

News & views

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Renaissance

Change At the Top At ICTLEP

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRANSGENDER LAW AND EMPLOYMENT POLICY, INC. (ICTLEP), often referred to as The Transgender Law Conference, announces that it has elected Sharon Stuart/Thomas Heitz as its new Executive Director. Stuart/Heitz, a bi-gendered activist of long standing, was an original Director of ICTLEP when it formed in 1991 and has her Juris Doctorate from the University of Kansas Law School. Her new position begins on March 15, 1998.

Stuart/Heitz sees her job as providing a year-long transition from a "founder-driven" organization (which began in 1991 when its founder was the only totally out and totally active TG lawyer in the United States) to one with more structure and a deeper organizational base. "Today, with so many TG lawyers and TG law students being out or coming out, there is a growing pool of folks who can take on the myriad of bar association-styled committee work that needs to be done," states Stuart/Heitz.

Out-going executive director and founder, Phyllis Randolph Frye, told her Board three

weeks ago that she had had enough. "Being an activist for over two decades is one thing, but being on the point for all of those two-plus decades is more than enough. And six years as executive director of this organization with six annual conferences and six annual bound Proceedings was also enough." Frye was asked by Stuart/Heitz to remain as a director in order to provide historical perspective and continuity, and she agreed.

ICTLEP remains ready to serve the transgender community and to work in harmony with the inclusive LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) Community. Stuart/Heitz asks, "If you are a legal professional, won't you please contact me and see how you can help to take transgender legal work from this plateau into the next? My directors and moderators need you!"

If you are a current financial contributor, please continue. If you are not yet, please consider helping out. Check out the ICTLEP web page at www.abmall.com/ictlep (and the AOL keyword ICTLEP). Also find ICTLEP information on www.tgforum.com.



Reach Out And Touch Someone

by Jessica Brandon

Do you remember what it was like when you were painfully alone and so deep in the closet, you thought you'd never get out? Do you remember how you wanted more than anything in the world to get in touch with people like yourself who enjoyed crossdressing? Do you remember aching to get your hands on information about crossdressing, but your only resources were adult bookstores, where almost everything you found was about she-males or domination, not to mention how dirty and ashamed you felt when you left?

At one time or another, we all went through such agonizing trials and tribulations, each and every one of us. To deny that fact would be akin to lying to yourself. In the beginning, we all sought to understand why we do what we do, to

gain some measure of confirmation that we weren't alone, that we weren't freaks, criminals or sexual deviates. But, most of all, we just wanted to talk to someone who shared our desire, our longing to crossdress. That is what outreach is all about, lending a hand to those scared and lonely people in need.

It was for that very reason that the Renaissance Phone Watch was established, that is, to provide that badly needed resource. To some, it's a lifeline, a chance to get in touch with a caring, devoted person who has, to use a rapidly aging cliché, "been there, done that." On Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights between 6:00 and 10:00 PM, you can call our National Office and talk to a live, dedicated

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Chapter & Affiliate Information

Chapters

Delaware

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

Pennsylvania

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

Lehigh Valley/Pocono area: Renaissance Lehigh Valley, PO Box 3624, Allentown, PA 18106. Meetings on the second Saturday of the month in the Allentown area. Call for directions and more information, 610-821-2955.

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

Affiliates

California

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

Connecticut

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

Georgia

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

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

Illinois

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

Louisiana

New Orleans: The Gulf Gender Alliance, PO Box 56836, New Orleans, LA 70156-6836, 504-833-3046.

New Jersey

N. Central Jersey: Monmouth/Ocean Trans Gender, (MOTG), PO Box 2972, Princeton, NJ 08543-2972. Call 908-219-9094. Email: vikkimotg@aol.com

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

New York

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

Long Island: Long Island Femme Expression (LIFE), PO Box 1311, Water Mill, NY 11976-1311. Phone 516-283-1333. email to joed2viola@aol.com

Oklahoma

Central Oklahoma: Sooner Diversity, part of the Central Oklahoma Transgender Alliance (COTA). Contact, Vanessa Kaye, Oklahoma City: COTA, 6957 N.W. Expressway, #121 Oklahoma City, OK 73132, email to <mhk@ionet.net>.

Renaissance News & Views

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

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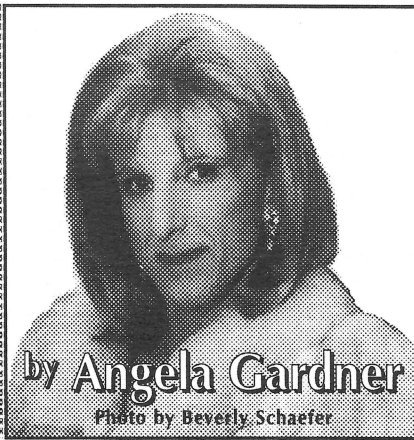
You can get Renaissance News & Views by email every month delivered automatically right to your email box for only \$15 a year. That's half off the regular paper subscription rate. Send your \$15 plus your email address to the Renaissance National Office.

Local Calendar

April

- 1 Ren. Library Discussion Group - Wayne, Pa.
- 4 Ren. LSV - Harrisburg
- 4 NJ Support - Trenton
- 11 Ren. Lehigh Valley
- 11 Ren. Delaware - Wilmington
- 18 Ren. GPC - Wayne, Pa.
- 25 MOTG - Red Bank, NJ

News Beat & Reminder



It's coming next month kids! A fabulous one-day convention for girls like us. The daytime activities take place at the GPC meeting site. There are seminars from such luminaries as **JoAnn Roberts, Lee Etscovitz, Sheila Kirk and Jessica Brandon**, as well as sessions on electrolysis and more. In the evening we sweep into the **Park Ridge Hotel** at Valley Forge for the **Renaissance Spring Ball**. It's a return to the old-fashioned glamour values we all hold dear.

Wear your best party dress and join us for cocktails at seven followed by fine dining to classical strings, then dancing to the hot sounds of Swing Shift, a five piece band featuring a sexy female vocalist. The whole event will cost \$80, or \$50 for just the Spring Ball. Those who don't dance and just want education can attend the daytime events for \$45. Look in this issue for a registration form. We'll provide a suite at the hotel for folks to change and freshen up. If you want to use the facility, please check the box on the registration form. We goofed last month and forgot to include the box. If you already sent in last month's registration form and didn't see any place to request changing facilities, feel free to drop me a note, and I'll put you on the changing room list. See you all on the 4th.

I put a plea in the last issue for assistance from all sales-oriented types to help promote the *Renaissance Resource Guide*. Well, response to my plea has been underwhelming. This Resource Guide is a

big deal and will be a great benefit to all Renaissance members, plus a terrific way for our organization to bring in more revenue. It's so big it's too much work for one or two people. We need someone to coordinate the contacting of over 400 counselors, attorneys, and TG friendly businesses. The initial contact can be a post card or letter. After that it may be necessary to make follow-up calls. If you already have the skills we need for this project, please use them for the community. Give the office a ring and leave your name and number on the machine. I'd like to have this Guide in everyone's hands before the middle of the year slips by.

And now, on with the entertainment.

TV's On TV

Either television writers are one hip group of people, and they realize they must include the diversity of the world in their shows, or they are all gay, lesbian and transgendered writers who want to come out of the closet. The number of gay characters on TV has gone up recently, and the number of men in dresses has blossomed as well. I think the Crossdressing TV Writers Association is to blame. They saw gay writers come out of the closet, add gay characters to their shows, and still remain employed, so they decided to start coming out themselves.

Now, the gay writers have been at it longer, so their characters are becoming regulars on shows. The gay waiter on *Cybill* being one example. He gets most of the good lines and

appears regularly. And that Ellen, she gets all the good lines on her show. Oh, right... it's her show. But you get my point. You'll find crossdressed characters making one show, or one-scene appearances, but no crossdresser has a regular role in a series. Don't count *Ask Harriet* (Fox-TV) as having a crossdresser as a character. Jack Cody doesn't like wearing a dress; he has to do it to make a living. That's the whole premise of the show. In one episode, Jack dreams that he is really a woman, and he wakes up in a panic attack. Thinking about it, the idea of Sylvia Coco actually being a woman is enough to give anybody a panic attack. Devoted reader Telzey Adams sent in a clipping about the show, and she wrote, "That jaw, the voice, those awful high necked dresses." Yes, it's better for us if people don't identify Sylvia Coco as a crossdresser.

But the C.T.V.W.A has been busy getting real crossdressers into the scripts. Did you catch the January 19th episode of *Suddenly Susan*? **Tony Curtis** was the guest star, and he was dressing up just like the old *Some Like it Hot* days. His character meets Susan's grandmother, and they start dating. Gran needs something a little sexier to wear on their next date, and Susan offers to shop for her. In the boutique she runs into Tony in drag. She confronts him, and he tells her, "I love women. I just happen to love women's clothes, too." He also tells Susan there's, "no simple way to explain this, because human beings aren't simple." That's pretty good treatment for us crossdressers. Especially since it comes from a guy who's already got a permanent place in the crossdresser hall of fame.

Later in the episode, Susan's grandmother tells her that she's stopped seeing Tony's character. Susan says, "The crossdressing thing was too much?" Grannie says, "I got past that. But do you know that man was a Republican?"

Smoke And Lust

Alas, my little kittens, love has struck this old columnist, and unfortu-

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nately it must remain unrequited. I don't know if they've been conducting the same ad campaign where you live, but all over the Philadelphia area, R.J. Reynolds has put up bus stop billboards to promote Camel cigarettes. These billboards are on almost every other corner, and they feature one hot babe. She's got dark hair, a little black dress, a suntan, dramatic makeup, sexy arms and legs, and a Martini. Oh yeah, she's smoking a Camel. I've tried in vain to find her picture on the Web, or in a magazine, so I could scan her and share, but I have had no luck. She must be strictly an outdoor campaign feature. Pity, 'cause she'll catch a chill in that little black dress.

For years the cartoon camel occupied advertising space in my world, and he never made much of an impression on me since, being a healthy individual, I don't smoke. Then his health problems (emphysema, I hear) caused him to retire. Reynolds ad men thought up a new approach that didn't blatantly court kids with another cartoon, and they fell back on plain old sex appeal. The new girl in town has been promoting R.J. Reynolds' smokes for several weeks, and she's got me wondering if I can buy a poster of her from somewhere. I'll bet she's making more teenage boys (and teenage lesbians) pay attention to Camel ads than Joe Camel ever did.

I long to call the ad agency and ask who this vixen is, but I know they'd never tell. I wonder what part of the country she's from. Maybe she's a hot foreign babe. Ah, the answers will no doubt never be known. If she happens to be a News & Views reader, maybe she'll read of my lust... I mean love, and get in touch. Hey, if she is a reader... that might be even more exciting.

