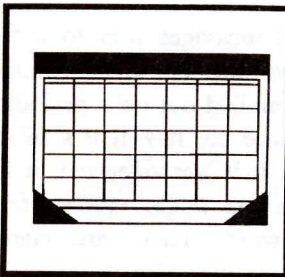
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# EVENTS CALENDAR

**August 5-8, 1994:** "Dignity Cruise V", Los Angeles to Baja California. Details from Peggy Rudd, 1811 Crutchfield, Katy TX 77449 or by calling (713) 347-6563.

**August 17-21, 1994:** Third Annual "International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy", Houston TX. Information from Phyllis Randolph Frye, 5707 Firenza St., Houston 77035-5515, or by calling (713) 723-8368 (fax: 723-1800).

**September 3 & 4, 1994:** "GenDys '94", conference for professionals and others, University of Manchester, U.K. Details from BM GenTrust, London WC1N 3XX.

**September 22-25, 1994:** "Paradise in the Poconos", Canadensis PA. Details from Creative Design Services, P.O. Box 61263, King of Prussia PA 19406 or by calling (610) 640-9449.

**September 29-October 2, 1994:** "Southern Comfort Conference", Atlanta GA. Information from P.O. Box 77591, Atlanta GA 30357, or by calling (404) 875-5749.

**October 8, 1994:** "Gender Symposium for Medical and Mental Health Professionals", Miami FL. Information from The Eden Society, P.O. Box 1692, Pompano Beach FL 33061-1692 or by calling (305) 784-9316.

**October 16-23, 1994:** 20th Annual "Fantasia Fair", Provincetown MA, sponsored by Outreach Institute. Write Alison Laing, P.O. Box 941, Southeastern PA 19399-0941 for details.

**November 2-5, 1994:** "Fort Lauderdale Freedom", Sunrise FL, sponsored by Serenity and the Eden Society. Information via Internet ([jgould@gate.net](mailto:jgould@gate.net)), AOL ([JessicaAN](mailto:JessicaAN)), or by telephoning (305) 468-9732.

**November 10-13, 1994:** Tri-Ess "Holiday En Femme", New York City. Open only to Tri-Ess members, wives and partners, and other heterosexual crossdressers. Details from Lynda Frank, 330 W. 45th St. #3H, New York NY 10036; telephone (212) 765-3561.

**November 17-20, 1994:** "Fall Harvest '94", Cedar Rapids IA, sponsored by MAGGIE. Host organization: Iowa Artistry. Details from P.O. Box 75, Cedar Rapids 52406-0075 or by calling (319) 373-3031.

**February 21-26, 1995:** 7th Annual "Texas T Party", San Antonio TX. Details from P.O. Box 17, Bulverde TX 78163 or by calling (210) 980-7788.

**March 13-19, 1995:** International Foundation for Gender Education "Coming Together-Working Together Convention", Atlanta GA. Details from IFGE, P.O. Box 367, Wayland MA 01778.

**May 17-21, 1995:** "Esprit '95", Port Angeles WA, sponsored by Emerald City, NWGA, and Cornbury Society. Details from P.O. Box 873, Kirkland WA 98083-0873.

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

## INFORMATION HIGHWAY ... continued from previous page

registration. These are transient, so you may need to check with your sysop or service provider to get their latest recommendations.

These are the primary resources for transgendered people. There are secondary sources, and here, briefly, are some of those:

**Mailing lists:** Alternates, mailgender

**USENET:** alt.politics.sex, alt.sex, alt.sex.bondage, alt.sex.exhibitionism, alt.sex.fetish.fashion, alt.sex.fetish.feet, alt.sex.fetish.hair, alt.sex.masturbation, alt.sex.motss, alt.motss.bisexual, alt.sex.movies, alt.sex.pictures, alt.sex.pictures.female, alt.sex.services, alt.sex.sounds, alt.sex.stories, rec.arts.erotica, soc.motss

**irc channels:** #lesbians, #gaysex, #erotica

The Internet is a huge resource and the precursor to the information superhighway. To participate in it is easy, to become a mistress of it takes time, patience and experimentation. It can be a sanctuary for the transgendered and a source of support, information and friendship.

