CROSS-TALK

The Transgender Community News & Information Monthly

#73
$7.00

GIVING LEADERS THEIR SAY ... OR FILTERING THE TRUTH?

MOVIE REVIEW: *TO WONG FOO, THANKS FOR EVERYTHING! JULIE NEWMAR*

WHEN IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO JUST CROSSDRESS

MERISSA SHERRILL LYNN'S FAREWELL

ARE LEADERS HUMAN ... OR SUPERHUMAN?

MISS TRANSSEXUAL 1986 BEAUTY PAGEANT

THE NATURES AND ORIGINS OF GENDER

NEWS ... INFORMATION ... COMMENTARY ... HUMOR

73
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FROM SANDY THOMAS

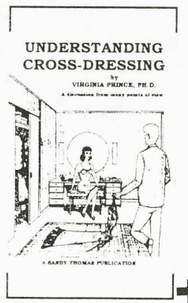
CONTEMPORARY TV FICTION # 22 is **"TOO MANY SKIRTS"** A long, wonderfully sweet story of a boy who joins an all girl band. . .and one day they all decide to NOT wear pants! With his mother's and girlfriend's help, he fits in. . . too well!

CONTEMPORARY TV FICTION # 23 is **"FLIRTING WITH FASHION"** The story of a young man who finds help telling his girlfriend about his interest in cross dressing. . .but did he get too much help?

Several years ago I bought the rights to TRANSVESTIA who produced some of the best fiction. I have reprinted a limited number of one of the longest and most rare editions. Over 120 pages, **I AM A MALE ACTRESS** is a classic that due to its size has been out of print for many years. It's a classic tale of a man who dresses up as an actress and learns his role well!

Also I have now re-released the helpful, non-fiction book, **"UNDERSTANDING CROSS DRESSING."** Over 160 pages of discussion from many points of view on how to lead a happier life and enjoy our unique lifestyle. Must reading for anyone who wants information on life options.

Your direct support is my lifeline and is greatly appreciated.



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KYMBERLEIGH'S CLIPBOARD

GIVING A LEADER HER FINAL SAY

by Kymberleigh Richards
Publisher & Managing Editor

This month's guest commentary has a byline many people would never have expected to appear in **Cross-Talk** ... Merissa Sherrill Lynn.

Unless you were living under a rock (or were on another planet) the first half of this year, you know that in March Merissa resigned as executive director of the International Foundation for Gender Education. Merissa was that organization's founder, and when I received a personal letter from her advising me of her decision, I had two thoughts. One thought was that, having given of herself for many years to serve the transgender community, she deserved the rest; the other, that perhaps with her resignation, her critics might finally be silenced.

> ***"I prefer to hear the good with the bad and make up my own mind, and I believe most in our community also prefer to decide for themselves."***

Over the years, Merissa has been both praised for her dedication to community and derided for her stubbornness in remaining true to her vision for the organization that she was mother to. She and I have butted heads on many occasions, yet we always remained friends of sorts. While she was sometimes the target of one of my editorials -- indeed, she found herself in a similar position with other leaders in the transgender community as well -- I always found the time to listen when she called me from Waltham to disagree with something I said, and the one time she chose to respond in the format of a letter to the editor (**Cross-Talk** #38), I suspended our usual policy of editing letters and published what she wrote verbatim, taking an entire page to do so. For Merissa was IFGE's defender in the face of my (and others') attacks, even though those assaults were often merciless and unending.

In recent years, many in the community have accused Merissa of mismanaging IFGE, of putting her own interests ahead of the organization and its constituents. And it was undoubtedly those accusations that ultimately led her to the conclusion that she was not as well loved within our community as she should have been. So she left IFGE for a private life, hoping to free herself of the constant turmoil that had shadowed her for much of the past decade.

Yet Merissa was not allowed her final say. She wrote an article entitled "Farewell" to be published in *Tapestry* as her final message to the community. While it did not directly address the many complaints that had been leveled (fairly or unfairly) at her, it did give a sense of the frustration, the pain, and the exhaustion she felt. But IFGE refused to print it -- why, we will never know, since they gave no public explanation for their decision -- leaving Merissa without her final word, and the community without an explanation for her sudden departure.

This, in my not-so-humble opinion, was the unkindest cut of all. It was the absolute worst insult IFGE management could have delivered. And it makes me wonder whether they are more concerned with how they are perceived than with their responsibility to our community.

I don't believe in truth filters. I prefer to hear the good with the bad and make up my own mind, and I believe most in our community also prefer to decide for themselves about issues. So for IFGE to deliberately withhold Merissa's farewell statement from the masses so that they could continue to provide the "officially IFGE sanctioned" view of the truth compromises their desired image of caring about all of us.

It was Virginia Prince who originally asked me to consider publishing "Farewell". It has already appeared in *Rosebuds*, the Tiffany Club's newsletter and in *The Femme Mirror*, Tri-Ess' national magazine. Those two publications' readership, combined with ours, amount to less than 25% of that of *Tapestry*, but I hope that by joining with them in giving Merissa her final say that we have tipped the scales a little closer to fairness.

Because whether you like Merissa or not ... whether you appreciate all she has done for this community or dislike her because you disagreed with her on some philosophical point ... whether you think IFGE is better off without her or mourn her leaving ... she deserves to have her parting words heard.

And that is why her byline appears here for the very first time in our seven-year history. Because she earned it.

The NewsQueen

by Paula Jordan Sinclair

Are we *Wong Foo*ed out yet? Ms. Sinclair certainly is. And she hasn't even seen the movie.

At least she has an excuse, unlike a closeted crossdresser of her acquaintance who won't see the film even though it would provide a perfect means of assessing his wife's attitude toward crossdressing. It doesn't matter that thousands upon thousands of non-crossdressers have flocked to *Wong Foo*, making it the box office champ for several weeks after its release; Ms. Sinclair's closeted friend fears that by merely suggesting to his spouse that they see the movie he will divulge his secret.

Ms. Sinclair does sympathize. Back when she was a baby drag queen (or would that be a drag princess?), she was convinced that every time Milton Berle did drag on his television show, he was sending an encrypted message to her parents -- "Your son likes to wear his mother's clothes!"

●●●

So why hasn't Ms. Sinclair seen *Wong Foo*? She has a rule against paying money to see men who look better than she does in drag; *especially* men who have a virtual army of costumers and makeup artists and *still* take five or six hours to get dressed in their custom-made frocks and shoes!

●●●

Golfer Chi Chi Rodriguez did see the movie and didn't like what he saw. He sued Universal Pictures to keep anyone else from seeing it. (The suit was settled out of court but details were not made public.) His gripe was that John Leguizamo's drag character carries *his* name and, according to his lawsuit, "engages in numerous disreputable acts and is portrayed as sexually promiscuous."

●●●

Disreputable acts? Rodriguez must have seen a different movie than the folks at *Entertainment Weekly* saw. Their "Parents' Guide" movie review column noted that the film had neither sex nor nudity, but warned parents that the crossdressing "is bound to raise a few questions." The magazine also advised parents that the film will help them teach children to "be yourself." Come to think of it, that's a pretty good lesson for Ms. Sinclair's paranoid friend.

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Entertainment Weekly is just packed with wisdom -- for kids as well as for closeted adults. According to its review, the movie *Dr. Jekyll and Ms. Hyde* teaches that "you have to balance your male and female sides." No, Virginia Prince is *not* moonlighting at *Entertainment Weekly*, and besides, she would *never* have confused "male and female" with "masculine and feminine".

●●●

Some people would say that if a major studio produced a film about drag queens and a glossy, mainstream entertainment magazine recommended it for kids, there must be something wrong with the film. John Epperson is one of those people.

Epperson, who has become a drag icon with his one-man/woman show *Lypsinka! As I Lay Lip-Synching*, is annoyed at *Wong Foo*. "It's frustrating that Hollywood has chosen to make this timid film about drag," he said during a recent appearance in Philadelphia. "Drag is used as something soft and cuddly, and I think it's is a lot more interesting than that. On one hand, you can say that a movie about drag is progressive. But then, how can it possibly be, when it seems so *regressive*? He compared it to the movie *Cabaret* "which includes homosexuality and bisexuality ... and it was a huge success made 23 years ago. Now America can only come up with this feel-good movie -- *E.T.* in drag." But don't expect to see Epperson on the big screen anytime soon. His big break may have been in the scenes that were cut from the gay love story *Jeffrey*. "I would much rather someone come up to me and say, 'I hear you're a visionary! Here's $15 million,' than have to go to parties and network and make smiley faces. I hate that."

●●●

Speaking of cutting-edge drag films, September marked the 20th anniversary of the premiere of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. But it was far from a huge success. In its first six months it grossed $450,000 and Twentieth Century Fox executives were fearful that they wouldn't get a return on their $1 million investment.

But that was before midnight showings and the *Rocky Horror* groupies who flock to theaters dressed as their favorite characters and act along with the figures on screen.

Now, the film is playing in more than 200 theaters worldwide and has earned $150 million in profit in North America alone.

For the record, the first midnight showing was at the Waverly Theater in New York City's Greenwich Village on April Fools' Day, 1976.

●●●

Rocky Horror began life as a stage musical, and Tim Curry recreated his role as Dr. Frank-N-Furter for the silver screen.

Victor/Victoria, with Julie Andrews in the title role, has gone the other way -- from movie theaters to the stage.

Following a successful run in Chicago, the musical opened on Broadway early last month. Ms. Sinclair is waiting for the reviews.

●●●

A more self-conscious form of drag was on stage in Boston in September. The St. Petersburg Male Ballet came from Russia to John Hancock Hall as part of its first American tour.

Although claiming to be a serious effort to bring diversity to the strict gender role of classical ballet, the performance struck one reviewer as campy parody -- and that wasn't meant as criticism.

To founder Valery Mikhailovsky's insistence that his troupe has a serious intent, reviewer T.J. Medrek, Jr. replies that "This kind of rationalization may be fine for the Russian closet. But over here, these guys should cut the phony excuses, relax, and do what comes naturally to them." Medrek compares the St. Petersburg Male Ballet to the comedic all-male Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo: "The success of the 'Troc' comes from the fact that men cannot correctly dance women's roles in classical ballet. This has less to do with the aesthetic issues of overall shape and body mass and more with the differences between female and male hip structure. Women's roles are choreographed for the female hip, men's for the male's. Yet, the St. Petersburg dancers spent the first half of the show in skimpy costumes trying to be ballerinas -- without much success.

"But after a long intermission, the fun could finally begin. And it was indeed, as a string of classical divertissements provided exactly what you really came for: good drag ballet."

●●●

Drag dancing has gotten rave reviews in Atlanta and elsewhere across the country. But Jane Comfort's performance piece *S/he* is not just about crossdressing. It is about turning gender, race, and authority roles on their head.

"I was thinking about the drag thing," she says, "and then I thought, 'What if I made an evening that was based on role reversal?' If you want to look at things with another perspective, just flip the roles. Sometimes it looks ridiculous, and other times it's really sad." Just one example of the scenes in *S/he* explain what Comfort is trying to do: a white Mr. Anita Hill (a woman in drag) accuses a white Miss Clarence Thomas (a man in drag) of sexual harassment in front of a Senate panel made up totally of female African Americans (all men in drag).

Comfort reports that audiences begin seeing things differently after her race- and gender-bending performance. But one outcome that surprises her will not be surprising to transgendered folks. When the women appear at dress rehearsal in male drag, the male members of the host theater technical crew (and even some of the male dancers -- who are in drag themselves) totally ignore them. "They just can't deal with the apparent power shift," she says.

S/he is scheduled to appear in Norfolk, Raleigh, Albuquerque, and Philadelphia. It has already played in Chapel Hill, N.C., Chicago, Baltimore, New York, and Montana (!?!).

●●●

This is enough culture for one month. Ms. Sinclair knows the *real* reason you read her column: for the trash and gossip. Sadly, there is a dearth of such material this month.

First, a sad note on the passing of a truly unique character in the crossdressing community.

Neil H. Cargile, Jr., known for his flamboyant crossdressing, daredevil flying, and ambitious engineering projects in Central and South America, died recently. He was 67 and was suffering from malaria which he contracted during a dredging project in Guyana.

Cargile's very public crossdressing earned him a notorious spot in the society circles of Nashville, Tenn., his hometown, and Palm Beach, Fla., where he spent most of his time in recent years. He was known to appear with his wife a exclusive restaurants wearing a man's blazer, shirt, and tie along with stockings, high heels, and a skirt. In January, *The New Yorker* did a lengthy profile entitled "High Heel Neil." A few months after that, organizers of Nashville's annual Oyster Easter benefit ball nominated him for both Oyster King and Oyster Queen.

●●●

Now, an update on the case of Bruce Jensen, 39, the Utah lab technician who married a man posing as a woman who used joint credit cards to defraud him of $40,000. The two were married in 1991, But problems arose only this year when Jensen told police that his wife, Leasa was missing.

Immediately after his arrest in Las Vegas (while dressed as a man) Felix Urioste, 34, said through his lawyer that the fraud charges were the result of a misunderstanding and there was more to the story. A later news report said that Urioste was a pre-op transsexual. But Urioste eventually pleaded guilty without divulging any more juicy details.

Urioste is free on $5,000 bail and will undergo a full psychological evaluation before he is sentenced later this month. He faces up to five years in prison and a $500 fine on each of two counts.

What still puzzles Ms. Sinclair about this case is that Jensen is reportedly seeking to have the marriage annulled. Even if Urioste is a *pre-op* transsexual, he is still considered to be a male and so the marriage should have been legally void from the getgo. Can a reader explain?

●●●

Two other cases of mistaken identity have come to Ms. Sinclair's attention recently, but they had more tragic results.

Cpl. Robert Matthews of the Prince Georges County (Md.) police department has pleaded guilty to the charge of raping a man he spotted walking along a highway. The man was dressed as a woman, and Matthews thought he was one -- for a time, anyway.

Rory Conde has pleaded guilty to six counts of murder. The 30-year-old building supply salesman told Miami police that he picked up streetwalkers and killed them in his apartment. Conde, who earned the nickname "The Tamiami Trail Strangler," dumped the bodies near the road, a favorite of streetwalkers who use its cheap hotels. One of the victims was a man dressed in woman's clothes. Conde, who blamed a troubled marriage for his actions, told police he thought the crossdresser was a woman.

●●●

Now for some just plain silliness.

Thanks to the movie, Wigstock, the New York City Labor Day drag extravaganza, is widely known. But a similar event in Baltimore has been happening for seven years with little outside notice. We speak, of course, of the high heel race between two gay bars, Leon's and the Drinkery.

Here's how it works: The competitors race along the sidewalk. At the halfway mark they have to stop and put on a dress, all the while careful not to break the condoms filled with soda water they use as breast forms. Racers are disqualified if they break a breast or break a heel.

