

Winnie

CROSS-TALK

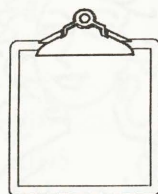
The Gender Community's News & Information Monthly

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**CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM ... OR TAKING POTSHOTS?
 DO PEOPLE CREATE TERMS, OR VICE VERSA?
 IS THERE AN EXPLANATION FOR WHY WE ARE TRANSGENDERED?
 DISHONESTY AND THE EFFECT ON A RELATIONSHIP
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 THE FIRST GENDER COMMUNITY EVENT
 ABUSIVE BEHAVIOR IN A CROSSDRESSING SITUATION**



KYMBERLEIGH'S CLIPBOARD

CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM ... OR POTSHOTS?

by Kymberleigh Richards

In a recent issue of *Renaissance News and Views*, Dina Amberle took one of our community's newsletters to task for attacking IFGE in what Dina considers to be "sarcastic naysaying". Specifically, she referred to the "interpretation" of recent IFGE fund-raising letters, with what she calls "thinly veiled accusations that someone at IFGE is misappropriating funds". I have also read these anti-IFGE editorials, and I agree with Dina that their author is apparently using her position as newsletter editor to tell everyone what's "wrong" with IFGE, in her not-so-humble opinion.

There is a fine line between offering constructive criticism and taking potshots, and I agree with Dina that the line has been crossed. The writer of these editorials has been making a lot of noise about a perceived problem outside her own organization, expending a lot of time and print to make the noise, and is continuing to make noise without offering any suggestions for resolving the problem.

I have run across situations like this before. I have even been accused of crossing that line myself on occasion. Unfortunately, the potential for taking potshots is always present for those of us who write editorials, especially if we do not make room for the expression of opposing views. The easiest way to avoid that potential is by publishing letters to the editor that disagree with the previously stated

opinion. (Personally, I prefer letters opposing my views to those agreeing with them; I think they make more interesting reading as well as create a true and open discussion of whatever the topic is.)

The problem with not allowing for a dialogue is that it makes the person who originally editorialized appear to be speaking for the entire membership of whatever organization sponsors the publication the editorial appeared in. (I am -- fortunately -- protected from that difficulty because it's my name on this magazine's masthead as publisher.)

I also believe any person who takes it upon themselves to attack another organization in our community by virtue of their office deserves to be chastised for their actions.

I have spoken publicly on how negativity in a group newsletter can create a bad impression of that group. So has my friend and associate editor Virginia Prince. We both feel -- as obviously does Dina Amberle -- that such negativity further divides a community that already has great difficulty holding itself together. We have too many detractors out in the "real" world already without giving them ammunition by attacking from within.

I'm certain I'll get a letter to the editor from the offending newsletter editor about this. And you all know I'll publish it. That's the difference between dialogue and potshots.

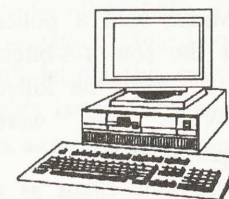
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The NewsQueen

Edited by Paula Jordan Sinclair

"Burping makes your boobs bigger!"

That headline in the *Weekly World News* caught the attention of Ms. Sinclair's husband and he quickly passed her a two-liter bottle of Diet Coke. It seems that an Italian allergist named Arturo Magrini claims that "accumulating and expelling air in burping acts to expand lung tissue and exercise chest muscles." In other words, "The more a woman burps, the bigger her bust gets."

Dr. Magrini also claims that sneezing has the same impact.

"So, bust development is just a matter of exercising the lungs," Ms. Sinclair thought. But just as she was about to guzzle down the huge bottle of pop, she noticed that Magrini urged caution. "Deliberately creating indigestion or gas problems just to burp more, or leaving allergies untreated in order to sneeze more -- these things could be dangerous," he warned.



This burping theory may be what scientists working in Malaysia need in order to explain their latest discovery -- male bats with lactating breasts.

The discovery of the lactating male fruit bats has so far puzzled scientists. "They looked like perfectly good males with large testes, but from the other end I could see they had well-developed breasts," said Dr. Charles M. Francis of the Wildlife Conservation Society and author of an article on the discovery published in the journal *Nature*. He noted that when the male bats' breasts were gently squeezed, they produced a small amount of milk.

It is possible that the male bats might nurse young bats, but that possibility is remote because the amount of milk produced was about a tenth of that produced by females. Also, it is quite rare for male and female mammals to raise young as a couple. Another possibility is that the male bats have received doses of estrogen-like compounds found in some plant leaves.

But following Dr. Magrini's discovery, Ms. Sinclair thinks that the scientists should climb down from the trees and look for little Coke bottles on the jungle floor.



Of course, gentle readers, you know that Ms. Sinclair is kidding about drinking carbonated beverages in hopes of getting larger breasts. You did know that, didn't you? She has to enter this disclaimer because of an unfortunate recent event in Wooster, Ohio. But first some background.

Last month, you'll recall, we reported on the case of Bill Sconyers of Arcadia, Fla., who cut off his penis with an electric saw because, he said, he always wanted to be a woman. Sadly, there has been a copycat stunt.

Richard Zorub, 55, was sitting at his kitchen table eating a peanut butter and jelly sandwich when his girlfriend looked inside a cooking pot in his refrigerator. Imagine her surprise when instead of finding the makings for a snack, she discovered Zorub's severed penis and testicles. She called police and they took him to Wooster Community Hospital where he was listed in fair condition. However doctors decided against reattaching the organs after Zorub said he would just cut them off again.

Zorub is no stranger to police. In December, they escorted him from the public library because he entered the women's restroom wearing women's clothes. Police also said they believe Zorub is responsible for making more than 400 obscene phone calls to female telephone operators during which he allegedly told them he would like to do several things to them, including cutting their toenails.



So far, Chuck Jones' fascination with women's feet has provoked him to take a knife only to several pairs of Marla Trump's shoes and boots -- footwear that he stole from her over a period of several years, along with many pairs of her panties.

Jones was Trump's publicist. A hidden camera set up in her New York apartment overlooking Central Park caught him rummaging through her closet and through her laundry hamper. Later, police found several pairs of Trump's shoes, boots, and underwear in his office. Some of the footwear had been sliced with a knife.

In court on burglary charges recently, Jones said he had an "inordinate preoccupation with women's shoes." He was convicted and faces up to 15 years in prison.



Jones' kinky behavior is nothing compared to the scandal that erupted in Great Britain recently when the body of a Conservative Member of Parliament with a promising political career was found in his London apartment. Stephen Milligan, 45, had a plastic bag over his head, an electric cord wrapped around his neck, stockings on his legs, and a garter belt around his waist.

Pending the results of an autopsy, Scotland Yard would not

say if Milligan was murdered, committed suicide, or died accidentally during sex with or without a partner.

This is just the latest of a series of homo- and heterosexual scandals to rock the Tory party, which had tried to regain prestige by mounting a "back to basics" campaign that, among other things, called for a return to family values.



A Rhode Island politician got in trouble with the law because of crossdressing. No, the politician wasn't in drag, but the man he picked up on a Providence street was.

After arriving at his suburban house, Christopher D'Angelo, 35, discovered that his guest for the evening wasn't the woman he thought "she" was. So D'Angelo, who had been a GOP candidate for public welfare director, did what any red-blooded man would in a situation like that. He started to beat him up. The man ran from the house, an D'Angelo chased after him and forced him to return by holding a gun on him. The man was then pistol whipped and forced to disrobe. He thwarted the rest of D'Angelo's plan by running half-naked out into the sub-zero cold and finally succeeding in summoning police. D'Angelo was arrested on charges of assault with a deadly weapon.



A Wisconsin crossdresser wasn't so lucky when he stumbled onto Harold Maass' property about 50 miles west of Milwaukee in 1992. Maass shot him twice with a shotgun, first wounding him and then killing him at close range. In January, Maass was found guilty of second degree murder.

Apparently, Maass, 78, and Robert Woelfel, 48, had never met before Woelfel showed up at Maass' mobile home wearing high heels, a skirt, and blouse. No motive was presented for Woelfel's visit, but the prosecutor noted that Maass had a sign on his mailbox reading "So many men, so little time." She claimed that the sign was an attempt to lure transvestites. Was Maass advertising for a sexual tryst? No, prosecutor Linda Larson argued at the trial; Maass had laid a trap for murder.

Eight months earlier, Maass claimed he was attacked inside his trailer by a man dressed as a woman. The crossdresser had come to his door claiming to have had car trouble. Thinking it was actually a woman, Maass invited her inside. That was when "she" tried to strangle the old

man with a nylon stocking. Maass fought off the attack and the man fled. After that incident, Maass told a police officer, "If he comes back, I'll shoot the son-of-a-bitch. People like that are sick in the head." After he killed Woelfel, Maass called police. While they were investigating, he asked if he would be "getting an medal."

Maass' defense attorney tried to portray his client as a frightened old man who "didn't know what he was dealing with."

At the trial, Woelfel's wife testified that she had known of her husband's crossdressing for more than ten years, and that they had sought counseling. But each time, Woelfel, who was an insurance salesman and a former semi-pro football player, had dropped out of these counseling sessions, telling his wife he would "deal with it" by himself.



A senior citizen in Kansas City, Mo., had an encounter with a crossdresser, but this time the crossdresser ended up in jail.

David Redmond, 36, tried to swindle an 86-year-old man by posing as a female police detective. Redmond had convinced the man to give him a large sum of money to investigate a robbery at the man's home that took place two days earlier. Police say that Redmond probably committed that robbery. When the man withdrew the money from his account, bank officials became suspicious and called police. They arrested Redmond in the man's home.



Police in Atlanta must have thought that they had arrested one of those lawless transvestites when they took Stephani Granen into custody on drunken driving charges in January. Granen claims police conducted a thorough -- and rough -- body search. The only trouble is that Granen is a post-op transsexual.

Her troubles began when she arrived at the detention center and officers mistook her for a transvestite. She says that after a male officer began the body search, she told him that she was a female. At that time, she said, he pushed her against a wall and grabbed her between the legs. She was called a "f--king man" several times, and intimidated into signing her fingerprint card which stated that she was male.

Granen attempted to file criminal charges against police, but because there were no witnesses to the search, the prosecutor refused to take the case to court. But Granen isn't letting the matter rest. She will file a federal civil rights lawsuit, claiming that the case is a woman's issue, not a transgender issue.



We're sure that when Ms. Granen told reporters, "I'm not a transvestite. I'm not a transsexual. I'm a woman." she didn't mean any disrespect to crossdressers and female impersonators. And that's good, because if she was dissin' us, we know some folks in Atlanta who could set her straight.

Daren Favarote and Kimberly Griffin have made it their mission to improve the image of female impersonation. To this end, they formed a production company -- Illusion Productions -- and published a 1994 calendar featuring tasteful poses by the city's premiere queens.

"We want to get rid of the negative things" surrounding drag, Favarote said. "We want to bring them into the forefront as a positive image."

The \$10 "Life's a Drag" calendar isn't exactly jumping off shelves, but still, the owner of Outwrite Books in Atlanta says it is one of the top-selling calendar in his store, and that, surprisingly, a lot of straight people have come in to buy a copy.

That doesn't surprise Favarote. "America as a whole, is fascinated with female impersonation. The world has just embraced RuPaul."



Speaking of Miss Ru, how long did you think we could go without mentioning her? As long as she keeps turning out the product, she'll keep getting mentions.

He latest product is a video duo with Elton John singing his earlier hit *Don't Go Breaking My Heart*. Ru and John pose as some of history's most famous couples -- Anthony and Cleopatra, the painting "American Gothic," Marie Antoinette and Louis XVI, and others. The big surprise is that John gets to play the girl as well.



But back in Kansas City, as many as 2,000 RuPaul fans were upset in January when they learned that the concert by the supermodel of the world supposedly scheduled for Memorial Hall was nothing more than a scam. They are even more upset that police twice had the scam artist Jim Davidson in custody and twice let him go.

Davidson had reportedly fled to Los Angeles. No money was recovered so no refunds were made to fans.



And speaking of fierce drag queens, Joan Jett Blakk will throw her wig into the ring for the 1996 presidential race. She mounted her unsuccessful 1992 campaign from Chicago. But now, as a resident of San Francisco, she is

hoping to get more grassroots support.



Politics is a dirty business, but somebody's got to do it. That's why we were glad to learn that Jessica M. Xavier of the Transgendered Educational Association in Washington, D.C. lobbied hard to get the committee organizing the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots to change the name of the June 26 event to include drag, transgendered, and bisexuals. Her main argument was that the riots, which started the modern gay rights movement, were initiated by drag queens. But the committee voted against the name change.

The vote against changing the title was defended by one of the committee's three co-chairs who is also a drag performer, Nicole Ramirez Murray of San Diego. He said that the longer title would be very confusing in some of the 117 nations participating in the march.

"Stonewall 25 always has been committed to bisexual, drag, and transgender communities," Murray said. "The central role of drag queens at the Stonewall Riots underscore our importance in the gay and lesbian world."



Xavier wasn't the only person to feel crossdresser rejection recently. Members of Sigma Nu fraternity at Furman University in Greenville, S.C. had their plans to wear dresses shot down by university officials.

Last year, the fraternity intramural basketball team played all of its games in dresses and used the motto "there's nothing worse than getting beat by a guy in a dress." But this year, Owen McFadden, director of recreational sports, cited safety concerns and told the guys to drop their dresses and play in men's clothes or be expelled from the league. "I don't care if they walk around with dresses on campus," McFadden said, but from a safety standpoint, I can't let them do it on the court."

This would have been a great plot for a Sandy Thomas

Your letters to the editor are encouraged, and may now be sent to us via Internet e-mail to kymmer@xconn.com.

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book or an Easy Spirit shoe commercial but for one thing. According to team manager Clarke Scott, the team wore short dresses and regular athletic shoes. "There are no wigs, no bras," Scott said. And no high heels.



Posing as a female athlete may be the newest thing. Besides the Sigma Nu boys, there's David LoCascio, a professional skater who auditioned for the role as Nancy Kerrigan for a Comedy Central skit on the recent Olympic figure skating brouhaha.

"If I have to crossdress to get an acting job, so be it," he said.

But LoCascio didn't get the cable channel role. It seems that with his blond pony tail, he looked more like Tonya Harding.



But female athletes will never replace beauty queens as the role model for most female impersonators. Two dozen of the more traditional breed paraded down the catwalk of the Philippine International Convention Center in Manila earlier this year vying for the title of Miss Gay Philippines -- Five Prettiest."

More than 1,000 enthusiastic spectators -- a third of them in drag as well -- paid \$5.50 to witness the four-hour pageant. The proceeds from the event were given to the Dominican Sisters of the Holy Rosary, organizer Jun Encarnacion said.

In addition to competing in short, tight, red dresses, evening gowns, and swim suits, the contestants answered questions about AIDS, drug abuse, and the role of gays in the conservative Roman Catholic nation. Mikee Aldana, one of the five winners, drew a standing ovation when he answered with a curtsy that he was certain "homosexuals will go to heaven, not because we are gay but because of what we do in this world."



As Ms. Sinclair tries to force down yet another bottle of Diet Coke, she would like to thank Melanie of San Diego for contributing an obscure "snippet" to this column. Other gentle readers can do the same by sending clippings regarding crossdressing to her in care of Cross-Talk.