*[Editor's Note: This month's column is designed as a brief overview of the many features available on the Internet. Many of the topics included here -- such as USENET, mailing lists, mosaic, and MUDs, will be covered more thoroughly in future columns. Next month: What to expect from a local BBS system.]*

## INTERNATIONAL HOTLINES

### U.K./REP. OF IRELAND:

Beaumont Society, London: 081-756-1782  
 Belfast Butterfly, Rep. of Ireland: 849-469715  
 Crosslynx, Glasgow: 041-221-8372  
 Gender Dysphoria Trust, London: 032-364-1100 #  
 GenTrust, London: 071-730-7453  
 Grampian Gender Group, Scotland: 033-988-3695  
 Liverbirds, Liverpool: 051-709-4745  
 New TransEssex: 026-858-3761  
 Scottish TV/TS Group, Edinburgh: 031-556-4049

### GERMANY:

Transidentitas, Offenbach: 069 8001008  
 Transvestitengruppe, Berlin: 030 2082157  
 TV Club Hamburg: 040 2501313  
 Viva, Muenchen: 089 7916643 #

### AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND:

Australia TG Support Association: (07) 846 3787  
 Chameleon Society, Australia: (09) 293 8338  
 Elaine Barrie Project, Australia: (03) 369 2613  
 Seahorse Society of NSW, Australia: (02) 569 6239  
 Transline Hedesthia, New Zealand: (09) 763-523

### OTHER OVERSEAS:

De Stichting Reborn, Netherlands: 010-4503469  
 Genderstichting, Belgium: (32) 056-219541 #  
 Ice & Fire, Moscow: 287-7096  
 Khusra, Pakistan: 05921 6158  
 Phoenix Society, South Africa: 925351  
 SETA, Helsinki: 358-0-135-8302  
 Travesty, Istanbul: 157 8925

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# 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 primarily TS-oriented groups; listings followed by @ are for heterosexual TV/CDs only. Most other listings are for "open" (both TV/CD and TS) groups. While we make every effort to keep this listing updated, phone numbers may change without notice. If you find an incorrect listing, please let us know!

### NEW ENGLAND/NORTH ATLANTIC REGIONS:

CD Network, Rochester: (716) 251-2132  
 Chi Delta Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, NYC: (201) 663-0772 @  
 Cross Dressers International, NYC: (212) 570-7389  
 East Coast F2M Group, Cambridge: (413) 584-7616 #  
 Eulenspiegel Society, NYC: (212) 388-7022 %  
 Expressing Our Nature, Syracuse: (315) 475-5611  
 Gender Identity Program, NYC: (212) 969-0888 #  
 Gender Talk North, New Hampshire: (603) 924-8828  
 Girls' Night Out, NYC: (212) 794-1665 ext 202  
 Images, Hartford: (203) 779-9708  
 Imperial Queens of New York: (212) 580-9858  
 Int'l. Foundation for Gender Education: (617) 894-8340  
 Lambda Chi Lambda Chapter Tri-Ess, Utica: (607) 547-4118 @  
 Long Island Femme Expression: (516) 538-5304 @  
 Metropolitan Gender Network, NYC: (718) 461-9050  
 Outreach Institute, N. Portland: (207) 775-0858  
 Reflections, Boston: (617) 323-6082  
 Renaissance Greater Philadelphia Chapter: (610) 630-1437  
 Renaissance LSV Chapter, Harrisburg: (717) 780-1578  
 Renaissance S. Jersey Chapter: (609) 435-5401  
 Sigma Nu Rho Chapter Tri-Ess, Trenton: (609) 586-1351 @  
 Silent Passage, Rhode Island: (401) 438-7417  
 Tiffany Club, Boston: (617) 891-9325  
 TransGender Educational Ass'n, Arlington: (301) 949-3822  
 TransGenderists Independence Club, Albany: (518) 436-4513  
 Transpitt, Pittsburgh: (412) 231-1181  
 Washington-Baltimore Alliance: (301) 277-5475  
 XX (Twenty) Club, Hartford: (203) 646-8651 #

### THE SOUTH:

American Educational Gender Info. Service: (404) 939-0244  
 Atlanta Gender Exploration: (404) 875-9846 #  
 Black Rose, Arlington: (301) 369-7667 %  
 Carolina Trans-Sensual Alliance, Charlotte: (704) 551-8838  
 Eden Society, Pompano Beach: (305) 784-9316 #  
 Fantasia, Orlando: (407) 425-4527 #  
 GDA North Carolina: (704) 642-1914  
 Gender Information Network, Gainesville: (904) 332-8178  
 Grace & Lace, Mississippi: (601) 362-6335  
 Louisville Gender Society: (812) 944-5570  
 Montgomery Institute, Augusta: (404) 603-9426 #  
 Montgomery Institute, Gainesville: (904) 332-6638 #  
 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 @  
 Phoenix, Asheville: (704) 259-9428  
 Serenity, Hollywood: (305) 436-9477  
 Sigma Epsilon Chapter Tri-Ess, Atlanta: (404) 552-4415 @  
 Starburst, Tampa-St. Petersburg: (813) 527-1012  
 Tennessee Vals, Nashville: (615) 664-6883  
 Virginia's Secret, Richmond: (804) 222-6796

