



# News & views

Vision • Integrity • Quality

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TRANSGENDER  
C O M M U N I T Y

## We Are All Transgendered

by Jay Allen Sennett

Today, and henceforth, I will no longer discuss transgender as an identity. Why should I? I find it non-productive. No definitive answer can be found. Despite my avowed reticence, however, somebody will invariably bring up the topic of transgender identity. In an April 1997 issue of the *Advocate*, a survey asked, "Should transgenders be part of our civil rights movement?" Sixty-four percent of the readers said yes, 23% said no, and 13% weren't sure. This question made me laugh.

Beneath the laugh, I sneered. Then I felt the pain—of exclusion, confusion and contempt. Gays and lesbians debate the right of a group to be part of their civil rights movement, again. In the '80s, they questioned bisexuals. Now us. What profit comes to gays and lesbians from these efforts? What do they achieve besides abetting the Right? Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson need do little work terrorizing queers. "We do it for them," I mutter.

Then I remember Audre Lorde's words, "The Master's tools will never dismantle the Master's house." These words enjoin me to build bridges to heterosexual and queer communities of color as a white anti-racist activist, to working class and poor communities as a member of the upper classes, to S/M folks and sex workers as a vanilla kind of queer, to anyone who isn't like me.

When I first actioned those words, I built bridges as a lesbian. Today I must build another bridge but as a man. A transsexual man. On my new island of Transgender I look to the land of gays and lesbians - people who were once my people. But some gays and lesbians tell me I am no longer of them. So the bridge I must build is as to an angry family. A family that rejects my honesty and personal integrity, aided by cultural fears of all things uncommon. A few light candles for a dead friend.

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## Portland Officials Protect Sexual Minorities

[Portland, OR, June 9, 1998]

Leaders of Oregon's sexual minorities met with Portland city officials to re-sign a partnership agreement at Portland City Hall.

The Partnership Agreement says that the Portland Police Bureau accepts responsibility for the protection of all citizens, "especially as it applies to the special needs of the sexual minorities community." Portland is the first major metropolitan city to have its mayor, council members, and police chief openly recognize the special needs of the sexual minority community. Sexual minorities are defined as "individuals who self-identify with a sexual orientation, or gender identity."

The Sexual Minorities Round Table helped

conceive the historic Partnership Agreement that was first signed October 11, 1994. The SMRT is a forum in which sexual minority leaders meet with Portland Police Bureau and Multnomah County Sheriff representatives to discuss the following:

- Crime trends and public safety concerns of the sexual minorities communities
- Police/sexual minorities community conflicts
- Portland Police and Multnomah County procedures and policies which impact crime or fear of crime within the Portland sexual minorities community

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## Chapter & Affiliate Information

### Chapters

#### Delaware

Wilmington, Delaware: meets second Saturday of each month. Write for info to: PO Box 5656, Wilmington, DE 19808. Phone: 302-376-1990 or email to: <sadeCD@aol.com>.

#### Pennsylvania

Greater Philadelphia: Write Renaissance GPC, 987 Old Eagle School Rd., Suite 719, Wayne, PA 19087. Meets third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia. Doors open at 8 pm all year 'round, Call 610-975-9119 for information.

Lehigh Valley/Pocono area: Renaissance Lehigh Valley, PO Box 3624, Allentown, PA 18106. Meetings on the second Saturday of the month in the Allentown area. Call for directions and more information, 610-821-2955, or email to <RenLV@ren.org>.

Lower Susquehanna Valley: Write Renaissance LSV, PO Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105. Meets on the first Saturday of the month. Call 717-780-1LSV (780-1578) or send email to: <lsv@ezonline.com>.

### Affiliates

#### California

Orange County: Powder Puffs of California, PO Box 1088, Yorba Linda, CA 92686, or email to <ppoc@aol.com>

#### Connecticut

Bridgeport/New Haven: connecticutView, c/o Denise Mason, PO Box 2281, Devon, CT 06460. Monthly newsletter and activities.

#### Georgia

Atlanta: The American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS), PO Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033-0724 or call 770-939-0244, or email to <aegis@mindspring.com>.

Information resources & referrals.  
Atlanta: Atlanta Gender Explorations (A.G.E.), PO Box 77562, Atlanta, GA 30357, 770-939-2128.

#### Illinois

Chicago: The Chicago Gender Society, PO Box 578005, Chicago, IL 60657, 708-863-7714.

#### Louisiana

New Orleans: The Gulf Gender Alliance, PO Box 56836, New Orleans, LA 70156-6836, 504-833-3046. Email: <GGANOLA@aol.com>.

#### Missouri

St. Louis Gender Foundation, P.O. Box 9433, St. Louis, MO 63117. Phone: 314-367-4128, email: <stlgf@aol.com>.

#### New Jersey

N. Central Jersey: Monmouth/Ocean Trans Gender, (MOTG), write PO Box 8243, Red Bank, NJ 07701. Call 908-219-9094. Email: <vikkimotg@aol.com>.

Western Central New Jersey: New Jersey Support, call Susan at 973-334-0416 or Dorothy at 215-744-4746 (weekends only). Write PO Box 0034, Montville, NJ 07045 for information. Email: Susanw@aol.com. Meetings are the first Saturday of the month at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Washington Crossing.

#### New York

Manhattan: Metropolitan Gender Network (MGN), c/o Chelsea Goodwin, 214 16th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11235. Phone, 718-832-1080. Email, <uravampire@mindspring.com>.

Long Island: Long Island Femme Expression (LIFE), PO Box 1311, Water Mill, NY 11976-1311. Phone 516-283-1333. email to <brenvee2@aol.com>.

#### Oklahoma

Central Oklahoma: Sooner Diversity, part of the Central Oklahoma Transgender Alliance (COTA). Contact, Vanessa Kaye, P.O. Box 60354, Oklahoma City, OK 73146. Email to <cota@transfemme.com>, website: <www.transfemme.com/cota>

## TRANSGENDER News & COMMUNITY Views

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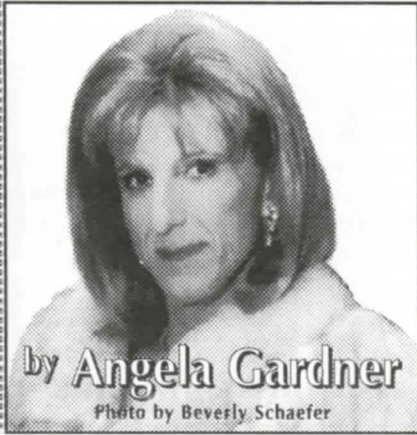
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# News Beat & Reminder



Summertime and the livin' is sticky. Hot enough for ya? As I type away the temperature is climbing to the low nineties, and the humidity is taking that as a challenge. I gave up central air for the joys of the country life so look upon this as one of my more hot and steamy columns. Let's hope my sweat doesn't short out the keyboard. Excuse me, crossdressers don't sweat, we dew.

## Hair Anxiety — Not a Mel Brooks Movie

Summer provides a yearly dilemma for most crossdressers, and a challenge for many MtF transsexuals and transgenderists. I call it Hair Anxiety. The crossdressers, often in the closet to many of their friends and family, have fears and concerns about body hair, more specifically its absence. Showing up at the family pool party in a turtleneck and long pants doesn't really cut it in the heat and humidity of July. This has given rise to a phenomenon in the TG community wherein crossdressers' femme lives go on hold for the summer months. Ask a CD at the end of May, "Hey are you going to (fill in an event; Pride parade, drag show, etc.) next week?" and she's likely to say, "No, I'm not shaving after this weekend." She's not talking about her face either. It's arms, legs, and that oh so hairy torso. You gotta admit, there's not too many things as scary as a stubble-ridden crossdresser in a sleeveless mini dress.

Many crossdressers don't shave their plentiful body hair any time of the year. In the winter they can cover it all up and not look strange. But

their only hope for summer dressing is a support group meeting with a walk in refrigeration unit.

And, did I mention wigs? This is the area where the concerns of the crossdresser overlap with the TS and TG. Many transsexuals can't grow their own hair due to male pattern baldness that took hold before they began hormone therapy. They must wear wigs (if they are concerned about appearance) and they, like crossdressers, are prone to overheated brains in the summertime. It's like wearing a fur hat. There's a little extra comfort in the winter months but it can be a trial by fire in August.

The worst part about all this heat and Hair Anxiety is the effect on support groups. A group that might see 50 to a hundred attendees in the winter months may only see fifteen to twenty people in the summer. If they have to pay rent for their meeting place, that doesn't change. The rent is still the same no matter how many folks show up. So, some groups don't hold summer meetings. This isn't that great of an idea since many people may need support at any time of the year. What about the crossdresser who has arrived at a crisis in July and has to wait till September to meet others like himself? If your group closes down for the summer efforts should be made by members who brave the summer heat to provide a smaller meeting for those who really need to meet and converse with other crossdressers.

## A Modest Proposal

Here's a novel idea. How about

dress optional meetings in the summer? No, I'm not suggesting shorts and a halter top instead of a dress. I mean how about meeting en butch? (Renaissance meetings are always dress optional, but some groups require members to come dressed.) A picnic or pool party for the 'guys' isn't a bad idea. The first group I ever joined used to have one meeting a year at a public place where members came as their male selves, and brought spouses or girlfriends. These meetings were actually fun 'cause when you arrived you had to try to figure out which "she" he was. What better time than summer to hold a get together like that?

It was also good for the members to get to know one another from the different perspective of the male role. Some of the most exotic, sexy members turn out to be regular guys when they're not gussied up. This can be encouraging for others. "Hey! If he can look that good dressed, I can too." And, you have a chance to find other things in common with your fellow members. Talking man to man instead of only relating via girl talk can be, as Martha Stewart would say, "a good thing."

But enough of this warm fuzzy support group stuff.

## Talk About Hot

The end of May was a bit like July and JoAnn Roberts and I picked May 29th for a special makeover in NYC. What a day. Jo had heard of a makeup artist and Cher impersonator named **Devon Cass** who has a book out called *Double Take* (Regan Books/Harper/Collins, \$24.00) that shows readers how to turn themselves into famous celebs. Jo suggested that we contact Devon in our capacity as Editor and Publisher of *LadyLike* magazine and do an interview, and if possible get celebrity makeovers. I made a call or two and we were on our way to NYC. Of course I would have to wear two wigs and a full body suit to do Cher on the hottest day so far this year. Devon had air conditioning. I say had, cause near the end of the photo shoot (Devon does the

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makeup and the photos) the air died and the heat and humidity started to mount. Always a couple of troupers, Jo and I refused to sweat until Devon was done snapping photos. As soon as he said that's it, and I heard the auto rewind from his camera I started to dew big time. He's an amazing makeup artist and he did a great job making me into Cher and Jo into Liza Minelli. Pick up the next issue of *LadyLike* for the interview and stunning photos.