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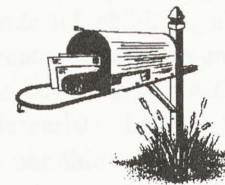
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VOX POPULI

Reader Letters

Re: "Cogito Ergo Fem" (February '94): I agree with Anne Blackwood. There are plenty of cases where somebody went all the way with surgery, then woke up and realized this really wasn't what they wanted. The requirements for SRS are there to keep people from making mistakes that can ruin their lives. Transition is hard and costly enough -- both emotionally and financially -- to go through when it's the right thing to do. To go through all of that for a mistake is just too tragic, and has caused more than one suicide. But how do the gatekeepers perform that function, if everybody knows how to pick the lock?

I suspect, alas, that one of the problems is a combination of male testosterone, stubbornness, and TS chauvinism. Take one male who thinks he might want to be a woman, surround him with people who think they are better than him (because they have the "real" dedication to become women), let him start thinking that if he backs down from surgery it will prove he "doesn't have what it takes", and you have a recipe for disaster.

I should know. I lost one of my best friends back in New Mexico because she felt that any T -- including me -- who wasn't going for surgery, were holding her back.

Wendy Smith
Pittsburgh, PA

PHILIP SALEM UPDATE: We have heard from another of our subscribers, Pamela Farabaugh of upstate New York, about her experience with Salem.

Farabaugh writes that she answered one of Salem's ads in a California-based "contact" magazine which advertised genetic females interested in meeting crossdressers. A check written to "Ina Rubin" for NATTS membership was cashed, but no letters from females was ever received. She says she did receive a questionnaire a couple of months later from "Tanya Roberts" for a "study she was doing about men who like to crossdress".

Numerous letters to Salem's address over the next year went unanswered; then letters started being returned as undeliverable by the Postal Service. Farabaugh says she received nothing else from Salem.

She did, however, receive an unsolicited adult magazine from El Paso 18 months later which included articles written by "Dr. Philip Salem" and featuring testimonials from crossdressers who Salem had helped find understanding females. Farabaugh attempted to contact the publishers of the magazine, but her first letter went

unanswered and the second was returned marked "Box Closed".

This account contains many of Salem's trademarks (the pitch about having lists of understanding women, feature articles in "contact" magazines, use of the "Ina Rubin" and "Tanya Roberts" [a variation on the documented "Tanya Ray"] aliases, non-response to follow-up letters). Given the number of different addresses Salem has used over the years, the eventual "box closed" or "undeliverable" is also in keeping with his *modus operandi*.

The reprint of our January editorial in the most recent issue of *Tapestry* elicited a response from Dianne of New Jersey, who answered an ad in *Singles* magazine. She says Salem answered the phone personally when she called the number in the ad, and she became suspicious when he almost immediately said he had two women in towns nearby to her. Dianne says "it would be like you calling me and I immediately named two towns as being near to you. I don't know how he had that information at his fingertips, and I wondered how a doctor in Seattle could know the names of two local towns."

Dianne says Salem immediately asked for \$500 in expenses for "Tanya Ray" to fly to New Jersey for a screening interview. She says that "luckily" she had a very suspicious mind and didn't buy Salem's pitch. While she was unable to provide the number she called three years ago, although she seemed certain it was an old number. She suggests that if she (or anyone) has any of Salem's old numbers, the phone company could check their records and reveal who the number was listed under at the time of the suspicious ads.

If you have any old addresses and/or phone numbers that we can research, please send them, along with any personal experiences you may have had with Salem, to us at P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365. Note that we need the date of any ad showing an old address or phone number.

"Vox Populi" is the gender community's "town square" for the exchange of opinions and ideas. If you have a response to any editorial, news item, or article appearing in *Cross-Talk*, please feel free to contribute. See page 11 for instructions.



LET THE READER BEWARE

by Anne Blackwood

To begin with I want to issue this caveat, this column will be difficult for many to read. You may think you know where I am going, but you probably won't. For those of you who are tempted to stop I ask you to read this column through to the end. Next, for those of you who are from a Judeo/Christian/Islamic tradition I repeat my request.

We often talk about our roots. Where we come from tells us a great deal about who we are. This is very true, and knowing from where and from whom we come contributes to our sense of self. For example, I know that I am descended from Martin Luther, and while I am not a Christian -- protestant or other -- I do know that I have inherited my family's spiritual trait. Three Scottish brothers came from Paisley to Pittsburgh, and all of the people in this country with their surname are related, except for the Jewish ones, and that is a story in itself. Alex Haley wrote about his roots, as we all know, and did much to restore a sense of pride in his people. So, no one should doubt that their roots are important.

What are the roots to our species? From whence did homo sapiens come? What could this tell us about why we are here? Let me answer the last question first. We are here to propagate our species, and subsequently or to that end to dominate our environment. That is that purpose of all species of plant and animal.

Has Anne lost her mind?!?

Not at all. From a cultural standpoint we can talk about being from an Asiatic tradition or a western tradition or a wiccan tradition or what have you, but from a species standpoint we must look to the species' antecedents and that presents problems because they aren't around anymore; however, we can look to our cousins the chimpanzee. We share something on the order of 95% of genetic coding with the chimpanzee. We can understand a great deal about ourselves if we study them. We can understand ourselves as man the animal. I won't go into detail, but if you are curious I suggest you do some reading on comparative psychology and primate behavior. You may not like what you find, but you will find such a study very enlightening in regard to human behavior. To get a clear understanding, though, you must set aside you cultural biases and look at humans as they are and as they behave, and not how our culture tells us we should be and should behave.

I have yet to introduce the thesis of this column, and now it is time. Transsexuality and transvestism are unnatural. If you accept that proposition that our purpose is to reproduce the species, then you must accept that the conditions of transsexuality and transvestism operate contrary to nature's purpose. It is not that such individuals are incapable of reproducing, but they are less likely to do so, and are thus evolutionarily inferior.

Anne has lost her mind!

It is my assertion that God created homo sapiens through a process called evolution. Exactly how that process works is still being debated, little argument in the scientific community exists as to whether or not it works. Is man the end product of evolution? I think a better argument could be made for the shark. A stronger argument still could be that extinction is the ultimate goal of evolution. More species are gone than currently exist. What God's ultimate goal is I cannot say, if I could the ground I walk on would be holy, and it's far from that.

Back to the assertion that the two T's are unnatural. Actually there is really nothing else to say about it. Except (same as "but") we exist. We existed before science recognized the phenomena. I expect that we, as well as homosexuals, have always existed. Well, at least since sexual reproduction hit the scene.

We've all heard some redneck peckerwood say about us, "Yore sick, what you do is diskusing ... it ain't natcherl." "God made you a man. Be a man!" (or woman if you're F2M). There seems to be this visceral revulsion to our condition. It seems pretty clear what is being said, and while such words lack eloquence, they may have a valid point. If nature's intention is the propagation of the species then perhaps we don't fit into her schema. From an animal stand point, it does seem to me that we don't fit well into the natural order of things.

But here we are. No Dr. Jekyll nor Viktor Frankenstein created us. The same processes that drive evolution produced us, at least according to some theories. In this sense, are we not natural? Of course. Certainly, in that no outside influences nor meddling contributed to our creation we must then be able to argue that we are a product of nature. Then the question becomes, what is our purpose? Sure, many TSs and TVs are parents, so to say that they cannot be is preposterous. Most of us know some

gender dysphoric person who has raised up some wonderful children, so to say that we cannot be good parents would be an untruth.

The key here is not the word **natural** it is **animal**. What differentiates humans from other animals? The notion that the one thing is the manufacture and use of tools has long since been repudiated as several other animals have been observed modifying objects to use as tools, not lathes nor drill presses, but probes and hammers for sure. The one thing that we are told separates the men from the moles is free will. The ability to chose to behave in a fashion other than in the ways of our animal nature.

So, if our existence is contrary to animal nature, is it contrary to human nature. Is there a human purpose for us? If so, what is it? Do I know what it is? Do I look like a guru to you?

If we have not animal purpose it would seem to be difficult to transcend it, wouldn't it, or perhaps that's merely a pseudointellectual smoke screen. Many M2F transsexuals report having strong maternal drives. We cannot bear children, and so in that respect we cannot realize that maternal experience, but does that fact exclude us from realizing and fulfilling the rest of that maternal instinct? There are a lot of parentless children in this world. What about cross dressers? Here in southern California being bilingual is considered an asset. "What languages do you speak?" "Manese and Womaic."

How difficult is it for transsexuals to gain custody of children that are not biologically related? Very. How likely are men to listen to cross dressers about relationships?

Not very. The problem isn't do we have a purpose, the problem is access to that purpose. So long as society is unwilling or unable to recognize the transgendered as an asset we will have difficulty finding the meaning of our lives. Without purpose there is no meaning. Without meaning there is no value. Without value there is no hope. Without hope there is no life. This chain of logic is as true for us as it is for the children of the inner city. Yet, despite what you may think because of the media reports you've been watching, most children of the inner city grow up to lead productive lives. Yes, there are more barriers for them to overcome as there are for us, but they manage. They are not without scars from the experience, and neither are we.

I, for one, refuse to give up hope, and if there is hope then there must be meaning, and if meaning then purpose ... I haven't necessarily found it, but I know it's there.

There are two schemes for successful reproduction, from a species stand point. One is for an individual to have a lot of offspring on the chance that some will live to reproduce themselves. The other is for an group to have a few off spring at a time and for the off spring's relatives to look after it until it is able to reproduce itself. In this second scheme not all individuals necessarily reproduce, but a sister or brother will and the energy goes into raising that relative. Obviously it is pack animals that use this second scheme, and humans are pack animal, are they not? Maybe we are an intentional product of nature, after all.

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

C
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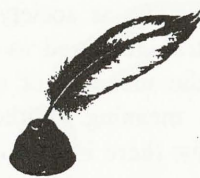
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VIRGIN VIEWS BY VIRGINIA

PEOPLE MAKE TERMINOLOGY, THEN TERMINOLOGY MAKES PEOPLE

by Virginia Prince Ph.D.

Rather an odd title, isn't it? But if you think about it a bit I think you will get the idea. Somebody invents a term that they think appropriate to describe some state, condition, or behavior manifested by humans. Then the term takes on a life of its own in the sense that it begins to be used in a lot of ways the originator never intended or expected. And people who really don't fit under the term begin to think it fits them and act accordingly. In turn, the term gets into the general public parlance and people to whom it doesn't really apply start to think they really understand its meaning and begin to throw it around indiscriminately. Next, people for whom it was not intended are tarred with the same brush and the term, instead of enlightening people, as it was intended to do, begins to cloud the issue and confuse more than enlighten.

So what term am I talking about, you ask? Before mentioning it I may point out that the above is a generalization and many examples could be thought of to which this process would apply. In the case of the moment I refer to the term that almost everyone who is involved in crossdressing has been a victim of, and the clouding of the issues rather than the enlightenment intended by the inventor of the term.

Back in the late 60's or early 70's -- I can't remember which -- I was attending one of the early meetings of what later became known as the Harry Benjamin Gender Dysphoria Association at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California. At that session Dr. Norman Fisk, a psychiatrist at Stanford Medical School, delivered a paper on transsexuality because that was what the whole session was about. In it he presented his newly coined term of "Gender Dysphoria". I went up to him afterward and asked him the following double question:

"Dr. Fisk. If you believe that these people (the transsexuals) truly suffer from gender discomfort, as your term dysphoria implies, why is surgery indicated? Gender is a psycho-social matter and no amount of surgery can directly change it. On the other hand, if you believe that sex reassignment surgery is really an appropriate treatment for them, then why isn't the term 'sexual dysphoria' more appropriate?" Of course, I was only a lowly, non-medical person (Ph.D.s don't count for too much to those with M.D.s) and on top of that I was a crossdresser, so how could anything I had to say be of any

significance? I don't remember his actual reply now, twenty years later, but it was clear to me that 1) he didn't really understand the point I was trying to make, because 2) he really didn't understand the difference between sex and gender.

Let's say a man (it could be you) is unhappy, uncomfortable and unsatisfied with having to live up to his expected masculine gender role. Wouldn't common sense suggest that something should be done to counsel him in how to accept his socially expected gender role and help him to fit into masculine society comfortably? Or, if that was unsuccessful, to assist him in changing his life style from the masculine to the feminine gender role and adapting "herself" to it? How could cutting off his genitals help him in living that role?

If, on the other hand, he insists that he doesn't like being a male and would prefer to be a female, then such surgery might possibly help him. But since he was dysphoric about his sexual anatomy, and it is a change in genital anatomy that is accomplished in sex change surgery, why not call a spade a spade and acknowledge that he was really a victim of sexual dysphoria? **You**, dear reader, if you are a crossdresser but not a transsexual, are truly gender dysphoric. I mean this in the sense that you are not totally happy with the requirements and limitations of your masculine gender role and thus opt from time to time to switch over out of the dysphoria and enjoy the euphoria of your feminine gender role.

So I am not unhappy with applying the term to crossdressing persons, but I am very unhappy with coining it originally for the TS population for whom it is not a true or appropriate term. This just illustrates again that the professional people back then did not -- and many of them still do not -- understand the difference between sex and gender. So when I tried to point that out to Dr. Fisk he couldn't get it. The result is that TVs, TGs and TSs are all tarred with the same brush (same term). This means that we are all taken to be much the same and there is no great attempt on the part of the psychiatric establishment to separate TGs from the TSs or for them to work out useful counselling techniques for those not interested in surgery.

Now I don't mean to imply that there are not smart therapists of one school or another that do know the

difference between TGs (transgenderists) and TSs, but they are the exceptions, not the rule. Since, according to hem, we all have the same condition, i.e., gender dysphoria, how can appropriate treatment for those seeking surgery be separated from the treatment for those that don't seek anatomical alteration? The answer is that it isn't, because while individual psychiatrists and psychologists may make a distinction between these two types of people, the professionals as a whole do not. Clearly TGs and TSs are not the same, at least in their own self designation. So terminology here obscures rather than clarifies. The profession is likely to consider that those requesting surgery are really latent homosexuals who can't bring themselves to have sex with a male while they are males themselves. But since persons with vaginas are expected to enjoy sex with males, when TSs have had their surgery they are expected to want to have sex with males like other vaginal persons. They either don't realize or don't want to acknowledge that there are a great many operated TSs that continue to be attracted to females so there are apparently two types of TSs, those whose sexual orientation remains the same as it was before surgery and those who wish to become functionally female not only anatomically but sexually.

At the very same conference where Dr. Fisk reported his new term I read a paper entitled "Transsexuals and Psuedotranssexuals". "Pseudo-" of course means false and I was trying to distinguish between those who sought surgery primarily to become functional females and those who had it because their real motive was general; i.e., they wanted to be able to live as women and thought that the only way they could do that was to get rid of their male organs.

It is apparently very difficult to get the idea over to both professionals and laypersons alike that there are three separate continua that define people and not just two. Sexual anatomy is the most obvious, and sex object choice is the second. But gender choice and desired lifestyle is the third. Any two will not do it; it takes all three to properly define and classify an individual.

