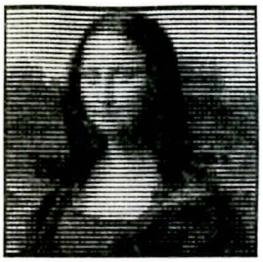

News & views

Vision • Integrity • Quality

Vol. 8, No. 11 • November 1994

Renaissance

PBS Latest Target of AFA

From the Internet

According to a recent mailing by the People for the American Way: Donald Wildmon and his powerful censorship lobby, the American Family Association (AFA), have issued a call to "shut down the Public Broadcasting Service." Relying on tactics forged in previous "culture war" battles, Wildmon is framing the debate as one over "taxpayer financed homosexual propaganda."

After PBS broke all ratings records (almost 14 million viewers) by airing *Tales of the City*, the AFA began sending millions of letters as part of efforts to discontinue state and federal assistance for public broadcasting (no mention, of course, of *Nature, Frontline, Sesame Street, Nova, The American Experience*, etc.).

AFA's Pat Trueman traveled to Capitol Hill to screen his group's 12-minute video featuring out-of-context scenes from the six-hour *Tales of the City* broadcast. Similar strategies are being pursued at local levels.

This censorship pressure is already having an impact in Georgia, Oklahoma, and Arizona. Now the anti-PBS bandwagon is spreading to Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, Florida and Ohio. And Wildmon's AFA is flooding members of Congress with anti-PBS postcards.

Remember what happened to the National Endowment for the Arts! Speak up! Tell your representatives in the House and Senate that you support public television. AND call the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's toll-free comment line—the same line that Wildmon's supporters are deluging with calls for censorship—and tell them that you support PBS and support showings of programs such as *Tales of the City*. The number is 1-800-356-2626.

For more information or to support People for the American Way (whose founders include Norman Lear and Barbara Jordon, and whose supporters include Walter Cronkite, NY Governor Mario Cuomo, and Senator Bill Bradley), write to : People for the American Way 2000 M Street, N.W. Suite 400 Washington, DC 20036

Clergy Project's Progress

Guess Who's Coming To Church?

After around three years of outreach to local ministries the Clergy Project has mutated into the Congregation Project. Last year a mailing was sent to over a hundred churches in the Philadelphia area. Out of that mailing only the Baptists responded. Since that time the Project was put on the back burner. But, as they say, it never rains but it pours and that is what has happened.

Alison Laing decided to contact the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations and inquire about being included in their Welcoming Congregation, the Unitarian outreach program for gays and lesbians. She wrote a letter to their national office and had Angela Gardner contact the Main Line Unitarian Church locally. Response from the national level was positive and the Main Line Church invited Angela and JoAnn Roberts to speak to their Welcoming Congregation planning group.

While this was all in the works, Donna Miller of Donna's Hair Studio 1 and Boutique in Trenton contacted Angela about speaking to the Welcoming Group for Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgendered at her church, The Unitarian Universalist Church of Washington Crossing.

On the afternoon of September 29, Angela met and spoke with the W.G.G.L.B.T. at the home of one of its members in Trenton, New Jersey. The group was somewhat familiar with transgendered people since their church already has two (known) transgendered members. But they had still not been certain about how those members wanted to be addressed and treated. They thanked Angela for giving them information they felt they needed to know and for giving them some things to think

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Chapter & Affiliate Information

Chapters

Delaware

Renaissance Delaware Chapter: meets second Saturday of each month. Write for info to: PO Box 5656, Wilmington, DE 19808 or call 302-995-1396.

New Jersey

South Jersey/Shore Area: Write Renaissance SJ, Box 189, Mays Landing, NJ 08330. Meets the first Saturday of the month at the Atlantic Mental Health Center, 2002 Black Horse Pike, McKee City. Doors open at 7 p.m. Call 609-435-5401 for details.

Pennsylvania

Greater Philadelphia area: Write Renaissance GPC, Box 530, Bensalem, PA 19020-0530. Meets third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia. Doors open 8 p.m. all year 'round. Call 610-630-1437 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 (1578) for location and times.

Affiliates

Georgia

Atlanta: The American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS), PO Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033-0724 or call 404-939-0244. Information resources.

