Happy Valentine Day!

News & views

Vision • Integrity • Quality

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Renaissance

Another Look At The Benjamin Standards

by Dallas Denny

The Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association's (HBIGDA) *Standards Of Care* for transsexuals were just, literally, whipped up. Although a considerable number of people were on the committee which developed them, they were almost solely the work of the late psychologist, Dr. Paul Walker. First written in 1979, they were based on a policy of the then-defunct Gender Identity Clinic at Johns Hopkins University.

The issue now is whether the *Benjamin Standards of Care* are restrictive. Obviously, something that places formidable obstacles to an individual doing what they want to their own body is an imposition on that individual. *The Standards of Care* are a set of consensual medical standards which, by placing requirements like hormone and surgery letters, and a real-life test, on access to medical procedures, make it difficult for most and impossible for some to obtain those medical procedures.

The Standards of Care are "minimal" standards; they have a history of being zealously exceeded (abused is a better word) by mental health professionals. This is because they place the mental health professional (psychiatrist, psychologist, counselor, clinical social worker, family & marital therapist) in the position of okaying/not okaying medical treatment, i.e., gatekeeping. The surgeons and endocrinologists have surrendered the responsibility of making the decision to those outside the medical community. This is certainly an unusual move. Other body-modifying procedures which are, on a purely medical level, as drastic, or more so, than hormonal therapy and SRS, do not require this sort of input from mental health specialists. It seems certain that the *Standards* were born at least partly out of awe of what the medical procedures could accomplish. They were also born out of a need for medical practitioners to protect themselves from lawsuits.

Certainly, the *Standards of Care* are less than perfect. They have been described, and with good reason, as sexist and objectifying of female bodies because they classify female breasts as sex organs for purposes of mastectomy/chest reconstruction in female-to-male transsexuals, and as being biased

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Transgender Alliance Works NAFBS

by Angela Gardner

While working the Transgender Alliance booth at the October NASW Convention in Philadelphia we were approached by Sara Nash of the National Association of Family Based Services with information on their convention, which was being held in Chicago in December. The members of the Alliance decided it would be a good group for outreach, so we put together a plan on short notice.

We placed a call to our local affiliate, The Chicago Gender Society, in search of planning and staffing assistance. Since the demands of running your life as well as trying to run your support group can prohibit prompt replies, we didn't hear back from CGS promptly, and time was running out.

Email to Jane Ellen Fairfax put us in contact with the Chicago area Tri-Ess group. Candace Mahne of Chi Chapter agreed to take on the job of Local Exhibit Coordinator. AEGIS shipped in their portable display unit, Renaissance sent the Transgender Alliance banner and master copies of the Alliance brochure. Candace lined up local people from Both Chi and CGS and the booth was up and running on December seventh. What follows is Candace's report on how the latest Transgender Alliance outreach went.

Outreach To NAFBS: A Group Effort

by Candace D. Mahne

The exhibit was constructed and the Alliance brochures were in place, all just in time. Stephanie and Janice joined me for Wednesday night and we "womaned" our booth; the first one, as one entered the exhibit hall. The ladies answered questions and handed out the Alliance brochures, as well as the updated CGS brochure.

I cruised the exhibit area, checking out the other booths, and discovered one selling hand puppets. I

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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.

New Jersey

South Jersey/Shore Area: Chapter operations have been suspended pending the location of a new meeting site. Call 610-975-9119 for info.

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 8 pm all year 'round. Call 610-975-9119 for information.

Lower Susquehanna Valley: Write Renaissance LSV, Box 2122 Harrisburg, PA 17105. Meets on the first Saturday of the month. Call 717-780-1LSV (780-1578) for location and meeting times.

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 404-939-0244, or email to <aegis@mindspring.com>. Information resources & referrals.

Atlanta: Atlanta Gender Explorations (A.G.E.), PO Box 77562, Atlanta, GA 30357, 404-939-2128.

Illinois

Chicago: The Chicago Gender Society, PO Box 578005, Chicago, IL 60657, 708-749-1202.

Louisiana

New Orleans: The Gulf Gender Alliance, PO Box 870213, New Orleans, LA 70187-1300, 504-833-3046.

Maryland

An affiliate is forming in the Baltimore area. Write Tran*Quility, c/o Colleen N. Harper, 3044 Abell Ave., Baltimore, MD, 21218-3912.

New Jersey

N. Central Jersey: Monmouth/Ocean Trans Gender, (MOTG), write PO Box 8243, Red Bank, NJ 07701 or call 908-219-9094.

New York

Manhattan: Metropolitan Gender Network (MGN), write 561 Hudson St., Box 45, New York, NY 10014, or call 201-794-1665, Ext. 332.

Long Island: New York GIRL & Partners, PO Box 456, Centereach, NY 11720, Call 516-732-5115 for info.

Long Island: Long Island Femme Expression (LIFE), PO Box 3015, Lake Ronkonkoma, NY 11779-0147.

Oklahoma

Central Oklahoma: Sooner Diversity, part of the Central Oklahoma Transgender Alliance (COTA). Contact, Rachel Rudnick, P.O. Box 575, Norman, OK 73070.

Pennsylvania

Lehigh Valley/Pocono area: Northeastern Pa. Transgender Alliance, NEPTGA, meetings on the second Saturday of the month in the Allentown area. Call for directions and more information, 610-821-2955.

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Renaissance is a 501[c][3] non-profit organization providing education and support to the transgender community and the general public. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, make your check or M.O., payable to Renaissance and send it to our National office. Your contributions will help us continue our efforts to provide education about transgender issues. Donations can also be made through your local United Way agency.

Local Calendar

February

3 Ren. LSV meeting
Ren. South Jersey–cancelled
10 Ren. Delaware
10 NEPTGA, Allentown
17 Ren. GPC
24 Balto. Affiliate

News Beat & Reminder

by Angela Gardner

Well, I guess it had to happen. Drag is now blasé. When **RuPaul** appears on a prime time television show with **L.L. Cool J**, and **Howard Stern**, continuing to gratify his not-so-secret crossdressing desires, appears on *Late Night With David Letterman*—in total RuPaul-type glamour drag... what's left? When Howard (or should I say , Helen?) jumped up on Dave's desk and did a sensual little drag queen dance, I knew I had witnessed a new day for men in dresses everywhere. To borrow Dina's latest buzz words... it's a paradigm shift. Now, all you've got to do is say "Hey, I was inspired to wear this gold lamé dress to the office party by my hero, Howard Stern."

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

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

This Girl Needs A Cup

And I'm not talking about a B cup, either. A Mid-Western girl's basketball team was taking a beating and the coach became convinced the other team was using a male ringer. He was *so* convinced that after much debate with the rival coach, he got a volunteer to check the other team's underwear. The volunteer looked at panty waistbands, and checked the girl's backs for bra straps. Everyone was properly attired in feminine undies and the game went on with no further suspicions, but we all know how much the gender of your underwear has to do with your physical gender—now don't we? I don't know if the rival team really had a guy in drag playing for them but I can imagine a crossdressed ringer breathing a sigh of relief after the undie check, and saying to himself, "Boy I'm glad I wore proper foundation garments for this game." Moral of the story, never judge a book by it's cover, or a player by her panties.

Leguizamo Leaves Off Lurking

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

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

And, Don't Miss Bliss

While there's no drag or transgender activity in this film it does star **Terence Stamp**. You'll remember his stirring performance as the transsexual in *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen Of The Desert*. Here we get a chance to see him in his native habitat, playing a male role. Just because there's no cross gender interest in this flick there's no reason it can't be sexy. It's reported to be "the hottest, sexiest film of the year." and they say, "Even if you think you've seen it all you'll want to see this film to make sure you didn't miss anything."

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

More Movie Notes

Like, hey man, have you like heard about *Bio Dome*? It's like this bitchin' new flick with **Pauly**, like, **Shore**. I mean, you know, if you're a dude who likes to dress like a babe, there's like this scene where Pauly dresses up. Unfortunately, (dropping the Cali dude speak) that's probably one of the only

continued next page

News Beat...

interesting things in this flick about two slackers who get locked into an eco dome experiment. (There are a couple of hot actresses, so there is another interesting thing, or two.) Even that's not too exciting since Shore uses a mop for a wig, and the cups from a couple of plungers as bra cups. It's most likely not worth spending the admission price just for that. Lapsing into dude speak, totally gnarly. Whatever.

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

Drag Queens To The Left Of Me...

RuPaul and **Diana Ross** have teamed up for a video of the old **Gloria Gaynor** song, *I Will Survive*. (What ever happened to her, girlfriend?) They shot this bubbling confection of drag fluff on a stage built in the middle of Santa Monica Boulevard, and I think every drag queen in LA. showed up for the shoot. The queens on the stage were no doubt paid professional drag actors but the street was filled with hundreds of girls who just grabbed a boa and came on down.

Now, there's one of the big disadvantages of living on the East Coast. You can't just run down to Santa Monica Boulevard to get into a video. (I would have flown in, but for some reason my agent never told me about the shoot.)

The video has been shown on *Entertainment Tonight* and it's just another example of our world infiltrating the general reality. Imagine if you'd seen something like that on a television show thirty years ago. I think there would have been a lot of folks moving to L.A. It may still result in some budding drag queens from the Heartland of this great country making the trek to the Coast in search of an accepting home. Thirty years ago that's what you had to do for acceptance—now there's a support group in every major city and more than a few in between. So girls, don't move to L.A., unless you've got a signed contract. Otherwise, how will you survive?

