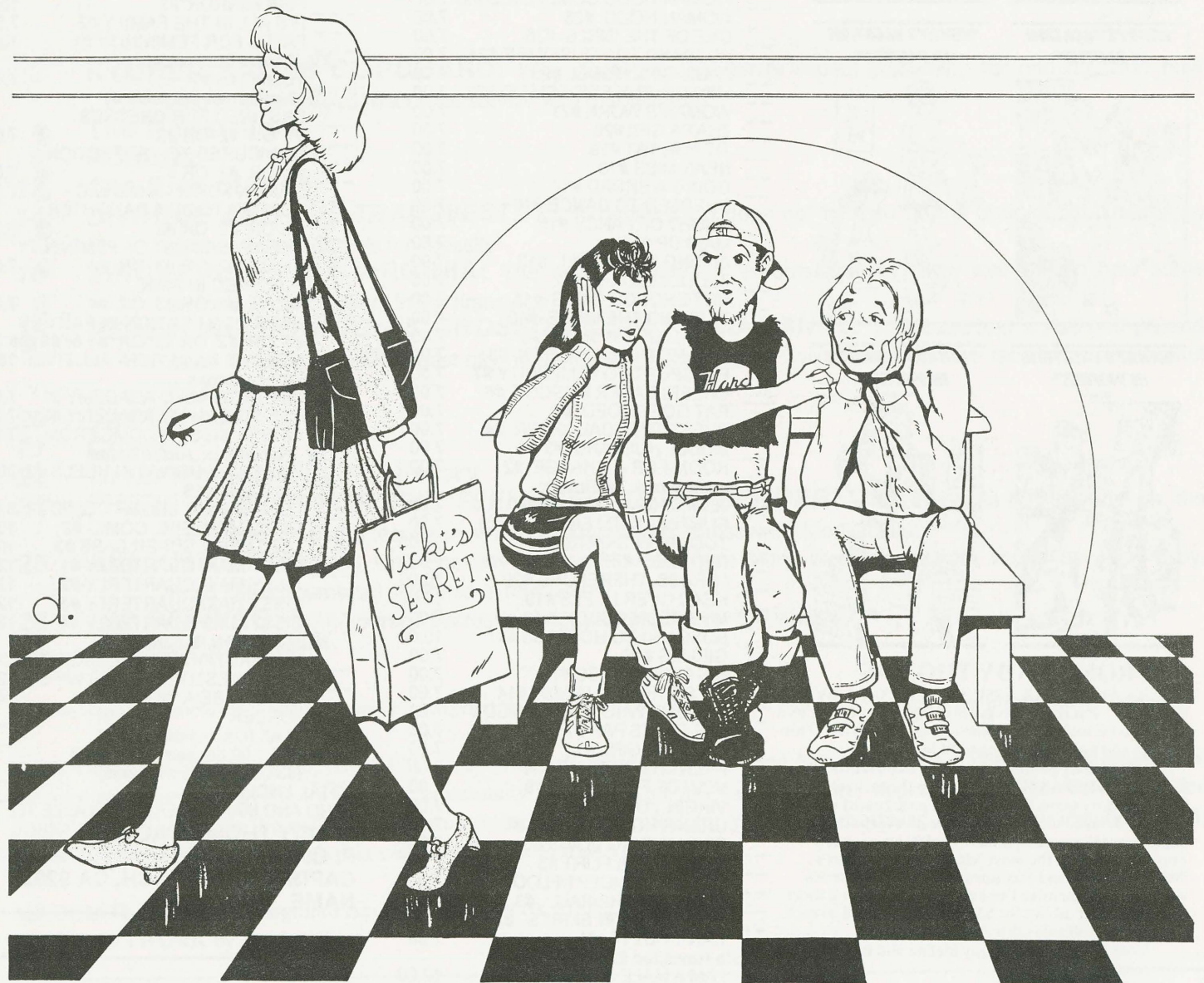


# CROSS-TALK

The Transgender Community News & Information Monthly

#77

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# CROSS-TALK

The Transgender Community News & Information Monthly

MARCH 1996  
(ISSUE #77)



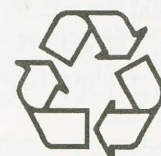
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- 31 **Events Calendar**

Dr. Anne Vitale, who wrote the "T Notes" column, has resigned from the **Cross-Talk** staff, owing to increased demands of her practice on her time.

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## KYMBERLEIGH'S CLIPBOARD

### THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT ...

by Kimberleigh Richards  
Publisher & Managing Editor

In the process of streamlining operations here at **Cross-Talk**, one of my pet peeves has surfaced. And though I've never editorialized about this subject, it has irritated me for some time now.

What bothers me is the attitude of many in this community that all of their needs should be offered them on a silver

platter at little or no expense to them ... an attitude that has resulted in the loss of several community resources and weakened several others. It bothers me not just because the two transgender owned-and-operated businesses I am part of are feeling the pinch of a lowered economy which this attitude exacerbates (and I'm sure the economy is a small part of the attitude) but also because I see a disturbing trend here that is based on selfishness rather than selflessness.

when information providers started charging for access to that "free" information. TANSTAAFL, you know. After sending my reply, I started thinking about the break-even status of Cross Connection, which I own a minority interest in and act as system administrator of. I constantly field requests from people who want us to have

local access numbers here, there, and anywhere they happen to be, and they are not swayed by the fact that it is far less expensive in the long run to pay our annual membership fee and their monthly phone bill than it would if we charged by the hour and recovered the cost of providing that "luxury" of a local

number. Worse yet are the people who dial in and set up a "demonstration" account to look around, then leave -- never to return -- when they realize that they'll have to subscribe to get access to the "juicy" stuff. TANSTAAFL again.

Let's talk about the vendors in our community who set up stores specifically to serve our community's needs, and who bend over backward to provide products and services our community says it wants. Do we treat them any better? No, we don't.

One of our advertisers, responding to his clientele's request for reasonably priced gowns and furs, bought out inventories of clothing wholesalers who were closing their doors. He paid less than fifty cents on the dollar (still investing thousands of dollars) in order to offer what our community *said* they wanted, at a price far lower than the mainstream was offering. The reaction? "Well, gee, these are nice, but you want too much." He *still* has 90% of the inventory, unsold, hanging on racks in the store, and may have to lower the prices to what he paid just to get out from under the investment. I'll lay odds that even then, his customers will think his prices are too high. TANSTAAFL.

I know of at least two other community vendors (one of whom is a transgendered person herself) who are hovering between loss and break-even, because the people who come in to look at their merchandise usually leave empty-handed. They are looking for a "bargain" so they don't spend their money in the store which directly supports our community ... but they would probably be the first to cry loudly if those stores weren't there the next time

they wanted to "browse". We lost one such store last year; I wonder how long the other two will hold on. But don't even suggest TANSTAAFL to the "browsers" ... they'll be insulted.

Sometimes I think that we were much better off before we started going public ... before we started demanding tolerance and acceptance by the "real" world. Because in the "bad old days" we at least cherished the efforts by others who were willing to take risks to provide the support our underground community needed. Now, as I said at the outset, everyone *expects* things to be given to them, with no cost or risk. TANSTAAFL.

TANSTAAFL: There Ain't No Such Thing As A Free Lunch.

I only hope that our community comes to realize that they have been inadvertently callous to those who have balanced their ability to "make a buck" against the need for our community to get what it needs at a reasonable cost. I hope that it doesn't take the continued disappearance of resources that have become too expensive to maintain, to get us to cherish the ones we have left.

This is not about my personal survival, although I *have* put service to our community above my personal obligations. (My dentist, who is also a **Cross-Talk** subscriber, will testify to that ...) It is about a true sense of community; supporting each other and building on that foundation.

Because, you see, support is a *mutual* thing, and it is only by being willing to give at least as much as you receive that it continue to exist.

The sooner we as a community acknowledge this principle and live by it, the sooner we will *deserve* to call ourselves a community.

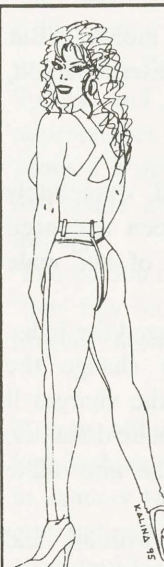


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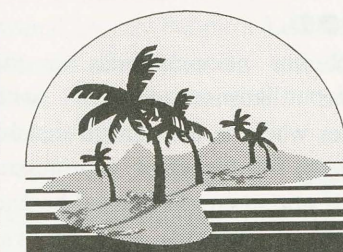
**"I see a disturbing trend here that is based on selfishness rather than selflessness."**

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I'm not going to rehash what I said last month about the necessity of dropping retail sales of this magazine, but it's fairly obvious that part of our problem (I just don't know how big a part) was the reluctance of our community to go into the stores that carried us and buy a copy of **Cross-Talk**, which would not only have helped support this operation, but would have reinforced the decision by each store's manager to carry us in the first place.

I will, though, relate what finally caused me to write this editorial; responding to a request on the Internet for information on Biblical passages regarding transsexuality and on transgenderism among American Indian tribes, I sent e-mail indicating that we had published excellent articles on both subjects in the recent past and that they were available in back issues. I got back a reply that said (quote): "I never pay for any information that I can get free on the Internet." What a lovely attitude. For less than \$20, the questioner could have both received the information she sought and given a little support to one of our community's businesses. I will also share with you my response: I told her I hoped she remembered her words

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## The NewsQueen

by Paula Jordan Sinclair

Transsexuals are in the news this month. But unfortunately, the news is not good -- job discrimination, family problems, and the like.



A transsexual teacher who a doctor said desperately wanted affirmation of her womanhood has been sentenced to four months in prison for fondling six of her male pupils.

Nancy Misenti, 35, of Manchester, Conn., begged the judge at her sentencing hearing in January to change the sentence, saying she would have contested the charges if she thought she faced time in prison. "The public defender, the experts all said this kind of thing was an impossible outcome," Misenti said.

In imposing the sentence, Sullivan said Misenti had refused to acknowledge she did anything wrong and that he believed therapy alone would not rehabilitate her. "Something needs to be done to get you to realize what you've done," he said. "It is unlikely the children who have been molested will ever look at teachers with the same awe as they had before."

Misenti was charged in April 1994 with six counts of fourth-degree sexual assault after six East Hartford elementary students aged 9 to 12 alleged she fondled them by placing her hand down their pants. Misenti at first denied that any improper touching took place. Then she entered no-contest pleas to the charges.

Her attorney, Todd Edgington, said Misenti admits she improperly touched the boys. But he insisted she was not a pedophile. "I think she desperately needed affirmation from children that she was a real woman," Edgington said, quoting from a doctor's report on Misenti. "So strong was this need that it overpowered her judgment." In court papers, medical experts testified that Misenti is not sexually attracted to children but that she did pose a small risk to act "sexually inappropriately" around them.

She still must face civil cases filed by at least two of the boys' families.



Is it transsexual discrimination or isn't it? Well, don't ask Margaret O'Hartigan and Andrea Abernathy of Portland, Ore., to decide.

The two transsexuals are on opposite sides of a proposal to ban discrimination based on gender identity. O'Hartigan lead a contingent of transsexuals to a city council meeting

in January and formally requested that the city's Human Rights Commission to hold hearing on the issue of discrimination against transsexuals and transvestites.

A week later, Abernathy publicly stated that there was no discrimination in Portland. "There are people who look at us kind of funny," she wrote, "but to be discriminated against in any business, conveyance or employment? No." While the commission holds hearings on the issue, Abernathy's group has promised to hold counter hearings.



Considering all the things that *could* have gone wrong, Daniel M., a 40-year-old former Marine, had a pretty easy time of it transitioning to Dana Marie. His second wife at first cried when told the news, but in a few days she agreed to stay married and even coached him on how to look and act as a woman. His employer, an electronics giant in suburban Chicago, and co-workers, took it in stride even though "I literally left on Friday as Dan and came back Monday as Dana." Even the state bureaucrats in Arizona and Illinois dutifully issued a new birth certificate and a new driver's license.

But then Dana ran into the U.S. Passport Agency's "gender cops." They first refused to change the sex on her passport until she legally changed her name. She did, but they didn't. So she moved up the date of her surgery, but even after her doctor wrote a letter saying that he had performed the operation, the Passport Service refused to come across with the new document. Their complaint this time was that the doctor said he "performed" the operation, not "completed" it.



Donald McCloskey, a professor of economics at the University of Iowa, was likewise blessed with understanding from his bosses when he announced that he was going to become a woman. But his sister, a professor of psychology in Arizona, was not so cooperative. She had him involuntarily committed on grounds that he was manic-depressive just a few days before he had his name legally changed to Deirdre. (JoAnn Roberts has additional detail in her "HotBuzz" column this month.)

After two psychological evaluations and a court hearing, McCloskey was ruled sane. "I think it's an outrage against civil rights what they're putting me through," she said. "It's been decades since anyone has been legally prevented from being a transsexual, and that's what these people are essentially trying to do."



Candy Walker's family had the 38-year-old transsexual locked up in a Southern California institution, but it wasn't a mental hospital. It was the Ventura County Jail.

Walker was arrested for breaking into her parents' home and threatening her father with a sword. The elder Walker shot Candy in the shoulder, but she was not seriously

wounded. Both Candy and her mother, Debra, claim that the incident was nothing more than a misunderstanding. Debra said that Candy was at the house to confront her father with the fact that she is a transsexual and that her father couldn't handle it, and that they want to drop the charges and get Candy released from jail. But the D.A. refuses to go along, saying that the crime was not just committed against the Walkers, but against the people of California.

Transgender and gay activists say that Walker is being kept in jail primarily because she is a transsexual.



China's leading dancer, Jin Xing, is a staunch advocate of artistic freedom and truth. That is why he made sure the public last year knew a sex operation had changed him from a male soloist into a female one. But Jin discovered that exposure to the limelight, personal opinions, and individual choices can be perilous in a system that roves between the lures of capitalism and the restrictions of communism, even though her operations had official government sanction.