Atlanta: Atlanta Gender Explorations (A.G.E.), PO Box 77562, Atlanta, GA 30357, 404-435-4203.

Louisiana

The Gulf Gender Alliance, PO Box 870213, New Orleans, LA 70187-1300. Local support group.

New Jersey

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

New York

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

Resources

Background Papers:

Background Papers are $1.25 each:

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

Significant Other Support

To network with other partners of transgendered people contact Evelyn Kirkland, PO Box 1242, Newtown, Pa., 18940.

Pen Pal Program:

If you would like to correspond with other people around the country contact Pen Pals, care of Maryann Kirkland, PO Box 1242, Newtown, Pa., 18940. Maryann will put you on the Pen Pal List and give you a copy of that list so you may correspond with as many new friends as you like.

TransParent Forum:

If you are transgendered and have children, that makes you a TransParent. If you'd like to network with other TransParents contact Elsa Larson, PO Box 2122, Harrisburg, Pa., 17105, attention: TransParent.

Renaissance News & Views

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$2 per issue, $16 per year (12 issues). Back issues are available for $2 per copy plus $0.52 postage and handling. Send check or M.O. to the above address, attention: Beth Marshall.

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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. 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.

Events Calendar

November
- 5 Ren. South Jersey
- 5 Ren. LSV- Legal Issues & chapter elections
- 10-13 Holiday En Femme, NYC
- 12 Ren Delaware
- 17-20 Fall Harvest Festival, IA
- 18-20 Erie Sisters Riverside Gala
- 19 Ren. GPC – Henri David

December
- 3 Ren. South Jersey
- 3 Ren. LSV- Winter Luau
- 10 Ren GPC Holiday Party

January
- 7 Ren. South Jersey
- 7 Ren. LSV meeting
- 14 Ren. Delaware
- 21 Ren. GPC

News Beat & Reminder

by Angela Gardner

The frost is on the pumpkin ladies. It's November already and our thoughts turn to feminine finery. MOTG's lingerie shopping spree at the Bra and Girdle Factory will happen on November twenty sixth. For information call them and join the fun. Maybe you'll find a great, red nightie you could use as a formal. Not really, I was hoping I could segue into the upcoming Holiday Parties in a seamless manner, but... Speaking of fun, soon it will be time for holiday parties. Renaissance has two for you this year and both of them are happening in Doubletree Hotels. Could it be a plot?

The LSV chapter is having a winter Luau at the Doubletree in Harrisburg on Saturday, December third. It might be a good idea to leave the grass skirt at home since there will probably be snow on the ground but the ladies from LSV promise a hot time for one and all. They're having a buffet dinner, cash bar and a mini version of their summer Luau entertainment. Drinking starts at 7 PM with dinner at 8 and then the big show. They're asking $32 per ticket before November twenty third and $35 thereafter. Write them at; Renaissance LSV, PO Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2122.

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter Holiday Party breezes into the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Philadelphia on December tenth. This year the emphasis is **off** eating till we bust and **on** having light hors d'oeuvres and dancing to the kickin' sounds of the **Steven Russo Band**. It's a landmark; the first Holiday Party with live dance music. Besides the band and munchies, you get your parking in the hotel garage included and if you want to stay in the hotel they offer a special "Take The Elevator Home" rate. Just ask for it when you make your reservation at the hotel. Call them at 215-893-1600. There'll be a door prize drawing and festive fun for one and all. Tickets are $35 and GPC must have your reservation before December 2. Write to the Bensalem PO Box. The address is on the insert you'll find in this issue.

Outreach Activities

Who says we just hang around admiring ourselves in a mirror all day? Renaissance has been hard at work doing it's primary job of educating the public. During the past few months the State of Pennsylvania has contacted Renaissance National on two occasions for sensitivity training. Two different branches of the state government had employees who were transitioning on the job and the ladies of Renaissance (including Fearless Leader, Beth Marshal) conducted sessions with the transgendered folk's fellow employees.

The Commonwealth Library called one day wanting to know where they could get a copy of the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care for transsexuals. We gave them the address of the Harry Benjamin Association in Sonoma, California. Now, if you go to the State Library in Harrisburg, you'll find the Standards of Care in the reference section.