Tracey Gets A Dick

Yeah, I know it's a bit crude but I needed a clever title for this section. It's all about **Tracey Ullman** (I always wondered if she was related to Liv Ullman?) and her new HBO comedy series. The cleverness concerns the nature of some of the twenty two characters she plays throughout the ten episode series—a few of them are men. There's no doubt the woman is a chameleon, and her repertoire of characters is awesome, using the connotation that word had before every kid used it to describe his new video game.

The new show is called *Tracey Takes On...* and she and her husband (lucky guy) are the executive producers. That brings a lot more artistic freedom to Tracey and enables her to take a few risks, like doing lesbian sketches, and playing a few male characters.

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

Check your HBO schedule for feature times kids, and that's it for now. As Dennis Miller used to say, I am outta here.

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The Village Corset Shop

by Mistress Autumn

Reprinted with permission from Prometheus, *the quarterly publication of The Eulenspiegel Society. Thanks to Caroline Reid of* LSV News *for sending it our way.*

Most perverts aren't likely to have visited this great little lingerie shop. It is tucked away on a lightly traveled side street in the West Village (NYC), and it isn't listed under lingerie in the *Yellow Pages*. Even if you don't like low prices and great service, it's well worth the trip to experience the Corset Ladies in action, and to observe the other clientele.

The ladies who run the Village Corset shop have been there since the dawn of time. Bella, the head fitter, has an unerring eye for size and an unorthodox fitting technique: she runs her hands over your waist and pronounces (to the head nodding accompaniment of the other Corset Ladies) that you are a "Size X"——whatever that size may be. It doesn't mater what your orientation or gender is—I have seen the ladies use this same technique with boys, girls, and others. Amazingly enough, the garments always fit the first time.

The Corset Shop has apparently unlimited stock. there are a few items haphazardly displayed in the front plate-glass window, but for the most part you tell the Corset Ladies (they do tag-team style service) what you are looking for, in what color(s), and they immediately begin gabbling amongst themselves and unearthing a variety of treats from the floor-to-ceiling shelves behind the counter.

The actual trying on of your selected garments can be a, well, trying experience, as the ladies are prone to whisk open your fabric dressing room curtain and crowd around to view you stuffed into your selected item. They all have to pass judgment on the fit and the style ("Turn around, Dear. Now, Bella, don't you think that needs to be a little tighter over the hips?") This is not the place to go if you have body modesty, or any modesty for that matter. On the other hand, most of the Corset Ladies clientele lost their last vestiges of self-consciousness long ago.

The Village Corset Shop can be both educational and entertaining, and sometimes both at once. One afternoon, I experienced an impromptu fashion show when the Ladies were fitting an economy-sized babushka and a crossdresser. Both girls were happy to promenade around the store clad in nothing more than their girdles and longline bras in front of the plate-glass window. I didn't know that manufacturers made longline bras in 52F. The crossdresser had great legs, a nice waist, and was definitely the more attractive of the two.

The Corset Ladies have seen it all, and they have a very calm acceptance of people's quirks. They are matter-of-fact about fitting the fetishists (the ones who are "buying it for my wife." but who want it to fit them) as they are about fitting their longtime clientele. It's a friendly, old fashioned, service oriented place with low prices and lots of genuine lingerie and foundation garments. I looked for eighteen months for a waist cincher. The Corset Ladies not only carried waist cinchers, they carried them in a variety of styles and colors, and they were able to add garters to the one I finally selected. My final cost: $24 plus tax, and no attitude.

Alterations and special orders are readily obtainable. The Ladies have a quick turnaround time (usually three days to a week) on alterations. Special orders take as long as they take, which depends on the manufacturer. The Corset Ladies know their product lines, know their jobs, and enjoy their work. The Village Corset Shop doesn't have a marquee or a sign, just "Lingerie" on their plate-glass window. It's located at 113 W 10th Street (between 6th Avenue and Greenwich Avenue, right across from the Jefferson Market Tower) in Manhattan and open from Monday through Friday 10:30 AM to 6:30 PM, and Saturday from 12 noon to 6:00 PM, except when they aren't. Call first. It's that kind of place.

The Village Corset Shop
113 West 10th Street
New York, NY 10003
212-463-0365

Top 10 CD Reasons

Diane Franklin's brother sent her this and she passed it along to News & Views. *We have no idea who Andrew of America is, but if he sent it out on the Internet (for that it where it was found) then he's gotta be prepared to have people all over the world run it in their transgender newsletters. Drum roll please, Anton. It's time for...*

Andrew of America's Top Ten Signs Your Teenage Son May Be a Cross Dresser.

10. The pages of his Victoria's Secret catalog do **not** stick together.
9. After conducting panty raids, returns sizes that are too small.
8. You find receipt for a 10 pound bag of Dolly Parton cleavage blush.
7. Plays basketball in your Easy Spirit pumps.
6. Yells, "You're telling **me**, girlfriend?!" at *I can't believe it's a girdle* commercials.
5. Michael Jordan poster covers picture of RuPaul.
4. Medical exam reveals he really wasn't sniffing your hairspray.
3. Personalized license tag reads DRGKWEN
2. When he brings home one of the boys, it's Boy George.

And, the number one sign your teenage son may be a crossdresser...
... Trades in rod and reel for fishnets.

Standards...

against those transgendered people who cannot afford counseling.

There is much reason to ask why access to medical treatment is regulated by the *Standards of Care*. However, **all** the *Standards of Care* do is to regulate hormonal therapy and surgery. All other aspects of sex reassignment are at the discretion of the individual. Surgeons and endocrinologists are sworn to do no harm, and are reasonably concerned that allowing ad-lib access to these medical procedures would cause a great deal of human misery. Certainly, the reason the *Standards* were developed was because such free access had indeed resulted in suicides and wrecked lives.

The medical professionals were not trained to do screening for their procedures at the level which was needed; consequently, they handed the ball to mental health professionals. This put mental health professionals in the position of being gatekeepers, with an inevitable deterioration of the therapeutic relationship. The power dynamics inherent in a transsexual person seeing a therapist for permission for access to medical procedures makes actual therapy almost impossible, as has been so well pointed out by Anne Bolin in *In Search of Eve*.

The *Standards of Care*, which were written in 1979, and have been revised regularly (most recently in 1991 and are currently in revision once again), have served well, but the faults in the infrastructure are showing badly. Most seriously, they couple hormonal therapy and surgery, which means that they apply only to those people who are headed for eventual genital surgery. Incredibly, HBIGDA is currently discussing whether it wants to uncouple these; that's because about two thirds of the membership don't yet realize that there are gay FtMs or MtF lesbians, or that everyone who seeks sex reassignment does not have to be Barbie or Ken. There's a good chance that HBIGDA will declare that its interests lie only with transsexual persons— in other words, that it is interested only in persons who desire and seek SRS, and not in those who are content to live permanently crossgender without hormones.

Certainly, in my opinion, the *Standards of Care* give too much power to the mental health professional and not enough to the individual. Just as certainly, in my opinion, to scrap them in favor of the Emperor's New Clothes Standards — excuse me, Health Law Standards — would be a recipe for human misery and would jeopardize the availability of treatment for everyone.

A six-page set of standards cannot adequately address the diverse needs of the transgender community. We are in need of something much more comprehensive, which allows for difference in racial, cultural, and religious backgrounds — and, as has been pointed out by some HBIGDA members — which are not appropriate just for English speaking countries, but are truly international.

Ms. Denny asked us to make sure we pointed out that the above piece was written as, "an impromptu posting that I (Dallas) made in a thread on alt.transgendered." AEGIS is preparing to publish Recommended Guidelines for Transgender Care, *a book-length guide to medical and psychological treatment of transgendered and transsexual persons. They are currently engaged in a fund raising effort to that end. For more information on how you can help contact AEGIS. Their address and phone number are on Page 2.*

TAC & NAFBS...

bought the cutest of the menagerie, a brown bear. The two of us then toured the rest of the room.

Brown Bear flirted and acted shy, winning the hearts of the exhibitors, opening doors for dialogue and outreach. Brown Bear is irresistible and adorable. At least, ten people were reached, resulting in in-depth dialogue regarding the gender community. Brown Bear was an excellent instrument of outreach and better relations.

Wednesday night upon returning home, I realized that most of our presentation was "passive." The only "active" outreach, as effective as it was, was conversation. So, I rewrote my "coming out" letter to my mom (89 years old). It was edited for length and names changed for protection.

It was addressed to "Annie Ones' Mom," and it included the longing to have a Mom to talk with — to talk about all the feelings of isolation, being different; not being able to express my femininity, living through my sister, no ballet, pretty dresses or the excitement of the prom — and the desire to have a daughter/mother relationship. This letter was added to the handouts, with my return address. The letter became an active part of our outreach.

Thursday Carol R. was exhibit person in the morning and I joined her in the afternoon. Friday morning Robin took over. Sara told me that Robin sought out people in the exhibit hall, especially those who seemed somewhat reluctant to seek us out. Her outreach was most significant.

It is my recommendation for next year, and all future years, that we become active participants in the conventions we attend. We should submit papers which could lead us on to giving seminar presentations. Then we could become an active contributor, as opposed to one that is passive. Our presentation would be constructive, educational, and more than anything else, be relationship oriented, as the women we strive to become. So let it begin.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve in this manner and for the thrill of meeting and interacting with other professionals. Also, the success of the booth was due to all that participated.

If you would like to use Candace's "coming out" letter in your group's outreach activities, contact her through the Chi Chapter, PO Box 40, Wood Dale, IL 60191-0040.