### MIDWEST & VICINITY:

Beta Gamma Chapter Tri-Ess, Minneapolis: (612) 870-8536 @  
 Central Illinois Gender Assoc.: (309) 444-9918  
 Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Chicago: (708) 364-9514 @  
 Chicago Gender Society: (708) 749-1202  
 City of Lakes Crossgender Comm., Minneapolis: (612) 229-3613  
 Cross-Port, Cincinnati: (513) 474-9557  
 Crossdressers & Friends, Kansas City: (913) 791-3947  
 Crossroads, Detroit: (313) 537-3267  
 Crystal Club, Columbus: (614) 777-0648  
 Gender Dysphoria Support, Kansas City: (816) 753-7816 #

Indiana Crossdressers Society, Indianapolis: (812) 876-5635  
 Minnesota Freedom of Gender Expression: (612) 220-9072  
 N.G.D.O., Detroit: (313) 842-5258 #  
 Paradise Club, Cleveland: (216) 586-9292  
 Quad-City Society for Sexuality Ed., Davenport: (319) 324-9641  
 St. Louis Gender Foundation: (314) 997-9897  
 Sunday Society, Chicago: (312) 252-7024  
 Wichita Transgender Alliance: (316) 682-9131

### SOUTHWEST/MOUNTAIN REGION:

Alpha Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Amarillo: (806) 359-7714 @  
 Bluebonnet Coalition, San Antonio: (210) 656-4163  
 Boulton & Park Society, San Antonio: (210) 980-7788  
 CrossDressers International, Tulsa: (918) 582-6643  
 Delta Omega Chapter Tri-Ess, Dallas: (817) 261-3253 @  
 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) 780-4282  
 Help Me ... Accept Me, Dallas: (214) 416-6632  
 ReCast, Dallas: (214) 994-9314 #  
 Second Image, Austin: (512) 515-5460  
 TS Peer Support, Houston: (713) 333-2278 #  
 Tau Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Houston: (713) 347-8747 @  
 Texas Ass'n. of Transsexuals, Houston: (713) 827-5913 #  
 West Texas Gender Alliance, San Angelo: (915) 944-1381

### PACIFIC NORTHWEST:

Emerald City, Seattle: (206) 284-1071  
 Ingersoll Gender Center, Seattle: (206) 329-6651  
 Northwest Gender Alliance, Portland: (503) 646-2802  
 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):

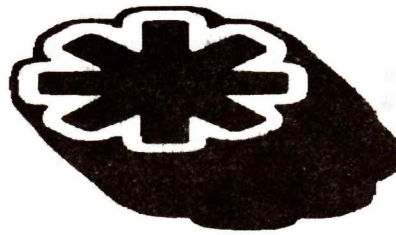
Alpha Chapter Tri-Ess, Los Angeles: (213) 876-6141 @  
 Amer. Transsexual Education Center: (213) 389-6938 #  
 Androgyny, Santa Monica: (213) 467-8317  
 Born Free, Riverside: (909) 278-0958  
 CHIC, Los Angeles: (818) 248-9075 @  
 Diablo Valley Girls, Concord: (510) 849-4112  
 Educational TV Channel, San Francisco: (510) 549-2665  
 FTM, Oakland: (510) 287-2646 #  
 Hawaii Transgendered Outreach, Honolulu: (808) 923-4270  
 Neutral Corner, San Diego: (619) 685-3696  
 Powder Puffs Of California, Anaheim: (714) 779-9013  
 Rainbow Gender Association, San Jose: (408) 984-4044  
 Sacramento Gender Association: (916) 482-7742  
 Sigma Sigma Beta Chapter Tri-Ess, Lake Tahoe: (916) 544-2460 @  
 Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess) Nat'l.: (209) 688-9246 @  
 Swan's Inner Sorority, San Jose: (408) 297-1423