Some of our own people are also not too clear on the differences between sex and gender either. Much concern is expressed by various members of the community about "transvestism" being listed in the *DSM-III-R (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders)* published by the American Psychiatric Association. I can't get worked up about the listing and I wish our well-meaning sisters would spend some of that energy trying to get the editors of the *DSM* to separate and distinguish between sexual dysphoria and gender dysphoria. When the two groups are referred to as transvestites and transsexuals the fact that they are not the same thing is clear because they have two different names. But when they are both listed under the same diagnostic term, i.e., "gender dysphorics", there is no apparent difference between them except possibly in degree or intensity, and this just perpetuates the ignorance

and confusion about crossdressing behavior.

The symptoms of headache, upset stomach and diarrhea are characteristic of a number of different diseases. But if all sufferers from such symptoms were classified as having "HSI" (Head, Stomach and Intestine) disease, there would be little progress in medical diagnostics.

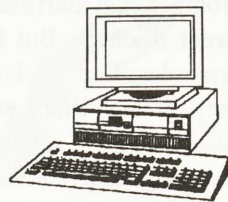
I am also not too happy with the term "gender conflicted" also used as a catch-all. It is reasonably appropriate for crossdressers who have not been able to accept themselves as they are. Until they learn to do so there is a degree of conflict between their masculine and their feminine selves. But once they come to realize that their feminine side is really just another part of themselves there should be no conflict. They then become true bigenderists meaning that they are able to express both sides of themselves and do so comfortably. When they reach that stage there is no longer any conflict regarding the genders because they accept both.

All this is a perfect example of how badly we need either to invent new terms or make up a clear, and clean glossary of the terms used in our total culture. We all seek some sort of understanding and acceptance by the larger society. But how can we hope to get it when we are all lumped into the same diagnostic system?

Let's all be more positive. I suggest that heterosexual crossdressers -- or what I have called bigenderists -- disavow the use of the term "gender dysphoria". Let us do this 1) to get out from under the classification that usage has now made almost synonymous with transsexuality and separate ourselves as an independent phenomenon, and 2) to realize that we all crossdress because we enjoy it and feel better when we do it. So, since we are not unhappy with our feminine gender, why not express our happiness and satisfaction with the role by referring to ourselves as Gender **Euphorics**, persons who suffer (?) from a condition of self-acceptance and feeling good about ourselves. Let's accentuate the positive, discard the negative and promote the new condition of "Gender Euphoria."

YOUR COMMENTS ARE WELCOME! We suggest keeping letters to 400 words (one page typewritten or 2000 characters ASCII). **Cross-Talk** reserves the right to publish only those portions of a letter specifically addressing the issue.

You may write us at P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365; fax us at (818) 347-4190; or send e-mail to [Kymmer](mailto:Kymmer@xconn.com) via Cross Connection, (818) 841-8887, or to kymmer@xconn.com via Internet. (CompuServe, America OnLine, Prodigy, GENie, and Delphi users: Follow your service's instructions to send Internet e-mail. FidoNet users: Send e-mail to 1:1/31, addressed to UUCP, and write *To: kymmer@xconn.com* as the first line of your message. If you are using any other Internet-affiliated system, ask your system operator for instructions.)



"Cross-Talk" Newswire

News of the worldwide gender community

Feminine Image, the support group started by the late Alicia Lichy, has ceased operations just one year after the death of its founder.

Gail Ann Windsor, who headed the Riverside, Calif. organization after Lichy's death until she was transferred to Florida in September, wrote *Cross-Talk* in February that mail for the organization was being forwarded to her and that no one established a new mailing address. Windsor says she is sending any mail for the organization to the recently formed Born Free group, which serves the same area as Feminine Image did.

Windsor is trying to form a new group in the vicinity of Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, and invites all interested parties to contact her at P.O. Box 2103, Eglin AFB FL 32541-2103.

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The city of Atlanta, Ga., declared March 6 "Tula Day" in honor of the world's most famous transsexual model, and the American Gender Information Service used the occasion to hold a fund-raising benefit for AEGIS and the Lambda Community Center in that city.

AEGIS, in conjunction with the local support group Atlanta Gender Explorations, held a "Tulafest" at local gay nightclub BackStreet, which included a raffle of a charcoal sketch of the famous model by her husband David. Tula herself appeared for photographs with fans and autographed copies of her book *My Story*, which was also offered for sale at the event.

The benefit raised \$950 for the two organizations.

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The second Spouse/Partners International Conference for Education will take place July 6 through 10 in Chicago, according to the SPICE board of directors.

The conference is open to all women who are partners or wives of heterosexual male crossdressers, and will include programs designed specifically to help them deal with the many issues that make up a crossdressing-influenced relationship. Dr. Peggy Rudd, author of *My Husband Wears My Clothes* and *Crossdressing With Dignity*, has once again agreed to head the schedule, which also includes participation from nationally-known counselor Sandra Cole, facilitator Jan Sandretti, and Tri-Ess national secretary Frances Fairfax. Other presenters have been invited and their acceptance was pending.

Husbands and partners are welcome to attend -- although

crossdressing will not be allowed at the conference -- and a full slate of programs is being developed for them under the guidance of Rev. Gary Helms, a minister and Tri-Ess national officer.

Brochures will be available from Linda Peacock, P.O. Box 24031, Little Rock AR 72221.

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A new transgender club and community center for the San Francisco Bay Area is being formed by a non-profit multicultural underground arts organization located in the city.

Komotion International, which operates a 2000 square foot facility in the Mission District which functions as an art gallery, performance space, rehearsal and recording studio, envisions "Pushbutton" as a collective offering an ongoing series of bi-monthly evening events which will cater to the CD, TV, TS, TG communities and interested persons of all birth genders. These events, according to Komotion International spokesperson Tory, will consist of a blend of elements including discussion, open mike, live musical and or spoken word (poetry to comedy) entertainment, video presentations and other forms of encouragement in a friendly and open-minded nightclub-like atmosphere. "Pushbutton" will be open to persons of all ages and related variations on improvised gender identities.

The organization is seeking volunteers to help us get the project off the ground. Pointing out that some of Komotion's members come from transgendered backgrounds, they are asking for the input and energy of the "T" community at large.

"Pushbutton" will operate every other Friday, beginning in May, at 2779 16th St. in San Francisco, with early evening access for those wanting to "put their faces on". Make-over artists will be available to assist. Although there will be a door charge, Tory points out that "no one will be turned away for lack of funds."

Komotion can be reached at P.O. Box 410502, San Francisco 94141-0502, by e-mail at komotion@netcom.com, by fax at (415) 431-6523, or by phone at (415) 861-6423.

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An international congress on crossdressing, sex and gender is being organized for next February at California State University Northridge by noted gender community researcher Dr. Vern Bullough.

A call for papers has been released for the congress, with

suggested topics relating to transvestism, transsexualism, and all aspects of non-conforming gender expression. Bullough says he hopes to solicit wide-ranging viewpoints summarizing and criticizing current research in biological, psychological, sociological, cultural and historical aspects of gender crossing. Dr. Richard Docter, who is also based at CSUN, has already been asked to participate.

Bullough also expects that discussion sessions will take place allowing for the exchange of ideas regarding "where we have been, where we are going, and what we need to do to come to terms with a variety of gender behaviors." He says he is asking local and national gender community organizations to participate in order to bring perspectives other than those from professionals to the congress.

Interested participants should submit four copies of an abstract, no longer than 500 words, of their proposed paper or session, to Vern Bullough, Ph.D., 17434 Mayall St., Northridge CA 91325. A fax number has been set up to handle inquiries at (818) 885-5561; Bullough will make a voice number available once the University fully recovers from the January 17 earthquake.

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Tri-Ess has announced a new coordinator for their Big Sister program for introducing new members into the organization.

Florida member Cynthia Silva, who volunteered for the position last fall after former Big Sister coordinators Pat and Shirley Kennedy resigned, says that "being gainfully unemployed with lots of time" made getting the program back on track and computerized a relatively simple task. She says that one difficulty -- assigning "big sisters" to new members that did not want one -- will be alleviated in the future by having new members check a box only if they want a "big sister" assigned to them.

The Tri-Ess program, unique within the gender community, assigns an experienced member to correspond with a geographically close new member during their first year of membership in the national organization. Initial contacts are routed through the Tri-Ess national mail forwarding service to ensure privacy.

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San Francisco's ETVC has named a local political activist as the first recipient of their Outstanding Achievement Award.

Shelley Salieri, a *pro bono* assistant to four San Francisco supervisors, is credited with having the language of a ballot measure changed to add job discrimination protection for transgendered municipal employees. The ballot measure passed last November and took effect in January. Salieri is now working with ETVC and other gender community leaders to draft a city ordinance that would end discrimination against all transgendered people in San Francisco. Hearings on the proposed ordinance began last month.

Salieri was presented with the award at the 10th annual ETVC Cotillion on January 29. The award will be given annually to the person or persons who have done the most to "end discrimination and advance the cause of fairness and equality for transgender people," according to ETVC president Cindy Martin.

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Programs have been announced for this year's "Be All" and "Fall Harvest" weekends, to be held in June and November of this year.

"Be All" is stressing outside events such as a riverboat cruise, swimming pool party, Monte Carlo night, and bridal march. They have also announced Dr. Richard Docter, Dr. Sheila Kirk, Jan Sandretti, Mariette Pathy Allen, Alison Laing, and Renee Edgerton as guest speakers. Specific seminars have not been announced, although host organization TransPitt promises topics for crossdressers, both M2F and F2M transsexuals, and significant others.

"Fall Harvest" will operate with a four-track approach, with workshops taking place simultaneously for "new girls", active crossdressers, transsexuals, and partners/significant others. Specific topics were not announced.

Brochures for the two events are now available. Those interested in "Be All" may contact TransPitt at P.O. Box 23442, Pittsburgh PA 15222; for "Fall Harvest", write host organization Iowa Artistry at P.O. Box 75, Cedar Rapids IA 52406-0075.

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[The "Philip Salem Update" now appears as part of "Vox Populi".]

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THE ABUSE FACTOR IN CROSSDRESSING

by Ricky Hunt

It always strikes me as odd when one of my sisters makes a big deal of the different lives and personalities residing in Jane/John. You all know the story of John, who works as a high powered executive, hiring, firing, motivating, fighting the corporate battles and smashing the opposition who comes home at night, puts on a slip and lace and becomes Jane who has no responsibilities, sits there passively and accepts direction from the wife or girlfriend. Or maybe John is a construction worker with macho muscles who calls crude suggestions to passing women and Jane gets odd looks in a micromini in the shopping mall.

Once again I exaggerate. I know there are many shades and gradations as there are crossdressers. So why does this

For those of us men who aspire to the feminine, understanding the destructive power and control cycle is essential.

split personality transvestite have two such divergent personalities living in one body? I can't think that Jane would be happy in John's place, or vice versa.

How has John become entrapped in a career that requires him to hide Jane? He thinks he knows what would happen if he let Jane take over. The corporate sharks would gather and attack his "weakness". His subordinates would not pay attention to a polite request, his boss would wonder if he has the "right stuff" to be a high powered executive. Conversely Jane would not be able to be the wonderful fiction that she is if she had to think for herself, or take any action. Somehow it seems that the situation is out of hand, but all those decisions made in the past have led inevitably to the way things are today. Any change could lead to ruin, but neither John, Jane or the people associated with them are happy about the situation.

What we have here is a variation of the power and control cycle found in family abuse. If you haven't heard of it, it's not surprising, our society does its best to hide abusive relationships under the cover of the loving family pattern familiar to sitcom viewers. I have been trained rape and abuse counselor, and have been struck by the similarities between the two situations. For those of us men who aspire to the feminine, understanding this destructive cycle is essential.

An abusive relationship begins with distorted ideas of

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gender. The male partner usually thinks he must be supreme and in control, the female falls into the submissive and weak category, often to the point where she is unable to break out of the role and get out of a destructive, violent relationship. And yes, I'm afraid it is virtually always the male controlling the female. While there are exceptions, they are few. The male can use many techniques to enforce these roles, emotional abuse, financial and physical isolation, intimidation, threats to children and family members and sexual abuse of the female partner.

The classic cycle of violence begins with everything rosy, life is beautiful and the future is bright. But sooner or later something happens and he starts to find fault; he becomes abusive. She walks on eggs, never knowing what will set him off. The tension builds and physical abuse starts, gets worse; she hides the bruises, after all it's her fault that he hit her, she didn't do the right things for him, right? One day it all blows up and she really gets it, maybe lands in the hospital.

The tension is broken, he is contrite, brings her presents and promises never to let this happen again, she believes him and everything is rosy. Then the tension builds ...

I'll leave the comparisons with the guilt cycle of the transvestite as an exercise for the student. Did you know that, on average, a woman will return to an abusive relationship eight times, knowing that she will be beaten again? Why would any person in their right mind place go back to be beaten 8 times before getting out? The answer is as complex as the personalities involved. She probably has no way to earn a living by herself, or to support the children. Neither wants to admit that something is wrong to the world at large. Strange as it may seem, they are probably in love with each other, and need each other, but they just don't know how to control this compulsion that is driving their lives. Perhaps she walks out for good at last, and starts a new life. Perhaps they work out the problems and find a new relationship that is based on mutual respect and sharing. No matter what the choice, it is a long, hard path to follow.

The split personality transvestite doesn't have the option of walking out on the other half of the personality, unless you count sex reassignment surgery as the analog of the female leaving the man behind. No, the TV has to find a way to let those two personalities coexist in harmony. It's not easy. The split personality transvestite is in as much of a bind as the woman trapped in an abusive relationship. Obviously, the answer is to allow the male and female sides to merge, but what about family, job, finances, and all the myriad aspects that will be affected? About the only

thing I can say is that left unresolved the cycle of violence within a person will destroy that person and those they love.

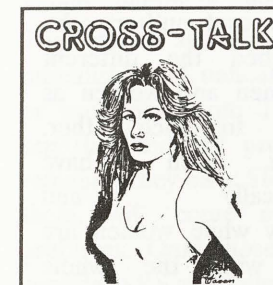
Maybe John will have to walk out on his job and take the economic, social and personal risks of a new career more in line with the needs of his/her blended personality. Maybe Jane will have to begin to live more in reality than in the frothy fantasyland of femininity she now inhabits. If it's really bad, counseling may be needed, or maybe just some advice from a trusted sister or friend.

By the way, if you are interested in more information about rape/abuse and its causes, contact your local rape/abuse hotline, it should be in the phone book. You might even consider taking the training to become a counselor. As a transvestite you have a unique perspective that will prove valuable, and what you learn will help you understand your own life. Try it, it could be very rewarding both for you and someone who needs the help.

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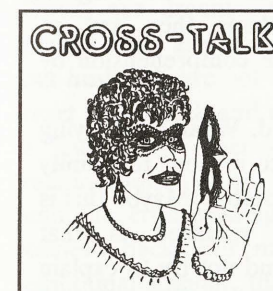
If you've just discovered **Cross-Talk** and you like what you're reading in this issue, you might well be asking yourself: "How did I manage to miss this magazine until now?". Well, we don't know the answer to that question ... but we do know the answer to the second question you might be asking yourself: "How can I get back issues of **Cross-Talk**?" You can get them directly from us. (Well, you can get the ones we published in magazine format. The first 38 issues were in newsletter format and xeroxed at the local copy center, and we didn't make any extras. Sorry.)