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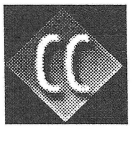

The Community Center— Your online source for information about transgender support organizations. If your organization would like to be on the World Wide Web, contact us at the CC web site <www.transgender.org/tg/>.

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As I write this, I don't know if the great federal government shutdown is over. Like the legendary tree in the forest, we can ask: If a government shuts down and nobody notices... do we really need it?

That may be a bit too simplistic but other than the directly affected federal employees, the only Americans who seem to miss Uncle Sam are those unfortunate few who happen to need passports. As a nation, we're $200 billion in the red and we just found out that it's all going for passport booklets.

The Big Business community which is always hollering to get the government of its back is finding out that they need those vital government statistics to forecast how many of their employees to fire in the next quarter. Like all Americans, Big Business loves those free government goodies but is loath to pay the piper—in tax dollars or extra effort—to help anyone else in need.

The shutdown is affecting the crossdressing community as well. Without the Commerce Dept. statistics on output of man-made fibers, we can't plan our spring wardrobe purchases. In my case, I don't make a move without first studying the government's forecast of spandex shipments to retailers. Oh well, at least I have my passport.

And I Thought A Paradigms Beat A Full House

The *AEGISNews* Quarterly (6/95) published in Decatur, Ga., carried a front page article titled *The Paradigm Shift Is Here!* If you're like me, you missed it, and perhaps like me, you'll have to look it up in the dictionary.

Well, the paradigm shift referred to in this pretty interesting article is the dawn of a new era where gender identification is no longer limited to the two polar opposites of masculine or feminine. There has been a growing movement among transgender theorists to recognize that an individual's gender identification can stop at any point along a spectrum separating the masculine/feminine endpoints.

The author likens this new outlook to the type of paradigm shift that occurred when Copernicus pointed out the Earth moves around the sun rather than the other way around. This type of sea-change in how we think about something advances the level of discussion and theory to a new plateau.

In the case of transgenderism, recognizing that individual gender identity can fall anywhere between the historically accepted masculine or feminine poles makes the old cliche of 'a woman trapped in the body of a man' or conversely 'a man trapped in the body of a woman' seem quaint and simplistic. An individual can set themselves at some point on the gender spectrum that allows them to express how they feel without identifying themselves as 100% masculine or feminine and any point along that spectrum is equally valid.

For those who identify themselves as transsexuals, this new way of thinking allows them to choose a lifestyle that does not necessarily entail reassignment surgery if that is how they would really prefer to live. If professionals begin to recognize this way of thinking, it obviates the dilemma of how to deal with transsexuals who can't commit to surgical reassignment. It isn't that the individual is confused; it is that the rest of the world must catch up to their way of seeing themselves.

For crossdressers and the organized crossdressing community, the paradigm shift could be the catalyst that breaks down the stigma attached to 'half and half' dressing or that great bugaboo, crossdressing with facial hair. After all, any individual gender expression - even if somewhere in the middle and sporting a goatee - would be valid.

The Paradigm Shift Has Reached Connecticut

Considering the fact that I didn't even know what a paradigm shift was 30 days ago, I'm really getting some mileage out of it in this month's column. In the December issue of the *Connecticut Outreach Society News*, Executive Director Elaine Tee tackles the topic in her monthly column.

Elaine's thought on the subject was prompted by a letter she received from a reader who asked her why she talked so much about 'passing.' Many of Elaine's columns deal with tips for 'passing' in public, most of which are well-written and insightful. However, the letter-writer took the paradigm shift viewpoint and had this to say about passing: "You go out of your way to not let anyone know your true self [by fooling] those unsuspecting people. It is in NOT 'passing' that the public will be educated and become comfortable with us. Every time we go out in public and 'pass' we are missing an opportunity to educate the public on transgenderism."

This is the paradigm shift in operation and something that's been addressed in this column before. If we 'pass' in public, nobody notices we're there, so there is no impact. If we do not 'pass' then the public has a chance to see us and can choose whether to accept us or not.

Elaine writes that she prefers to express herself through blending into society rather than sticking out like a sore thumb. She sees the militant transgenderists who adopt a confrontational approach to public relations as 'a reinforcement of the Halloween atmosphere the public expects... perpetuated by the TV talk show image of transgenderism.' If there is one criti-

cism to be leveled at Elaine's response it is there are more shadings along the TG spectrum than the completely passable and the publicly outrageous. Crossdressers who don't pass completely can still function in public without making a scene and enjoy themselves in the process.

Elaine isn't necessarily buying into the much ballyhooed (at least it's being ballyhooed in this month's column) paradigm shift. She says, "I don't care for an attitude that says I must create and support a fourth gender. I don't accept that as a viable alternative and I don't think anyone else does except another 'man in a dress'." Geez, with comments like that from sister transgenderists, this paradigm shift trial balloon may have a hard time getting off the ground.

The point is this: Elaine represents one viewpoint about how to express transgender feelings, while the letter writer who thinks we should try not to 'pass' represents another. And there are an infinite number of viewpoints in between and on either end of the two individuals in question. I'm reminded of that old Dave Mason song: "There ain't no good guy, there ain't no bad guy; There's only you and me, and we just disagree."

Prepare To Become Yesterday's Newspaper

Reflections is the newsletter of the Neutral Corner group in San Diego Calif. The 10/95 issue included their leader's monthly column, 'Melanie's Presidential Musings' headed with the question, "What Do We Do When Hollywood Gets Tired of Us?"

Melanie recounts the pretty astounding number of films with transgender characters or themes that came out in the past couple of years. And she also notes that the boomlet in these type of films will probably go the same route as past boomlets like 'disaster movies', 'disco flicks', or 'slasher films'. There's no doubt that crossdressing has been popularized in films and other entertainment media in the recent past, though not nearly to the same degree as other Hollywood-driven fads. Which is actually a good thing because wouldn't it be terrible to walk into a nightclub in drag and be laughed out of the place because it had the same passé stigma as dressing up in a white suit and doing the hustle.

Right, we'd rather get laughed out of a club for the same reason we're accustomed to, namely we look like a bunch of guys in flowered dresses.

As Melanie points out in the article, it lasted and we have benefitted from the public exposure to crossdressing but we gotta realize it ain't gonna last forever. From here on, we have to be our own ambassadors, whether we opt to look like Mrs. Doubtfire or RuPaul. If Hollywood isn't going to flak for us anymore, 'you better work, girl!'

And, I'll Be Back Tomorrow Night

The eponymous newsletter of the *Virginia's Secret* group down in Richmond, Va., carried a somewhat unique article in its November 95 issue written by a member named Penny. Penny's article was titled *The Chamber* and dealt with her visit to the Southern Comfort Conference in Atlanta, including a nighttime visit to Atlanta's S/M theme club, The Chamber.

Penny said that she had visited The Chamber briefly during the '94 Southern Comfort and decided that her visit during the '95 conference would be more interactive. She purchased a leather and spandex bodysuit, did her makeup more dramatically and teased her hair out in the spirit of 'When in Rome...' Inside the club, she purchased a studded collar and bracelet and a heavy chain belt in their boutique. With her outfit complete, Penny said she felt empowered—not just in the sense of looking like a dominatrix but in an inner way due to being able to express a side of herself she rarely gets the opportunity to set free.

Her article is somewhat unique in that many crossdressers have an interest in fetish clothing even if not the entire S/M scene, yet it is rarely ever mentioned in our support group literature. An interest in fetish clothing does not automatically mean that the crossdresser is any less serious about her own transgenderism. As evidence of that, I can point to another serious article in the *Secrets* newsletter about 'coming out', seeking employment, and living full-time, also written by Penny.

Literary Criticism

Paging through the Summer 95 *Chrysalis* published by the AEGIS group in Decatur, Ga., I saw a brief letter to the editor from Alison Marsh, who writes a column similar to this one for Seattle's Emerald City newsletter.

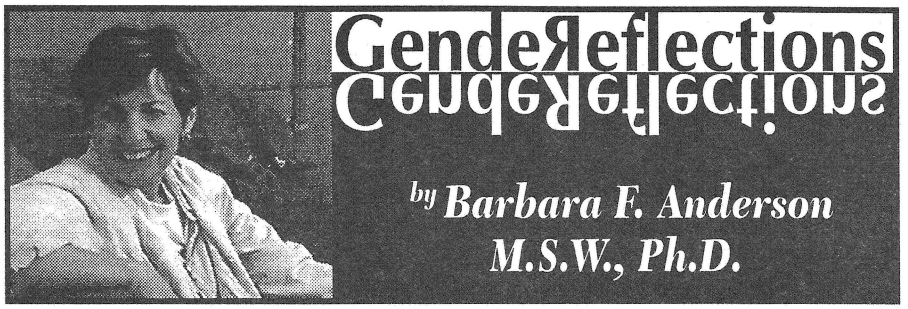
Alison wrote: "I'm in the middle of my monthly perusal of TV newsletters [and] I had to stop to tell you how very disturbing it is to be skimming through *Wilma's Trip to the Mall*, *Valentine Party a Success*, and *Spring is Upon Us – It's Time to Change Wardrobes* and suddenly be stopped dead by 52 pages of interesting reading in *Chrysalis*."

After slogging through the same monthly pile of newsletters for the past two years, I know whereof Alison speaks. There is so much sludge out there that anything smacking of intelligent life stands out like a diamond among so much coal.

As a literary device, the first person account has never gotten so much use as it does in TV support group newsletters. *Wilma's Trip to the Mall* that Alison jokingly refers to is not just a few paragraphs about the joy of crossdressing freedom, it's usually a seven-part series in microscopic detail on everything from which shade of panythose she wore to a full accounting of how many cosmetic counter salesgirls gave her a second glance.