### CANADA:

Club Met, Montreal: (514) 528-8874  
 Entre Femme, Quebec: (418) 529-1132 #  
 F.A.T.E., Vancouver: (604) 254-9591  
 Gender Mosaic, Ottawa: (613) 749-5203  
 Illusions Social Club, Calgary: (403) 486-9661

**If you see a news article relating to the gender community, please send it to us at P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365, or fax it to us at (818) 347-4190.**





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PERSPECTIVES? IT'S ALL IN**

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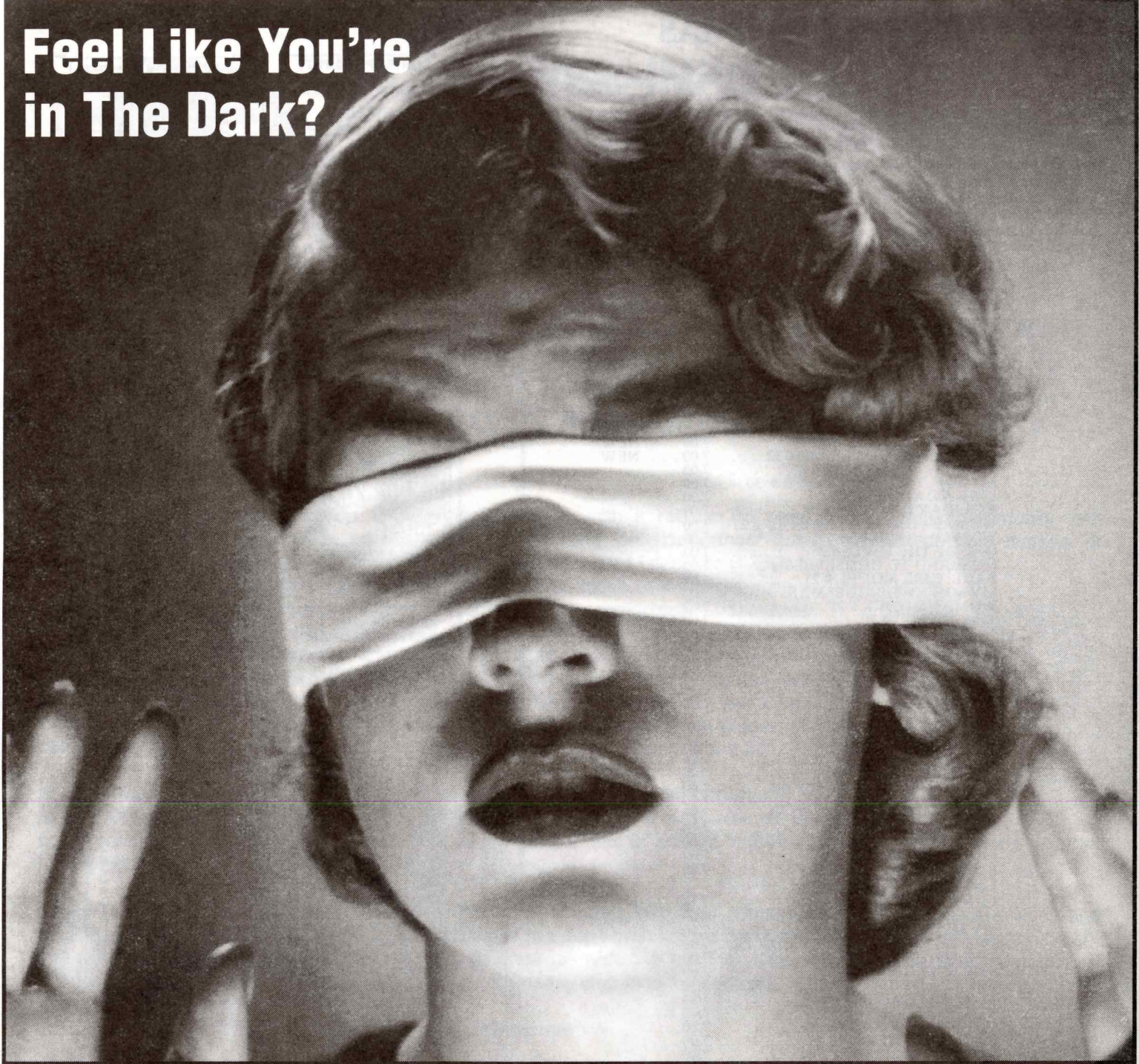


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