In January, Jin, 28, made her debut as a woman in the modern ballet *Black and Red*, which she choreographed. But she was allowed to dance only after a week of discussion by Communist Party hard-liners and liberals on whether it was proper for her to perform in public.

"I am a woman now and people have to respect my choice," Jin said after the *Beijing Youth Daily* described her as a "transvestite" and one party official complained: "This person should not be on stage. He had a sex change." But a sellout audience of 1,130 at the Poly Plaza Theater -- owned by the People's Liberation Army -- enthusiastically cheered Jin's dancing and demanded four curtain calls from the ballerina who had been a male colonel in the same army.



One has to imagine that Jin's adoring audience went to the theater for the dancing and not for the novelty of seeing a transsexual ballerina. After all, the idea of changing gender roles is not exactly new in Chinese theatrical tradition. But the same assumption cannot be made about American audiences who still consider drag on stage as avant garde. How else can one explain the spate of drag plays, television shows, and even Tupperware parties?

*Tupperware parties?* For the last recorded three-month period, Jeff Sumner, has been the most successful Tupperware salesman in the Los Angeles area and the seventh most successful in the Pacific Region. The reason is that Sumner has a gimmick. He sells the handy kitchen containers in drag.

Sumner got the idea of selling Tupperware in drag from his mother. "It started as a joke," he said. I wanted to have fun with my character work as an actor. Believe it or not,

Tupperware allows me to do that. Pam Teflon (his name for the character) is performance art. She's mid-America trying to be hip." At first, Sumner appeared only at gay Tupperware parties, but word spread and Pam began making regular appearances in the Los Angeles suburbs, averaging three or four parties a week.

"He puts on a real show," said Leslie Bradley, co-owner of the L.A. Tupperware franchise. "He has good product knowledge and excellent customer satisfaction. He works it like a real job. It's a new twist, not just a gimmick." At one party, Pam wore a coral chiffon gown with matching lipstick and pumps. A bow of the same pastel shade adorned her platinum blond bouffant pageboy wig. She camped it up with various containers, posed for snapshots, and made about \$500 in sales -- twice the Los Angeles average.

"People don't just sit there and buy Tupperware," she said, "they buy into Pam Teflon's world. She's hysterical, and they like her legs."



If drag will sell *Tupperware*, imagine what it will do for high fashion *menswear*. A big series of Paris fashion shows in January turned up some amusing ideas to counter the gray suit and tie syndrome.


Jean-Paul Gaultier must be the winner for most amusing, subversive show. In an elegant 18th century mansion, he put on a superb tongue-in-cheek version of a '50s woman's couture show, complete with little gold chairs and no music. Big, muscular hulks marched out in a parade of costumes that culminated in bustiers, bustles and trains over their adorable lean silk pants and high heels, their heads done in chignons and feathers. The clothes' descriptions were read in exquisite, high camp fashion by Maud Molyneux, a ponytailed male journalist wearing a dress to match those worn by the Dior salon ladies announcing the program.

"Ensemble for flea market," Molyneux announced for an outfit labeled Salle Drouot, the famed auction hall. Narrow leather pants, chains at a hip and bow on a hat were the features of this costume. "Everyone enjoyed it, but will anybody except drag queens wear it?" one fashion commentator asked.

The show actually included real clothes for men. But the

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crossdressing returned as a coda for the tradition bridal ensemble -- a guy in a pearl-embroidered outfit with a train, feathered codpiece and all.



Just about the same time Jean-Paul was sending his muscular hunks down the runway in high heels, Oxford University Press was publishing *Fetish: Fashion, Sex and Power* by Valerie Steele. In her book, the noted fashion historian unites the worlds of fashion and sexual fetish, and explains why fetish fashions have gone mainstream.

In other book news, Sullivan Press of Decatur, Ga., is publishing a new comprehensive set of guidelines for the medical and psychological care of transgender people. The book, by psychologist Gianna Eveling Israel and physician Donald Tarver, claims that shifting gender through hormone therapy does not necessarily have to be linked to sexual reassignment surgery. *Recommended Guidelines for Transgender Care* is scheduled to be released next month.

It seems that Jayne County's autobio has an American publisher. Serpent's Tail brings out the paperback version of *Man Enough to Be A Woman* (with Rupert Smith). Ads for the book have already appeared. How's this for an attention getting blurb? "The original rock 'n' roll transsexual tells all in a shocking yet touching memoir ..." Also available in America is *I am my Own Woman*, the autobiography of Charlotte Von Malsdorf, Germany's most celebrated transvestite. Having killed his abusive Nazi father during World War II, Lothar Berfelde dubbed himself Charlotte (after his crossdressing aunt's lesbian lover), and has lived openly as a transvestite since the 1940s.



Tupperware, high fashion, and celebrity autobiographies aren't the only things that sells better with drag. The high camp movies *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane* and *The Bad Seed* were the inspiration for two drag plays presented recently.

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All actor-producer-director Danny Schmitz does to portray Rhoda Penmark in his shameless rewrite of *The Bad Seed* is don a little girl's pinafore and a pig-tailed wig. Noting the hair on Schmitz's legs, one L.A. theatrical critic said the play should be titled *The Bad Wax Job*.

Baltimore's 14Karat Cabaret mounted a version of *Baby Jane* with an all-male cast. Not a particularly innovative idea, you may say, considering that both Bette Davis and Joan Crawford, who starred in the movie, are drag icons. But the actors who play the roles in *The Two Janes* make no attempt to imitate their famed predecessors. Ms. Sinclair supposes that's what passes as imagination these days.



One review of *The Two Janes* said that the production was in the tradition of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. To real fans there can only be one *Rocky*.

Now there are two. A Broadway revival is planned for the fall. Sandra Bernhard will take on the role of Dr. Frank N. Furter.



Ms. Sinclair can remember the days when a bunch of kids (generally led by Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland) would say "Let's put on a show" and end up in a Broadway theater. Nowadays, the amateurs are more likely to end up on the local public access cable channel. A bunch of kids in Seattle did that, and *Su-An's Closet* was the result.

Hostess Monica Stevens (a.k.a. Jim Peters) presents an absurd mix of home-made videos with only two unifying themes -- paying homage to 1970s television shows and drag.



Maybe the folks who produce *Su-An's Closet* are on to something.

Programming on the tube now suggests that Retro TV may not be bad idea after all. Take a recent Jerry Springer show. (Please!) A parade of former guests from past show reappeared to confront people they didn't like with taunts, threats, and expletives. During one exchange, a man dressed in overalls and trucker cap identified himself as a "redneck faggot" and yanked the wig off a hefty man dressed in women's clothes. "Look in the mirror, heifer," the redneck screamed.

And fans wonder why Ms. Sinclair has retired from the talk show circuit!



Television redeemed itself *vis a vis* drag last month with a program on -- where else? -- public TV.

An hour-long special *The United States of Poetry* featured local poets reading their works and several famous folks reciting poems. The reciters former President Jimmy Carter, Johnny Depp, and Lysipinka reading from Elizabeth Barrett Browning.



Major celebs Diana Ross and RuPaul teamed up for a music video filmed on the streets of West Hollywood in January for Miss Ross' new release of *I Will Survive*. Miss Ross sang the Gloria Gaynor disco hit from a float in what was supposed to be West Hollywood's annual gay pride parade. Along for the ride were Miss Ru and four backup singers (three drag queens and one real girl). Also in the parade were members of the Los Angeles chapter of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.

Look for the video on MTV, VH-1 and BET.



For perhaps the strangest emergence of drag we turn to rap music ... in Japan.

Rap is big in Japan, and one popular group goes by the name Geisha Girls. But underneath the traditional wig, kimono, and white face paint are two men.

Rap meets glam.



But as drag enters new realms, it seems to be loosing ground in traditional venues.

February was the deadline for Legends, a popular Raleigh, N.C. nightclub, to comply with a long-standing Raleigh ordinance which requires businesses featuring female impersonators to obtain a license for an "adult establishment." The problem is that it is much tougher to get the required license under the city's tight zoning restrictions. For example, adult establishments cannot be closer than 2,000 feet, but an adult bookstore with the appropriate license is just across the street from the drag bar.

Legends appealed to the city Board of Adjustment for a zoning variance and the board's vice chair said she would be inclined to grant it were it not for the specific zoning code that is attempting to strictly limit all types of adult establishments in the state capital.

"I don't think drag is adult entertainment," said Victor Parker, who performs at Legends as Victoria Parker. "The rest of the country has been able to bring it into the mainstream with films like *To Wong Foo* and *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. Raleigh should be able to, too."



If Legends closes, Vicky and the other girls are welcome to come on up north to Atlantic City where drag is a real growth industry.

Bally's, the long-running home of "An Evening at La Cage," has some competition from the Trump Taj Mahal. "Cowboys LaCage" is billed as "A musical comedy revue with female impersonators bringing your favorite country and pop stars to life -- direct from Nashville!"



Drag performances of a different sort are causing trouble for a Chicago bar.

Police and the city's Liquor Control Commission have tried to shut down El Gato Negro on the North Side because of complaints that transgendered customers use the bar as a base for prostitution. According to police reports, two patrons solicited sex from an undercover police officer, and local alderman Eugene Schuller said he has personally witnessed prostitutes coming out of the bar and "flagging down cars." Owner Geraldine Lambert claims that the bar has been targeted for official harassment because of prejudice against her transgendered customers.

Officials dispute the assertion and note that since they began proceedings to close the bar down, the problems have abated.

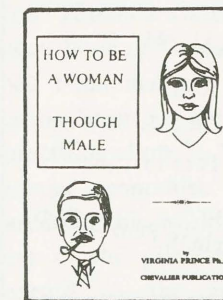


A bit further west in Iowa City, transvestites and transsexuals are treated better. The city unanimously approved an amendment to add gender identity to the city's human rights ordinance.

A month ago, Iowa was the scene of a battle over family values as the GOP presidential hopefuls each claimed to be more conservative than the other. Almost lost amid the Republican campaign rhetoric was the fact that Democrats caucused as well. The caucus in an inner-city Des Moines precinct, for example, will be held at the home of Danny Bolt. He's not worried about having enough room.

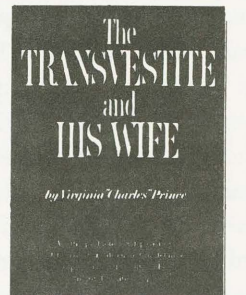
"There aren't very many Republicans here, so it's not like

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we're going to strain the foundation," Bolt said. "I could prove in court that there are more transvestites who live here than Republicans."



Those of us who live in sophisticated urban areas are often surprised with the acceptance afforded to crossdressing in the hinterlands. Take the case of Dale Miller, 37, who is the manager of technical services at the University of Arkansas and teaches a computer class there. What makes Dale unique is that along with his sport coat, shirt, and tie, he also wears a skirt, stockings, and high heels.

For years Miller said he fantasized about wearing women's clothing, but it wasn't until early last year that he got up the courage to actually do it. After his wife filed for divorce, Miller started wearing his mixed ensemble to work.

"At first there was no problem," he said. "The students are broad minded and respected my right to wear what I wanted." But then a local newspaper published a story about Miller's wardrobe, and several alumni called the chancellor to complain. As a personal favor, he asked Miller to wear men's trousers and shoes to work.

But Miller still wears skirts and heels away from the office, like "when I go to the lumber yard or hardware store or for a game of pool at the neighborhood bar." He

also wears skirts and heels on dates with his girlfriend. "On our last date we went to a restaurant," he said. "She wore jeans and a T-shirt. I wore a black pullover and a charcoal skirt with high heels. Sure we get looks -- but I don't let people intimidate me." Miller says he has 20 skirts and a dozen pair of high heels. He wears a size 11 double wide shoe which he has to special order (probably from Sexy Shoes, if Ms. Sinclair can judge by looking at the photos that accompanied the article).



Joe Buskar of Woodbridge, N.J. doesn't let other people intimidate him either. But being 15, he has to follow rules. One of those is no more skirts to school.

Joe started wearing skirts on weekends after his sister dared him to. Then his friends dared him to wear one to school. He got away with it for half a day until school officials told him to remove it (he was wearing jeans underneath).

Buskar says he doesn't understand why he can't wear a skirt to school. "Girls wear guy clothes, he said with a shrug. "I feel comfortable wearing these clothes." Buskar's mother was upset by the ruling and believes it violated Joe's First Amendment rights. "I bring up my kids to voice their opinions, but they go to school and learn that's not good," she said. "He likes to wear nail polish and likes to dye his hair." When kids act unconventionally, school administrators "can do whatever they want."

Maybe when Joe graduates from high school, he will attend the University of Arkansas.



Elsewhere in the Garden State, a former state trooper is challenging his dismissal from the state police. Kenneth Ruff says that it was racial discrimination that ended his career. The state says it was a crossdressing incident nearly six years ago.

Investigators say two Newark police officers saw a person, believed to be Ruff, running into a parked car early on an August morning in 1990. When they approached the vehicle, they found the person hiding in the back seat and wearing only lingerie and stockings. He was also wearing a wig and makeup. The man allegedly identified himself as Ruff, and showed the police officers a trooper ID card and a badge.

The crossdressed man said he was working undercover to help a friend who had AIDS. Ruff denies that he was the man.



*This month's salutes go to Vera Rae House, Charlene Day, Telzey Adams, Suzanne Hensel, Stephanie West, and Stephen Hunt because they sent Ms. Sinclair clippings regarding crossdressing. You will be similarly saluted for your contributions, sent in care of Cross-Talk.*



## HotBuzz

by JoAnn Roberts

"Diplomacy is the art of letting someone have your own way."  
-- Daniele Vare



The last coupla months I been apologizin' for mistakes left and right and this month is no different. Last month I attributed my opening quote to the wrong performer/writer. Glenn Frye didn't write/perform *In the Garden of Allah*. That honor goes to Don "Dirty Laundry" Henley.



