



News & views

Vision • Integrity • Quality

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RENAISSANCE

Canadian Serial Killer Targeted Transpeople

[Toronto, Canada - June 1996 - *Toronto Star*]

Toronto Metro police have linked the murders of three transgender prostitutes, sparking fears that a serial killer was loose on Toronto streets.

Autopsies and ballistic testing confirmed that the same gun was used to kill three victims in the span of only three hours. All three were shot execution-style, in the back of the head.

Killed were Deanna Wilkinson (31), Brenda Ludgate (25), and Shawn Keegan (19), who had only recently learned she had contracted HIV from having unprotected sex. There are no suspects, although there were reports last night that police were looking for a certain vehicle in connection with the slayings.

Shawn Keegan was found just after midnight in a stairwell and only a number of hours before Deanna Wilkinson was found on the same street at 9:15 am slumped against a fence in a lane nearby. Police believe the two were shot around the same time.

Across the city, a 911 call at 11:30 pm led police to Brenda Ludgate. She lay fully clothed in an alley, eyes staring skyward. Police originally stated that Ludgate died from a beating, until an autopsy showed she too had been shot in the head, from the

same gun that killed Shawn and Deanna.

"What connects them is their lifestyle, their occupation, how they were killed, and the weapon they were killed (with)," said Detective Sergeant Jim McDermott at a news conference, avoiding the term "serial killer."

While the police seemed to tiptoe around the question, Toronto Councillor Kyle Rae didn't mince words. "Well, it's a serial gun. Three individuals have been murdered. In the style that was described to us today by the police, it sounds like execution-style murders."

"The streets have become a dangerous place for prostitutes," Valerie Scott, spokesperson for the Canadian Organization for the Rights of Prostitutes, said yesterday. And she says the law is to blame. It penalizes prostitutes for working in "bawdy houses" by seizing bank accounts and imposing stiffer sentences than for those who work on the street, she said. "Legally speaking, the safest place to work is the street and it's also the most dangerous place."

And even more dangerous for transvestites and transsexuals, she added. "They're outcasts. The gay community doesn't want to help them, the prostitute community doesn't want to help them."



Serial Trans-Killer Arrested in Halifax

By Heather Norman of the Halifax Sunday Daily News.

A man suspected of killing three transvestite prostitutes in Toronto was arrested at a waterfront hotel in Halifax. Marcello Palma, of North York, was arrested at a Sheraton Hotel just before 7 pm, said Acting Inspector Mike Sale of Toronto police.

A Canada-wide warrant issued Wednesday by Toronto police named Palma on three counts of first-degree murder. Desk clerks said the 30-year-old Marcello Palma checked into the Sheraton around noon, using his own name. By 3 pm, Halifax police evacuated the hotel's third-floor rooms, telling guests only that there was an emergency.

But when officers moved in, they found the room empty. Police hid inside, clerks said, and Palma, an air-conditioning and furnace-repair worker was arrested when he returned to the Hotel

around 7 pm. "He was alone and co-operated at the time of his arrest," said Sale.

Toronto detectives fingered the 30-year-old father as the prime suspect in the murders of: Shawn Keegan, 19, of Belleville; Deanna Wilkinson, 31, of Brampton, and Brenda Ludgate, 25, of Etobicoke. All three were shot in the head with the same gun between 10 pm May 20 and 1 am May 21.

Palma, who is white, 5-foot-9, and clean-cut with dark brown balding hair parted at the side, was last spotted in Montreal. "He had been suspected of heading east," said Sale. Det. Sgt. James McDermott told the *Toronto Sun* that tips about a narrow body van-type vehicle with square headlights and a pink-looking light on the roof helped identify the suspect. Palma was not previously known to police and lived with his young wife, Rose or Rosie, and an infant daughter, the Sun reports.



Chapter & Affiliate Information

Chapters

Delaware

Wilmington, Delaware: meets second Saturday of each month. Write for info to: PO Box 5656, Wilmington, DE 19808.

Pennsylvania

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

Lower Susquehanna Valley:

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

Affiliates

California

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

Connecticut

Bridgeport/New Haven:

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

Georgia

Atlanta: The American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS), PO Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033-0724 or call 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), write PO Box 8243, Red Bank, NJ 07701. Call 908-219-9094. Email: vikkimmotg@aol.com

Titusville: Meetings are 2nd Saturday of the month at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Washington Crossing. Call Terri Risley at 609-933-2233.

New York

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

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

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

Oklahoma

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

Pennsylvania

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

The new **New Jersey Support** group will start as a Renaissance project as part of fulfilling our commitment to bring a new NJ chapter to life, and it will take the next step by becoming a Renaissance Affiliate. First, it will be time for electing officers. If you are interested call Terri Risley at 609-933-2233 after 6PM.

Renaissance News & Views

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Articles, opinion pieces, and letters to the editor are always welcome. Ideas for articles and opinion pieces should be sent to our editorial office care of Renaissance, PO Box 530, Bensalem, Pa. 19020-0530. Or use email to <bensalem@cpn.com>. Complimentary and irate letters to the editor may be sent to the same address.

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

Local Calendar

July

- 6 Ren. LSV meeting
- 13 New Jersey Support
- 13 Ren. Delaware
- 13 NEPTGA, Allentown, Pa.
- 20 Ren. GPC

August

- 3 Ren. LSV meeting
- 10 New Jersey Support (TBA)
- 10 Ren. Delaware
- 10 NEPTGA, Allentown, Pa.
- 17 Ren. GPC



Hey girls! Did ya see *60 Minutes* on June 16th? They had a report on the privacy you can expect from your corporate email. Turns out... not a lot. Every little note may disappear from your computer screen when you hit the delete key, but somewhere, in the electronic bowels of the company computer there lurks a ghost of *every word you've ever written*. A ghost that can be turned into a hard copy by any email consultant worth his salt.

What about the Intern :)? Well any message you send/receive via the Net thru your company's email system is now—potentially—in the hands of your boss. Are those beads of sweat on your forehead? What I'm sayin' kids, is, if you're not "out" about your transgender status around the old water cooler, watch what you type into the old computer, or what messages you receive at work from TG friends.

Before you decide it's allright to show up for work in a dress since the boss probably read that note last week about your part time job as a waitress at Lucky Cheng's, pause for a moment and think. Have you been doing anything that may have drawn attention to yourself, like having an affair with the boss's secretary or embezzling company funds? If you've been just another cog in the corporate machinery, then you probably don't have anything to worry about. After all, the boss doesn't have time to read every piece of email in the computer. He could hire someone to, I guess but, naaa. If you have any questions you can always email me. Don't do it from work.

Rodman... Again

I had to mention **Dennis Rodman** last month and sure enough, he's made enough noise with his wild cross-dressing ways that I have to mention him again. Right on Rodman! He actually went on television and said he wants to dress like a woman. Now this sounds like a great opportunity for a Chicago TG support group (like our Windy City affiliate, **The Chicago Gender Society**) to come forward and offer their services to help Dennis create a Denise. (Would she be Denise Rodwoman?)

As I mentioned before, the *Philadelphia Inquirer's* fashion columnist Roy Campbell, thought Rodman was an insult to crossdressers cause of the wild, uncoordinated outfits he wears. With a little help from a support group Denise could be as hot as RuPaul. Imagine the two of them clubbing. It's mind boggling.

So, how are people in basketball taking the dress wearing? Well, the most important person Rodman has to be concerned with is his coach. What's coach think? Bulls Coach Phil Jackson remarked that Rodman has "reached a heart space with other members of the team I'd never anticipated. Dennis has been a real blessing for us, because he's like a heyoka." Jackson explained that among the Lakota people a "heyoka was a crossdresser, a unique person... respected because he brought a reality change when you saw him."

Well, with her wild colored hair, bustiers and boas (not to mention the

tattoos) Miss Rodman certainly brings on a reality change for the other guys on the basketball court. Who could guard a player that looked like that? I know I'd be too distracted by her jewelry and tattoos. What's that one on your left shoulder say? **Where** did you get that adorable ear cuff? Hey! Come back here. Oh, darn, another basket for the Bulls. Keep up the good work Dennis and have Denise give us a call.

She's Just A Big Bunny

One girl who doesn't need a bit of help with her femininity is the world famous **Miss Lady Bunny**. This Southern girl left Atlanta with a corset and case of hair spray back in the early '80s and started a drag career in New York City as a dancer at the **Pyramid Club**. (I thought that was her on the bar.) She went on from there to start **Wigstock** and star in the movie about that big haired event.

Now, little Miss Bunny has put out a record. Her record company says, with "homespun sass, unique comedic song styling, eye-popping wardrobe, show-stopping dance moves, and delectably naughty patter" she's left audiences around the world shouting for more. The record is a remake of the disco hit *Shame, Shame, Shame* and it was produced by DJ Dmitry from the hit pop group **Deelite**.

The next time you head out to the clubs remember to ask the DJ to play that hot new disc from Miss Lady Bunny. Of course, club DJs never play requests. Stuck up is what I call it. Ooo... they're artistes ya know.

I Finally Get To See It

By "it" I mean the BBC film *Stonewall* that I worked on a few years back. It was November of 1994 and I got to strut my stuff as a hooker on the streets of NYC's meat district. (It's two meat districts in one.) Oh, sure it wasn't the first time. (I worked on the film *Rooftops* portraying a street walker with a drug habit. Did ya think I actually walked the streets? Nonsense... I'm more the call girl type.)