The most recent issues we have available are:



#49 (November '93): Editorials on how quickly we accept people's self-identifying labels, transsexual parenthood legal battles; Dealing with a crossdressing fiancée; possible biological/social explanations for crossdressing; science fiction conventions; coming out to your family; the Benjamin Standards as a safeguard for caregivers and consumers.

#50 (December '93): Editorials on lawyer involvement in SRS standards, role playing and public perception; using self-validation to accept crossdressing in a relationship; preparation for going public; gender expressionism; a crossdressed Christmas story; humorous version of the night before Christmas.



#51 (January '94): Philip Salem resurfaces; what if there were a pill to cure you of crossdressing?; the responsibility of leadership; biological vs. sociological causes for crossdressing; body language; movie review of *Mrs. Doubtfire*; debut of alternative press 'zine review column.

We also have issues 39 through 48 available. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for a flyer detailing the contents of these. Issues 39 and 44 are in extremely limited supply, so please indicate alternate selections if ordering either of these two.

We probably have issues 52 to the present available as well, although probably not as many because most of our back issues stock is made up of returns from retailers ... but if you really want to order them, we can probably dig them up for you.

To order: Send \$7.00 for each issue ordered, plus \$1.00 postage per copy (up to a maximum of \$5.00) to Cross-Talk, Dept. BI, P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365. California residents add 58 cents per copy sales tax; non-U.S. residents, add an additional 50 cents postage per copy ordered.

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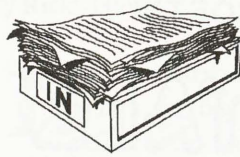
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DO WE REALLY NEED AN EXPLANATION?

by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

A theme that I have examined from time to time in earlier columns is the motivation for male-to-female crossdressing. Asking the average crossdresser why he crossdresses is likely to elicit some response such as, "I am exploring femininity", or "I just do this to relax". Recently this topic has come up in various newsletters from around the community and in some personal correspondence I have received. The interesting thing is that the tone of the writing has changed dramatically.

Initially, there was never a reference to an erotic component and there was always the rationale that the crossdresser was trying to understand something about

that elusive thing we label femininity. More recent writings acknowledge that there is (or was) at least a sensual component if not a truly erotic one. The other perspective is that many crossdressers remain "men in dresses" rather than some semblance of a woman.

Some of these writings are either by women or written for newsletters that address crossdressing within a male-female couple. What these authors seem to be saying is that there is often little behavioral or

emotional shift when the man puts on women's clothing. That is, he still behaves in very masculine ways. One writer speculated that such lack of behavioral change was rooted in the male's need to continually assure himself and others that he was still male despite the clothing. This, is based on the sub-conscious fear that to be feminine was to move to second class citizen status.

As I have written before, femininity is not clothing or makeup but rather a way of seeing and interacting with the world. In the last few years there have been a number of books written on the biological differences between

males and females. A major focus has been on differences in brain structure from which it is inferred that males and females process information in very different ways. This, in turn, strongly affects the way they relate to the world.

If these biological differences are a strong influence on behavior, then one can speculate that it is going to be very difficult for the crossdresser to behave in feminine ways and thus explore femininity. For him to do so, he has to learn new ways of thinking. While this is certainly not impossible, it means overcoming many years of socializing together with an internal "program" that doesn't process information the way a female brain does. So it is hard for

him to understand why women behave the way they do. This makes it difficult for him to explore this alternate culture.

On the behavioral side of the discussion, there have been a number of recent authors who have described the different actions of men and women as they relate to each other. Simplistically, men behave individually and hierarchically while women are concerned with the whole situation and interpersonal relationships.

Thus, there seem to be both biological and sociological differences between the sexes. Perhaps they are so fundamental there will never be a true comprehension by one sex of the other sex.

This situation is not either good or bad. What I am trying to express is the fact that for a male to explore femininity may be much more difficult than he expected. Maybe this is not needed. Perhaps all that is required is that crossdressers enjoy whatever they do and not try to explain or understand it. (A cautionary note: This is not a license to ignore the effect of crossdressing on your partner.)

Initially, there was always the rationale that the crossdresser was trying to understand femininity. More recent writings acknowledge that there is at least a sensual component.

[Dr. Peo requests that any contact be made through the mail at P.O. Box 3445, Poughkeepsie NY 12603. He is battling with lung cancer at present and is not able to return telephone calls. This column will continue as Dr. Peo is able; Cross-Talk will run older columns from time to time as well when necessary. Copyright 1994 by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D. This column may be reprinted in any non-profit organization's newsletter if Dr. Peo's name and address appear with it. Other publications must obtain written approval from Dr. Peo. A copy of any reprint must be sent to Dr. Peo.]



DREAMS: DO YOU WANT THEM TO COME TRUE?

by Linda Peacock

There's a song on the charts by Hal Ketchum, in which he sings about dreams: "Be careful what you dream, for it may one day come true." He further sings, "It's a shame to wake up and find your dream's been broken in two."

I find this an interesting thought, for we all have dreams, and without them, life would be hardly worth living. It's most important, however, that our dreams, if we definitely want them to come true, be reachable, and not fantasies.

In our gender world, we find realistic dreams mingled with fantasies. Much of crossdressing, in particular, is fantasy, which is fine; however, when fantasy takes over and blots out reality, there can be trouble.

A perfect example of this would be the person who lives a life that has many problems, and who believes that a change of sex would eliminate all of them. Their dream actually becomes an unrealistic and unhealthy fantasy, or even obsession. They cannot see that the old problems will remain if they have SRS, and with them, will come many more

problems. Only those who are true transsexuals should consider SRS and follow the Standards of Care.

We who are partners and wives of gender-gifted men have dreams, too.

Often, our dreams of the perfect relationship, with the perfect man are dissipated with the rude awakening that our husbands are not as we expected them to be. We often react with shock and disbelief, some with abhorrence, and a few of us react with a "so what?" attitude. Often, relationships are not strong, with other major problems, and the crossdressing can be the straw that breaks the camel's back. For many women, though, it is such an emotional stunner, that they can't think straight, and may feel personally betrayed by the man they thought they knew so well. That betrayal hurts so deeply, that I have heard some women say it is as though they had found out their husband was unfaithful. An aside here: In my support group, we have two wives, who upon finding strange women's clothing, immediately assumed their husbands were having an affair. When they found out that instead,

the husbands were crossdressers, the relief was so intense, that they were able to feel much better about their husband's dressing - the crossdressing was, in their eyes, the "lesser evil," and much more acceptable. (Please don't assume that I, personally, find crossdressing an evil thing, for I do not. To me, it is just another part of my husband, one which I love as readily as I do his other facets.)

A woman dreams of the perfect man, the perfect relationship and family, all based on what society sees as the "norm." Unfortunately, society as a whole fails to

understand that not everyone fits into their description as "norm" and society very often reacts with scorn, laughter and cruelty to anyone who might just be different. How unfortunate that a country born of desire for freedom so brutally denies freedom to those who were born different, such as the gays and lesbians, the crossdresser, the transsexual.

To a woman suddenly

confronted by someone she thought she knew so well and told that he is gender-gifted and thus different, the dreams she has had are often broken in two. Her dreams may have been unrealistic, for no man, or woman, is perfect. For the husband, whose dream is that his wife will accept and embrace this other part of him, he may find that it was a fantasy, an unrealistic dream. He places tremendous pressure on his wife, often without giving her the time, the education material, the caring she needs to handle such a blow. What we now have are two people in such intense personal pain, that neither can hear what the other is trying to say. They cannot leave their personal pain to realize that the other is equally hurting.

At this point, I think it is vital that they seek some form of counselling; hopefully, with a counsellor who knows something about Gender Dysphoria. Unfortunately, we can't often find such counsellors, who will be open to the needs of each partner; instead, it seems as though far too often, a counsellor will be biased toward one partner from the start, without giving that person the opportunity to

Often our dreams of the perfect relationship with the perfect man are dissipated with the rude awakening that our husbands are not as we expected them to be.

express their needs.

This obvious lack of counsellors who have the information to help couples in a gender-related relationship **should** be the attack call of our gender communities to provide the counselling community with sound, documented educational material and studies by reputable members of our own community and theirs. Examples of this would be Dr. George Brown's study of 106 wives of crossdressers; the International Foundation for Gender Education's booth at the annual convention of the American Psychiatric Association; and the American Educational Gender Information Service, which provides an abundance of public service ads, advisory bulletins, seminars and workshops for professionals.

Professionals already involved in gender issue counselling should make it a priority to share their valuable experience with their colleagues.

Our professional counsellors need to be educated so that woman such as us, involved in a gender-issue relationship have someone qualified and educated who can fairly counsel us, and our partners.

How many women have no one to turn to when they are hurting so much?

Peer support groups for wives and partners are a big help, for women share like experiences. However, the need for professional facilitators for such wives/partners support groups is desperate. Those of us in leadership roles in such

support groups are generally not professional. We need to have someone with a counselling background who can help us realistically deal with the gender issues in our lives. Facilitators should not provide marriage counselling; instead, they should help a woman focus in a healthy way on the issues in her life, offering direction, but not making her decisions for her. Facilitators often do charge for this; however, I believe that professionals can, and should be found who will act as facilitators on a *pro bono* basis.

As humans, we dream in our sleep time, and we dream when awake. The difference is that our waking dreams are actually hopes for the future, things we desire or believe we need. It is very important that our dreams, if we really want them to come true, are realistic. We need to be very sure that we are ready to face the consequences of a dream and realize that if it comes true, it may not be exactly as we had dreamed it. If our dream is another person, we need to be able to face the fact that no person is perfect, that there are parts of each of us not visible, which are kept inside ourselves, and we need to know that at some point, that inner, secret self may well appear on the surface. Are we willing to accept all that is our partner -- or just the part we dreamed of?

[Linda Peacock is the director for wives' and partners' concerns on the Tri-Ess board of directors, and publisher of the Sweetheart Connection newsletter. She may be reached at P.O. Box 24031, Little Rock AR 72221.]

GREAT MOMENTS IN TV HISTORY

by Ralph Judd

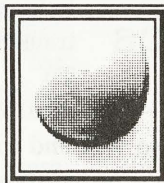


9/11/79: Jack (John Ritter, second from left) stands in for Chrissy on her blind date with an out-of-town businessman (Dick O'Neill, second from right) on the season premiere of *Three's Company*, ABC.

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2/19/80: Deputy Perkins (Mills Watson, right), impersonates a Playboy centerfold model whose life is threatened on *The Misadventures of Sheriff Lobo*, NBC.

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THE BEARDED LADY

NOT ANOTHER \$!@&# FORM LETTER

by Ricky Hunt

Illustration by Rita

It just happened again. I got the bug to write to a few sisters advertising in one of the publications I read, and sent out a batch of letters. Normally about one in ten replies, and one in four last more than a few letters. Not surprising, I don't expect that just because I have one common interest with another person that we will be lifelong friends. Unless we have a number of other common interests, there is just so much to say about crossdressing and the letters get fewer and fewer and finally disappear.

But if there is one thing that galls me is when I write a

membership chair of a club, and I get a form letter back inviting me to join. It has happened three times over the years -- the last time just recently -- and it ticks me off. First off, I think a personal letter deserves a personal letter in reply. I don't care if it's typed, after all no one can read my handwriting and I type all my letters. I even go so far as to copy the common information over to each letter, but each letter is to a person with personal information for each sister. Second, if I were interested in joining an organization, what kind of impression does an application form and a request for money leave.

These groups are primarily for interpersonal support, and a form letter is about as impersonal as you can get. Maybe what I'm trying to say is that if you have the responsibility of acting for your sisters as a leader, the personal touch is a necessity.

One of those letters came from the local chapter. Up until recently I have lived in a very rural area, I have only met three of my sisters in the flesh. I can't pass, and as my pseudonym implies, I don't shave because my heavy beard just won't cover up. I know that bothers some of my sisters greatly. But I was still considering joining a group now that I have moved into an area where there is one. I am not sure how far I want to get into the crossdressing scene in the first place, I am fairly satisfied with my life as it is. My wife is accepting and helpful, but do I want to put the additional strain on her by becoming more committed to crossdressing, letting it take up more of my time?

For that matter, do I want to commit more of my time to a new interest? Keeping this old house working takes a great deal of time, and it didn't take very long to find myself involved in other activities, ending up with leadership responsibilities that take even more time.

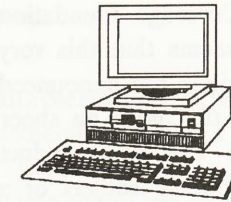
So with all those doubts in my head, the impersonal approach was the last straw that made me put off joining at this time. So, those of you that represent your sisters, think twice before you send out a form letter; remember that it could be a neophyte sister who needs encouragement and help, not a grizzled old grump who will be annoyed but can take it in stride.



personal letter to someone who turns out to be the

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Hot Buzz!

Edited by JoAnn Roberts

Some people think they are generous because they give away free advice.



We start buzzin' this month with the weather. While it was Rumbly in Reading (Pa.) it was Knockin' in Northridge (Calif.). And if that wasn't enough, it was bitterly cold in the East breaking all records for lows everywhere. It all seemed to start on Saturday, January 15. About 7:30 PM, Reading was hit with not one, but two earthquakes in the 4.6 range. Some of us felt it here in King of Prussia. Almost exactly 36 hours later, Northridge experienced its 6.8 quake. We received a call from our son at USC about 7:35 AM, Monday, to tell us about the quake and that he was OK. (Thank you to all who called to inquire about him. He's fine.) Later that day, it started to snow here and then turn to rain and ice. We were "iced in" here for three days. And it was nasty. Alison Laing slipped and cracked her skull, requiring a few stitches. Meanwhile, we tried to get word from California about our friends and acquaintances. First to call was our publisher and managing editor, Kym Richards. Kym reported that she was a little shaken but undamaged. She said she'd heard that all the windows in Lydia's store had shattered during the quake. Next we called Virginia Prince, who reported her worst damage was losing the cable TV signal. But that was more than she could say for Drs. Richard Docter and Vern Bullough. Dick and Vern both live almost on top of the quake's epicenter. Docter's home was badly shaken and the water heater fell off its base as did the chimney taking out their electricity. At last report they were still trying to get it hooked up. Several calls to Jim Bridges did not get through until Friday and then the phone was unanswered. Kym called back and told us Jim and Anthony were fine. We

called Dave at N.S. Products and spoke to Mary. (Dave? Dave's not here.) She told us everybody there was okay, too. Checked on a few others and almost everybody made it through with just minor damage. Thank goodness.

With all of the natural disasters we've experienced this last year, quakes, blizzards, hurricanes, and floods, it's no wonder the *fin de siecle* kooks are out in force. Add in the fact that it's also the end of a millennium and we've got every nutball in the world babbling about conspiracies and the end of the world as we know it. Is it the hand of God? Are we about to be wiped off the face of the earth? Or are we so arrogant that we forgot it's not nice to fool with Mother Nature and we just needed reminding?