Of course media folk have been on the line too. Sally Jesse Raphael's people called while we were putting the newsletter together looking for a crossdresser to appear on a show about "Secrets That Hurt." We weren't able to help, they always call at the last minute. We were able to respond to two radio interview requests, one from WMZ -Radio in Memphis, Tennessee, and the other from KLCY in Missoula, Montanna. I handled those chores over the phone from my palatial, suburban Philadelphia home on October tenth and eleventh. Then on October eighteenth I flew to Nashville to represent Renaissance in a cooperative outreach between Renaissance, IFGE, Tri-Ess, Outreach Institute and AEGIS. We passed out a brochure designed by JoAnn Roberts that contained information about all of the groups to a convention of social workers. Also on hand were Evelyn Kirkland (Renaissance/SPICE), Yvonne Cook (IFGE) and Jane Ellen and Frances Fairfax (Tri-Ess/SPICE).

Slightly smaller accomplishments but still important ones were updating our listing with The Community Health Education Office of Abington Hospital and The United Way of Bucks County. They both called to ask if they had correct info on us and were given the latest facts.

For other information on the progress of Renaissance's Clergy Project outreach see the article on page one.

Delaware Chapter's New Home

Speaking of getting the info correct, the Renaissance Delaware Chapter has found a new home for their monthly meetings. From now on they will be meeting at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Sharpley, Delaware. Write or call them for a map. Their contact info is on page two. It's a good thing they found a place to meet. I was afraid their meetings at a local Mexican cantina were leading to tequila abuse. Now the tequila abuse will happen after the meeting when the

continued next page

News Beat...

girls all head back to the cantina. Pass the salt and lemon.

Reason To Crossdress #179

Michelle Lynn reports that Captain Kirk has been exploring strange new worlds that are all too familiar to us. It seems that the two captains, Kirk and Picard, have to do a lot of horse back riding in the soon to be released *Star Trek: Generations*. While they are both good horsemen, William Shatner found that his inner legs were getting so chaffed by the long hours in the saddle that he found blood in his boots when he removed them at the end of the day. Someone on the set (probably a crossdresser) told Shatner he should wear pantyhose under his costume to protect his legs. Shatner gave it a try and liked it so much he took Patrick Stewart aback when he gave him a pair. Shatner reported that Stewart broke out in a sweat at the suggestion. (Funny, same thing happens to me when I think about wearing pantyhose, or panties, or those cute little ankle socks... Oh, sorry. I got carried away.) Stewart asked what kind of hose Kirk would recommend and he said, with tongue firmly in cheek, (at least that's what he wants us to think) that the best were the sheerest possible with a back seam. "it's a rather pleasant feeling. Akin to scratching yourself all the time."

So remember when you see those two bold captains of the future galloping across the landscape; under their costumes they're wearing L'eggs.

Kentucky Comes to Surrey

Patrick Stewart happens to be British and what a perfect lead-in to this next bit of news. If he really develops a taste for feminine finery while visiting his homeland he could always drop into **a new shop** in Surrey. They call it Kentucky Woman, for no apparent reason, and they sent us a press release outlining their services. They have all the usual stuff including specialty dress making, lingerie designed to fit the male form and a large selection of corsetry. Who knows corsets better than the British? You can contact Kentucky Woman and ask them why they picked that name by writing: Charnwood House, Heathway, Camberly, Surrey GU15-2EL. England. If you're up for the international phone call remember they're five hours ahead and ring them up on (that's the way the British say "at" when they refer to a phone number) 0276-676898. Consult the front of your phone book for the country code and other arcane stuff associated with calling across the waves.

Foreign Dispatches

Our faithful clipper of stories in Kuwait, Billie Jaye West has sent a plethora of cuttings this month so lets dive in. First up, a short blurb from the Arab Times.

Ivory Coast, "Angry transvestites" stormed a newspaper office here. They were angry about "salacious reporting" and they demanded compensation. What could they want? Gold jewelry? Furs? No furs in Saudi Arabia.

The "angry transvestites," Barbara, Bibiche, Tatiana and Princesse, along with about six of their angry friends, debated with the editors of the paper for about two hours. Must have been quite a scene. False nails flying, sequins falling and exotic hairdos drooping in the heat.

The clip doesn't say exactly what the paper had done to bring down the wrath of the TVs but it must have been really mean to get the girls that riled. If we get any more info on the altercation, as always, we'll pass it along.