Jo's company, Creative Design Services may be bringing Devon into Philadelphia in the late fall for a day long seminar. Stay tuned for more details. At least the makeovers should be the only thing hot about the seminar at that time of year.

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### The Problems of Success

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Last month we told you about **Dana International**, the Israeli transsexual who won this year's Eurovision Song Contest. Well, it didn't take long but soon after she became the exalted winner of the contest she was charged in Israeli court with assaulting two waitresses.

Dana has denied the charges. And what are the charges, pray tell? Prosecutors allege Dana pushed one of the waitresses and threw a bottle of water at the other. Did fame and success go to Dana's head? Has she turned into a demanding diva? I don't think so.

The alleged incident took place at a performance in a cafe in November of 1995. Gee, those waitresses must have been in a coma from their injuries that they just happened to come out of right after Dana's contest win. Court officials said the trial was expected to begin next January. Can you say out of court settlement?

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### The New Frontier

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San Francisco has been a city on the cutting edge for a long time. After all, that's where they film that cutting edge show, *Nash Bridges*. (Don Johnson promised transvestites on the

show when he pitched it to the network, and by golly he's delivered in a few episodes.) With a large gay community presence, a reputation as a haven for crossdressers and drag queens, and its status as the home of the famous female impersonator club **Finochio's**, it's no wonder SF has got some good press for the transgendered.

The May 7th issue of *San Francisco Frontiers News Magazine* was subtitled *Gender-Bender* and featured a heavy TG theme.

*Transformations, The Ins and Outs of Transgenderism* by Gretchen Lee.

Lee told the stories of several TG people in San Francisco (including James Green of FtM International) and included a sidebar titled

*Translations*, which gave a good list of TG definitions. *Transcendent*, by Alec C. Wagner asked the question,

"Where is drag now, and where is it going?" Queens in the know, from **Lypsinka** to **Lois Common-**

**denominator**, answer the question for your enlightenment and entertainment. All in all it's a well done issue,

and if you have the opportunity to read a copy, take it. You'll recognize the issue by the sexy blonde on the cover. From her smoldering eyes to her luscious red lips she's quite a

babe ... till you notice that her shoulders are pretty wide and that flat chest is pretty muscular. I have to admit, when Bob Davis handed me the magazine (thanks Bob!) I thought they had used computer graphics technology to put a woman's head on a man's body but ... I was wrong. The model (I'd say male model, but with the whole gender identity thing I'd better not commit. Who knows how the model identifies?) was Rani Gallardo. Rani made such a hot babe thanks to great bone structure and the work of another makeup artist, Maria Haro.

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### Praise for TGs on TV?

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Kudos (what the hell are kudos, anyway?) to *Inside Edition*. It's not often you hear a transgendered writer say that about *I.E.*, is it? On June 9th the show featured a story about the

transsexual school bus driver in Selinsgrove, PA. Trish is one brave woman who lives in Central Pennsylvania, an area (except for a few square blocks in State College, PA) that's not known for it's enlightened attitudes. (San Francisco it ain't.) She was living as a biker kind of dude with a beard, and knew that she had to make a change. So, she became Trish and is now in the process of transition. She and another area TS, Valerie, were both shown and interviewed on the program, and while a slight edge of exploitation was there (hey it's television ya know) the presentation came off pretty well for the transsexuals. They said that Trish is still driving her bus and the school board has decided to let her. When they said that the parents who objected have pulled their kids off the bus and drive them to school themselves, they made the parents sound pretty intolerant and dumb. So, kudos and all that to *Inside Edition*. Send them a thank you note. On pink paper, of course.

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### Come On In, The Waters Hot

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What TG community Executive Director is in hot water with her board of directors this month? Angela Gardner? Heavens no. It seems that a certain New England organization's E.D. made a decision to start charging for the personal ads that have always been included with your *Transgender Tapestry* subscription.

Oops, now I gave it away. Having an ad would have added \$15 to the cost of your subscription, double that if you wanted a picture included. If you wanted to change the ad anytime during your subscription you'd have to send them another \$25. I guess they need the money and it looked like a good source of revenue. When you spend around \$7,000 to set up a booth at a psychiatrists' convention I guess you need to pull in all the cash you can. (No one asked if other community groups would like to participate, as we did in a few convention efforts in the past.)

So, Nancy Nangeroni (the E.D. in question) got a letter from her board

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chair telling her to change her mind on charging for personals. I'm glad they have priorities up there in New England.

### How's Two Bucks Sound?

Renaissance just happens to run a thing called The PenPal Program. It's currently under the direction of volunteer Coordinator Katherine Birdsall. Katherine is now updating the PenPal List, which had fallen into neglect, and will be sending out a shiny new one soon. Everyone who was listed before has been contacted and asked if they are still interested in participating. So far the response has been very good. If you haven't gotten a letter from the PenPal Program and you were on the list then it must be that you've changed your address. We have received a few back with the forwarding order expired or the box closed. Get us your new address and we'll happily put you back on. In order to cover the duplicating and mailing costs we're asking those who wish to be listed to send \$2 along with their information for listing. (A bargain at twice the price.) So, whether you were listed before or not, if you want to be part of the new PenPal List send your mailing address, femme name, interests, etc. along with \$2 (check or money order is best, made out to Renaissance) to the PenPal Program, c/o Renaissance, 987 Old Eagle School Road, Suite 719, Wayne, PA 19087.

If the PenPal Program continues to blossom we may start printing it as a small booklet and include people's photos. It wouldn't add much more to the price, but we'll have to do a cost analysis first.

### Need A Book?

The Renaissance Bookstore has been taken over by Gloria Vogel. In a bloody five-day siege... Oh, sorry, I got carried away. It was a bloodless coup. Seriously, many, many thanks to **Beth Marshal** for running the Bookstore for so many years. Beth has become very active in other areas of her life and hasn't had the time to devote to the Bookstore. As Business Manager for Renaissance, Gloria Vogel has stepped in and taken over management. With the assistance of Michelle Lynn Moore a list of all the titles available, along with the price of each title, has been updated. The Bookstore will continue to operate at the Greater Philadelphia Chapter meeting every third Saturday, but the list of titles will be made available to chapters and affiliates. If a group wishes to purchase books or magazines from the Bookstore we will ship a minimum order of 10 books (Visa & MC accepted). That way, the group can buy books to sell to their members, or they can take orders from members until they have 10 titles. For further information contact Gloria Vogel or myself at the National Office and pick up a couple of books to read over the summer.

Michelle has also done some work for our National Librarian, Lee

Etscovitz, and updated the Renaissance Library bibliography. For more information on the Library see Lee's Library report in this issue.

Thanks to all the folks who have volunteered to take on these jobs. There is only so much time in the day, and between Executive Directing and overseeing the production of this newsletter it's hard to get it all done. Thank you volunteers!

Thanks also to those who donate additional cash to the Renaissance coffers. I mentioned rent before. That is always a concern, plus it takes money to do just about everything else. In the summer months we not only suffer from overheated heads, but also from slow positive cash flow. From now till the fall we have to scrimp by. In the fall people will begin to renew memberships and things will pick up. If you can make a contribution before then, please do. Thanks! See ya next month, vacationers.



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## We Are All...

Now I am at the end of l/g/b. Sometimes present, other times absent, always conditional, the "t" marks me an outsider.

Now I must explain to gays and lesbians why my deportation should be rescinded, why my rights are worth the fight, why I am human. I must explain my community, our needs, our concerns because I am different, different, different. I tire of the relaxed indifference of gays and lesbians that absolves them of ever reading a transgendered book, seeing a transgendered play, hearing a transgendered speaker, or surfing a transgendered website; yet requires me to do all the work lest I be labeled "ill-prepared" or "inarticulate."

What a waste. We're all only getting older. Our capabilities exceed our estimations. Gays and lesbians aren't slothful. And I'm not masochistic. So today, and henceforth, I will no longer discuss transgender as an identity. That's a tool of the Master's house. Instead I want to discuss a transgender value. I am indebted to human activist Kate Bornstein, author of *Gender Outlaw* and *My Gender Workbook*, for elucidating the difference between a transgender identity and a transgender value. She writes in *My Gender Workbook*, "I think defining any community by the identity of

its members is ultimately a dead-end, because despite their more or less common identities, the value of its members are inevitably going to be in conflict. Look at the Log Cabin Republicans or the North American Man/Boy Love Association and their relationship to the larger gay and lesbian community."

The trans community I belong to includes any person wanting to overcome gender oppression in any form. That's a value worthy of my attention. On the basis of that value, our community would include: MtFs, FtMs, butches, femmes, drag queens, drag kings and radical fairies. The woman who stands up to her boss with a large "No!" Intersexed people and anyone whose physiology is different from what is common.

All people of color, the non-materially privileged and poor communities. All gays, lesbians, and bisexuals. Identity politics yells, "Focus on the outcome, the destination." Value politics suggests, "Focus on the process." Choosing a same-gendered partner interrogates gender oppression just as my hormone therapy does. Certainly our goals are different!

What we question and fight against is the same. Our exclusion unites us. This common ground forges among us an impenetrable bond. Indivisible, we may struggle as one voice, for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Fighting the good fight

requires our honesty, integrity, humor and right thinking. In Ypsilanti, Michigan, Citizens for Equality must raise funds to fight the May 5 ballot referendum to repeal the city's anti-discrimination ordinance. Maine recently repealed their ordinance, and who knows who's next?

Gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transsexuals, transgenders, heterosexual allies - we're fighting for our lives. Why then do we countenance the Advocate, or any person, group, or organization, wasting time and money on pointless debates? We should fix a total dollar amount to the time and money spent on these frivolous discussions. Then donate it to any one of the numerous organizations struggling to obtain and maintain an issue of substance: Queer emancipation.

Our freedom arrives through unity. The Master's tools will never dismantle the Master's house. The value offending gender oppression cleaves us to each another. On that hallowed ground, we are all Transgendered.