The other hot buzz comes from New England, home of the International Foundation for Gender Education (what would a Hot Buzz column be without news from IFGE?) Chair of the IFGE board, Linda Buten, and Executive Director, Merissa Sherrill Lynn, sent out a press release announcing several new initiatives. First to be implemented is a search for a new "qualified executive director" and the second is a "special fund drive to hire that person." The announcement says the search will begin immediately. Potential applicants should write to Lynn at P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778. The release also quotes Lynn as saying: "Once [the new executive director] is found and the funds raised, I will be better able to pursue my responsibilities as founding director ..." Ms. Lynn wants IFGE's bylaws amended to create a new lifetime position for her called "Founding Director" which would give her a permanent voting seat on the board and on every committee. The new position would also come with a



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stipend. Ms. Buten adds: "Our fund-raising efforts have helped tremendously to meet financial needs, but more investment capital is needed ..." For my views on such things, please see "The Responsibility of Leadership" in the January issue.



While we're up in New England, let's talk about the revitalization of Fantasia Fair. At last year's Fair, a small group of Fair supporters approached Fair manager Ari Kane and offered their assistance in getting the Fair back on track. FanFair and the Outreach Institute, the Fair's sponsor, had fallen on hard times with decreasing attendance and little community support. With just a teeny bit of arm twisting, Kane was convinced to accept the offer of help. From my vantage point, it looks as though FanFair '94 will be as good as ever. In fact, good enough that I'm going back. Ari Kane is to be commended for recognizing that an organization like the Institute and an event like FanFair cannot be run single-handedly. She is working closely with her board and the "Friends of Fantasia Fair" to restore the Fair to its status as the pre-eminent community event. Oh, yeah, there is absolutely no truth to the rumor that IFGE will host a program titled "Fund-Raising for Fun and Profit."



Now on to the important stuff ... Many of you have heard

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me mention Clinique's Continuous Coverage foundation as a good beard concealer. Well, it seems that this very good product has been improved. Clinique has announced Soft Conceal Corrector, a foundation that goes on sheer and light, yet hides almost any flaw. This new product deserves some investigation and will be the subject of a later report, but you may not want to wait, so check it out at \$10.50.



Those of us over 35 (and some of us are well over...) know the impending signs of aging show up first around the eyes, i.e., crows' feet. Neutrogena Intensified Eye Moisture helps eliminate, temporarily, crows' feet and other fine lines for up to twelve hours. That ought to be enough time for almost anybody.



I am sorry to report that Spring and Summer fashions show no let up in the silliness department. Designers continue to cast about, seemingly randomly, for a new trend and in the process will try anything. Even Donna Karan, who usually shows good design sense (even if it is pricey) has taken a dip in the pool of foolish fads by showing long (to the ankle) sarong skirts for men. True, some hip-hop clothing looks almost like a skirt, but Mr. Corporate America is not likely to bring Karan's ideas to the boardroom.



Complaints of exorbitant fees for so-called supermodels have not fallen on deaf ears. While models like Claudia Schiffer, Christy Turlington, and Cindy Crawford have been known to earn \$20,000 for a single fashion show in the past, such sky-high fees are a thing of the past. Organizers of the New York fashion shows proposed rates ranging from \$250 to \$750 per hour. (That's still not chicken-feed!) Claudia Schiffer, who earned \$30,000 at the Chanel show, would have had to work 37 hours overtime to earn the same in New York. Poor baby!



Television shopping networks like QVC and HSN are a big hit with many crossdressers because there is the security of anonymity. Well, there's good news for you home shopping addicts. More new shopping channels are on the way. Macy's has announced a 24-hour shopping channel, ViaTV, that will offer high fashion from small catalogs. Then there is the Catalog Channel that will offer selections from large catalogs like Speigel (one of my faves); and a show called *Can We Shop?* hosted by Joan Rivers. But will the anonymity still be there when television goes interactive? Will there be an Information Highway Patrol as depicted in a recent "Outland" cartoon? ... Excuse us, Mr. Jones, but according to your ShopNet account, you're a single male living alone and you've been making large purchases of ladies lingerie. We have a

search warrant here ... Technology is a sword that cuts both ways.



Brassieres may be uplifting, but their prices are soaring. I remember buying a new bra in Macy's for twelve dollars. That same bra is now closer to \$20. Sure, I could buy a white cotton bra from the L'eggs outlet for a few bucks, but my tastes run a little more fanciful and I have a penchant for front-hook underwires. My advice is wait until Victoria's Secret has a sale. They have a wide variety of styles and colors and the bras can be bought for \$13.



King of the sleazoid mail order sales business, Michael Salem, made it into the New York Post last month. Salem, if nothing else, knows how to work an angle and he used the hype surrounding the film *Mrs. Doubtfire* to hype his crossdresser mail order business. Those naifs at the Post sucked it up, too. Salem claims 100,000 regular customers and a mailing list of 250,000. He also says he's been in business for 25 years. Bull! All of it. If you're new to this community, beware of Mr. Salem (not to be confused with Philip Salem on the West Coast, and, no, they are not related). Michael Salem makes his living preying on the fear and insecurities of closeted crossdressers and charges exorbitant prices for commonly available items. How's \$100 for a gaff that shouldn't cost more than \$15 to \$20 or \$150 for a waist-cincher you can order through the Frederick's catalog for \$18? Stay clear of this guy.



Things may be bad at times here in the U.S. of A. but I'd rather live here than anywhere else. For example, the Ontario ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations issued an order to the Toronto rock band Drop Kick Me Jesus to change its name because it might incite religious violence (now there's an oxymoron). And speaking of morons, there are plenty of them here who would like to see the First Amendment repealed. Such as ...



A recent editorial in a well-known publication

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admonished that "criticism poisons and decays." I suppose one might feel that way if the writer were the point of the criticism. No one is perfect, however, and everyone can use a little criticism now and then, even this queen. This country was founded by people who believed in the right to freely speak one's mind. They fought a war to preserve that right and they wrote it into the basic document that defines our political ideology. If we give up the right to free speech, we give up a basic tool of democracy. In fact, there are some who believe that we have a responsibility to criticize in order to preserve and protect our freedom. The following quote is from author/writer Noam Chomsky: "It is the responsibility of intellectuals to speak the truth and expose lies. Intellectuals are in a position to expose the lies of [organizations], to analyze actions according to their causes and motives and often hidden intentions. In the Western world at least, they have the power that comes from political liberty, from access to information, and from freedom of expression. For a privileged minority, Western democracy provides the leisure, the facilities, and the training to seek the truth lying behind the veil of distortion and misrepresentation, ideology, and class interest through which events ... are presented to us."



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MARILYN'S DREAM

by Winnie Brant

Those of you who now enjoy going to any of the many "Major Events" of the transgendered world probably realize that it was not always so -- but do you know where and when was the **first** time? Well, it all started in about 1970 with the dream of one Marilyn Irving, a closeted crossdresser living in Seattle, Washington. This first major event was named just "DREAM", in all capital letters. Contrary to what I have seen recently in the CD press, DREAM was **not** a "weekend" event, but a **full week** (Monday-Friday); the weekends were optional "extras." Held on the Oregon Coast, DREAM was a **major** milestone for the gender community -- the **first** week-long event, bringing together

To fully appreciate what Marilyn Irving did for our community, you have to think back to the early 1970s.

over 50 crossdressers and their wives.

To fully appreciate what Marilyn did for our community, you have to think back to the early 1970s: Virginia Prince had been publishing *Transvestia* for ten years and had founded FPE (Foundation for Personality Expression, forerunner of Tri-Ess); there were a number of Chapters and various other groups scattered around the country. But there was no Fantasia Fair, no IFGE or any other Convention; in fact, there had been no previous National gathering of more than 50 crossdressers, apart from one isolated, legendary weekend in the Catskills in the mid-60's. Most of us were deep in the closet.

Marilyn had an impossible dream -- to be a fashion model -- and believed that many of us shared her dream. So she approached Glorea LaVonne, the owner of a Modeling School in Portland, Oregon, and invited her to attend a dinner meeting of the local CD group. Glorea came, was intrigued, and came again with some of her staff instructors. Next, Marilyn asked: "How long would it take to teach a bunch of men the finer arts of feminine fashion?" "Well, my beginning girls start with 12 weeks!" Then, Marilyn challenged Glorea: "Could you give a crash course in **one** week?"

Now, you must understand that this was no ordinary girls' finishing school, but the top Modeling School in the whole State of Oregon; her staff, mostly former students, were top-flight professional high-fashion models, competing in the National Modeling Association Championships in New York City. These wonderful women had the looks, talent, poise, charm and determination that this proficiency entails. So, Glorea rose to the challenge: "Yes, but you'll

have to live as women the whole time!" This, of course, tickled Marilyn pink!

So, where could a group of men live in style as women and go to school without hassle -- in a State that had a Constitutional Amendment to declare gays and their ilk "perverts" on the ballot as recently as 1992? Marilyn searched up and down the Oregon Coast, and finally found a secluded luxury condominium, of some 30 units, the perfect spot. The accommodations have never been matched (not even close!) at any subsequent event. Not ordinary motel rooms, but elegantly decorated suites -- a **huge** living room with sliding glass doors to a balcony overlooking the Pacific Ocean, full kitchen, two bedrooms with **large** closets, and two full baths. There was a large recreation hall for classes and a heated indoor swimming pool on the premises, and a patio on the dunes leading down to the beach.

Marilyn's other self (Dick) approached the manager; yes, the whole condominium complex could be rented at reasonable rates to a group for a week in the latter half of September, but what kind of group is it? Marilyn carefully explained. "Huh!? You'll have to talk to the Owners Association." So Marilyn did, and persuaded them that everything would be fine. Now, girls have to eat, and like to dress up to go out in the evening. Marilyn drove some 20 miles up the coast to the nearest resort city and located the biggest and best restaurant in the area. Yes, they had a very large banquet room, overlooking the ocean of course, could serve something **lots** better than the standard rubber-chicken fare, and cater luncheons at the condominium. Again, Marilyn explained everything to the owner and got him on board her dream boat.

A few minor details to settle: bus transportation between the condominium and restaurant; forewarn the local sheriff, just in case any trouble arose; persuade members of your local CD group to provide shuttle service 100 miles from Portland Airport to the coast for those who would be flying in, with tons of baggage!

Back to see Glorea: "I have it all arranged! Leave your school in Portland (sorry it's at the beginning of the school year), bring half-a-dozen of your most experienced instructors and a truckload of teaching aids down to the coast, and teach these clumsy guys to be fashion models!" At this point, Glorea may have had second thoughts, but she kept her bargain. Vendors, too -- but not those accustomed to catering to crossdressers. Marilyn persuaded the owners of two of the most elegant ladies' shops in Portland that it would be worth their while to fill a van with larger-size dresses, etc., and send a couple

of salesladies along.

What else needed to be done? The package was put together, unfortunately rather expensive, but well worth it. The final problem was: with the high fixed cost of the entire condominium complex and modeling school, Marilyn **had** to convince **well over 50 people** to take a week of vacation and join her, in order to just break even. The total budget was over \$20,000, and would be more than double that amount in 1993 dollars. A couple of months before, she had to sign contracts and take a significant personal financial risk. Now, read the first two paragraphs again!

Marilyn proved to be as skillful in marketing her package as she had been in negotiating it. She named it "DREAM" and chose Raggedy Ann as a mascot. She carefully crafted page after page of persuasive prose, printed it all on pink paper, and posted it to the members of FPE and others she knew. To entice the paranoid out, she handled **all** correspondence herself, promising perpetual privacy; to this day, no one else has seen the DREAM mailing list!

Marilyn first tried to make her DREAM come true in 1972, but the announcement was late and too few had signed up by the deadline, so she had to cancel. This would be enough to kill the enthusiasm of most people. But, undaunted, Marilyn tried again in 1973; this time, enough of us succumbed to her pink propaganda to "go for it!"

So, one sunny Sunday in September, I landed at Portland Airport and looked around for other guys wearing a "smiley-face" button. Marilyn had it all meticulously planned, down to the last detail! My roommate Sharon Ann was there with her VW bus to carry the luggage, and I was swept away in another car, through the enchanted forests of Oregon, for the most fabulous week of my life. This was about six months after I had joined FPE. Only a month before, I had not even met another crossdresser. Just a week before, I had met Wilma and joined TVIC, forerunner of TGIC in Albany.

It turned out that Marilyn had not been exaggerating in her promotional literature (at least, not by very much). That first year, Glorea took her teaching task seriously; we had makeup in the morning, hair-care in the afternoon, and walking-in-heels in the evening (yes, the **evening**, to 11 PM). Things loosened up in the second and subsequent years; the late evenings were devoted to partying in the suites. Teachers and students fraternized (sorornized?), and there was no way those professional models were going to let themselves be out-glamoured by any mere male! And somehow, they always managed to show up bright and perky the next morning, on time for class! A number of romances blossomed, leading to a couple of marriages. There are many other poignant stories, both sweet and sour, that could be told.

In all, Marilyn organized and took full responsibility for seven DREAM programs, with very little help -- in 1973, '74, '75, '76, '78, '80 and '83. Marilyn, Glorea and DREAM

will always be remembered by those who were there, some from as far away as Australia. DREAM was the "Camelot" of Crossdressing -- in a Cavalier Castle by the Sea -- there will never be another like it! But there was "A DREAM of a Reunion" at the IFGE Convention in Portland last month!

Word of DREAM was carried back to the East Coast, inspiring Ariadne Kane to conceive and produce Fantasia Fair. But there had already been three DREAMs before the first Fair in 1975. The Fair, in turn, inspired Merissa to found the Tiffany Club, and then IFGE. For the first time, DREAM had demonstrated that our community could come together from great distances, in large numbers, in style, pride and dignity, and deal with the straight world.

So, why isn't Marilyn well recognized in the gender community today? Because it is not quite accurate to describe her as a "tireless" worker; when the final curtain came down on DREAM in 1983, Marilyn was physically and emotionally exhausted. Just think of coordinating a big convention, almost all by yourself, **seven** times! Since then, she has retired into anonymity, remembered only by her friends who attended one or more DREAMs.

But some of these friends are among the most prominent leaders today in the gender community: Virginia Prince, Betty Ann Lind, Ellen Summers, Eve Burchert, Jennifer Richards, Nancy Ann Martine, Sharon Ann Stuart, Samantha Walls, Joan Sheldon, Jane Peabody, Sandy Thomas, the late Dorothy Finch, and others who escape my memory. Plus a significant number who are now living their dreams full-time as women.

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BOOKS FOR CROSSDRESSERS AND THEIR PARTNERS

By Peggy Rudd:

MY HUSBAND WEARS MY CLOTHES, a sympathetic discussion of the issues facing the wife of a crossdresser. (\$10.00 + \$2 P & H)
CROSSDRESSING WITH DIGNITY, advice on bringing crossdressing out of the closet an into a relationship with pride. (\$12.95 + \$2 P & H)
NEW! LOVE CALENDAR: THE SECRETS OF LOVE, a day-by-day set of proverbs and quotes to help reinforce the love in a relationship. (\$10.00 + \$2 P & H)

ALSO AVAILABLE: The classic book by Mariette Pathy-Allen, **TRANSFORMATIONS**, a series of photo essays with biographies of the crossdressers portrayed. (\$24.95 + \$3 P & H)

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LAW SCHOOL

by Phyllis Randolph Frye

Being a licensed professional engineer (P.E.) in three states and holding two engineering degrees from Texas A&M University, one of the least likely goals in my life back in 1976 was to enter law school. But being that in 1976, the engineering community was **very much more** closed and homophobic than it seems to be today, my transition was not tolerated even a little bit and I was blackballed. I'll discuss that in a subsequent story. While continuing the job search, I decided to cash in on my G.I. Bill and go to college for a Masters in Business Administration. This would fulfill many strategies: (1) it would generate some monthly income; (2) it would give me something meaningful to do (one of the diseases of

During the first months, there were less than ten students who treated me as anything above animal.

unemployment is loss of self-esteem due to being unable to contribute one's talents and energies); (3) an M.B.A. would make me a more valuable job candidate; (4) it would buy me a year while people got used to the idea of me being me; and (5) it would give more people (in future management positions) the opportunity to meet me and interface with me on a regular basis in the controlled classroom setting.