Only one thing could be better than finding out she was one of us: if I found out she didn't really smoke. Now that would be great. I love it

when things aren't what they seem, and besides, I run a no smoking domicile. I can't have her smelling up my designer dresses with cigarette smoke. Potpourri can only do so much. I don't care how sexy she is, ya gotta draw the line somewhere. Aww, who am I kidding. She'll never stop in for a Martini (shaken not stirred) at my little mountain hideaway. And if she does, she can smoke all she wants.

But no, I will never find out who this beauty is, or if she really has a hacking cough. The only thing a love struck Executive Director can do... is dress like the Camel Chick. If you're out in the Philadelphia/New York area, and you see a dark-haired vixen with bedroom eyes, a little black dress and Martini — say hello. It'll be me just making do. (I might be holding a cigarette, but like another famous person I won't mention, I won't inhale. It's just for that glamma effect.)

But enough of this sadness, my little flowers. Let's turn our thoughts to...

Pictures, You Oughta See These Pictures

Transgender issues are hot in the media right now. Details magazine's February issue has an article ("Sexuality 101") about FtM issues. Transgendered characters are everywhere in TV and movies. Some, like **Robin Williams** in *Mrs. Doubtfire*, or **Nathan Lane** in *The Birdcage*, were big box office hits. Others, like the transvestite denizens of Sin Sin Hotel, or the transgendered heroine of *Weapons of Mass Distractions*, have only been seen by a few of us in the world outside the art film houses of New York and L.A..

The Sin Sin Hotel is the setting for a film from Singapore, called *Bugis Street*. The cast are a group of lovelorn transvestite prostitutes. They're all dressed in fab outfits, and they do their best to stay romantic in a pretty unromantic profession. This one never made the multi-screen houses and barely got shown in the art houses. Check the more eclectic

video stores for this one.

The heroine of another little seen flick, *Weapons of Mass Distraction*, is a high society wife with a secret. She starts out in life as a Russian peasant boy. Molestation by her father lead to a life of male prostitution, TV prostitution, and finally the good life as a female in the upper strata of society. If only it always went that way. You won't see this flick nominated for any Academy Awards.

A while ago I mentioned **Mick Jagger's** time off from the Stones' last tour. Jagger took a short hiatus to film a role in another little seen film, called *Bent*. The picture is about what Nazi Germany did to homosexuals. Mick's big scene in the film has him dressed in drag as **Greta**, the TV proprietor of a gay nightclub. Greta sings "The Streets of Berlin" while dangling on a trapeze above the audience. In an interview Mick said that he wouldn't want to run into his character in a dark alley, but I've seen a picture of Mick as Greta, and he doesn't look that bad. Actually, he looks younger as a babe. But then, makeup has a tendency to take a decade or so off anyone's age. Nice games, Mick.

Faced with an all too certain future, courtesy of Der Furher, Greta decides that now would be a good time to purge. She burns all her dresses, gets a haircut, and changes her name back to George. She gets away through this desperate act, but the other characters get to go to camp. Not the kind of camp where you sing songs around the campfire and roast marshmallows. Nowhere close to that. It's not a pretty film, but if you want to see what horror has existed in the world and what Mick on a trapeze in drag looks like, look for it on video. MGM distributed it here, so keep checking that eclectic video store.

Maybe someday the folks who produce these films will figure out that they oughta inform the TG community way ahead of time that another

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film with a guy in a dress is on the way. They'd make more money if we all flocked to the theater to see the films instead of renting them later when they hit Eclectic Video.

Scattered Impressions At The End of the Column

I just heard we're marching on Washington in the Spring of 2000. Honey, I'm gonna be too old by then for any **Million Trans March**. At least not in pumps. And you know what happens when you have to start wearing sensible shoes. Next thing ya know, it's flannel nighties and hot water bottles. I hope they let me dress at the home.

But seriously, **Phyllis Frye** just announced that HRC and MCC are the main sponsors (just what we need, more groups with initials for a name), and it's also been endorsed by the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum, NGLTF (the Task Force), the National Latino (a Lesbian and Gay Organization), the National Youth Advocacy Coalition, PFLAG, NGLTF, GLAD, ICTLEP, and many more. Other initials are hopping on board every minute. The hot news here is that gays and lesbians have finally welcomed participation of the TG community. Stay tuned for further details and start taking power walks to get in shape. See you on the mall... and I don't mean Potomac Mills.

My Aussie correspondent has sent along an item about a TS running for office in New Zealand. The country already has one TS mayor (Ms. Georgina Beyer of Carterton). Now Jacquie Grant, a wildlife park curator and published author, has decided to toss her picture hat into the ring. Ms. Grant is a well know character in her tiny community on the West Coast and, from the newspaper report, seems to be a pillar of the community. She has a sense of humor, too, since she just got the First MP of her whole country P.O.ed at her when she named a monkey after him. All I can say is, go on girl. It's good to see transgendered people running for office instead of running from mobs or the law.

If you're on the run and happen to hide out in Pittsburgh, PA, USA on a Friday night, check out The Andy Warhol Museum's Happy Hour. Every Friday from 5 to 7 pm they're mixing Martinis (maybe I'll find her there???) and they sometimes have celebrity guest hosts. Andy hated Pittsburgh but he's probably fine with the happy hour idea. If you want to mingle with those who have earned their 15 minutes of fame, or just chat with someone who's only had a minute or two, give the Museum a call at 412-237-8300. They're located at 117 Sandusky Street (I thought that was in Ohio) on the North Side. Have a cocktail for me.

In the Philly area on a Friday? Check out **Shampoo**. It's the closest thing Philly has to a New York club.

Things get hopping around 11. I always get there early for the open bar from 9 to 11. Then I'm ready when the rest of the crowd arrives. They have special promotions and imported drag queens as well as a few local girls gone wrong. Call them for info at 215-922-7500.

Did someone mention NYC? Yes, it's still possible to party in the Big Apple. A name from the past is hot again. **Tunnel** brings you Kurfew Saturdays with "friendly drag hostesses" (I thought this was NYC? Friendly?) Aqua, Holly Graham and Asia. Check their <<http://www.kurfew.com>> for more info. Mona Foot holds her Star Search every Thursday at Barracuda. There's "stars galore." Eva Gabor? Call Barracuda at 212-645-8613. They're located at 275 West 22nd Street. **Jayne County** spins the tunes at a new club called Life. It happens every Wednesday at 158 Bleeker. Call 212-420-1999 for info. Your hostess? **Mistress Formika**.

And that's it for this month my little puppies. As always, be careful out there. Big kiss!

I'm a busy woman and I've only got so many eyes and ears. If you see or hear about something that would be of interest to the readers of News & Views, please send it along to N & V, 987 Old Eagle School Road, Suite 719, Wayne, PA 19087 or email to <N&V@ren.org>. The opinions expressed above are Miss Gardner's...unless she stole them from someone else.



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Reach Out...

person who willingly sacrifices her time to the cause of helping people to escape the shackles of their closets and to receive information about crossdressing where none might exist.

I myself have been involved with the Phone Watch for almost four years, first as a volunteer, later on graduating to become its Coordinator, and I've found the work to be extremely satisfying, especially when I get the chance to help someone who might have had nowhere else to turn. I try to use humor whenever possible to set a nervous person's mind at ease, saying, for example, that we're just ordinary people with an "eclectic taste in clothing." When I hear a chuckle on the other end, then I know I've succeeded.

I've received a variety of calls during my years on the watch. There have been secretive calls from pay phones, calls from home but in hushed tones out of fear of being overheard by a

spouse who doesn't know about her husband's proclivities, calls from the curious wanting to learn more about crossdressing in general and about Renaissance in particular, calls from the confused needing to hear that what they're doing isn't evil or perverted, and finally calls from those simply wanting to find a good place to shop. We try to provide as much information as humanly possible.

The purpose of this article is to recruit volunteers in the Greater Philadelphia area to join the Phone Watch team. Our goal is to expand the watch from our current schedule of three nights a week to five nights. In order to accomplish this goal, we need to bring in a new crop of volunteers willing to help others as they had been helped when they first came out of the closet. A volunteer would only have duty once or twice a month. There's even the option of being able to handle the watch from home if you can't make it to the office. All that is required is a willingness to listen, the

ability to be open minded, and being willing to help to the very best of one's ability. Some people just need a sympathetic ear, someone to listen to their troubles. Duties would also include mailing out information about Renaissance to interested parties who might want to attend meetings and even become members.

The rewards of this important duty are many. As a member of the team, you'd have access to the National Office and the chance to enjoy the many fascinating books about crossdressing in the Renaissance Library. If you're seriously interested in joining the Phone Watch team and making a difference in our community, and, most importantly, in the lives of closeted sisters, both locally and across the country, contact me, Jessica Brandon, or our Executive Director, Angela Gardner, at (610) 975-9119. Give something back if you can. I guarantee it'll make you feel very warm inside and truly a part of the Renaissance family.



News From Greater Philadelphia Chapter

GPC announces its Board for 1998:

• **Chapter Leader and Program**

Director: Vivian Shaw

• **Secretary:** Melissa Franks

• **Treasurer:** Joanne White

• **Outreach:** Jenny Moore

• **Meet & Greet:** Kaelin

At the scheduled March 21st meeting of GPC, the main program will be a presentation on computers (PC's and Macs) and on the Internet. A question and answer session will be included. Beginners as well as advanced are invited.

There will also be two concurrent discussion groups at this March meeting. One group, open only to partners of transgendered persons, will be facilitated by a therapeutic social worker who is also a biological female involved in a nine-year relationship with a transgendered person.

The other concurrent discussion group, in this case open to everyone, will focus on the current or potential excessive use of drugs and alcohol, whether in oneself or in others close to oneself, and will be facilitated by

Dr. Keith Ignatius, a professional counselor from the Wayne Counseling Center, where Renaissance National is located and where GPC meets.

Both the the library and the bookstore will also be open.

These varied activities are intended to provide the members of Renaissance and their guests with a variety of educative possibilities as well as the opportunity to meet other persons with similar interests and concerns.



Support Group for Partners of Transgendered

Beginning Tuesday evening, March 24, 1998, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM, and continuing every other Tuesday evening for nine more sessions, Dr. Carol Cobb-Nettleton of the Wayne Counseling Center (where the Renaissance office is located) will conduct an ongoing therapeutic support group for a limited number of spouses

and partners of transgendered persons.