(c) 1998 Jay Allen Sennett

*Jay Allen Sennett is Finnish-Irish-Scottish American FtM transsexual. In November 1997 he became the first transsexual to be arrested for trespassing at Fort Benning, Georgia in an act of non-violent civil disobedience to close the School of the Americas. He currently explores the symbolic nature of language through writing and film.*



## Portland...

Leaders of Oregon's sexual minorities spoke at the re-signing of this historic agreement. They included: Jean Harris, Director of Basic Rights Oregon, an organization that helps businesses include sexual orientation in their company's non-discrimination policies; Lori Buckwalter, Director of It's Time, Oregon, an organization that promotes civil rights initiatives concerning gender identity. Ms. Buckwalter serves on the Sexual Minorities Round Table and has been recommended by the Round Table,

and appointed by Chief Charles Moose, as the representative of the Portland sexual minorities communities to the Portland Chief's Forum.

"We hope to reconfirm the promise and commitment we share equally, to work together for the safety and dignity of every person in Portland. By improving communications through honest and respectful dialogue, we can create a city that honors everyone who calls it home, and I believe there can be no higher purpose for us all," said Buckwalter.

*From The Gender Advocacy Internet News*

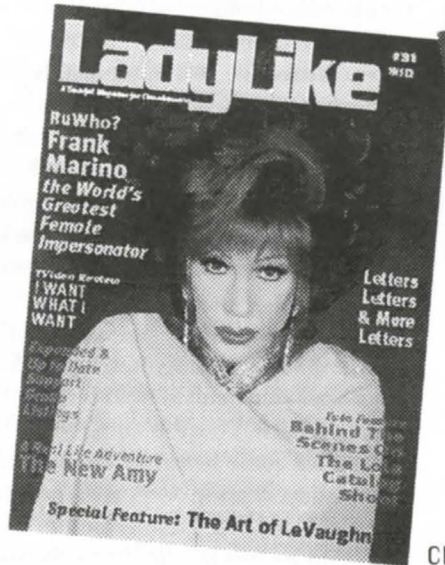


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I started writing this column five years ago, in the spring of 1993. Over the course of this time, I've revealed some things about myself in the various items on which I've reported. But there are some personal facts about myself that haven't yet been brought to light and I think it's important to tell you some of the more interesting, and hitherto unrevealed bits about me.

I never play the state lottery until it reaches a jackpot of at least \$50 million. Anything less than that is hardly worth my time.

I follow the "extreme" lifestyle as promoted by ESPN2. It is no longer enough for me to go out simply in drag. I must also sally forth en femme on skateboard, or in-line skates, or my BMX trail bike, hopping and swooping over all man-made obstacles I find in my path.

I have been the target of a Special Prosecutor since sometime in the early 90's. Although they haven't been able to indict me on anything, all of my friends and associates are now serving jail terms for perjury or obstruction of justice.

I was the first horse's ass to fire 10,000 employees and then cash in my stock options for a \$75 million payday, making me the first of a long line of executives to become rich at the misery of their former co-workers.

I've written my will to bequeath \$100 million to Harvard University upon my death. I wouldn't give the money to any charity that would actually help people in need because I feel it is important that the rich and cultural elite have a nice place to go to college.

My debut rap album, "Yo, Yo, Yo, In the House!" came under virulent attack because of two of my compositions: "Kill that M.F. Pig Cop" and "Gang Rape Booty Call." I am an artiste and I will not be censored.

I could have entered the NBA draft right out of high school and signed for \$25 million over three years but I thought it was more important to get a college degree. Then I blew my knee out and now I'm a crossdresser writing a monthly column in a transvestite support group newsletter. Hard to believe, you say? Well, read on.

#### WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU A LEMON

The March 1998 issue of the *Dresser et News* published by the Alpha Rho Tri-Ess sorority in Salt Lake City, Utah, carried an article that appeared in the supermarket tabloid *Weekly World News* titled "Bachelor Blues."

The article told the story of bartender Dale Lecusa, whose search for romance in the San Diego singles bars brought him a heartache that only a supermarket tabloid could do justice. As the paper reports, "the last three ladies he's dated have been guys in disguise."

First came Serena, "an absolute doll" he met in a country club bar. After an attorney friend tipped Dale off that the "doll-like" Serena was more "Ken" than "Barbie," he met a "tanned and gorgeous woman" named Monica who "kicked my butt in tennis every time we played." During a traffic ticket encounter, the gorgeous Monica revealed to the officer that her real name was "Morris" and it

turns out she/he had a wife and two kids back in Ohio. Back again in the singles scene, Dale met Cindy, "the blonde bombshell with the sexy voice." I actually thought I was going to marry her till I learned that her real name was Hugh."

In true tabloid style, the *World News* printed photos of Monica and Cindy with a bold-print label that read "MAN." The women were indeed attractive, not immediately obvious as transgendered women. Dale himself looks to be a clean cut, attractive guy, posed in the candid photos with his two "girl" friends. He is quoted thusly, "Nothing makes you sicker than finding out the woman you love is actually some hairy-legged bruiser who likes to dress up in ladies' clothes."

Dale's story makes you wonder if there isn't some subconscious thing going on here. There is ample evidence that some heterosexual men are attracted to crossdressers and transsexuals. If we take Dale's story on faith that he had no idea beforehand, it would be indicative of something. Exactly what, I'm not sure, but there's something in this story for the professionals to study.

It may be simply that he's one of those guys who is unlucky in love. But perhaps there were some precursors to his misfortune that, had he noticed them, might have tipped him off that his is a doomed love. For example, if his favorite talk show host is RuPaul; favorite movie Tootsie, and favorite playwright, Harvey Fierstein. These are clues to draw on the next time he meets a gorgeous "woman" named Morris.

But, heck, why not just capitulate and let fate lead you where it might. Next time you meet a husky-voiced blonde bombshell in the country club bar remember there is only "one thing in the way" of a fulfilling relationship with Hugh, er, I mean, Cindy.

#### THE LITTLE PIG WHO COULD

The *Born Free* newsletter published by the group of the same name in Riverside California reprinted an article by Janyne Cresap titled "I Got You Babe."



Janyne briefly reviewed the film "Babe," about the little piglet who thought he was a sheepdog and triumphed to the disbelief of everyone. As Janyne states: "This is a great little flick about courage, following your dream, and being who you really are." I also love this movie and found it touching, bittersweet, and moving enough to bring tears to my eyes in a few scenes. I never thought of it in terms of crossdressing but Janyne saw it "as a metaphor for crossdressers and our struggle to be who we really are."

Her approach to the story is from an interesting perspective. In the film, Babe goes forth in his quest with complete innocence, good fellowship, and never doubts the basic goodness of his critics, even when subjected to their scorn. Janyne looks at the same story and wonders, "Suppose Babe was filled with guilt and shame; suppose Babe never tried to walk his path; suppose he never told anyone of his secret desires and his true inner self?"

Unfortunately, most of us get caught in just those types of self-doubts, never courageous enough to follow our own dreams for fear of the ridicule of others. And this holds true in many more mundane desires than crossdressing. Think of all the dreams that never materialize because of the constraints we place on ourselves to conform to the expectations we believe others have of us. Looking at the human condition in these terms makes you appreciate the courage of those who do follow their own dreams, however strange they might seem.

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### **THIS FELLA SAYS THE HORSE CAN DO**

Thoroughbred horse racing's Triple Crown season ended recently in a stunning come-from-behind upset decided (literally) by a nose. Real Quiet, the winner of the Kentucky Derby and The Preakness, lost his bid for true immortality when Victory Gallop edged him out in the Belmont Stakes.

I've been a casual horse racing fan for years. I enjoy the intellectual exercise of handicapping the horses based on the information in the Racing Form, but I'm almost always

undone by either my lack of handicapping skill or the crapshoot nature of trying to pick winners. But when a race is good, there is nothing to match the excitement and drama of seeing some horse make his move to the front of the pack. Each of the big races this season featured skillful racing strategy.

There are occasions when a horse will run wire to wire to beat the field. Usually, however, the eventual winner will stalk the early leaders in the backstretch and wait for just the right moment to thread through the pack and find a hole to get out in front when the others begin to fade. The marriage of a jockey's skill and the horse's natural ability is what makes a horserace, as they say. When it clicks, it's a beautiful thing to watch, and when a winner puts out his burst of speed it's not unusual to see him move so fast through the field that the other horses look like they're going backwards.

Real Quiet and Kent Desormeaux managed this feat in the Derby and Preakness, and looked like he was going to do it a third time at Belmont. But Victory Gallop was making his own move and just a little stronger, as it turned out, than the favorite.

I was thinking about this concept and applying it to crossdressing, and found a parallel. No, not that we are big, horsy-looking women. What came to mind are a couple of girls in Renaissance who started out slow, stalking the leaders you might say, but made a powerful move that left much of the competition behind. The classic example of this phenomenon is Michelle Lynn Moore, who pulled off one of the most powerful transformations I've ever seen. She came out of the gate looking like second hand Rose and suddenly transformed herself (while no one was looking, it seemed) into one of the real beauties of our group. A more recent example is Jenny from New Jersey who came out of nowhere in the backstretch to challenge the leaders with a remarkable (and simple) change of hairstyle in the final turn.

Along the way, I can think of some girls who came out of the gate with a sudden burst of speed and beauty but faded out of sight during the race. The other important thing about crossdressing (like horseracing) is stamina. You can't win if you don't keep running. Yes, there is more to crossdressing than surface beauty but the jockeying and strategy involved in making ourselves look better is also indicative of personal growth beneath the surface. And that is what makes a true champion.

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### **ANOTHER NOTE ON PASSING**

Denise Mason wrote an essay titled "Passing" in *The ConnecticutView* newsletter published by the group of the same name in Milford, Connecticut. It dealt with the old "passing" vs. "just being who we are" debate. Angela Gardner wrote a note on our copy of the newsletter urging me to rip Denise's viewpoint.

The thing of it is, I agree with Denise. So my take on her essay is simpatico. I have a long (and perhaps tiresome) bibliography of articles and items I've written on the topic of "passing." I don't think that passing is the Holy Grail of crossdressing. Apparently, Denise Mason doesn't think so either.