Manila, The Arab Times reports that transvestite beauty contestants in Manila had no problem with taping their male genitalia out of the way for the swimsuit portion of the contest. (I bet they wore heels too, unlike a certain beauty contest in Atlantic City.) The president of a homosexual association in the Manila municipality of Marikana commented, "Even if they ache, it's a sacrifice they are willing to make." Filipinos are also known to carry large, heavy, wooden crosses at religious festivals and people whip them as they walk. When they arrive at their destination they are nailed to the crosses. Next to that a little duct tape on the family jewels is no biggie.

I was talking about the Miss Gay Metropolitan pageant and I got side tracked. Sorry. Anyhow, unlike a recent pageant in South America, that got kicked out of the country, the Philippines accept flamboyant homosexuality and drag so this beauty contest was put on with the full

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support of the local government and local business leaders. The Boy Scouts of the Philippines even turned out to lend a hand. "Excuse me Miss, may I help you across the runway?"

The winner of the contest was an 18 year old architecture student named Maria Beatrice Arcache. The story made a point of telling us her "real" name is Brian. A photo of the girls appears with the story and they are all lovely. Many beautiful female impersonators from the Philippines find employment in Japan as dancers or nightclub "hostesses." Ok, how many wish they had been born in Manila?

Billie Jaye's last clipping is the Style column from the Arab Times and the main item of interest is a new term I haven't heard yet: demi-drag. It seems to be the Nineties version of unisex, mixing male and female clothing on men and women. I don't know, I don't think men should wear skirts unless they're prepared to go all the way, don't you? Oh, these kids today!

South Africa's Dame Edna, Or Is It Baba Wawa?

Earth shaking things have been afoot in South Africa, as detailed in our September issue, but none is stranger than the hit of that country's subscription television channel, Evita Bezuidenhout. Evita is the star of a show called *Evita's Funigalore* and "she" happens to be a character created by actor/writer Pieter-Dirk Uys. Fifteen years ago while Uys was writing a newspaper column he started dressing as a bejeweled, bee hived, Afrikaner madam, crashing and making outrageous statements. His readers loved her and gave her the name Evita. Now she has become a guide for Afrikaners who are trying to make their way through the changes in South Africa. On her television show she does serious interviews with important members of the new government. The article in the Baltimore Sun (sent in by alert clipper Vera Rae House) says Evita is, "someone who bought into the system that put her on top, cloaking her bitter prejudices in a veneer of mannerliness as thick as Mr. Uys' makeup." As Evita gets used to the idea of Nelson Mandella running the country so do the other white South Africans.

It is the juxtaposition of a man-in-a-dress with important government officials that makes the show work. The surreal makes it much easier for the real importance of what the officials are saying to get through to the viewers. And, of course the humor helps to ease any tensions. According to the article Mr. Uys is touring the US with a one-man-show titled "One Man, One Volt." If you see it playing in your town check it out. Evita is one of the chorus girls.

Hand It To Harris

Our old friend of Renaissance, Ralph Harris has settled into his Sunday night 7:30 time slot with the ABC sitcom, *On Our Own* quite nicely. I reported that the show, in which Ralph has to impersonate his aunt in order to keep the family together would be airing and promised a review. Well, Ralph's Mama J. is pretty funny but I wouldn't call his female impersonation "bizarre" like *Entertainment Weekly* did. I think he does a pretty good job, especially with the voice. Check the show out, it's good, silly television programing. It could be the best show to feature crossdressing since *Bosom Buddies.* Keep up the good work Ralph and remember, if you need makeup or fashion advice we're here for you.

Will She Mention Priscilla Again?

Yes I will, but only briefly. Since I'm in a showbiz vein, I thought you might like to know where Terence Stamp found his motivation for playing Bernadette. Thank Vera Rae for sending in a clip from the *Baltimore Morning Sun* with yet another interview with Stamp. In this one he tells us that he didn't want to play the character as a "painted man." In searching for some understanding about the role he stumbled on the book *Conundrum* by Jan Morris. He called the book, "a masterpiece—which contained an insight at a very profound level."