I see *Transgender Tapestry* finally made it on the street ... to mixed reviews. The redesigned magazine looks good although they seem to be backsliding on photo reproduction. Well, maybe next time they'll get it all right. Seeing as how their layout person walked out on them, I'd say they did a great job just getting the issue out. However, some advertisers were not happy with their placement in the new tear-out Directory of Organizations & Personals. No one wants to be in the throwaway section. Overall, it looks like they're developing a nice commercial publication ... only problem is, that ain't what it's supposed to be. See, the IRS frowns on 501(c)(3) organizations using their tax exemption as an unfair advantage to compete with commercial products and services. The whole idea behind the exemption is for the organization to provide for the unfulfilled needs of the community it serves. With magazines like *LadyLike*, *Cross-Talk*, *Crossdresser's Quarterly*, and others already on the commercial market, trying to turn *Transgender Tapestry* into a commercial publication could cost IFGE its tax exempt status if they're not careful.



JUMPSTARTing the new year is a new group in New Jersey: Jersey United Meeting Promoting Sane Thinking About Relating to Transgender people and issues. JUMPSTART is a support/empowerment group for people who are interested in promoting Transgender rights and supporting Transgendered people. This is not a "dressing" group and they do not require any individual to dress in any particular way. Each JUMPSTART meeting has two parts. One part will be a support/anonymous sharing function where those who wish to share and support may do so. The second part will be a topical discussion pertaining to Transgendered Issues and Rights.

JUMPSTART meets every Tuesday Night from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm at the Central Unitarian Church in Paramus, New Jersey. Call (201) 262-6300 during business hours for more information.



Last month I reported on TYS, TransYouth Services, headed up by Dee Stallworth. Ms. Stallworth has informed me that TYS has started a peer support group for transgendered youth and their families. Ujima meets on Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm at 1207 Chestnut Street, 4th floor, in Philadelphia. The group is facilitated by two associate coordinators Reno Wright and Niambi Robertson. Ujima is the third principle of Kwaanza and means "working together." For more information, call Ms. Stallworth at (215) 724-4610.



Talk about being "out," you can't get more out than Dierdre McCloskey. McCloskey, who I met at the Be All last year and who attended my Pocono Weekend, was the subject of a *Boston Globe* article written by David Warsh. Here's how Warsh described McCloskey: "In all of present-day economics, there is no livelier writer than D.N. McCloskey. A former University of Chicago price theorist, a distinguished economic historian, ex-editor of a major journal, and a longtime student of the rhetoric of the field, McCloskey is at 53 a senior figure in the American Economic Association, one of six elected members of its executive committee." The *Globe* piece goes on to describe a recent article by McCloskey in the *Eastern Journal of Economics* titled "Some News That At Least Will Not Bore You" [Editor's Note: McCloskey's article will appear in a future issue of *Cross-Talk* as a guest commentary]. To wit: "No, I am not gay. I am cross-gendered, and at age 53, having been a good soldier for four decades, I am doing something about it. Not to startle you, but I am becoming a woman economist." Warsh then describes the brilliant career of this world-renowned economist. Bringing up the rear of the piece was news of how McCloskey's family reacted to the revelation that she is seeking sex reassignment surgery. Her wife quietly divorced her. Her children were shocked, but McCloskey's biggest problems came from her younger sister. The sister twice had McCloskey committed, each time being led away in handcuffs for fear she might harm herself. The second time occurred before a meeting of the Social Science History Association at which McCloskey's work was being discussed. Both times McCloskey was restrained for brief periods and then let go. When last seen Dierdre McCloskey was attending an economics conference in San Francisco and although somewhat worn from her experiences, nevertheless a seemingly much happier person. (Thanks to Diane from Delaware for bringing this to my attention.)

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One of my fave magazines was *Spy* which I thought had gone out of business, but, no, they just went bimonthly. The February issue has the now infamous *Spy* 100, a list of people, organizations and things that annoyed the *Spy* staff in 1995. Well, we made the top twenty. Yes, Item #20 is "Transvestites Go Mainstream. Nothing pumps up box office profits like carefully calculated outrageousness." The same issue carried an article titled "The Man With The Golden Jugs" wherein is described chemically induced breast development in men (gynecomastia) from pesticides that mimic estrogens. Holy Hooters, Batman, you mean I could grow boobs by sniffing DDT? The article says that pesticides used on fruits and vegetables may be responsible for the increase in what has been a relatively rare disease.



*Pump Up The Volume* is the new tune being "sung" by Sandra Bem, well known author of *The Lenses of Gender*. Until recently, Bem has tried to minimize the relevance of the male/female masculine/feminine quad by minimizing its presence in social and psychological life. But now, says Bem, perhaps the way we should do that is by proliferating categories of sex/gender/desire. In the *Journal of Sex Research* (Vol. 32, No. 4, 1995, pp. 329-334) Bem discusses the work of three scholars who are central to this theme of proliferation. Included in the triad are anthropologist

Mary Douglas, philosopher Judith Butler, and developmental geneticist Anne Fausto-Sterling. Fausto-Sterling has been mentioned here before for her 1993 article "The Five Sexes: Why Male and Female Are Not Enough." However, of interest here is Bem's discussion of Butler's book *Gender Trouble: Feminism and The Subversion of Identity* (Routledge, 1990). One of Butler's arguments is this: all gender is drag. Or, rather gender is an imitation of some phantasmagoric vision of what a man or a woman should be. She says there is nothing more natural, original or unconstructed about a female dressing up like a woman than a male dressing up like a woman. Bem says, "That, of course, is also why all the many dressed-up, made-up and coiffed-up women ... look, to my eyes at least, not like women, but like people of whatever sex trying to look the way they think women are supposed to look." Now, I like the way these two women think.



I'm tellin ya, ya gotta read everything these days or you might miss some really cool stuff. Like in the February issue of *Wired* (the darling of the net set), I found a review of a comic book called *The Spider Garden*. It is, they say, "a mix of sci-fi, Japanese folk tales, and palace intrigue with pansexual groupings of women, men, mixed-genders, and machines." Oh, that sounds like it might be fun. The story centers around an androgyne Shaalis (she don't look like

no androgyne to me) who receives a slave as payment of a gambling debt. That's all of the plot I could glean from the review. If you're interested, the comic is available for \$11.95 from NBM at (212) 545-1223, or by fax at (212) 545-1227.



On to fashion news ... I received a new mail order catalog from a company called City Spirit and I have to tell you that I fell in love with their clothes. For example, there's a knit jacket dress made of Rayon and cotton that just too elegant for only \$128. Many of the clothing selections go up to size 18 and some up to size 20 (that's a 36 inch waist). Call for a catalog: 1-800-240-7057, between 7 am and 9 pm Central Time.



The hot colors for Spring are citrus based, Lime Green and Lemon Yellow. These colors are showing up everywhere, including the type of just about every cover of every fashion magazine. The only problem here is that these colors are for the slimmest figures only. If you really must wear these "in" colors, try them in a tee rather than a dress or suit. Teamed with black or white, they can really make a statement.



Another hot look for Spring is the pantsuit. (Personally I choose not to wear slacks if I can avoid it.) Again, the look is slim with cigarette slacks and a variety of form fitting jackets.



My makeup teachers always told me never, never wear blue eye shadow. All the makeup books I studied said the same thing, so imagine how surprised I was to see blue eye shadow touted as the color for Spring faces. Yuck! All of the photos I saw made the models look like La Liz in *Cleopatra*. How '60s.



What's new in mascara? The brush. BeneFit's new mascara, Get Bent, has an angled wand that won't get in your line of sight while applying it. You can do the same to your regular mascara by gently bending the wand just below the bristles. The angle should be slight enough for the wand to slide easily back into the tube.



Speaking of mascara, the most popular mascara in the U.S., Maybelline Great Lash (\$4.95) turns 25 this year. They sell about \$300 million of this stuff a year.



A message posted to the <alt.transgendered> newsgroup would seem to indicate that Vernon's Specialities has finally closed its doors. The poster reported the lights were out and the store windows bare.



If you're a big woman, and most of us are, then there's no reason why you can't wear fashionable clothes. Saks Fifth Avenue has Salon Z which offers top fashions in sizes from 14 to 24. A chemise dress can be very flattering to a full-figured woman. But whatever you do, don't wear clingy fabrics like knits and Lycra and don't hide under a tent either.



I love suits and a suit can be perfect for a larger figure. Here's some suit tips ... Wear a suit that follows your natural silhouette but is not too tight ... Have skirts tapered to your knees, you'll look smaller below the waist ... Jackets should hit below the hips ... Keep the suit one color for an unbroken line of color. You will look slimmer and trimmer.



"Short of going to Sweden for a sex change, I've taken this character as far as I can." -- Sylvester Stallone on Rocky Balboa. Hey, Sly, they do that here now.



So, those are my opinions, but, hey, what do I know? I think Brigitte Nielson is Sly Stallone in drag. Comments? E-mail them to <cyberqueen@cdspub.com>. Copyright 1996 by Creative Design Services.

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## The Diva of Dish

by Angela Gardner

Well, I guess it had to happen. Drag is now blase. When **RuPaul** appears on a prime time television show with **L.L. Cool J** and **Howard Stern**, continuing to gratify his not-so-secret crossdressing desires, appears on *Late Night With David Letterman* -- in total RuPaul-type glamour drag -- what's left? When Howard (or should I say, Helen?) jumped up on Dave's desk and did a sensual little drag queen dance, I knew I had witnessed a new day for men in dresses everywhere. It's a paradigm shift. (Bet ya didn't know I knew them big woids.) Now, all you've got to do is say "Hey, I was inspired to wear this gold lame dress by Howard Stern."

After Howard's appearance I rushed to my computer and logged onto the Howard Stern newsgroup to see what the **Queen of All Media's** fans thought. I expected to see some derogatory comments. (After all, Howard went so far as to shave his legs and get a pedicure.) There were none. People talked about how much cooler Letterman was compared to Jay Leno's treatment of Howard a few weeks earlier, but nobody put Howard down for dressing up. I guess *Miss America* must have softened them up.

So girls, our heroes Howard and RuPaul have lead the way. It's up to us to take advantage of the trend and wear your best frock where ever you want. Oh my gosh, am I socially acceptable? That's great, but I'll bet it means nightclubs won't let us in for free (or even reduced admission) anymore. I think I'm gonna hate being mainstream.



**THIS GIRL NEEDS A CUP:** And I'm not talking about a B cup, either. A Mid-Western girls' basketball team was taking a beating and the coach became convinced the other team was using a male ringer. He was so convinced that after much debate with the rival coach, he got a volunteer to check the other team's underwear. The volunteer looked at panty waistbands, and checked the girl's backs for bra

straps. Everyone was properly attired in feminine undies and the game went on with no further suspicions, but we all know how much the gender of your underwear has to do with your physical gender -- now don't we? I don't know if the rival team really had a guy in drag playing for them but I can imagine a crossdressed ringer breathing a sigh of relief after the undie check, and saying to himself, "Boy I'm glad I wore proper foundation garments for this game." Moral of the story, never judge a book by its cover, or a player by her panties.



**LEGUIZAMO LEAVES OFF LURKING:** After *Too Wong Foo ... John Leguizamo*, the luscious **Chi Chi**, kind of disappeared. His Fox TV show *House of Buggin'* was canceled and in interviews he said that he was going to avoid drag roles for a while. Even in these enlightened times a star has to watch out for typecasting. (Just look at **Tom Arnold**. Oh, right. That's all Tom can do.) Well, Leguizamo is coming back. A new production company called the Bubble Factory is producing a film called *The Pest*. It stars John Leguizamo as a mischievous scam-artist trying to outwit his pursuers by taking on a "range of colorful personas." The pursuers are after his head -- literally. The original screenplay is by David Bar Katz, and is set for production to commence in early spring. Paul Miller is set to direct. If they shoot in the Spring the earliest we're likely to see the film is in the fall.

There's been no word, so far, on the nature of those "colorful personas," but we can only hope we'll see John's alluring legs again as he fulfills all our TV fantasies and disguises himself as another hot babe. I've always said, if you're hiding out, isn't drag one of the best ways to disguise yourself? If he doesn't do drag in this movie I know I, for one, will be pissed at *The Pest*.



**AND DON'T MISS BLISS:** While there's no drag or transgender activity in this film it does star **Terence Stamp**. You'll remember his stirring performance as the transsexual in *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen Of The Desert*. Here we get a chance to see him in his native habitat, playing a male role. Just because there's no transgender interest in this flick there's no reason it can't be sexy. It's reported to be "the hottest, sexiest film of the

year" and they say, "Even if you think you've seen it all you'll want to see this film to make sure you didn't miss anything."

Terence plays a sex expert and surrogate in *Bliss*, so it's sure to show another side (at least one) of his acting skills, and it should be a far cry from his *Priscilla* character. Check it out, en femme of course, and let me know how if it's any good.



**MORE MOVIE NOTES:** Like, hey man, have you like heard about *BioDome*? It's like this bitchin' flick with **Pauly**, like, **Shore**. I mean, you know, if you're a dude who likes to dress like a babe, there's like this scene where Pauly dresses up. Unfortunately, (dropping the Cali dude speak) that's probably one of the only interesting things in this flick about two slackers who get locked into an eco dome experiment. (There are a couple of hot actresses, so there is another interesting thing, or two.) Even that's not too exciting since Shore uses a mop for a wig, and the cups from a couple of plumbers helpers as bra cups. It's most likely not worth spending the admission price just for that. Lapsing into dude speak, totally gnarly. Whatever.

Moving back to an area of intelligence and the enlightened use of crossdressing in comedy those funny Canucks, the Canadian Monty Python, **The Kids In The Hall** have been quietly slaving away on a KITH movie. **David Foley**, the Kid who has broken into U.S. network television with a role on NBC's *NewsRadio* said, in an interview on *The Late Late Show with Tom Snyder*, that the Kids have finished shooting a movie that should have a March release date. The movie was shot under the working title of *The Drug*, but Foley thought it unlikely that title would make it to the theaters. As soon as I hear what they're calling it I'll let you know. The Kids always did such a good job with their crossdressed characters on the small screen with a limited budget, I can't wait to see what they do with big bucks behind them. I hope they wrote in the hooker characters they did on the TV show. I loved those girls.