She runs through all the obstacles to passing that the average crossdresser must overcome in order to go undetected in women's clothing. That list of obstacles is very long indeed, and most crossdressers, even the ones who are very accomplished, can't hope to nail it 100% of the time. She also deals with the arguments from those who insist that they do pass flawlessly. On this too, Denise and I are of one mind. Just because nobody makes a crude remark or goes out of their way to point you out in a public setting does not mean that you are fooling the public. Sure, some people won't notice the obvious incongruities of a man dressed like a woman. But others will, even if they choose not to make an issue of it. In such a case, is the crossdresser passing, or simply

*continued on page 14*



## Gender Reflections

by **Barbara F. Anderson**  
**M.S.W., Ph.D.**

### What Do Transgenders Really Want?

With full awareness that transgendered people are as diverse as any ethnic, occupational or geographical community, I still think this question merits pondering. Despite diversity in the areas of acculturation, socio-economic status, education and numerous other aspects of life, there still remains a thread that binds and defines transgender people.

It is their experience of being of a different gender than is apparent to the world and of trying to find a satisfying way to express this experience. From this point TGs diverge. The intensity, frequency and manner of expression varies as do individuals' tolerance for frustrated expression. For some expression is a preference, for others a need. Some need a "fix" periodically; for others only a fully elaborated cross-gendered life-style will satisfy.

Some blossom as they transition, emerging as more productive and creative than they were when living an unauthentic existence. Others unravel under the stress of confronting criticism, ridicule and discrimination and suffer family and financial reverses that offset the satisfaction of living an authentic lifestyle.

Taking the above into account, it

does seem that most TGs do have a few common expectations, needs and goals. First, I think they would like to be seen as individuals with a variance in gender identity, rather than a mental illness or disorder. Is this splitting hairs? It wouldn't be in a society that didn't pathologize psychological disorders. However, it is difficult to elicit respect and interest from others when viewed as mentally unfit.

Second, those TGs who require medical treatment to bring gender identity and body into consonance want the same access to the required treatment as a person who suffers an amputation, a mastectomy or a hormonal birth defect. None of these individuals needs to convince a mental health practitioner that they are "truly" wanting and needing a prosthesis, breast reconstruction or hormone replacement therapy for missing testes or ovaries. Because TGs are aware that much of the pressure on the medical community to gatekeep is fueled by the fear of legal liability, some would forgo the right to sue in exchange for the privilege of dictating their own medical regime.

Third, they report they want legal protection against discrimination because of gender identity. We in

San Francisco and in a few other cities, as well as the state of Minnesota, are far ahead of the rest of the U. S. in this respect.

Fourth, transgenders wish for more research on the long term biological effects of hormones and improved surgical techniques, especially for FTMs.

Fifth, they would like graduate schools that prepare mental health care givers for practice to provide education in the areas of human sexuality and gender identity. Following that, they would have licensing boards require that candidates demonstrate some understanding of the experience of gender identity dissonance. Then they would like to be able to locate and access these professionals in a range of practice settings such as mental health clinics, university centers, and private practices.

Sixth, they want health insurance coverage for their medical and psychological treatment to parallel that of non-TG policy holders seeking comparable services.

Lastly, they wish for successful and accomplished TGs to stand up and be counted among their brothers and sisters not yet or still in transition. The lack of role models is a major disadvantage to TG youth in particular, but to all people struggling with gender identity issues at every stage of life.

I know this is not a comprehensive list, but it's a start. Additions are welcome and future columns will incorporate your contributions.

*Dr. Anderson is located at 1537 Franklin St, Suite 104, San Francisco, CA 94109, 415-776-0139.*



### Man Fights to Have Diploma Revised

By **Jodi McFarland**

GAIN Internet News Service

A man who graduated as a woman from Birch Run High School in Birch Run, Michigan will have to sue to force the school district to change his transcript and diploma to reflect his sex and name change.

Board of Education members met pri-

vately with their attorney, Michael J. Eschelbach, and decided that they would rather pay for a court fight than comply. "There was no action, which means that the offer to have a first initial last name and no indication of gender is where the district stands," Superintendent Peter J. Dion said of the compromise that the district proposed

Neither school officials nor the graduate's lawyer, Rudy Serra of Detroit, will identify the man. School officials will not say when the man graduated, while Serra said he believes that it was 1983. Serra gave the board an ultimatum in May: make the document changes by a certain day or face a suit. Serra said he now might

*continued on page 14*

## On the Soapbox in Colorado

Our nation lost an extraordinary conservative leader when Senator Barry Goldwater died on May 29, 1998, at age 89. As we reflect on his life, we consider below his traditional, conservative views in relation to Fort Collins Ordinance 22, which prohibits discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations based on sexual orientation.

Goldwater served 30 years as US Senator from Arizona. He was the Republican Party presidential candidate in 1964. He has been called: "A towering presence in American political history" who "changed the face of the Republican Party", building a conservative foundation leading to the two-term presidency of Ronald Reagan. He was "A Conservative's conservative." Senator Goldwater contrasted his conservatism as "hopeful and inclusive" to that of other conservatives which he saw as "fearful and divisive". He was a "tough-talking Westerner" who spoke out bluntly on traditional values and individual rights.

Senator Goldwater was a two-star general in the Air Force Reserve. He called opposition to gays in the military "just plain dumb". "You don't have to be 'straight' to fight and die for your country," he said. "You just need to shoot straight."

Senator Goldwater strongly disap-

proved of employment discrimination based on sexual orientation:

"Employment discrimination based on sexual orientation is a real problem in our society. From coast to coast and throughout the heartland, regular hardworking Americans are being denied the right to roll up their sleeves and make a living. That is just plain wrong."

He stated further: "Gays and lesbians are part of every American family. They should not be short-changed in their efforts to better themselves and serve their communities. It's time America realized there was no gay exemption in the right to 'life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness' in the Declaration of Independence. Some will try to paint this as a liberal or religious issue. I am a conservative Republican, but I believe in democracy and the separation of church and state. I am proud that the Republican Party has always stood for individual rights and liberties. Anybody who cares about real moral values understands that this isn't about granting special rights—it's about protecting basic rights."

Senator Goldwater challenged his conservative colleagues:

"Constitutional conservatives know that doing the right thing takes guts and foresight, but that's why we're

elected, to make tough decisions that stand the test of time." He called for anti-discrimination legislation to ensure the individual rights and liberties intended by our founding fathers: "The rights and liberties that our founding fathers wrote into the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were meant for all people. It is time that our nation realized that a significant portion of our society is today excluded and that laws need to be written and enforced to ensure that lesbians and gays are not discriminated against in employment, public accommodations and housing."

On March 3, 1998 Fort Collins City Council made the "tough decision" voting unanimously to adopt Ordinance 22, exactly the kind of legislation that Senator Goldwater called for, to protect sexual orientation from discrimination. Subsequently, opponents of Ordinance 22 gathered enough signatures on a referendum petition to have it put on the upcoming November 3 election ballot for voters' approval.

We urge Fort Collins voters of every political persuasion to consider Senator Goldwater's position on this equal rights issue, and then vote to approve City Council's action on Ordinance 22.



## Great...

when the magic happened.

What's all this got to do with crossdressing? Crossdressers who read about Renaissance, ETVC, The Tennessee Vals, and other crossdressing groups around the country have built up their great expectations. They see the members of the groups all looking like super models, and the meeting places—well, heaven knows what they have built up as far as the meeting places go. Something-involving satin sheets and possibly red flocked wall paper? Perhaps. As I found out with my rock palace dreams, the reality is not so glamorous. Transgender support groups are

places where crossdressers, transsexuals and others with an interest in TG issues can meet people like themselves and get information. While some groups get a large turnout at their monthly meetings most have a hand full of the local folks who need support. Most of the girls who make the meetings are not going to give Cindy Crawford and Elle McPherson any serious competition. Attendees range from pretty passable to man-in-a-dress. The important thing is—they're there.

As with everything, since people are always people whether they're in dresses or not, some groups have fun activities and informative programs planned for every meeting and others just provide a place to go. Some groups are friendly and welcom-

ing, others have formed cliques and are insensitive to a newcomer's needs. Transgendered people who wanted to meet and help others like themselves formed most groups. Even if many of the members are not interested in helping you learn about TG issues, there will always be someone who cares. If you reach out and put aside your expectations, banish the built up image from your mind, and come out to see the reality of the transgender community you'll find that by being there, meeting those other people so like yourself—that's when the magic happens. Check the transgender resource listings today and find a group near you. Come on out and let the magic happen.



# Hot • Buzz

Jo Ann Roberts • CyberQueen



*"We have sat on the river bank and caught catfish with pin hooks. The time has come to harpoon a whale."*

— John Hope

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Last month I asked the question: "What do you think about how GPAC is representing us?" The answer to that question is that you don't care and I am not at all surprised. One respondent, Anne Casebeer (Tenn. Vals) had this to say, "To be perfectly honest, [GPAC's] **Lobby Days** was a badly organized event, as you have likely heard by now. Worse than that, **Riki Anne [Wilchins]** and **Dana Priesing** both claimed there were more than 100 lobbyists present. No way—try 45 at the outside." Anne put down more of her thoughts on Lobby Day in an article for the Vals' newsletter which can also be read online at *Transgender Forum*. However, I think it is a terrible reflection on the GPAC staff that they felt they had to lie to make the event seem more successful than it actually was. To my mind, they've stopped being activists and have become politicians.

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The Louisiana transgender boycott against **Human Rights Campaign (HRC)** is still generating some heat. Here's a smidgen of responses to local press: "I find the HRC boycott one of the most infantile actions I have seen in quite some time. Any community has

boundaries and those boundaries can be fuzzy." But I love this next one the best. "As I understand the facts, the New Orleans transgender and transsexual community wanted their group to be included in the [HRC] mission statement as a special class. Because this request was denied a boycott was instituted against the HRC... I believe this to be a very childish and self-serving stance... What's next? Should we mention the overweight people in the city, or those who embellish with body piercing, or people with tatoos...? These groups are all discriminated against for their choices!" Choice!?! What choice? We have a lot of work to do to educate **all** people, not just "straights." And this writer was an M.D., who should have known better but obviously didn't.

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However, there is some good news about gay/transgender community relations. **Jane Fee**, from Minnesota, reports that she and **B. J. Metzger**, from St Paul, attended the organizing meeting of the new "**National Federation of Lesbian and Gay Democrats**" chaired by Congressman **Barney Frank** in Kansas City, Missouri. Jane says they were successful in getting the organization's mission statement changed to include **Bisexual** and **Transgender** and the name of the organization changed to "**National Stonewall Democratic Federation**." Now that's the kind of tg community advocacy we need.