Jan Morris had SRS after 47 years as a male. She wrote her book in 1974. After reading it Stamp found, "The thing that struck me was that she had a very powerful sense that she was a woman. The body was a mistake. Before that I couldn't understand how a person could undergo the agony of genital change."

With that understanding of the character and a damn good wig, Stamp was ready to play Bernadette.

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Colorado To Test Obscenity Law

A group calling itself the "Coalition Helping to Insure Lives for Dignity" (CHILD) is supporting an initiative in Colorado called Amedment 16. Amendment 16 seeks to amend Colorado's state Constitution's definition of what can be considered "obscene" material. Supporters of the amendment claim that Colorado has become a haven for sexually explicit books, magazines and videos. Opponents of the measure fear it will infringe on civil liberties and provoke widespread censorship of books and films.

According to one spokesperson for CHILD, they are only asking Colorado to adopt the same standard as the U.S. Constitution. In the landmark case of Miller v. California, the U. S. Supreme Court established a three-part test for obscenity: (1) materials must appeal to "prurient" interests, (2) offend contemporary community standards, and (3) lack artistic or political merit. In Colorado presently, materials must be "intolerable" not merely offensive or unacceptable, and "community" is defined as the entire state. Thus, a county or town may not invoke its own local standards.

About a dozen other states use a braoder definition of "obscene" than the Miller decision, but Colorado is unique in its requirement of "intolerable" rather than offensive.

Critics of Amendment 16 fear the new law would encourage harassment of adult bookstores, gay/lesbian bookstores, as well as mainstream bookstores and libraries that carry works a few people might find objectionable. One ACLU lawyer said the new law would allow local prosecutors to go on "witch hunts" against gay/lesbian and feminist materials.

While not explicitly mentioned in the debate, transgender publications could also be targeted by Amendment 16. Some publications, like *Cross-Talk,* are making their way into mainstream outlets like Tower Books and Barnes & Noble bookstores. Under Amendment 16, these items could be found offensive and, thus, obscene.

(Information for this article came from the New York Times.*)*

Focus on Page Two

As a part time feature of *News & Views,* Focus On Page Two is designed to draw your attention to the resources and programs offered by Renaissance. This month we bring the Focus magnifying glass to bear on the Resource section under the heading Significant Other Support.

Of course Renaissance offers a lot for the transgendered individual, but what about that person's significant other? What is there for the spouse, girlfriend or boyfriend of the transgendered person at a Renaissance meeting? That person should find an opportunity to network with other significant others, a chance to share feelings and a chance to address the issues, both positive and negative that they have with their partner.

Significant Other Support through Renaissance is loosely organized and is guided by Evelyn Kirkland, who is herself the significant other of a transgendered person. In order to make the concept of SOS work it is important for people to take it upon themselves to contact Evelyn and make her aware of their need. Too often on the night of a Renaissance meeting people will be asking, "Is there a Significant Other group meeting tonight?" This is the wrong time to ask. The question should have been sent to Evelyn, at the address on Page Two, several weeks before the meeting night. Then she would have a chance to contact others who had already inquired and set up a definite meeting.

Significant Other Support is a necessary part of the services provided by Renaissance, but it can only operate when it is driven by the needs of the people it is designed to help. If you would like to discuss your feelings about your partner's crossdressing, if you are involved with a person moving toward SRS, whatever your need for emotional support and information, write to Evelyn Kirkland and get involved in the Significant Other Support network. How much it accomplishes is up to you.

Unemployed? Underemployed?

The Bible says, "The Lord helps those that help themselves." Renaissance is going to try and help the transgendered who are unemployed or under-employed.

Announcing: Renaissance Job Match, a national employment resource center. If you are looking for work send a resume or brief description of what type of employment you want. Make sure you include a way for us to contact you. If you are in a position to offer employment or let someone know of a job opening send a description of the position. Maybe we can make a match. To be included in the Job Match files send your information to:

Renaissance Job Match,
c/o Renaissance, 987 Old Eagle School Rd, Suite 719
Wayne, PA 19087

Feel like you're up against the wall?