During my investigation of local colleges, I came upon the fact that the University of Houston offered a joint-degree in M.B.A. and Law (each degree's core courses fulfilled the elective requirements of the other degree). And that, my friends, is why I became interested in law school. It would fulfill the five previously strategies for a longer time, and the law part would give me the tools to defend myself against all the crap that was dished my way back then. At that time, my self-esteem had been beaten down so low that I did not even entertain the thought of actually practicing law, much less being the hell-raising trial attorney I am today.

My year in the business college was really great. The students were either nice, or supportive, or not-glaringly-standoffish. It went great. Then came the fall of 1978 and my entry into three years of mostly hell in the law school.

I found out in later years that there was quite a discussion at a faculty meeting as the news was released that I'd been accepted and would attend. I was very open about my non-operative status. Several professors demanded my right to attend, and several said that if the bathroom was a problem, they would accompany me to insure that everyone

got over themselves.

The bathrooms went through transition. When the law school was built, it was all men. As women came, some one-holers were added for the women. As more women came, several of the men's rooms were resigned as women's, even though the urinals remained therein (some women law students grew ivy in the urinals), and several of the one-holer signs were changed to "Men". When I came along, several of the one-holers were made unisex and simply signed "Restroom".

During my interview, I was told about the changes and told to use the one-holers labelled "Restroom". That seemed reasonable (and it was) so I agreed. But reasonable was not practical, since none of the "Phyllis potties" were near to my study carrel, my classroom or the library. So after a couple of days of long trips with a full bladder, I just started using the more convenient women's restrooms. About five weeks later I was called into the Dean of Students. When I asked how many complaints he'd received, he said only a few. I suggested that since most of the women were not complaining, that he merely inform the sexually insecure ones as to which few restrooms I regularly frequented, and they could take their own full bladders on long walks elsewhere. Made sense to him, and the restroom problem was over.

To say that I was lonely was an understatement. During the first months, there were less than ten students who treated me as anything above animal. I adopted several strategies: talk one on one to my professors, learn the seating charts for each class I attended and find solace with other Christians in the Christian Legal Society. First I went to my profs and chatted with them at length. Those who'd had a problem were disarmed by my being so upfront and unashamed. They shared their seating charts with me and I learned students names. When I saw students in the halls, I would speak to them by name. That opened up quite a few. But my attending the Christian Legal Society (initialled by me without capitals as "cls") began a three year war that showed their total lack of Christianity.

In a lonely mood one day into my third week at law school, I found a flyer in my study carrel that was distributed campus wide. It invited new students to the next cls meeting. As I was strong in my faith, I thought that they would give me refuge. **Wrong!!!!** They asked about my faith and I told them how my journey through my transition had tested it and revealed many truths. At the second meeting, I was denounced, told to leave or I'd be shunned. During the next thirty months, they held secret meetings so they'd

not have to pray with me, they laid hands on me at my invitation and then complained when I did not change, and they gave me that shit about "loving the sinner but hating the sin" for months and years.

Near the end of my last semester, I wrote a long list of everything that they'd done to me during those thirty months and gave it to the Dean of Students. The result was a faculty meeting where the faculty sponsor of cls was verbally cut to ribbons by his peers, an investigation was held, and cls was given a one-year university probation for discrimination. Their final meanness came with the yearbook. One of my classmates was a camera buff and wanted to do a yearbook. But he told cls that if they'd not let me in their group picture, then he'd not put them into the yearbook. You may have guessed that cls was not in the yearbook.

During the second year, I decided to form a law student group for lesbian, gay and transgender law students. A few brave souls joined, most of them were straight, and we called ourselves the "Friends* of Gays" (with the asterisk to infer inclusivity). I became very strident during that year. We went to the University Senate to ask for \$250 for our organization, and while other campus groups had done the same thing for years, the Young Americans for Freedom went nuts. Our budget request became a university hot topic. At the Senate meeting wherein Friends* budget request was discussed the YAF had two attorneys fly in from Austin to argue against our request. That evening, they came to my home and banged on the windows and doors screaming threats of rape, violence and other epithets. It took months for my spouse to begin to feel safe again.

The silly bastards even injected glue into the doorlock of the Friends* office at the law school. One would wear a Scottish kilt to class to mock me.

While all of this was going on, please remember that I was still coping with family ostracism, neighborhood violence, the city ordinance that made crossdressers illegal and electrolysis. Once or twice each week during those years I'd get one or more hours of electrolysis such that my face always felt like hamburger meat and my nerves were very much on edge. During each March of those three years, I went into a crying jag. I'd stay at home for a week to ten days and just cry. I was a mess.

Constitutional law and some other classes became war zones. Whenever a professor or a student would make some outlandishly sexist, bigoted or homophobic statement or legal conclusion, up would go my hand and the debate would begin. After a while, I found a set of radicals from the black, Hispanic and women's movement that are friends to this day.

My grades went from very bad to pretty good. At the end of

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the first year, I was a breath away from flunking out. At graduation, I was ranked near the very top or the bottom third. And at graduation, as I crossed the stage, there was not a single boo or heckle. Something special happened during the last two months of law school which made the entire experience worthwhile.

I had put down all of the cls garbage and given it to the Dean of Students. I also gave copies to several of my classmates. The copies were circulated quickly. The effect was amazing and is illustrative of the greatness of people in general. Everyone at the school knew that I took a jab here or there, an insult here or there, or an indignity from time to time. But until I put it all down on paper, no one knew just how intense and continuing it had been over such a long duration. During the last two months, people spoke to me by name who had never before given me the time of day. It was almost a collective apology. And Friends* got their photo in the yearbook.

Now as a law school alumni, I get along very well. At the ten year class reunion I was very well treated and loved by my class. My face is almost dead center in the middle of the front row of our class reunion group photo. And the law school has accepted with gratitude the endowment towards an annual \$500 award for the best student paper on the subject of transgender and sexual minority law. The law school Dean even has me call him by first name.

So, if I could make it through that back then, you have no excuse to get on with being who you are today.

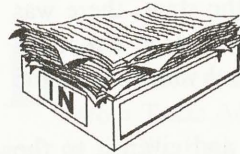


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LIES AND DECEIT

by Barbara Jean Jasen

In a letter to the Ms. Cotton Belle, newsletter of the Mu Sigma chapter of Tri-Ess, Linda Phillips reflected on a statement made to her and Cynthia by the wife of another crossdresser. The wife said, "I do not mind his dressing, really I don't, they are only clothes to me. What I cannot stand are the lies and the deceit."

The two most important ingredients to any relationship are honesty and trust. When we attempt to hide our femmeside from our wives we in effect say that we do not trust them with that knowledge. Because we do not trust them, we are not honest with them. In an attempt to deceive them of our activities and whereabouts we use (what we feel to be) little white lies in an attempt to cover up for our crossdressing activities.

But when the wife discovers that deceit, when she discovers those lies, when she discovers our crossdressing, we discover that it is WE who cannot be trusted.

I have heard all of the excuses that you can muster up for not telling your wife. "She is a straight-laced schoolmarm", "She is a devout Catholic", "She will fly off the handle", "She will divorce me and take the kids", etc., etc. As far as I am concerned, these are just a bunch of excuses and nothing else. The only reason that we really have for not telling our wives is FEAR! We perceive and fear the worst. Our fear may be based on a bad experience in the past, or a horror story we have heard. We really do not know what she will do, we only perceive the worst.

You think your bases are covered? That she will never discover? How many sisters do I know whose wife came home unexpectedly early because a meeting was canceled or they forgot something? A very close sister of mine had an unfortunate auto accident where she was wearing feminine underclothes beneath her male garments.

When the foundation of a relationship is strong and solid, then no matter how earthshattering the news, the house will still stand. But lies and deceit, mistrust and dishonesty do nothing but to inject a huge crack into the foundation of that relationship -- a crack that may be severe enough to cause the house to fall. In the end it will not be your

crossdressing that caused the house to fall; rather, it will be the lies and the deceit. It will be because your wife can no longer trust you.

There is another advantage to telling our wives, and that is that we take control. We decide how we will tell them, we decide what we will say. We are like Boy Scouts: Prepared. We will have gathered material to aid us in what to say and to help her to understand. When she discovers our crossdressing, though, she is the one in control. I can visualize our sister shaking in her heels and stammering in an attempt to explain to her wife. How much easier

Mistrust and dishonesty do nothing but inject a huge crack into the foundation of a relationship.

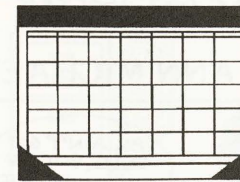
would it have been both for both of them had our sister been straight forward in the beginning!

No doubt there will be shock and hurt in hearing that you are one of "those" kind of guys, but how much more will the shock and hurt be if she discovered by accident, or heard from a third party? How much easier will it

be for her to hear you say that you want to be honest with her, that you want her to know that you trust her, that you want to stop the lies and the deceit?

I admit that the job was fairly easy for me as I had the foresight to tell my wife right in the very beginning when we first became acquainted, before that acquaintance developed into a relationship. That is the easiest time for both of you, but it is never too late. Many a crossdresser had made decision to come clean after 15 or 20 years of marriage. If you and your wife have a good relationship with no real problems, then you only need to put your fear aside and tell her that you want to be honest with her.

A few weeks ago I received a letter from Joannie in Ohio. Joannie wrote to me about a year ago; she, too, feared telling her wife about her need to crossdress. In my letter to her I essentially said the same thing I am writing here -- to be honest and have trust in your wife. In Joannie's last letter she wrote "I finally got up the courage to discuss my desires with my wife. Instead of rejection I received love and understanding. We openly discussed my true feelings and desires. She immediately went out and purchased clothing for me. She is really (continued, next page)



NATIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

April 21-25, 1994: "Moonlight in Manhattan", New York City, presented by the Greater New York Gender Alliance. Information from Lynda Frank, 330 W. 45th St. #3-H, New York 10036, or by calling (212) 765-3561.

April 27-May 1, 1994: "California Dreamin'", Burbank CA, sponsored by Powder Puffs Of California with participation by Neutral Corner, Alpha Chapter Tri-Ess, Ladies' Knight out, and CHIC. Details from PPOC, P.O. Box 1088, Yorba Linda CA 92686 or by calling (714) 779-9013.

May 19-22, 1994: "Paradise in the Poconos", Canadensis PA, sponsored by Creative Design Services. Information from CDS, P.O. Box 61263, King of Prussia PA 19406, or by calling (610) 640-9449.

May 20-22, 1994: "A Taste of Esprit", Port Angeles WA, sponsored by Emerald City, NWGA, and Cornbury Society. Details from P.O. Box 873, Kirkland WA 98083-0873.

June 8-12, 1994: 12th Annual "Be All You Want To Be", Pittsburgh PA. This year's host organization is TransPitt. Details from P.O. Box 23442, Pittsburgh 15222.

June 24, 1994: "International Stonewall Ball", New York City, benefitting the 25th Anniversary Stonewall March two days later. Details from Empress Nicole, (619) 692-1967 or Coco at (212) 475-0838, or write P.O. Box 33915, San Diego CA 92163.

July 6-10, 1994: "Spouse/Partners International Conference for Education", Chicago IL. S.P.I.C.E. includes members of Tri-Ess, Renaissance, Virginia's Secret, and IFGE, and is open to all wives and partners of crossdressers. Details from Linda Peacock, P.O. Box 24031, Little Rock AR 72221, or by calling (501) 227-8798.

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 15-18, 1994: "Paradise in the Poconos", Canadensis PA. See May 19-22 listing.

September 27-October 2, 1994: "Southern Comfort Conference", Atlanta GA. Information from P.O. Box 33296, Decatur GA 30033, or by calling (404) 603-9426.

October 4-7, 1994: "Dignity Cruise V", steamboating aboard the historic Delta Queen out of Pittsburgh PA. Details from Peggy Rudd, 1811 Crutchfield, Katy TX 77449 or by calling (713) 347-6563.

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 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.

May 17-21, 1995: "Esprit '95", Port Angeles WA. See May 20-22, 1994 listing for information.

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

INSIGHT ... continued from previous page

very supportive about this. Along with a loving wife, I have found my best and truest friend in her."

Like a lot of you, Joannie perceived the worst. She was afraid that telling her wife would mean rejection. Perhaps ten or twenty years ago it might have, but today things are different, things are better. Linda and Cynthia and a lot of others have gone on the talk shows and the college lecture circuits, educating others about crossdressing. It is because of their efforts that we today see less prejudice and hostility towards us than in years gone by. People are becoming more understanding, more accepting of us. Because of their work, we are eliminating much of the myths that people, including our wives have had about us. Ten or twenty years ago, they might not have understood, they might not have accepted, but today more and more wives are opening up and learning that all men are not the same.

If you have not told your wife about your crossdressing, how can you be so sure that she is still one of those who are thinking as people did back in the sixties? How do you

know that she will not accept you? Yes, I admit there are some wives who know and totally reject, but they do know and that is a start. If you have one of those wives, I promise to address that issue in a column in the near future.

But for those of you who have not yet told your wife: You are the one I am writing to this month. As I said, the only real reason is pure fear, and I will address that issue next month and how to overcome that fear.

One final note: In the last line of Joannie's letter she wrote "Thank you for helping me to fulfill my dreams and for strengthening the bond between my wife and myself." Just think, you too could someday be writing that same letter ... you too could find that by telling your wife you will find love and acceptance and a strengthening of the bond of love between you and your wife.

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



"CROSS-TALK" COMICS



THE ADVENTURES OF KAREN

by KAREN ANN MICHAELS

KAREN'S GLAMOUR TIPS #41

CROSSDRESSERS' CHECKLIST: "HOW DO I REALLY LOOK BEFORE GOING OUT THE DOOR?"

- IN A BAR: BEERS WITH TEQUILA SHOTS NOT EXACTLY FEMININE!
- SPAGHETTI STRAPS: NOT ON THESE SHOULDERS, BUDDY!
- SATIN BUSTIER OVER "MIGHTY MITE" #66 WAIST CINCHER: ESTIMATED PASS-OUT TIME-T-MINUS 47 MINUTES...

PLATINUM BLONDE WIG: CROOKED

MAKE-UP: WAY TOO MUCH! ROUGE, LONG FAKE LASHES AND (GASP!) BLUE EYESHADOW!

GET A CLOSE SHAVE ALREADY!

... THAT GOES FOR THAT CHEST, TOO!

EVENING BAG: NICE FOR THE DAYTONA 500- MAYBE!