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It seems that HRC (like one of our own institutions) has hard time staying out of controversy and hot water. HRC is a co-sponsor of the proposed **Millennium March for Equality** planned for April 30th of the year 2000. A huge number of local g/l/b/t/ activists and many national-level activists are opposed to the planned rally in Washington, D.C. Congressman Barney Frank has said it's "a diversion of resources" and "not a good idea." One former planner of the **1993 March on Washington** said, "Too

many people are wondering how they can become the **Martin Luther King, Jr.**, for our movement when we are in desperate need of a million **Rosa Parks**. We're mistaking style for real substance." Billy Hileman, an activist from Pittsburgh and another 1993 MOW organizer says, "In spite of lofty words of inclusion, there is no public Millennium Rally organizing structure. However, what we do have are: a theme 'Faith and Family;' a date, April 30, 2000; a title - 'Millennium March for Equality;' logistics - a rally, no march; a platform - no demands; a merchandising plan - T-Shirts, etc.; an official travel agency; and 10,000 rooms booked in Washington. This is why they aren't in any hurry to open up the [planning] process. They don't need to except for PR purposes." In response to the Millennium Rally, the **Federation of Statewide G/L/B/T/ Organizations** has called for a unified 50 state action which calls for aggressive lobbying efforts, marches and rallies in all 50 state capitals. I've tried to contact this Federation with no luck. If anyone out there knows someone in the Federation, please let me know.

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**Dallas Denny** wrote in an article *A Call For Community*, "I'd like to end with a call to the transgender community... to form... organizations which are not dependent upon personalities, which are financially stable, which serve the entire community, and which meet the actual and not the imagined needs of the community." A great sentiment, but Ms. Denny seems to have missed the fact that such an organization already exists. It's called the **Renaissance Transgender Association, Inc.** It actually has a written operational policy that prevents the organization from becoming a personality cult. It also is financially stable and, by supporting the development of local support groups, it meets the actual needs of the

local community members.

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Fashion news coming up...but first a history lesson. **Kalina Isato** wrote in her monthly column on *Transgender Forum*, "...there is often a stream of cars that drive endlessly from one end of the long street to the other back and forth all night long (this procedure is called "**crusing**" in East Coast **guido** parlance)." As if! Crusin' has been around since before you were born. I used to "cruise" the Hot Shoppe in West Philly back in '64. But cruisin' originated on the West Coast in the late 40's, early 50's. Go rent *American Graffiti* to see what it was like. And watch the "guido" slurs.

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You're going to be seeing a great photo shoot in the next coming *LadyLike*. **Angela Gardner** and I had "celebrity" makeovers by **Devon Cass** in New York City. Devon is the author of the book *Double Take - The Art of the Celebrity Makeover*. I tell you this because Devon used **M•A•C Studio** foundation on both of us and we loved it! The air conditioner quit during the last 45 minutes of the photo shoot and even under the hot lights on the hottest day of the year we didn't sweat off the foundation. Devon also used **L'Oréal Color Endure** lipstick on me and I fell in love with the color Ruby. Check out issue #33 of *LadyLike* for our photos. it will be on the newsstands in late July.

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One of the latest trends for lips is liquid lip color. The first one I saw was called **Lip Ink**, but I'm not sure who makes it. Nevertheless, you can now get a creamy, high shine lip color from **Maybelline** called **Lip Polish**, or try **L'Oréal's Rouge Pulp** lip color.

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I promised a report on those 90-second drying nail polishes. My experiment did not yield positive results. I bought **Revlon's Top Speed** for my trip to NYC last May. I knew I'd be rushed that morning before we left and the fast drying polish would be a big help. Well, as it turned out, not really. The polish goes on thick and lumpy. Because it tends to dry quickly from the top down, it is difficult to get a smooth coat on your nails. But worst of all, it didn't dry in 90 sec-

onds as advertised. In fact, it didn't dry in three minutes as evidenced by the smushed polish on three nails after I reached into my purse. I'm not giving up yet since the polish ain't cheap (\$5 a bottle). I'm going to try again and give it 5 minutes to dry. I'll let you know how that works out.

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**Pink**, however, is the palette for summer. Here are tips for choosing the "right" pink for you. **Professional...** light, beige-toned pinks, like **M•A•C Plume** eyeshadow, Dior blush in **Naive Rose**, and Lancome lip lacquer in **Bebe Romantic...** soft, pale rosy pinks like, Jane **Pretty In Pink** eyeshadow, Bobbi Brown **Pink** lipcolor, and Trucco blush in **Flirt Daytime...** pale to deep metallic pinks, like Hardy Candy **Pink Eye** eyeshadow, Il Makiage **Venus** lipcolor, and Hard Candy Blush in **BabyDoll Evening...** intense, vivid pinks, like Make Up For Ever **Star Powder 913**, Lancome lipcolor in **Magenta Lumiere**, and Tish & Snooky's powder blush in **Pussycat Pink**.

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I've been going to the **nail salon** with my wife every two weeks to get a manicure. Thing is... I've been going as **Joe**, not **JoAnn**. The women there don't seem to have a problem with a male getting a manicure. In fact, they tell me that lots of men are getting manicures these days. The first time I went was right before going to **Cal Dreamin'** and my nails were quite long. I told them not to cut my nails and they didn't. I bring this up because I didn't go with my wife yesterday to the salon and she came home saying they were all asking for me!

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The buzz in the print arena is about a book called *Bitch* by **Elizabeth Wurtzel** author of **Prozac Nation**. In Wurtzel's latest tome she profiles the lives of women who've been judged too wild, or too sexy, or too outspoken by our patriarchal culture, women such as Sharon Stone and Hillary Clinton. Critics say that Wurtzel is less interested in exploring women's status than in hyping her own status. Wurtzel appears nude on the cover of the book. She ain't bad lookin' either. (I can be such a pig at times!) *Bitch* is published by Doubleday.

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The new *motif du jour* for eyemakeup is **rhinestones**. Yes, **Kevin Aucoin** started this new trend using it on several stars for **Oscar** night. Basically he put a dab of **spirit gum** on the back of very small rhinestones and glued them into the inside corners of the eye and/or under the lower lashes. You can get small rhinestones at any craft shop, but be careful with glue that close to your eyes. Best to use eyelash glue rather than spirit gum (no alcohol).

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Summertime is for cool light clothing and the **T-shirt** top is **numero uno** for summer comfort. But not all Tees are made the same and you should be conscious of which style flatters your body. Believe it or not, **wide shoulders** are flattering (assuming a smaller waist to go with them), so look for a sleeve that falls right on your natural shoulder line... If you like being **big busted** (or just are) look for a **high neck** and **below the belt** length, or a **sleeveless** style that draws eyes off the chest or a **boatneck** that makes shoulders look wider and bust smaller. Avoid **horizontal** stripes that make bust look bigger... For **heavy arms** look for **half sleeves** and a **scoop neck**, or **three-quarter** sleeves, or **long sleeves** fitted to the body. Avoid any **sleeve details** at all. Finally, save the really **baggy tees** for sleeping. They don't look good on anyone

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According to *Mademoiselle* magazine, the "in" thing is to dress like a girl (that's women dressing like younger girls, not crossdressing guys). Anyway, here's the lowdown...**Lacy tops and jeans**, like a pink camisole and tight black jeans (altho I only know like maybe two CDs who look great in jeans)...**Little cap sleeves and Capri Pants** (see my comments re: jeans. Goes double for Capri Pants)... **Disco dresses** (yawn!)... **Flowers and Chocolate**, i.e., a floral skirt with a chocolate brown camisole top. What grown woman wants to dress like this?

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So, those are my opinions, but, hey, what do I know? Comments? Write me care of this publication or send email to the <CyberQueen@cdspub.com>. © 1998 by Creative Design Services.

## Vis A Vis...

being ignored?

Those are the usual debating points about passing. It is similar to the old philosophical chestnut of "If a tree falls in the forest and no one hears it, did it make a sound?" The arguments on both sides can get circular real fast.

The other point she makes is that crossdressers who pass in public do nothing for our cause since they are not noticed by society. I've heard this issue raised also and it holds little interest for me because, personally, I don't want anyone else, passable or not, to be my representative to society. I'll do that on my own, thank you very much. Conversely, I don't want the responsibility of being anyone else's representative to society when I go out. I've got enough troubles without that millstone.

Denise takes the issue a step further, however, by posing a different question about passing. Given the innumerable obstacles to realistically passing, is it a worthwhile endeavor in which to invest one's energies, especially if one feels they must sacrifice some elements of personal enjoyment,

in order to pass? She poses this example: "Have you ever gotten frustrated trying to get your bowling average to 180, or your golf score below 90, realizing you couldn't? Once you realized the limits of your talent, you probably had more fun." The frustration inherent in trying to beat the odds and pass as women could take the joy out of dressing for some of us. Most crossdressers do realize that they can't really pass, at least not consistently in all circumstances! So we must get our enjoyment out of just doing what we want to do, damn the consequences.

Since most crossdressers do not venture out in public, or do so only in safe environments, the effort to pass is important. Therefore, as Denise concludes, "Let's be who we are. Let's wear those dresses, or miniskirts, or even feather boas if we want, but for God's sake, let's have fun!"

[Ed. note: Denise also wrote about breaking the laws against "criminal impersonation." That's the part I wanted Dina to write about, and she missed it. If you're crossdressing to rob a convenience store then a concept like "criminal impersonation might come into play. Otherwise, there are few places left with specific anti-crossdressing laws. If stopped by

police, follow Monica's lead and give them ID.]

### SING YOU SINNER!

I had never seen a photo of Dana International but *The Philadelphia Inquirer* ran one in their June 18 edition, and she's quite the glamour girl, as I might have imagined, bringing up all my preconceived ideas about transsexual singing stars. With raven hair and lots of makeup, she looks a little like a younger, thinner (much thinner) version of Lainie Kazan.

Apropos my earlier remarks about following your dream, Dana International must be commended for going through her transition in conservative, religious Israel. And like many transsexuals the world over, it was not easy for the young boy and man who was different from the others growing up. Although she has achieved international fame and a bit of notoriety because of her personal history, many of the Orthodox religious leaders in her country have condemned her.

In answer to the brouhaha about her, Dana is quoted as saying, "I'm not a political person. I'm a singer. I'm not dealing with symbols. I just want to live my life." If only it was that simple, huh, Dana?



## Man Fights...

file the suit immediately.