Now, when the memories of the cold wind wafting up my leather mini

continued next page

News Beat...

and the feeling, or lack thereof, that you develop in your toes after having them squashed into spike heels for eight hours on pavement had just begun to fade, the film is finally going to play in the Philadelphia area. I'm gonna get my ticket tomorrow for the screening at *The Philadelphia International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival*. It's happening July 11th thru 21st and in addition to my cinematic tour de force (At this point I really hope they kept the hooker scene. It's so awkward when one is cut after one has told the world one will be in the movie) they're doing a *John Waters Retrospective*. If you haven't seen her work, this would probably be a good chance to catch the immortal **Divine**. There'll also be at least one **Andy Warhol** flick shown. So, step right up and see the TV hooker! She struts, she poses, she blows the cops a kiss. Next time I do that I better get paid more than real hookers get for a nights work.

Give Me That Old Time Religion

To atone for that last paragraph I think it's a good idea for me to carry out a "good work." For around six years Miss Lee Frances Heller of Jackson, Mississippi has been producing the *Grace & Lace Letter* to meet the spiritual needs of the Christian crossdresser. (Since Lee dresses full time we can assume she's saying prayers for Christian transgressors, too.) For the entire six years she has relied on Christian charity, and her own limited resources (she's on Social Security) to produce the newsletter. Now that's real charity.

With her most recent issue came a letter saying she was going to have to start charging for *Grace & Lace*. She's putting it out four times a year and it's usually around twelve pages. All she's asking for the spiritual care of transgendered souls is six bucks. If you've got six dollars to spare and would like to get her newsletter, send a check payable to Lee Frances Heller, PO Box 31253, Jackson, MS 39286-1253.

Hey, even if you don't want to subscribe it might be a good idea (for your soul's sake) to send her a check. And, as they say about a visit to Lourdes, it couldn't hurt.

Okay, Here's A Kinky One

I mentioned this before but you know how we old queens love to repeat ourselves. I say, ya know how... all right, I'll get on with it.

Philadelphia is just the place to be this summer. In addition to the film fest, the city of Brotherly Love is hosting the *International Ms. Leather 1996* contest. The film thing and the leather thing happen right around the same time, so this could be the one chance in your life you get to wear a leather teddy to the John Waters Retrospective. The leather event happens from July 18th to 20th at the Holiday Inn-Independence mall. Call Bare Images Productions at 402-451-7987 for info, or email them at <imsi@synergy.net>. With the film fest from the 11th to the 21st it could really lead to an interesting weekend in Philadelphia's Olde City section.

Pass The Panty Girdle And Rocket Away

Hey kids, did you know the big, brave astronauts went through a phase when they wore ladies underwear? Bet ya didn't. Now, thanks to a bit sent in by the lovely and well-read Michelle Lynn the secret of orbital crossdressing has come to light.

It seems that since early space flights were so short there were no provisions for the astronauts to take a leak. Sometimes the flights were delayed and they found that the only thing to do was let loose in the space suit. When **Gus Grissom** was scheduled for a space shot he decided he didn't want wet shorts so he insisted that NASA find a way to solve the liquid waste problem. After a quick search through the local town for a ready made garment that might be absorbent enough to keep Grissom dry, for some reason, instead of a large diaper (Yea, Depends) a nurse returned with a panty girdle. (Absorbent?) July 21, 1961 Gus Grissom became the first man to be shot into space in ladies lin-

gerie and he stayed nice and dry. Well, except for a few stains, but that was probably just excitement about the flight or... the girdle. I can hear it now—Next time I think I need something to strengthen my upper body. A long line bra might be just the ticket. Black, of course. A little chest padding wouldn't hurt. By the way, are there garters with this girdle?

Random Notes

We get mail, regular and electronic. (Since I'm the boss I get to read everybody's email. Hee hee.) Some of the things that come in from professionals in the health and mental health fields should be passed on to you, the transgendered consumer.

If you're on the the WWW you can get information about gender reassignment surgery from the website of Canadian surgeons Doctors Pierre Brassard and Yvon Ménard. You can point your browser to <<http://www.sit.qc.ca/grs>> for info on their surgical services.

If you're in a traveling mood the University of Michigan Medical Center has a program they like to call **The Comprehensive Gender Services Program**. They provide everything from basic health care for cross-dressers afraid to tell their own doctor about problems that might make the doctor actually want to see their shaved legs, to hormonal therapy, medical and psychological evaluations and surgery. (They even do hair transplants.) You can get an informative brochure by calling 313-936-7067 or send private email to: <um-cgsp@umich.edu>.

Another service you should be aware of the **Gender Awareness and Information Network**. It's a project of the Outreach Institute of Gender Studies in Augusta, Maine. The Institute contacts health care professionals and provides them with information on transgender issues. Of course, Renaissance does that too, but the Institute really works at it. They provide seminars and workshops for professionals who haven't dealt with transgendered clients and need more information. If you feel your therapist might need more information have them contact

How The Colorado Decision Affects Trans-people

by Dana Priesing, Acting DC Lobbyist for GenderPAC

Surely all of you know of the Supreme Court's May 20, 1996 decision in *Romer v. Evans et al.*, striking down Colorado's "Amendment 2." (You can get a copy of the decision at <<http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct>>) I thought those of you who aren't attorneys would appreciate a brief explanation of the analysis the Court used. As transgendered persons become more visible, we may find ourselves targeted by similar measures. It's useful to understand how such measures would be reviewed if challenged.

The Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides, in pertinent part, "No State shall... deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." This is the Equal Protection Clause (EPC).

In EPC jurisprudence, if the state action under review (typically the statutory creation or targeting of some class of persons) targets or affects a "suspect class" (e.g., race, religion, national origin) or infringes upon fundamental rights (e.g., life, procreation), a reviewing court will apply the "strict scrutiny" test. That test assesses whether the state action under review is (1) rationally related to a valid public purpose, and (2) necessary to the achievement of a compelling state interest. If no suspect class or fundamental right is involved, however, a reviewing court will apply the less strict "rational relation" test, which merely assesses whether the state action under review is rationally related to a legitimate state interest.

In *Romer v. Evans*, the Court did not consider gays, lesbians and bisexuals (gay, lesbian and bi) a suspect class

triggering strict scrutiny, so it applied the rational relation test. The state action involved was, in essence, the removal of gay, lesbian and bi from the Colorado political process—by rescinding all local anti-discrimination ordinances protecting gay, lesbian and bi and by barring future anti-discrimination efforts by all branches of the state government. Thus Amendment 2 took away what gay, lesbian and bi Coloradans previously had won at local ballot boxes, and barred any further gay, lesbian and bi attempts to redress grievances through local or statewide ballot boxes, agencies, or the courts (at least until such time as Coloradans again amended their constitution).

Pretty drastic stuff. To realize this, you need only imagine the response if this had been done to, say, all citizens who were members of the Catholic Church, or who were members of the Catholic Church and had last names spelled S-C-A-L-I-A. Amendment 2 created a politically disabled class.

The state interests Colorado identified as its justification for Amendment 2 were: (1) freedom of association, particularly that of landlords or employers having personal or religious objections to homosexuality; and (2) the conservation of resources to fight discrimination against other groups. The Court found this justification absurd, and noted that Amendment 2 was so lacking in rational connection between the state's "interests" and the disability imposed that the clear inference was that in essence, Amendment 2 was motivated by animus against the targeted class. Showing some class itself, the Supremes held: "It is not within our constitutional tradition to enact laws of this sort."

Expect those who oppose diversity in gender expression to try something like Amendment 2 again, with a less flimsy statement of state interests.

Another noteworthy aspect of the decision is the implicit difference between how Justices Kennedy and Scalia saw gay, lesbian and bi people. Scalia's dissent continually refers to homosexual "conduct." Kennedy's opinion mentions conduct only when quoting or paraphrasing Amendment 2, and refers more to "status."

Scalia apparently presumes that the gay, lesbian and bi "class" targeted by Amendment 2 can be defined solely by its members' propensity toward same-sex sexual conduct. If true, a class member might escape the statutory disability by refraining from the discouraged conduct. In contrast, Kennedy seems to presume that there is such a thing as gay, lesbian or bi "status" apart from "conduct."

Who cares? Well, here again is the issue of whether or not biological differences exist, or whether being gay, lesbian or bi is a "lifestyle" choice. Transgendered persons find themselves the objects of similar discourse. Scalia's vituperative dissent seems partially motivated by belief that gay, lesbian and bi conduct is a choice. Choices can be subject to moral criticism by others, whereas biological differences typically cannot. Part of a successful approach to eliminating the oppression transgendered persons suffer may involve understanding (and the science to do so isn't there yet), and then explaining to the wider audience (GLB and straight), to what extent being transgendered is not a matter of choice, but stems from biological differences.



News Beat...

know, he really shouldn't wear that color with *his* eyes.

Speaking of things you shouldn't wear... watch out for those floral

prints! It's been found (I don't know who does the research on stuff like this) that if you wear floral prints outside experts say you can end up attracting bugs. Ya see, the bugs think you're a flower bed. So, if you're troubled by bees you better stick to solids.

Well kittens, that's it for this month. Don't let the hot, humid Summer weather melt your MAC and be sure to duck those bees.





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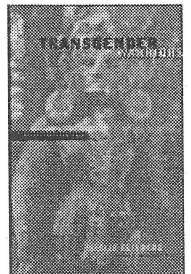
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The Man In The Red Velvet Dress ▶
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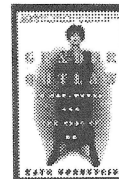


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One of the hottest political battles on the current scene is that of "same-sex" marriages. Some states already recognize or are considering recognizing homosexual partnerships with the all-important piece of paper. And of course the self-appointed protectors of the American way are mobilizing to prevent it from happening in the rest of the states.