This year's winner was Chris Talbot, finishing first among a field of five. His victory means that Talbot has been undefeated for six years in a row. He also set a course record of nine minutes and 24 seconds. Like any athlete will tell you, the secret is in the shoes. Talbot sported sensible half-inch green pumps while the other contestants

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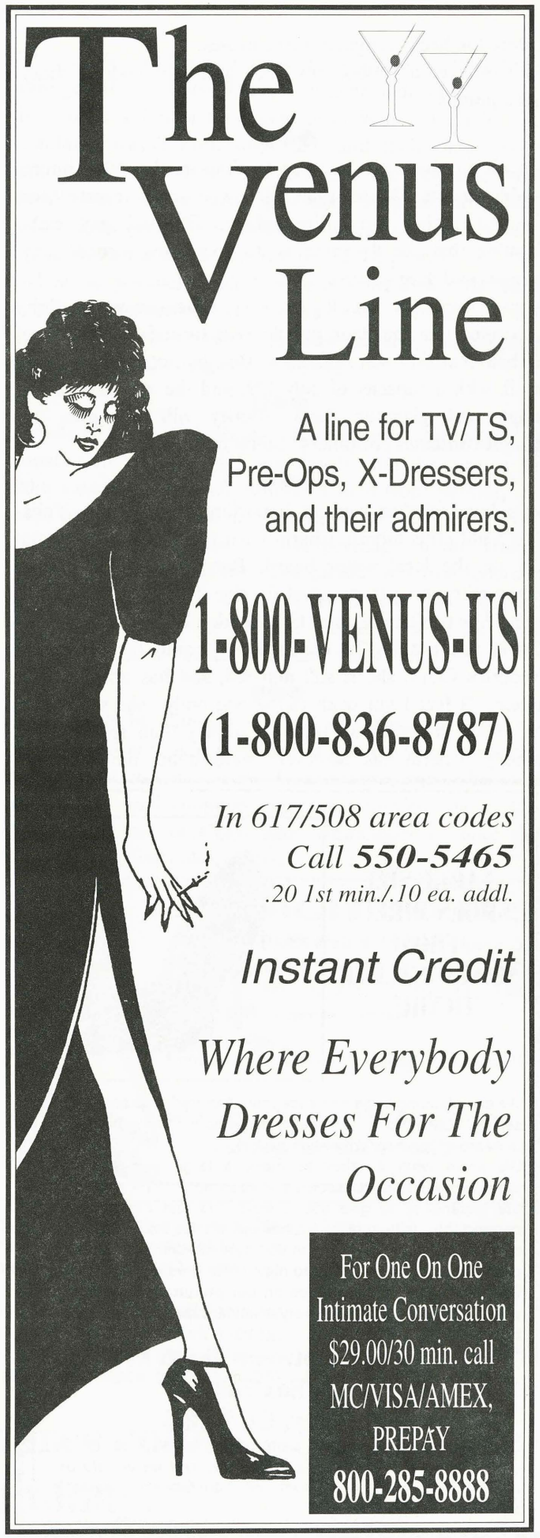

teetered in heels as high as three inches.
No word yet if Talbot has been asked to endorse Easy Spirit pumps.

●●●

Not all gay bars are as open to drag as these Baltimore establishments. More than 100 gays and transvestites picketed a hot new Birmingham, England gay club, claiming that the doormen at Jo Joes have turned away lesbians and drag queens.
A spokesman for Ansell's brewery, which owns the club, responded that the claim people were turned away because of their sexuality was ridiculous. But, he noted, the club is small, with a capacity of only 129, and the emphasis is on image and glamour, "and priority will be given to fashion-conscious customers." So there!

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Let's hope clothes weren't important to voters in Yuba City, Calif., this month. Charla Fern Clark is running for a seat on the local water board. But Clark, 64, is not a transvestite nor a transsexual (in the strictest sense of the term). She prefers the term transgendered.
Charla has not legally changed her name from Charles Frederick Clark, she is still married, and has no plans for surgery. "I feel I got dealt the wrong body," she said. "But I've other things to do with my money than spend it on surgery." Charla has, however, changed her life. "I'm the same person I always was except I am a lot happier," she said. "as Charles I would have never gotten involved in running for office because I had enough problems dealing with Charles." One of Clark's two opponents in the race, Penny Toy, has no problem with Clark's candidacy or her lifestyle. "I don't think sexuality has any influence on being a board member and making decisions," she said. The other candidate, Mike Gildmeister, could not be reached for comment.

●●●

Penny Toy's confusion about sexuality and gender identity is, unfortunately, common. But this confusion has been an advantage to at least one transgendered person.
Transsexual Bobbie Dunne had been a sheet metal foreman at a San Francisco-area air conditioning firm for several years before she began her transition. As her physical changes became more apparent, another foreman told workers that Dunne's feminine characteristics were because Dunne was gay, and therefore probably had AIDS.
Despite explaining that she is a transsexual and not a homosexual, the work conditions deteriorated to the point where she filed a discrimination complaint with the state. Her complaint was denied because discrimination against transsexuals does not violate state labor law. But Department of Industrial Relations director Lloyd Aubry, Jr. reversed the lower departmental decision and ordered an investigatory hearing. Aubry noted that Dunne may have been the victim of illegal discrimination -- not because she is a transsexual -- but because her co-workers assumed that she was gay. That kind of discrimination is forbidden by the state labor code.

●●●

Now for news from the medical and scientific front ...
You know how your mother always told you to eat your vegetables? Now, it turns out Mom's advice may be just the thing to help her little boy become a shapely woman.
Last year researchers reported the discovery of a group of plant-based hormones found in fruits, vegetables, and herbs. Now, some experts are suggesting the plant hormones can be used to substitute for hormones like estrogen.
Called "phytoestrogens" (*phyto* is Greek for "plant"), the newly identified hormones are similar to human estrogen, even though they're produced by at least 300 plants, including soybeans, cabbage and fennel.
They're exciting, says Pat Kendall, a food science and human nutrition specialist at Colorado State University, because they seem to mimic human estrogen when eaten in large enough quantities.
But don't expect them to grow breasts. While phytoestrogens work instead of traditional hormone replacement therapy for some women -- alleviating problems associated with menopause -- they are unlikely to replace hormones prescribed for transsexuals.

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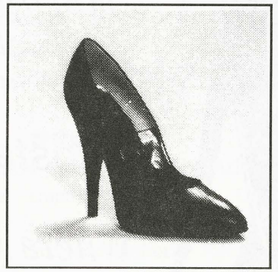

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Although phytoestrogens are plentiful in many foods like soy products, salmon and mackerel, almonds, sunflower seeds, wheat germ, vegetables, whole grains and legumes, the quantities needed by transsexuals would be prodigious. It's hard to eat a whole head of cabbage three times a day, and there's a limit to how much soy you can eat.
Science is getting to the point of putting phytoestrogen into capsule form. But because it's sold as a food rather than a medicine, it isn't regulated by the Food and Drug Administration.

●●●

Those unwilling to eat all those vegetables, may want to grow their own implants. No, not in the garden, silly, in laboratory dishes.
This isn't some far out scheme requiring Frankenstein-like experiments. Researchers at the University of Michigan and the Carolinas Medical Center think they have discovered a way of adding breast tissue without introducing foreign substances.
They say that within five years they hope to be able to remove a tissue sample from a woman's body, use the sample to grow additional cells in the lab, and then implant the mass in the breasts where they should multiply and mature into real breast tissue. This year, they will try the procedure on rats; next year, they hope it will work on pigs.

●●●

Three siblings, aged 10, 11, and 12, had surgery in Israel recently to turn them into boys.
The youths had been raised as girls. However, they had a rare genetic condition that caused their bodies to appear to be female although their genetic makeup was male. The condition wasn't even suspected until their oldest sister entered puberty. Her voice cracked, she began growing facial hair and a male physique. Surgical procedures allowed his genitals to descend and rearranged his urinary tract. Hormone treatments completed the process.
When the younger children were diagnosed with the same condition, the surgery was performed on them as well. The boys celebrated by removing their jewelry, cutting their long hair, and donning boy's pajamas.

●●●

Finally, for those doubting Ms. Sinclair's statement last month that between 1845 and shortly after the turn of the 20th Century, nearly *all* American men wore panties, she cites as a source *Made in America* by Bill Bryson. In this informal history of the English language in the United States, he reports that the word panties was first recorded American English in 1845, and for a long time signified undershorts for males. The first recorded use of the word to denote a female article of apparel wasn't until 1908.

●●●

This month, Ms. Sinclair received clippings from Suzanne, Melanie Yarborough, and Chris Flescher, who she hopes will update us on Charla Clark's campaign. She, and others, can send clippings regarding crossdressing to Ms. Sinclair in care of **Cross-Talk.** Remember to note the name and date of publication.

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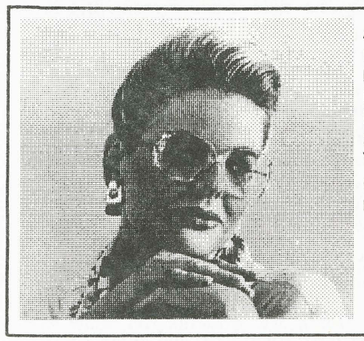

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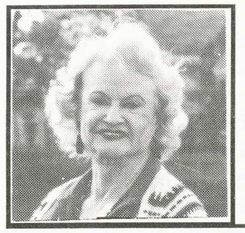


VIRGIN VIEWS BY VIRGINIA

THE NATURE AND ORIGINS OF GENDER

by Virginia Prince, Ph.D.

The words sex and gender are frequently used interchangeably as though they were the same thing. Thus the sex words -- male and female -- are often used when the intention is to talk about gender and the words man and woman are actually correct. Many people in our community not only make that mistake, but when corrected brush it off as only being a semantic difference and not of any great importance. But gender is a way of life ... a lifestyle, if you will. It is entirely a matter of psychology and sociology. That is, it comes from cultural expectations. Sex, on the other hand, is a physical matter and, in animals, exclusively to do with reproduction. In humans, of course, our ability to think and to be self-aware has added another dimension to the matter, namely the awareness of sexual pleasure over and above reproduction.

> ***"Gender is a way of life ... a lifestyle, if you will. It is entirely a matter of psychology and sociology. That is, it comes from cultural expectations."***

But people who insist on confusing lifestyle with anatomy and physiology create confusion that can lead to some serious consequences. For instance, there are many individual CDs who claim to be transsexuals and who think that in order to live as a woman you must have female genitals and thus undergo surgery. Unfortunately the professionals in this field named the condition leading to that decision "gender" dysphoria, which only shows that the professionals were (and are) just as confused as their patients.

I was in the audience at one of the early conferences of the Harry Benjamin Association when the term was introduced by Dr. Norman Fisk. He was talking about transsexuals and applied this term to them. I went up to him at the intermission and said, "Dr. Fisk, if you think that these people truly 'suffer' from 'gender' dysphoria, how can any kind of surgery do them any good since gender is a psycho-social phenomenon and not an anatomical-physiological one? On the other hand, if you believe that sex changing surgery can benefit them, why isn't the term more properly *sexual* dysphoria?" Of course, although I had just myself read a paper entitled, "Transsexuals and Pseudo-Transsexuals" I was not a psychiatrist so what could I know and who was I to tell a noted psychiatrist anything about the subject? So my comment was disregarded and the unfortunate term "gender" dysphoria got into common use by both professionals and laypeople.

But since I have pointed out the confusion between the terms sex and gender and since everybody knows what sex is, it seems appropriate to go back to the beginning, namely the specific nature of the two terms.

There are two types of sex cells involved in reproduction. They are egg cells and sperm cells and they are called "gametes" or sex cells. Sperm cells, in most primitive species, must seek out the egg to fertilize it. This is action. The egg just lies there waiting to be met by a sperm cell and be fertilized by it. It might be appropriate here to point out that it only takes two gametes to initiate reproduction, so those who like to talk about three (or even five) sexes are not only talking about a biological impossibility but also revealing that they are not very clear in their own thinking and thus should not be spreading their confusion to others.

Going lower on the evolutionary scale, males fertilize females and that's all. In most lower species males have no further responsibilities. In some higher mammals. like bears, the two sexes meet once a year to mate, after that the male leaves and the female hibernates, gives birth, nurses and raises the young to self sufficiency without any help from the. Matter of fact, if he shows up at all, she drives him away.

In the simpler primate societies, the individuals are part of a group and after mating the male is still present. But in general, the female must find the food both for herself and for her young since food sharing usually doesn't occur.

In great apes, food sharing does occur in some species and at some times, but mostly the two sexes just go about their lives the same way until mating occurs. With the arrival of young, the lives of the two differ because the female has the prime responsibility for raising the young. In some species the father stays around and sometimes carries, plays with, or grooms the young.

With the advent of hominids, separation of duties began. Males do the hunting (usually away from home base), females do the gathering near home base and either carry the very young or, if the young are able to walk about on their own, they tag along.

Only with the advent of agriculture did the daily activities of the two sexes begin to change. Females evidently discovered planting and growing food, probably from accidentally dropping grains of wheat or other cereal grains in damp places and finding that they later sprouted into plants which eventually provided further food materials. Even in Roman times, the word for farmer, *agricolae* -- from which comes our word agriculture -- was a feminine noun implying that the first farmers were females.

After food raising and then herding became so well established that hunting was no longer the main occupation of males, they began to take over the farming and herding responsibilities, and construction of villages and towns. The females then became largely involved with care of children and the maintenance of whatever kind of home shelter they had and other domestic tasks. This was the beginning of gender differentiation.

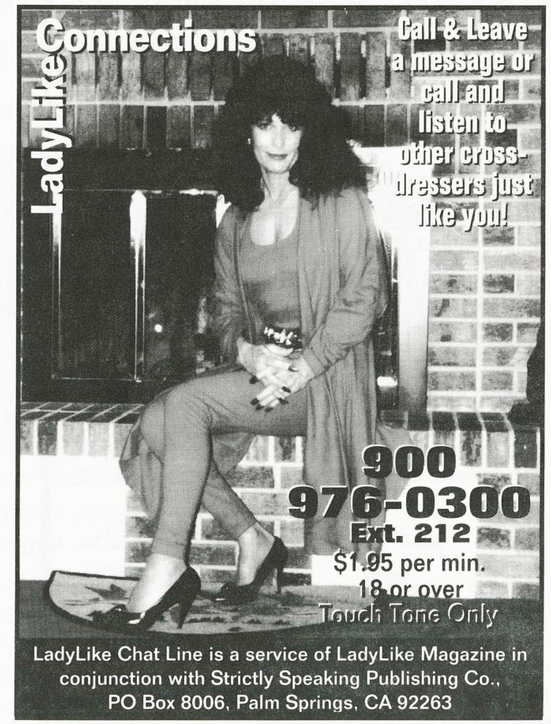
As society developed, wars, territory, government and social customs elaborated and the lifestyles of men and women differentiated still further. In historical times they became even more differentiated. Men became more involved in government and in wars of aggression or of defense, and the arts of running complicated political subdivisions were perfected. Women were more and more seen both as sexual outlets for male sexuality and as caretakers for his children on which the preservation of his family line depended.

As we got into the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, males of the upper classes began to wear very fancy clothes with lace, shoe buckles, wigs, and jewelry. In short he began to revert to the same position relative to the female as male animals, namely color, texture, design and decoration in general. Of course this was for the upper classes since farmers, tradesmen and ordinary citizens had neither the time nor the money for all that. But in the upper circles of society the males began to rival the females in such fancy manifestations. Of course the rich and titled dressed their females very well too since that showed off their wealth.

The rise of the protestant movement -- Calvinism, Lutheranism, Methodism, etc. -- led men to dress much more conservatively as epitomized by Abraham Lincoln in his top hat and long black tails. Since under these religious sanctions men could no longer flaunt their biologically natural talents for decoration, they did so on their women. With the rise of the middle class the most successful males began to load their females with silks, satins, jewels, laces and so on because they wanted to show their wealth and importance and did so on their women. Thus the differences in lifestyle between men and women were enhanced.

Now while crossdressing has a very ancient history, the reasons, purposes, and intentions of the participants is not very clear. There were male temple drag prostitutes and there were probably those who wished that they were females. as well as those who simply wanted to live like women, but it is difficult to decide which is which among the historical examples. The first clearcut case that appeared on the scene was the Chevalier d'Eon in the court of Louis XIV of France. He apparently was quite a man as a man and quite a woman as a woman. He was also apparently heterosexual. By royal edict he was required to live the rest of his life as a woman.