**TRACEY GETS A DICK:** Yeah, I know it's a bit crude but I needed a clever title for this section. It's all about **Tracey Ullman** (I always wondered if she was related to Liv Ullman?) and her new HBO comedy series. The cleverness concerns the nature of some of the 22 characters she plays throughout the ten-episode series -- a few of them are men. There's no doubt the woman is a chameleon, and her repertoire of characters is awesome, using the connotation that word had before every kid used it to describe his new video game. The new show is called *Tracey Takes On ...* and she and her husband (lucky guy) are the executive producers. That brings a lot more artistic freedom to Tracey and enables her to take a few risks, like

doing lesbian sketches, and playing a few male characters. Two of the men she portrays are **Trevor**, the gay flight attendant, and **Chic**, an over opinionated cab driver of Middle Eastern origin. Chic exudes sleaze -- and chest hair. (I wonder where you get a chest wig?) Tracey says that lately, "I like being men more," though "it's easier being homosexual men." That's funny, I know a few guys who feel that way.

Check your HBO schedule for feature times, kids.

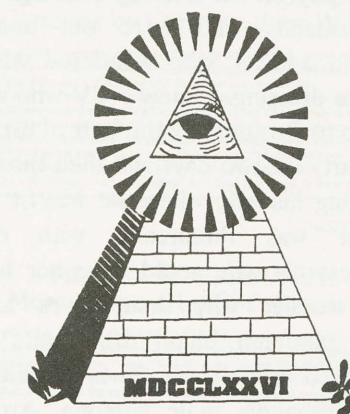


**EXIT, STAGE RIGHT:** I'm afraid this is my last "Diva Of Dish" column for **Cross-Talk**. I have a lot of commitments on my time and have been asked to do more writing for Internet stuff. I'm very interested in moving in that direction and all things being equal I feel I should devote my time to that venue. So, as **Dennis Miller** says, "Guess what, folks? That's the news, and I ... am ... outta here!"

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# DIVORCE AND THE TRANSVESTITE

by Denise Mason

Over 50% of all marriages end in divorce. A most common and unfortunate statistic that I am sure we have all heard before. Yet nowhere in that sentence did you hear the word "transvestite". But you did hear ... "all". The divorced TV quickly lays blame on himself, or -- more than likely -- the ex lays blame on him and his TVism for the breakup of their marriage. After all, she does need an excuse or reason for divorcing him. And by bringing up his TV secret, she feels he won't discuss it and let the proceedings go her way. In many ways, the TV does give the wife reasons to divorce him, but divorce can happen for other reasons than being a TV.

First, we should realize that TV or not, whether the wife knows he's a TV or not, whether the interaction between TV husband and wife is there or not ... the divorce rate will still exceed 50%. And that by his realizing this, she can't lay a guilt trip on him.

Now, I do feel that we can add a few percentage points because of some TVs' behavior. I've known marriages where for the privilege of being allowed to dress the TV husband had to pay off his wife by sending her to Paris. I've known husbands who were out and out liars, philanderers, and addicts, who wondered why their wife was against them dressing. I knew a TV who would have a lost weekend, go to Boston, buy the best of everything from heels to wigs, party for two days and then throw everything away, never telling his wife where he was or what he was doing. Another was threatened with divorce and humiliation unless his wife could have her female live-in lover. Others wonder why their wives had difficulty accepting their platinum blond dyed hair, or size 38B hormone enhanced breasts, or 2" fingernails while they were in their husbandly male persona. Are they really serious? Yet, they really thought that nothing had changed in their husband/wife relationship, and the wife should not have a problem.

How about those marriages where the TV husband doesn't confide in his wife at all. Do we think wives are naive? After all: "Where does he go, that once a week, or month? Why is the car trunk (or closet door or workshop) locked? Why does he have a P. O. Box, yet I never see any mail? Why are his legs shaved? Who is this Jack, who I never met, yet he says he's meeting to see a Knicks game with? Does he pluck his eyebrows? Why does he lately bring me flowers? He hasn't in the past eight years. Does he have a girlfriend?" Not only are these TVs not communicating with their spouses, they are lying to them. The mortar that binds these marriages is not there. Add a few more percentage points.

O.K., so now he shares the secret with the little woman, shares tears, she hugs, he hugs, she reads up, they go to counseling ... maybe a S.O. support meeting or three. He feels he's got no guilt now because he's told her everything and has placed the burden of acceptance and their relationship solidly on her shoulders. So, guilt-free, he does

## Is crossdressing a factor in divorce? Only if you let it ...

the once a month TV meeting, hits the gay bars, maybe goes to Texas, Oregon, Provincetown and back to Atlanta for a few of the TV conventions. Of course, you can't look shabby, so the family budget is diminished by the purchase of some really sexy gowns a few wigs and of course those 6" patent leather high heels in various colors. She really loves all this honesty ... add a few more percentage points.

He can't handle why he dresses, so he just has a few drinks. "Hey, I'm looking good tonight so why not go to the local gay bar. God, I didn't realize how much I drank." Car accident, police, embarrassment, argument ... two more points.

I believe honesty is the most important ingredient in any relationship. And cooperation, understanding, tolerance go hand in hand. But even being an honest, loving and dutiful husband, divorce still happens more than 50% of the time. It's not an encouraging story, to realize that TV or not ... honest or not ... all marriages have the chance of failing half of the time. But it's also encouraging to realize that despite your being honest and a loving husband, if you divorce, it's probably not because you are a crossdresser. It's probably due to other things.

Being involved with divorced groups for over four years, I have found that 90% of all divorces are caused by one or both of the following reasons: Addictions -- alcohol, drugs or gambling -- or infidelity. Physical and mental abuse, molestation, mental illness, criminal inclinations and others, are also definite reasons, but if you lump everything else you can think of together, they make for only 10%. Imagine what percentage TVism is the sole reason to divorce. Maybe less than one-tenth of a percent.

Since we say 50% of all marriages will end in divorce, we can also say that 50% of all marriages will remain intact. If we do not create cause for divorce by either addictions

or infidelity or the other partner does not contribute because of addictions or infidelity, we have to assume there is another reason. Typically, lying is the biggie. And that covers most of the examples I've written about above.

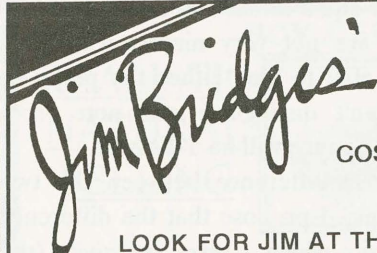
Throughout my personal divorce proceedings, I found that my therapist didn't care I was a TV. My lawyer didn't care I was a TV (and even said, it wasn't grounds for divorce and the judge would throw it out if my wife brought it up). And my church didn't care I was a TV, as I explained all of my background in the annulment petition (which was granted) and which was never brought up in personal interviews.

I honestly, therefore, feel we fall victim to society. We fear who we are because others don't understand thus fear us. If we exhibited honesty, were not ashamed of who we are and were just nice people who dress as women, we might be accepted for just that. I found it difficult to be honest with my girlfriend, but would have it no other way. Now, three years later, she is my wife. My dressing causes no friction within the household, and therefore none between us.

There is life after divorce, and I'm hoping this article will help those experiencing any difficulty in their marriage to truthfully evaluate what the problem might be. That 10% is a large area, and sometimes it's hard being honest with our evaluation.




This commentary originally appeared in the connecticut View and has been rewritten by the author for this reprint.



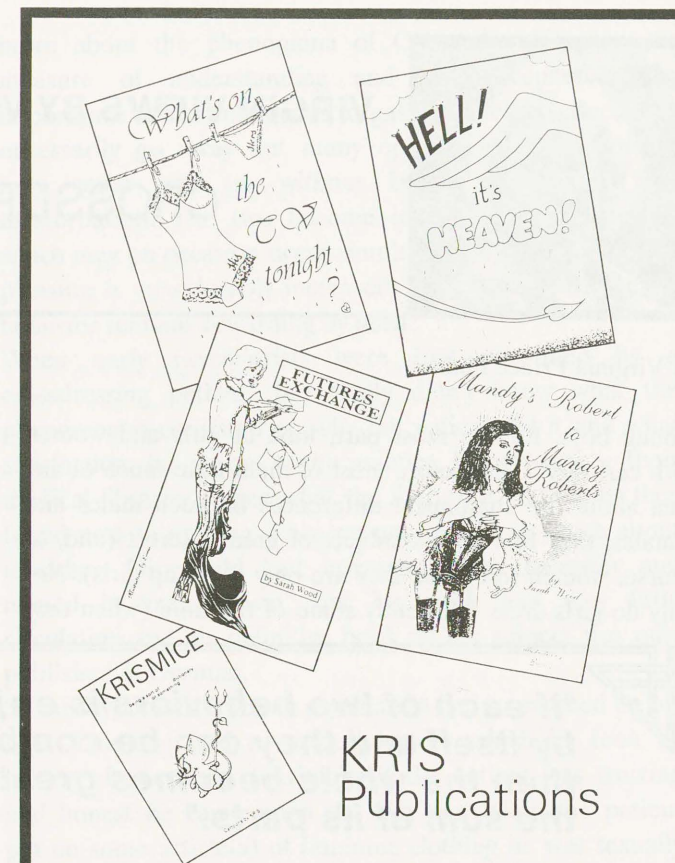
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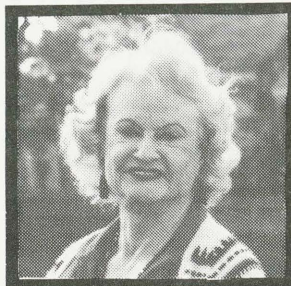
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## VIRGIN VIEWS BY VIRGINIA

# CROSSDRESSING AND EROTICISM

by Virginia Prince Ph.D.

Young boys, for the most part, look at girls and women with curiosity. Long before most of them have much of any idea about the anatomical differences between males and females, they find girls a subject of great interest (and, of course, women too, since they are only grownup girls). Not only do girls dress differently some of the time (when they

can be the same age, same grade in school, same size, social class, intelligence and in other ways very much alike but if both are exposed to the same dressing experience one repeats it and becomes a CD, the other forgets it. Why?

I have often had this question put to me and I have given it a lot of thought. It seems to me that there has to be something about the mental makeup (if we can call it that) of the "pre-CD" boy that is different. I answer the question by asking another question that seems at first to have little relation to the subject. If I were to ask you what inherent qualities do Paderewski and

Van Clybourn have to have to enable them to become great pianists, or Yehudi Menuhin and Itzhak Perlman to become great violinists? Your off the cuff answer is probably "talent" but that is a non-answer because nobody knows what talent is. But I maintain that two genetically determined characteristics would be vitally essential to all four men and all others of equal talent ... manual dexterity and tonal acuity. If you are not very nimble with your fingers you will never be able to play either the piano or the violin, and if you can't distinguish one note from another your musical performance will be a disaster.

There is also an analogous difference between the two boys in my previous example. I propose that the difference lies in two personality traits which I term *sensitivity* (the ability to be aware of and affected by what is going on around you) and *perceptivity* (the ability to perceive the significance of what is happening either to you or around you), both of which must be genetically determined. Thus if two boy scouts are each given a girl's part in a play being put on by the troop, one is very aware of the feelings of the feminine attire, makeup, etc. and is perceptive of what a girl is, how her clothes are part of her, etc. The other boy puts on the clothes because he is told to by the scoutmaster and he goes through the play without ever "feeling" the character of the girl he is playing and without any perception of the significance and importance of the experience of "girlness".

So much for the emotional underpinnings of crossdressing. Now let us look into an important and generally misinterpreted aspect of crossdressing in an established CD. He may (or may not) find his early experiences in

crossing the line into femininity to be erotic. The fact that masturbation is performed with the dressing in some feminine clothing does not warrant the idea, commonly stated in psychiatric literature, that CDs dress "for the purpose of erotic enjoyment." If each of two behaviors is enjoyable by itself and they can be combined so as to enjoy both at the same time, then the whole becomes greater than the sum of its parts. (For example, many people just love the taste of chocolate and enjoy it whenever they can. Thus just plain chocolate in the form of a candy bar or as chocolate syrup is good by itself. At the same time, many people enjoy ice cream and particularly chocolate ice cream. Now if chocolate syrup is poured over chocolate ice cream so that they can be eaten together, as a chocolate sundae, the enjoyment is doubled over that of the ice cream or the syrup alone.)

Such is the case with dressing in feminine attire and achieving sexual pleasure at the same time. Those religious types who condemn masturbation in its own right as being sinful will surely regard it as doubly so when it is combined with crossdressing. Thus the guilt generated in the young man is twofold. Just as two good things added together generate greater pleasure than either one alone, so two bad things add up to greater sin, shame and fear than would either alone. (I do not consider masturbation a "bad" thing, but society generally does, so I use the term "bad thing" in their sense.) But as he grows, and learns

more about the phenomena of CD and achieves some measure of understanding and self acceptance, the importance of simultaneous orgasm wanes. It does not necessarily go away but many episodes of crossdressing may come and go without being accompanied by masturbation. The two become independent experiences which may on occasion occur simultaneously. If they do, the pleasure is considerably increased; if they don't, then each behavior remains rewarding by itself.

When early psychiatrists were first consulted by a crossdressing patient they really didn't know what the phenomenon consisted of, why the patient did it and what satisfactions he got out of the practice. If they went to their medical libraries to see what the literature had to say they found next to nothing, since no one else knew much about it either. Hirschfeld had investigated the behavior and named it "transvestism" but his work had very little circulation and his definitive book on the subject was only published in German.