Forward thinkers like myself (ahem) are already planning for the next battle front. That is why I am drafting a lengthy position paper on "same person" marriages. As everyone in our community already knows, crossdressers love no one as much as their own feminine alter egos. So it is vital that we be allowed to formalize these relationships through legally recognized marriage.

It will take a lot of grassroot organizing on the political front and there are still a lot of legal details that need to be formulated before we can present it to our elected officials. And in truth, I'm having a hard time keeping my mind on the business at hand. I'm too excited at the prospects for the wedding night.

Tri-Ess in The Latter Part of the Twentieth Century

Dallas Denny wrote an article called *Tri-Ess' Moral Crisis* that I saw reprinted in the *Saltaire* newsletter of the Salt Lake City Tri-Ess Chapter. The piece probably first appeared in one of the Aegis group publications.

Dallas takes Tri-Ess to task- as have so many others- on the issue of restrictive membership. However, Dallas takes an analytical approach to the semantics of the term "heterosexual

crossdresser" and comes up with a new spin on an old argument.

A few months ago, I reported the results of a survey of a Tri-Ess chapter which showed that 75% of them would prefer to be women, and high percentages have experimented with hormones and seriously considered SRS. Dallas notes the same survey to make her point that many crossdressers label themselves heterosexual crossdressers because they don't see transsexuality as a realistic option for themselves given their personal circumstances. In a lot of cases, the crossdressers do not value being a male and would change themselves to women in the best of all possible worlds.

Still other heterosexual crossdressers have sexuality questions that they either leave unexplored or don't prefer to discuss from fear of being labeled something other than "heterosexual." The heterosexuality of most crossdressers is merely a basis from which they all come. Whether each individual sticks to it throughout their cross-dressing career is a private matter.

Dallas has previously written about the paradigm shift in gender thinking. (Reported here in columns a few months ago.) As she points out in her article about Tri-Ess' moral crisis, we now have a wild mix of "crossdressers" who eventually change their sex, "transsexuals" who decide not to go through with complete reassignment surgery, "heterosexual" crossdressers who have sex with men or other crossdressers, and modern transgenderists who are staking out "third sex, third gender" territories. In this environment, Dallas states, "it makes little sense for an organization to cling to

terminology that no longer reflects reality." For Tri-Ess to deny the existence in its ranks of heterosexual crossdressers who are questioning or already engaged in activity outside of heterosexuality, or who have used hormones to change their bodies, or who secretly wish they could identify themselves as transsexual, is a conceit that erodes their credibility. "Tri-Ess needs to make a decision whether it is an organization which is truly (and strictly) for heterosexual crossdressers, or admit that it has slowly evolved into an organization which serves a wide range or persons whose only point of similarity is that they share a common background as heterosexual men."

S.P.I.C.E. in the Latter Part of the Twentieth Century

Vanessa Kaye writes for the *Sooner Belle* of the COTA group in Oklahoma City. Her wife, Linda Kaye, is a former Board member of Tri-Ess and S.P.I.C.E., the conference for spouses of crossdressers. In the May issue of the *Sooner Belle*, Vanessa wrote a cover article about S.P.I.C.E. called *A Change for the Better?*

Vanessa's article dealt with the "takeover" of S.P.I.C.E. by Tri-Ess and the considerable influence exerted over S.P.I.C.E. by Jane Ellen Fairfax, the head of Tri-Ess. Vanessa points out that S.P.I.C.E. was originated with the idea of being an independent organization although it would be under the Tri-Ess umbrella.

According to Vanessa, Jane Ellen Fairfax has assumed control of all planning for the upcoming S.P.I.C.E. convention in New Jersey. In Vanessa's opinion, "the last thing these women (spouses and partners of crossdressers) need is to be told by a crossdresser what to feel or think. First of all, the conference is for spouses and partners of crossdressers (and) it is incongruous that the conference be directed by a crossdresser. Secondly, Tri-Ess represents only a fraction of the crossdressing community." Further, Vanessa charges that, "at least one highly qualified speaker has been 'banned' due to differences with Fairfax' views. Who knows how many

others have been blacklisted for other differences?" Vanessa has made similar charges against Jane Ellen Fairfax's method of managing Tri-Ess, reported here several months ago. She recognizes that people may think she, "has it in for Tri-Ess."

Of course, we're only hearing one side of the argument here and presumably Jane Ellen has her side, which should be told now that these charges have been leveled. S.P.I.C.E. has always had its own female leadership—and that is how it should be. Barring any lack of female leadership to run its affairs, S.P.I.C.E. should not have male crossdressers in charge of the operation. It is a unique organization and should be managed by the people whose focus it represents, namely spouses and partners of crossdressers.

Tri-Ess Clarifies An Earlier Criticism

The 4/96 *Aegis News* printed a lengthy letter from Jane Ellen Fairfax in which she points out some inaccuracies about Tri-Ess reported in a Dallas Denny survey and comparison of several national transgender support groups that appeared in an earlier *Aegis News*. (And reported in this column in May).

The summary of Dallas' study was that Tri-Ess represents a conservative approach to transgender support and offered little new for its members since its founding in the mid-1970's.

Jane Ellen clarified six points about Tri-Ess, including its original founding date, but more importantly wished to mention that the organization has, indeed, done some innovative things to rival other national support organizations' records of achievement.

Specifically, Tri-Ess sponsors two national conferences, Holiday En Femme (held in different cities across the country) and S.P.I.C.E. Jane Ellen thinks that Tri-Ess should receive special kudos for its sponsorship of the unique S.P.I.C.E. meetings. (Notwithstanding, I'm sure, the controversy pointed out in the item above.)

Additionally, the dynamic nature of the modern day Tri-Ess is indicated by its recruitment of many new Board

members, and the addition of six new sororities around the country. It is also pointed out that Tri-Ess welcomes non-heterosexual transgenderists through its "Friends of Tri-Ess" membership category, giving the lie to the bugaboo of restrictive membership.

Dallas Denny acknowledged some of the points raised by Jane Ellen in an accompanying reply to the letter, while reserving her overall conclusions as being accurate, nonetheless.

Tri-Ess has been something of a whipping boy for many transgender activists and I have taken my shots on occasion, as well. Jane Ellen's letter reminds us that we should not become complacent in our criticisms and evaluate the organization fairly based on its ongoing attempts to improve itself.

The Pitfalls of Legislating Sex & Gender

The *Baltimore Evening Sun* printed a letter from Dr. William Beeman, an Associate Professor of Anthropology at Brown University in response to a bill introduced in the Maryland legislature to ban same sex marriages.

Dr. Beeman's letter points out that the authors of the bill may not realize that it would "unwittingly nullify or prevent millions of supposedly heterosexual marriages." The reason being that "between 3 million and 10 million Americans are neither male nor female at birth." Somewhere between one and four percent of infants born are "intersexual," having biological makeups of both sexes. "Under current medical practice, physicians reassign the gender of intersexual infants at birth. Such infants are surgically altered and given hormonal treatments so that they will fit into one of the two cultural categories male or female."

Therefore, legislation banning same sex marriages (in the biological definition of "same sex") will have unintended consequences. Of course, the bullet heads who are concerned about same sex marriages don't give a damn about biology. As Dr. Beeman points out, "In states with such laws, it may be necessary to have a genetic test such as are performed on Olympic athletes before a marriage license can be

issued." And if so, it might prevent undetectable intersexual people living as either sex from ever getting married. As this issue becomes hotter and hotter, it will be interesting to see how the social arbiters tackle this thorny scientific question in their drive to categorize everyone according to their own value system.

High Heels for The Hell Of It

The *Lifelines* newsletter of the LIFE group in Lake Ronkonkoma, New York reprinted a page from one of the supermarket tabloids (no acknowledgment—copyrights be damned) about a University of Arkansas computer manager who regularly wears skirts and skyscraper high heels with his male business attire.

Dale Miller is not a crossdresser in the sense that we have come to popularize the notion. He doesn't wear makeup, wig, or even full feminine ensembles. Just miniskirts and high heels. Says he likes 'em.

It is a common complaint among crossdressers that women are free to wear men's clothing items without re-primation while men are scorned for wishing to wear female clothing. Of course, most crossdressers go for much more than just the clothing. We do the wig, makeup, accessories and adopt feminine names as alter egos of our male selves. This is the major distinction between crossdressing, as it has come to be known, and the popularization of menswear for women.

As you can imagine, Mr. Miller gets some attention when he sports around campus and town in a men's dress shirt atop a short skirt and four-inch ankle-strap pumps. The students are cool with it and women tell him he has nice legs. "Every now and then I get derogatory remarks—workmen sometimes yell 'faggot' at me," Dale said.

And if you think fielding that kind of vulgar comment is bad... just imagine the type of invective he might be in for if he showed up in one of his "half-and-half" outfits at some of our supposedly liberal-minded "transgender" events.

continued on page 16

Step Right Up. Test Your Guy-ness!

Diane Franklin, who spends a lot of time on the WWW, has sent another gem that crossdressers may find amusing and F to Ms may want to use as a guidebook for manliness... or maybe not. Time for a humor break.

Thanks Diane.

Manhood Quiz: Take This Scientific Quiz to Determine Your "Guyness Quotient"

1. Alien beings from a highly advanced society visit the Earth, and you are the first human they encounter. As a token of intergalactic friendship, they present you with a small but incredibly sophisticated device that is capable of curing all disease, providing an infinite supply of clean energy, wiping out hunger and poverty, and permanently eliminating oppression and violence all over the entire Earth. You decide to:

- a. Present it to the president of the United States.
- b. Present it to the secretary general of the United Nations.
- c. Take it apart to find out how it works.