This brings us up to modern times by which I mean the last half of the 19th century, and all of this one. In these times the ways of men and women have diverged considerably. The development of women's liberation began the process of reintegration of the gender roles in dress, work, attitudes, training, prospects, etc. But not only is this process still unfinished, most of those who are interested in crossdressing today grew up when the visual distinctions between men and women were still rather clear cut. Thus young boys growing up were able to perceive a considerable difference between "girlness" and "boyness". While young girls could wear pants and shirts for play purposes, they still dressed differently for any more important occasion and for even more special occasions like school dances, weddings and parties of any kind they were *very* different. This change from ordinary dress to party clothes and the effect it has on males is one of the contributing factors to male crossdressing. Girls and



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women are able to enhance their appearance and their appeal many times over from work clothes in the garden or doing a laundry to a spaghetti strapped, sequin enriched, cocktail dress or formal. Men simply put on a clean and better pressed version of work clothes and wear dress shoes instead of heavy work shoes or boots. Even at their best (?) in a tuxedo they look like headwaiters or penguins. In short they can not do very much to enhance their image and this can engender envy of the beautiful clothes of the female and most importantly his awareness of their effect on other people (including him), namely attractiveness and desirability. Not necessarily sexual but just in terms of human interaction.

This visible difference and its ability to promote the interest of others is a source of envy which in turn, in some boys and young men, initiates a desire to achieve the same sense of what I call "attractivity", for themselves. Since the attraction is a function of visible appearance the only way to achieve it would be for such an interested male to don the same garments, ornaments and makeup himself, i.e. to crossdress. If he makes a passable female "she" will look much prettier to him than "she" does to others and thus he feels that he has become pretty, attractive and desirable when gotten up as a girl or woman. This is heady stuff because it brings to him some of the same satisfactions that he can observe that females get from male attention. Why shouldn't he enjoy some of that himself? So he becomes a crossdresser and never really gets over it. The important thing is not the clothing itself but what it represents and the pleasurable feelings he can enjoy when he becomes a "girl" or "woman" in his own eyes.

So there we have the anthropological and sociological story of gender and a brief indication why crossdressing is so fundamentally satisfying and so difficult to deny and abandon. As long as heterosexually oriented males are fascinated by girls and women and come to a sort of worship of them they will continue to wish to partake of this intangible "glory" themselves. So stop trying to "cure" your urge to crossdress. It won't go away. It's like eating ... very pleasing and hard to stop.

❖❖❖

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

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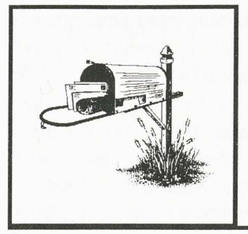

Vox Populi

Letters to the Editor

Re: "Thoughts On The Gender Rules" (#71): Although the article is useful, it probably brings out more questions to ponder. The author's definition of transgenderist relates to what I would think of as a pre-op transsexual. What of a bigendered TV who has made subtle physical changes like electrolysis, cosmetic surgery to make the physical form less masculine or tending toward androgyny? And what about androgyny, does that mean *no* sex or gender or is *it* the third gender?

Labels! We always try to simplify and categorize, especially for the bigots to which she made reference. Instead of a linear contiuum, I think the transgender community would be better described as encompassing a three-dimensional rainbow.

Babs A. Casbar
via Internet

❖❖❖

Vox Populi is the transgender community's "town square" for the exchange of opinions and ideas. If you have a response to any editorial, news item, or article appearing in **Cross-Talk**, please feel free to contribute. We suggest keeping letters to 400 words (one page typewritten or 2000 characters ASCII). **Cross-Talk** reserves the right to publish only those portions of a letter specifically addressing the issue. Personal attacks will not be published.

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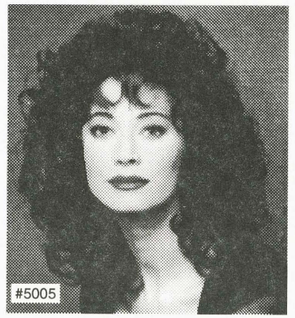

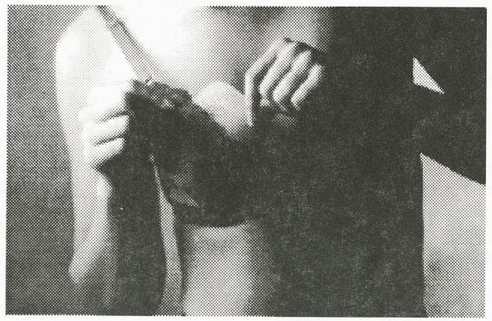

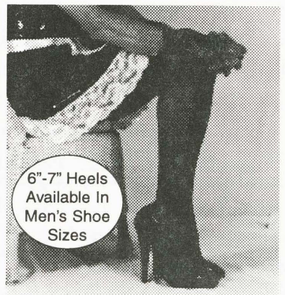

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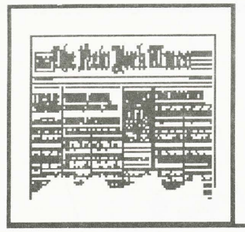

Cross-Talk Newswire

News of the worldwide transgender community

Over 100 transgendered people walked the halls of Capitol Hill on October 2 and 3 visiting members of Congress and Senators, educating them about transgender issues.

The first ever "Transgender Lobby Day" was the first time the grassroots transgender community worked together toward a common goal. Overall, 35 states were represented and almost all the members of House and Senators were visited during the two days of lobbying.

Results were mixed, according to observers. In one case, a Senator not only reacted favorably, he kept a Russian delegation waiting for ten minutes while speaking with his transgendered constituent, and five lobbyists received an audience with the Chief Counsel for Sen. Orrin Hatch (Utah), chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee. However, staffers for one Congressman laughed at the delegates, saying "there are no transgendered people in Oklahoma."

Information packets were left with each office visited, containing basic information about transgender concerns and a copy of the brochure developed for the National Association of Social Workers conference providing resource information about AEGIS, ICTLEP, IFGE, Outreach Institute, Renaissance and Tri-Ess.

While some better known members of the community were conspicuous by their absence, the FTM community was well represented during the two-day lobbying effort, which was conceived by Riki Anne Wilchins of Transsexual Menace and organized with the assistance of ICTLEP and It's Time America!

OOO

The Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess) has announced the resignation of Linda Peacock from its Board of Directors, where she served as Director of the Department of Spouse and Partner Support and its Spouse/Partner International Conference for Education (SPICE).

Assuming Peacock's responsibilities is Dr. Peggy Rudd, the well-known author of *My Husband Wears My Clothes, Crossdressing With Dignity, Love Calendar* and *Crossdressers And Those Who Share Their Lives*. Rudd is also the organizer of the popular Dignity Cruises, received an IFGE Trinity Award in 1993, and was the 1994 recipient of the Tri-Ess Leader-Servant Award.

In making the announcement, Tri-Ess chairman Jane Ellen Fairfax said she accepted the resignation "with deep regret." She did not indicate the reason given her by Peacock.

Fairfax also announced the chartering of five new chapters within the last year, bringing "support to crossdressers and families in areas where previously none was available ... [while others] open new alternatives for support in their areas." The new chapters are located in Nashville, Tenn.; Tucson, Ariz.; Las Vegas, Nev.; Salt Lake City, Utah; and Jacksonville, Tex.

Responding to community concerns over Tri-Ess' membership policies, Fairfax said that many chapters are now networking with open and transsexual-focused groups "to build toward the ultimate goal of gender-gifted people -- a transgender community which serves the needs of all."

OOO

Representatives of the transgender community attending a September meeting with the staff of the Human Rights Campaign Fund in Washington, D.C. say they now feel that HRCF's Washington staff understands transgender rights and will initiate a path of commitment toward equal rights.

A joint statement between HRCF and representatives of IFGE, ICTLEP, Tri-Ess, Renaissance, and Transexual Menace said that "HRCF has made a commitment to work with representatives of a spectrum of the transgendered community with a specific focus on hate crimes, and has also committed to assist transgender representatives with an amendment strategy in the context of ENDA."

HRCF made it clear that the new strategy does not include re-introduction of the current ENDA, but that they will work in good faith to continue dialogue and to build coalition in the context of ending violence and discrimination against the transgender community.

OOO

Newswire is compiled from transgender community newsletters, Internet news feeds, and press releases. News items may be mailed to P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365-0944, sent by Internet to newsserv@xconn.com, *or faxed to (818) 347-4190.*

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FAREWELL

by Merissa Sherrill Lynn

During the final luncheon at the Atlanta Action '95 conference, I announced my intention to retire from both IFGE and the transgender community. Since I had dedicated most of my adult life to serving the transgender community, it was a difficult thing for me to do. However, I held off my tears, gave my goodbye speech, introduced my replacement, Alison Laing, then stepped into the background. My intention was to step out of the limelight gracefully, with as much good will as possible. Since rumors about my departure had been flying around the community for quite some time, I didn't expect any difficulties. In spite of my expectations, a few people were still surprised.

After lunch, when everyone had returned to their sessions, I was wandering the hallways, thinking, when a long-time IFGE supporter, and a personal friend, stopped me. "Can I talk to you?" Since she had a mean glint in her eye and a deathlock on my elbow, it didn't appear as if I had a choice. She led me to a sofa in an isolated corner of the hotel, sat me down abruptly, and said, "Now, what the hell is going on?"

She was clearly upset with me, which put me on the defensive. "I'm retiring."

"I know that. I was at the lunch, remember? Why?"

I thought my little speech at lunch would mollify most everyone, but evidently I was wrong. My stated reasons for retiring were practical. Basically, I told people I got things started, and now it was time to take a break. If people needed me, I'd still be there for them. Although a bit on the political side, my comments were good, and they were honest. However, my friend knew me too well, and didn't want the political reasons. She wanted the real reasons, the personal reasons. I began to panic. It took some very compelling personal reasons to get me to quit, but they weren't reasons I cared to share with the world. Besides, I didn't know how to answer her without sounding like a martyr, or bitter, or like the IFGE board and I were enemies. She waited.

She could see I didn't want to talk about this, but she wasn't going to give up. I sighed, studied the floor for a while, then answered. "Because I like the sound of retired better than fired. The IFGE board was going to fire me, so I decided to save them a whole lot of trouble, and save me some face, and voluntarily retire."

"How in hell could they fire you? You're the founder, for Christ's sake!"

I was afraid she was going to take it like that. "It's OK!," I tried to reassure her. My reassurance wasn't enough.

"Well, I don't think it's OK."

"It's OK, believe me." I went on to explain to her that I already had one stress-related breakdown, and was constantly on the verge of another. I told her my spirit and my heart were both gone, and I had no love left to give. Without love and without motivation, what good was I? I desperately needed a break. Then I went on to explain to her my relationship with the board. The IFGE board and I had been at odds since before IFGE's inception. At first our differences made for a healthy balanced organization, but things changed. I had my dreams and vision, and they had theirs. Different dreams, different objectives, and different ways to achieve those objectives. Over the years it became obvious that the twain would never meet. The sense of mutual respect and common purpose was gone, which made getting me out of the way was just a matter of time. Separating myself from IFGE would give me a chance to heal. Perhaps it would allow me to support their vision without sacrificing my own. Perhaps I could help them follow their path, without losing sight of my own. Perhaps I could support them without sacrificing myself. Perhaps. Leaving seemed best for everyone.

IFGE founder Merissa Sherrill Lynn explains why she resigned as executive director earlier this year.

"But you're the heart and soul of this organization!"

"I was told in no uncertain terms that corporations don't have a soul." In a flash of anger, I added, "If IFGE doesn't have a soul, then there's no place in it for me."

I regretted my comment the moment I said it. My personal bias against, and inability to cope with corporate thinking had just reared its ugly head. My friend was about to protest, when I quickly raised my hand. "Sorry, sorry, sorry!"

She began to scold me. "Come on! There'll always a place for you. You're right, corporations don't have souls, and boards are usually made up of corporate minded people. IFGE's no exception. So what? Corporations exist for a reason. They have a purpose, and objectives. You created IFGE's. The board's job is to achieve those objectives. Your job is to support them and keep them on track. That's what founders are for. Corporations don't have souls, remember? Without it they're lost. They don't know what they're doing or why they're doing it. They forget why they exist, get hung up on egos, and private agendas, and

dollars. Then they self-destruct. You're IFGE's soul, which is why they need you. There's going to be a place for you as long as IFGE exists."

She was trying to help me feel better, and I appreciated her effort, but it was too late. It's just that I loved IFGE, and the thought of it no longer being a part of my daily life was painful. IFGE, the *Tapestry*, the convention, everything, was part of my existence, and I didn't want it to end. I shook my head with regret, apologized again, faked a smile, then started to cry.

My friend also started to get emotional, for she knew what IFGE, and the transgender community, meant to me. She also knew that by retiring I was quitting, giving up on my own dreams, something which left me sick to my heart. She understood my comment, and my apology. We looked at each other. Suddenly, the thought of two middle-aged women sitting together in a hallway of a fancy hotel, bawling, struck us both funny. There we were, giggling and blubbering like a couple of schoolgirls talking about a love affair that'd gone awry.

She glanced around to see if anyone was listening or watching, then asked me the hardest question. "What's really going on here?"

My eyes closed, tears flowed across my cheeks, and my chest become knotted, making it hard to breath. My hand involuntarily waved through the air. "I'm fried, totally burned out. I've been at this for 21 years. My energy's gone, my money's gone, my health is gone, and I just don't have anything left to give." I rested my forehead between my thumb and index finger, and chewed on my lower lip. "I don't even have any patience left, not for the board, not for the community. The queen of patience and understanding, and it's gone. It doesn't take anything at all for people to get to me, and I can't live like that."

I glanced at her, and she had nothing to say. Well, she wanted to know why I was retiring, and she was going to sit there and find out, whether she wanted to or not.

"I'm too thin skinned for this stuff. That's why I could never make it in the corporate world. All those fine young cannibals would eat me alive. IFGE was my world. I created it so I could escape from theirs, so I could survive, but in came the wolves, and out I went. Every comment, every criticism, in the newsletters, every time I turned around, and it hurt, and it keeps on hurting. It's been hurting for years. It's gotten so I feel like my only purpose in this community is to serve as the beetle on top of the dung heap, there for no other reason than to catch the shit as it gets tossed from the barn."

A few workshops let out and our conversation was interrupted by people stopping to say hello, and to chit-chat. Eventually they figured out that we were not in a mood to chit-chat, and they left us alone. My friend raised her hand, palm up, then nodded to encourage me to continue.

"I'm just tired, tired of not being able to be myself, or make my contribution. I'm tired of feeling paranoid and frustrated. I'm tired of being in the pressure cooker all day long, tired of being alone, going home every night in tears, waking up each morning dreading the day."

"Yup, sounds like burn-out to me."

"You know, I don't even know who my friends are anymore. It seems like all my friends, and my personal base of support, are gone ... mostly through death and abandonment. At least now I'll find out who my friends are."

She took my hand and smiled. That smile felt good, for I knew she was a friend who would listen to what I had to say, and still be there tomorrow. It was also a warning that I had dug up enough of my dragons for her to understand why I was leaving, and I should let the rest of my dragons sleep.

"So what happens now?"

"I don't have a clue."

"Do you have any kind of a retirement plan?"

"Nope."