So our hypothetical young psychiatrist had to proceed on his own. This required a medical history which he took by means of questions. Inevitably, if the patient was trusting and honest he came upon the fact that when the patient put on some article(s) of feminine clothing he was sexually aroused and masturbated. Simple logic dictated that since masturbation frequently accompanied crossdressing the act of dressing was done *for the purpose of* arousing the

**"If each of two behaviors is enjoyable by itself and they can be combined ... then the whole becomes greater than the sum of its parts."**

are not at play), but they play different games in different ways (non-competitively) and are interested in different things. They cry easily and boys are given to understand that for some unknown (to them) reason boys do not hit girls regardless of what they may do to a boy. And why not, the little boys think? What is so special about girls? So all of this intrigues them no end.

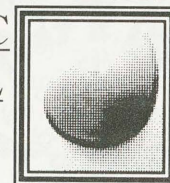
As they grow older, biological differences begin to show up in both sexes and curiosity again increases. Girls become something kind of special for intangible and unexplained reasons. If at this age (or even earlier in some cases) a young boy gets into some article of clothing more characteristic of girls' dress he is transported over the border and into that world of mystery and intrigue. Since anything having to do with girls is erotic to an adolescent male, this close contact with a part of "girlness" is bound to excite the young male. He gets an erection, and since there is nothing to do with an erection except to manipulate the penis to a climax, he does so. He may have experienced masturbation before but whether he has or not the excitement of the contact with some aspect of "girlness", together with the physiological response, is going to make a lasting impression on him and he is going to repeat the experience as soon as it is again feasible. Thus the practice of crossdressing is begun.

Now I will concede that not *all* boys who may get into panties, a slip or some other items of feminine clothing, whether voluntarily, circumstantially or involuntarily (someone else gets him into the items) will become crossdressers, but a great many will. The question of why some don't is far less obvious than why many do. Two boys

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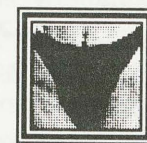


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individual so that he could enjoy an orgasm. It never seemed to occur to the psychiatrist that masturbation was a *result* of the crossdressing and not the reason for it. Anyway, since the subject was not well understood, it provided an opportunity to add to the doctor's reputation by writing a medical article about the behavior and having it published in a respectable medical journal. So, since practically all case histories investigated by any psychiatrist or psychologist showed masturbation as occurring along with crossdressing, it soon became the general opinion that the dressing was for the *purpose* of inducing an erection and the resulting masturbation. So naturally this put crossdressing in the category of a sexual perversion until it was upgraded to a paraphilia (a medical term meaning, in general terms, a love of something alongside, or parallel to, the normal).

If the matter is looked at with common sense it is quite predictable. Not just young men but also very senior citizens enjoy looking at scantily clad young women at the beach, as Las Vegas showgirls, in stage shows or in the pages of *Playboy* and *Hustler*. They can get sexual stimulation from such displays. So a boy or man having gotten himself all gussied up en femme (to the best of his ability) now looks in the mirror and sees an attractive young woman. Since she will do anything he asks her to do such as pulling up her skirts and showing the tops of her stockings or her lace trimmed panties he asks her to do

that and gets exactly the same result as if a real girl did the same thing. That is, he gets an erection and the only thing you can do about that is to masturbate the penis into submission. So he does and the doctors, learning about this begin to prattle about masturbation being the reason for the crossdressing. (Of course, they never ask our young CD what his reaction would be if a young woman in real life did the same thing in front of him.)

While there may be some conscious and intentional aspects of sexual arousal, the great majority of it is visual and automatic. You see somebody or even a picture of a somebody in a revealing outfit and the response is automatic. Your brain may realize that the girl in the mirror is only yourself and should not be arousing but your eyes don't have intelligence and judgement so ...

Why do you get dressed up to look as nicely feminine as you can? You want to feel that you are as attractive as the girls you see around you all the time. If you are moderately successful seeing the mirror reflection of your "girl within" why shouldn't the image have an effect on your boyself who is doing the looking? If you still harbor guilt feelings about the erotic aspects of crossdressing, you may discard them. Much of animal reaction goes through the eyes and so it is with humans.



*Virginia Prince is a co-founder of The Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess) and the former publisher of Transvestia magazine. She may be contacted at P.O. Box 36091, Los Angeles CA 90036.*



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## REPEALING HOUSTON'S CROSSDRESSING ORDINANCE

by Phyllis Randolph Frye

Over fifteen years have passed since August 12, 1980, the date the Houston City Council repealed Section 28-42.4 of the Code of Ordinances. Specifically, that ordinance made it illegal to dress in the clothing of the opposite sex. (How that was defined -- with newspaper advertising "menswear" for women -- always puzzled me.)

This ordinance had its roots in combination with other ordinances that went all the way back to the year 1904, and was the one used to arrest and hound Anthony "Tony" Mayes (who later became Ann Mayes). At that time, it was also being attacked by several "Jane Does" in federal court. In researching its history, I learned that the ordinance was used to allow homophobes in the police department to go into bars and arrest any female impersonator who was not on stage or not in transit to the dressing room.

I also learned that the ordinance was used to allow homophobes in the police department to go into our female bars and arrest any lesbian wearing fly-front pants. (As I said earlier, how "clothing of the opposite sex" was defined always puzzled me.) Houston activist Ray Hill told me that a bunch of women hired a big name attorney (possibly Melvin Belli) to try those cases; the attorney got the cases dismissed but the ordinance remained on the books.

As you may know from reading my previous articles in *Cross-Talk*, in September 1976 I began my full-time changeover and was subject to enforcement of the ordinance. Shortly afterwards, and terrified of arrest via the ordinance, I wrote to every single member of the Houston City Council. I got one positive response. Within a week after I sent the letters, I was called on the phone by Councilmember Johnny Goyen, who recalled that he had always been puzzled by Anne Mayes but was especially upset over the way that she'd been mistreated under the ordinance. After reading my letter, we met in his office, and within a few weeks he had me meet Councilmembers Judson Robinson and Jim Westmoreland. (Jim thought I was a joke and tried to persuade me not to have any ties with the lesbian/gay community.)

For the next several years I went downtown several days each week and wrote a myriad of letters and made numerous phone calls. I lobbied municipal judges, councilmembers and anyone else who would listen. I became active in the feminist movement. I joined the League of Women Voters; I still believe that then-LWVH president Lynne Johnson was influential enough to convince many people to the fact that I was serious and deserved their attention. I lectured all over Houston. I

even went into the police station and had it out with Deputy Chief over vice Fred Bankston, at the invitation of then-police chief Pappy Bonds. God must have been watching because I left on my own steam.

I was never arrested, but each and every day for four years I left the house in the morning not knowing if I'd be in

### The story of how Houston's ordinance against crossdressing was repealed 15 years ago.

jail that night. And each and every one of those days, my spouse left for work not knowing if I'd be back home that evening. I've always felt that was very cruel.

In 1979 we had elections for council districts. I invited many candidates to the University of Houston Law School under my authority as President of Law Students, Friends of Gays. That was when Ernest McGowen and I became friends. He invited me to do volunteer work in his office after he was elected. It gave me the opportunity to lobby on the ordinance repeal, while he got the benefit of running ideas and projects by me with my engineering and law backgrounds. It was very equitable.

In the spring of 1980, Councilmember John Goodner caused quite a stir with his remarks about me in session. I recall that Councilmember Dale Gorzinski suggested that I confront him directly. I did, and with tears in my eyes explained that this was not a game or a stunt but a real life situation. Many other council members talked to Goodner privately. By the afternoon, John Goodner, talking to Councilmember Lance Lalor, said that he might have "shot himself in the foot" this time. Lance urged him to move for repeal of the ordinance; he did and Lance seconded the motion.

I kept my distance from City Hall until the repeal went through; Lance called me whenever anything was relevant.

On August 12, 1980 the repeal ordinance was again before Council. With both the Mayor and his deputy out of town, Johnny Goyen was Mayor *pro tem*. The two most vocal opponents were Councilmembers Homer Ford and Larry McKaskle, so City Secretary Anna Russell waited until they were away taking phone calls and then gave the repeal to Johnny. He asked for a vote, and Councilmember Christin Hartung was the sole and only no vote. Homer

(continued on page 29)

## The Bearded Lady

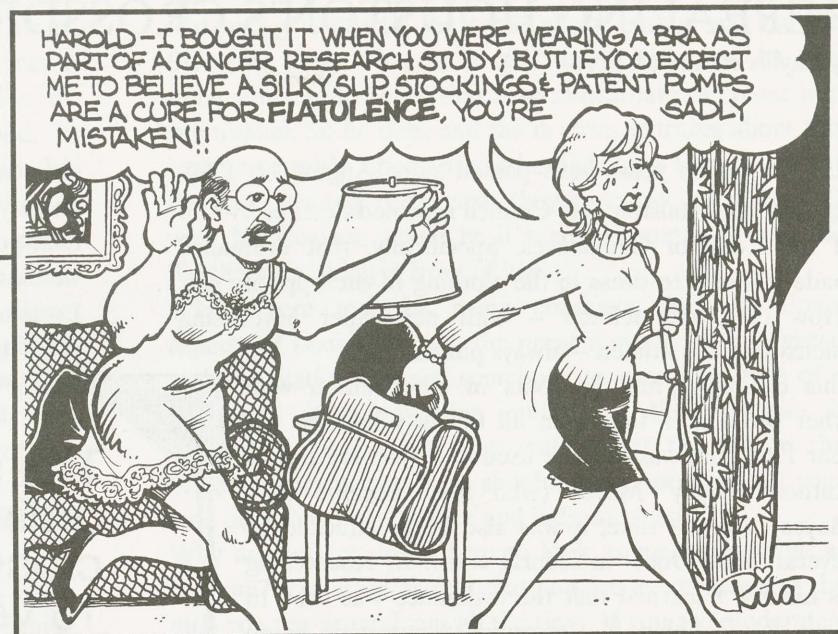
by Ricky Hunt  
Illustration by Rita

I have been indulging in a solitary vice again, but don't worry, I mean reading, not what you thought. While perusing the *Skeptical Inquirer* I came across a review of an odd little tome of pseudoscience called *Dressed to Kill: The Link Between Breast Cancer and Bras*. Now really, what would your average brassiere obsessed crossdresser do but immediately sign on to the library computer and get a copy delivered to the local library to find out what's going on here. You didn't think I would pay for the thing, did you?

The authors, Sydney Ross Singer and wife Soma Grismaijer, have a theory that wearing a bra so tight it makes red marks in the skin or wearing one for more than twelve hours a day restricts the lymph system and thus causes a buildup of toxins in the breast that in turn cause cancer. Unfortunately the book is so riddled with contradictions and inaccuracies I can only assume the publishers were after the big bucks with a controversial topic. While there is much good information in the book, there is no way to tell what's true and what's speculation. To give you some idea of their scientific leanings, when Soma discovered a lump in her breast they decided to seek alternative cancer treatment without even getting the lump diagnosed as cancer. They developed their theory with no testing of lymph function and their sole research was a poorly constructed and poorly controlled survey. It should be no surprise they made no effort to confirm that their cancer group actually had been diagnosed with cancer. Oh, what fools these mortals be! (Thanks, Will.)

In response to all this a spokesperson for the American Cancer Institute Society said, "We look forward to the publication of the Bra and Breast Cancer Study in a peer reviewed scientific journal, where the study results can be properly evaluated."

Hmm ... they seem to think a properly controlled scientific study would carry more weight than speculation and surveys. If you are aware of how scientific studies are conducted (pay attention here ... the latest survey revealed 60% of you haven't a clue) you will know there are two or more groups studied. One is the group you want to test for the phenomena you are investigating, and the other is a control group to make sure the results do not reflect some unexpected effect. Well, my sisters, that's where you and I come in. Can you think of a better control group for this

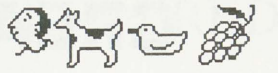


study than a group of men dedicated to wearing bras? Just think of it, by becoming a volunteer in the cause of science you will be able to go to work next Monday morning wearing your favorite black lace bra, as long as you cinch it up nice and tight. I can just see it now, you walk in the door and take off your coat and one of your co-workers in the machine shop strikes up a conversation: "Hey Earl, I notice somethin' different about youse dis morning." "Yeah, Sam, I'm doin' my bit for science. I'm in a scientific study. Da Doc says I gotta wear dis t'ing for the next six months. Twelve hours a day, seven days a week. It's real important, it could mean life and death for some broads." "Ya don't say, Earl. That's very selfless of youse. I'm sure da boss will want to promote someone who is so giving dat he will make such a sacrifice for da cause of science." "Youse may be right, Sam, but I just hope I don't louse up da shop safety record if I get dese hooters caught in da lathe!" Or perhaps you're a high school science teacher, the scene would go something like this, about three seconds after the end of the first period when the principal invites you to his office: "Mr. Smith, several of your students have commented on latest lab session. I must admit I have never considered using the Victoria's Secret catalog as a source for experimental materials." "Why, Mr. Jones, I have always subscribed to the principle that scientific inquiry must be completely unfettered, although I will admit this piece of apparatus about my pectorals is rather constricting. It did serve as a good starting point to explain the fundamentals of dynamic tension." "Fascinating, Mr. Smith. Could I inquire if this ... uh ... experiment was part of the syllabus?"