2. As you grow older, what lost quality of your youthful life do you miss the most?

- a. Innocence.
- b. Idealism.
- c. Cherry bombs.

3. When is it okay to kiss another male?

- a. When you wish to display simple and pure affection without regard for narrow-minded social conventions.
- b. When he is the pope. (Not on the lips.)
- c. When he is your brother and you are Al Pacino and this is the only really sportsmanlike way to let him know that, for business reasons, you have to have him killed.

4. What about hugging another male?

- a. If he's your father and at least

one of you has a fatal disease.

b. If you're performing the Heimlich maneuver. (And even in this case, you should repeatedly shout: "I am just dislodging food trapped in this male's trachea! I am not in any way aroused!")

c. If you're a professional baseball player and a teammate hits a home run to win the World Series, you may hug him provided that (1) He is legally within the basepath, (2) Both of you are wearing protective cups, and (3) You also pound him fraternally with your fist hard enough to cause fractures.

5. Complete this sentence: A funeral is a good time to...

- a. remember the deceased and console his loved ones.
- b. reflect upon the fleeting transience of earthly life.
- c. ...tell the joke about the guy who has Alzheimer's disease and cancer.

6. In your opinion, the ideal pet is:

- a. A cat.
- b. A dog.
- c. A dog that eats cats.

7. You have been seeing a woman for several years. She's attractive and intelligent, and you always enjoy being with her. One leisurely Sunday afternoon the two of you are taking it easy—you're watching a football game; she's reading the papers—when she suddenly, out of the clear blue sky, tells you that she thinks she really loves you, but she can no longer bear the uncertainty of not knowing where your relationship is going. She says she's not asking whether you want to get married; only whether you believe that you have some kind of future together. What do you say?

- a. You sincerely believe the two of you do have a future, but you don't want to rush it.
- b. Although you also have strong feelings for her, you cannot honestly say that you'll be ready anytime soon to make a lasting commitment, and you don't want to

hurt her by holding out false hope.

c. That you cannot believe the Jets called a draw play on third and seventeen.

8. Okay, so you have decided that you truly love a woman and you want to spend the rest of your life with her, sharing the joys and the sorrows, the triumphs and the tragedies, and all the adventures and opportunities that the world has to offer, come what may. How do you tell her?

- a. You take her to a nice restaurant and tell her after dinner.
- b. You take her for a walk on a moonlit beach, and you say her name, and when she turns to you, with the sea breeze blowing her hair and the stars in her eyes, you tell her.
- c. Tell her what?

9. One weekday morning your wife wakes up feeling ill and asks you to get your three children ready for school. Your first question to her is:

- a. "Do they need to eat or anything?"
- b. "They're in school already?"
- c. "There are three of them?"

10. When is it okay to throw away a set of veteran underwear?

- a. When it has turned the color of a dead whale and developed new holes so large that you're not sure which ones were originally intended for your legs.
- b. When it is down to eight loosely connected underwear molecules and has to be handled with tweezers.
- c. It is never okay to throw away veteran underwear. A real guy checks the garbage regularly in case somebody—and we are not naming names, but this would be his wife—is quietly trying to discard his underwear, which she is frankly jealous of, because the guy seems to have a more intimate relationship with it than with her.

11. What, in your opinion, is the most reasonable explanation for the fact that

continued on next page

Quiz...

Moses led the Israelites all over the place for forty years before they finally got to the Promised Land?

- a. He was being tested by God.
- b. He wanted them to really appreciate the Promised Land when they finally got there.
- c. He refused to ask for directions.

12. What is the human race's single greatest achievement?

- a. Democracy.
- b. Religion.
- c. Remote control.

How to Score: Give yourself one point for every time you picked answer "c." A real guy would score at least 10 on this test. In fact, a real guy would score at least 15, because he would get the special five-point bonus for knowing the joke about the guy who has Alzheimer's disease and cancer.

If you are a crossdresser who scored higher than 8 on this test, please turn in your Renaissance membership card right now.



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Gender Reflections

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

The Differently Gendered

When I think I've heard it all, I often hear something new! The most recent such occurrence happened when I read *Stone Butch Blues* by Leslie Feinberg. This is a novel about a young butch who believes herself to be transsexual, but with time learns she can be herself even if what that is defies definition. Following is an excerpt from the book following Jess' decision to stop taking male hormones.

"I didn't regret the decision to stop taking hormones. I wouldn't have survived much longer without passing. And the [top] surgery was a gift to myself, a coming home to my body. But I wanted more than just to barely exist, a stranger always trying not to get involved. I wanted to find out who I was, to define myself. Who ever I was, I wanted to deal with it, I wanted to live again. I wanted to be able to explain my life, how the world looked from behind my eyes...."

I knew I was changing when people began to gawk at me again. It had taken a year. My hips strained the seams of men's pants. My beard grew wispy and fine from electrolysis. My face looked softer. Once my voice was hormone-lowered, however, it stayed there. And my chest was still flat. My body was blending gender characteristics, and I wasn't the only one who noticed.

I remembered what it was like to walk a gauntlet of strangers who stare—their eyes angry, confused, intrigued. Woman or man: they are outraged that I confuse them. The punishment will follow. The only recognition I can find in their eyes is that I am "other." I am different. I will never be able to nestle my skin against the comfort of sameness."

The book continues with Jess' journey into the world as herself, her gender unidentifiable to others and ultimately irrelevant to those who come to love her.

The "eureka!" for me was a new awareness that the pairing of physiology and gender is rather arbitrary and thus artificial. My acceptance of the importance of the matching of body and gender has been reinforced over the years of working in therapy with many transgendered clients. Invariably, such clients defined their goals in terms of "passing" and ultimately bringing their anatomy in line with their gender identity. Rarely have I met a client who was comfortable with presenting an ambiguous image or who did not have the need to impress upon others what his/her gender identity was. This is no doubt a reflection of society's emphasis on the consistency of one's presentation with one's identity. There is an expectation that women will be bosomy, smooth-skinned, and clothed in female attire, while men will be hirsute, muscled and dressed in a way that identifies them as male.

The rare individual who challenges society's demands for gender consistency will be punished, as Jess predicts. Such punitive responses include shunning, ridicule, aggression and exclusion. Jess experienced all these as a young butch. She found societal acceptance as she began her transition and succeeded in "passing." However, she could not integrate the expectation of being either man or woman with her own perception of being a far more complex individual than either of these terms suggested to her. She was not willing to give up that part of herself that could not find voice in either a male or female presentation. This book made me wonder what each of us gives up as we seek acceptance as a unidimensional gender identifiable individual.



Hot Buzz

JoAnn Roberts • CyberQueen



"It's easy to stop making mistakes. Just stop having ideas." — Unknown

So I made a coupla mistakes last month. Sue me! I spelled **Stanley Biber's** name wrong, as well as **Kyra Sedgewick's**, and I got the opening quote wrong, too. It should have been, *"Everybody knows the world is full of stupid people."* Ah, well. The mind is the second thing to go as we get older. I don't recall the first.

On the community front, things seem quiet, until you lift the lid and see that the pot is about to boil over. There's lots of stuff going on in the background. Suffice it to say there's motion and where there's motion, there's usually friction. Look for motion from **GenderPAC** in the next month. They'll be going on a membership drive. GPAC needs your monetary contributions because GPAC is very fortunate to have **Dana Priesing** representing us in Washington, D.C., and **Riki Wilchins** pounding the pavement at gender events, but they're doing it *gratis* right now and that's not going to play well much longer. GPAC has to be able to sustain its lobbying efforts and that means your tax-deductible dollars. Send anything you can to your favorite organization, **IFGE**, **Renaissance**, **Outreach**, **AEGIS**, **FtM International**, or **Tri-Ess**, and tell them the money is for GPAC. Or send the money directly to GPAC, care of PO Box 229,

Waltham, MA 02154. Be sure to note which organization gets notified of the donation. It's needed for tax purposes.

I've been sitting on this item for almost two months now and I gotta get it out. I never thought that I'd see someone who treated this community worse than **Michael Salem** does, but I have. I (and a whole buncha people) received a mailing from **Stephanie Lloyd's Transformation Boutique** announcing a U.S. mailing address. Ms. Lloyd is a post-op transsexual from the U.K. who owns a string of Transformation boutiques over there and publishes an eponymous magazine. Ms. Lloyd is as revered there as Mr. Salem is here. The junk that was offered in the mailing just blew me away because it is so patently false in all of its claims. Like, Oestrogen Breast Cream that will grow you a hefty set of boobs in just 6 months for only \$100 a month. Like, Hormone Nipple Cream (whatever that is) for just \$95 per ounce. Like, a realistic vagina replica for only \$149 shown with a photo of a real woman's vagina. Like, eight different types of breast forms all under \$100 per paid and all illustrated with photos of the breasts of real women. Gimme a break! Please. If you or anyone you know has received this mailing, please make sure you tell everyone else what a rip-off this is. Better yet, go to the post office and file a mail fraud complaint.

Also in the above mailing was an interesting tidbit that should concern **Jerri Lee** of **Spartacus**. Ms. Lloyd notes that we should not confuse her *Transformation* magazine with Ms. Lee's *Transformation* magazine, and that she is pursuing the issue through legal channels. Ms. Lloyd would do well to watch her own ass in that regard.

I'm sure that **Dina** will pick this one up and explore it extensively, but in case you've been visiting Mars, **Dennis Rodman** of the **Chicago Bulls** has all but ex-

plicitly proclaimed himself a transvestite, and on national television, too. I wonder if he'll do a *LadyLike* cover for me?