"How are you going to make a living?" "Don't know. Scary, isn't it? I've spent 8 years as an academic bum, overlapping 11 years as a ski bum, overlapping 21 years as a transgender bum. I'm 53 years old, and I've never had a real job. I've spent all my life looking for a reason to live, and never learned how to make a living. For most people it's the other way around. First thing's first. The first thing is to go back to the mountain and get refocused, rekindle my spirit and work on my health. After that, whatever's supposed to happen will happen. Perhaps someday I'll be able to contribute again."

We looked at each other, shrugged our shoulders, and simultaneously said, "Perhaps!" We laughed.

For my practical minded friend, her first priority would have been to figure out how to pay next month's bills, but she knew me well enough to not argue with my priorities. She also knew me well enough to not try and tell me what to do. "You know," I continued, "as soon as I announced my retirement, people started coming up to me with projects. Riki Ann Wilchins wants me to pick up the banners and lead the parades. She's already planning my name change to either Mahatma Merissa or Merissa Luther King. Milesa Phar thinks I should do a pilgrimage to the organizations across the nation. She suggests I write a regular column of the journey, then do a book. Another suggestion was to collect my letters and articles for the last 21 years, and do a historical book on our community."

"Are you going to do any of that?"

"No."

"That's good. It's about time you thought of yourself for a change."

"But that's not how I think. I think in terms of contribution. All I want is to be healthy enough and able to make that contribution. My life has to have a purpose, a reason for being. If I don't have a purpose, there's no reason for me to be here. That's why I couldn't be an employee for the board, or conform to their idea of who and what I'm supposed to be. They wanted me to be less, and do more of the things I'm not good at doing. To me that's a horrible waste of my life. There's no possible way I could be happy or productive under those conditions."

"They wanted me to be a leader. To me a leader is a general or a corporate boss or something, and I'm definitely not that."

"Definitely not."

"I don't want to be a leader, leastwise not that kind of a leader. I want them to be leaders, the generals, the corporate bosses, or whatever. If I must be a leader, then let me be the spiritual leader, the keeper of the flame, or just plain Mom. I'll open the doors and turn on the light for them, but then I'll get out of their way. That's what I do, open doors, turn on lights, help people spread their wings and fly. How could I live without being able to do what I do? How can I be happy if I cannot fulfill my reason for being? I'm not a follower, so I won't follow them. To me a follower is like being an employee. I wanted to walk beside them, not behind or in front. I wanted to keep the lights shining so they can see their path, and to watch them fly, and be there for them if they fall."

"Sounds like Mom."

"That's what I told them, but they either wanted me to be chief or one of the Indians, and I'm neither one."

"So, now what happens to IFGE?"

"I don't really know, but it's their chance to fly without me. Hopefully they know I won't abandon them. After all, IFGE's my baby. Moms don't abandon their children. IFGE's grown, and it's time for me to step aside. Perhaps I'll go have more babies now, I don't know. What I really want ..."

The workshops let out, and a steady stream of people passed us by. Most were talking about the session they had just attended and the rest were deep in thought. Since it appeared people were going to leave us alone, I finished my statement. ... "What I really want is for people to see this transition as a good thing. By taking this action, the board empowered me, and I empowered the board. They took me out of that damned pressure cooker and gave me some freedom, and I did the same for them."

I stared down the corridor partly to see if anyone else was coming, and partly to gather my thoughts. "Now I can take the time to heal, dream new dreams, rekindle my spirit, and follow my path *wherever* it leads me."

"Great! So, when you coming down to do some hiking?" She had a subtle way of letting me know it was time to shut up.

"Soon."

We laughed, then gave each other a hug, the kind of a hug that cements a friendship for a lifetime. We then went back to our rooms to prepare for the evening's banquet.

With some time to spare before the banquet, I stared out my 26th story window trying to visualize the future. Suspended precariously from the building across the plaza, was a window washer. As I watched him swing from window to window, I thought of myself, 25 years ago, high on Profile Cliff, dangling by a thin rope 800 feet in the air. Twenty five years ago my life was in a precarious position, and I had no idea what the future would bring. I have come very far since then, but once again, I find my life dangling from a very thin rope, with no idea what the future will bring. Perhaps it is my time to fall. Then again, perhaps I still have many doors to open. It's time to find out. It's time to say farewell to yesterday, and to move on to tomorrow.

Farewell.

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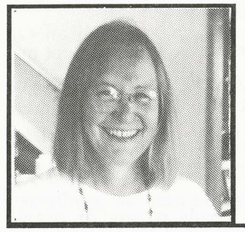

T NOTES

WHEN CROSSDRESSING IS NO LONGER ENOUGH

by Anne Vitale, Ph.D.

What happens when crossdressing is no longer enough ... and what does that mean for the crossdresser? For that crossdresser that has long been at ease with his crossdressing and who has pampered the female nature in himself, it could be a wonderful time in his life. Often these people gradually shift their lives into living full time as women with surprisingly little difficulty. It is a time for celebration. Yet, there is another group of crossdressers who face the same need to be female, but for these unfortunate individuals, this time of life can turn into a living hell.

"The crossdresser really never did come to terms with why he crossdressed in the first place and now feels trapped and guilty."

These people share the same long history of crossdressing but, far from pampering their innate female nature, their attitude toward their transgender identification has been punitive. It is clear that these people have been in a state of denial as to the real motives of their crossdressing from early childhood and are now living with that legacy. It is this second group, the group that is struggling so hard in their life, that I would like to write about in this column.

The profile of this group runs something like this. These individuals are usually in their late thirties to early fifties, married with children, well established in their profession and are considered conscientious and valued employees, fifty to sixty pounds overweight, wearing a moustache or a full beard and chronically depressed. Rarely do they seek therapeutic help themselves. The call for help usually comes from the wife who is well aware of why her husband is depressed and can no longer continue living with such a depressed individual. The most disturbing aspect of this profile is that these crossdressers are often suicidal.

Further, these crossdressers have a long history of being open to their spouses about their crossdressing. Given the morbid attitude the crossdresser has about his own activities, it is no wonder that their wives give the activity only a reluctant acceptance. As pressure to deal with the growing need to be female increases within these individuals, an ironic event occurs; what was once an open crossdressing arrangement in the marriage stops being so. Not because the wife begins to complain but because the crossdresser can no longer live with what he rightly or wrongly perceives to be unexpressed dissatisfaction in his wife. As a further punitive gesture, the crossdressing typically goes underground and the fear of discovery turns into a paranoia that dominate his life. The beard, the weight, and hypervigilance are all part of a front designed to divert others from thinking of them as anything but average men.

So what is happening? The most obvious fact here is the weight of years.

Getting the mirror to provide the "right" information about inner femaleness without having taken care of one's self gets harder and harder to attain once a male passes thirty. The image in the mirror that once provided a modicum of positive feedback, now increasingly projects back an undeniable vision of maleness. Ironically this is happening at a time in the individual's life when the need to be "female" is naturally increasing.

And it is becoming increasingly hard to satisfy that need in the only way the crossdresser has; by crossdressing.

Apparently these individuals make a conscious decision to appear less appealing to themselves while crossdressed. It's a way to both punish themselves for what they often describe as a perversion as well as a way to discourage themselves from dressing. To me, this indicates that the crossdresser really never did come to terms with why he crossdressed in the first place and now feels trapped and guilty about his behavior. It's as if once that gender exploration door is opened, no matter how slightly, all hell will break loose and the highly cultivated control over their need to be "female" will overwhelm them. In a way they are right about opening that door, yet it is very sad to experience the depth of despair the fear of overtly expressing even the slightest amount of femaleness has taken these people.

The good news is that all is not lost. As with all my gender clients, I have found that a reassuring, unpressured, matter of fact approach to transgender identification, especially in a gender issues group setting, is the most effective way to ease the situation. This approach begins to put the matter

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WOMAN TO WOMAN

LEADERS: ARE WE HUMAN?

by Linda Peacock

It has been seven years since I became involved in the transgender community. What started out as involvement on a strictly personal level, with needs as a wife/partner of a transgendered man, evolved rapidly to a leadership role, first on a local level, and shortly thereafter on a national level.

"As a leader, you can find that you are losing yourself ... and in my case, losing myself as a woman."

Serving as a leader can be truly rewarding, and if nothing else, I have been blessed with meeting and knowing many special people throughout the country, and even the world. Friendships are a benefit of being involved and I have been blessed with friends. I have been blessed with awards, with recognition and with stature in the community.

However, the community is filled with people who are reaching out to stop the pain, the guilt and the loneliness, and as a leader, I have had years of absorbing that pain and helping it to heal. It has been both good and bad, and has had a profound effect on my life.

Being a leader tends to put you up on a pedestal. The glory is very good and it has the capability of going to your head. You are sitting on top of the world, with your flock of admirers, and you feel like you really are someone.

However, there is another side to being a leader, especially if you are a sincere leader, with no intention of personal gain at the cost of others. This is the side where the pain of those you are trying to help horns its way into your mind and your heart and puts you in the middle of others' lives. You become a source of influence to those in the community, such as wives and partners, who are frightened, hurting and frustrated. You are honored when you are sought out; yet, you can easily become overwhelmed by the intensity of their pain, and it can begin to eat away at you.

You can begin to become so intent in your efforts to help, so involved in others' lives, so overwhelmed with the pain and frustrations, that you begin to lose sight of your own life and what its priorities are.

It is easy to withdraw into the community and your personal involvement with it. You can lose yourself in it, avoiding issues in your own life very well. If you put them on the back burner often enough, you tend to believe that they have disappeared. You seemingly become invincible to those around you and your image appears to be that of a self-satisfied, dedicated and happy individual.

The truth is that far too often leaders in this community are not what they appear to be. Where the members of the community see them one way, it is often a false image, a wall that has been put up by the individual, as a protection against what is going on inside themselves.

From personal experience, I can tell you that as a leader, you can find that you are losing yourself ... and in my case, losing myself as a woman. I put up all kinds of walls that no one could see through, nor break down. To attempt to break them down never crossed my mind. I only withdrew behind them further, and plunged more deeply into my professional work and my work in the community.

At this stage, I think a leader becomes burned out. They have been so elevated that they seem to no longer be human, which is an obvious false perception. Leaders are human first, and leaders second. If they can no longer help themselves, how can they function to help others?

In my case, I realized exactly how human I really am, and I realized how many walls I had retreated behind.

In doing a self-evaluation, triggered by events in my life, I made personal choices which have led to my stepping down from most of my leadership positions. I am beginning to re-examine who I am inside, learning and experiencing my womanhood again, revitalizing my inner personas. In doing so, however, it does not mean that I no longer care about those I have worked with in the past, those who have come to me in pain; rather, I am simply expressing my humanness, and trying to care for myself. I want to continue to help, but I need to seek myself and re-evaluate what my role will be. Seven years is a long time to give to a community and I don't regret them. As I said, my life has been greatly enriched through these years, but you get tired out, and when, as a leader, you lose yourself, it is time to step back and let others come to the forefront as helpers, as peer counselors, as leaders.

There are women who have replaced my leadership role, and I am very supportive of what they are doing. The governing board of SPICE, now led by Dr. Peggy Rudd, are already busy with planning for SPICE '96, to be held in Philadelphia. Peggy has also been appointed to the job of Wives/Partners Director for Tri-Ess and she will do a wonderful job. I want to lend my personal support to her and to the SPICE Board and encourage them, and you, to keep the concept of SPICE alive and growing. The issues that wives and partners face are often complex, closely interwoven with other issues in the relationship and strong women leaders are needed. It is good, then, to know that the leaders of the wives and partners in the many support organizations are working hard to learn and care and help. More such leaders are needed, and I want to encourage those who want to help to step forward and do so. There is much to be gained, personally, and if involvement as a leader is done without sacrifice on a personal level, then such work can be the most fulfilling of your life.

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into proper perspective. Once these people are talking about their true inner feelings of femininity -- often for the first time with anyone except their wife -- the denial begins to lessen and the fear starts to dissipate. Light starts to enter what they had previously felt was a dark and closed world. Yes, there is a probability that acceptance of anyone's femininity will lead to a more open expression of that "femaleness", but when it is done with pride and assuredness it is a thing of beauty.

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Copyright 1995 by Anne Vitale, Ph.D. Dr. Vitale is a psychotherapist specializing in gender related issues, and an associate of the D Street Counseling Group, 610 D Street, San Rafael CA 94901. Telephone: (415) 456-4452, Internet: avitale@nbn.com *This column may be reprinted in any non-profit organization's newsletter if Dr. Vitale's name and address appears with it. Other publications must obtain written permission from Dr. Vitale. A copy of any reprints must be sent to Dr. Vitale.*

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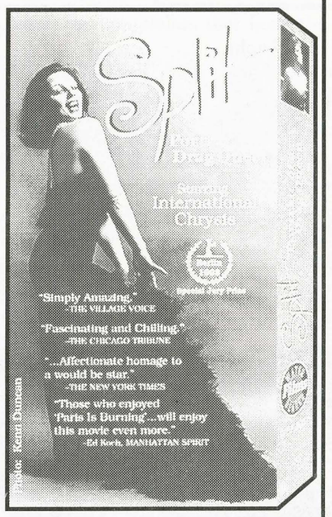
Split...Portrait of a Drag Queen



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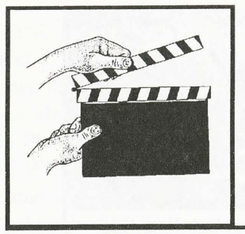

MOVIE REVIEW

TO WONG FOO, THANKS FOR EVERYTHING! JULIE NEWMAR

by Diane Chaplin

With film comedy, the success of the piece rides more on execution than plot, and I perceive this conviction may have been very much in the mind of director Beeban Kidron when he tackled this movie. In less competent hands it could have been a stereotyped disaster, but thankfully, it is charming, whimsical, and infused with wicked wit, and the general behavior of the three leads is as flavorful as it is eyeliner-deep.

Designed for fun, *To Wong Foo* does deliver a lot of it.

Simply put, the oddly-titled movie is about two New York crossdressers -- OK, drag queens -- Vida Boheme and Noxeema Jackson (Patrick Swayze and Wesley Snipes), who win a big time drag contest and a trip to Hollywood to compete in the national drag pageant. But when motherly Vida's heart goes out to tearful also-ran Chi Chi Rodriguez (John Leguizamo), they trade the plane tickets for a classic Caddy convertible and hit the road with sexy Chi Chi in tow. For good luck, they carry with them a photograph of Julie Newmar, TV's original Catwoman, stolen from a Chinese restaurant. The photo is signed "To Wong Foo. Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar."

But their luck runs out when their car breaks down in Snydersville, a tiny farm town brimming with knuckle-dragging, sexist men and their dull and dowdy women. Believing the drag queens are "career girls" from the Big City, the townies offer them a room in the local hotel. Eventually, the trio of strangers infuse the town with a much-needed *joie de vivre*.

Though evidently sexless themselves, the three help their new girlfriends heat up refrigerated romances. Noxeema teaches rude farm boys how to treat a lady ... the hard way. Perhaps most poignantly, Vida helps a battered wife (Stockard Channing) stand up to her cruel husband (Arliss Howard).

Of course, not everything progresses as smoothly as press-on nails gliding over taffeta. There is the chauvinist deputy and the local wife-beater. Try as they might -- the flamboyant trio manage to cover up most problems with lipstick and powder -- only Sheriff Dollard (Chris Penn) still thinks drag is a drag, and then only after a close encounter with Vida that severely threatens her fragile sexual identity.

Snipes, who makes the most unattractive girl, is also the

most exuberant, vogueing every muscle on his formidable body as if his life depended on it. Swayze goes for a more delicate, thoughtful kind of femininity, while Leguizamo seems to know when to turn down the Latin spitfire routine just enough to show that he can fit into his hot pants much more naturally than either of the other two.