Perhaps we can help! CDS has been providing breakthrough self-help publications, videos and resource information since 1985. Need help with your partner's attitude. Try *Coping With Crossdressing* by JoAnn Roberts ($12) or our *Couples Coping With Crossdressing* video ($45). Need to imporve your image? Try *Art & Illusion: A Guide to Crossdressing, Vols. 1 & 2* ($15 ea.), or either of our two makeup videos. Need help with making a gender-role transition? Try *The Transsexual's Survival to Transition & Beyond* ($15), or *Identity Management in Transsexualism* ($15). Want your voice to sound more feminine? Try *Speaking As A Woman* ($10), the only such publication in the community, or better yet, the *Speaking As A Woman* video ($30). **NEW: *The Straight Dope On Hormones* Monograph, 24 pages, only $4.00!**

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This is the thirteenth Vis a Vis column I've written. And they said I would never last. In fact, I said I'd never last.

But this is a long column this month which means two things. One: that there must have been a lot of interesting things happening in the gender community. Nah, not really. And Two: that I'm in serious danger of having my ass edited out from under me. Yes, that is far more likely.

ARE THERE ANY MORE QUESTIONS?

The Rainbow Gender Association's eponymous newsletter carried a Q&A column presided over by the capable Jane Ellen Fairfax. Although the column I saw is only one in a series, it held several questions about my favorite topic, namely "passing".

One reader wrote: "Maybe I'll be read less if I pass better. I'm 6'2" and 220 lbs. How important is it to pass?" Jane gave a good answer summed up by this one sentence: "Rather than try to fool people into thinking you're something you"re not, you should prefer them to accept you for what you are." And if you are 6'2", 220 lbs. that's about as encouraging as you can be about the topic of "passing." My best friend, April Love, is about those same dimensions and she has adopted that very philosophy about going out in public. And although it can be somewhat exciting to pull the wool over an unsuspecting public's eyes by "passing," being "read" or being open about being crossdressed can be equally fulfilling.

Jane Ellen also tackles questions about the "goal" of going out in public, mis-identifying oneself as a transsexual, and "coming out" to family and friends. These are universal questions often asked by newcomers who don't yet have a firm grip on their own place on the transgender continuum. To experienced crossdressers these questions can seem naive, the answers obvious. But I'm sure many of us have spoken to emerging crossdressers who believe they are inferior if they cannot bring themselves to venture out in public, or believe that there is a necessary "path" from crossdresser to transsexual, or have anxiety over telling —or not telling—their families and friends about their femme sides.

Jane Ellen's advice is equally universal and reading the questions and her answers brought back some memories of those days when all this was new and there were so many questions to ask. And getting the right advice along the way is such an important part of our development.

THROW THE RASCALS OUT... OR LET THE RASCALS STAY?

The ETVC *Channel* newsletter from San Francisco carried a Pro & Con article on term limits for their board members. By the time we read this, ETVC members will have voted on the issue of restricting elected board members to terms of not more than three years in the same office.

The position favoring term limits was taken by Cindy Martin who is herself a past president of the group. She addresses the issue by pointing out that incumbent officials have "tremendous, overwhelming advantages" in retaining their offices in elections. New people bring new ideas and energy to the group. And if talented people who are interested in getting involved find their opportunities are blocked by an entrenched "old guard," they will lose interest and drift away. And she makes an interesting point when she says that mounting an electoral challenge to incumbents in insular groups like ETVC can seem "ungrateful and nasty" on the part of the challengers.

The position against term limits was taken by Jane Kamper Bentley, the current president of the group. Jane points out that the ultimate power in limiting elected officers rests with the voters. Further, there is no need for limits as a practical matter because the positions turn over enough without legislated limitations. She also points out that it takes officers awhile to get their sea legs in running a group and they could be thrown out of office just when they've picked up momentum. Her suggestion to members is to get involved by assisting the officers, a sort of apprenticeship that could lead to elective office when the individual feels ready to take on the task.

It's an interesting dilemma, and it closely mirrors the issue of term limits for "real" elective officials in Congress and state legislatures.

I don't have a strong position on this either way but in groups where the leadership positions do not turn over every two or three years there should probably be some thought about limiting terms. I've read some newsletters where they make reference to people being in charge for upwards of nine years. On the one hand, it's nice that someone has devoted themselves to a group for that period of time, but I think Cindy Martin's point about under-utilizing talent is well taken in those instances. Things may seem to be going great with the same folks running the show but who knows if it couldn't be even better with new faces and ideas in charge?