"They told me ... that there's no need to wait, because they're not going to change their mind," Serra said. He said his client suffers gender dysphoria, or gender identity disorder. Serra also said that his

client is a married stepfather who lives in Washington and needs the transcript to apply to college.

According to Serra, the Americans with Disabilities Act covers gender dysphoria, so the district must comply. Using a first initial and no gender designation is unacceptable, because it opens the alumnus to discrimination, Serra pointed out. "By

doing that, that's like a red flag that here's a disabled person," he said. "I don't understand what benefit the district derives from keeping my client from going to college," he added. Superintendent Dion said he will not alter the document, because it could set a precedent. Serra called the argument "silly," and said the precedent would comply with the law.



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## Great Expectations

by **Angela Gardner**

When I was younger, back in the college years, I was really into music. Rock and folk were my primary interests, and I worked at playing the guitar and singing. If the Beatles hadn't gotten there first I would have had a great career. But, I didn't live in any of the music capitals of the world. I was stuck in the middle of Pennsylvania, filled with dreams of rock star status and no real clue of how to get where I wanted to be.

While I was out there in the hinterlands I had a pretty good idea of what the music hot spots in the big city were like. In my mind's eye I could see the fabulous palaces of rock and folk. The Bitter End, The Mainpoint, The Fillmore, The Electric Factory, The Bijou Cafe—they were large clubs, with great sound systems, vast stages, and an efficient staff of black clad techies and stagehands kept it all running smoothly. Nightly large crowds of rabid music fans would pay to pack into the giant clubs and worship their favorite bands. Boy oh boy, what a life that must be.

While I guess that there must have

been places like that, I found out, when I finally made it to the big city, that they're not the rule. I came to the Philadelphia area in the late '70s and finally saw the places I had dreamed of back in the wilds of Central Pa. The Mainpoint was a club that had featured all kinds of acts—from Doc Watson and John Hartford to Jackson Browne and Bruce Springsteen. Sitting in the wilds and reading about The Mainpoint I saw it as one of those acoustically designed, totally cool music palaces. My first visit to the club was a good first lesson about having high expectations.

The Mainpoint was a long room in a suburban business district. The building had probably once been a store. (It is now, again.) The floor was worn wood; the stage was plywood covered in carpet and the state of the art sound system wasn't—at least not that year. The dressing rooms (I later learned) were curtained off sections of the basement, and the owner's cat would roam free throughout the whole place, blissfully marking territory. The roaches—I won't talk about the roaches. The staff wore T-shirts and jeans and the techies

consisted of one guy who had a number to call if anything went seriously wrong and a roll of duct tape to handle the rest.

To be fair, The Mainpoint wasn't the worst disappointment I have had when it comes to shattered musical dreams. There have been other places that I had built up only to find that they were in seriously bad shape. And the fans, panting for every note—most of the time the clubs were not full. I often saw a night at the Point (sort for Mainpoint) when the techie (he was the MC, too) would ask the light first show crowd if they'd like to stay for the next show, since the reservations for the late show were so lean that it would have been embarrassing to ask the performer to do the second show.

Despite all this, sometimes—actually pretty often, a hot performer would lift the crowd out of the cramped, shabby confines of the club. Sometimes the important thing, the real reason to be there—the music—would transform the place into something more. Those moments where

*continued on page 11*

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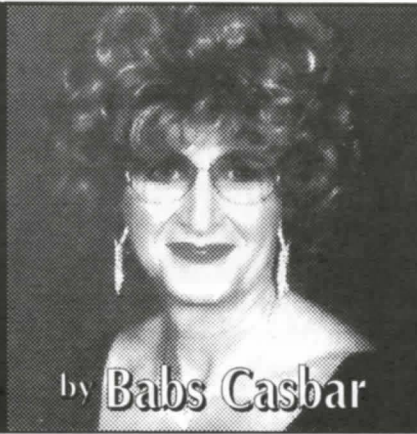
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Ms. Lynda

# Dining with Carol & Babs



by **Babs Casbar**

When Babs was revealed to Carol's sister in South Florida... when Carol described the "Dignity" cruise from Miami with our "T" friends... when we actually traveled together with her sister and our brother in law to Key West... then later when they met us and several of our "T" friends in South Beach, in NYC, as then as "straight" in NJ, Carol's sister called, exhorting us to come down to the Keys for Fantasy Fest!

We were vaguely aware of an annual costume celebration in the Keys, but had always thought it was a little thing just for the local "Conchs"!

Fantasy Fest is no little thing, it's an adult costume party, much like Carnival, that is held over a 10 day period. It's big, but not too big, with 60,000 people swelling the town of Key West. It's well organized with corporate sponsors, but still retains spontaneity. It's wild, it's naughty, yet people party responsibly, and play within a liberal set of rules. It's just friendly and fun!

The concept is that everyone

should have the opportunity to act out a fantasy, or at least pretend to be a fantasized about person or character for a brief glorious time! If that means that our inner or real selves can come out and rejoice in a warm tropical setting... so be it!

Needless to say, most rooms in Key West are booked for the week long plus party a year in advance... but there was a cruise ship, the Leeward that would leave Miami on a Friday and dock the entire day and night Saturday so we could see the Grand Parade, party, and then relax the next day on a private beach in the Bahamas on Sunday. Carol wasted no time shopping for a travel agent and soon there were 12 of us all set to meet in Miami for our Fantasy Fest cruise.

We boarded the ship, some of us dressed, some not. We had no labels, straight, gay, TV, TG, TS. It mattered not! We hugged, greeted each other, introduced ourselves and vowed to have a great time! After trying to straighten out a glitch with the dinner seating, with Pina Coladas or Bahama

Mamas in hand, we next explored the ship and planned for our party weekend!

As a group, we made neither effort to hide nor push ourselves on anyone, but act naturally in this festive atmosphere. Because this was for Fantasy Fest and Key West does have a significant gay population, there were two large gay groups on board, one from Florida, the other from Chicago. Babs had already contacted the Florida group and we had been invited to their private cocktail party.

For some of the cruisers, the significant number of gays on board gave them a bit more of a "comfort zone". As a transgendered couple, we appear as a same sex couple... perhaps there was feeling of security... to hold hands, to dance together, well... we are married... do we still want to do that stuff?

The first evening on board seemed to be a whirlwind, cocktails, dinner... do we see the show, dance in the lounge, try our luck in the casino, the piano bar cabaret show, the late night disco? A smorgasbord of activities! Are we going to save our energy for Fantasy Fest? Nahhh!

Saturday morning we were docked in Key West, the southernmost part of the U.S. After a late breakfast, we missed our regular seating, we donned comfortable shoes, walking shorts, yes... a top, and we were off to the Street Fair on Duval St. and join the party. The theme for 1997 was "TV Jeebies", TV meaning television ... not transvestite!

There was an entire week of parties, shows, balls, yacht races all with



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costumed characters keeping the theme of television characters or shows. Even the pets have a masquerade and parade!

The walk down Duval St. was a feast for all the senses! We watched the colorful bustle of people, many who were already in costume. A popular, yet "startling" mode of costume is the creative use of body paint, which seems to be very practical in this tropical climate!

There is even an "Epidermal Art & Torso Tapestry Contest" on Saturday afternoon. For the record, the minimum legal costume is "painted top and g-string"! The buzz of people, the sounds of the street music, the smell of the food, the sight the exotic masks and costumes displayed for sale, the beads everyone seemed to wear around their necks...and then there were the buildings and storefronts whose facades and roofs were decorated to match the theme!

Many employees were already in costume. One of the most impressive buildings had an EVAC "chopper" on its roof to emphasize the M<sup>o</sup>A<sup>s</sup>S<sup>o</sup>H theme! Sloppy Joe's Bar had an imposing "Tales from the Crypt" display! Even infants and pets were in costume! So much happening and everyone seemed to be smiling!

Then it was back to the ship for dinner. That evening, we had reserved the "Captains table," a large boat shaped table in the dining room that would accommodate all of us. We did cause a bit of a stir as Amy, a GG, crossdressed in a Naval Captains uniform with full regalia (and a fuzzy

mustache and sideburns), escorted Jodie in to the dining room and to our table. What a grand entrance... every one watched... many applauded! It was the start to a grand evening!

After dinner it was back to Duval St. to catch the Parade, where we managed to see most of the 75 floats, even getting close enough to catch a few beads thrown to us from the people on the floats. *The X-Files* was popular, and we saw a lot of strange creatures! There was even a spaceship or two that landed! Fast Buck Freddie's float had a giant spacecraft with creative and dramatic choreography of sound, lights and invading aliens. We all felt it deservedly won the best float competition. Floats, costumes, marching bands... there were also several with a M<sup>o</sup>A<sup>s</sup>S<sup>o</sup>H theme.

We liked one that had the nurses in the shower, whose curtain ..dropped suddenly! *Star Trek*, cowboys, oh, there were so many... some we couldn't quite figure out, but it was fun! After the parade, we walked about the street breathing in the joy and good will that abounded, remarking that there was no sign of rowdiness! With wide tired smiles we headed back to the ship and continued the party on the pool deck with music, dancing, games and even the midnight buffet outside!

Needless to say, we found there were more than a couple of drag queens on board that night! It seemed we weren't the only ones that enjoyed dressing on the cruise! The next day was almost anti-climactic as some of us relaxed on Coco Cay in the Bahamas, while others just stayed on

board by the pool.... to recharge our batteries for our last night on board.. the formal night where we all met the real Captain.. and posed for a group photo shot... then after dinner we changed and continued the party!

We decided that evening that we would return next year! The 1998 theme is "Fright Night on Bone Island" and the Saturday Grande Parade actually falls on Halloween! We have already booked the Royal Caribbean's "Sovereign of the Seas," a larger, newer, more luxurious and classier ship for 4 nights, from October 30 to November 3. Our special group rates start from only \$415 plus port taxes!

Even Carol's sister is joining us! We have experienced that the personnel of the Royal Caribbean Cruise line, rather than being just indifferent to "T"s, actually have gone out of the way to make us feel welcome!

For more information on our cruise e-mail us at <bcandco@aol.com> or <Babtrot@aol.com>. You may call Florence at Travelmax for reservations at 1-800-958-6299, ext.2258, pin# 388987 for our group rate! For more information on Fantasy Fest write:

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# Making Sense of It All

by Lee Etscovitz, Ed.D.