The Snydersville segment of the film ends with the Annual Strawberry Festival (obviously not a well-promoted event, since only the local townspeople show up).

I cannot be certain, but I believe this is the first movie about drag queens to be rated PG-13. And it earns that

PG-13 rating by being so relentlessly upbeat, wholesome and asexual that you walk out of the theater thinking of the drag queens as role models; every small town should be as lucky as Snydersville, and have its values transformed by them. And *To Wong Foo* brought in $9 million at the box office its first weekend of release, which should silence many who might have thought the PG-13 rating inappropriate.

There will, of course, be complaints that both the female

invaders and the townsfolk are drawn in negative stereotyping. And there will also be critics on both sides of the political spectrum who will say that Vida, Noxeema and Chi Chi are too idealized. All partially true, but to dwell on that would be to miss the genuinely good-natured, big-hearted impulse at the very core of the film.

Some critics have commented on the total lack of sex in the movie, either among the three leads, or with anyone else. This reviewer would bet the ranch that once you have seen the film, you would agree that sex has no place in the film. It just wouldn't work! The plot seems convinced they dress as women primarily to help other people solve their problems. For them homosexuality seems less a sexual orientation than a license to practice family counseling.

Credit for bringing off the movie belongs with Swayze, Snipes and Leguizamo, who are surprisingly good at

playing drag queens. Swayze actually looks pretty good in drag (people around me were frequently commenting on that), and Leguizamo, playing Chi Chi, has perfect comic timing: Through this unlikely character he demonstrates that he is a superb actor. Snipes is good, too, but in a thankless role; the movie never really engages him in a meaningful plot thread, and he is frequently left on the sidelines with racially themed one-liners ("I ain't drivin' you no more, Miss Daisy").

Of possible interest, we have it on good authority that no less than 41 name actors applied for the role of Vida.

At the conclusion of the Snydersville section of the plot, when the trio is finally departing for Hollywood, I found myself clutching a napkin ... not for the popcorn, but to wipe away the tears that were rolling down my cheeks. *This one, ya gotta see!*

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Rated PG-13. Starring Wesley Snipes, Patrick Swayze and John Leguizamo, and featuring Stockard Channing, Blythe Danner, Arliss Howard and Chris Penn, with special appearances by RuPaul, Robin Williams and Julie Newmar. Directed by Beeban Kidron. Produced by G. Mac Brown. Written by Douglas Carter Beane. An Amblin Entertainment Production released by Universal Pictures.

Photo credit: Lorey Sebastian/Universal Pictures/Amblin Entertainment.

HotBuzz

by JoAnn Roberts

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

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Just about everyone heard about the United Nations' Women's Conference held in China last month. There was even a female-to-male transsexual who addressed the assembly. What many people may have missed was the pre-conference hoopla over the term "gender." It seems that one of the position papers used the term extensively. A woman from South America, I believe, wrote to a committee asking for a clarification of "gender." Apparently some languages, especially some Middle Eastern languages, do not even have a word for gender. That may seem unthinkable to us in the U.S., but it points out clearly that we must begin to think globally. If the U.N. can't define "gender," how would we ever define "transgender?"

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By this time *To Wong Foo* has come and maybe gone, but let's hope it has the appeal and earning power of *Mrs. Doubtfire* and *Tootsie*. In case you missed it at my web site, MCA has set up several web pages for the movie with tons o' info. The URL is *http://www.mca.com/universal_pictures/to_wong_foo/index.html* You better go (there) girl!

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I promised to mention this last month, but I forgot. MTF crossdressers and transsexuals have special problems getting makeup that really works. The drugstore variety of products are mostly water based formulated to impart a little color over a "peaches and cream" complexion and do little to hide beard shadow. Now there is a makeup collection designed specifically to meet the needs of these people: Face In A Box. Carla Fong has been working in film and video production for over 20 years. She is making professional, theatrical makeup products available to the gender community at a price that is very reasonable. The Face In A Box kit includes: 6 foundation colors, 6 lining colors, beard toner, blush, lipstick, mascara, lipliner, eyebrow wax, latex adhesive and finely milled translucent facial powder. Also included are professional quality applicators such as brushes, sponges and powder puffs. All for just the introductory price of $45 ... that's about half of what less pigmented products would cost at the drugstore, and way below the salon price. And Ms. Fong offers a Money Back Guarantee; If you are not completely satisfied with the kit, return it in unused and salable condition for a full refund. Contact: Carla Fong, Corporate Media Services, P.O. Box 1130, Mt. Angel, Oregon 97362. Send a postal money order for $45 plus $4 ($49 total) to cover shipping.

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Plans for the Second International Congress on Crossdressing, Sex and Gender Issues forge ahead. Vern Bullough, Ph.D., Cal. State Northridge (Dr. Bullough co-chaired the first congress) and Sheila Kirk, M.D., International Foundation for Gender Education, have agreed to co-chair the Program Committee. A Call for Papers was due out late September and may be circulating as you read this. The exact date for the second congress is not yet set, but it will be held in the Spring of 1997, possibly late April or early May. Mark your calendars and watch this space for more info.

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Women of size (that's size 14 and up) are finally getting a fashion break as more and more manufacturers and retailers realize they are the major market. The average fashion model is 5'10" tall, weighs 123 pounds and wears a size 8. Meanwhile, the average American woman is 5'4", weighs 142 pounds, and wears a size 14 or 16, and many wear a size 18. Liz Claiborne Street Styles and Marina Rinaldi are two lines that make stylish clothes in larger sizes. In the lingerie department, both Vanity Fair and Vassarette make bras and panties that are feminine, sexy and larger. I had to laugh, though, when an article in *Glamour* suggested that larger women shop in the Mens Department.

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That same issue of *Glamour* (Oct.) has an article titled "What Is This Thing Called Style?" I want everyone to go out and read this article. I'm tired of seeing fashion victims everywhere. Style means that you take some time to think about the clothes you wear. You look "put together" not "thrown together." And while I'm on this rant about style, if you're over 50, leave the micro-mini skirts to the twenty-somethings. Dress your age. On the other hand, leave the Mother-of-the-Bride dresses on the clearance racks. Why do you think they were put there in the first place?

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For many women these days, fashion is irrelevant. It seems to have less and less to do with the real world and more and more to do with fantasy. Almost no one can afford the clothes shown on runways, and, if they could, most women with any style at all wouldn't be caught dead in runway clothes. The flip-flopping trends every five minutes are all bids by designers for attention. What they

haven't yet seemed to realize is that women aren't listening anymore. Get real!

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What is heartening, however, is the return to understated glamour and femininity. Clothing this season is far more figure conscious than in years past and women are showing off their figures. For example, the dress of the season is a sleeveless fitted sheath. Simple, yet elegant, these dresses usually have one distinctive feature: a plunging neckline, a wild print, a well-defined waist, or an above-the-knee hem. Two nice examples are the $54 version by Esprit and the $79 version from Benetton.

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We've spent so much time talking about *To Wong Foo* hardly anyone has mentioned *Clueless*. Not that it has anything to do with crossdressing, but it does have to do with fashion and style. Alicia Silverstone is priceless as Cher, the local high school fashion maven. This is a "must see" for the fashion (un)conscious and just plain fun.

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Fashion movies seem to be almost as popular as crossdressing movies. In addition to *Clueless*, we have *Unzipped* and *Pret-a-Porter*. The former is a documentary while the latter is Robert Altman's swipe at the fashion industry and it does contain crossdressing. Danny Aiello is a crossdressing department store buyer who gets his/her picture snapped in a TV bar by accident. *Pret-a-Porter* is making the rounds of pay per view right now and should hit regular cable in a few months. Watch for it.

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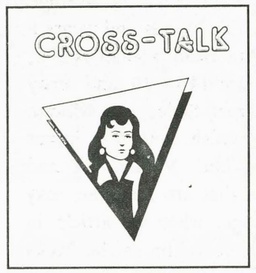
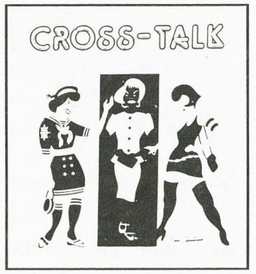
BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE

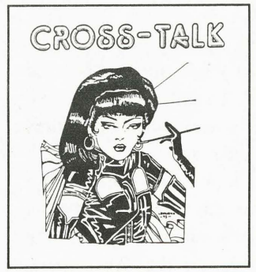
For the convenience of those **Cross-Talk** readers, old and new, who may have missed an issue, we are pleased to offer back issues from earlier this year at **$7.00** each. These include:



#68 (June '95): Commentary on IFGE difficulties; Inadvertently discouraging participation in the community; Family relationships in conflict with transgendered nature; Transgendered behavior among Native American cultures; Misuse of TG terminology; Part one of "passing" test; Keeping emotions from blinding you to the truth in a relationship.

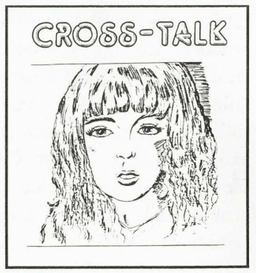
#69 (July '95): Making sacrifices in order to benefit the community; Preparing for transition; Partners' fear that their spouse may "turn" transsexual; A criticism of masculinity; Adjusting to crossdressing in a relationship; Part two of "passing" test; Teachings of Jung applied to transgenderism.





#70 (August '95): Focusing on negative impacts of problems in order to solve them; Cooperation with professionals; The psychology of sex changes; Transsexual therapy ebb and flow; Pre-Christian transgenderism; How women network; Review of *Wigstock: The Movie.*

#71 (September '95): Channeling energy toward overcoming ignorance; The history of female impersonation; Breaking society's "gender rules"; The meaning of bisexuality; Denying the inevitability of transgender issues; Bathrooms on the road; The meaning of the pink triangle.



All other 1995 issues *(#63 through #67)* are also available at **$7.00** each.
(Include $1.00 per issue postage in the U.S., $1.50 per issue elsewhere.)

Complete sets of all 1994 issues *(#51 through 62)* are **$60.00** each, postage paid in the U.S. ($5.00 postage elsewhere.)
See our ad on page 14 for availability of single 1994 issues and 1993 issues.

Send orders to ***Cross-Talk* Back Issues**
P.O. Box 944
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California residents, add 8.25% sales tax to your total before adding postage.

The hot color for this Fall is fire engine, sizzling red. This color is appearing on everything from the simple sheath I mentioned several paragrpahs back to $5000 Chanel suits. Express/Limited stores have a really nice sweater set in red for less than $25. Check it out.

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How long does it take you to get dressed? (I'm addressing the feminine readers.) Angela Gardner and I were having this discussion the other day. We both know people who takes hours and hours to dress, no matter what the occasion. We both agree that if you have any skill at all, the time from shower to front door shouldn't be more than one hour, and two hours (max) if you're going ultra-glam for the evening. Anything over that and you're just wasting time.

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Long nails are making a come back this season. Gone are the short, stubby nails of yore. Long nails, however, need to look perfect, so here's some tips ... Leave sides straight for strength and gently round the ends ... Apply a base coat to keep nails from staining and make polish last longer ... Apply two thin coats of polish and let dry for at least 30 minutes ... Seal with a top coat. Some colors to try are: Sally Hansen Blackberry Wine Fest; Chanel Metallic Vamp; L'oreal Sangria; and Revlon Blackberry.

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There's a neat book out called *Are You Normal?* (St. Martin's Press) and *Mademoiselle* (Oct.) excerpted some of the data. Maybe you'll find these "factoids" interesting. I do not know what the sample size was ... 3.9% of women do not wear underwear ... 40.5% wear bikinis ... less than 20% of men have cried at work as compared to some 60% of women ... the average shopper spends four hours a month at the mall, down from eight hours ten years ago ... 32% of all people cannot snap their fingers (pity the drag queen who can't do that!) ... 30% can raise one eyebrow ... only 25% can cross their eyes ... less than 10% can touch their nose with the tip of their tongue ... favorite colors: blue, red, green, white, pink, purple, orange, and yellow (hey, what happened to black?).

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Whoever thought they should bring back hip-huggers should be taken out and throttled with a pair. The current rash of celebs sporting hip-huggers look like they bought their clothes in a second hand store and in the wrong size.

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Outlet shopping has become such big business that many retail stores are buying stock especially for their outlets. Huh? Yep, even Loehmann's, the store that started it all, has been quietly buying not-so-bargain items for resale. For those few stores that still look for last season's stock, like Sym's, it gets harder and harder to find a real bargain anymore. My partner, a highly skilled bargain hunter, says that you can often get better deals on clothes right in the retail store when they go on sale and at least you'll get them this season. Her other shopping tip: only wear natural fabrics like wool, silk, cotton or leather. There are two exceptions: Rayon and anything made from microfiber.

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Last month I talked about Code Blue and Miracle Boost jeans. The September issue of *Glamour* gave the butt-boosting jeans a test drive and they were uniformly liked. Testers said you could see every curve and one called them "tarty" (That's all we needed to know. Where do I sign up?). Another said they don't pinch, bind or creep and you won't get a wedgie either.

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So, those are my opinions, but, hey, what do I know? If someone wants their buns to rise, I think they oughta use more yeast. Comments? E-mail them to *cyberqueen@cdspub.com* Copyright 1995 by Creative Design Services.

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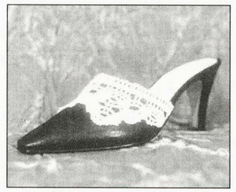

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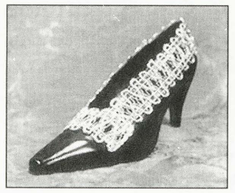

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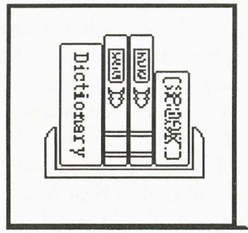

Alternative Presses

by Kymberleigh Richards

JoAnn Roberts has asked to expand on a review I did of the 'zine-on-a-disk *Transgendered* in #68, but first I want to mention of a 'zine from the U.K. called *When I Grow Up i Want to Be Bobby Gillespie* which, while mostly concerned with the punk music scene in and around London, has numerous mentions of drag (both gay and straight) littered throughout its pages and may be worth your attention ... especially if you're part of GenX.

The publisher, Dean Talent, included a handwritten letter with the copies of the first two issues he sent me, in which he tells me of the scene in Manchester and how he and his peers interact with the local populace and with the "glitter queens" who are prevalent in the region. I'll be interested in seeing issue #3 of *Bobby Gillespie* and hope that it will explain just *who* Bobby is.

If you're interested as well, the 'zine is priced at 80p (which is roughly $1.25 US, but you better send $2.00 to cover postage) from Flat K, 23 Plymouth Grove, Longsight, Manchester M13 9LU, U.K.

Okay, JoAnn, your turn ...

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"Freedom of the Press belongs to those who own one," quipped A. J. Leibling. Little did he realize that one day a "press" would literally sit on a desktop in a personal computer. One of the most recent publications to roll off the digital press is a magazine called *Transgendered* published/edited by Debra Berube. I had the opportunity to review two issues of the printed publication and an electronic version. The cover of *Transgendered* boasts that it has "absolutely everything a crossdresser, transsexual, or transgendered person could need" and and that it puts "the Gender Community all at your fingertips." Big claims for such a small, new publication. I could hardly wait to peruse such a rich resource of information.