And that brings me to a point I've made many times in this column and elsewhere: our groups should offer the opportunities for participation by all members and it's the members' individual responsibility to step up

when the need arises and not always rely on "the other girl" to make these groups work.

SPEAKING OF NEW FACES...

The Northwest Gender Alliance newsletter from Portland, Ore., carried two campaign statements that contained interesting ideas.

A member named Fiona has thrown her hat into the ring for the position of President of NWGA. She says that "change is healthy for the growth of our group by providing new ideas and approaches." But the cornerstone of her campaign can be found in this statement: "Basically we are a social club with fun as our primary goal as crossdressers. We should have a maximum of enjoyment and a minimum of bickering and discord." If I could be Fiona's campaign manager, I'd organize a spontaneous demonstration in support of that simple nugget of wisdom. The wisdom of it is not in simply desiring greater harmony but in recognizing the importance of having fun with social crossdressing. A lot of support group politicians talk about working together for the greater good of our special interest, but they seem to take everything a bit too seriously and allow themselves to get sucked into petty squabbles, self-important posturing, and all the who-shot-John-isms that fill these newsletters each month. Win or lose, Fiona, you've already said a mouthful and best wishes on your candidacy.

Fiona's opponent in the race for the Presidency of NWGA is Danni who also had a nugget of wisdom in her campaign statement that is worth sharing here. Danni says she wants "to create an atmosphere of mutual respect so people can express themselves." But the true nugget of wisdom is in this next sentence: "I find times when there is more emphasis on how someone expresses themselves than working on creating... mutual respect." NWGA has had some in-house squabbling (that I've seen in previous issues of their newsletter) and I think Danni is saying that it's one thing to promote freedom of expression—but without mutual respect between those doing the expressing it becomes selfish and cancerous to the organization.

Personally, I will always lean towards the person promoting good times like Fiona. But with either of these two ladies in the Presidency, NWGA really can't go wrong. And, of course, if they do go wrong... I'll be right here (3000 safe miles away) to let 'em have it.

MISTRESSES 3, CROSSDRESSERS 0

The ETVC group in San Francisco held a unique opportunity for their members interested in female domination when they invited three professional dominatrixes to a special seminar in May. About forty ETVC ladies and men (ETVC has an active program for FtM members) attended "class" with dominas Sybil Holiday, Sara Kira, and Lady Verushka.

Sybil offers feminization training to bring out "the woman within" but also does heavier dominance sessions and says "no fantasy is too bizarre" for her to handle. Sara's specialty is wrapping her subject in layers of tight latex "until the person is disoriented with restriction and sensory deprivation." Verushka provides an exhaustingly thorough transformation session that can range in length from two hours to two days.

It takes a very secure and progressive group such as ETVC to unabashedly sponsor an event like this. Even though B&D fetish fantasies aren't everyone's cup of tea, there is an undeniably strong correlation of this type of interest for many crossdressers. Most support groups—including Renaissance—would be reluctant to program this kind of information for their members. ETVC is arguably the best TG support group in the country and is avant-garde on several fronts. It's refreshing to see an organization that isn't afraid to offer something that may play off a negative stereotype of crossdressing fetishes and find a way to serve its membership.

A FEW ODDS FOR THE END

I always look forward to seeing the newsletter of the Hawaii TG Outreach group. Almost every issue features a photo spread from one of the island's several female impersonator pageants. And we're not talking about big-boned guys in drag doing Wynona Judd numbers. What we have here are incredibly feminine Asian and Polynesian ladies in skimpy showgirl spangles, feathers and huge headpieces. I don't know if these pageant

continued on page 15

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– *Es magis* –
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As the weather continues to cool, hosiery gets heavier and warmer. Black opaque hose and tights have long been a fashion staple, but this season the fashion-nun look is replaced with bright colors and unusual styles. Thigh-high stockings and over the knee socks are a hit with the younger kids, but may be too outré and too damn cold for ladies of an age. Donna Karan comes to the rescue with pantyhose called Illusion Thigh-High. It's really pantyhose that's opaque to just above the knee and nude from there up to the panty. At $45 a pair, this queen will pass up the opportunity to look trendy in favor of something more appropriate and much needed... advanced girdle control top pantyhose from Anne Klein at $18 to $20 a pair. Chest out, tummy in, and all that. But the real winner in the battle of the bulge is Hanes Smooth Illusions Body Contouring Pantyhose at $8 to $9.50 a pair.