## Live and Help Live

Everything I have been writing in this column since I began it over two years ago has stemmed primarily from my experience as a transgendered person. Every article has been an example of my ongoing effort to make sense of my gender journey. I have also drawn on my experience as one who sought counseling along the way as well as on my more recent experience as a transgender specialist who in turn counsels other persons trying to make sense of it all. My prior doctoral and post-doctoral training and my professional experience as a professor of education involved a great deal of work in the area of human behavior and human relations. So now I am applying my knowledge and skills to the transgender area. It is thus out of both my personal and professional experience that I have begun to develop some ideas as to the nature of the counseling process.

There are at least three ways in which a counselor can view the helping process and thus three ways in which a client can experience the receiving of help. One way is the "live and let live" approach, a *laissez-faire* attitude on the part of the counselor which involves a great deal of listening without offering much, if any, commentary. It is true that simply listening can help to bring about some measure of catharsis on the part of the client, a kind of confession and cleansing of one's soul, if you will. Such an approach is also non-judgmental, for the "live and let live" counselor rarely, if ever, expresses an opinion or judgment.

But what about the client's frequent

need for feedback, opinion, and guidance? And what about the need for some kind of real, felt relationship, if only as an aid in the exploration of oneself as a transgendered person? Self-recognition and self-acceptance can grow out of the opportunity to talk to, and to be heard by, a receptive counselor, but a counselor who operates in this "live and let live" way is usually minimally involved with the client, with the result that there is usually minimal input, if any, on the part of the counselor. There is little damage done to the client, but there is also little help received beyond, of course, the fundamental self-recognition and self-acceptance just mentioned. Given this approach, can the client also integrate his or her life? Can he or she begin to deal effectively with his or her body, with feelings, with the web of human relationships, and with the need for hope and courage as a transgendered person in a not always friendly society?

A second way in which a counselor can view the helping process involves the "live and make live" approach. It is this approach which I see as being most prevalent and at the same time as being potentially most damaging to the client. This approach tends to be judgmental, both implicitly and explicitly. Explicit judgments, both positive and negative, tell the client what he or she is, at least in the eyes of the counselor. For example, a client may hear that he or she is definitely a transvestite but not a transsexual, that is, a part-time crossdresser and not a candidate for full-time transition. Whether the counselor is right or wrong, the fact remains that the exploration of inner feelings has been closed somewhat, and now the client faces the task of trying to deal with the counselor's judgment instead of his or her own feelings. It is true that the counseling process does, and should, involve professional opinion, especially when the possibility of body-altering hormones and surgery is involved, but should the client pay to be fighting the counselor instead of being helped to explore these possibilities? Whether the client fights, or passively agrees with, the counselor, the resulting relationship

is just as one-sided as that in the case of the "live and let live" counseling process. In both cases there is not much two-way communication, at least not on any deep or significant level.

Judgments on the part of a counselor can be implicit as well as explicit, that is, indirect as well as direct, and still have the effect of putting the client on the defensive. For example, a counselor may say to a client: "You should learn to like your assigned gender, that is, the gender assigned to you at birth." That is an implicit judgment, for it implies, but does not state openly, that the client is, or should be, a part-timer, a transvestite, and not a full-time transsexual. Again, whether or not the counselor is right, the client is not being encouraged to make sense of his or her own gender experience but rather is being forced to deal with the counselor's point of view. It is as if the counselor is trying to make the client be a certain way, with or without the client's genuine, deeply felt, consent. In the long run, if not sooner, the client finds that he or she may be taken away from encountering a true sense of self and be led instead into simply coping with the counselor's opinion.

This "live and make live" approach reflects at least two aspects of our western culture. First of all, though we live in a democratic society, the fact remains that we are used to listening to the voice of authority, that is, the voice of the expert. Sometimes that voice is overbearing, other times it is gentle, but in both cases it is still the voice of authority. And since it is usually the counselor who is the one to sign a letter allowing a client to proceed to hormones and surgery, the sense of counselor authority is reinforced.

Secondly, the "live and make live" counselor can keep his or her personality at a safe distance from the client by engaging in a somewhat one-sided relationship. In other words, the client shares and the counselor judges. The counselor thus does not have to risk his or her expression of feelings in the context of a counselor-client relationship. Instead, procedures and categories, not human interaction and human involve-

ment, become the basis for the whole counseling process. And yet it is this form of counseling which prevails.

What, then, am I suggesting as an alternative to the "live and let live" and the "live and make live" approaches to counseling? I would like to suggest what I call the "live and help live" approach. According to this point of view, the client experiences himself in the context of a real relationship with the counselor. The client is helped to experience his or her own feelings and concerns, not from being told by an expert what they are, whether explicitly or implicitly, but rather by being helped to discover and understand them while on a gender journey with a supportive yet insightful helper. The counselor and client in a "live and help live" process are real persons together, though the counselor does have the added responsibility of guiding the client on his or her gender journey. In a real sense, the counselor joins the client on that jour-

ney, but it is a journey which remains the client's, not the counselor's.

Like the "live and let live" counselor, the counselor I favor does listen and does not impose judgments upon the client. And like the "live and make live" counselor, this third kind of helper does have opinions about the client. But unlike the first two types, the "live and help live" counselor responds to the client and helps the client explore his or her own experience as a transgendered person, so that the client begins to see his or her own truth, his or her true self.

Many of us who seek counseling in order to cope more effectively with our transgender feelings and our transgender situation in general are often disappointed, because we somehow feel that counselors tend not to understand our unusual experience. We, as clients, need helpers who understand both our issues and our need for a genuine helping relationship. We have real problems

which require helpers who are themselves real persons. For all that the helping profession must maintain safeguards against inappropriate hormonal treatments and surgical procedures for the protection of both counselor and client alike, the fact remains that we, as clients, do not want a helping process which simply lets us talk to ourselves (of which we have probably done too much as it is) or makes us bow down to other people's notions as to who and what we are (which is what we are struggling with in the first place). We need the human involvement of trained professionals who can help each of us to see ourselves more clearly and who can help us to understand and handle our inner feelings, our bodies and our relationship to them, our various human relationships, especially family and fellow workers, and most important of all, what it takes to be courageous in the face of what are often seemingly insurmountable odds.



## Renaissance Library Report

Thanks to the efforts of Michelle Lynn Moore, the Renaissance Assistant Librarian, the Renaissance Library is continuously being improved. As reported previously, the file of newsletters from other transgender organizations around the United States and in other parts of the world has been updated. Michelle was helped in this particular task by Jessica Brandon. Michelle herself has also organized our current book holdings by subject matter for ease of use.

Michelle is also working on several other tasks for the library's improve-

ment. She is putting together for distribution a bibliography of our library books according to subject matter. She is also writing another listing of the same books which will contain a capsule summary of each book to help borrowers make more informed reading choices.

New books are also going to be added, both the ones our budget will allow us to buy and the ones which are donated. Donated books are always welcome. In fact, four books were recently donated by Jamie Louise Plower. Thank you, Jamie. Anyone with donations

should see either Michelle or Lee Etscovitz, the Renaissance National Librarian, usually on the third Saturday of each month at the Philadelphia chapter meeting in King of Prussia.

Other aspects of the library's offerings which are being developed are videos, magazines, and a resource file. Again, donations are always welcome, and volunteers to help sort and organize our library materials are always needed. To become involved, speak to Michelle or Lee.



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## Letters to the Editor

(The following remarks, in the form of a letter, are from a Renaissance member in response to the article by Diane Dale, "Renaissance and the Evolution of the Individual," in the May issue of News & Views.)

Dear Diane,

Well, I finally got around to reading the May newsletter and found your excellent article. I think you speak to several issues and especially liked your list of who we are and where we fit into the process of coming out.

I'd like to make two observations: 1) some of us no longer attend meetings, because the focus seems to be "in your face" justification and defense of crossdressing; and 2) some of us simply like to wear women's clothing in public without makeup, wigs, etc. Let me explain both points.

My wife and I have attended several local meetings of the NE PA group which meets in the Lehigh Valley. Other attendees seem to have a need to defend their crossdressing to the point that having conversation beyond that level is seemingly impossible. Since neither my wife nor I need to be convinced that 1) I am a cross-dresser; 2) she accepts and supports my desire to CD; and 3) it is not the end-all nor be-all of my existence, we would simply like to make friends with others of similar desires, not be bombarded with defensive people who preach to the choir. Where do we fit into the list you so eloquently described?

Secondly, I don't choose to wear dresses, put on makeup, or wear wigs.

I dress daily in lingerie and, whenever possible, wear women's sportswear as part of my casual clothing. I am not interested in trying to "pass." Frankly, I've become very comfortable being seen as a guy in women's clothing. I'm kind of laid back about the whole thing—I simply wear what feels or looks good within the context of what I am doing at the time. So where does that leave me in the Ren Group?

Incidentally, if I were not middle-aged, 6 feet tall, weighing 200 pounds, and suspect that I would look like Mrs Doubtfire (in other words, if I were in my 20's, 5'8" and 135 pounds), perhaps I would be more inclined to dress and attempt to pass—assuming that circumstances allowed for it. And maybe that's why I'm not more militant about crossdressing and why I'm uncertain where I fit in Renaissance. However, it's an organization that I enjoy being associated with, and will continue to support it, even if from a distance.

Thanks for taking the time to write the article and for reading these ramblings.

Rikki

Dear Rikki,

Thank you for your articulate and thoughtful way of sharing your experience with all of us. You certainly are not rambling. In fact, you have evoked in me some thoughts of my own which I wish to share with you and any other interested readers.

Like with all listings or categorizations, there is good news and bad news. The good news is that we are helped to see ourselves a bit better, whether in agreement or disagreement with the list in question. We may see that we "fit" one or more of the so-called categories, thereby identifying ourselves a bit more clearly, if only to ourselves.

The bad news in a list like this is that it can have an excluding effect, such as your comment that you are uncertain as to where you fit in Renaissance. It is true that you are

still supportive of the organization, but have we really helped you as a member by not providing a category that matches your situation? I think not. How ironic that the very thrust of Diane Dale's article (the development of a solid membership) is actually defeated by your sense of exclusion, even though you are still a member.

I, for one, am wondering how best to approach the defining of membership needs without really excluding anyone. I wonder if there are other thoughts on this matter among the readers of News & Views. Suffice it to say at this point, the article does point to critical issues in the evolution of Renaissance as an organization and of its individual members, and it did help us to hear your thoughtful and genuine remarks. Thank you.