To say I was disappointed would be a huge understatement. Only a few pages in each issue are devoted to resources, but the lists are woefully out of date; so much so as to make them virtually useless. The support group list contains 64 entries, of which 36 are wrong because the group no longer exists or moved to a new address. (In comparison, the 1995 *Who's Who & Resource Guide to the Transgender Community* lists 135 support groups, 94 of which are in the U.S.).

Okay, so the resources aren't up to snuff. Maybe the articles are better, right? Wrong. Many of the articles are rambling treatises on life as a transsexual, some bad poetry, and many are reprints from other sources. Very little is new or original material. In issue #3 an entire page was devoted (with much white space) to telling us that "baby wipes" are great for makeup removal. Another three and a half pages are spent discussing the *DSM-IIIR* (*Diagnostics and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*) when the *DSM-IV* was released last fall and is significantly different. A pierced earring tip consumes an entire page that took perhaps two paragraphs in another publication.

Issue #2 had more pages, but it was just more of the same. *Transgendered* goes on like that for 30 to 50+ pages, depending at which issue you look. The paper stock is unnecessarily heavy and uncoated. There are no photographs and the clip art is as bad as most clip is. Pages are filled with "ads" for community groups and vendors to make the magazine look bigger. Imagine my surprise when I saw an ad for CDS, my own company, which I did not place. Ms. Berube was so kind to even design a new logo for me. Get the idea?

The magazine cover price is $9.95. It's not worth 99 cents. The electronic issue adds insult to injury; it's $3 more expensive per issue than the paper version. Excuse me, e-zines are supposed to be cheaper, not more expensive: no paper, no ink, no printing labor, and less postage. If you see this "magazine" pass it up. If you buy it, you'll only be reinforcing bad behavior. Save your money and your time.

And, add another quotation next to Liebling's. "Everyone with a personal computer, page layout software and a printer thinks they're a publisher. Most are seriously deluded." -- JoAnn Roberts.

HEY DAD ... DO I HAVE TO WATCH THE TV?

by Ricky Hunt

Cross-Talk's "Bearded Lady" offers a humorous, yet factual, discussion of crossdressing from the perspective of a teenager's father. Presented in a question and answer format for easy understanding of the issues involved.

$4.00 postage paid to:

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MISS TRANSSEXUAL

Photographs by Mariette Pathy Allen

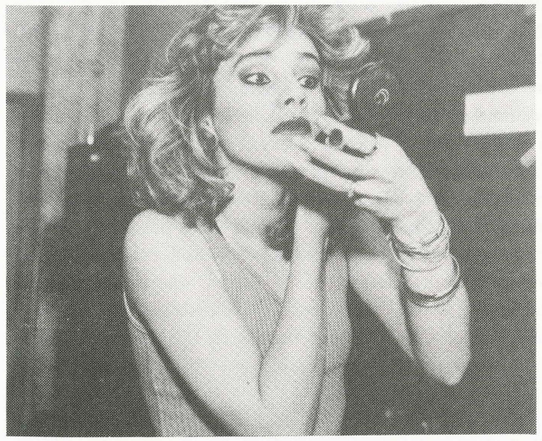
In the bowels of the Palladium, Manhattan's most fashionable nightclub, seven contestants paced the dusty concrete floors, pausing every few minutes to inspect themselves in mirrors propped against the walls of a makeshift dressing room. The March 12 show was a transsexual beauty pageant, dubbed "Miss Man-Made 1986" by its producer, Victoria Van-Ayerst. She said the show would give a glimpse of "a future where people can determine not only their sexuality but their sex."

At 1 A.M. the competitors, tugging on the bottoms of their swimsuits, donned sashes and teetered out onto the brightly lit runway. As the celebrity judges sipped their drinks on the dais, the genetically male -- but in every other respect female -- contestants raced downstairs and slipped into their evening gowns. Chakara Yorkke (lower right) was pronounced the winner, but the title was later awarded to Raquel Cruz, who charged the outcome had been fixed.

Mariette Pathy Allen, who is now well-known for her work within the transgender community, captured the final hours of frenzied preparation, then took a front seat for shots of the live extravaganza.

These photographs have not been widely seen since their original publication in *Penthouse Forum* nearly ten years ago. **Cross-Talk** thanks Mariette for giving us permission to reprint them as a historical feature.

Raquel, contestant number 7, is a hair and makeup artist who won two previous transsexual beauty pageants at the Limelight, another popular New York City nightspot. She won second place at the Palladium show but was declared the winner the next day after what the producer described as a miscount of the ballots. Raquel and several other contestants complained that the results had been rigged.

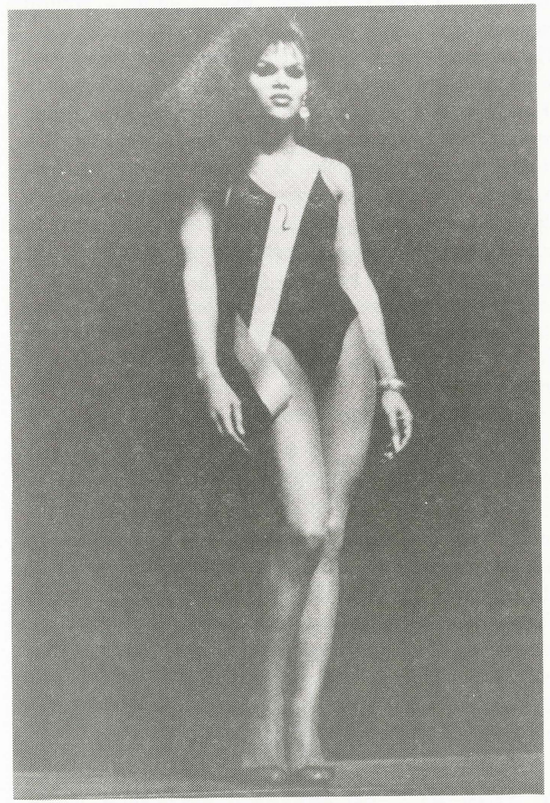


Raquel's roommate, Vanessa Wotiz, touches up her makeup in the dressing room. Vanessa won third prize in the pageant, a $500 gift certificate for imported lingerie.

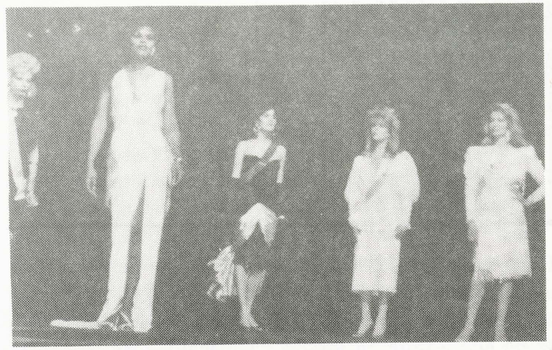
Brittany (left) gets some last-minute attention from one of the stylists, while Karina adjusts her swim suit.

Brittany, Chakara, Diana, Karina, Raquel and Lynn moments before their entrances. "Most of the girls strive for perfection, because we have one strike against us," said Lynn.

Chakara and Lynn Powers adjust their ribbons downstairs. Lynn is a housewife who views her transition from a man's body to a woman's as "a phase that I went through, like having a cancer removed."

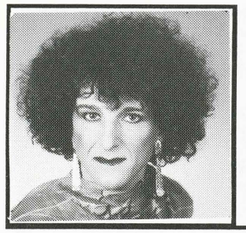


Chakara pauses at the center of the stage to give cheering onlookers another opportunity to admire her figure. A singer and bartender who grew up in St. Thomas, she at first won the cash prize of $1000, blinking back tears and blowing kisses to her fans as she collected an armful of red roses. "Hopefully, between all of us, we can show them it's not a freak show," she said before the pageant.



The evening gown competition. Brittany was nervous about her debut: "I used to go out with some guys who work here; they didn't know about me."

Raquel, who eventually traded places with Chakara and became "Miss Man-Made 1986." Despite the catfight, Van-Ayerst proclaimed the show a success, saying it had helped break down sexual dogmas. "Transsexuals are unique in that they are compelled to come to grips with the male and female components of their personalities. Their triumphs and their beauty can be viewed as acceptance of the masculine and feminine within us all."



The Diva Of Dish

by Angela Gardner

Honeys, it's been a drag queen blitz! Everywhere ya turn, another fella in a frock. I love it. Too bad the drag appearances in the media are not all as positive as *To Wong Foo*. (More on that in a moment.) Let's sample a couple of recent ones, shall we?

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YAK, YAK, YAK: That home of taste and style, *The* **Richard Bey** *Show* had drag queens on who said they were *better* than women, that "natural women are fake." Well, there's a perfect example of why many legitimate TG support organizations don't do talk shows any more. Unfortunately, that means only outrageous DQs who want their fifteen minutes of fame are appearing on the airwaves and they're making us all look bad. They're combative and don't educate anybody. (*Well, Miss Thing!*) In other words, they're perfect guests for talk shows that have descended to the level of the Circus of Ancient Rome. The lions may not be there, but people are still getting mauled.

Then there was a blast from the past, *Danny!* (named for host **Danny Bonaducci**, whose last claim to fame was being arrested for attacking a TG prostitute) called looking for guests. I got back to them too late to turn them down, and I'm glad. When it hit the air the show featured a "drag race." I think you get the picture. A boat load of respect there.

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AND THEN THERE'S ... FOO: Speaking of respect, how about a few million dollars worth? It's finally out, it's doing big business and now, everyone loves queens. Well, maybe not everyone but at least a few folks have said, "Oh, I guess it's not demeaning to wear a dress if you can look fabulous." Looking fabulous for all those weeks of shooting certainly had an effect of **Patrick Swayze**. He appeared on *The Late Show with* **David Letterman** on Wednesday of the film's premiere week, and a lot of drag queen speak slipped into the interview. "Oh no, don't go there!" One fact that was revealed -- Swayze in drag looks like **Miss Kitty** from *Gunsmoke*. Letterman had photos to prove it. Patrick sat there and dished with Dave (while smoking a cigar, but a cigar that was held in a feminine manner, if you ask me).

Opinion in the transgendered community on how good the film is ranges from, "Oh, what a wonderful film!" to "Yeah, it's okay, but (insert your particular agenda here)." Well, in his article for *New York* magazine **Charles Busch** thought the film will give **Bob Dole** a "conniption." In the same piece, disco diva/party promoter (and GG) **Susanne Bartsch** cut up Swayze's costumes, "A man in a twinset and pearls doesn't really turn me on." Well, it has turned on the box office and I think it may turn on a little bit of respect for us.

I caught the flick at a local Philly movie house and I thought it was a great fantasy presentation of the world of drag. Don't get me wrong, I started to tear up at a few emotional patches, but fortunately my mascara is waterproof and I didn't leave the theater with raccoon eyes. There are a million things that we can say are inaccurate or downright wrong with the plot devices that keep the thing afloat but any way you slice it, this is the first big film with major stars that is giving a positive message about people who do drag. Go, have fun, enjoy.

The screenwriter has informed the media that his contract has a clause that covers the option for Universal to build a *Wong Foo* Ride for their Florida or California theme parks. I think it would be great. They could have a big drag contest like at the beginning of the film and tourists could be made over to get interactive as drag queens. It boggles the mind. Park spokespeople have denied any plans to create a drag ride and I suspect the clause in Beane's (the writer) contract is a standard thing for any deal with a screenwriter, but just think ... sequins and boas for all those tourists. Picture hats for everyone! This time I get to be Chi Chi. Sure, I'm kidding, but they did around $9 million in the first week. When a film makes that much cash, anything can happen.

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HAVE A SNORT: One of the bit players in *To Wong Foo* is the always exciting (and not yet mentioned in this month's column) **Miss RuPaul**. Ru was Rachel Tensions and she presented the crown and scepter to the winners of the pageant. I have said before in these pages that she has done it all and the only thing left is giving birth. Well, she has added yet another charm to her charm bracelet of great gigs. She is the newest spokesmodel for Bailey's Irish Cream. Drink up girls, it's not a little old lady drink anymore, it's a big old drag queen drink.

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IN SYNC WITH LYPSINKA: It was a most intense experience, I must say. **Lypsinka** mania hit Philadelphia and I dragged myself (in a very short black dress) and my friend Leslie down to the Arts Bank theater and we caught *As I Lay Lip-Synching*. **John Epperson**, the fella in a frock behind the legend of Lypsinka, is a marvelous talent. The show goes for an hour and ten minutes and he really creates the illusion that all that stuff is coming out of his mouth.

Literally hundreds of clips from films, soundtrack albums and Lord-knows-what all found their way into the performance. Having worked in audio production, I have to mention the engineer who put it all together. Alex Noyes of Studio Pass in New York must have spent hours editing the show's soundtrack.

Lypsinka didn't miss a beat. The performance level, and the demand on audience, is so intense that no matter how much I liked the show, after around 55 minutes I started to check my watch. The human brain can only process so much lip-synching. Even so, I highly recommend *As I Lay Lip-Synching* as a example of what can be done with a humble performance genre that has been turned into a true art form.

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TG VIDEOS: WHAT'S NEW? A lot. The TLA Video Summer/Fall Gay & Lesbian Catalog lists many films of interest to the transgendered consumer. The cover of the catalog is graced by a TS in a demure frock who is the star of a film called *The Sex of the Stars*. It's described as (from *New York Newsday*; they gave it three stars) "a beautifully told coming-of-age story about an adolescent girl having to deal with her father's sex change." Get a couple boxes of tissue for this one, girls. Inside, under the title *Boys Will Be Girls!* there are eight films available ... the most notable being *The Queen*, the documentary about the Miss All-American Beauty Pageant of 1967 and *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. I'm surprised that *Just like a Woman* is not in the catalog since I have seen it advertised in another Philly video store. Under Comedies we find the *Best of the Kids In The Hall*, those crossdressing Canucks and *The Curse of the Queerwolf* (no, **Jack Nicholson** isn't in this one), the tale of an all-American guy who turns into a campy drag queen when the moon is full.

No! Lock me in! I mustn't see the moon! On second thought, it's too late. Hand me my boa, would ya girlfriend? Sounds like fun. You buy the videos and I'll bring the popcorn. Call TLA at 1-800-333-8521 and ask them for a copy of the Gay & Lesbian Video Catalog. They'll send the catalog and videos anywhere and the call is free. Ya can't beat that with a (lip)stick.

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A PROMOTION I CAN LIVE WITH: Shelley Mitchell from Huntsville, Alabama sent me a note about a radio station promo spot that has been running on WZYP radio. WZYP is itself as the station for *all* listeners. One of the lines in the spot is, "Whether it's cross-training or cross-dressing, ZYP wants to be a part your active lifestyle." Now that's my kind of radio station. Wanna bet the Program Director is a big fan of *Just Like A Woman* and *To Wong Foo*?

If there are any TG groups in Huntsville, they oughta get on the phone to ZYP and set up some interviews. When we get included in stuff like this, it makes us more a

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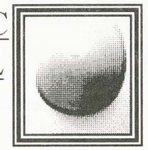

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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

regular part of society and less of a bunch of freaks. Remember, it wasn't that long ago that gay men had to pass as straight if they didn't want to pay a heavy price. Gays are now becoming more widely accepted and transgendered people must learn to walk that same road to tolerance. We get closer to it every time we are included as a segment of society that may be no different than people who are into cross-training. Personally I'm into training bras but I guess we'd better move on.

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THE WOMEN ARE FELLAS: In 1937 **Clare Boothe Luce** (try saying that three times fast) wrote a play called *The Women*. Perhaps because she could foretell the future, or just because she was a perceptive observer of human nature and knew that any play with that title was going to attract queens like a flame pulls moths, instructed her estate to not allow any drag versions of the play.