My other pet howler in TV newsletters is the restaurant review. It is an established fact that no crossdresser has ever had a bad meal in a restaurant. In fact, they have all been 'gourmet delights' served by the world's most courteous and 'attentive' waitstaffs this side of Wolfgang Puck's Spago.

Well, if you can't beat 'em... join 'em. So in next month's *Vis a Vis* I'm going to begin an eight part series on my first trip through the drive-in lane at Cluck U. Chicken on Street Road. I've gotta go now. I need to choose which shade of pantyhose will complement the inevitable 'splendid' meal at this 'excellent' restaurant.



Silent No More

Last month I wrote on the silence surrounding transgender individuals, even among and between themselves. After a few "ain't it awfuls" I promised a column with suggestions for dissipating the aura of secrecy and shame around transgenderism.

In thinking about solutions, they seem to fall into several arenas — those changes that need to occur within society-at-large, within the TG community and within the individual. Although the larger the arena, the more difficult it is to impact upon, still, we shouldn't overlook whatever opportunities for intervention exist.

In society, there is an emphasis upon conformity and conversely, an attempt to extinguish diversity. This atmosphere inhibits the exposure of transgendered individuals, even to one another. The only forum in which I see transgendered people valued is on the Talk Show circuit where a focus is placed on the drama and exoticism of their lives rather than on their humanness and desire to participate in all realms of society. It is too rare to see an openly TG individual occupy a position of respect and responsibility, performing a service independent of his/her transgenderism. While the passage of legislation assuring fair treatment of diverse groups is an important step, it reinforces the marginal position to which minority groups are relegated. I look forward to the day when legislation will not be needed because society will value individual differences rather than suppress or overlook these.

I will not let my profession off lightly. When working with a client who complains of depression, anxiety, substance abuse, fractured relationships as well as gender issues, too many therapists conclude that the illness is transgenderism. Too few are informed about issues and concerns related to gender. They believe that with the realignment of the client's gender with his/her anatomy, all symptoms will disappear. Their ignorance, in some cases is so profound, they do not know what they do not know and go on to misdiagnose, mistreat and do harm to the already vulnerable individual. Discussion is under way to establish a professional category called "Gender Specialist" (see Recommended Guidelines for TG Care, in press, 1995). This should be a considerable step forward in helping TG individuals who elect psychotherapy to find competent and experienced professionals to work with them in making informed choices and addressing their personal concerns.

The TG community can do a better job than it has in interpreting and demonstrating to society-at-large the nature of transgenderism, the needs of their members and the value of the diversity that TG vision and lifestyle offers. The ignorance of the dominant culture about gender and transgenderism and their interface with sexual orientation, anatomy, mental and physical health, parenting ability, etc. is mind-boggling. Of course, transgendered people are also a product of the culture and have been infected with the same biases, prejudices and stereotypes as the general population. They often buy into the negative and pejorative judgments levied upon their own group and collude with society's effort to exclude and shame them. Silence and secrecy may seem an adaptive response to the alternative of being labeled sick or sinful. But it perpetuates the larger view that transgendered people have no place in society. I'd like to see TG organizations broaden their mission from serving those members (and their significant others) who self-identify and reach out to the larger community with an educational and service component.

I also would like to see the elitism within (but not unique to) TG organizations addressed. Hopefully, they would become more welcoming to TG individuals who do not present themselves in a socially passible manner but nonetheless need the support and guidance of these organizations.

A Message From The New PenPal Program Administrator

All alone and feeling blue? So deep in the closet that even moths can't find you? Take heart, there is life out there and kindred souls to talk to. You can find them by becoming part of the Renaissance Pen Pal Program.

All you have to do to get started is send in your name, and postal, or email address. We'll add you to our list of Renaissance's pen pals. Then, just wait for the mail to come rushing in. Your only duty is to promise to answer.

Pen pals have been around for a long time. Some of the greatest advances in science, and our best literature have come to us through pen pals. So why not join in and be part of the wide world of pen pals.

To join, send us the following information (Please type or print clearly.:

1. Femme or guy name.
2. Mail to name.
3. Street/PO Box Address
4. City, State, Zip.
5. Interests.

Send it to me:
Georgia Hilbert
P.O. Box 10723
Midwest City, OK 73140-1723
or e-mail to
75474.1025@compuserve.com
WWW – http://ourworld.com/homepages/georgia_h

Dining With Babs

A Night On South Beach

Last December, we flew down to Miami for the Dignity Cruise 6. Arriving the day before the sailing date with friends Jodie and Char, we had an opportunity to briefly explore the eclectic, gender friendly portion of Miami Beach known as South Beach. We had gone to South Beach several times in the past, but only for day excursions, where Babs enjoys shopping on Lincoln Road. Since it was an out-of-season Thursday night, we were safe in going to Lucky Cheng's without a reservation. The restaurant advertises itself as featuring "Pan Asian Cuisine with a tropical twist graciously served by Asian Waitresses in Drag!!!" They did not deceive. We were graciously seated in a comfortable booth away from the tourists. Our waitress, who introduced herself as Miss Ash, was friendly, helpful and prompt. The house Chardonnay was light, dry, yet fruity. Mixed drinks were queen sized and well made. The Absolute Gimlet was perfect!

Among the appetizers we sampled, the Shrimp Tempura, lightly fried shrimp wrapped in seaweed with rice, was excellent, light yet tasty. The Oven Roast Duck Salad, with greens, cucumber and mushroom was also excellent. The wood oven Roast Pork was tough. The Vegetarian Stir Fry was well prepared, flavor some, yet not spicy. Yellow fin tuna was served as ordered, thick, tender, with subtle flavors. The Spicy Chicken was only fair. We met the former chef, seated at the bar, who told us she enjoys the people there and still comes by on a regular basis. The entire staff seemed very friendly and seemed to project a positive attitude, a stark contrast to the original Lucky Cheng's in New York where the service and food have gone from good to indifferent or worse. Babs even bought a souvenir T-shirt, she liked the design.

Entrees ranged from $10 to $17 before the Transmedia discount. Drinks were reasonably priced. Skipping dessert, we didn't stay around for their drag show—featured twice a night, at 9:30 and 11:00 PM on Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Jodie and Babs were their own drag show, anyway. Happy Hour is in the bar every day between 4 and 7 PM, and dinner is served nightly from 7.

Lucky Cheng's, 1412 Ocean Drive (between 14 and 15 Sts.), Miami Beach, FL (305) 672-1505. Major credit cards, plus Transmedia

TG High Jinks After Dinner — The Further Adventures of Babs & Co.

Since Jodie and Char had been in South Beach the month before, they recommended we walk a few blocks south on Ocean Drive to the outdoor bar at the Clevelander, a popular meeting place. On our way, we spied a large play area on the beach, across the street. Needing no words, we crossed the street and headed towards the empty set of swings. Four girls, two reliving their childhood, and two others first exploring their female childhood, smiling, giggling, laughing while enjoying the warm Florida sea breeze. This was better than dessert, plus negative calories. Higher and higher, pumping the swings! So we're swingers now? Swinging in skirts! Singing in skirts! Aba daba honeymoon! Char jumped off to take our pictures, then started climbing up the "Jungle Jim" or was it a "Jungle Jane"? We took her picture as she scrambled to the top.

We crossed over to the other side of Ocean Drive and minutes later settled in by one of the several outdoor bars at the Clevelander, where we contributed to their diversified clientele. We talked with several people of various sexual persuasions. There we met many friendly people. Jodie only had to buy one drink. One young "macho" fellow paid Babs a backhanded compliment, he thought she was Carol's mother! So much for that dress and that wig!

Leaving early to prepare for the cruise the next morning, we hailed a cab to take us back to the hotel in Miami. The next day Char discovered the camera was empty, but at least we had good memories! Memories? Carol's mother?!.... Humph!... should have smacked that young lout!

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

Significant Other Support

To network with other partners of transgendered people contact Evelyn Kirkland, 987 Old Eagle School Rd., Suite 719, Wayne, PA 19087.

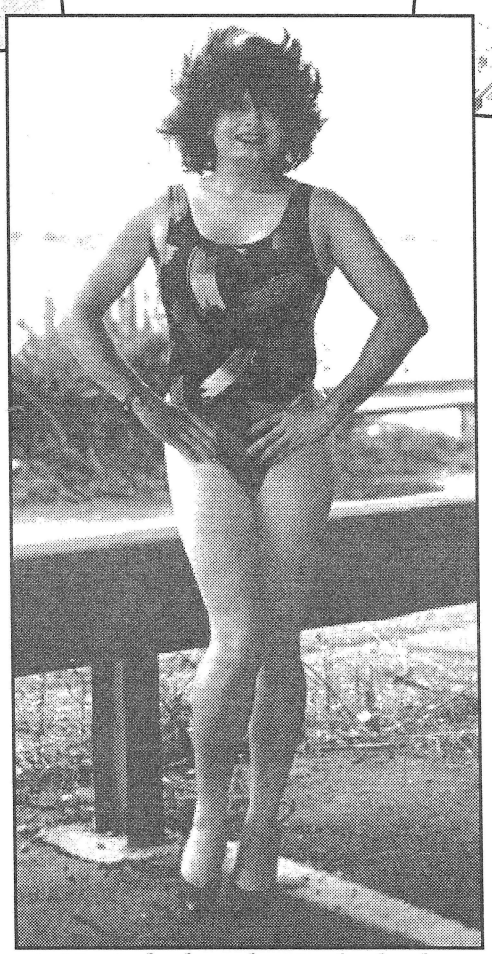
Pen Pal Program

If you would like to correspond with other people around the country, contact PenPals, attention Georgia Hilbert, PO Box 10723, Midwest City, OK 73140-1723 or email to:
<75474.1025@compuserve.com>

The Bathing Beauties Are Back!