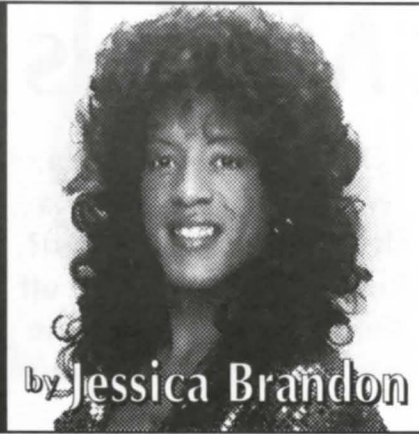
Lee Etscovitz, Managing Editor

Managing Editor's Note: This issue will be my last as Managing Editor. Unfortunately, I cannot "manage" to handle the editing of this newsletter in the light of my full-time job and other responsibilities and interests. So Angela will help put together this month's issue with Jessica and our new copy editor, Miranda Wright. Meanwhile, I will continue as Librarian and as columnist and as book reviewer.

Do you have something that you'd like to share? **News & Views** is a two way process.

If an article or column provokes a reaction in you, whether positive or negative, don't go unheard. Send your opinions and comments in a letter to the Editor. Send letters to: Editor, c/o Renaissance, 987 Old Eagle School Road, Suite 719, Wayne, PA 19087, or email to <Editor@ren.org>.

# Shopping With Jessica



Greetings, girlfriends! Welcome one and all to my favorite time of the year, summer! Even though we had a pretty mild winter, when July rolls around, you just can't help but feel that all is right with the world. Unless of course you don't have air conditioning, then life's not so great when you're sweating like a pig all day long.

In the meantime, let's resume my feature on shopping for beginners. In this, the fourth segment, we wrap up the accessory talk with jewelry. First and foremost, earrings. If you're a wuss like me and can't stand whatever pain that's associated with having your ears pierced, go with the clip-on variety. Major department stores and accessory shops carry a surprising large selection of clip-ons, but gold or gold plate is an ideal kind to own as it has a timeless appeal.

If you're going out and about in public, stick with small, round, button type earrings, save the long, ornate or dangly stuff for TG meetings or parties. Real women don't wear gaudy stuff on any regular basis, and neither should you. Own at least a good dozen pairs of varying sizes. Neck chains are always in fashion, again, go with gold or gold plate which is best. Chain lengths can run anywhere from 16 to 24 inches, depending on one's personal preference.

Places like accessory shops and shopping mall kiosks offer chains by the inch. You can choose anything from a delicate, thin link to a half inch wide herringbone in whatever length you choose. Don't forget to add faux pearls, bangles, ankle chains and pins to adorn your dress or blazer. For really fancy events

or parties, invest in rhinestones necklaces, earrings, pins and bracelets to really jazz up an outfit. Why, you can even buy rhinestone clips to put on your shoes so you can sparkle from your head to your toes!

Now we come to hosiery. Most of us opt for pantyhose over stockings where you need a garter belt to keep them in place. Two things to take into consideration when you buy hosiery is fit and durability, with that in mind, stick with big name brands like Hanes or Donna Karan as those companies make the best hosiery unlike the five and dime stuff. Always check the sizing charts on the back of the packages to make sure you get the right size in regard to your height and weight.

Here's what you'll find on a typical hosiery sizing chart: A-B (heights from 4'11" to 5'7", weights from 95 to 140 pounds), C-D (5'4" to 6'0", 120 to 165 lbs.) and E-F (4'11" to 5'7", 145 to 190 lbs.). Sizes may vary depending on the manufacturer, but this will give you an idea as to just what you'll need. I wear size C-D, but more for my height (6'2") than my weight, which, as of this writing is around 195. However, this particular size wears very well on me.

As for colors, start with off-black which can be worn practically all year 'round, then add neutral colors, flesh-tones and off-white, but only between May and September. How much hosiery to own depends upon how often you dress, I keep at least a dozen pairs on hand at all times, you may want more, or less, that's up to you. And always be sure to wash your hosiery after each

wearing, companies like Hanes sells hosiery wash for just that purpose, and it works like a dream.

Next up are cosmetics. When I first started experimenting with cosmetics, I ended up with some pretty bizarre results. No doubt you remember my having mentioned in an article and past column about having waltzed into a five and dime, bought the very first bottle of makeup I saw, rushed home, put it on and panicked because I used makeup for Caucasian skin which, as you well know, I don't have. My ignorance led to a then humorously freakish experience.

Makeup can be the hardest thing for a beginner to shop for since the colors and choices are practically legion. Foundation alone can come in as many as two dozen different shades to cover (pardon the pun) virtually every possible skin tone, from pale to dark and everything inbetween. And if you make the wrong choice as I did, the end result can make you look like a clown. Speaking of that, I won't even go into detail about how I once fell in love with electric blue eyeshadow. Talk about horrific!

Before you shop for cosmetics, it's important to decide just what sort of look you want to cultivate. If your goal is to go out in public, it's crucial to look as natural as possible so you don't stick out amongst the masses like a cheap hooker on Rodeo Drive. The key to all of this is foundation, that's the critical first step of the entire process. Foundation is what you'll use to even out your skin tone and prepare the canvas (your face) for the colors you'll add later.

Well, kids, that's all for now. In Part Five, I'll resume the talk on cosmetics then move on to personal style, then the pros and cons of image consultants. As always, my mailbox is open for your comments, tips and opinions at <treetop@voicenet.com>, or by snail mail to the Renaissance National office on page two. Until next month, be smart, buy smart and look smart! Happy shopping, sisters!





# Swimsuit Models Wanted!



Do you look good in a swimsuit like Miss Dina (left) or Miss Lisa (right)? Are you dying to show off this summer, then let the world see you in all your glory come winter? Then, by all means, send us your best swimsuit photo for our annual, Lycra® loaded pictorial here in News & Views in February! Just mail your photo to us at the National Office address on page two! The more, the merrier! See ya on the beach!



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# TG Community Calendar

## LOCAL RENAISSANCE

### CHAPTERS- JULY

4: Lower Susquehanna Valley, New Jersey Support

11: Lehigh Valley, Delaware

18: Greater Philadelphia

25: Monmouth/Ocean Trans Gender

### JULY 1998

15-19: S.P.I.C.E.: Spouse/Partners International Conference for Education in Atlanta, GA. For info, call (510) 235-7450 Pacific time; (918) 343-1953 Central time; (215) 860-9271 Eastern time or email to: <melpeg@phoenix.net>.

### AUGUST 1998

1: A.G.E. meeting (Ren. affiliate)

### SEPTEMBER 1998

5: A.G.E. meeting (Ren. affiliate)

18-20: The Third International Congress on Sex and Gender, Exeter College, Oxford University. Jan Cobb, PFC BM network, London, WC1N 3XX Tel: +44 (0) 1473 421385, fax: +44 (0) 1473 421386, or email to: <Cong.bool@pfc.org.uk>.

30-10/4: Southern Comfort Conference, Holiday Inn Atlanta Central, Atlanta, GA. Call (404) 633-6470, or write to SCC, P.O. Box 77591, Atlanta, GA 30357-1591, or email to <sccatl@aol.com>.

### OCTOBER 1998

3: A.G.E. meeting (Ren. affiliate)

15-17: Lavender Law Conference, Park Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA. Contact <LAVLAW98@aol.com>.

18-25: Fantasia Fair, Provincetown, MA. Contact Alison Laing, P.O. Box 473, Portsmouth, RI 02871-0473, phone: (401) 624-4317.

### NOVEMBER 1998

5-8: Paradise in the Poconos. Fantasy getaway weekend. Contact CDS, P.O. Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406, call (610) 640-9449, or email to <poco@cdspub.com>.

5-8: Fall Harvest 1998. Sponsored by City of Lakes Crossgendered Community in Minneapolis, MN at the Sheraton Metro Dome. For info, contact CLCC, P.O. Box 14844, Minneapolis, MN 55414. Call (612)

229-3613 or email to <CLCC@topcity.net>.

7: A.G.E. meeting (Ren. affiliate)

8-13: Dignity Cruise X and Holiday at Sea II. Miami to Key West and the Bahamas. Contact Cruises Inc.: Barbara Arendt at (800) 621-6699 or Mike Sinn at (800)818-7830.

### DECEMBER 1998

No events scheduled

### JANUARY 1999


2: A.G.E. meeting (Ren. affiliate)

### FEBRUARY 1999

6: A.G.E. meeting (Ren. affiliate)

### MARCH 1999

3-16: Dignity Cruise XI on the Marco Polo from Sydney, Australia to Cairns. Contact Cruises Inc.: Barbara Arendt at (800) 621-6699 or Mike Sinn at (800) 818-7830.

If you know of any upcoming events of interest to the transgendered community, please contact the Editor with the pertinent information at the address on page two. 

## Resources

### Background Papers

Background Papers are \$1.25 each:

1. Myths & Misconceptions About Crossdressing
2. Reasons for Male to Female Crossdressing
3. PARTNERS: Spouses & Significant Others
4. The Matter of Children
5. Annotated Bibliography
6. Telling the Children: A Transsexual's Point of View
7. Understanding Transsexualism

All of the Background Papers and Community Outreach Bulletins are available for free at the Renaissance web site <www.ren.org>

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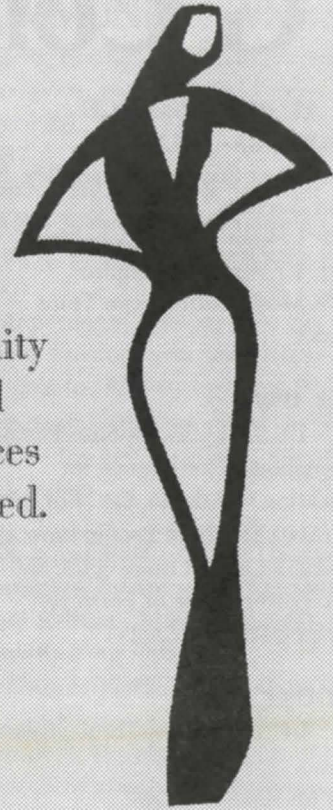
## Intimates

A well-established boutique with a caring and professional atmosphere serving the TG community and offering a full line of intimate apparel and breast forms in all sizes. Quality is high and prices are competitive. Privacy and confidentiality assured.

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(215) 942-0120.

In The Market Place at Huntingdon Valley, County Line and Davisville Roads in Huntingdon Valley, PA. Only four miles from Exit 27 on the Pennsylvania Turnpike.



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