Well, some queens are just not impressed by restraining orders and law suits. (Chanel suits work wonders but lawsuits will get you a couple of finger snaps.) Since "the play's the thing" -- or in this case the Miss Thing -- the script was trotted out, dusted off and performed as a one night benefit in aid of T.W.E.E.D. (I don't know what it means, so don't ask!) It quickly sold out so a second show was scheduled. Among the queens participating where **Miss Coco** (a lovely young lady whose one-drag-queen show I have had the pleasure of seeing), **David Dukes**, **Lypsinka** (who actually spoke her lines instead of lip-synching them ... can you imagine meeting her at a party and finding out she carries a cassette machine and lip-synchs all the time to pre-recorded party chat?), **Joey Arias**, and **Charles Busch**.

A fab time was had by one and all and another blow for non-traditional casting was struck. Maybe now that he's done *To Wong Foo*, **Wesley Snipes** might be interested in doing a drag version of *The Purple*. **Malcolm Jamal Warner** might be cute in that and then there's **Will Smith** from the *Fresh Prince of Bel Air* and the guy who plays his cousin Carlton. He's already had experience wearing a dress on the show. Yes, I think this idea has potential. Get their agents on the phone. We'll put this deal together.

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Gotta go. I simply must sift through my reams of fan mail. It piles up and I feel bad if I don't personally open each piece and maybe someone sent money this time. Ta Ta!

WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

Please address correspondence to
Kymberleigh Richards, Publisher & Managing Editor
Cross-Talk
P.O. Box 944
Woodland Hills, CA 91365-0944.

(or send e-mail to *kymmer@xconn.com*)

Jim Bridges'

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The Toni Compendium: Cartoon adventures of a transgendered high school student plus four single panel cartoons not published during the series' run.

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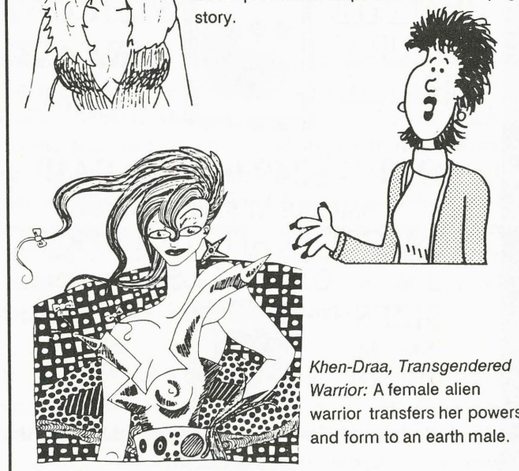

Khen-Draa, Transgendered Warrior: A female alien warrior transfers her powers and form to an earth male.

All comic books are **$5.75** each, postage paid in the U.S. *(Add 25 cents additional postage per book outside the U.S.) (California residents, add 8.25% sales tax.)*
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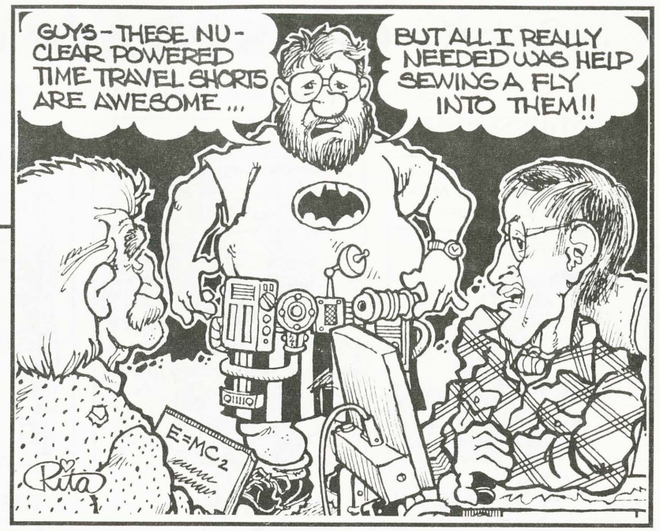
The Bearded Lady

by Ricky Hunt
Illsutration by Rita



I think I've changed my mind. I'm flexible, I can be convinced by reasoned argument, I wouldn't want to be considered dogmatic. So I must tell you my sewing machine has convinced me there is no alternative to SRS.

It's true, for my entire life as a crossdresser I have never had any urge to become a woman, and have said so at length and with some vigor to anyone who would listen to me blather on or read my columns, but that's all over. I once again girdled my loins and sat down to do combat with my mortal enemy, the sewing machine. I have made innumerable items of feminine apparel when I could get the thing to cooperate with me; dresses, skirts, blouses were no real problem. Most of them even came out well enough: I could wear them in public, that is, if I had the nerve. But this time it was different. This time, in my current unemployed state, I decided to sew a pair of shorts for my male self. Somehow all of my good shorts had disappeared in the various moving adventures of the past year, and I was in no position to buy some new ones for the very hot weather we were having. Besides, it was the end of July and the stores think it's winter: they're full of flannel shirts and such.

Things went smoothly at first, I rummaged in the many drawers of fabric and found some suitable material, located a suitable pants pattern, washed the material and cut it out. I seated myself in front of the sewing machine -- newly back from repair and no longer sounding like a steam train with a bent drive rod -- and hoped it would be thankful enough for the service to be good to me. I got out the directions, read them, read them again, and went through them a third them without understanding a thing. I soon realized the problem. Up until this time I have only had to cope with a skirt. Not a difficult thing, a piece of fabric with a small hole on top and a larger hole in the bottom, when you get down to the basics. Add a ruffle, elastic, or other doodads and it still remains the same. But pants, on the other hand (leg?) are a topological nightmare. I left college 25 years ago in part because advanced calculus was completely incomprehensible to me. All that stuff about morphing a coffee cup into a doughnut and spatial curves and other gobbledegook. Trying to piece together a pair of pants made me wish I had finished that course, because I truly needed it.

With the aid of a commercially assembled pair of pants and a lot of patience I was able to connect the legs in the right sequence and even get the pockets in the right place, all the while being thankful that skirts don't have pockets. I was gaining back my confidence now, and turned the page and was once again lost in limbo. That's when I decided SRS would be simpler and more effective than continuing to sew.

Have you ever read the directions to assemble the fly on a pair of pants? Believe me, if I had Albert Einstein, Richard Feynman and Stephen Hocking in the room with me, they would be as completely mystified as I was. There are all these little bitty bits of cloth that have to be folded in a manner guaranteed to outclass an origami master. Then you have to sew them together an inch at a time with this overlapping that while holding the other thing still and being sure not to stitch through some piece of material whose function is completely incomprehensible. I tried, I really did, and failed miserably. Wielding my trusty seam ripper I took it all apart and did it again. By this time my wife was laughing uproariously, though she admitted under severe questioning she had never attempted to assemble a fly herself. The second time it was a bit closer to the ideal, but the zipper was in backward.

Maybe I could start a new fashion and wear them inside out? Nah, there is only one solution, SRS. And elastic. Without the bodily equipment I would have no need of a fly, a simple elastic waistband would be comfortable and effective.

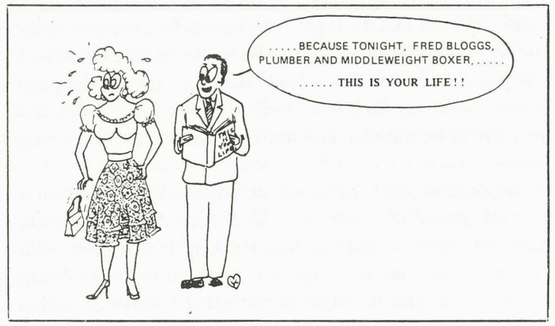
Colorado, here I come.

Ricky Hunt's informative book *Hey Dad ... Do I Have To Watch the TV?* explaining crossdressing to teenagers, is available through our mail order division. See the ad on page 26 for ordering information.

THE ADVENTURES OF KAREN

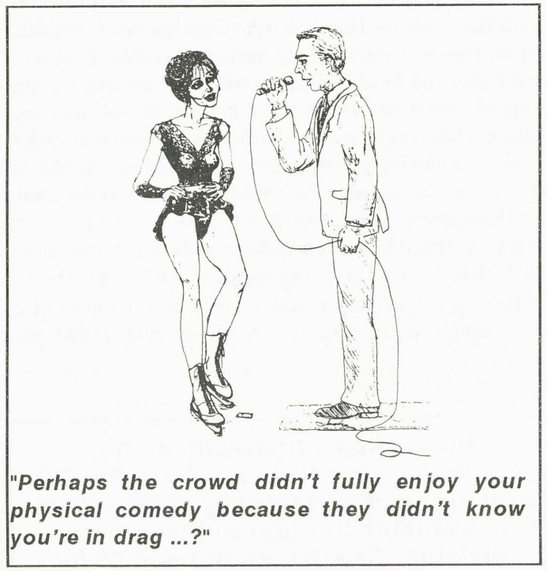
by KAREN ANN MICHAELS

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



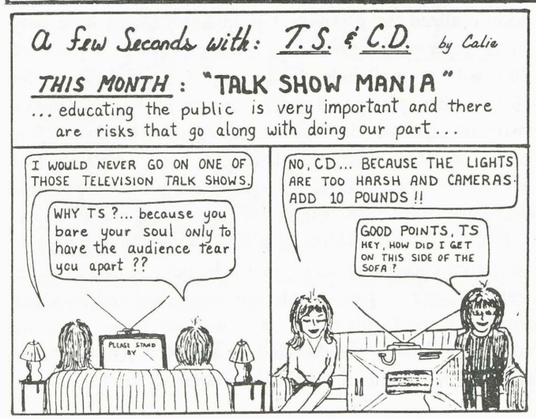
THE PASSING SCENE by Kay Lightner

Tasha's World by Tasha Barnard



"Perhaps the crowd didn't fully enjoy your physical comedy because they didn't know you're in drag ...?"

A Few Seconds with: T.S. & C.D. by Calie



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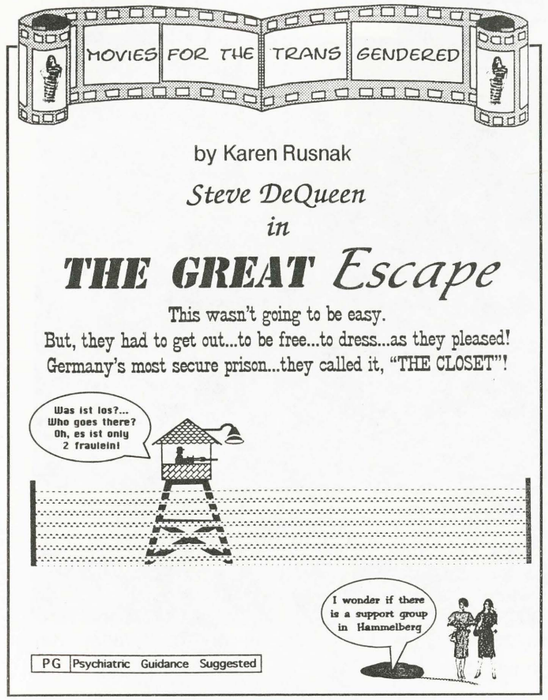
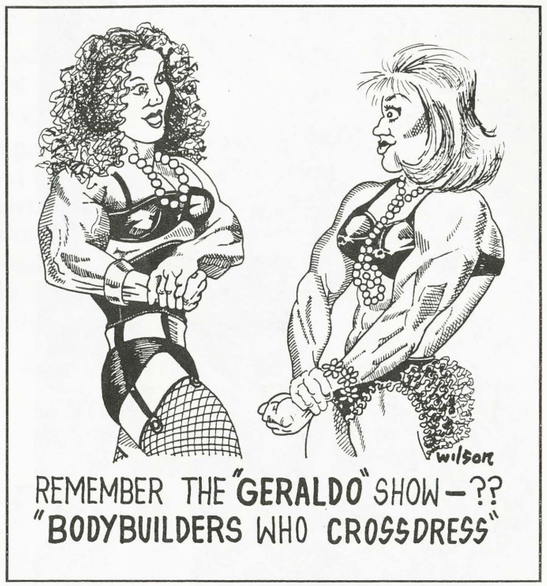


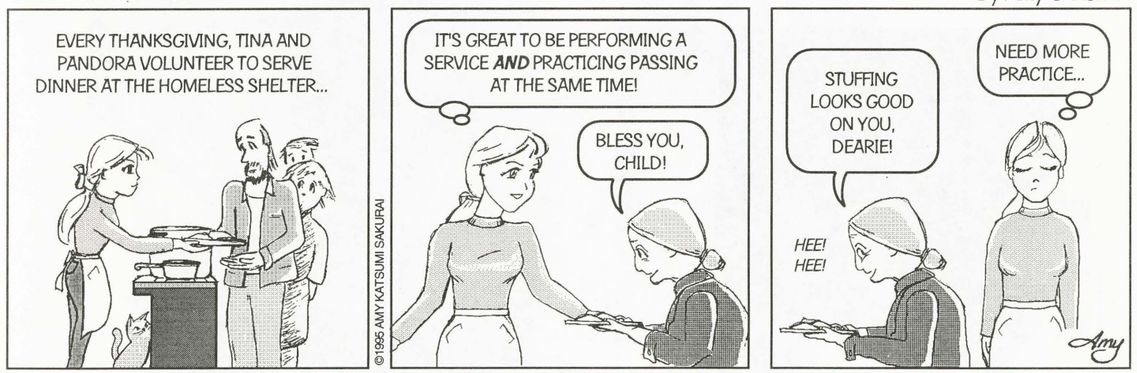
here in the (un)real world by Nancy Wilson



Reprints of our most popular comics are available by mail order. See page 32.

Pandora's Box

by Amy Sakurai



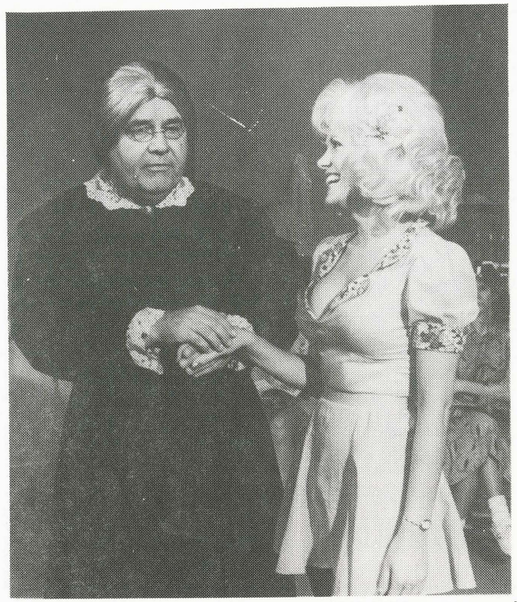
CARTOONISTS!

***Cross-Talk* is once again on the lookout for talented people who can contribute to the best transgender comic section in print.**
We will be having some openings here in the next few months, so send us a sample of your best work for consideration!

***Cross-Talk*, Attn: Kymberleigh Richards,**
P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365-0944.
(We're also looking for tasteful artwork for our front covers!)

GREAT MOMENTS IN TV HISTORY

from the archives of Ralph Judd



Original airdate unknown (1978-79 season): Jonathan Winters as Maude Frickert has a heart-to-heart with Misty Rowe on *Hee Haw Honeys* (syndicated).

10/28/64: Jose Ferrer guests on *The Danny Kaye Show*, CBS.

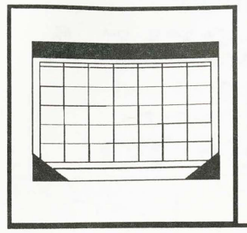
11/10/65: Tom Tryon disguises himself as a lady schoolteacher to win the girl he loves (Carol Lawrence, shown in right photo) in "Mr. Governess" on *Bob Hope Presents the Chrysler Theatre*, NBC.