▲ *It's attitude on the Atlantic City Shore from your editor, Ms. Gardner.*

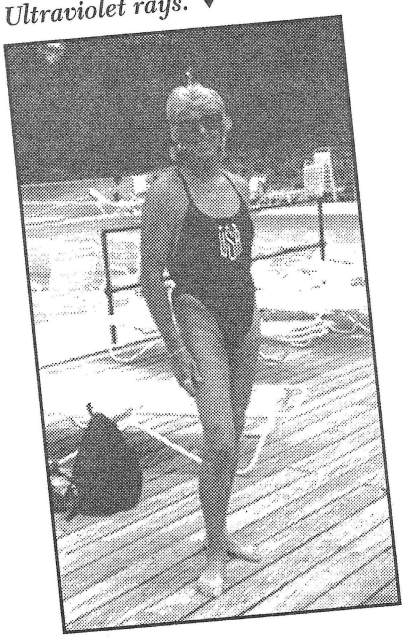
▲ *It's Surf 'n Sand in the fun-filled Caribbean for N&V columnist Babs.*



▲ *Ms. Amberle at the Meadowlands Hilton in Secaucus, NJ — "Stuck in the mud, somewhere in the swamps of Jersey."*

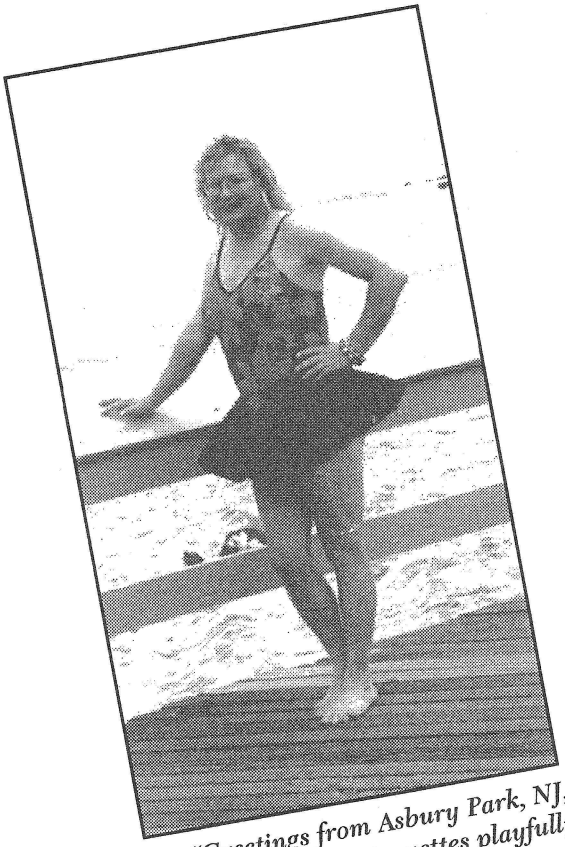
▲ *Arlene is on-deck in this lovely skirted one-piece.*

The Sun Goddess, a.k.a. Debbie Carter, works those Ultraviolet rays. ▼



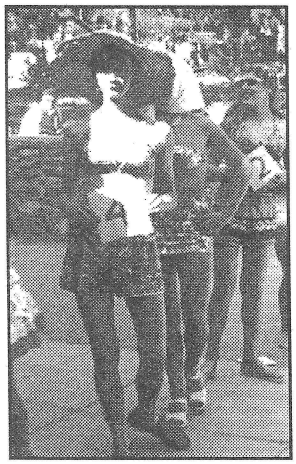
It's Time For The Swimsuit Issue

▲ *Jodie decorates the shore at Seaside Heights.*



▲ *"Greetings from Asbury Park, NJ," says Terry as she pirouettes playfully.*

Special Bonus Picture



Identify the pretty young bathing beauty above. Here's a hint: "she's" a respected member of the mental health community. Is "she" —
(a) John Money
(b) Richard Docter
(c) William Stayton
(d) Richard Green
We'll tell ya next month.

▲ *Yvonne tests the waters and gives us her "It's cold in here" look.*

Miss Phaedra Kelly finds a message in a bottle at Whale Chine on the Isle of Wight. ▼

Hermaphroditus Reborn?

Phaedra Kelly Finds Her In Greece

by Phaedra Kelly

I met her first when I was ala femme, visiting the Travesti vice road, Syngrou Avenue. This street in Athens is the only place archaeology finds what could either be a shrine, or a tomb of a satirical playwright of the same name, for Hermaphroditus–the deity which originally was important to fertility in the same way as the Goddess of Northern India still is to the Hegira today.

There, in the area known in Ancient days as Alopeke, was Karlota Baltzis, in tight, short, black leather, hot pants, boots and jacket. She was visiting the Travesti girls and teasing the men before mounting her motorbike to ride off to a party.

Karlota is a singer, who began trying to be male, and very handsome he was, though on revealing album covers some airbrushing of a budding bust was needed. His singing then was of mediocre ballads, but good enough for modest stardom. Now she is out as a woman and her new record titled *Take Me From Behind* is electro-rock, very good, quite sexy and funny in places and number one on the charts.

With so many repressed Greeks boosting it from the shelves, rather than buying it (due to embarrassment) her record company has trouble getting money from sales. It carries the slogan *AIDS Kills* and includes a free condom. Some of the tracks, like *Dream, I'm Not Like Other Girls*, and, of course, *Take Me From Behind*, tell Karlots's story.

Karlota is a hermaphrodite. She has an elongated clitoris which resembles a penis. Below that is a slit, which is the continuation of her vagina. She also has a full bosom without hormone inducement of any exterior kind. On the cover of her album she appears naked, with a picture of her former male identity covering her genitalia.

She lives with a boyfriend in a flat located in a building which, according to my references and researches on Alopeke, is almost exactly where the cave in which the shrine, or tomb was housed! But the excitement at finding the Goddess alive and well, and living on Syngrou Avenue ends there, because Karlota was in the process of making visits to London's Charring Cross Hospital to find out what could be done to normalize her genitals, and make them more female.

It's her body, mind, and soul—bless her—and she's lived with the backlash long enough. She says she doesn't like to do political talks on the media about it, and she just wants to get on with her music and her life. Like most Greeks, she's a lusty girl who has tried most things, including being a "sex sandwich" between a male and female, but she has found her own level as a woman now.

Anyone interested in contacting Karlota may direct their correspondence to her c/o Phaedra Kelly, IGTA, Box 2, 1 Banks Building, School Green Rd., Freshwater, Isle of Wight, UK P040-9A3.

Karlota shows off her body

TELEPHONE (215) 547-9417

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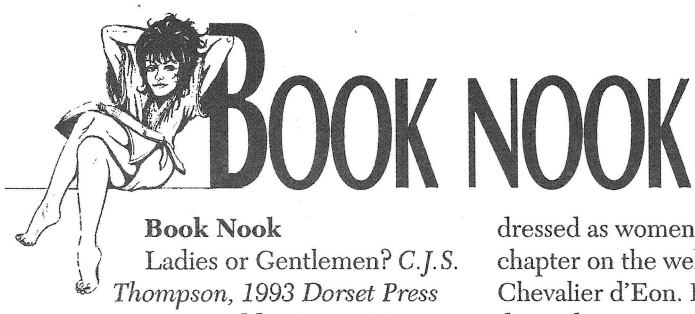


Book Nook
Ladies or Gentlemen? *C.J.S. Thompson, 1993 Dorset Press*
reviewed by Jenny M.

You would think that a Renaissance Girl would be the last to judge a book by its cover, but I did. The title *Ladies or Gentlemen?* in big pink and baby blue letters caught my eye. I couldn't browse through it for fear of showing too much interest in an unmanly subject, so I covered it with a copy of *Popular Mechanics* and bought it.

As it turns out, only one third of the book was stories about apparent ladies who really were gentlemen, some of which were centuries old. (The stories—not the ladies.) The other two sections were stories about women dressing as men and royal impersonators who didn't switch genders. (Sorry, I didn't read those sections, but I'm donating the book to the Renaissance Library if you want to know what was in those parts.)

As for the stories of men who dressed as women, there was a long chapter on the well-known story of the Chevalier d'Eon. He claims he only dressed as a woman because the king ordered it. Sounds like spin doctors at work, to me.

I was excited that there was a chapter about someone named Jenny, thinking I might find a heroine namesake. No such luck. She was suspected of killing a father and daughter so she could take the girl's identity and lay claim to the family wealth. Nobody was terribly surprised to learn, after her death, that she was really a man.

I found most of the stories to be sad—like the married, father-of-two, French civil servant found hanged in fashionable women's clothing. The police investigation revealed that, as Madame Cartier, she was the queen of Montemarte night life. "Mental derangement" was assigned as the reason for her suicide. No Strawberry Day celebrations with the townsfolk here.

The author had no particular point of view, and I have no point of view on the book. In fact, I didn't understand a lot of the words because the author "endeavored to retain the quaint and stilted phraseology of the periods in which the individuals lived."