(continued on page 29)



## CROSS-TALK COMICS



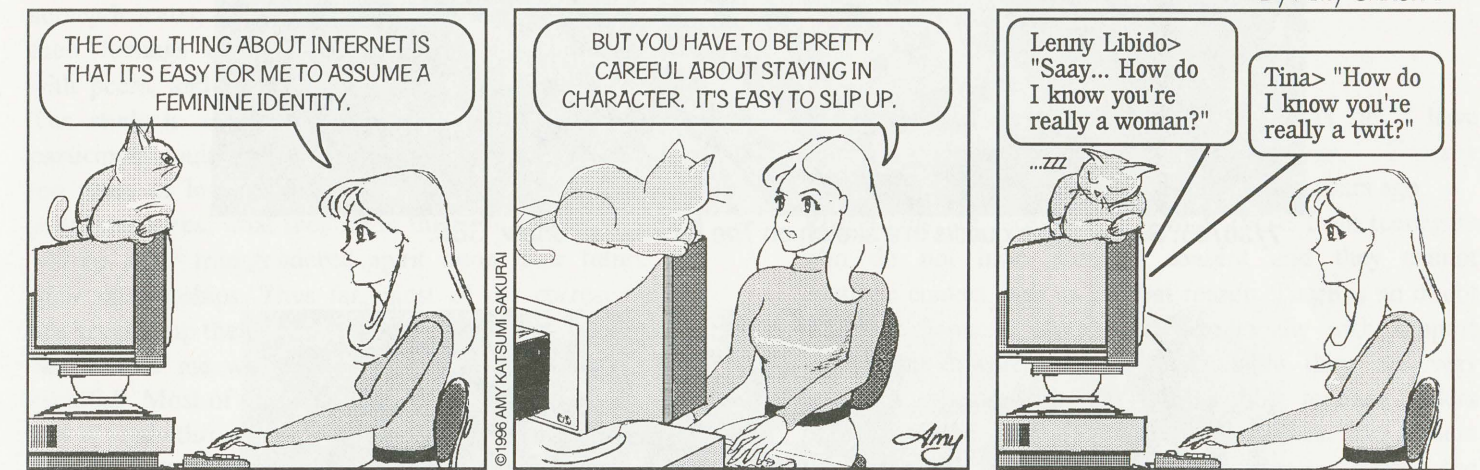
### THE ADVENTURES OF KAREN

by KAREN ANN MICHAELS



### PANDORA'S BOX

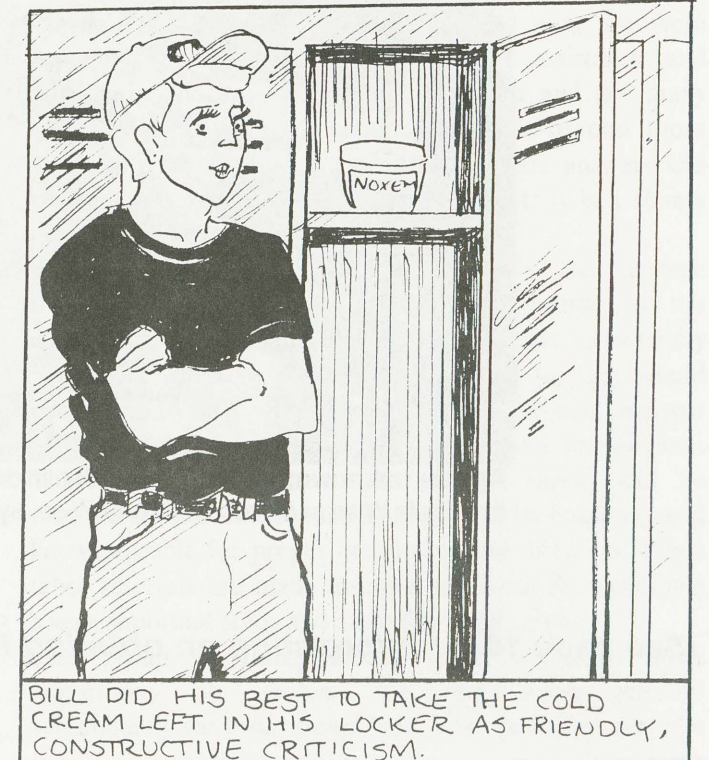
by Amy Sakurai



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



### THE PASSING SCENE by Kay Lightner

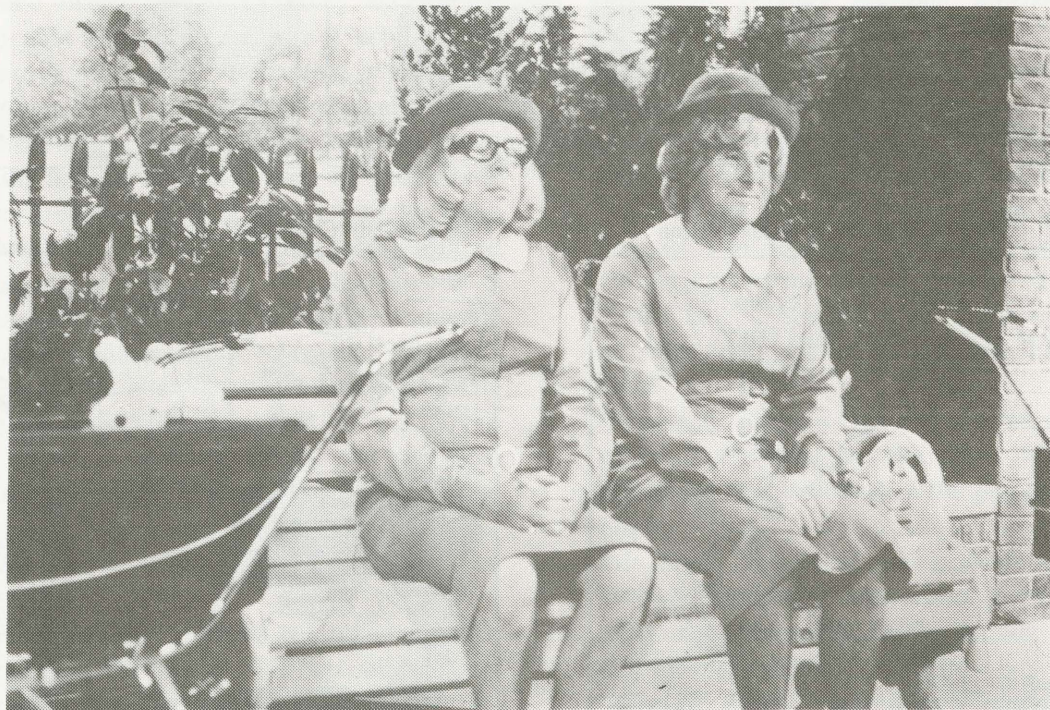


# GREAT MOMENTS IN TV HISTORY

from the archives of Ralph Judd



7/30/65: Soupy Sales guests in a sketch on *The Ed Sullivan Show*, CBS.



Airdate unknown; 1980s: Typical British drag sketch humor featuring Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise in *Morecambe and Wise*, syndicated.

(See page 18 for information on ordering Ralph Judd's movie drag compilation books.)

# THERE IS HELP FOR THE TEENAGED TRANSGENDERED!

by Sheila Kirk, M.D.

A little over a year ago, I took note of Kymberleigh Richards' commentary entitled "What About the Teenaged Transgendered?" [*Cross-Talk #62*] It was provocative, it was searching ... and unfortunately it left "a hole" in our information line that is quite hard to fill.

What Kymberleigh did not know to report, certainly not to her discredit, was that I have been conducting a teenage crossdressing study attempting to bring young males from the ages of 12 to 19 into survey, for over three years. The study currently is comprised of forty youngsters with hopes that many, many more will be included in the future. I exchange with them on a regular basis by letter, phone, and periodic survey learning about their families, their education, their feelings about themselves, their interchange with peers, and where they are going in their lives.

The study is a longitudinal one and hopefully any one participant could remain in contact with me for as much as ten years or longer. I want to know what pathways each youngster takes, what they do in their life and what impact will be their transgendered spirit upon their future and their relationships. Thus far, most of my correspondents are keeping up their contact with me.

But believe me when I say that this is a hard study to establish. Most of these kids are -- or were -- very closeted and it's only through discovery by a parent or a sibling that they are "out." Then it is only with parental permission that they can exchange with me and often a counselor is in the picture. If there is no parental permission, I cannot accept the youngster into the study. Further, if the counselor or therapist who is involved feels that the information or exchange between their teenage client and myself is a problem to their care -- or even if the parents come to believe that I could be influential to their son in whatever way they may perceive -- my contact is then severed and the information lost. Thus I go out of my way to assure the parents that I offer nothing to influence their child, and I assure the therapist that I will not interfere with, influence, or contradict their therapy or advice. I only want information and (to this date) all has gone well. I have retained the confidence of the youth involved in the study, and at times have been able to counsel the counselors and the parents. My ability to discuss transgender issues with the therapist on a professional basis helps greatly. The legal ramifications are always existent; in addition, I have had some 30 instances where parents have halted the informational exchange because they perceived a threat and/or insecurity.

The real problem, however, lies not in satisfying concerns of parents but in finding the youngsters themselves.

Identifying young males who are so deeply closeted and ashamed is very difficult. Generally they are referred to me by members of the transgender community, occasionally by counselors, and rarely by parents themselves who call on our informational lines. My pleas to the transgender community through *Transgender Tapestry* have yielded only

Dr. Sheila Kirk talks about her ongoing research into transgendered teens.

an occasional referral. Why this is so I can't say. I have placed announcements in *Transgender Tapestry* continuously since the study's inception three years ago.

Regrettably, we receive calls here at IFGE from teenagers who do not have parental consent and they cannot continue contact with us for that reason. There is no doubt that this happens more than occasionally with support groups nationwide, and understandably they are very reluctant to talk with and inform their teenage callers because of the potential legal consequences. The callers are frustrated and lost, and the individuals receiving the calls are equally troubled.

After all, all of us were teenagers once, and without doubt we didn't know what we were about, what we were experiencing and where we could get assistance and information during those years. The guilt and the many questions that we have continue through beyond those years into the 20s and 30s without adequate answers and without appropriate assistance and support. It is a shame that it should be so.

There really is no clear pathway for the teenage transgendered until they make an approach to the transgender community. If the transgender community nationwide knew to refer to me and did so, they would permit me to be a very effective pathway for that teenager to counselors and therapists in all parts of the country. That young person and that person's family can be referred to individuals who hopefully will be empathic and knowledgeable for proper counseling and direction. When those referrals are made through me, I can then continue a very important study and expand it significantly.

One group of transgendered youth that has more opportunity of reaching me and being referred subsequently for professional help is the young person who

is very certain of their transsexual identity. These are usually the young, primary transsexuals. These youngsters are more open. They declare themselves to parents and peers from an early age and they tend to identify as transsexual so strongly that parents bring them to counseling early in life. When and if they get to me for my inquiry, they as primary transsexuals are quite sure of where they are and where they are going. To be sure, I want to exchange with them as well, yet they are so vastly different from the teenager who is generally so unsure of his identity and who merely crossdresses. These young people are filled with guilt and concern.

The young primary transsexual can lend bias to such a study as mine and bias must be guarded against in a work such as this. Even my comments and information, when permissible to give, can introduce bias for the long-term evaluation of each person I exchange with. Hence, while I want contact with the youth whose gender role is strongly transsexual, the young man who crossdresses but doesn't know why ... who can't fathom the reason for this compulsion ... who worries and hides ... who is ashamed but yet is driven -- this is the one I want to observe through the years to come.

Another youthful person to be included in such a study is the teenager who crossdresses and is in the gay community. This person usually is quite knowledgeable and generally "out" early in life. They have a strong awareness of self and may not seek counseling. Once again, it is the closeted transgendered youth who needs that counseling and direction but doesn't know how to find it.

There are a handful of mental health-care professionals in this hemisphere who have reputation and notable experience with adolescent and teenage transgendered. Dr. Kenneth Zucker at the Clarke Institute in Toronto, Canada and Dr. Susan Coates at the Roosevelt Hospital in New York City are notable examples. They see moderate

numbers of these youths in their practices and report in the medical literature about their findings. There are, however, far more mental health-care professionals who know nothing about the transgendered population, let alone teenage youngsters who are transgendered. These are the professionals we must reach to inform them that contact with me can provide them access to those in mental health-care who can be of assistance to them. They must also obtain the literature they need to read to be of help to this young client and his family, and here again I can be of assistance. At the same time they can be introduced to my study and to area support people who can help them in the appropriate management and maintenance of the teenage transgendered.

All of us can help this situation by remembering this teenage crossdressing study and my strong interest in being a help to the next caller who is in his teens and transgendered.



*Dr. Sheila Kirk acts as a medical consultant to the transgender community and as a liaison with the medical community. She is based at IFGE, P.O. Box 229, Waltham MA 02254-0229.*

**GRACE AND LACE LETTER**  
 A Publication for Christian Crossdressers  
 Lee Frances Heller Publisher  
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**Dare to wear it!**  
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 (proceeds benefit the transgender community)



## Alternative Presses

by Kymberleigh Richards

My dear friend and frequent contributor, Charlene Day, wanted to review a 1992 book which has been getting a lot of attention in the transgender community, after which I'll be back with some quick 'zine mentions ...



Most couples have problems that are often caused by a lack of effective communication. It is not that they just don't talk to each other. It is due to the fact that the words that one speaks do not always carry the same connotation to the other person. In *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus* (HarperCollins, 1992) John Gray, Ph.D. says that men and women have different vocabularies. He explains these differences by equating men and women to two groups of people from different planets whose heritage and upbringing caused them to have different sets of values and meaning to their language.

Dr. Gray says men mistakenly expect women to think, communicate and react the way men do; women mistakenly expect men to feel, communicate, and respond the way women do. We have forgotten that men and women are supposed to be different.

As the title states, he uses Mars and Venus to represent different cultures, different values. Martians are interested in achieving goals to prove their competence and gain acceptance. They are more interested in objects and things rather than people and feelings. Everything on Mars is a reflection of these values. Even their dress is designed to reflect their skills and competence. Officers, soldiers, cab drivers, technicians, and chefs all wear uniforms to reflect their competence and power.