Those of you who've been to a recent **Paradise In The Poconos** weekend know that we added a **Big Hair** contest and it's been a lot of fun. Now comes an online site to help you learn the ins and outs of creating huge hair. **Texas Hair & Style** provides step-by-step instructions. They even provide you with **Big Hair GIFs** so you can paste them over photos of yourself to see how you would look with really big hair. Visit them at <<http://www.dallas.net/~styletx/home.html>>. Dallas! I shoulda known.

More games online are available at **Hollywood Online** where you can play **Dress Up** with **Nathan Lane** from *Birdcage*. Go <<http://www.hollywood.com>>.

I usually make a big hoopla about getting online and finding the tg community, but of late I am becoming dubious of the benefit, especially on the newsgroups **soc.support.transgendered** and **alt.transgendered**. Over the past several months a flame war erupted that was particularly vicious an very anti transgender and anti transvestite. New people coming in looking for support were driven away and some old-timers left, too. **Kym Richards**, publisher of *Cross-Talk* magazine, left the groups and **Sister Mary Elizabeth** wasn't too happy with what she saw there either. I've all but stopped reading the posts daily and only check in once a week.

IFGE has expanded its online presence with an electronic bookstore and an electronic version of **Transgender Tapes-try**, both hosted at <<http://www.tiac.net/users/dba/ifge/ifge.htm>>. Meanwhile, **IFGE** and **3-D Communications, Inc.**, the people who publish **Transgender Forum** <<http://www.tgforum.com>> on the www, have agreed to merge their Support Group lists to provide a single,

HOT•BUZZ

comprehensive resource for that information. The list will be co-maintained by IFGE and 3-D Communications. I should have a URL for you next month.



Quote without comment: "I heard **Senator Bob Packwood** is transferring to my district because my seat is up for grabs," Colo. Senator **Pat Schroeder**.



And this just in from Teheran, The word "dole," as in **Bob Dole**, is Farsi slang for dick or penis. Hmmm!



Are you a guy or a man? That's what **Glamour** magazine wants to know. What's the difference? A "guy" makes a lot of mistakes before he's 30. A "man" makes a lot of money before he's 30. A "guy" quits his job. A "man" starts his own business. Okay, you get the idea. What's intriguing about the piece though, are the women they rate as "guys" and "men" like... *Women Who Are Men: Angela Basset, Courtney Cox, Lady Di, Sharon Stone, Michelle Pfeiffer... Women Who Are Guys: Whoppi Goldberg, Rosie O'Donnell, Fergie, Madonna, Sandra Bullock.*



On to fashion news... for Summer the eyes have it and the look is minimalist. Try a bold cover swept across the lids and mascara, no liner. I can't abide by that look, however. I feel the eye needs to be defined by lining and here's how... 1 – prep lids with a light coat of foundation to provide a "canvas," or use a neutral shadow like beige or taupe... 2 – the trick is getting it right for the type of liner you use (a) for liquid: tilt the container so the liner pools near the opening, dip brush and wipe off the excess (b) for cake: wet brush so it's damp and run over the cake (c) for pencil: rub the point of the pencil into your palm so body heat melts the liner then dip brush into it... 3 – close one eye and place brush parallel to and up against the lashline. Start along the outer third and trace a line just past the corner. Now go back and make one smooth line from inner edge to outer corner. 4 – allow liner to really dry, then close your eyes and dust lightly with

powder to set. Apply mascara.... 5 – need to fix a smudge or mistake? With cake liner it's easy, rewet the brush and go over the edges. For liquid or pencil, dip a small synthetic brush with an angled edge into foundation and "erase" the smudge. 6 – final tip: if you're right-handed, start on your left eye and vice versa for southpaws.



Summer sweats can dissolve your makeup right off your face. We've all battled those little beads of sweat on our upper lip. What's a girl to do? Try one of the new silicone based foundations like **Cover Girl Continuous Wear Natural Makeup** of **Max Factor Lasting Performance Stay Put Makeup**.



If you like clothes that are the cutting edge of style (not fashion), watch for a **Rampage** store to open in a mall near you. Rampage is all the rage and they carry lines like **French Connection, Betsey Johnson**, and their own designs. Prices are *tres* affordable.



If you were hoping to make it into next year's *RN&V* swimsuit issue, you'd better take that photo before the summer is over. What? You can't find a swimsuit that's suitable? Try a new line by **Elisabeth** from **Liz Claiborne** in sizes from 14 to 24. A mesh-top tank suit in nylon/Lycra spandex is about \$72.



For you extra tall girls, here are two possible sources of stylish clothes: **Long Elegant Legs** specializes in casual separates to size 22 (800-344-2225), and **Tall Classics** features both office and weekend wear to size 20 (800-345-1958).



Yes, I know it's barely July, but dahlings you must begin to think about your **Fall wardrobes**. The scene for Fall seems to be bright primary colors: red, blue and yellow. (Contrary to popular belief, green is not a primary color.) It's difficult to pull off yellow and blue just looks to dowdy to me, so I'll stick with my fave, a bright bold red. Another hot look coming this Fall is **Military Style**. That means belted coats and jackets with epaulets and double-breasted pockets.



Corrective concealers are making a

showing at beauty counters everywhere because no one has a perfect complexion, expect perhaps a newborn. If you choose to use a foundation-concealer combination follow some of these tips... put the foundation on first and the concealer over the foundation... try to apply both foundation and concealer in natural lighting whenever possible... choosing the right shade is tricky but don't be too fussy because the concealer will blend into the foundation... never try to change your skin tone with a concealer. You can get skin care advice and makeup lessons online at **Clinique's** website. Go to <<http://www.clinique.com>>.



I found this really cool magazine called **TopModel** that features news exclusively about the top fashion models. The May/June issue focused on mega-supermodel **Cindy Crawford** with scads and scads of photos. But the one photo that really caught my eye is on page 59. It's a close up of Cindy's face that is not retouched. This unabashed view of Cindy's face reveals much of what the fashion and beauty industry routinely hide — flaws. Cindy has large pores, tiny wrinkles around her eyes and a hair growing out of that mole at the corner of her mouth. There was also a great Cindy Cut-Out doll with flashy and casual clothes. A six-issue subscription just \$17.95 sent to PO Box 58295, Boulder, CO 80323-8295.



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So, those are my opinions, but, hey, what do I know? I think if you haven't pissed off someone, somewhere, you're not doing your job correctly. Comments? Write care of this publication or email them to <CyberQueen@cdspub.com>. © 1996 by Creative Design Services.

Ms. Lee Etscovitz, Ed.D.

Making Sense Of It All

My Vegetine

Although I live full-time as a woman, I am still happily married to my genetic female wife. When Valentine's Day arrived this year, I wanted to show my love with flowers. I went to the large floral section of my favorite supermarket to select something appropriate. When I arrived, there were only male customers present, and I understood why: they were picking something for their wives or girlfriends. I was the only female looking for flowers. Generally speaking, I have no problem as a woman buying flowers. No one really cares if they are for me or for someone else. But on this particular day the custom strongly suggests that men buy flowers for women. Perhaps I was still too sensitive about my identity as a woman to put it to some kind of extra test. In any case, I do know that I felt out of place at that moment in time, so I did not persist in my flower-buying effort.

I then decided that no matter where I went that day I would probably encounter the same situation or some variation of it. So I wandered over to the produce area and began to look at the vegetables. I somehow felt that I was still looking at something of a floral nature, such as broccoli or lettuce, items that grew in the ground and had leaves and even some degree of beauty. Of course, I was looking at something intended to be eaten and not just to be looked at. But at least I was among other women. I felt I belonged there, especially on Valentine's Day, when the floral section seemed to belong to the men.

So what did I do? I bought some vegetables, such as a nice bouquet of celery, a bunch of radishes, parsley, and, of course, some tomatoes, which are as red as any valentine. I left the onions and potatoes alone. I may have bought some other vegetables, too, though I cannot remember what they were. This much I do know: roses they

were not, but full of love they were.

When I arrived home, I did not proceed to fill vases with celery and radishes, but I did fill the refrigerator. I also wrote the following poem:

My Vegetine

I know our life is changing,
but still the sun does shine,
so maybe it will help to know:
you're still my Valentine.

I went to buy some flowers
to show that I still care,
for though I'm looking different,
my love is always there.

But when I was inside the store,
I was the only gal
selecting flowers for this day,
as if my name were "Al."

Since valentines take many forms,
like foods we all can name,
it was simpler buying vegetables.
I love you just the same.

Yes, the relationship survived this event. In fact, there was no real problem at all. Being remembered and loved is what really matters. But my valentine poem, my "vegetine" in this case, also reflects one of the major struggles in the world of gender change, namely, relationships. Marital relationships, in particular, can become severely strained. A transgendered person's love may remain unchanged, but its expression, while sometimes humorous in its retelling, can be difficult in its unfolding.

Like Valentine's Day, gender change itself, and the relationships affected by it, are fundamentally all matters of the heart. When it comes to relationships, we are talking about two hearts trying to enjoy each other's love. I may very well love my spouse, but if, because of my appearance, she has difficulty enjoying what I have to offer, then who am I to say that she should feel differently? When two people attempt to develop a relationship, and

one of the two loses interest in the other, then the relationship just does not develop any further. That's people. That's life. That's the way it is. None of this is easy, for either partner.

Gender change is not something to be taken lightly, for however deep it goes and however it is to be expressed, it is part of the person and, consequently, part of that person's various relationships. The issue, therefore, is not how to make such a change go away in order to accommodate someone else's feelings, but rather how to handle the change so as to preserve, and hopefully even deepen, the relationships that are at stake. Whether kept a secret from a partner or not, gender change becomes part of that relationship. If it is kept a secret, it could quietly undermine the relationship. If it is not kept a secret, and the relationship continues to be workable, then even a bunch of vegetables can convey the love that can in turn make Valentine's Day not only a day to remember but also a day to live all year long.