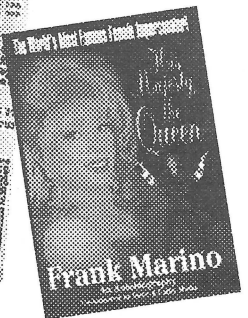
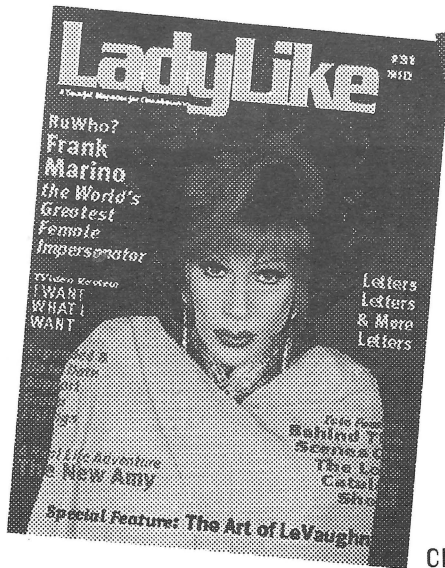
Sponsored and subsidized in part by the Renaissance Transgender Association, and costing each participant only \$10 for each 90 minute session, the program is intended as a contribution to the improvement of human relations in terms of the issues and concerns surrounding the transgender phenomenon.

Dr. Cobb-Nettleton is a clinical social worker and a biological female who has extensive experience working with the transgendered and their partners. For more information and to make arrangements, please call Dr. Cobb-Nettleton's office at (610) 971-9771.



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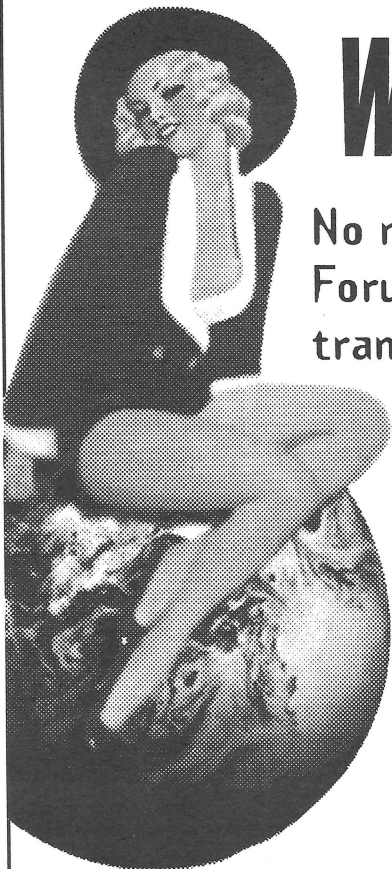
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In a few moments you'll be reading my take on the "public's right to know" about private sexual peccadilloes. But for the next instant, you'll be treated to my random thoughts on a number of topics, a la Larry King's column in "USA Today."

- The more we learn about Roseanne Barr...the more we like Tom Arnold.

- RuPaul must read JoAnn Roberts' "Hot Buzz" column, because shortly after JoAnn mentioned that Ru could stand to lose a few inches in the midriff, I noticed that she has looked much sleeker than in the past year.

- Who IS that young girl in the beret they keep showing in the film clip with President Clinton? No politician has had greater success through scandals than Bill Clinton. He was accused of a 12- year extramarital affair in '92 and was elected President; accused of sexual harrasment in '96 and re-elected in a landslide; accused of hanky-panky with an intern in '98 and his popularity went through the roof. If someone accuses him of being a transvestite, he might be crowned King William !

- If the Olympic Committee can make rythmic gymnastics, synchronized swimming, and women's ice hockey medal competition sports, what's next? Maybe those mud-buggy races on TNN will be part of the 2000 Summer Games.

- And speaking of redneck sports, they say that NASCAR racing is the fastest growing sport in terms of popularity. This is good news for cross-dressers, because if people can understand the appeal of driving highly modified Thunderbirds around a track

for several hours, then dressing up in women's clothes seems downright normal.

Enough of my Larry King impersonation. Besides, I look ridiculous in those suspenders and oversized eye-glass frames.

THE PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO KNOW

The frenzy over the Clinton-Lewinsky "affair" is something that should concern most crossdressers, no matter what their political views may be concerning President Clinton.

Perhaps by the time this is published it will all be water over the dam, whatever the outcome, but as I write this, we are in the midst of the rampant speculation by members of the press, the prosecution, and the public at large. In their zeal to discover every minute detail of the scandal, the press has already been caught in a couple of notable mis-steps in reporting.

Monica Lewinsky has been characterized as a star-struck sexpot, habitual liar, braggart, former overweight high school thespian, underperforming employee, and a Lolita willing to trade sex for favors. Her mother's less-than-stellar background has been run through the press mill, and the details of her parents' divorce became fodder for sidebar stories about her penchant for stretching the truth. So far, none of the slurs leveled at Monica have been proven, and none will likely be proven.

There are several aspects of the investigation of the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal that trouble me but for the purpose of this column, let me go into what I see as a real threat to any of us

who have secrets we wish to keep hidden from others. No, we may ever find ourselves at the center of anything as spectacular as "Lewinsky-gate," but we do have something to ponder as the intrusiveness of modern journalism increases daily.

The solution, you may say, is simply to live a clean life and stay out of the headlines. But what if you are drawn into a "scandal" by a family member, a close personal friend, or your employer? Nowadays, you needn't actually be the perpetrator of a misdeed to become the focus of a "background" investigation. And how quickly would law enforcement or the press seize on the "kinky" crossdresser who gets pulled between their crosshairs?

HAVING YOUR WIG FLIPPED

Debra Darling writes a regular column in TheChannel newsletter of the ETVC group in San Francisco. Her January installment was titled "Waltzing With Matilda."

Debra tells a story of her visit to a nightclub in Frisco called the Gold Dust, which features dixieland jazz. On this particular night, the crowd included a group of visiting Australian soccer players. Debra found her usual place in front near the bandstand, and the band leader offered this bit of advice to her: "The tourists are really rowdy tonight."

After a while, as the band played a song dedicated to Debra, the Aussies got up en masse to hit the men's room. As they passed by Debra, one of the soccer players tugged her wig, but she was able to catch it. Then, as another "apologized," yet another swiped the wig clean off her head.

In the shock of the moment, Deb didn't know how to react, but she "realized that the bar had gone silent." Everyone seemed to be "holding their breath, as if they had witnessed something totally unwarranted." Clearly, the rest of the establishment was on Debra's side. Still, she realized that "I did not want to cause trouble here...even though I was the innocent party. It seemed wise not to let this get out of hand."

She bowed to her tormentors and retrieved her wig, asking the band to keep playing.

Her graciousness in handling this unseemly situation brought her several spoken sympathies from other patrons and a hug from one of the women customers. The Aussies quickly realized that their presence was no longer welcome and exited.

The lesson from this nasty business is: "Don't lose your cool. If you react with pride, the people around you will respect you and most often take your side." When crossdressed, we are vulnerable, and, short of a physical assault, having your wig pulled off in public is one of the most demeaning things that can happen to us. Debra's experience shows that maintaining one's dignity in the face of indignity is the best approach to dealing with adversity.

THE VALLEY OF THE DULLS

The newsletter of Chi Delta Mu sorority in River Edge, New Jersey is called "Our Special Joy," which made it all the more unusual to see an article in their December issue about

how dull crossdressers can be. The author of the piece was Jim Cresap, aka Janyne, and he titled his article, "Are Crossdressers Just Dull?"

Jim/Janyne relates the story of going to an unnamed crossdressing function where "boring was brought to a new level." The function included awards to community stalwarts, and two of the recipients weren't even crossdressed for the occasion.

Jim made a few observations about crossdressers that seemed to hit the mark. One was that our crossdressing functions do not have enough male-female interaction which lends most social occasions an energy that is sorely lacking in crossdresser-only functions. His other observation was that, for most crossdressers, the act of getting crossdressed is an end in itself. Once they arrive at the meetingplace, they don't know what to do next."

It's an interesting theory. Certainly, the presence of women at our crossdressing functions would make the events more interesting, particularly for the single crossdressers who, while dressed, enjoy being able to interact with females .

Shy crossdressers, on the other hand, would be helped to see that cross-dressing functions are at least a means of meeting like-minded people.

YOU GREAT BIG PASSABLE DOLL

Melanie Yarborough wrote an interesting article in the December issue of Reflections newsletter of the Neutral Corner group in San Diego, California. It was titled, "Big Girls' Underestimated Advantages."

Although she doesn't mention this, I'm sure Melanie would agree with the warning that this does not excuse the "beer belly" phenomenon, which is a decidedly male characteristic.

However, for those crossdressers who are of the Big and Beautiful persuasion, this much maligned heaviness can be a positive facet for fashioning a believable feminine image.



News About Third Congress On Sex And Gender

The Third International Congress on Sex and Gender will be held in England at the historical Exeter College of Oxford University, September 18-20, 1998. The keynote speaker will be Prof. Louis Gooren, Endocrinologist and head of the Gender Clinic at the Free University Hospital in Amsterdam.

The after dinner speaker will be Dr. Lynne Jones, Member of Parliament and chair of the Parliamentary Forum on Transgender Issues. Other speakers will be Jonathan Cooper of Justice and Stephen Whittle of Press For Change, the UK's transsexual rights campaign.

The setting for this exciting and important inter-disciplinary conference, the third such conference in what is becoming a very significant biannual event in the world of transgender scholars, therapists, and inter-

ested persons, is a group of buildings dating from the 14th century.

These buildings have been host to such literary figures as William Morris and J. R. Tolkien as well as many other intellectuals. Social activities will include a conference dinner and entertainment as well as opportunities to explore Oxford and its surroundings in the heart of middle England, with London only a forty minute drive away.

Papers on any aspect of the study of transgenderism are invited. Medicine, the arts, law, social science, health care, history, cultural studies, education, and psychology all represent perspectives for the exploration of sex and gender. A title and an abstract with a maximum of 200 words should be sent by the 15th of May, 1998 to: Dr Stephen Whittle, PFC, BM Network, London WC1N

3XX. The Email address is: <Cong.papers@pfc.org.uk>.

For lodging arrangements, contact: Jan Cobb, PFC BM network, London, WC1N 3XX, or by email: <Cong.book@pfc.org.uk>. Please note: the submission of a paper does NOT constitute registration for the conference. Anyone wishing to attend must submit a completed registration form by the 1st of July, 1998 to avoid a late fee.

If the Third International Congress is anything like the first two, and it certainly promises to be as good, if not better, then a visit to England in the fall of 1998 will be most rewarding, if not downright exciting.





Gender Reflections

by *Barbara F. Anderson*
M.S.W., PhD.

Hot Off The Press

Finally, the long-awaited event has occurred — the publication of *Transgender Care: Recommended Guidelines, Practical Information & Personal Accounts*, by Gianna Israel and Donald Tarver, MD. (Temple University Press, 1997).

As a member of the review committee and as an invited contributor, I have especially awaited this book. I will, however, attempt to present here an objective review and assessment and devote next month's column to the subject on which I wrote an essay, namely, the ethical dilemma in doing psychotherapy with transsexuals seeking genital reassignment.