I did understand the reason for dressing given by François de Choisy, who lived in mid-17th Century France: "It is an attribute of God to be loved and adored and man, so far as his weak nature will permit, has the same ambition. It is beauty which creates love and beauty is generally woman's portion; when it happens that men have, or believe they have attractions for which they may be loved, they try to increase them by putting on women's attire. Then they feel the inexpressible pleasure of being loved. I have had that pleasant experience many a time when I have been at a ball or a theater in a beautiful dress with patches and diamonds and when I have heard someone whisper near me, 'there is a pretty woman!' I have felt a pleasure so great it is beyond all comparison."

I am sorry there is not more analysis here. Call me shallow, but working too hard at the whys and labels detracts from the experience of dressing and leads to unsightly forehead wrinkles.

South Jersey Chapter: Reorganize And Relocate

The South Jersey Chapter of Renaissance has closed its doors. Due to a number of problems including poor communication, lack of member involvement, and the ill health of the Chapter Leader, Kelly Harris, the chapter is no longer in existence.

Renaissance would like to thank Ms. Harris for all her time and effort keeping the South Jersey Chapter going, and we wish her well. It is our fond hope that we will be able to soon report her complete recovery and resumption of normal activity.

The dissolution of the South Jersey group is *not* a tragedy. Rather, it is a chance for renewal and reorganization. At the National Board meeting in January it was resolved that Renaissance National would take over the operation of a support group meeting in South Jersey. The South Jersey Chapter's treasury has been turned over to National and the funds will be used to start the chapter over in a new location. Letters will be sent to all Renaissance members in the South Jersey area to notify them of National's commitment to the re-establishment of a local chapter. National also asks for the assistance of any former South Jersey members who are interested in beginning the new group.

"South Jersey has been with us from early on. It is a high priority item to get them up and running again as soon as possible," said National Managing Director, Angela Gardner.

A large part of creating the new South Jersey Chapter will be its incorporation as a non-profit corporation in New Jersey.

To help get legal matters organized, such as the incorporation and non-profit status for the new organization, New Jersey attorney and Renaissance member, Leslie Foster, has agreed to handle the paperwork on a pro bono basis. Former South Jersey Chapter Leader Terri Risley has stepped in to run meetings and act as a contact for anyone interested in getting things back together. Risley will remain acting Chapter Leader until the group is ready to hold an election of officers. She may be reached at 609-933-2233 after 6:00 PM. In the meantime she is actively seeking a new meeting site in a more central South Jersey location. If you have an idea for a meeting place, please call her.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Angela,

I just wanted to write you a note to thank you for all your efforts setting up another successful Holiday Party for the GPC. Some guy showed up at the end of the night and tried to claim the credit.

I want to ask you if you remember a 60's sitcom called "The Ugliest Girl In Town." (It seems I always think of it as I am putting on makeup, for obvious reasons, but forget to ask by the time I get to the meetings.) My wife thinks I dreamt it, but I don't think my imagination is that good. The premise was about a guy who was "discovered" when pictures of him in a hippy wig and lovebeads (taken by his girlfriend) fell into the hands of the advertising world. He was thought to be a woman so distinctively ugly that he became the hottest model of the year, and carried on the charade because the money was so good.

Of course, it sounds more like TV fiction than a TV show, but I recall a couple of the actors, an episode plot, and even the theme song ("Who's got that fabulous face? The ugliest girl in town..."). Recently I searched for it in the archives at the Museum of Radio and Television in New York, but I found nothing (although they did not have an exhaustive listing). Am I crazy, or have you ever heard of it? If not, I might have an idea for a new series.

Sincerely,
Jenny M.

Dear Jenny,

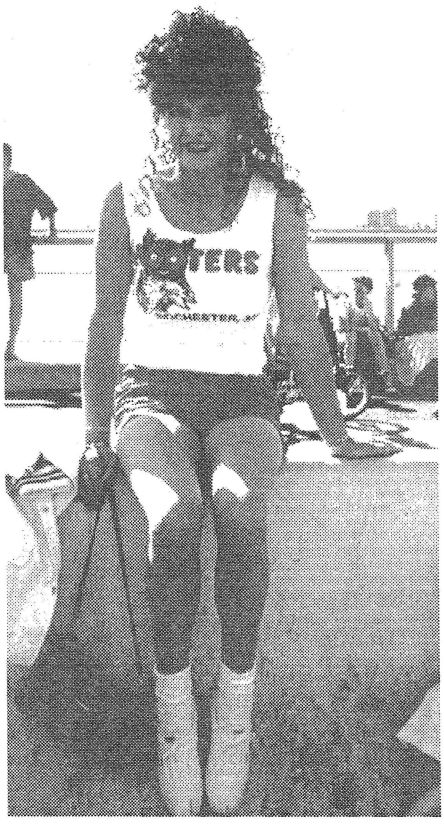
I'm glad you liked the Holiday Party, but I can't help you with the television show. I have a vague memory of something like that, but since I was very paranoid about anyone knowing I liked the idea of wearing women's clothing, I probably wouldn't have watched it if there was anyone else in the house.

From JoAnn Roberts: I remember the show. The "ugly" girl was played by some actor whose first name was Peter, but that's all I recall about him. In the show, his brother is an ad exec. who "discovers" the ugly girl and he's the only one who knows who "she" really is.

Hi Angela,

Read your article on Hooters and thought you might enjoy this picture (at right). I wore the Hooters outfit for Wigstock last year. But, if you have any pull, I might work (at Hooters) part time.

Have a great day,
Jodie



Dear Editors,

I'm on the Iowa City Human Rights Commission (in Iowa, of course), and our city council recently passed a new "gender identity" ordinance. The actual change is listed below:

Ordinance: Adding "gender identity" to the list of protected categories (e.g., race, sexual orientation, religion), and defining the term as: GENDER IDENTITY: A person's various individual attributes, actual or perceived, in behavior, practice or appearance, as they are understood to be masculine and/or feminine.

The impetus came from a MtF transgendered person who felt she had been discriminated against, and wanted to file a complaint. We were unable to help her because, under the law at the time, it was legal to discriminate against people on the basis of gender identity. No more, thanks to her prodding!

Anyway, thought you'd be interested in this. Now we're trying to help employers understand the new law and how to go about implementing it. Ah, the eternal bathroom issue! Any help for helping rather conservative business people make these hurdles? Thanks.

Best regards,
Osha Gray Davidson

Hi ho out there in TV land!

I'm Liz Jarrell, and from all of us at

continued on page 23

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CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

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

JUMPSTARTing the new year is a new group in New Jersey: **J**ersey **U**nited **M**eeting **P**romoting **S**ane **T**hinking **A**bout **R**elating to **T**ransgender people and issues. **JUMPSTART** is a support/empowerment group for people who are interested in promoting Transgendered Rights and supporting Transgendered people. This is not a "dressing" group and they do not require any individual to dress in any particular way. Each JUMPSTART meeting has two parts. One part will be a support/anonymous sharing function where those who wish to share and support may do so. The second part will be a topical discussion pertaining to Transgendered Issues and Rights. JUMPSTART meets every Tuesday Night from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm at the Central Unitarian Church in Paramus, New Jersey. Call 201-262-6300 during business hours for more information.

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

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

One of my fave magazines was **SPY** which I thought had gone out of business, but, no, they just went bimonthly.

HOT•BUZZ

The February 96 issue has the now infamous *SPY 100*, a list of people, organizations and things that annoyed the *SPY* staff in 1995. Well, we made the top twenty. Yes, Item #20 is "Transvestites Go Mainstream. Nothing pumps up box office profits like carefully calculated outrageousness." The same issue carried an article titled "The Man With The Golden Jugs" wherein is described chemically induced breast development in men (**gynecomastia**) from pesticides that mimic estrogens. Holy Hooters, Batman, you mean I could grow boobs by sniffing DDT? The article says that pesticides used on fruits and vegetables may be responsible for the increase in what has been a relatively rare disease.

Pump Up The Volume is the new tune being "sung" by **Sandra Bem**, well known author of the *Lenses of Gender*. Until recently, Bem has tried to minimize the relevance of the male/female masculine/feminine quad by minimizing its presence in social and psychological life. But now, says Bem, perhaps the way we should do that is by proliferating categories of sex/gender/desire. In the Journal of Sex Research (Vol 32, No. 4, 1995, pp. 329-334) Bem discusses the work of three scholars who are central to this theme of proliferation. Included in the triad are anthropologist Mary Douglas, philosopher Judith Butler, and developmental geneticist Anne Fausto-Sterling. Fausto-Sterling has been mentioned here before for her 1993 article "The Five Sexes: Why Male and Female Are Not Enough." However, of interest here is Bem's discussion of Butler's book *Gender Trouble: Feminism and The Subversion of Identity* (Routledge, 1990). One of Butler's arguments is this: all gender is drag. Or, rather gender is an imitation of some phantasmagorical vision of what a man or a woman should be. She says there is nothing more natural, original or unconstructed about a female dressing up like a woman than a male dressing up like a woman. Bem says, "That, of course, is also why all the many dressed-up, made-up and coiffed-up women... look, to my eyes at least, not like women, but like people of whatever sex trying to look the way they think women are supposed to look." Now, I *like* the way these two women think.

I'm tellin ya, ya gotta read everything these days or you might miss some really cool stuff. Like in the February issue of ***WIRED*** (the darling of the net set), I found a review of a comic book called *The Spider Garden*. It is, they say, "...a mix of sci-fi, Japanese folk tales, and palace intrigue with pansexual groupings of women, men, mixed-genders, and machines." Oh, that sounds like it might be fun. The story centers around an androgyne Shaalis (she don't look like no androgyne to me) who receives a slave as payment of a gambling debt. That's all of the plot I could glean from the review. If you're interested, the comic is available for $11.95 from NBM at 212-545-1223, or by fax at 212-545-1227.