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Julie's Journal: A Commentary On Gender Roles

Just to prove that Diane Franklin doesn't always send me questionable humor that she scoops up from the WWW, here is a piece on gender and sexual identity that is very thoughtful and well written.

by Julie Waters

One of the most common phrases people ask when a child is firstborn is "Is it a boy or a girl?" Regardless of the intent of that question, it is a question which seems more designed to lock people into specific behavioral categories from the very beginning.

In the United States, there are specific modes of behavior which are considered "appropriate" for males and females. People who do not actively support these specific modes of behavior are frequently shunned, outcast or actively abused in various ways.

There are multiple means by which to fail to support these gender roles. Doing so in a very small way may actually shift the roles some. For example, now that women are a much larger segment of the work force in jobs other than traditional "women's jobs," the notion of what is appropriate work-related behavior for women has shifted somewhat. Also, within certain contexts, cross-gender behavior is considered acceptable. In a film or theatrical event, it is allowable for males to dress as females without being seen as necessarily "less masculine."

However, these roles are still there, and while the fact that Patrick Swayze and Wesley Snipes dressed in drag for a movie may not adversely affect their careers, they're still only allowed to approach the process of crossdressing as outsiders. For them to actively support crossgendered behavior in society at large would be unthinkable.

Many films, of course, reinforce the notion that crossgendered behavior of any sort is somehow deranged. *Psycho*, *Dressed to Kill* and *Silence of the Lambs* all featured a killer who was not only a killer but somehow some sort of vile sick monster as well, making their crossgendered behavior somehow more frightening and sickening than

the murders themselves.

Then, there is the notion of the crossgendered character as always tragic. While it used to be that gay characters in films could never have happy endings, this luckily has changed. With films such as *Prick Up Your Ears*, *Go Fish* and *The Amazingly True Story of Two Girls in Love*, gay characters are finally able to have some sort of personal fulfillment in their lives. And in *French Twist*, bisexuals are allowed to have their own fun as well. But the transgendered character is still almost exclusively a tragic figure in the media at large. In a recent episode of *Chicago Hope*, a transsexual woman committed suicide, facilitated by an ignorant plot line which utilized medical aspects of transsexualism which do not reflect reality. Even in the *Crying Game*, which was a somewhat positive portrayal, the media focused all its attention on the transgendered aspect of one of the main characters, ignoring much more significant and relevant plot lines.

The media also seems to have a relatively perverse fascination with transgenderism in various forms, both glorifying it and dehumanizing it at the same time. We seem to fall into one of three categories in the media's eyes: On rare occasions, we are the success stories, such as RuPaul or Tula. On other more frequent occasions we are the transgendered victim, such as Brandon Teena, who was raped and murdered after the local police allowed his transgendered status to become public. The final category is simply that of freak. Not necessarily tragic or heroic, but just *different*.

Issues of phobias related to transgenderism are difficult to separate from those of homosexuality, partially because they are so interrelated. When I am threatened or harassed by people on the street, it is not more because I am transsexual than because I am bisexual. In all honesty, I do not feel they understand the difference. Whether I am called "faggot," "dyke," "cunt" or "freak," it is all the same thing to

them— I am a threat. I do not fit into their predefined categories of "man" or "woman."

And perhaps, the most gender-threatening act that we can do is to kiss someone of our own sex. For a woman to make love to another woman threatens a position of superiority that many men believe themselves to hold. For a man to make love to another man threatens the notion that all men have to dominate somebody during sex, another paragon of gender roles.

These questions become more complicated the deeper they are explored. Many men are willing to accommodate the existence of lesbianism, but in order to do so they have to alter it to fit their own mode of reality. In other words, they have to alter it so as to make it something that is personally subservient to them. Thus a great deal of pornography which could be considered "lesbian" in its nature is not really lesbian at all, but instead very male oriented, presenting not real lesbians but fantasy women of a Barbie mold performing pornographic routines for the benefit of men.

Another fascinating question is that of what it means to be bisexual in a world which is divided into "straight" and "gay." Until recently, "bisexual" was a term which was equivalent with "unfaithful," "cheating" and "unable to decide." While lesbians and gay men had had some success in becoming more "mainstream," many of them, once being more accepted on a social and political level, decided to distance themselves from more fringe elements of the gay rights movement. Same-sex marriage rights advocates commonly insist upon a specific and strictly monogamous model of marriage.

In the '93 March on Washington, the transgendered contingent was actively ushered in a direction opposite from the rest of the marchers, in order to keep us away from the news cameras, with the explanation that the parade organizers didn't want to "confuse" people.

continued on page 18

VisAVis...

Dog Spay Afternoon

JoAnn Roberts had an interesting item in last month's *Hot Buzz* column right here in the old *News & Views*. Seems there is an Internet posting with instructions for sex reassignment surgery for dogs. JoAnn insists it's a hoax. I know otherwise.

My male French poodle, Spike, has always been a little different from the other curs around the fire hydrant. So when I noticed he was acting very strangely one afternoon, I quickly diagnosed him with Canine Gender Dys-

phoria. Yes, I retrieved the SRSDOG.TXT file... and the rest is veterinary history.

As a crossdresser, pet lover, and something of a do-it-your-selver, the opportunity to perform the surgery for good ol' Spike was too intriguing to pass up. I won't bore you with all the details of the procedure but I can tell you that it really isn't that difficult. In fact, the hardest part is getting the dog to lay still during the operation.

Some have asked whether I have any regrets about performing the operation after a somewhat hasty diagnosis. As many of you know, human SRS candidates and practitioners are urged to follow the *Harry Benjamin Standards of Care* leading up to surgery. Not many

people know that in canine SRS we follow the *Benji Standards of Care* which (because a dog's time moves seven times faster than humans') involves a considerably shorter period of treatment.

I would have liked to let Spike (who took the name RuSpike after surgery) have a real-life test before jumping into the female role with all four paws, but if you think about it, a male French poodle is basically living the real-life test from the day he joins the litter—especially on the days immediately following those poodle hairdos.

If RuSpike has any regrets, she's keeping them to herself. Although she did admit she hated to give up her Tri-Ess membership now that she's post-op.



It's Time, America! Restructures

by Sarah DePalma

It's Time, America! was started three years ago with the idea of being a national transgender political rights organization. Borrowing from the ecology movement, our goal has been to think nationally but work locally, and that work has started to show some very positive results. Given what we believe to be the strength of the organization (our local and state directors), It's Time, America! is in the process of rewriting its bylaws to reflect the needs that have been expressed to us by those directors. Our national meeting will be held in conjunction with the Transgender Law Conference, July 3-7, in Houston, Texas. We expect to have our new bylaws ready for ratification at that meeting and a new IRS sta-

tus shortly thereafter.

It's Time, America! proudly announces our plans for a major expansion. Currently we have chapters in six states scattered around the country. Our new organizational structure will allow us to move very rapidly in building new chapters. Our goal is to be on the ground, doing effective work, in thirty five states, by the time of our national meeting next year.

Our national board is also expanding to meet the projected growth of the organization. We are **actively** recruiting transgendered people of color and transgendered men for national board positions. And for the first time we will be creating a position of a "board member at large." At the direction of the Executive Director, and

with the full consent of the board, this person will have the responsibility of building bridges and coalitions with organizations outside the transgender community, and with supportive groups such as tg-PFLAG.

It's Time, America! is ready to launch its Transgender Job Discrimination Documentation Program. All state It's Time directors will be receiving the official questionnaire for the program in the next few days. This questionnaire is designed to coordinate with nearly exact versions produced with the Transgender Law Conference and the Human Rights Campaign. By working in coordination with these organizations, we hope to eventually col- late the data for a national report.



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BOOK NOOK

The Man In The Red Velvet Dress, by J. J. Allen
(hardbound, 216 pages)

Birch Lane Press, New York, NY, 1996. **Reviewed by JoAnn Roberts**

The Man In The Red Velvet Dress is sure to upset some people in the tg community if only because of its overly broad definition of crossdresser: any person who wears clothing of the opposite sex. The author means this to include a continuum from fetish crossdressers to post-op transsexuals. Allen should know better since "he" is otherwise known as Justine Sahnjay and has served as the president of the Powder Puffs of California support group.

This is not the only problematic area of the book. It focuses solely on males crossing gender lines and makes no attempt to include females in its framework. Perhaps this is fed by a notion that MtF crossdressers possess feminine tendencies due to an altered or feminized brain, although there is no statistically significant scientific evidence to support this idea.

Allen gives us nine reasons why males crossdress: (1) I was born this way; (2) Masculine failure; (3) Heightened sense of aesthetic and tactile response; (4) It makes me feel good; (5) Forced crossdressing in childhood; (6) Woman trapped in a man's body; (7) I was a woman in a past life; (8) Crossdressing is another part of sexual

avenue; and (9) Crossdressing is an irresistible urge. From these reasons, Allen develops a Cosmology of Crossdressers: (A) The Peripheral CD including slaves, exhibitionists and female impersonators; (B) Fetishistic CDs including fetishists and drag queens; (C) Cosmetic CD which includes closeted crossdressers, social crossdressers and she-males; and finally (D) Full-Time CDs which includes transgenderists and both pre- and postop transsexuals. I was greatly puzzled by this arrangement and reading the rest of the book helps to explain how Allen arrived at it. I was especially surprised to see how drag queens fared and Allen seems to have had universally bad experiences. But what Allen calls drag queens, most of us would call street queens.