This book is truly a one-of-a-kind compilation of information about mental health issues, hormone protocols, and genital as well as cosmetic surgery. The needs of culturally diverse populations, youth and HIV

positive consumers are examined, and a bonus section of essays about rarely addressed issues adds the final fillip.

The book takes care to define terms up front in order to minimize repetitive and distracting asides in the body of the work. I am especially grateful for the authors' introduction of the term "Gender Specialist" and a description of the areas of expertise such a professional has mastered.

Until I had the opportunity to talk with Ms. Israel about this project several years ago, I had never heard the term. Now I define myself as such. In an informal survey of several colleagues who have read the book, the section on mental health was considered comprehensive and practical.

Definitions of diagnoses frequently applied to transgenders are listed and explained in easy to understand language. A physician friend praised the

chapter on Genital Reassignment Surgery as being the first he'd read dealing with insurance benefits, procedures, and how to assess a surgeon's skill and credibility, all in one place.

My favorite section is the Essays, because it gives voice to many subjects heretofore rarely addressed in print. This is not to say that these issues are unknown. I have debated with many professionals the subject on which I myself have written but for which I have never had a forum for publication.

Other interesting issues raised in this section are whether Gender Specialists should be required to endorse desired hormonal and surgical treatment, the legal aspect of insurance reimbursement, and a comprehensive description of San Francisco's law against discrimination on the basis of gender identity.

This book is a major contribution to the literature on the the subject of transgender needs and is a successful effort to serve the interests of professionals and consumers in one volume.

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



Lavender Law Conference

AEGIS Internet News

October 15-17, 1998
Park Plaza Hotel
Boston, MA

Spend three days with some of our (transgender) community's brightest and most committed legal minds who will be gathered to teach, learn, think and debate the full range of legal issues facing the GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender) community and GLBT lawyers. Following the opening keynote address by the Honorable Barney Frank, the lawyers, judges, professors, students and legal workers will enjoy a variety of panels and workshops in numerous areas of

law and policy, including HIV/AIDS, family law, criminal law, estate planning, immigration and transgender issues, as well as areas of more general interest to GLBT lawyers.

Attendees will acquire knowledge on the most current issues facing our community, pick up some practice tips, obtain CLE credits, meet other GLBT lawyers from around the country, and enjoy all that the city of Boston has to offer.

For more information, check the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association (NLGLA) web site at <www.nlgl.org>, or email <LAVLAW98@aol.com>. Conference brochures will be available this spring, but save the dates now for the nation's

foremost GLBT Legal Conference: Lavender Law '98!

The National Lesbian and Gay Law Association is a national association of lawyers, judges, legal professionals, professors and law students and affiliated GLBT legal organizations. The organization was founded at a historic meeting of legal professionals at the 1987 March on Washington, D.C. for Gay and Lesbian Rights. The NLGLA is an affiliate organization of the American Bar Association.



More on the Winslow Street Affair

AEGIS Internet News Special Edition

(Editor's Note: The following article is in three sections. The first section, describing the latest happening in the Winslow Street matter, helps to provide the background for the thought-provoking editorial by Dallas Denny. The third section is by Allison Laing, an IFGE insider.)

Winslow Street Whistle Blower Dismissed "For Cause"

Kerri Reeder, the trustee of the IFGE-administered Winslow Street Fund who alerted the transgender community that the International Foundation for Gender Education had used Winslow Street monies for its internal operations, has said that she received a letter from Winslow Street fund trustee and IFGE Board member Abby Zapin informing her that she has been dismissed for cause as a WSF trustee.

In an open letter sent to the transgender community on February 5, Reeder wrote, "After waiting for more than nine days after the IFGE Board Meeting, I received a letter from Abby Zapin explaining that I was dismissed, For Cause, as a WSF Trustee. The Cause was that I did not contact the Trustees or IFGE Board with my dispute but took it public."

Reeder disputes this: "Yes, I did take it public after I received no response from the Chairs of Winslow Street and IFGE... For the public record, I contacted both Abby [Zapin] and Linda Buten via E-mail and the receipt on my message was confirmed by AOL. I sent by US Mail the text of those notes to all IFGE Board Members. With no response, I turned to an open forum because the Chairs of IFGE and WSF and the Board of Directors would not respond. It was my duty as a Trustee to see that any action done by the Trustees lived up to the trust contributors had when they made donations."

The Winslow Street Fund, named

for a street in Provincetown, Massachusetts, was set up for the transgender community, and is administered by IFGE. For years, IFGE's solicitations for donations to the Winslow Street Fund promised that WSF monies would never be used for IFGE's internal operations—yet last October, IFGE borrowed \$10,000 from the fund. Reeder and others, who were aware of IFGE's plans to borrow the money, approached IFGE staff and board members and WSF trustees beforehand during Fantasia Fair to voice their concern.

On November 13, Reeder widely distributed by e-mail a letter voicing her concerns about the WSF Loan to IFGE. In it she detailed her attempts to communicate with both IFGE and her fellow WSF trustees: "On November 13, hearing nothing, I decided to go to the Community and forwarded my letter..."

In her November 13 communique, Reeder stated that her primary concerns were that there was no loan document and that proper WSF procedures had not been followed.

Reeder claims her action was to "preserve propriety, honesty, and ethics which continue to plague IFGE and its activities. It is to preserve the Winslow Street Fund." Reeder has called for the replacement of WSF trustees, herself included, by new trustees with a well-developed sense of ethics. As for the loan, Reeder has consistently asked that the community be provided with evidence that a promissory note was signed.

Nancy Nangeroni, Executive Director of IFGE, confirmed that Reeder's dismissal had been discussed and decided upon at a meeting of the IFGE board, with a decision being made to dismiss Reeder for violating WSF rules, including confidentiality.

Nangeroni said that a promissory note exists and was signed by herself and other parties in December. She said she does not feel comfortable providing Reeder with a copy of the

note, but that Reeder is welcome to come by the IFGE offices in Boston to view it. Reeder lives in Rhode Island.

Nangeroni emphasized that the IFGE board and the WSF trustees and she herself all feel that the loan was not improper, but was in the best interest of the community. She said, "I want to be clear that I would like to give people confidence that IFGE is being run responsibly."

A number of transgender activists have been critical of the loan. The most vocal has been Judy Osborne. Her November column in the Transgender Community Forum referred to the loan as "Rape on Winslow Street." JoAnn Roberts also criticized the loan in her column in Renaissance News and Views.

Despite having been warned beforehand by Reeder and others that the loan would be controversial, neither IFGE nor WSF informed the community about the loan until after Reeder's November letter was mailed.

Responding to Reeder's criticism, Nangeroni wrote last fall in an e-mail message that Reeder could no longer be a WSF trustee after going public with the news of the loan.

IFGE Consistently Disappoints An Editorial by Dallas Denny

(Editor's Note: The following editorial does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Renaissance Transgender Association, Inc.)

The International Foundation for Gender Education seems unable to differentiate between its own welfare and that of the transgender community. In authorizing a loan from a fund it promised never to touch and then congratulating itself that it was a proper thing to do because it was "for the good of the community," the IFGE board is engaging in circular logic. In failing to inform the community of the loan, IFGE has been irre-

continued on page 14

Hot • Buzz

JoAnn Roberts • CyberQueen



"The finest plans have always been spoiled by the littleness of those that should carry them out."

— Bertolt Brecht

•••••

I just could not resist using the above quote to start off this month's collection of comments and observations. You'll see why as you read on. With apologies to **Dennis Miller**, I don't want to go off on a rant, but the board of directors of the **International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE)** appears to have a serious character flaw. After all the heated rhetoric about the so-called **Winslow Street Fund (WSF)** loan to IFGE, made public by WSF trustee **Kerri Reeder**, the IFGE Board voted to remove Reeder as a WSF trustee, while IFGE director **Yvonne Cook-Riley** called for a vote of confidence for Board members and WSF trustees **Abby Saypen** and **Laura Caldwell**. But while some of the board members are patting themselves on the back, others are planning to revisit the issue at the annual board meeting in Toronto. This issue is not closed by any stretch of the imagination. Personally, I feel those members of the IFGE board who voted for Reeder's removal should be ashamed of themselves. It was both immoral and unethical, a slap in the face of the community that believed the WSF trustees would keep the money for

community use and not use it to prop up a financially ailing IFGE. I still think both Saypen and Caldwell should resign. The vote of confidence looks like IFGE is circling the wagons to protect its own. What I believe should happen with the WSF is that it should spin off from IFGE completely or build a firewall around itself so it can't be easily used as a financial crutch again, and establish a new board of trustees made up of representatives from the national transgender organizations.

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I'm not done yet. Last month I praised the new IFGE Executive Director, **Nancy Nangeroni**, for her efforts to get IFGE back on track for the community. This month I have to wonder if that praise was well-deserved. Nangeroni announced, via the IFGE web site, that IFGE and **GenderPAC** are sharing a display booth at the **American Psychiatric Association (APA)** annual conference in late May. It is no secret that Nangeroni and GPAC head-honcho **Riki Wilchins** are bosom buddies, but what I want to know is, what happened to the **Transgender Alliance for Community (TAC)**? The nationals created TAC to take advantage of shared resources and reduced costs specifically for events and activities like the APA convention. When I polled the Executive Directors of the nationals, not one had been contacted by IFGE to participate in the conference, not even the GPAC board members. This is distressing on several levels and raises many questions. Is IFGE suddenly so flush with WSF cash that it can afford the **several thousand dollars** it will cost to mount this activity? Why didn't IFGE extend an invitation to the TAC partners to share the booth and costs? Why choose GPAC as a booth partner? Ms. Wilchins' position on **Gender Identity Dysphoria (GID)** is well-known but not well-supported in the community. Why is IFGE paying for GPAC to present its case to the APA? Why make the announcement on their web page? Certainly the web

is a public forum, but since less than 80 percent of the population is even wired, very few people, if any, saw the announcement. Last, but not least, is the questionable efficacy of renting booth space at conferences versus participating via papers and panel discussion. According to **Dallas Denny**, Executive Director of the **American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS)**: "I've been analyzing a poll of AEGIS members about the various activities we do and have contemplated doing. Booths at professional conferences ranked very low, right at the bottom, indicating that AEGIS members think it important to direct funds and energies elsewhere. When I teased out the professional members and looked at what they thought, they didn't find it very important either. I expect that AEGIS members are pretty typical of the way the entire community feels about the issue." I expect Dallas is right.

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Since I dragged GPAC into this already, I might as well put my two cents on the table about their last press release. The White House staff aren't the only folks doing a little spin doctoring. According to GPAC: "The last two Lobby Days have both drawn **over a hundred grassroots activists** to Capitol Hill on a variety of issues." According to people who attended the 1997 lobbying effort, **about 60 people** were there, and insiders say that even **less are expected** this year because GPAC has "unfocused its goals" as one person put it. The 1998 effort will include position statements on same-sex marriage and HIV funding. While these are issues we should support individually and in common, they should not be a top priority, since other groups have them as a primary focus. My issue with GPAC and Miss Wilchins is the total **lack of accountability**. Riki makes decisions in a vacuum, and there is no one to keep her in check. And when was the last time anyone

updated the GPAC web site. It's positively ancient and loaded with cobwebs.