SHOES: YOU MAY NEED A 13 DDD, BUT YOU DON'T NEED 5" HEELS!

AL AIN'T GOT LEGS, BUT HE STILL WANTS TO USE 'EM!

GRANTED, NONE OF US IS PERFECT, BUT TO MINIMIZE YOUR OWN EMBARRASSMENT IN PUBLIC, DO TRY TO FOLLOW SOME OF THE BASICS!

Karen Michaels

CD

By Sherri Belmar

I JUST DON'T SEE HOW THEY DO IT !!!

Kay, There are some things real women can do that are **PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE** for CDs.....

...driving while applying mascara must be one of them...

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

DADDY - WHY DOES YOUR TOP SHAPE COME OFF AT NIGHTS, WHILE MUMMY'S STAYS ON??

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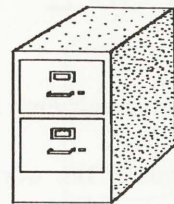
THE PASSING SCENE by Kay Lightner

And please, don't try to pull them down. There's nothing worse than ingrown horns.

For the transsexual buck, antler electrolysis can be a long, difficult process.

Tasha's World by Tasha Barnard

Charles Steward, you have been found guilty of sexual harassment, and have been brought here dressed as you are to receive sentencing. This court has arranged for you to work as a waitress in a truck stop for six months.



THE BEST OF CROSS-TALK

NAMES, NAMES, NAMES ...

by Kimberleigh Richards

Lorrilyn, Charlanne, Janyce, Stefany ...

No, I'm not reading down the list of Tri-Ess members, but I might just as well. We, as a community, tend to come up with the most creative spellings possible, and I usually can't figure out why.

Ami, Merrilyn, Daniela, Jeanet ...

I know, I know: How can someone who spells her first and middle name Kimberleigh Meghann write an article about strange spellings of names? Well, at least in my case, there is something resembling a logical reason. I happen to have some Celtic heritage, and the spelling of my names have a Celtic "look" to them. (A few have accused my first name of having a Welsh spelling ... but then again, the Welsh ARE Celts!)

Sonni, Laurreta, Jacquelyn, Nicki ...

But even though the names I've been sprinkling through this column did not come from a Tri-Ess roster or the Tapestry personals, it would not be unusual to find them there. In fact, I can, in my mind's eye, see some of our readers whose femme names are the more conventional versions of these names contemplating changing their spellings to match.

Sherilan, Georgiana, Liesa, Laurien ...

I'm not advocating that we who have more creative ways of

spelling our names try to conform with more normal spellings. (I, for one, refuse to be a "Kimberly!") Especially since this list of names that could easily be of gender community members, is actually:

Judye, Lorilee, Sharron, Kaythryn ...

Female real estate agents in the San Fernando Valley. And by the way ... I noticed that an actress playing a bit part in an episode of the old Fox series *Parker Lewis Can't Lose* was billed as "Kimberleigh St. Peter". I wonder if her parents spelled it that way, or if she adopted the spelling herself? And if the latter, do you think she's seen my name somewhere?

Probably wishful thinking.

[Originally published in Cross-Talk#29 (October 1991).]

ADS WE'D LIKE TO SEE by Karen Rusnak

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Second, once you receive your first subscription copy, note your subscriber number in the upper left corner of the mailing label. Write your number in the box to the right of our address on the page 40 subscription form.

Third, make copies of page 40 and mail them to your friends in the gender community. Tell them how wonderful we are and that they should subscribe.

Fourth (*actually, we do this*), whenever we receive a new subscription with your number in the box, we'll add one month to your subscription for each year of the new subscription.

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You can make as many copies as you want ... there's no limit to the number of free months you can get!

ROCKERS LEAD THE WAY AS MEN TRY DRESSES FOR SIZE

by Julie Hatfield

It is the ultimate fashion news of the year, the final crossover of a gender-bending mood that has been hovering in the air since the movie *The Crying Game*.

It is being led, as numerous fashion trends are led, by the young; in particular, by alternative rock musicians.

Not since Mesopotamian times have so many guys appeared in public in dresses.

Now, led by crossdressers and drag queens like RuPaul but copied by the most macho of heterosexual males -- alternative rock stars such as Kurt Cobain of Nirvana, Evan Dando of the Lemonheads, The Red Hot Chili Peppers (when they are not wearing one sock each) -- big brawny hairy-chested males not in drag makeup are rocking on stage, in public, in front of their screaming female fans, wearing vintage Victorian floral granny dresses, 1940's housedresses, long silk sheaths and miniskirted tube dresses. Only those over thirty would ask, why would a guy wear a dress?

"Because," said Bob Stimson, formerly of the Replacements, "it was there." The Replacements, a notably heterosexual group of rockers, were some of the first to go on stage in dresses when they appeared around 1980 in the tutu-like garments that Stimson said he, filched from his mother. "It took our minds off the musical part of the show; it was a distraction," he explained. "People thought it was gutsy. Mostly, it was to get the audience's attention, to make them laugh."

"On the road, we'd go into thrift stores and buy dresses for \$2 apiece, and wear them until they were dirty and shredded. We looked for real colorful ones, the goofier the better. The *I Dream of Jeannie* type of dress, you know what I mean? No one ever thought I was gay when I wore a dress." First there was full drag, as when David Bowie wore a pretty faded dress and makeup on his album cover for *The Man Who Sold the World* in the '70s. And the Rolling Stones experimented with drag in a photo on the sleeve of their single *Have You Seen Your Mother, Baby, Standing in the Shadows?* On the other hand, Freddie Mercury of Queen, the British band that was popular in the late '70s, was gay, and when he became comfortable in public with that he got the band to romp

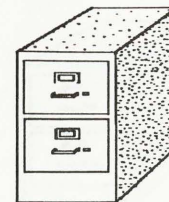
around in drag in the video for *I Want to Break Free* in 1984.

But he was a few years ahead of the curve, the world wasn't quite ready for it, and music industry people feel that Queen's appearance in dresses at that point alienated the gay bashing U.S. teenagers of the time and effectively killed off what remained of the band's American fan base. Mercury died of AIDS-related causes in 1991, and later the band enjoyed a slight resurgence of popularity. Now, though, dresses on guys are becoming commonplace on-stage and on TV. The Stone Temple Pilots appeared in a live performance on MTV's Spring Break show (which was photographed for the August 31 issue of *Spin* magazine); Nirvana made a video for their song *In Bloom* all wearing dresses; and Mac MacCaughan, the lead singer of Superchunk, was photographed for a recent *Spin* issue playing his guitar in a cute little miniskirted number that's sleeveless and formfitting.

They say it's cool to wear a dress on stage, in the original sense of the word. Rocking, singing and playing a guitar generate a lot of heat and perspiration under hot lights, and the guys say dresses allow the air to circulate under their skirts and around their legs. they say that women get to wear pants whenever they want, so (continued, next page)



Jaye Davidson (left) of *The Crying Game* helped to bring crossdressing into the mainstream. (Photo courtesy Miramax Films)



THE SHOPPING MAVEN

by JoAnn Roberts

I talked to Bob at Fashion Fantasy about the review of their gaffs written by Angela Gardner (*Cross-Talk* #52). He informed me that there had been a problem with the elastic used in the waistbands. It was much stronger than they thought and that was the cause of the tightness. All of the gaffs with this extra-strong elastic have been re-sized and the gaffs being made now have the correct elastic. Customers should order their gaffs by the

ROCKERS LEAD THE WAY ... continued from previous page
turnabout is fair play. The originators of grunge, which says what you wear doesn't matter, say that if they wear a skirt, that doesn't matter either. Judge them by their music and their personhood, and if they happen to be wearing a dress, so what?

At the same time, some of the world's best fashion designers are putting their dresses on men. Jean-Paul Gaultier has done it, and so has Donna Karan, to mixed reviews, Betsey Johnson hired as many male as female models to show her fall women's line in April, and she said, "The guys looked so sexy, so Prince Valiant," in items such as her short plaid skirt.

"Certain skinny rock stars have always liked wearing my clothes, even though the garments were designed with women in mind. Prince bought a long velvet dress that looked like a medieval tunic on him, and Axl Rose is a customer. Bowie's been in the store. Just as it takes a sexy woman to make a dress sexy, it takes the man to make the dress sexy."

Males dressing female seems to be part of the gay chic movement, whereby everything gay is a curiosity to be explored by the heterosexual community. Cobain, who recently fathered a baby girl with his wife, Courtney Love, told the *Advocate*, a gay magazine, that he is "definitely gay in spirit." Madonna has explored her intrigue with gay people in most of the media. Andrew Sullivan, the gay editor of *The New Republic*, said, "Undoubtedly, there is a fascination these days with an openly gay person. It's a function of how few of us there are."

Josh Gordon, bass player for Greta, said that although he

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.

appropriate size and notover-sized, as suggested in the review.

Fashion Fantasy is also working on better instructions as suggested in the review. New instructions will be more detailed and may include a diagram.

Fashion Fantasy is very customer-oriented and they want their customers to be satisfied with every product purchased from them.

has not yet worn a dress, he understands why Plagens has. "It's to desensitize people about women wearing a dress or men wearing a dress, to show them that the more people cross over, the less weird it is."

As RuPaul said, We're born naked; after that, everything else is drag."

[Reprinted courtesy of the Boston Globe.]

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.

"*What's on the TV Tonight?*" is a charming cartoon book depicting transvestites in a variety of amusing situations. Because it is the creation of a TV, none other than Christine-Jane Wilson, the editor of *The Glad Rag*, the book always laughs with, not at, transvestites. The author draws on her own experience, as well as her imagination, to produce cartoons showing the dreadfully embarrassing things that can happen to TVs, whether in social or family context. But it's not blushes all the way: some pages glow with the positive pride a cross-dresser may feel when found out unexpectedly.

"Transvestites will identify with the author and find the book reassuring as well as amusing. Everyone will be touched by the sensitivity and delicacy with which Christine-Jane treats the difficulties of being a TV."

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ALSO AVAILABLE: *Hell -- It's Heaven*, Christine-Jane's non-crossdressing cartoon book on the afterlife, with lots of cute angels and devils. \$9.00 US to the same address.



HOTLINES

These hotlines are run by non-profit organizations, and may not be answered "live" at all times as a result. Listings followed by % are for groups known to be sexually-oriented; listings followed by # are for primarily TS-oriented groups; listings followed by @ are for heterosexual TV/CDs only. Most other listings are for "open" (both TV/CD and TS) groups. While we make every effort to keep this listing updated, phone numbers may change without notice. 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) 243-0837
East Coast F2M Group, Cambridge: (413) 584-7616 #
Eulenspiegel Society, NYC: (212) 477-6588 %
Expressing Our Nature, Syracuse: (315) 475-5611
Gender Identity Program, NYC: (212) 969-0888 #
Girls' Night Out, NYC: (212) 794-1665 ext 202
GLEBITS, Boston: (617) 323-6082
Images, Hartford: (203) 779-2465
Imperial Queens of New York: (212) 580-9862
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
My Choice, Baltimore: (410) 732-4546
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 Explorations: (404) 962-3118 #
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) 982-7678
Louisville Gender Society: (812) 944-5570
Montgomery Institute, Augusta: (404) 603-9426 #
Montgomery Institute, Gainesville: (904) 462-4826 #
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) 320-8737

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, Shawnee Mission: (913) 371-0658 #
Indiana Crossdressers Society, Indianapolis: (317) 475-0617
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) 641-4842 #
Second Image, Austin: (512) 515-5460
TS Peer Support, Houston: (713) 333-2278 #
Tau Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Houston: (713) 988-8064 @
Texas Ass'n. of Transsexuals, Houston: (713) 435-7293 #
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) 774-8463
Rose City Gender Center, Portland: (503) 230-1036
Salmacis Feminist Social Society, Eugene: (503) 688-4282
Transsexual Lesbians & Friends, Seattle: (206) 292-1037 #

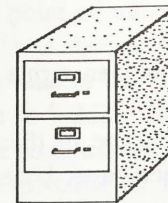
THE WEST COAST (CA & HI):

Alpha Chapter Tri-Ess, Los Angeles: (213) 876-6141 @
Amer. Transsexual Education Center: (213) 389-6938 #
Androgyny, Santa Monica: (213) 856-4867
CHIC, Los Angeles: (818) 248-9075 @
Diablo Valley Girls, Concord: (510) 849-4112
Educational TV Channel, San Francisco: (510) 549-2665
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
Monarch Social Club, Ontario: (416) 949-6602

YOUR SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. Write us at P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365; fax us at (818) 347-4190; or send Internet e-mail to kymmer@xconn.com.



'ZINE REVIEWS!

by Kymberleigh Richards

Since this month's cover artwork was reprinted from a lesbian 'zine by my friend Michelle (who, by the way, has a "T" for a lover), I thought it only appropriate to do a quick review of it ...

A Rage of Maidens is a twelve-page mini-book of Michelle's artwork about fantasy lovers. The artwork of sexy, dykey/femmy women is great (we'll feature a couple more on the cover in future months), and the descriptions are erotic, yet not raunchy. She does a great rendition of Theda Bara on the back cover along with her own self-portrait.

It's not supposed to be for "T"s, but I bet it will as easily fuel some fantasies among us as it does among lesbians!

[*A Rage of Maidens*, \$2.00 from *How Do You Spell It Productions*, P.O. Box 460896, San Francisco CA 94146-0896. Ask Michelle about the other neat stuff she has available, like the computer jewelry.]



While we're doing art-based 'zines, I should mention a special edition of *Outside In*, a periodic compilation of comic-type art by several very talented people like Barry Brandon, Mary Fleener, Lee Bolman, Roberta Gregory, Donna Barr, Rick Bradford, and Randy Z. Crawford (If you have to ask who these people are, you obviously don't see a lot of comic 'zines).

Anyway, back in 1991, they published seven self-portraits of the aforementioned artists in the now infamous "sex change" issue. You might correctly guess that the males drew themselves as females and vice versa; the results are mixed but interesting. (My personal favorite is Randy Z. Crawford, who sort of reminds me of a girl I dated in high school. No, I don't think he's her.)

It's probably worth a buck to take a look at this. Especially for the monologue Lee Bolman appended to his (her) picture. However, I'm not sure the address is still valid, as I got my copy from Fandom Press. If you have trouble, drop me a line and I'll send you their address.

[*Outside In* #34, \$1.00 from Bruce Chrislip, 8057 13th Ave. NW, Seattle WA 98117.]



This last one isn't really a 'zine, but I've been wanting to find a way to work it into this column ever since Chrys Julian sent me a copy and the theme this month makes it fit, so ...

Malibu Comics' Ultraverse series premiered a new comic,

Mantra, last summer, which features a truly transgendered superhero. (Yes, even better than Khen-Draa.) While I only picked up the story with episode two, I can give you the basic plotline:


A warrior named Lukasz was killed by a character named Boneyard, who is the enemy of Archimage, who over the course of fifteen centuries reincarnated twelve warriors in male bodies to do battle with Boneyard. Well, when Lukasz was killed, something went awry and his consciousness was transferred to an earth female (a divorced mom, yet, to make the plot more complicated) named Eden Blake.