I don't want people to get the impression I didn't like the book because there is much here to like and, overall, the tg community comes off favorably. This is not a ground-breaking work and Allen says so plainly. But, it does include a refreshing discussion of crossdressing that puts sexuality up front.

On page 84, Allen calls to task Virginia Prince's notion of the "femme self" that serves as the basis for all of Prince's philosophy and much of Tri-Ess. "The troublesome concept of the 'femme self' also reinforces the idealization of femininity and the

demonization of masculinity... To the degree that the crossdresser equates his femme self with positive experiences while crossdressed, he falsifies the female experience. At its worst, the femme self is superficial and utterly self-centered." Wow, them's fightin' words, but I agree with them.

The heart of the book lies in Chapter 6, "Can A Man Become A Woman?" Allen uses the feminist argument that gender roles are artificial and unfair. "We can state with certainty that women cannot *ultimately* be defined by clothing and cosmetics. To do so would argue that women are reducible to such artifacts." Feminists, says Allen, want to destroy male privilege and CDs want to destroy female privilege that women have created.

Finally, we come to Chapter 7, "The Black Lace Prison," in which Allen asserts, correctly I might add, that sexuality does not exist in a vacuum. "The idea, then, that crossdressing somehow exists divorced from sexuality is the most common misapprehension people have."

I highly recommend this book to everyone. It will make you rethink everything you think you know about crossdressing, sex and gender with notions like this, "If there is a true fetish in our culture, it is gender. The intriguing links between the words *fetish*, *artifact* and *fiction* suggest that gender, to the extent it is based upon artifacts, is a fiction."

The Man In The Red Velvet Dress is available from the Renaissance Bookstore or online at <<http://www.cdspub.com/cds.html>>.



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Tina Eckhardt



Journal...

Some people have progressed to the point of expressing sexual orientation as a continuum, with heterosexuality on one end, bisexuality in the middle and homosexuality on the other. Similarly, some have done the same for androgyny—placing “male” on one end of a spectrum, “female” on another and androgynous individuals in the middle somewhere. But both these notions make the mistake of assuming that the “middle” categories are somehow defined by the others. “Androgyny” is not “between” male and female. It is, to some, *both* male and female. To others, it is neither. Bisexuality, similarly, is not “between” gay and straight. My attraction to an individual may incorporate their gender or their sex, but no more so than it does the shape of their face, the style of their hair, the tone of their demeanor or the expression on their face. I do not become more or less heterosexual or homosexual based upon the relative frequency of my attraction to individuals of a given sex. If my sexual orientation experiences flux or change, it is for other reasons entirely.

It is that very lack of “categorability” that I believe scares people so much. To be bisexual or transsexual must, in

many eyes be minimized in order to cope with it properly. If minimizing it fails, it must be shutdown or destroyed. Thus, people such as Tyra Hunter are temporarily denied medical treatment while EMS technicians joke about her male genitalia.

The deaths of Tyra Hunter and Brandon Teena bring many of these issues to a glaring forefront, especially when shows such as *Saturday Night Live* mock people’s lives by suggesting that “everybody deserved to die” in the Brandon Teena case.

What it really boils down for to me is that people have the right to any form of gender expression they so desire. While laws that regulate gender-specific clothing are not nearly so frequently enforced as they used to be, there are still lines drawn in the sand that say “if you dare to cross this line you will be hurt or maimed or killed” and yet other lines that say “if you cross this line, you will be labeled a freak and a degenerate and your children will be taken away from you.” Yet others say “if you cross this line, you will be denied medical treatment.”

I do not know what else to say about this right now. I am not an unhappy person. However, I am not fond of the means by which this world attempts to enforce its rules.

Julie@drycas.club.cc.cmu.edu
<http://drycas.club.cc.cmu.edu/~julie/>



Letter to the Editor

Angela— re: last *Renaissance News*:
 Ah, the advantages of having the National Transgender Library & Archive at our fingertips!

According to an item in that bastion of good journalism, *Weekly World News*, it seems our former President Nixon did indeed crossdress. Or so claims Aussie author Malcolm Tenniper, in his book, *Revealing Richard Nixon*. Tenniper claims to have seen a photo of Nixon in drag and an accompanying note about routinely “having a little fun” by dressing up in some papers he examined.

Dallas Denny
[<aegis@mindspring.com>](mailto:aegis@mindspring.com)

South Jersey Chapter Rises Again As New Jersey Support.

The new support group that has risen from the ashes of the old SJ Chapter will have its first meeting on June 8th at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Washington Crossing. The meeting will start at 8PM and directions can be obtained from the National Office, 610-975-9119 or from Terri Risley, acting group leader at 609-933-2233 after 6PM.

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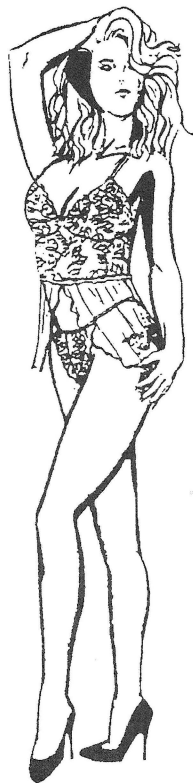
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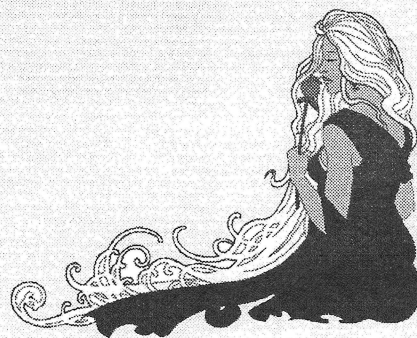
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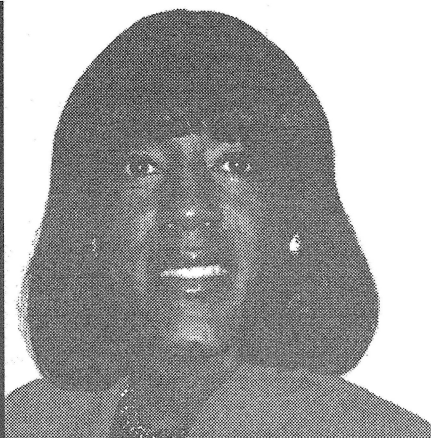
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Shopping With Jessica

by Jessica Brandon



Greetings, girlfriends! Let me start this month's column with a question: IS IT HOT ENOUGH FOR YA? I don't know about you, but I stopped bitching about the weather years ago, if but for no other reason than it does no good. Besides, after suffering through one of the worst winters on record where we got an astonishing 30 inches of snow here in Philly in ONE day, I'm not about to raise a stink over how hot it is. All things considered, I'd rather sweat (excuse me, "glow") than freeze.

Speaking of "glowing", at this time of year when the heat is most definitely on and it feels like the Australian outback at high noon, the notion of dressing up might well skirt the boundaries of sanity, especially when it comes to the use of makeup. Most of us, myself included need to wear considerably more makeup than a real woman would, whether to hide a five o'clock shadow or to help sculpt and define a male face into a reasonably decent female one. Most of us just can't go barefaced out into the big, bad public, and what we need to use in order to achieve that desired feminine look would be excessive. And in summer, excessiveness spells trouble.

How many of you have gone through all the time and effort to put on your makeup, only to have it start running like Niagara Falls five minutes after you step outside? It almost makes dressing up more trouble than it's worth. This brings us to this month's topic: the rash of so-called "budget-proof" cosmetics. A few years ago,

makeup companies started coming out with products, such as lipstick, blush, mascara, eye shadows and foundation that claims to be long wearing and/or long lasting. If they could work well for the genuine article, then they should work for us. In theory. Here's the roll call of these products for your consideration:

Foundation: Max Factor Lasting Performance Stay Put Makeup, Cover Girl Continuous Wear Makeup, Ultima II Wonderwear, Revlon ColorStay Makeup. **Lipstick:** Avon Perfect Wear Lip Color, L'Oreal Colour Endure Lipcolour, Revlon ColorStay Lipcolor (which I use), Shiseido Staying Power Lipstick, Ultima II Lipsexxy Lipcolor, Coty Chronologix Lipwriter Stayput Lipstick. **Lipliner:** Revlon ColorStay Lipliner, Ultima II Lipsexxy Lipliner. **Eye Pencil:** Almay Amazing Lasting Eye Pencil, Revlon ColorStay Eyeliner. **Eyeshadow:** Almay Amazing Lasting Eyecolor, Avon Perfect Wear Eye Color, Revlon, ColorStay Eyecolor, Ultima II Wonder wear Eyecolor Duet. **Blush:** Ultima II Wonderwear Cheek Color

According to the February issue of *Glamour* (where I got this information) the secret behind the staying power of these products is that the oil and wax used to keep color on the skin in the past has been replaced by silicone which not only increases the wear from four or five hours to as much as three times as long, but is lighter than its predecessors. With foundation, the silicone coated pigments adhere to the

skin, breaking down oils for increased wear while, with lipstick, lipliners, eye pencils, eye shadows and blush, the silicone evaporates, leaving behind the desired color, kept in place in some cases as long as 12 hours.

In that *Glamour* article, these long lasting products were put through their paces by the magazines staffers (Hmm! I wonder if they'll hire me as a guinea pig?) and the only test that came close to being outside with makeup on in blistering heat were workouts, and each product got a good grade. In the case of the eye pencils and eye shadows, the color stayed on until it was taken off, at upwards of 12 hours or more. Of course, these tests were probably conducted under controlled conditions, but you get the idea that these products do indeed seem to live up to the hype. But you have to decide which of these items would be right for you.