Onto fashion news... I received a new mail order catalog from a company called **City Spirit** and I have to tell you that I fell in love with their clothes. For example, there's a knit jacket dress made of Rayon and cotton that just too elegant for only $128. Many of the clothing selections go up to size 18 and some up to size 20 (that's a 36½ inch waist). Call for a catalog: 1-800-240-7057, between 7 am and 9 pm Central Time.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

So, those are my opinions, but, hey, what do *I* know? I think Brigitte Nielson is Sly Stallone in drag. Comments? Email them to <CyberQueen@cdspub.com>.

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Shopping With Jessica

by *Jessica Brandon*

Greetings, girlfriends! Since Valentine's Day is this month, I urge each and every person reading these words to go and lavish your spouse or significant other with endless amounts of love and affection. Trust me, it'll make ya feel good inside! After all, love is what makes the world go 'round! This month, ladies, I'm gonna rap about nails, and not the kind **Tim Allen** uses on *Home Improvement*.

Way back last September, with my retirement from the Navy after nineteen long and mostly distinguished years only a month away, I started growing my fingernails longer. This is something I've always wanted to do since I came out of the closet, but couldn't because my job required me to lift and move boxes and perform other types of manual labor. Wearing artificial nails on my outings was a losing proposition since they just didn't seem natural to me. Plus, the damn things kept falling off at the most inopportune times! More than anything, I wanted to have the genuine article!

It took well over a month to grow them to a desirable length, but once I developed a really killer set of nails, I was pleasantly surprised at all the positive reactions I'd gotten, primarily from women who've complimented me (in my male guise) about how good my nails look, especially when they're painted. Heck, I even had one lady ask me if I do manicures for a living! While having long nails can make simple tasks such as tying laces, fastening buttons, and (most of all) typing, a bit trying at first, until you get used to them, believe me, it's worth it because of how feminine they make your hands appear.

Okay, let's get to the meat and potatoes of the subject. Unless you lack the necessary patience, and opt for acrylics, either from a salon or do-it-yourself kit, it takes lots of time and work (and, in my case, an equal amount of will power because I used to be a chronic nail chewer) to develop and maintain a good set of natural nails. And you have to be extremely careful not to break a nail while growing them or all your efforts go right out the window. To this end, there are scores of products on the market that will help you achieve your goal.

One product line, **Nutra Nail**, which I happen to use, has several different products designed specifically for nail care. They have strengtheners for weak nails, thickeners for thin nails, conditioners to promote nail growth, cuticle remover, and a full line of base coats, top coats and polishes that go on smoothly and dry quickly. They even have a French manicure kit, which I might try sometime. **Sally Hansen** has a similar and extensive line of products that perform the same job. Which line you choose is up to you.

To maintain your nails, you should have them manicured on a regular basis, like once every two or three months. Unless you're proficient enough to do it yourself (and I'll readily admit I'm not), I strongly recommend going to a professional. Yes, girls, a salon. I go to a salon as a guy for manicures and never have a problem. As with clothing stores and whatnot, you are a consumer willing to spend good money for a particular service, and this is no different! Get into the habit of going to one place, become a regular client, get to know the people as they get to know you and you'll be treated with respect.

If, for whatever reason, you can't grow your nails and opt for the ersatz variety, start with the most recognizable brand of false nails, **Lee Press-Ons**. As you know, Lee's can be found in any drug store for around three dollars in short, medium and long lengths, both prepainted, and not. I had always opted for the latter so I could practice putting polish on them, and you may wish do the same; it's not an easy job for anyone who lacks a steady hand. If you want to wear false nails, use the adhesive tabs that come with them, it's a lot less messy than glue, even though tabs lack the staying power.

Next we come to **JoAnn Roberts'** favorite subject, the Internet. For anyone who goes surfin' on the Net, Auntie Jess has something you'll like.

Vanessa Kaye of COTA (Central Oklahoma Transgender Alliance, a Renaissance affiliate) has her own home page on the triple W, including something she calls *TG Shopping Links* where you'll find many interesting pages devoted to shopping.

continued on page 23

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Ask The Dermatologist

Dear Dermatologist,

As I grow older I find that things I hadn't thought about before, like wrinkles, begin to take up more of my thoughts as I get made up. I notice those little crows feet and tiny wrinkles around my mouth. If there is any way, I would like to minimize them so I can continue to look like a young lady for as long as possible. What can I do to minimize the effects of aging?

A Lady of A Certain Age

Dear Lady,

For millennia ladies have sought to find the Fountain of Youth through chemistry. Cleopatra massaged her face with debris from the bottoms of wine barrels. Now we know that the acid contained in this debris was Tartaric Acid, a form of the alpha hydroxy acids (AHA) that are in such vogue today.

Alpha hydroxy acids are one of the safest and most popular means of slowing down aging. They work by causing increased desquamation (turnover) of the top layer of the skin (epidermis). It has been shown, however, that this scaling effect tends to lessen with time. Perhaps the skin gets accustomed to it. Alpha hydroxy acids come in a bewildering array of brand names and vehicles. Some are prescription only, while others are available over-the-counter. One of the more effective in my hands has been Aqua-Glycolic, which comes as a face cream, a hand cream, and an astringent. Whatever the vehicle, AHA's operate best at an acidic pH of around 3. Low concentration products alter only the outer three layers, while a concentration of around 10% alters 10 to 20 layers. AHA's can occasionally cause burning and stinging, but most people tolerate them well.

Larger concentrations of AHA's are used in chemical peels. These peels should be done only by a trained, board certified specialist. Unfortunately, a few unscrupulous physicians lent their names to entrepreneurs providing low-quality, risky peels. These can cause scarring, pigmentation changes, and a turning down of the eyelids (ectropion), among other unpleasant effects. Used properly, however, chemical peels can remarkably enhance the appearance.

Another popular anti-aging preparation is Retin-A. This Vitamin-A acid derivative probably works both to enhance desquamation and build new collagen. This, in turn, causes a firming of the skin. Retin-A needs to be introduced gradually, or it will cause unpleasant irritation and redness. Since it also causes photosensitivity, it should be applied only at night, and a sunscreen with a Sun Protective Factor of at least 15 should be used. This is actually an adjunct to therapy, since sun screens slow down chemical changes wrought by sun on the skin. It is indeed possible to use both AHA's and Retin-A in combination, using AHA's in the morning and Retin-A at night.

Some people advocate injection of bovine collagen into wrinkle lines. I think this is more trouble than it is worth. The effects tend to be temporary, as the collagen appears to be partially digested. For that reason, frequent touch-ups are usually needed. Although the collagen has been treated to make it less allergenic, allergies do occur, even if dermal testing is negative. And they may be significant. Injecting the collagen around the eyes can lead to loss of vision. My advice would be to avoid this treatment.

Dear Dermatologist,

I shave closely. I use beard cover and a good foundation and I can still see the rough texture caused by my beard. Is there any way to make this rough skin smoother? Please let me know anything, from quick temporary fixes to permanent steps. I have heard of dermabrasion. Does this work?

Stacy

Dear Stacy,

There are two main reasons for a rough texture in the beard area. The first is protruding hair. This can be handled mainly by shaving closely with a sharp double-edged blade. Reshaving lightly also keeps the hair down.

The second reason is an excess of skin cells around the outlets of the hair follicles. One good way to handle that is to apply a Vitamin E containing masque about an hour before shaving. That should rid you of those unwanted excess skin cells. You might end with an application of Aqua-Glycolic face cream under the makeup.

Dermabrasion should be avoided. Since cells continue to build up, it won't solve the problem. It is also painful, expensive, and can cause such side effects as scarring and pigmentary changes. In fact, I don't recommend it except in cases of severe crateriform scarring, and then only if the patient understands the risk versus benefit.

If you have a skin care question you can't ask your regular doctor, and would like the attention of an understanding, transgendered dermatologist, Dr. Jane Ellen Fairfax, send your questions to "Ask The Dermatologist," c/o Renaissance News & Views, PO Box 530, Bensalem, PA 19020.

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Shopping...

I've cruised it a few times over the past few weeks, and it's utterly fascinating to say the least. If you enjoy shopping (and who among us doesn't?), then you should definitely drop in here.

In the links, you'll find well-known vendors such as **Lydia's TV Fashions**, **Queen Cushion Shoes**, an online **L'Eggs/Hanes/Bali/Playtex** catalog for hosiery and lingerie, **Designs By Stefani** (designer wigs) and many more vendors. I've found this to be comprehensive, informative, and just plain fun, both for the dedicated shopaholic and the recreational spender. Even if you just wanna look, that's cool too. To hop on Vanessa's shopping page, jump on your trusty cyber surfboard and type the following: http://www.outline.com/trans/vksplink.html. Who knows, this might be the wave of the future in shopping!

Good Grief! I'm at the bottom of the page already? Where does the space go when you're having fun? I'd better split before Angela starts chopping my witty prose! Don't forget to write or email me with your opinions and places to shop. Until next month, be smart, buy smart and look smart! Happy shopping, sisters!

Mail your tips to Jessica c/o Renaissance News & Views, *PO Box 530, Bensalem, PA 19020 or email directly to her in-box,* <jessicsa681@aol.com>.

To All Subscribers!
Renaissance announces an increase in the annual subscription rate from $16, where it had been for several years, to $20 due to increased production costs.

Please note: your 1996 membership dues will reflect this increase.

Letters...