Onto the fashion world. This came in from Susan D. For those who use those stay-put products that supposedly don't rub off (like **Max Factor Lasting Performance** makeup or **Revlon ColorStay**), I'd like to pass along some info on makeup removers. **Almay's Non-Oily Eye Makeup Remover Lotion** contains exactly the same ingredients as **Revlon's ColorStay Makeup Remover Pads** (minus the pads, of course) and it is excellent as an overall facial makeup remover for stay-put products. I use the Almay remover (on a cotton ball) to dissolve the stay-put, then use my regular cleanser afterwards. Sometimes I add a drop of the Almay remover to the top surface of my pot of cream eyeshadow to keep the shadow from drying out and getting too thick. If anyone has any other suggestions for products or techniques for removing or dealing with stay-put makeup, we would appreciate hearing about them.

This is from Deborah of the Renaissance Greater Philadelphia Chapter. "I have a couple of items which might be appropriate for your column. Both are shaving-related and I recommend them without reservation. The first is called the **Total Shaving Solution** and is basically an oil formulation which is used instead of shaving cream. I was skeptical of the claims, but they had a free sample, so I gave it a shot. In a word, **amazing**. I've used this exclusively for about five months now, and I virtually never get razor burn. My neck especially was always extremely hard to shave. I used a **Gillette Sensor** and **Edge Gel** with lots of hot water, but still I would always get scraped to death and could never get a **really** close shave. Edge doesn't even come close to this stuff (even with repeat shavings), and you only need **three** drops of it! The shave is not "smooth" or "soft" like Edge, and it feels like it is really biting into you. But I guess that's the key. It lets the blade really grab those hairs while protecting the skin from damage. I don't know what kind of oil this is, but it is definitely not baby oil or mineral oil (or

snake oil), as I have tried those and get nicked anyway. This stuff really really works. It is on the web at <www.totalshavingsolution.com>. The second is a product, **Razor Guard**, designed to extend the life of your razor blade. I don't think there's anything magical about this, but it does **prevent the oxidation** which destroys the blade. You keep the blade immersed in this little reservoir until you shave, periodically changing the solution. In addition to extending the life of the blade by about 10 times, it helps lubricate the shave just that much more. See it at <www.razorguard.com>. These two products have helped me immensely in getting that super close shave needed for good beard coverage. I wonder if they realize how much crossdressers need this kind of product?"

What do the fashion mavens have in store for us this **Spring** and **Summer**? Get ready for the **Lolita** look; it's **sheer, short, scanty, bare** midriffs, **hot pants, corsets, slip dresses, bright prints and hot colors**. Who is going to wear this stuff? I'm jealous, because I can't. I look more like Lolita's mother. But there's stuff for me, too, with neutral shaded **slip and tunic** dresses.

Gucci designer **Tom Ford** gets the dumb-idea-of-the-season award for a handbag with a strap that wraps around your neck. Just what you need for your next mugging in the city...**Jil Sander** showed lots of clothes with a Japanese motif, intricately twisted and asymmetrical. The pundits called it fabulous and relaxed. I call it the "slept-in" look...**Gianni Versace** may be dead, but his fashion empire lives on through his sister **Donatella** who took her cues from the red light district: halters, hot pants, lots of skin, leather, chain mail and body hugging fabrics...**Armani** made the real splash with a sensual collection of fluid jackets and beaded evening gowns that spoke volumes without shouting...People were gawking at the styles trotted out by **Alexander McQueen** for **Givenchy**. What is the boy thinking? Most of it looked like cowgirl-hooker drag. One writer called it: "as appealing as an undercooked chicken-fried steak"...

Not to be outdone, **Vivienne Westwood** created a flamboyant pirate themed show called "Tied to the Mast," recalling her **bondage-queen** stylings of the past...**Karl Lagerfeld** toned it down for **Chanel** with very wearable dresses decorated with typical Chanel trim, chain belts and fringe. Only problem is, almost no one can afford the clothes at \$15,000 for a suit...**Oscar de la Renta** has the right idea with simple crepe sheaths that are all the rage with the ladies-who-lunch set...**Ralph Lauren**, the man who can make no mistake, revealed a flawless leather shirt jacket and a leather double breasted blazer that were simply elegant...**Richard Tyler** gets high marks and my personal "best of show" award for exquisitely tailored suits and sensual evening gowns with sexy cowl backs, slits and spirals of lace.

One of the best new magazines to come along in years is **MODE**, dedicated to "style beyond size." The really good news is, the magazine has finally gone **monthly**. The February issue has 14 women on the gatefold cover. At first glance, you would wonder what they had in common, if anything. Turns out they were all size 14. (Get it? 14 size 14's.) It was interesting to see the great differences in body shape that encompass one size. This is one fabulous magazine for "plus-sized" women, whether you were **FAB** (female at birth) or adopted the social role. It is just way too cool to see the plus-sized models in tailored suits and sexy, curvy dresses. No Omar-the-Tent-Maker fashions in this mag.

At the opposite end of the size spectrum is the article in the March **marie claire** showing four women who are size 6. Only one of them was "naturally" a 6. The rest had to work at it in various ways, from taking 12 herbal pills a day, to constant exercise, to the extreme example of **repeated liposuction**. One has to ask: is it worth it? As someone who constantly struggles with her weight, yes.

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

Winslow Street...

sponsible. And in continuing to force out those who, like Kerri Reeder, attempt to keep it on an ethical course, IFGE is sowing the seeds of its eventual demise.

Considering that a number of community activists warned IFGE beforehand that a loan from the Winslow Street Fund would be controversial, it's mystifying that IFGE did not tell the community what it had done until it was caught with its hand in the proverbial cookie jar. It seems rather maladaptive, like a burglar who decides to ransack the house even though there is a police car parked outside—or perhaps it is merely arrogance, a serene assumption by its board that IFGE is not accountable for its actions, whatever they may be. However, I suspect the real answer is simple inefficiency.

For an organization that considers itself the future of the transgender community, IFGE consistently disappoints. Considering its large budget, it is decidedly underproductive. Its publications are uninspired and often amateurish. Its database of support groups is famous for not being updated. The statistics it gives reporters often seem to be made up on the spot. It uncritically distributes information, sending flyers about questionable procedures like needle-less hair removal schemes and herbal hormones alongside flyers for more legitimate products and services.

In a word, IFGE does not seem to

be the polished, professional, and efficient organization the transgender community needs, but rather is more like an overgrown support group with a \$300,000 budget.

IFGE is in perpetual financial crisis, bailing itself out once or twice a year by sending out panicky fundraising letters—which causes one to wonder why it imagines it will be able to pay the WSF loan back instead of sliding more deeply into debt. It is in perpetual identity crisis, having walked away from the one thing it was truly good at—being an umbrella organization—in favor of doing gender education it is intellectually unprepared to do. And it is in perpetual moral crisis. The present instance—IFGE's failure to disclose the loan from WSF until forced to do so—is but one of many ways IFGE continues to disappoint.

ANOTHER OPINION ON WINSLOW STREET

by Alison Laing

When Kerri Reeder initially raised issues relating to alleged improprieties regarding the loan of Winslow Street Funds to IFGE, I attempted to remain aloof. There were several reasons for me taking this position. First, I felt strongly that this was an issue internal to WSF trustees. Second, I felt I was too close to the situation, since I was Executive Director of IFGE when we came under extreme financial pressure, and I saw this loan as the only solution for IFGE being able to continue operations. Third, Kerri Reeder is both a personal friend

and neighbor, and I was afraid that any stance that I took might jeopardize that relationship. Finally, I felt strongly that IFGE had done no wrong.

After the decision of the Board to endorse Abby Saypen's recommendation for the dismissal of Kerri as a WSF Trustee for cause, I began to rethink the situation. I had read most of the material that Kerri had submitted to the Board and which others (Judy Osborne, Joan Goodnight, Dallas Denny and JoAnn Roberts) had expounded upon to varying degrees in the TG media. While I went along with the vote for dismissal, (not saying "Yea" but not saying "Nay" either), I was uneasy after the meeting. It seemed to me that those of us who were at the January 24, 1998 IFGE Board meeting may have acted in haste, especially since Kerri had not been given any chance to defend her position.

I began to restudy the issues and now believe that we, the Board of Directors, must revisit this action. I have discussed this with several other board members, including some who were not at the January board meeting and have found that they, too, agree that this issue and the action of the Board should be reexamined. I have also been in communication with other community leaders regarding this action. Most of them feel that IFGE is whitewashing this situation.

The underlying problem seems to be how this loan was handled. This

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Alexandra Victoria

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Renaissance Library Report

By Lee Etscovitz, Ed.D.,
Renaissance National Librarian

Wind and rain did not stop a hardy core of participants from attending the monthly meeting of the Library Discussion Group on Wednesday evening, February 4. Two guests, both female to male (FTM) transsexuals, shared their transgender journeys with the group. The discussion was lively, thought-provoking, and extremely interesting, to say the least, especially since everyone, including the guests, was able to compare the transgender experience as seen from two different starting points.

The next meeting, in keeping with

the first Wednesday of every month schedule, will be on Wednesday, March 4 at the Woods (where the Renaissance National Office and Library are located) from 8:00 to 9:30 PM. Everyone is welcome, including transvestites, transsexuals, male to females, female to males, the intersexed, significant others, and simply anyone with an interest in the transgender phenomenon. It is in terms of whoever is present that the discussion takes on a form of its own for each meeting. Dr. Lee Etscovitz is the discussion leader.

The Renaissance Library has benefited recently from the efforts of

Michele Lynn and Jessica Brandon who weeded out old issues from the file which contains the newsletters from other transgender organizations around the United States and in several parts of the English-speaking world. This effort now makes it possible for the library to use its limited space for the more current issues as we receive them. The file is organized by states and foreign countries and is useful, for example, if someone is taking a trip and wants the name and telephone number of a transgender organization in the place being visited. So thank you, Michele and Jessica.



Winslow Street...

does not mean that the Board resolutions calling for new Trustees, redefining the IFGE relationship with Winslow Street and the operating procedures of Winslow Street, were out

of order. These must be done, and as soon as possible. I eschew controversy, but this issue will not go away until we have a fair and complete resolution that will hopefully help recover WSF and IFGE reputations and show the community that IFGE can be responsive.



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Ms. Lynda

My Father's Death

By Phyllis Randolph Frye

[Editor's Note: Ms. Frye is the outgoing executive director and founder of the INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRANSGENDER LAW AND EMPLOYMENT POLICY, INC. (ICTLEP), often referred to as The Transgender Law Conference.]