HOTLINES

These hotlines are run by non-profit organizations, and may not be answered "live" at all times as a result. Listings followed by % are for groups known to be sexually-oriented; listings followed by # are for primarily TS-oriented groups; listings followed by @ are for heterosexual TV/CDs only. Most other listings are for "open" (both TV/CD and TS) groups. While we make every effort to keep this listing updated, phone numbers may change without notice. If you find an incorrect listing, please let us know!

NEW ENGLAND/NORTH ATLANTIC REGIONS:
Buffalo Transition Support: (716) 629-5421 #
CD Network, Rochester: (716) 251-2132
Chi Delta Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, NYC: (201) 439-9618 @
Connecticut Outreach Society, Hartford: (203) 657-4344
Cross Dressers International, NYC: (212) 570-7389
Cross Expressions, Binghampton: (607) 862-3203
Enterprise, Boston: (617) 983-3264 #
Eulenspiegel Society, NYC: (212) 388-7022 %
Expressing Our Nature, Syracuse: (315) 475-5611
F2M Fraternity, NYC: (908) 298-8797 #
Gender Identity Support Services, MA: (617) 720-3413 #
Gender Talk North, New Hampshire: (603) 924-8828
Girls' Night Out, NYC: (212) 794-1665 ext 202
Images, Hartford: (203) 779-9708 #
Imperial Queens of New York: (212) 580-9858
Int'l. Foundation for Gender Education: (617) 894-8340
Lambda Chi Lambda Chapter Tri-Ess, Utica: (607) 547-4118 @
LGCSC Gender Identity Project, NYC: (212) 620-7310
Long Island Femme Expression: (516) 283-1333 @
Metropolitan Gender Network, NYC: (718) 461-9050
Monmouth Ocean Trans Gender, Central NJ: (908) 219-9094
Northern New Jersey Group: (201) 663-0772
Philadelphia TS Support Group: (215) 567-7879 #
Renaissance Delaware Chapter: (302) 995-1396
Renaissance Greater Philadelphia Chapter: (610) 630-1437
Renaissance LSV Chapter, Harrisburg: (717) 780-1578
Renaissance S. Jersey Chapter: (609) 435-5401
Sigma Nu Rho Chapter Tri-Ess, Trenton: 1-800-480-3152 @
Silent Passage, Rhode Island: (401) 438-7417
Tiffany Club, Boston: (617) 891-9325
TransGender Educational Ass'n, Arlington: (301) 949-3822
Transgender Support Group of Baltimore: (410) 837-5445
TransGenderists Independence Club, Albany: (518) 436-4513
Transpitt, Pittsburgh: (412) 231-1181
Tri-State Transgendered Club, Cumberland: (301) 453-3538
Washington-Baltimore Alliance: (301) 277-5475
XX (Twenty) Club, Hartford: (203) 646-8651 #
THE SOUTH:
American Educational Gender Info. Service: (770) 939-0244
Atlanta Gender Exploration: (404) 875-9846 #
Black Rose, Arlington: (301) 369-7667 %
Carolina Trans-Sensual Alliance, Charlotte: (704) 551-8838
Eclipse, Tampa: (813) 546-3089 #
Eden Society, Pompano Beach: (305) 784-9316 #
Enchante, St. Petersburg: (813) 972-2617 #
Fantasia, Orlando: (407) 425-4527 #
GDA North Carolina: (704) 642-1914
Gender Information Network, Gainesville: (904) 332-8178
Grace & Lace, Mississippi: (601) 362-6335
Gulf Gender Alliance, New Orleans: (504) 523-4203
Kappa Beta Chapter Tri-Ess, Charlotte: (704) 358-3838 @
Louisville Gender Society: (812) 944-5570
Metro Area Gender Alliance, Arlington: (301) 949-3822 #
Montgomery Institute, Augusta: (404) 603-9426 #
Montgomery Institute, Gainesville: (904) 332-6638 #
M.O.R.E., Ft. Lauderdale: (305) 966-2138
Mu Sigma Chapter Tri-Ess, Arkansas: (501) 523-2466 @
Phi Epsilon Mu Chapter Tri-Ess, Central FL: (407) 677-9540 @
Phoenix, Asheville: (704) 253-9882
Serenity, Hollywood: (305) 436-9477
Sigma Epsilon Chapter Tri-Ess, Atlanta: (404) 552-4415 @
Starburst, Tampa-St. Petersburg: (813) 633-9653
Tennessee Vals, Nashville: (615) 664-6883
Virginia's Secret, Richmond: (804) 222-6796
MIDWEST & VICINITY:
Alpha Omega Chapter Tri-Ess, Cleveland: (216) 556-0067 @
Beta Gamma Chapter Tri-Ess, Minneapolis: (612) 870-8536 @
Central Illinois Gender Assoc.: (309) 444-9918
Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Chicago: (708) 262-8707 @
Chicago Gender Society: (708) 863-7714
City of Lakes Crossgender Comm., Minneapolis: (612) 229-3613
Cross-Port, Cincinnati: (606) 581-3711
Crossdressers & Friends, Kansas City: (913) 791-3847
Crossroads, Detroit: (313) 537-3267
Crystal Club, Columbus: (614) 265-7488
Gemini Gender Group, Milwaukee: (414) 297-9328
Gender Dysphoria Support, Kansas City: (816) 241-1411 #
IXE, Indianapolis: (317) 781-0834
Iowa Artistry, Cedar Rapids: (309) 755-2310
Minnesota Freedom of Gender Expression: (612) 220-9072
N.G.D.O., Detroit: (313) 842-5258
Paradise Club, Cleveland: (216) 586-9292
Quad-City Society for Sexuality Ed., Davenport: (319) 324-9641
St. Louis Gender Foundation: (314) 367-4128
Sunday Society, Chicago: (312) 252-7024
SOUTHWEST/MOUNTAIN REGION:
Agape, Dallas: (214) 424-1234 #
Alpha Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Amarillo: (806) 359-7714 @
Alpha Rho Chapter Tri-Ess, Salt Lake City: (801) 553-8141 @
Boulton & Park Society, San Antonio: (210) 980-7788
Central Wyoming TG Support Group: (307) 473-2429
CrossDressers International, Tulsa: (918) 582-6643
Delta Chapter Tri-Ess, Denver: (303) 595-5874 @
Gender Identity Center, Denver: (303) 202-6466
Gulf Coast Transgender Community, Houston: (713) 780-4282
Help Me ... Accept Me, Dallas: (214) 416-6632
Metroplex CD Club, Dallas: (214) 264-7103 @
Second Image, Austin: (512) 515-5460
Sorority, AZ: (602) 293-3456
TS Peer Support, Houston: (713) 333-2278 #
TS Support Group, Las Vegas: (702) 594-7884 #
Tau Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Houston: (713) 347-8747 @
Texas Ass'n. of Transsexuals, Houston: (713) 827-5913 #
PACIFIC NORTHWEST:
Emerald City, Seattle: (206) 827-9494
Ingersoll Gender Center, Seattle: (206) 329-6651
Northwest Gender Alliance, Portland: (503) 646-2802
Salmacis Feminist Social Society, Eugene: (503) 688-4282
Trans-Port, Portland: (503) 774-8463
Transsexual Lesbians & Friends, Seattle: (206) 292-1037 #
THE WEST COAST (CA & HI):
Alpha Chapter Tri-Ess, Los Angeles: (213) 876-6141 @
Amer. Transsexual Education Center: (213) 389-6938 #
Androgyny, Santa Monica: (213) 467-8317
Androgyny-East, Riverside: (909) 360-5584
Born Free, Riverside: (909) 278-0958
CHIC, Los Angeles: (310) 420-2580 @
Diablo Valley Girls, Concord: (510) 937-8432
Educational TV Channel, San Francisco: (510) 549-2665
FTM, Oakland: (510) 287-2646 #
Gender Expressions, Los Angeles: (310) 869-4241
Hawaii Transgendered Outreach, Honolulu: (808) 923-4270
Neutral Corner, San Diego: (619) 685-3696
Powder Puffs Of California, Anaheim: (714) 779-9013
Rainbow Gender Association, San Jose: (408) 984-4044
Sacramento Gender Association: (916) 482-7742
Sigma Sigma Beta Chapter Tri-Ess, Lake Tahoe: (916) 544-2460 @
Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess) Nat'l.: (209) 688-9246 @
Swan's Inner Sorority, San Jose: 1-800-610-7926
CANADA:
Club Met, Montreal: (514) 528-8874
Entre Femme, Quebec: (418) 529-1132 #

[Listings continue on next page.]



EVENTS CALENDAR

November 15-19, 1995: Tri-Ess "Holiday En Femme", Calgary AB, hosted by Phi Sigma Chapter. Write Box 81115, 755 Lake Bonavista Dr. SE, Calgary AB T2J 7C9, Canada for details.
January 24-28, 1996: "First Event", Woburn MA, sponsored by the Tiffany Club of New England. Information from TCNE, P.O. Box 2283, Woburn MA 01888-0483, or by phoning (617) 891-9325.
February 10, 1996: 7th Annual "Gala Ball", Cedar Rapids IA, hosted by Iowa Artistry. Write P.O. Box 75, Cedar Rapids 52406-0075 for details or telephone (309) 755-2310.
February 22-25, 1996: 8th Annual "Texas 'T' Party", Dallas TX. Information from P.O. Box 700742, San Antonio TX 78270 or by calling (210) 980-7788.
March 24-31, 1996: IFGE "Minnesota Pride Celebration '96", Minneapolis MN. Information from IFGE, P.O. Box 229, Waltham, MA 02154, telephone (617) 899-2212.
May 16-19, 1996: "Paradise in the Poconos", Canadensis PA, produced by Creative Design Services, P.O. Box 19206, King of Prussia PA 19406. Information via Internet: *poco@cdspub.com* or by phone: (610) 640-9449.
July 3-7, 1996: "Transgen '96: Transgender Independence Weekend", Houston TX, sponsored by the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy. Details from ICTLEP, 5707 Firenza, Houston 77035-5515, by calling (713) 723-8368, by Internet to *prfrye@aol.com* or by fax at (713) 723-1800.
September 19-26, 1996: "Paradise in the Poconos", Canadensis PA. See May listing for details.
November 6-9, 1996: 7th Annual "Fall Harvest", St. Louis MO, sponsored by Mid America Gender Group Information Exchange (MAGGIE) and hosted by Iowa Artistry. Information from P.O. Box 75, Cedar Rapids IA 52406-0075, telephone (309) 755-2310.

(Please send information on national transgender community events to **Cross-Talk**, *P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills CA 91365. Listings must be accompanied by a written authorization by an officer of the sponsoring organization or be listed in their group newsletter. Information will not be accepted via e-mail.)*

HOTLINES ... *continued from previous page*
F.A.T.E., Vancouver: (604) 254-9591
Gender Mosaic, Ottawa: (819) 770-1945
Illusions Social Club, Calgary: (403) 486-9661
U.K./REP. OF IRELAND:
Beaumont Society, London: 071-756-1782
Crosslynx, Glasgow: 041-221-8372
Gender Dysphoria Trust, London: 0323-641100 #
Grampian Gender Group, Scotland: 03398-83695
Liverbirds, Liverpool: 051-709-4745
New TransEssex: 0268-583761
Scottish TV/TS Group, Edinburgh: 031-556-4049
Transvestite Self-Help Group, London: 071-289-5240
GERMANY:
FPE Frankfurt: 069 4950446
Transvestitengruppe, Berlin: 030 2082157
Viva, Muenchen: 089 134681 #
AUSTRALIA:
Australia TG Support Association: (07) 846 3787
Chameleon Society, Australia: (09) 293 8338
Elaine Barrie Project, Australia: (03) 369 2613
Seahorse Society of NSW, Australia: (02) 569 6239
OTHER OVERSEAS:
De Stichting Reborn, Netherlands: 010-4503469
Ice & Fire, Moscow: 287-7096
Khusra, Pakistan: 05921 6158
SETA, Helsinki: 358-0-135-8302
Travesty, Istanbul: 157 8925

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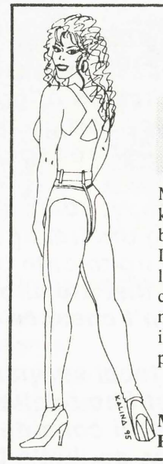

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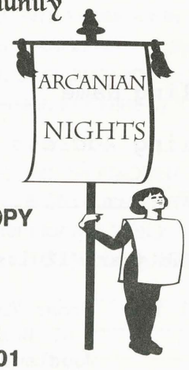

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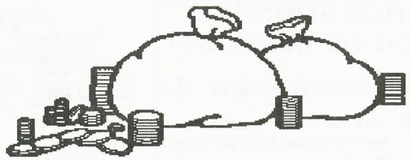

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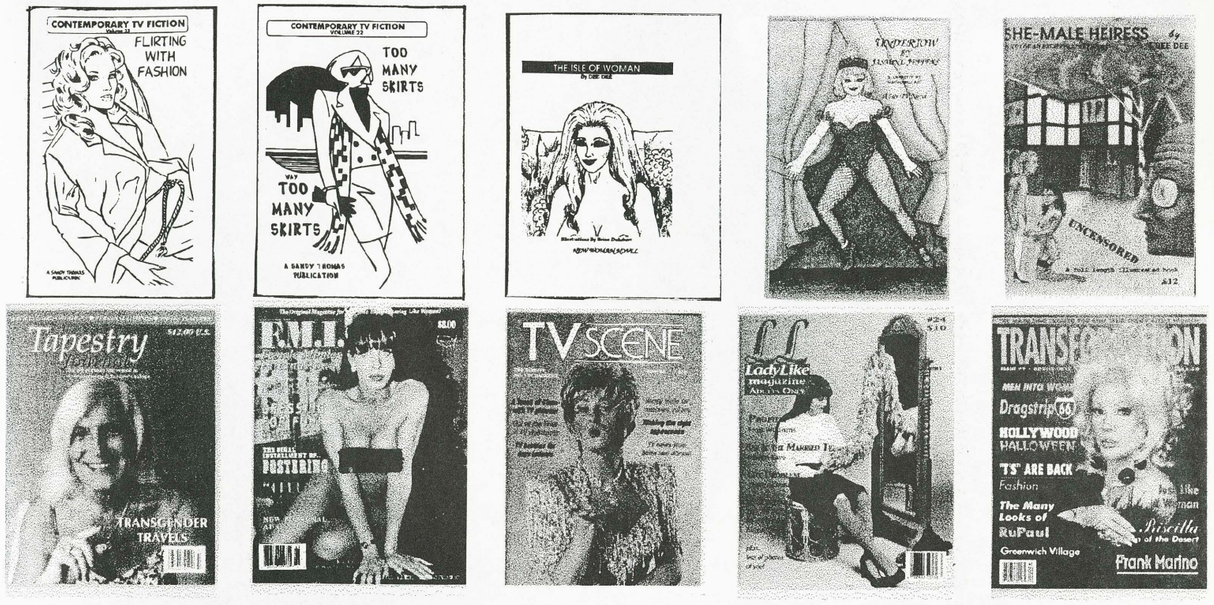

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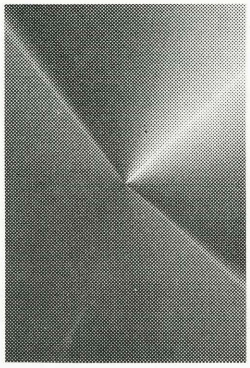

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