On the other hand Venusians value love, communication, beauty and relationships. They are more concerned with living together in harmony. In most ways their world is the opposite of Mars, in that relationships are more important than technology, and clothing does not represent position. Gray puts it this way:

*"They do not wear uniforms like the Martians (to reveal their competence). On the contrary, they enjoy wearing a different outfit every day, according to how they are feeling.*

**MEN ARE FROM MARS,  
 Women Are from Venus**

A Practical Guide for  
 Improving Communication and  
 Getting What You Want in Your Relationships

**JOHN GRAY, Ph.D.**



Me again. I've been somewhat preoccupied lately and so there is now a boxful of books, magazines, and the like awaiting my attention. So as to be able to concentrate primarily on book reviews for the next few issues, I'd like to quickly mention four 'zines worthy of your attention:



*TransVamp* has been pre-advertised in *Cross-Talk* for a few months, and the first issue finally made its appearance right before Christmas. For those who have read my reviews of publisher Kalina Isato's *Tales Of A Sexy Vampire* books in #68 and #70, this is more of the same; Kalina is a Philadelphia party animal who also hangs out on the Internet and is very willing to share her secrets, adventures, and opinions. As usual, there are lots of pictures of Kalina. (It wouldn't seem right without them.) This is 34 pages of fun, information, and photos. And it comes with only two ads (ours and Creative Design Services'). Find Kalina's ad elsewhere in this issue to see how to order.



A gay humor 'zine entitled *Jewel Box Review* also turned up over the holidays, and as you might expect there is a

good deal of drag humor included. Editor "Aunt John" (who purports to be running for President *and* First Lady) has a rather warped sense of humor in places; the "Gay Horoscope" feature was a hoot and would even appeal to non-gay readers in many places.

To see a copy of this madness, send \$1.00 cash to John Kurluk, 6212 Holabird Ave. #F, Baltimore MD 21224. And don't say I didn't warn you.



I read a gay review 'zine entitled *Queer Zine Explosion* which comes out several times a year ... partially to see what nice things editor Larry Roberts says about us, and partially to see what new TG-friendly publications have emerged from the underground press.

One recent addition to that list is *Your Head On A Platter*, a compilation of tales which seem at times to be autobiographical diary entries and at others to be surrealistic dreams. In many places, there are references to drag queens, transsexuals, and the like, and the last page indicates that the publisher (a dyke named Rebecca Levi) is looking to include more stories about gender in future outings.

She'll send you a copy of the first issue for \$2.00 plus two postage stamps if you write her at *Your Head On A Platter*,

2336 Market St. #132, San Francisco CA 94114.



I have also received a new issue of *The Satin Shoe*, published by transgendered inmate Pat Earl. Since my review of the first issue in *Cross-Talk* #67, Pat seems to have rallied the support of some kindred souls, since she now either has access to desktop publishing or has found someone willing to do professional layouts.

It's an interesting little (24 pages) 'zine promoting crossdressing as a form of anarchy to overcome the chaos of modern society. The viewpoints come from all over the world, ranging from Swedish lesbians to Wiccans and even Riki Anne Wilchins of *In Your Face/Transsexual Menace* fame.

Pat reports she will be paroled in April; lately I've been having trouble getting mail through to her (magazines come back undeliverable for some reason), but you can take your chances contacting her if you'd like to see what she's up to: Pat Earl #20149-148, P.O. Box 1000, Lewisburg PA 17837.



Next month, I *promise* to go back to writing book reviews. Honest I do.

## HIP PADDING

by Roberta Steel

I've been making hips for many years now.

Everyone talks about breast forms, and hardly anyone talks about hip forms. That always seemed strange to me, since I think hips are a very strong sign of femininity. There are a lot of flat chested women with nicely shaped hips in the world.

I think my homemade pads look pretty good from the front or back, and even from the side. They're made of foam, which is readily available and easy to work with. You can do it the same way as I:

**RESEARCH:** First, look at women to see what you want to reproduce. It might be helpful to go to the library and read a book on anatomy for artists. Pay attention to the differences between men and women in the hip region.

Basically, the widest part of women's hips are about at the level of the leg joint. They taper in toward the waist above that, and the thighs taper in below that. Some women's hips flare out some at the waist; others tend to taper more gradually. The width is pretty close to the overall width across the shoulders. The backside is considerably larger than the male backside, but in about the same location. The waistline is higher than a man's waist.

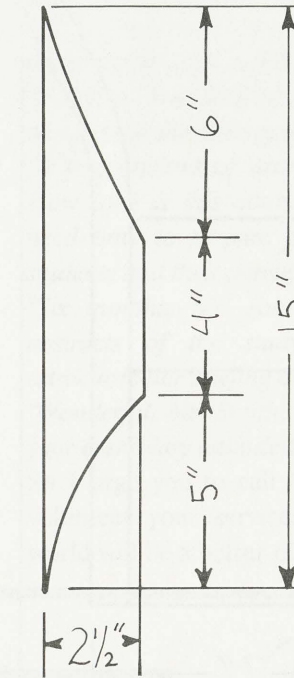
Now, take a look at yourself in the mirror, without clothes. Note the skinny little hips and pathetic backside. Poke around until you know where your pelvis is. Measure the width of your shoulders and hips. (Note: Width, *not* circumference.) You'll need a big caliper for this. I improvised by using two framing squares: hold the long legs together and move the short legs further or closer to act as a caliper.

You want to add padding to your sides, to bring your hip width out to about the same width as your shoulders. You want the most padding at leg joint level, tapering down to nothing at the leg. At the top, you can also taper to nothing, or leave an inch or so for flared hips. The top should come up over the top of your pelvis. I add about two and a half inches on each side at the wide part.

You want to extend your backside further backwards. Your current shape, though too small, is fine. You want a gradual taper to nothing a few inches below your waistline, and you want to taper to nothing at the legs. Pad

the cheeks and legs separately, but have them joined near the top, about at the level where you no longer have cheeks. This gives some separation while ensuring that one side doesn't slip out of place. I add about two and a half inches on the backside as well.

The accompanying illustration shows the size and shape of the side and back padding that I have been using most recently.



**SUPPLIES:** You can get foam at places that sell upholstery supplies, in a variety of thicknesses. You can also get mattress toppers from the JCPenney catalog. I've used 5" thick mattress toppers, cutting the shape of the right and left pieces together, then cutting down the middle to separate them.

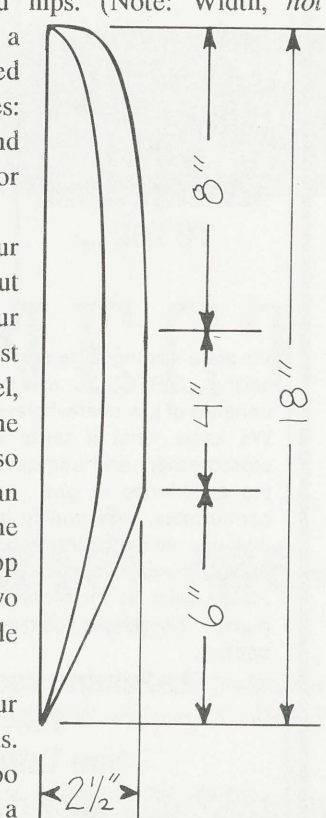
When I first started doing this, I used half-inch thick foam, and I'd recommend starting with this. You just add layers until you get the shape you want; tapering is hardly necessary with this thin stuff. Get the firmest foam you can find: it will last longer and hold its shape better.

**CUTTING:** By far, the best tool to cut the foam with is a band saw, but if you don't have one the next best tool is an electric carving knife. An ordinary knife is next to useless, but perhaps you can develop some skill in using one. Scissors will work on the thin foam, but they make a funny cut on thick foam. See what tools you've got in your toolbox, and try them on some scraps to see how they work.

If you use thin foam, you can glue layers together with contact cement. You don't need a lot, just a few dots to hold the pieces together. This dries very quickly on foam, so don't wait too long to put the pieces together.

**PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER:** Once you have some foam pieces sculpted, you'll need to hold them in place. I use a long-legged girdle with high waistband, zipper, and split crotch. Use your waist measurement as the size for buying a girdle. Long legs allow the padding to taper to the legs; you don't want padding longer than the legs of the girdle. The high waistband allows the padding to come up over my pelvis top, and raise my waistline. The zipper makes it easier to get this all on and off. The split crotch means I can leave all of it on when going to the bathroom.

(Almost anything elastic and snug fitting will work for this. For my first set of hips, I used a pair of pantyhose with



## You can make a difference!

### Help us fight for your right to be transgendered.

In June of 1995, several of the national transgender organizations created the community's first political action committee — GenderPAC. It's purpose is to fund the increasing number of political activities of the transgender community such as the Transgender Lobby Days last October. In just a few short months, GenderPAC, through the evangelism of a few dedicated people, managed to raise and disburse over \$10,000. It is not enough.

It's time for the entire community to pitch in. GenderPAC wants to ensure that your right to work, your right to fair housing, and your right to reasonable public accommodations will not be denied. GenderPAC will continue to lobby Congress in 1996 for transgender inclusion in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). But, we can't do it alone and we can't do it for free. Your tax-deductible contribution will make the crucial difference. Give and give generously. You'll feel really good about it. Send your contributions to:

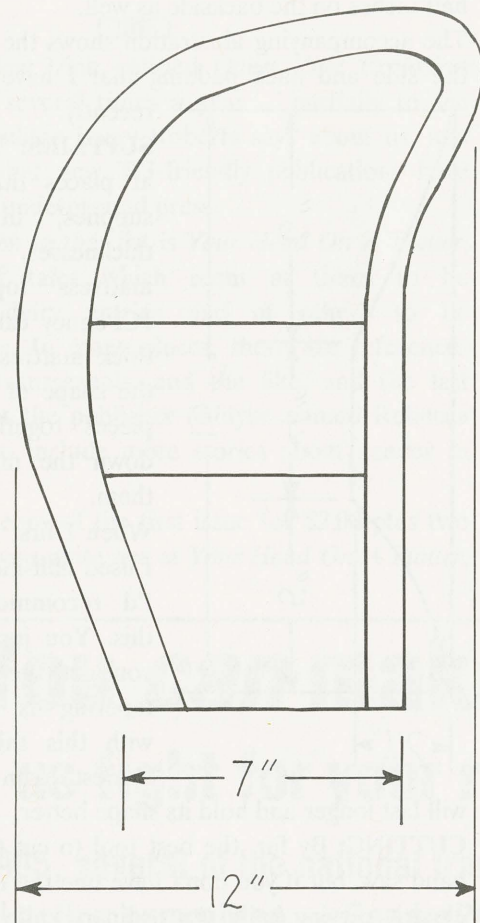
**GenderPAC, c/o IFGE, PO Box 229, Waltham, MA 02154**

This advertising campaign is paid for by Karen Adler as an independent expenditure, and in recognition of the service rendered by *Cross-Talk*.  
GenderPAC members: AEGIS, CTO, FtM Int'l, ICTLEP, IFGE, ITA!, OIGS, REA, TM, Tri-Ess, TOPS

most of the legs cut away.)

Cram the foam into whatever outer garment you're using. This may not be easy; foam does not slide readily on fabric. This is good, really, because it won't slip around. Wrestling the foam into a girdle isn't too hard; wrestling it into pantyhose is much more difficult because the fabric is so flexible. It can be done, though.

You also need an inner liner in order to get into this creation, because without it the foam will not slide over your skin easily. I've found long-legged, very unsexy, women's underwear to work well for this. If you have a split crotch girdle, you will want to split the crotch of the underwear open to take advantage of this feature. Slip the inner lining into the padded girdle; poke the legs down into the girdle legs.



**GETTING IT**

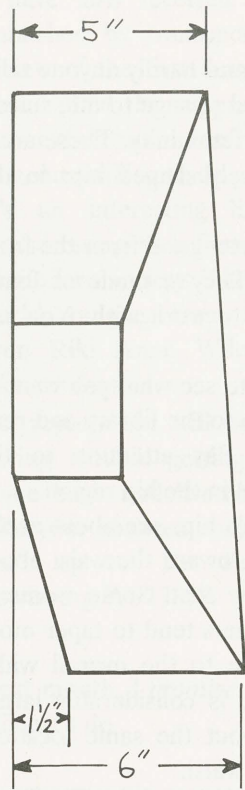
**ON:** Now comes the moment of truth. Sit down, slip your legs into the girdle, and stand up. Leave the girdle below your knees and make any adjustments to the padding so the side pieces are really on the sides and the back piece is centered in back. Now, holding the girdle and inner lining at the top, pull the girdle on.

Take a look at yourself in the mirror. Not bad, right? A definite improvement over the male shape.

**HINTS FOR IMPROVEMENT:** Your first attempt may or may not be what you wanted, but since you made it, you can re-do it until it is what you want. You can wear it a while and then will probably find things you can do to improve the look and shape. The girdle will tend to round the edges of the foam, so even though the foam may have square cut edges, you won't see corners or your body.

Over time, the foam will tend to crush some. This will make the padding easier to put on than it was the first time. After too long a time, the padding will need to be replaced because it gets too relaxed.

How much padding to use? Given the wide variation in hip size and shape, almost anything will do. If you put on a straight skirt and it is tight in the hips and loose in the waist, you may have too much. The hip circumference should be about 10 to 12" larger than the waist.



When I first started padding hips, I frequently hit things with my hip that I didn't hit as a male. A couple of extra inches of width really changes your body space. Putting on clothes is very different with the padding; you have to wiggle your hips into them. Have fun with this.



This article was adapted by the author from one of her posts to the Internet; illustrations were adapted by Karen Ann Michaels from the author's sketches.

**HOUSTON ORDINANCE ... continued from page 19**

and Larry went to Johnny Goyen about five minutes later, complaining that they were unaware the repeal was up for a vote, but Johnny played dumb, and the ordinance was repealed.

The reason why I started this article by recalling the anniversary date is because on August 9, 1990 I received a certificate of appreciation" from the City of Houston for "Meritorious Service to the Community" which now hangs in my office.

**THE BEARDED LADY ... continued from page 20**

"Why no, Mr. Jones. I have been selected to participate in a scientific study on the relationship between brassieres and the incidence of breast cancer in women. Needless to say I'm in the control group."