I am writing this letter, because it is therapeutic for me to do so, and because, along with sharing the good, we must also share the bad. If publication of this letter causes just one parent or sister or brother to STOP HATING, then it is worthwhile.

About My Father's Death

I just got word today that my father died yesterday. I've called several aunts, uncles and cousins who have counsoled me as best as they can. During these calls I have cried a lot.

I did not really cry over my father's

death, because he chose to "die to me" over twenty two years ago when I became Phyllis, and he refused to budge, even though it meant the loss of his grandchild and his great-granddaughter. I have mourned this "death" for twenty-two years, and the announcement that he died found me mostly numb to it all. My tears were mostly for myself, since I have feared that he would take his hatred of me with him to his grave—and he did. Feeling the strength of his hatred will be hard for me to carry for a long time to come. For those of you who saw the episode of "Ellen" about the death of her lover's father, that pretty much spells it out.

I called my kids in Fort Worth. My son is working, and the baby is at day care. Daughter (we do NOT call her "in-law") is scheduled to begin her new job in about ten more days. She was so good at consoling me, for I lost

it again and started crying. Such a good daughter. She will probably come to San Antonio with me to the funeral.

My spouse, Trish, does not know at this writing. She will be home in about 90 minutes. I'm not sure what she will do, since she has been angry over the way I've been abused by him for almost all of our married life.

I had a long chat (and another cry) with my closest cousin (from my mother's side). She said that over the last week lots of family were called so they could make it to the hospital and his bedside in time to say goodbye to Dad. But Mom, Don (my brother), and LaNell (my sister) did NOT call me, and still have NOT called me, and damn it, I am crying again.

Why our parents, sisters and brothers can hate us so much that they will take it to the grave is simply beyond me.

continued on page 17

AEGIS Transgender News Items

WASHINGTON, D.C. SAYS RESCUE WORKER HAD "RIGHT" TO TAUNT DYING VICTIM

Washington, D.C. Counsel John Ferren contends that an

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) had a "First Amendment right" to shout derogatory names at transexual woman, Tyra Hunter, who lay dying in the street.

The Washington Blade reports that the Counsel's statement was part of the city's response to a \$10 million

wrongful-death suit brought by Hunter's mother. The city did withdraw language from its brief asserting that the city's Fire Department is exempt from D.C.'s Human Rights Act which bans discrimination based on sexual orientation and personal appearance.


The unnamed EMT was applying first aid to Ms. Hunter after a 1995 car crash when he discovered that Hunter had a penis, whereupon he ceased giving aid and began making

derogatory remarks that were witnessed by horrified bystanders.

PBS HIGHLIGHTS USE OF GID AGAINST QUEER KIDS

Reflecting the escalating debate over Gender Identity Disorder (GID), a segment of PBS's (Public Broadcasting System) respected gay newsmagazine, "In The Life," last night joined the chorus of voices

continued on page 17



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Father's Death...

About My Father's Funeral

Today is Monday, and I learned of my father's death last Friday. It is even clearer to me now that my tears on Friday were not for my father (I had mourned him many years ago after he disowned me in 1976), but, as I have pointed out, were for my dealing with the hurt of him taking his hatred of me to his grave with no reconciliation.

Several hours later on that same Friday evening I was told that the funeral was for Saturday morning. Trish and I left early and arrived about twenty minutes before the chapel service began. I will not go into the details here, except to say that it was almost as mean spirited and cruel as were my worst fears. My mother disowned me in the aisleway

as I went to view the open casket. My brother only glared and kept his family at least twenty feet away at all times. My sister had instructed the minister to leave me, my son, and my granddaughter out of the listing of my father's family. With all of that, I decided not to sign the registry.

Although I cried several times, often with intensity at their deliberate meanness and cruelty, I must say that the entire affair gave me closure. I had always hoped that, once released from under my father's thumb, my family would come around. Now I know that is never to be, but the finality of it all does give me ease at last on that issue.

The deliberate meanness and cruelty produced a side effect that I had not anticipated. Many cousins, aunts and uncles have been uncomfortably in the middle for a number of years. Well, they saw it all in vivid and

unmistakeable display on Saturday morning. Many were so angered by the deliberate meanness and cruelty leveled at me that they refused to go to the subsequent graveside service and instead took me and Trish to lunch for some love and healing.

I am okay now. As I said, I grieved for him over a decade ago. I am at home, and the meanness is 200 miles away. Besides, in two weeks I will be fifty. We have a big party scheduled with our kids and grandchild, lots of friends and loved ones.

The subject of (or fear of) ostracism by our families is overwhelming and also crosses the boundary that is often arbitrarily drawn between the transsexual and the crossdresser. We transgender people obviously need help in this area more than in any other. That's for sure.



AEGIS News...

questioning whether GID is not another covert means of controlling difference.

The segment, produced by host Katherine Linton, featured an interview with GID proponent Kenneth Zucker, a well-known doctor whose primary practice is "curing" children of GID so they don't grow up gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered.

Zucker identified GID as a symptom that could lead to homosexuality in later life. In a surreal moment, as he sat across from the openly gay,

short-haired, slacks-clad Linton, he explained that masculine dress and behavior in girls can be diagnosed and treated with therapy and behavioral conditioning so they don't become lesbians.

The segment also featured responses from the National Center for Lesbian Rights' staff attorney, Shannon Minter, an out male transsexual, and GenderPAC's Riki Wilchins. Both noted that, since homosexuality was removed as a psychiatric disorder, GID has become the new way to pathologize queerness. Noted Wilchins, "GID is a solution in search of a problem... Gender variance is good."

GID was first created as an illness

in the early 1960s. Although "In The Life" dealt only with children, GID is also used to pathologize gender-variant adults, particularly those requesting hormones or sex-reassignment surgery.

TRANSEXUAL WITNESS TO CHURCH BOMBING DIES

Pete Smith, whose testimony against his Klu Klux Klansman uncle, Robert Chambliss, led to the only conviction in the 1963 bombing that killed 4 black girls, died of lung cancer at 57.

continued on page 23

To all Chapters and Affiliates:

If you have any special events or programs you wish to publicize, please inform the Editor at least one month prior to the event so it can be mentioned in

News & Views.

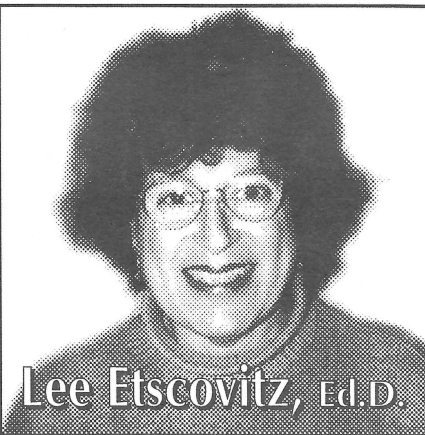
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Making Sense of It All



Lee Etscovitz, Ed.D.

Caged

It has been one thing for me to see and to accept myself for who I really am, especially in terms of my gender concerns, but it has been something else for me to act on what I have finally realized to be the truth about myself. The following poem was originally written at the time of the divorce from my first spouse and prior to any realization that my inner struggles had something to do with my gender identity. It is nevertheless applicable to that gender struggle and the decisions it has encompassed. The poem is called, "Caged:"

I left my cage one day.
The door was open,
and out I walked.
I don't know
who opened the door.
Maybe I did.

But there I was,
breathing in
and breathing out,
full of choice
and hope,
and scared,
but I would not return.

I left behind
a comfortable existence.
The bars told me
where I was
and what I could do.
But somehow I felt trapped.

I had friends,
but they didn't have me.
So I left it all,
turning,

taking a chance out there.

I stayed outside for a while.

I was cageless
to live and to love
and to do
whatever I pleased,
but I felt detached.

I met others,
some in cages
and some outside.
The ones I liked the most
were in very special cages.
I joined them,
and once again I was
caged.

When I was caged
the first time
and life looked full,
I felt empty.
When I was cageless
and life looked free,
I felt lost.

Now I am in a cage again,
but this time
a cage of choice
and plan,
of friendship
and daily living.

I have been caged
and free
and both times trapped.
Now I am caged
and really free.

Maybe life is
a cage on wheels
with elastic bars
in a sensitive zoo

of our own admission.

It is probably safe to say that we are only as free as the limits we each accept. If that is so, then the cage of life is different for each of us. From a transgender point of view, freedom depends on what we each can accept for ourselves. The task of acceptance, in this instance, is usually quite difficult, for most likely the achievement does not equal the depth of our yearning. A realistic acceptance of less than the ideal is perhaps the biggest test of one's character. But there is usually a place, a relationship, or some kind of involvement in life which is possible for the transgendered person and which offers some measure of significant fulfillment. That possibility must be nurtured by enough patience, by enough effort, and by enough wisdom. Life may be a jungle or even a zoo and not always sensitive to our individual needs, but if we can each become more sensitive to ourselves and to each other, then somehow the zoo as a whole becomes more sensitive and may offer us a cage worth entering. The issue may very well be, not whether or not one lives in a cage (or closet, if you will), but rather how large a cage (or closet) we each need and can handle.

Want to comment? Write to Dr. Etscovitz at P.O. Box 471, Willow Grove, PA 19090, or email her at <hmdm@voicenet.com>.



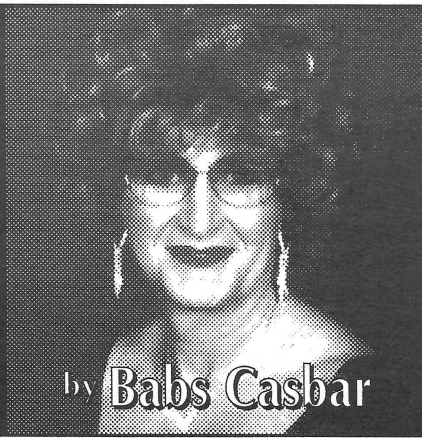
THE MILLENNIUM MARCH

The Millennium March on Washington for Equal Rights is set for the Spring of the year 2000. "Equal Rights" refers to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered persons.

The March has been endorsed by the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum, NGLTF (the Task Force), the National Latino (a Lesbian and Gay Organization), the National Youth Advocacy Coalition, PFLAG, NGLTF, GLAD, ICTLEP (the Transgender Law Conference), and so forth. Other organizations are signing on. A Committee of National and Local LGBT organizations is also forming.



Dining with Carol & Babs



Drag Queen or Lady ?

Normally we write about places that not merely tolerate transgendered people but also openly make us feel welcome. We do go to many different mainstream places (no, you won't find us under the Golden arches), especially when it is just the two of us, and there is a better chance we can just "blend" in. It might be a sidewalk cafe, a popular national franchise restaurant, a show, a diner, or an upscale restaurant. When we have the chance, we enjoy stretching the limits yet are careful not to go where people might recognize Carol and then have cause to question the "person" with her.