While Lukasz/Blake is trying to cope with living in his/her new body, discovering such things as makeup, high heels, and sexual harassment on the job, another character, Warstrike, appears and ultimately helps find a mask which turns Eden Blake into *Mantra*, who has magical powers over the base elements (fire, water, air, etc.), and an extremely skimpy costume barely covering a quite voluptuous body.

While this all gets confusing (and it took me three readings to figure out **this** much of the plot!), Lukasz is beginning to become more accustomed to being Blake by the end of the second installment. Unfortunately, since I don't frequent comic book shops, I have no idea where the plot has gone from there, although I am told that the series has been continuing monthly.

It's definitely interesting reading, even if you're not normally into comic books.

[*Mantra*, \$1.95 per month from *Malibu Comics Entertainment*, 5321 Sterling Center Dr., Westlake Village CA 91361. Available at mainstream comic book stores; no subscription rate published.]

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ICTLEP '93: AN OVERVIEW

Edited by Kimberleigh Richards

[The following article was edited from a partial transcript of last year's International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy, provided by ICTLEP. Both last year's conference and the 1992 conference have written transcripts and audio cassettes, available from ICTLEP at \$65 each. The 1993 conference is also available on VHS videocassette at \$95. They may be ordered from ICTLEP executive director Phyllis Randolph Frye, 5707 Firenza St., Houston TX 77035-5515. This year's ICTLEP will take place August 17 through 21: Details are available through Frye at (713) 723-8368.]

Phyllis sent me a lengthy set of transcripts from seventeen of the speeches given at the 1992 conference, based on the importance of the topics being discussed. Unfortunately, space prevents us from presenting the transcripts in their entirety, but I will endeavor to distill the key points in this summary. The topics and speakers precede each excerpt in boldface type.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CONFERENCE FOR LAYPEOPLE (Linda Phillips): I think that you're really missing something if you're not coming to this. I know a lot of people out there who should be here. Laypeople should be here and express themselves and express their opinions and also listen to the opinion of others.

In my opinion, this is probably the only viable thing that's going on right now in the gender community. So, all you people out there that are sitting there saying, "That's not for me, I'm just a crossdresser," or, "That's not for me. I've had my surgery and now I'm real. I'm going to go back into the woodwork." This is where you should be -- right here at this law conference.

THE NEED TO SENSITIZE OUR LEGISLATORS (Yolanda Navarro Flores, member of the Texas State Legislature): There's a lot of sensitivity that needs to -- well, let's just say we have to sensitize a lot of our legislators. It's been very difficult, to say the least, to try to get laws passed that are strictly based on fairness and on

justice and in recognition of people's human rights and a right to human dignity.

I was just, in some cases, appalled at some of the things that were done and said. And in other cases I was very pleased at some of the warm responses that we received from the other legislators. I guess what I'm telling you is that we still have a long way to go to teach people that we have to learn to live and work with each other. And above all, I think we need to learn to respect each other for whatever we are; whether you're an ethnic minority; when you're a person who's affected by the penal code in some detrimental way; or whether you're a person who has a lot of concerns about transgender issues. There's just a lot of work yet to be done.

"LAURA, IT'S OKAY. WE KNOW WHY." (Laura Skaer): In April of '92, I'd applied for a newly created state board called the Minerals Energy and Geology Policy Advisory Board designed to advise the Governor, the state legislature and the Colorado Department of Natural Resources on those kinds of issues. Four members had to be from oil and gas. I was one from about 30 people that applied and the appointments hadn't been made yet when I transitioned. I kept thinking, boy, have I blown this because I really want this. I'm really a public policy freak kind of person. All of a sudden I get a phone call one day from a woman with the Department of Natural Resources who called me Larry and said, "I'm calling to advise you that Governor Romer has appointed you to this board," and blah blah blah. I thought, "Wow, that's wonderful!" I hung up, but I go "Oh, my God," and I picked the phone back up. I said, "Susan, I've got to talk to you about something. If you're getting ready to send out a roster, would you please use my initials, please?" I said, "If we can make an appointment, I'll come down. I want to tell you something: why I'm making that request."

And her response was, "Laura, it's okay. We know why." And I'd said, "You do?" And they go, "Well, yes. It was discussed when your name came up. And our selection committee said, it's irrelevant." I said, "Well, God, did you tell Governor Romer?" And they said, "Well, of course we did!" You know, I had remembered on the application there's a little box that says, "Check here, if there's anything in your background that may cause the Governor embarrassment." I did not check that because I had come to a point where I'm not ashamed or embarrassed about who I am as a person.

So, I said, "Well, what did Governor Romer say?" And she said, "Well, he paused for a minute and he looked and he said, 'Well, you know, in view of the directive to consider ethnic, racial, and gender diversity in making these appointments, I'd say we have gender diversity covered, don't we?'" And I tell you, to be honest, I appreciated that

sense of humor far more than the acceptance.

But the point of all of this is that you're your own worst enemy if you choose to be. You can beyourself. You can do it in any walk of life. You can do it in any industry, and no one else is holding you back but yourself. And whatever fears you've concocted, they're within you. They're not real.

TRANSGENDERED AND PROUD ... AND WE VOTE! (Rep. Debra Danburg, District 137, State of Texas): I've been in the legislature for a dozen years and have quite a track record of good successes in that regard. But as regard to transgender issue, much of my job also is consciousness raising. As Phyllis says, "All you have to do" -- I'm a very active gay rights advocate -- "all you have to do is, every time you say gay rights, say gay and transgender people's rights. That, in and of itself, is a consciousness raising activity."

We don't yet have majority support in the majority of the districts in the State of Texas. I know that comes as a surprise to you. Nevertheless, on basic issues of fairness, we do have successes that we can hang our hats on -- issues in which basic fairness ends up prevailing. One of the things that I unfortunately had to be very active involved being involved in AIDS legislation. And I'm always quick to say that, though once the tragedy of AIDS becomes a non-issue for our extended communities because we've found cures, we want to find ways of prevention as well as ways of cures. That still doesn't leave a whole job done.

There's still so much more that needs to be done in the way of gay rights and transgendered person's rights and general civil rights being available equally to all people in this country. I got my start being active in the gay rights movement. I think that it's important that we remember that civil rights, as a basis that we come from, is something that needs to transcend any particular issues of the day. Be it AIDS or whatever other kind of immediate crises come up. Basically, we're all involved in a civil rights movement. And we need to keep our eye on that common goal and that togetherness.

PEOPLE WANT YOU FOR YOUR BRAIN (Martine Aliana Rothblatt, ICTLEP Health Law Director): I'm a lawyer, but mostly I work in the satellite communications industry and I help work together to implement different types of satellite communication systems. All my life I had the feminine gender identity, but I was scared to come out because I was scared that people would laugh at me or think I was stupid or whatnot. And bit by bit over the years, I overcame that. I owe a lot of that to "Tapestry", the first magazine that I ever found that provided me with real, honest, true information. Before that all my sources have been information from really defective books on transsexualism in libraries that didn't recognize real people like us and whatnot.

So, it was wonderful to read *Tapestry*. I realized that to be transsexual and to have gender creativity was to live

normal and healthy: there wasn't anything wrong with it. It was something to celebrate, and I began to celebrate myself that I could feel free enough to express my gender identity. It then was very natural that it shouldn't be something that I did part-time, it should be part of my normal working life. So, I began coming out to my peers and people I work with and said, "I know you've always related to me as a man, but that's not how I feel about myself. I feel about myself that I have a feminine personality, and I'm going to begin expressing that, and you will begin seeing me as a woman and I hope you relate to me as a woman." And reactions of people were really very much feel into a standard type of categories. It was like, We're very surprised, but that's a matter of your personal lifestyle. We work with you for your brains not your body, and we accepted you." I think that that's what everybody pretty much will experience.

You know none of us here are likely to be working in the sex industry and even if we were it wouldn't matter. People want you for your brain. That's the reason they hire you at some job, for your strength or your dexterity. That brains or strength or dexterity is the same when you come to work wearing jeans or wearing a dress. And people will not change their pattern of relating to you. It's possible that you'll run into some simple-minded people or people that can't deal with that, but I think the experiences of

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people, like Phyllis and others, have shown if you keep going ahead to different employers and whatnot, you'll find people that want you for who you are.

Also, it is very nice to live in the nineties. People do appreciate the strength and courage it takes coming out as being gay, lesbian or trans. So, that's been my experience. It's been very, very rewarding and positive. You know we all only have one life to live, so live it to its fullest. Be yourself, be free and be happy.

CHILL THE INDIFFERENCE IN YOUR AREA: (Phyllis Randolph Frye): Each of you, before the third law conference, will get a brochure. Take that brochure, get hold of that mailing list, go buy some stamps and -- anonymously if you have to -- make sure that every human resources person, every person in the personnel section of the companies in your city get an invitation to this conference. Are they going to come? Probably not. I hope they do, but probably not.

It's going to do something very significant. It's not going to chill bigotry, because bigotry is a different bear. But it will chill indifference. These personnel people will see that policy is part of our name. They will see it as the third, and they will see that it's been given MCLE hours, and they will see that we've got all these attorneys involved, and blah, blah, blah. What's going to happen is the next time a transgendered person within their company wants to transition on the job or wants to be hired by them, instead of being indifferent to them when the boss comes saying, "What do we do with this freak?", that person is going to say, "Whoops boss, we better go real careful on this because those people are organized. They got a team of attorneys. They got a big law conference going on every year in Houston." You're going to make them think twice. They might catch their breath and they might give this transgendered a chance.

So what this mail-out does is tend to chill indifference in your community. And if one of them comes, suddenly you know a personnel person who's "open" for a company that's "open" so that if you want to go to work for that company you can openly.

I'm going to charge each of you here: when you go to your home state and you get your brochure that you take it upon yourself as a personal project to make your own personal area that much better -- to not only get the human resources people but to get the labor law section of your local and your state bar and make sure they get a brochure also.

THE HEADCOUNT: A TRANSGENDER CENSUS (Martine Aliana Rothblatt): What's probably most important to me is the subject of "coming out" and how that really bears on the standards of care and on health law and on transgender law, in particular. I really feel that I came out to my family some number of years ago.

Then I came out to the professional community that I'm part of a year ago. A lot of people said to me, "Well, did

you feel real good when you came out to everybody?" In a sense, the real goodness came when I came out to my family and friends some years ago, because those were the people that were important to me. Coming out to the professional community wasn't something that gave me a great sense of relief because, in fact, it was always packed with tension and pressure. Every time I came out to another person or another person called up and said, "I heard you wear women's clothes now." That would be how the whole thing would get translated. It was always kind of a tension thing, so I can't say it was exhilarating or relieving or anything like that.

The reason really that I came out professionally is I believe that coming out is really a political act and a political responsibility of any invisible minority. There are all kinds of invisible minorities. At this conference I think we're probably concerned with gays, lesbians and transgendered people as invisible minorities. But the minority can be invisible in many, many ways. The people that clean houses in South Africa are probably an invisible minority. And a lot of labor workers who work, and farm workers, are kind of like an invisible minority until they make themselves visible. So to me coming out was a political act.

I finally learned from experience, and a lot of this I learned through the March on Washington that Phyllis spoke to eloquently, that invisibility is weakness and visibility is strength and power. In a democracy, how can you count votes of the invisible? Ghosts don't vote.

MARCH'S PUZZLE ANSWERS:

O	I	N	A	G	E	R	A	L	D	I	N	E	R	E	G	I	N	A		
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Sami Rae Shaw, who designed the crossword puzzles that appeared in Renaissance News and reprinted here in Cross-Talk, passed away in January. Renaissance has several of her puzzles backlogged, however, and they will appear in the future.

Therefore, everybody who doesn't come out is actually hurting everybody who has come out. The more you think about that, that's really true. By not coming out, you may be protecting yourself from some personal harm but you're also hurting every other person who already has come out because you're making them look like a smaller minority than they really are. So, I encourage everybody to come out and to get out.

You won't be thrown in jail. One thing that gave me tremendous strength and confidence was listening to Phyllis' stories last year. She told how in way after way after way she came out in the seventies. She kept saying over and over again, "If I could do it in the seventies, the you can do it in the nineties." Those words ring in my ears all the time and they give me strength all the time.

Your life has to be really worth living, and if, in the end even, you were to give your life to help millions of other people achieve their self expression, that's probably the most significant thing a person can do with their life. Chances are very unlikely anybody here will have to give their life to come out. Probably what will happen is it will become old news in about six months to a year and you go back to your business. But you will have, in your life, done a revolutionary personal act, something that you'll be proud of until the day you die and something that will help millions of other people throughout the world.

The leading European legal scholar on transsexualism, John Doek, has just finished a comprehensive report on European transsexual law. He noted that there seems to

O	Y	D	C	K	U	G	J	H	S	G	L	L	N
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F	C	J	E	A	N	E	T	T	E	Z	K	L	N
L	V	N	L	Z	I	D	L	L	E	A	K	A	A
P	N	I	L	U	G	A	A	L	R	R	G	H	W
G	L	J	Y	S	K	L	D	E	H	U	I	S	J
C	I	K	R	A	I	A	M	O	U	A	N	A	C
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J	D	R	R	Y	C	O	N	N	I	E	E	Y	V
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be a relation between the openness, the level of acceptance by society, and the prevalence of transsexualism. So what he was saying is the more open society is, the more transsexuals there appear to be. Now, that's a very astute observation and a sensible observation. People come out of the closet: they're not afraid they'll be shot. This leads to a medium range estimate for the number of transsexuals in the world. This medium range estimate is based on the incidents of transsexualism in Singapore. Singapore is known, throughout the gender and medical community, as having a very high level of acceptance for transsexuals. In Singapore, the government funds the transsexual operations. In fact, in the studies that have been done by cultural anthropologists, Singapore has the highest documented incidence of transsexuals per thousands of people. Based on the Singapore statistics, which are roughly one out of every ten thousand people are diagnosed transsexuals by psychiatrists, there would be one million transsexuals in the world today.

If one assumes, as is pretty much seems to be accepted in the community, that there are ten to one hundred times as many transsexuals that do not seek medical assistance for their sexual identities -- in other words, that are more like transgendered, they're crossdressers -- as do seek such treatment then there would be anywhere from ten million to one hundred million transgendered people in the world today. Ten million to a hundred million, ten million is more than the population of Sweden: a hundred million is more than the population of France.

I think if you say that even in a relatively open environment -- and I see one of our audience saying Singapore is no longer open and now arrests transsexuals -- and I personally don't know if there is any open country in the world today -- in fact I'll say I don't think there is any country in the world today that's, what I would call an open environment for gays, lesbians or transsexuals, because there's no country in the world today where gay people can get legally married in the church marriage sort of sense -- I think the one in ten thousand incidence is a very conservative figure. Then multiply that by the number of people that don't seek anatomy changes, but are satisfied by hormones or just cross dressing, and you're looking at, I think, a minimum really of ten to one hundred million transgendered people in the world. That's a hell of a community. That's a hell of a constituency. Get out. Come out for all of them, for all of us and for the future.

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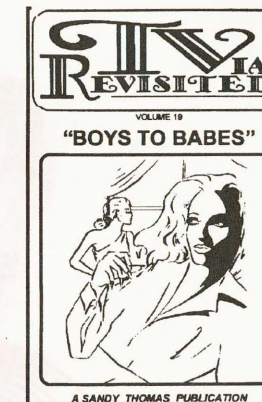
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