The article goes on to give tips from makeup artists as to how to use these products in order to achieve maximum effectiveness. For instance:

DO use a brush to apply lipstick.

DO let makeup set for five minutes before touching.

DO blend eye makeup with a sponge before it sets—usually 60sec.

DON'T use gloss over lipstick.

DON'T wear powder over long wearing foundation.

DON'T use an eye pencil if you like a smudged look.

I personally plan to test some these products this summer and report on just how good they are in a future column. While I don't want to stick my size 13's onto JoAnn Roberts' territory as she's much more of an expert on makeup than I'll ever be, my lone suggestion, short of staying indoors during July and August is to wear as little makeup at this time of year as humanly possible. So what if you can't achieve that perfectly feminine look if you don't slather on five pounds of gunk as you would in the fall and winter, at least you won't look like The Incredible Melting Crossdresser when the stuff starts sliding off your face during

continued on page 23

Press for Change Victory at European Court

The following is a report from Christine Burns and Stephen Whittle of Press For Change.

The European Court of Justice gave their decision in the case of P v S and Cornwall County Council. The result is **monumental** and will hopefully have a profound effect on how employers treat transsexuals in the future

In a ground breaking decision, the European Court of Justice has confirmed the recommendation of Advocate General Tesouro, and said that it is against European law to discriminate against a transsexual person in employment. The decision means that many transsexuals who have been dismissed from their jobs, because of their transsexuality, since the implementation of the Directive in 1976, may well have a claim for "sex discrimination," and they are urged to visit a solicitor as soon as possible—sex discrimination claims must be made within 12 weeks of when you *knew* that you had a claim.

Go for it—we cannot guarantee whether the UK courts will uphold the time frame, but as they say "Revenge is a dish best served cold."

The decision, which affects an estimated 40 – 50,000 European transsexuals and, most importantly those 4 – 5,000 in the U.K. who currently have no legal protection, comes as the result of an unfair dismissal case brought by *Press for Change* activist "P" against her former manager, "S", and employers Cornwall County Council.

The decision means that many transsexuals who have been dismissed from their jobs since the implementation of the Directive in 1976, may well have a claim for "sex discrimination."

You can read the full recommendation of the advocate general in the *Press for Change* library on the world wide web. The direct page URL is <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Christine_Burns/PFCECJR1.HTM>.

From there you can also read a review published by *Press for Change* legal expert, Dr. Stephen Whittle, along with a recent article of his, published

in the U.K.'s *New Law Journal*. (Stephen is a lecturer in law at the Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester, England).

It will now be necessary for the U.K. government to respond, if necessary, by amending the Sex Discrimination Act and the Equal Pay Act, to close the loophole until now enjoyed by employers who had argued along with the government that by having a policy to dismiss both M-F and F-M transsexuals, they were acting within the letter of the U.K.'s equality laws. The ECJ judgment now confirms that: "Articles 2(1) and 5(1) of Council Directive 76/207/EEC must be interpreted as precluding the dismissal of a transsexual on account of a change of sex." Other rights implications are bound to follow, of course, as a result of applying the broader implications of the community's "Equal Treatment Directive"

The announcement comes following a disappointment for "P", earlier in March of this year, when a High Court judicial review ruled that the U.K.'s Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages had not acted unreasonably "at the time" in refusing to alter her birth certificate so her change of gender status was not immediately apparent to those, like potential employers, who would have reason to request sight of the document. (U.K. citizens have no other legal form of identity). The loss of that case resulted in "P" now facing a personal bill for approximately £6,000 in legal expenses and readers, worldwide, are urged to help us to help her meet this.

Hundreds of U.K. transsexuals are now applying to have their birth certificates changed as well, so that the registrar's policy can be re-examined by the courts in terms of contemporary medical opinion and knowledge. We'll keep you up to date via the web site and email, as this aspect of the campaign develops.

Press for Change activists are naturally delighted with the ECJ decision today. It marks another step towards

the organization's final goal of achieving full civil rights for transsexual people and their families in the United Kingdom. We do this on one of the tightest campaign budgets of modern time. Activists give their time for free. Expenses are seldom claimed. The organization operates on a shoestring. Yet, by patient and repeated persuasion, the organization is altering the face of not only U.K., but European and (we hope, by example) World law.

Campaigning need not be a hopeless exercise. Our successes show this. Reporters and interviewers welcome us into their studios now with friendship and respect. Politicians admit that the lobby mounted by *Press for Change* to support the Alex Carlile Rights Bill in the U.K. parliament was one of the most effective in recent memory. Medical professionals are acquiring the courage to stand up for transsexual people before their peers, and to contribute knowledge to the growing body of research which is drawing back the veil of ignorance and fear surrounding this syndrome.

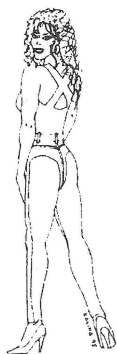
Compare all this with as little as five years ago. We are changing the world. Nevertheless, we could do more with just a few pounds (£) we can pay for more leaflets to be printed, more stamps to be licked, more people to be educated and swayed.

We need money. I'm sorry to be blunt, but we do. Send your money to: *Press for Change*, BM Network, London WC1N 3XX England.



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Shopping...

a heat wave.

Lastly, it wouldn't be a bad idea to subscribe to magazines like *Glamour* and *Cosmopolitan*, like I did when I took over the shopping column. The tips and advice on makeup and clothing and new products on the market has been invaluable to me in producing *Shopping With Jessica* and would be of good use to you as well. In next month's column, the makeup theme continues as I discuss the pros and cons of buying cosmetics in drug stores and supermarkets vice department stores. And, if you have anything to say about anything I write, drop me a line at

<treetop@voicenet.com>.

Until then, be smart, buy smart and look smart! Happy shopping, sisters!



Toronto CD Clubs Merge

As of 1 April 1996, Toronto's oldest transgender club, The Monarch Social Club, and Xpressions, Toronto's most active transgender club, have merged into one organization.

The new club will be called Xpressions, and it will have a quarterly magazine entitled, *The Monarch: Canada's Transgender Reader*. In addition, the club will continue sending out monthly newsletters.

Xpressions offers its members monthly dinner outings, support seminars, weekend events, shopping trips, political action, SO support workshops, and other activities. Xpressions is a fast growing club of CDs, TSs, and TGs of all stripes. Its prime service area is Southern Ontario, but members are accepted from everywhere.

Xpressions is broadly based and nondiscriminatory. Membership is currently CAN\$36 per year, US\$30.

The new address is: Xpressions PO Box 233 Toronto, Canada M5W 1B2

The new Voice Mail number is: 416-812-6879.

Pen Pal Report

by Georgia Hilbert

The Pen Pal Project is gathering steam. The list now has 79 members of which 8 are inmates. More than half the members declared an interest in crossdressing while the rest have not come forward with a specific interest.

In addition to having an interest in transgenderism, many of our friends share interests in stamp collecting, golf, hiking, and all sorts of hobbies and activities. While the majority live in the eastern U.S., there are members from most states including Alaska and Hawaii. We also have a correspondent from the Persian Gulf area and who lives in England. If you enjoy chatting and exchanging views, why not get hooked on writing. The Pen Pal Program is a great way to meet new friends around the world. If you are interested write to me:

Georgia Hilbert, P.O. Box 10723
Midwest City, OK 73140-1723
or send email to

<75474.1025@compuserve.com> with the following information: Preferred Name • Address Name • Street/P.O. Box • Apartment/Suite • City • State • Zip • Email address (If any) • Interests: (i.e., crossdressing, transsexualism, lingerie, corsets, golf stamp collecting, hot rod cars, trains, rock climbing, Etc.) Don't forget my web site:

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/georgia_h>



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A Request For Help

Dr. Lee Etscovitz, Renaissance National Librarian, is in need of back issues of *Renaissance News* and *News & Views* from 1987 through 1995. The back copies would be used for the assembling of several complete volumes of the newsletter for the Renaissance library, especially as the Renaissance Education Association's tenth anniversary year of 1997 approaches. All back copies would be much appreciated and should be left in the Renaissance national office or mailed to:

Dr. Lee Etscovitz, Librarian
Renaissance Education Association
987 Old Eagle School Road
Suite 719
Wayne, PA
19087



Discussion Group Debuts

Dr. Lee Etscovitz, Renaissance National Librarian, wishes to announce the beginning of a new program run by the Renaissance Library to be held at the Wayne Counseling Center, where the Philadelphia Chapter of Renaissance meets each month. The first discussion will take place on Wednesday, August 7, 1996, from 8 to 9:30 PM, and will continue on the first Wednesday every other month thereafter (the second discussion will take place on Wednesday, October 2, 1996).

Discussions, as a rule, will be facilitated by Dr. Etscovitz concerning articles of interest in *Renaissance News & Views* published the previous two months. Thus, the August meeting will be devoted to the June and July issues, which participants should bring with them, if possible. There is no fee, and participation is open to members and non-members alike. Attendees may dress any way they choose, just as they

do at the monthly chapter gatherings.

The purpose of the discussion is meant to be just that: a discussion. It will be facilitated in a way which will help participants further understand the articles in question *plus* explore any personal and social implications. There will be plenty of opportunity for interaction among the participants themselves, as well as between them and the facilitator. Dr. Etscovitz is a professionally trained group facilitator, having spent many years as a professor of education and human relations and currently works as a tutor, counselor, and trainer for individuals, schools, and businesses. Dr. Etscovitz is also a contributing editor of *News & Views*. Her book reviews for *Book Nook* appear from time to time, and she writes the monthly column called *Making Sense of It All*.



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