The important factors in "blending" is to dress and act appropriately. For example, just before our recent cruise to Key West for the Fantasy Fest celebration last October (What a blast! We're getting a group to do it again.), we spent two days gearing up in South Beach. The first night Babs insisted on wearing a low cut mini-dress that she would not have approved of on our teenage daughter!

It seemed everyone took notice as Babs walked up and down Ocean Drive. (Carol would not walk along side.. embarrassed). "Well, I just had to get it out of my system! There is the drag queen side showing! And we were going to the new Lucky Cheng's on Lincoln Road!" Admittedly, it was nice to be noticed, but on the other hand kind of pathetic for a middle aged person to go out trying to look like a teenager!

The next evening, after a hard day of shopping, then swimming and lounging on the beach, Babs wore a stylish but conservative summery knee length floral black and white print dress. We walked up and down Ocean Drive, had dinner at a new trendy Italian restaurant with our cruise mates... and nobody noticed! Babs had mixed emotions. The woman part of her was happy... the drag queen, well, she had her moment the evening before! Most importantly, Carol was comfortable being with her mate... so we left South Beach on a positive note!

Talk about strange coincidences,

the Sunday evening before our vacation, after seeing Jacqueline Jonet and Victoria Weston perform at the Outmusic Festival at the Gay and Lesbian Center nearby, we had a late dinner at LIPS in Greenwich Village. Coco Lachine, Absolute Empress of the Imperial Court, was the hostess that evening, and she was working the tables with her mike to find out where the tourists came from.

There was a family from Israel enjoying the show and sitting right under Babs' picture that now adorns the Main room back wall. (They put it up there after the HBO Special on drag queens. In it, the camera slowly panned "that" wall ...sorry, no national exposure for Babs.. thank heaven!) We spoke to them briefly before we left, questioning whether there was anything like LIPs there, because we do plan on visiting Israel in the next year or so.

Four days later, we were sitting with Jodie and Char, sipping cool drinks at our sidewalk table on Ocean Drive in South Beach, when a woman came up to Carol and exclaimed, "We saw you at LIPs!" It was the same family from Israel.. who just had to see Miami before they went home! First LIPs and then South Beach..hmmm, one never knows!

One of our favorite Italian restaurants in midtown Manhattan is Ciao Europa adjoining the lobby of the Warwick Hotel. It features a wide selection of expertly prepared regional Italian and Continental cuisines. The

continued on page 20

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Dining With...

Elizabethian era hand-painted wall murals surrounding the two-tiered dining room help create an open yet warm and romantic ambiance. The restaurant will accommodate one's dietary preferences and has been known to prepare a veal parmesan that is not on the menu. Some of our favorites include a succulent shrimp wrapped in prosciutto and a wild mushroom potato soup parmesan.

They have all the classic pasta dishes as well as fish and lamb. They are open all day, whether for breakfast, lunch, pre-show dinner, or late dinner. At times they hold special wine tastings and feature meals to complement them. Between lunch and dinner they feature an "afternoon tea" for sipping Earl Gray or blackcurrant tea with sandwiches fruit and pastries... like real ladies... a very civilized way to sate one's appetite if you are going to a show and/or having a late dinner. Breakfast 6:30-11:00, lunch 12:00-3:30, afternoon tea 3:00-5:00, dinner

5:30-11:00. Prices are average for the mid-town area, but food and service are superior.

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Late this summer Carol's sister and brother in law visited for a weekend. The last time they came we took them and a group of our "T" friends to dinner at LIPS (the drag queen "hard rock cafe" in the Village), where they enjoyed both the food and the show, and then afterwards we all went to the Oaks for a nitecap and some slightly more mellow entertainment, if one can call Ruby Rims mellow! Since Jodie and Char were also visiting, and Dyan and Sheila were coming up from Philly, we thought a little culture would be in order this time!

With reservations on a Saturday night, of course, the eight of us descended upon a 70-year old Village icon, Asti, the Italian restaurant with operatic singing waiters, plus opera


and show-song performers on a little stage in the middle of the restaurant. It was grand! Pictures, photos, newspapers and operatic memorabilia adorn the walls giving Asti a unique ambiance. The food was surprisingly well prepared, and the menu quite extensive with a variety of pasta, chicken, veal, seafood, and beef entrees. Although the food was not outstanding, all agreed it was very good in quality and portion size... there were no complaints!

Our brother-in-law, R, seemed to be happy being the only male among seven "females" of one variety or another. When the female soloist came around the tables singing romantic arias and "cooly playing" with the men folk, she did a double take at our table! As she approached, just then, as R returned to the table, we pointed towards him, and as he sat back down in his chair, she put her arm around him .. and serenaded him... He was beaming! The male soloist donned different hats and

continued on page 20



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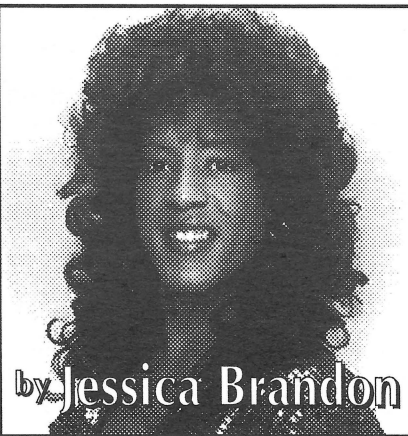


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Shopping With Jessica



Greetings, girlfriends! This month is one of my favorite times of the year, but not just because winter is dying out. For a sports fan like myself, this time of the year is absolutely magical because of March Madness! Yup, the annual battle of the best 64 teams in Division I-A college basketball to decide who will be the national champion. Between the excitement of the games themselves, the office pools, and the wonderfully manic tones of Dick Vitale, it's nothing short of awesome, BAY-BEE!

I tell you, just about nothing gets my blood pumping more than days and days of watching college basketball. And now that I work from home where I set my own hours, I can stay up as late as I want to watch the west coast games instead of just reading about them in the paper the next morning! Ahhh, bliss! Oh, by the way, if you're interested in a hot tip for your office pool, lean close so I can whisper this sweet nothing in your shell-like ear: **NORTH CAROLINA!** Mark my words, the Tar Heels will be the team to beat this year!

Goodness Gracious! Did I just waste two entire paragraphs talking about (YUCK!) manly things? I'm soooooo sorry! I didn't mean to let the sport nut in me ramble on like I did for so long! You're here for shopping stuff, and it just so happens you've come to the right place. This month I'm going to share with all of you a very special experience, one I never thought I'd ever have and which ended up gaining me my long-

awaited fifteen minutes of fame (No, I didn't win the lottery, darn it!).

Back in mid-January, Angela Gardner told me that Sono Motoyama, Senior Editor for the *Philadelphia Weekly*, had read a complimentary issue of *News & Views* and, after reading my column, was interested in doing an article on me and my exploits as a shopping maven. Just think, even though *News & Views* features some of the most renowned names in our community (two of them being founding members), yours truly was the girl Sono wanted most to do this piece on.

Needless to say, I was awestruck and wasted no time arranging a meeting with Sono. We got together at my place where I talked at length, about both my life experiences as a transgendered person and my expertise in the shopping arena. We then went to the King of Prussia Mall (in my boy guise), where we strolled through a few stores, in the course of which I bought a couple of things while explaining the highly involved procedure a male has to go through in order to buy women's clothing.

But the best was yet to come. As part of the article, Sono suggested I set up an appointment at a major department store with a personal shopper service. Now this was pretty much new to me, since I was used to just going in a store, picking out something I liked, and then taking it home. But the idea of having an expert pick out clothes for me, something I never had happen before, was

an intriguing one. So, after a few calls, I set up an appointment at a major store in downtown Philly.

Another aspect of this particular adventure was that I went dressed. That's right, girls, after all this time, I finally got around to practicing what I've been preaching to you about shopping en femme for the last two plus years, and, let me tell you, I had a blast. Dressed casually for the outing (a velour shirt, jeans, and flat heeled ankle boots), Sono accompanied me to the store where I was greeted by Wendi, the store's personal fashion advisor.

From the word go, Wendi treated me wonderfully, saying that I wasn't the first crossdresser to make use of her services. I was then taken to her office where, in a private changing room, I was shown several outfits of various types for me to try on. Having never been given an opportunity to do this before, I felt like a kid locked in the proverbial candy shop. So it may come to you as no surprise that I immediately fell in love with a tan sweater and skirt set which I proceeded to buy.

The bottom line here is that I was treated with the utmost courtesy and respect by Wendi who made my shopping adventure an absolute success. It didn't matter to her one bit that I was a crossdressed male. I was simply a customer willing to spend my money on something I wanted. The customer service I received from Wendi was nothing short of wonderful. If you've never availed yourself of a personal shopper service, especially if you don't know what to buy, do so. It's a godsend.

If you do, here are some tips to make the experience a welcome one. When you call a store for an appointment, don't hedge or make up some silly story. Tell the person you're shopping for yourself. Tell her your size, height (if you're tall), your favorite styles, colors, and types of

continued on page 22

Shopping...

Wear a button-type shirt or sweater if you're going to be trying on tops so you don't muss your hair. Wear hosiery, because bare legs just don't look their best in a skirt, and, above all, be careful about getting makeup on tops or jackets.

Be on time for your appointment, and wear a smile when you greet the personal shopper, because she'll give

you the sort of one on one pampering a girl can only dream about when it comes to shopping. It's an experience unlike anything you've ever known. I know I felt that way. Wendi all but bent over backwards to help me, and I'm sure that wherever you choose to go, you'll get the same sort of treatment. It's all part of the mandate of providing good customer service.

Well, kids, that's all for now. Time to look up some old friends at where I used to work and worm my way into

their office pool. I can use any money I win for future shopping trips. As always, my electronic mailbox is open for your comments, tips and opinions at treetop@voicenet.com, or by snail mail to the Renaissance National office as indicated on page two. Until next month, be smart, buy smart and look smart! Happy shopping, sisters!



Kevorkian Present When TS Commits Suicide

AEGIS Internet News Service

Pontiac, MI—A transsexual woman with AIDS committed suicide in the presence of Dr. Jack Kevorkian and his associate on January 18, 1998.

Carrie Hunter, 35, of San Francisco suffered from AIDS-related complications, Kevorkian lawyer Michael Schwartz said Sunday night after the body was found at a motel by police. Kevorkian and Dr. Georges Reding, a Kalamazoo psychiatrist who

has said he is doing a "fellowship" in assisted suicide with Kevorkian, were present for the woman's death, Schwartz said. Ms. Hunter, who began her life as a man and had an operation to change her sex, suffered from advanced states of AIDS at the time of her death.