GPC, happy new year. I thought I would drop everyone a line and let you all know about our elections last November. As some of you may remember, I wrote a small, yet tasteful, column in our GPC newsletter called *On The Hot Seat*. Well, I'm not in that seat anymore, so I'll be writing from the back row. Here is the new lineup of chapter officers: Jessica Brandon is the new Managing Director, Lorraine Boyce remains Secretary, Joanne White returns as Treasurer, Diana Sorenson and Michelle Lynn share the Programs position and I'll be in charge of Outreach & Meetings. So, round up the usual suspects. The names have been changed to protect the insane... I mean the innocent! Last year saw our programs run into a lot of difficulties, but our team always came up with something. Thanks to everyone involved from the bottom of my heart. I know this year will run a lot smoother. Also, as we approach Renaissance's Tenth anniversary, my hope is that we continue to educate the public, and continue to grow as individuals and a group.

While I'm on my soapbox I'll put my two cents in as to what we should call ourselves. We all know that the general public feels better if it can put everyone into a category. I wish to say that I am a transvestite, and proud of it. If you know me, you also know that I don't have any patience for being classified to make myself or anyone else feel better.

One last observation deals with JoAnn Roberts' quote in the *Hot Buzz* last month. Sorry Jo, but Glen Frey did not write that; it was Don Henley's *Garden of Allah*. JoAnn, you can't sneak much by a frustrated musician, especially quotes from rockers.

With that I'll leave you with a quote I attribute to a street person in Philly. He told me, "Those who judge don't count, and those who count don't judge." How about those for words to live by. Have a great year and here's to Renaissance, happy birthday Mona!

In greatest appreciation, admiration, and love,

Liz

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Obituary: Jennifer Richards, St. Louis Activist

Jennifer Richards, a long-time transgender community activist died December 22, 1995, at age 44 of AIDS related complications.

I met Jennifer Richards in 1992 at the IFGE convention in Houston. I was asked if I would present her with a Trinity Award. I had not known Jennifer before that. When I read her biography and saw how much she had done for the community, long before the Phyllis Fryes and Riki Wilchins, I was truly impressed. I could not wait to meet her. So, let me tell you a little about Ms. Richards.

She was originally from the Philadelphia area, but left to find her fortune on the West Coast. Settling in Portland, Oregon, she soon became heavily involved in both the gay and transgender communities there. In 1983, Jennifer co-produced one of the major West Coast transgender events — Dream '83. She also did a cable-television talk show in Portland as Fairy Tyler Moore, her drag-persona.

After moving to St. Louis, Jennifer got involved with what was then the St. Louis Gateway Femmes, a rather conservative organization. She helped get them opened to new ideas and the group changed its name to the St. Louis Gender Foundation. Jennifer served StLGF as its President, Vice President, and its Fashion & Talent Show director for their Fall Harvest event. Jennifer was the main force behind the first regional coalition of transgender support groups, the Mid-America Gender Group Information Exchange (MAGGIE). MAGGIE includes: StLGF, Iowa Artistry, Kansas City Crossdressers And Friends, River City Gender Alliance, and the Wichita Transgender Alliance. She also served the national community as vice-chair of the Congress of Transgender Organizations from 1993 to 1994, and served as the M.C. for the IFGE Trinity Awards for 1993 and 1994.

Jennifer was such a delight to be around. She was bubbly and vivacious. Everywhere she went, she made people feel good about themselves. As a result, she was often honored herself with awards of all kinds: Miss Dream, 1980; the "Maggie" 1992, the Jennifer Richards Humanitarian Outreach Award, 1992; IFGE Trinity Award, 1992; Princess of the Poconos, 1994.

We became close friends back in 1992. We just hit it off instantly. I can say that knowing Jennifer was a great joy for me. We shared a few really great times together. The last time I saw Jennifer was October 1995 at the Fall Harvest in St. Louis. She was thin, haggard and cranky, but her spirit was indomitable. I am diminished greatly by her death. She has been buried in Philadelphia.

JoAnn Roberts

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CREATIVE PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATES
BOARD CERTIFIED SEXOLOGIST
Individual, Family, Marital,
Divorce & Sexual Counseling
Judith D. Dean
Ed. D., M. Div., M.S.
Suite 110
55 Princeton-Hightsown Rd.
Princeton Junction, NJ 08550
(609) 275•6556

The *Renaissance* Education Association, Inc.

Check Your Mailing Label!

Miss Demeanor 95M1234
5678 Lois Lane
Frosbite Falls, MN 55555

This is your membership information. The first two digits are your current membership year. If your label still shows "95," your membership is about the expire. We need to receive your renewal by Feb. 17, 1996 for your subscription to continue uninterrupted. Thanks again for supporting Renaissance!

Membership Application/Renewal

Mailing Name:_____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

If this is a renewal, please enter your current membership number: _____

Note: All memberships are good thru Dec. 31st of the current year. If you join after February 1st, you may obtain back issues of the newsletter free on request. Dues after Oct. 1st are the full amount but count for the following calendar year. Please mark your choice(s) below:

- ❑ Renaissance Greater Philadelphia, 987 Old Eagle School Rd, Suite 719, Wayne, PA, 19087
  - ❑ $40 per calendar year.
- ❑ Renaissance Lower Susquehanna Valley, PO Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105
  - ❑ $40 per calendar year.
- ❑ Renaissance Delaware, PO Box 5656, Wilmington, DE 19808
  - ❑ $40 per calendar year.
- ❑ Renaissance newsletter subscription only, 987 Old Eagle School Rd, Suite 719, Wayne, PA, 19087
  - ❑ $20 per calendar year.
- ❑ Additional donation to national $_____ (tax deductible)

Membership in a chapter includes a national newsletter subscription. Make all checks or money orders payable to Renaissance. Mail this form to your chapter or to the national office.

If you have changed your mailing name or address since you last renewed your membership, please complete below to insure uninterrupted delivery of your newsletter and other important information.

Previous Mailing Name:_____

Previous Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

AMENITIES

♂ Free shuttle to and from the Philadelphia International Airport
Call SuperShuttle (800) 562-4094
Free transfers to and from Amtrak
Call the hotel (302) 792-2700

♀ Free parking

♂ Pool and exercise room

♀ Basketball & volleyball

♂ Safe suburban area

♀ Complimentary coffee and newspapers in the lobby each morning

♂ Whispers Lounge, featuring happy hour buffet, dancing, billiards, and games (open until 1:00 A.M)

♀ Non-smoking and handicapped rooms

♂ Valet service with same-day return

♀ Tax-free shopping within walking distance!

♂ Individual, couple, and small group counseling

HOTEL

Wilmington Hilton
630 Naamans Road at I-95
Wilmington, DE 19703
Tel (302) 792-2700
Fax (302) 798-6182

S.P.I.C.E. has arranged a special room rate of $70 for up to four persons. Please note that there is no state sales tax, and the hotel tax is a low 8%. Attendees must make their own reservations directly with the hotel. To get our special rate be sure to mention that you will be attending S.P.I.C.E. If you would like to share a room, indicate this on your registration form. Our block of rooms will be guaranteed until July 8th. After that date rooms may not be available, and our special rate may not apply.

REGISTRATION FEES

Registration for the full conference is $137 per person. The conference fee includes programs Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and six meals (lunch and dinner each day). Any two days (with four meals) costs $105 per person. Any single day (with 2 meals) costs $83 per person. Excursions to historic Philadelphia will be available for an additional fee.

REGISTRATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Male partner attending Yes ____ No ____

Male partner's name _____

Support group affiliation, if any:

_____

Check the package you want:

Thursday-Saturday ____

Thursday-Friday ____

Friday-Saturday ____

One day (name the day) _____

Special needs _____

Registration refundable until July 9, 1996

Mail registrations and check to:

S.P.I.C.E.
P.O. Box 5304
Katy, TX 77491-5304

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF S.P.I.C.E.?

S.P.I.C.E. is designed to help the wives and partners of crossdressers find balance within their relationships. Programs will help participants build emotional strength, self-esteem, and self-respect. The focus is upon sharing special moments with others who have experienced many of the same frustrations and joys. Presenters will guide participants, both men and women, in their quest for confidence, the wholeness of being in a meaningful relationship, and the joy of living life to the fullest. S.P.I.-C.E. offers the ultimate safe environment!

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

S.P.I.C.E.
Dr. Peggy Rudd
P.O. Box 5304
Katy, Texas 77491
Fax (713) 347- 8747

PHONE (909) 875-2687 (Pacific)
(ask for Betsi)
PHONE (215) 860-9271 (Eastern)
(ask for Evelyn)

HOLD THIS DATE!

The S.P.I.C.E. Board of Directors is pleased to announce the fourth annual **SPOUSES' AND PARTNERS' INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EDUCATION.** The 1996 S.P.I.C.E. conference will be held at the Wilmington, Delaware Hilton, located just 11 miles from the Philadelphia International Airport. Keep the date, July 24-28, 1996, open because S.P.I.C.E. is an event planned especially for all women who are wives or partners of heterosexual crossdressers. Husbands and partners may also attend, but THERE WILL BE NO CROSSDRESSING PERMITTED DURING THIS CONFERENCE.

S.P.I.C.E. has changed the lives of those who have attended past conferences. The professional staff is trained to meet the specific needs of individuals in the transgendered community and those who share their lives.

While the primary purpose of the conference is education, there will be fun-filled activities including a harbor cruise, a tour of historic Philadelphia, and evenings spent with friends.

THE FOURTH ANNUAL SPOUSES'/PARTNERS' INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EDUCATION

July 24-28, 1996
Wilmington Hilton Hotel
11 miles from the Philadelphia International Airport