"So I see, Mr. Smith. May I inquire as to the extent and scope of this experiment?"

"Of course, Mr. Jones. Because of encouragement from the rest of the staff we have expanded it to include an animal study. In a stunning show of interdepartmental harmony, Mrs. Wilson of the home economics department has her students sewing little bitty bras for several rats. They did quail a bit at the thought of designing brassieres with six cups apiece, but we realized each rat could serve as it's own control by only using two breasts for testing."

"Brilliant, Mr. Smith. I assume the biology department

If you have a response to any editorial, news item, or article appearing in **Cross-Talk**, you may write us at P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365-0944; fax us at (818) 347-4190; or send e-mail (preferred) to us via Cross Connection to user-ID <Cross-Talk>, or via Internet to <voxpath@xconn.com>. **Cross-Talk** reserves the right to publish only those portions of a letter specifically addressing the issue. Personal attacks will not be published.

supplied the ... uh ... test animals?

"No, Mrs. Tweed of the cafeteria staff had a far better supply of rats than the biology department."

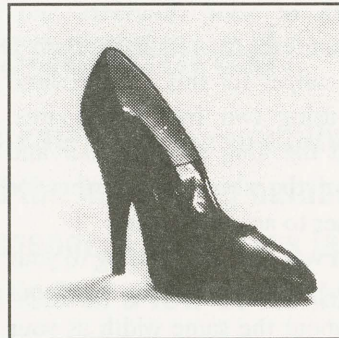
"A fine method of saving the taxpayer's money, Mr. Smith. How long is this course of experimentation to last? I will need time to prepare proper explanatory materials for the students and their parents if it is to be lengthy."

"Six months, Mr. Jones. I would be pleased to prepare abstracts of the study for the staff and conduct an extracurricular briefing on the results of the study."

"Wonderful, Mr. Smith. I'm sure the PTA will be pleased by your exemplary attitude to volunteerism."

So I urge you to call Mr. Singer as soon as possible and volunteer your services; you'll be glad you did and the world will be a better place for your sacrifice.

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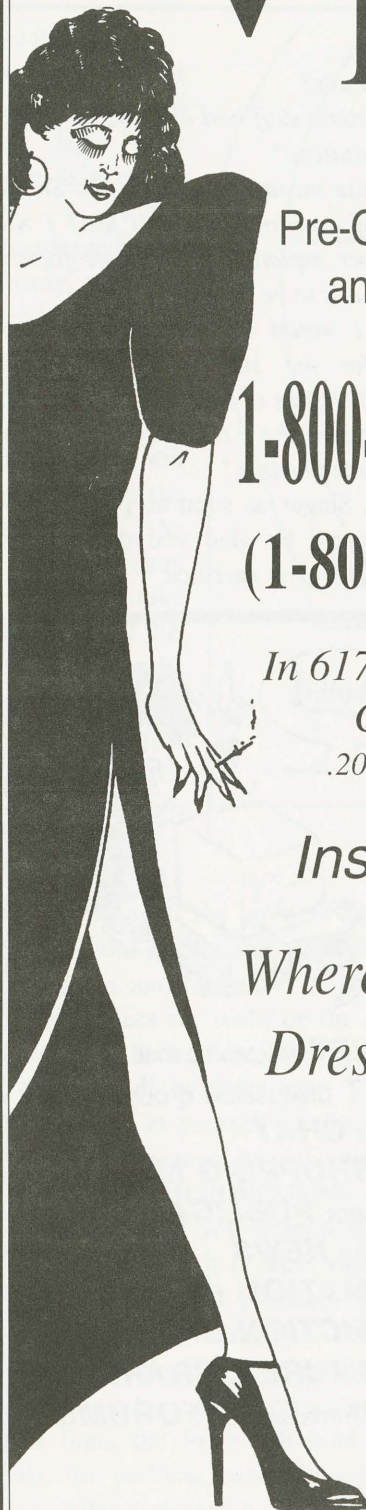
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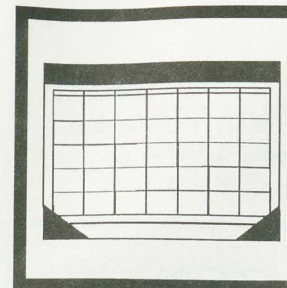
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## EVENTS CALENDAR

**March 24-31, 1996:** IFGE "Minnesota Pride Celebration '96",  
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02154, telephone (617) 899-2212.

**March 29-31, 1996:** 2nd Annual "Spring Gala", Niagara-on-the-Lake ON,  
Canada. Details from Xpressions, P.O. Box 223 Station "A", Toronto  
ON M5W 1B2, or by fax to (905) 627-2362.

**April 25-29, 1996:** "California Dreamin '96", San Francisco CA,  
sponsored by Powder Puffs Of California and co-hosted by ETVC,  
Diablo Valley Girls, Rainbow Gender Association and Sacramento  
Gender Alliance. Details from PPOC/California Dreamin, P.O. Box  
1088, Yorba Linda CA 92686, by Internet at <dreamin96@aol.com> or  
by telephone at (714) 779-9013.

**May 4, 1996:** "Prom Night in New Jersey", Edison NJ, sponsored by the  
Chi Delta Mu and Sigma Nu Rho chapters of Tri-Ess and Monmouth  
Ocean TransGender. Details from (201) 439-9618.

**May 16-19, 1996:** "Paradise in the Poconos", Canadensis PA, produced  
by Creative Design Services, P.O. Box 19206, King of Prussia PA 19406.  
Information via Internet: <poco@cdspub.com> or by phone: (610)  
640-9449.

**July 3-7, 1996:** "Transgen '96: Transgender Independence Weekend",  
Houston TX, sponsored by the International Conference on  
Transgender Law and Employment Policy. Details from ICTLEP, 5707  
Firenza, Houston 77035-5515, by calling (713) 723-8368, by Internet to  
<prfyre@aol.com> or by fax at (713) 723-1800.

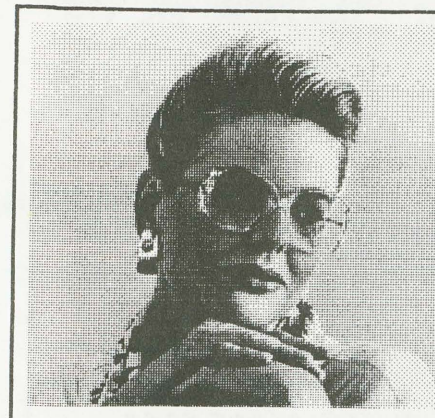
**July 24-28, 1996:** 4th Annual "Spouses'/Partners' International  
Conference for Education", Wilmington DE (Philadelphia PA). Details  
from Dr. Peggy Rudd, P.O. Box 5304, Katy TX 77491, fax (713)  
347-8747; from Betsy at (909) 875-2687; or from Evelyn at (215)  
860-9271.

**September 1-8, 1996:** "Dignity Cruise VII" to Bermuda from New York,  
sponsored by Dr. Peggy Rudd. Details from Brenda at Cruises Inc.,  
1-800-247-7021.

**September 19-26, 1996:** "Paradise in the Poconos", Canadensis PA. See  
May listing for details.

**November 6-9, 1996:** 7th Annual "Fall Harvest", St. Louis MO, sponsored  
by Mid America Gender Group Information Exchange (MAGGIE) and  
hosted by Iowa Artistry. Information from P.O. Box 75, Cedar Rapids  
IA 52406-0075, telephone (309) 755-2310.

*(Please send information on national transgender community events to  
Cross-Talk, P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365. Listings must be  
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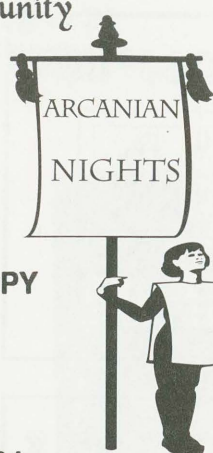
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**#72 (October 1995):** Discussion of "focused" support groups and exclusionary policies; Integration of positive and negative personality factors; Building true community; Polynesian transgendered behavior; Couples issues in therapy; The famous "Queen Mary" nightclub; Review of *Dr. Jekyll and Ms. Hyde*.

**#73 (November 1995):** Is the truth filtered by our community's organizations and publications?; Crossing the line from crossdressing to transsexualism; Merissa Sherrill Lynn's farewell message; Do we expect too much from our leaders?; 1986 transsexual beauty pageant; Natures and origins of gender; Review of *To Wong Foo, Thanks For Everything!* Julie Newmar.

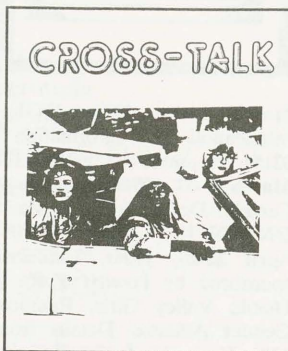
**#74 (December 1995):** Taking responsibility in the fight for equal rights; Magical beliefs and crossdressing; Transgenderism in southeast Asian cultures; Crossdressing in the Wild West; Hormone therapy without health risks; Acceptance compared to tolerance; False starts in therapy.

The above issues are available at **\$7.00** each.

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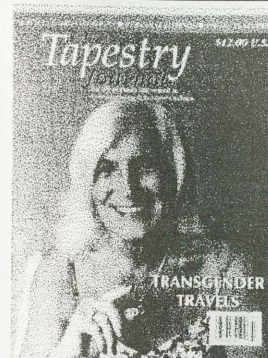
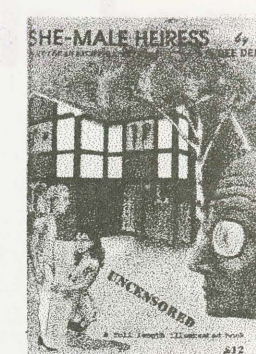
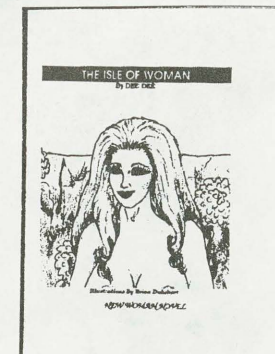
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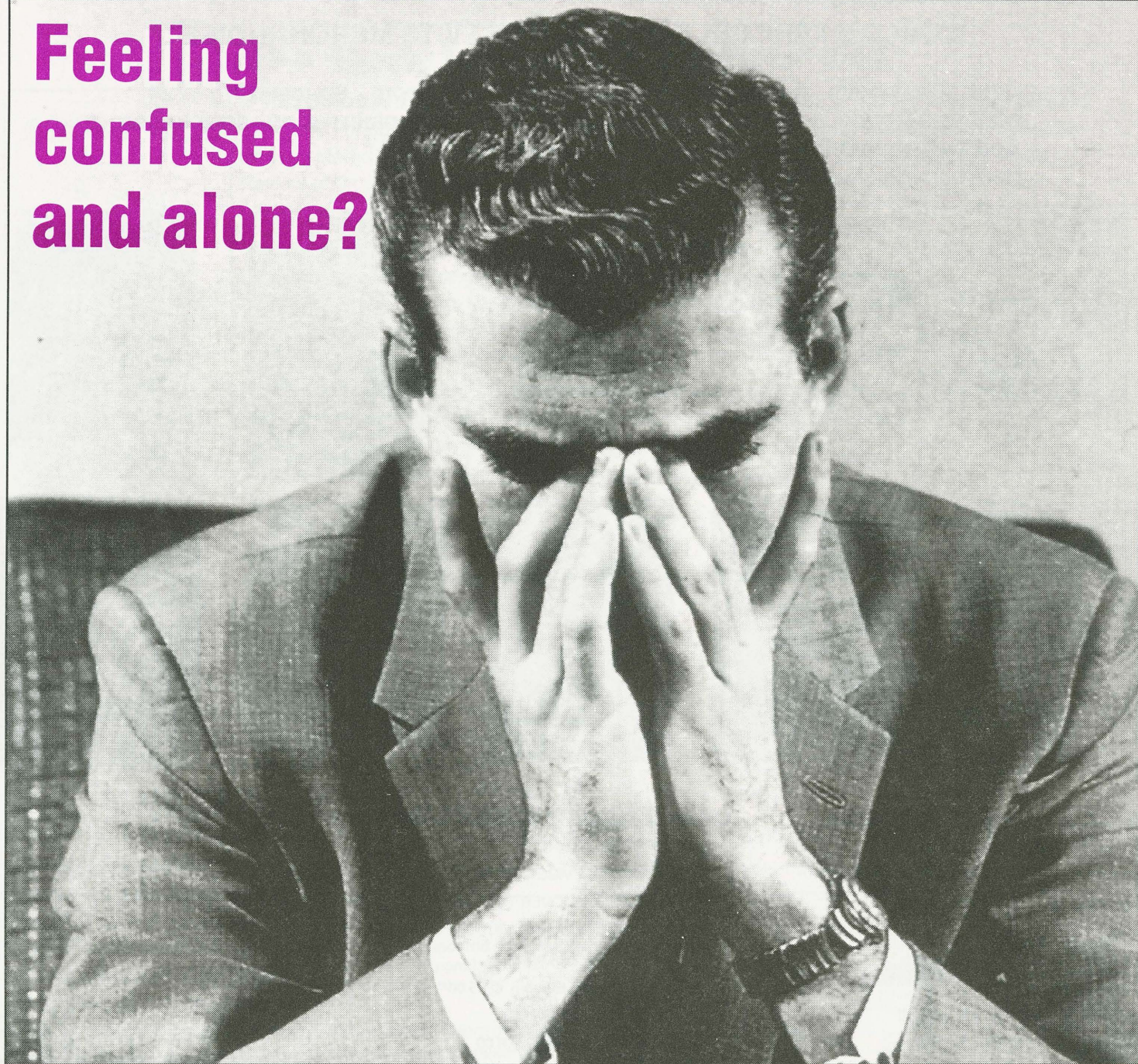
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