Kevorkian, 69, has refused to disclose the number of suicides he has attended. At a December 31 news conference, he put the number at

between 80 and 100. Last year Kevorkian, Reding and another associate were charged with 19 criminal counts covering 10 deaths. The charges were filed by former Oakland County prosecutor Richard Thompson. All charges were later dropped by Thompson's successor, David Gorceyca.



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Dining With...

props to perform the popular show songs and operatic arias.

At Asti, one doesn't even have to sing to participate. When they asked for volunteers for the chorus in the performance, Carol's sister, Jody, and Babs, the three shy ones, jumped up... to don capes with hoods and flash-

lights to march around the restaurant to the music of Verdi's Il Trovatore. Were we read out in the open? Maybe! Were there looks? Of course! Was there anything negative? Absolutely not! Did we all have fun? Yes!

With most chicken dishes at \$22, veal \$26, and pasta at \$18, the prices are reasonable considering there is no music charge. If you have the Transmedia card, you can save an

additional 20% on the total, which makes it a good deal .

Asti
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AEGIS News...

The AP reports that, at the 1977 trial, Smith was a woman, Elizabeth Cobbs, and a Methodist minister. She testified that she was with Chambliss as he watched TV reports that Sunday morning of the bombing and heard him say, "It wasn't supposed to hurt anybody. It didn't go off when it was supposed to." Chambliss, found guilty of murder in the bombing, died in prison in 1985.

Smith underwent sexual reassignment surgery in 1981. He published an autobiography in 1994 naming dozens of people he suggested might have been involved in the bombing. Federal investigators have long believed that at least 4 men were involved. They reopened the case last summer. U.S. Attorney, Doug Jones, said that Smith's death will not affect

the investigation.

PROVINCETOWN FIRE

From several sources we have learned that a raging fire in Provincetown, Massachusetts has claimed the large wooden building that housed the Crown and Anchor and Whaler's Wharf. Two other buildings also burned to the ground. For many years, the C&A played a key role in Fantasia Fair; it is also one of the leading landmarks in Provincetown. It will be sorely missed.

INTERSEX AT BIRTH

Under current medical practice, when a child is born intersex, sex is assigned and medical/ surgical intervention is undertaken. This practice is criticized by the Intersex Society of North America and by feminist scholars. Together they are creating a "politics of difference" approach in which

differences are not seen as "defects" to be corrected.

A paper on this topic analyzes the reasons offered in support of current medical practice and of the politics of difference, and argues for a move toward the latter. Crucial to the determination that this move is warranted are justice concerns and the emergence of support groups and technologies that allow geographically separated individuals to form a relevant "group."

FOX TV NEWS COVERS INTERSEX CONTROVERSY

A news feature by FOX TV News in Chicago covers the ongoing controversy over medical management of intersexuality.

Interviewed in the segment are Angela Moreno who rebuts the argu-

continued on page 24

Resources

Background Papers

Background Papers are \$1.25 each:

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

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

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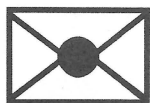
CLASSIFIEDS

Classified Ads are \$3.00 for 3 lines for 3 months.

ALTERATIONS: Get that dress to fit the way it should, buy the size for proper fit in the shoulders and I'll take in the waist and hips to fit your figure the way it was meant to fit. 10% discount to Renaissance members. Call Lisa at 610-838-7485.

LEGAL NAME CHANGE for under \$200! Why pay an attorney up to \$1000 when you can represent yourself and save hundreds? I'll supply all the necessary forms, ready to file, and instructions for \$50.00. Renaissance members pay only \$35.00. Call Lisa at 610-838-7485.

Custom made clothing and alterations. Be in an original design you desire or a copy of something you like but is unavailable in your size. Any way you like it, that's the way we make it. ALTERATIONS also available for store bought clothing. Call NILAH at 610-853-9822.



Letters to the Editor

Hi Angela,

You're much too modest, girl. It's not that you have friends in the Production Department that got you the biggest layout in the "Swimsuit Issue 98," but to me it's those beautiful legs et al. You are, in addition to my wood stove, keeping this closeted crossdresser very warm this February.

I'd love to send you a photo of myself but (1) my Polaroid hasn't a self-timer, so it's virtually impossible to get a good shot of myself (I've tried), and (2) I don't have a personal or friendly photographer to do it. Alas, poor Yorick, these are some of the woes of a closeted CD. Anyhow, your sample issue came in response

to my outreach to find a local support group. Your address was in Transformation magazine in an article by Jean Marie. And am I glad.

I felt so comfortable reading the issue that I thought you all wrote it to me. Besides being so well written it was illuminating and jam packed with valuable info and resources. A lot of sisters rave about Transformation magazine, but your little local/national publication way outclasses it. I hope this issue I received was not just your best effort. Does each of your chapters and affiliates produce similar news & info & views? I'm thinking of contacting the NYC affiliate, since I am physically closer.

Enclosed is a check for a year's subscription. Your newsletter has confirmed my yearnings and desires to be the best TV my efforts can achieve.

Your would-be sis,
Erweena
New York State

PS: Any ideas on how to start a chapter or affiliate in my area while remaining discreet?

Dear Erweena,

As Managing Editor of *News and Views*, I have the pleasure of responding to letters to the editor, and it is truly a pleasure to respond to you.

Angela and I have both read your enthusiastic words and are pleased to welcome you to our family of readers. Hopefully, each issue will outdo the previous one, so that you can enjoy month after month of good reading. We do our best to keep our readership informed on transgender ideas and events, locally, nationally, and internationally. *News and Views* is the voice of Renaissance National, while each chapter and affiliate has its own smaller, though no less important, publication.

As for starting a chapter or affiliate, you should have received a copy of our Outreach Bulletin No. 1 on how to start a group. Please feel free to write or call with any further questions you might have.

I have no doubt that you will most assuredly be the best TV your efforts can achieve. It is the aim of Renaissance and of *News and Views* to contribute to that achievement.

Sincerely,
Lee Etscovitz



AEGIS News...

ment that "modern" clitoral surgery is less damaging than older surgeries openly labeled clitorctomy; MS. Moreno's parents, who support her activism; Robert Hatch, MD, a surgeon who continues to advocate emergency interventions in keeping with the traditional model; Justine Schober, MD, a urologist who advocates against early genital surgery; Alice Dreger, PHD, an historian and narrative ethicist who argues that the secrecy, misrepresentation, and experimental early genital surgery advocated in the traditional medical model are unethical; and Cheryl Chase, founder of the Intersex Society of North America.

MADemoiselle EXAMINES

INTERSEX CONTROVERSY

In a recent article in *Mademoiselle*, Intersex activist Angela Moreno talks about how she was subjected to mutilating genital surgery and years of lies. Physicians who claim that intersex activists' criticisms apply only to older surgeries take note: Angela's surgery was performed in 1985 by experienced specialists. The "clitoral reduction" destroyed her clitoral sensation, not to mention her mental health.

Angela is now comfortable with her intersex status, describing herself as "a different kind of woman, born uniquely hermaphroditic," and who wishes from the bottom of her heart that she had been allowed to stay that way.

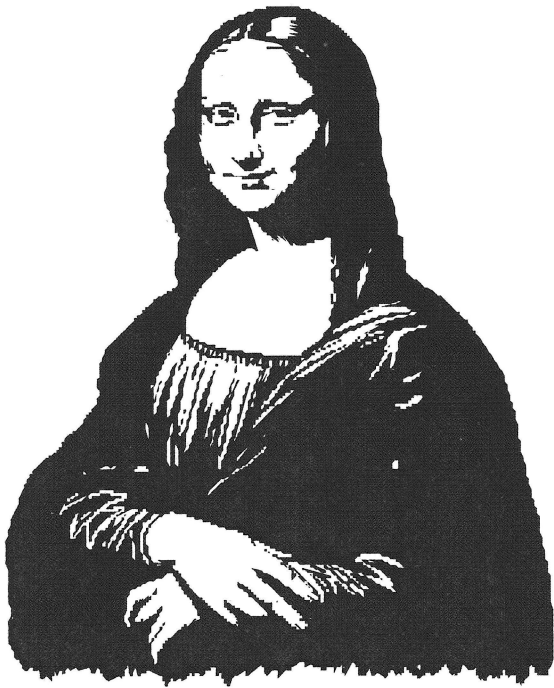
Today, Angela is a proud and bold intersex activist, working to prevent other intersex kids from being made to suffer as she was. Not only that,

Angela's parents are also beginning to speak out about how harmful the traditional medical paradigm is.

The 40-year old insistence on early genital surgery is becoming controversial, and clinical psychologist Dr. Howard Devore calls for doctors to "respond to the infant's concerns, rather than the panicked parents'," and let any surgery wait until the patient can choose for himself or herself. Along with ISNA (Intersex Society of North America), Dr. Devore believes that children should be labeled male or female, but surgery should not be imposed.



Renaissance



EDUCATION DAY & SPRING BALL April 4, 1998

A full day of fun and enlightenment!

The Wayne Counseling Center (Home of Renaissance's Greater Philadelphia Chapter) hosts seminars by some of the most well known and respected names in the transgender community:

- **Lee Etscovitz, Ed.D** ("Transgender Classifications" & "Transgender Tasks")
- **JoAnn Roberts, Ph.D.** ("Cosmetic Tricks and Tips" & "Dressing With Style")
- **Sheila Kirk, M.D.** ("Hormones" & "Transgender Surgery")
- **Jessica Brandon** ("Shopping 101")
- **Savarese Salon** ("Electrolysis")

The gala **Spring Ball** starts at 7 p.m. at the Park Ridge Hotel in nearby Valley Forge. (Site of the 2nd Congress on Sex and Gender.) Put on your best party dress for a delightful evening of entertainment. Dinner features your choice of Prime Rib or Chicken Piccata. (Vegetarians may select a vegetable lasagna.) Dinner music will be provided by an all female string duo. After dinner, dance to the sounds of the hot dance band, **Swing Shift**. Then retreat to the hotel's bar, Mad Anthony's, for a night-cap. A suite at the hotel will be available for those wishing to change from their seminar wear to their formal attire.

REGISTRATION COSTS (Check one below):

SEMINAR PROGRAM: \$45____ SPRING BALL: \$50____ BOTH: \$80____

Additional Ball tickets for guests: \$50. How Many: _____

Will you need to use changing room? YES____ NO____

If you attend the daytime events you will pick up your Ball ticket at registration in the morning. If attending only the Ball we'll mail them to you in advance. No door sales.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PAYMENT METHOD (Check one below. Make checks or money orders payable to: Renaissance, 987 Old Eagle School Road, Suite 719, Wayne, PA 19087, Att.: Spring Ball)

VISA: _____ MASTERCARD: _____ CHECK: _____ MONEY ORDER: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

CARD NUMBER: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ EXP. DATE: _____ / _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ON YOUR CARD: \$ _____

CHOICE OF ENTREE (number of each): PRIME RIB: _____ CHICKEN PICCATTA: _____ VEGETARIAN: _____