Faithful readers will notice that I've not made many comments on community developments of late. Actually, I think Dina and Angela have been doing an excellent job of taking up the slack. And the folks over at IFGE are shooting themselves in both feet without my help. But, there's lotsa stuff on the horizon and I'll have something to say about it all. Just wait. You won't be disappointed.

I mentioned in an earlier column that Iman, that extra-leggy supermodel, had started her own cosmetic line for women of color. If you are a person of color... Wait, we all have color... If you have dark skin and are interested in her cosmetics, tune into QVC or one of over 200 J.C. Penney stores around the country.

The above example of trying to be politically correct can lead to problems and misunderstandings. For example, during part of the O.J. chronicles, the D.A. stated they'd found a watch cap with a black hair that they determined came from an African-American. Now, I knew science had advanced, but I was not aware it could tell a person's citizenship from a hair sample. African-American refers to American citizens of African heritage. I am sure they could not tell if the hair came from an American citizen, but they can tell if it came from a Negro, rather than a Caucasian, or Asian.

Evidence keeps pouring in that indicates drag is still "IN" despite what *Allure* thinks. Take Lucky Cheng's for example. Cheng's is an East Village, NY restaurant featuring drag queens as waitresses (hey, they're good lookin' too). And if you think this is some out-of-the-way, nobody-goes-there place, guess again. Spotted in Cheng's were Prince Albert of Monaco, Bernadette Peters, Amy Irving, Barbra Streisand, and Al Pacino.

Looks like *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* has moved upscale. Locally, Pris came up from Center City Philly, to several theaters on the Main Line (veddy uppercrust, doncha know). Actually, these theaters are in great locations to capture the college student market. There are at least five colleges and universities within 10 minutes of the theaters. Check your local area to see if this fun-flick is playing at a theater near your local college.

The return to glamour in fashion puts a new emphasis on makeup as well. No makeup and grunge were made for one another, but the latest styles require attention to a meticulous face. Lipstick color, after being banished to sheers and nudes for a while, are HOT and wild. The season's new shades are Deep Currant (Clarins), a deep berry color; Grenat (Prescriptives) a deep pink; YSL Pure Orange; and metallics like Clinique's Mauve Crystal Semi Lipstick.

One fashion craze this DQ won't be copying is the "black-eye" look appearing on most models in most fashion mags. I suppose if you're going to a funeral or portraying Morticia Addams, it'd be okay, but not for any normal activity. But what one must remember about these models, and especially about fashion shows, is that these looks are only indicative of trends and styles rather than real designs for real people. The models are like those fancy concept cars they bring to car shows. You know you will never see one on the showroom floor for sale, but they are nice to look at.

Actually, I like the return to glamour, 'cause I'm a glamour kinda gal. I'd much rather get dolled-up than wear jeans and a tee-shirt. Hell, I can wear jeans anytime I want. I just wish some of the more visible movers and shakers would take a little more interest in the way they look. I mean, have you seen some of the pitiful clothes appearing at events. I can see a "newbie" not having a wardrobe, but hey, if you're putting on the event, set a good example.

The Italian Princess, (no, not my "daughter" Joanne) Marcella Borghese, has introduced a new line of color coordinated cosmetics in three color palettes: neutral, cool, and warm. The Neutrale palette is designed to look good anywhere, anytime with gray, creme, expresso, auburn and a sheer red lipstick. The Rosso (cool)

HOT•BUZZ

palette includes deep wine, plum, blue-green, and garnet with burgundy and fuschia lipsticks. The Oro (warm) palette combines golden coffee, chocolate, caramel, and terra cotta with deep golden russet for lips.

Here's another way-cool ad from *charles david* shoes: "Dullards and naysayers or anyone who stands in your way, tell them it's not just your feet they can kiss."

The nouveau-glamour fad requires a fit body for body-fit clothing. Now the average crossdresser just doesn't have the figure, so I expect an upsurge in sales of corsets and corselets to shape and mold those waistlines, but the best way to trim that midriff-bulge is diet and exercise. Get out those *Buns of Steel* tapes and start stepping girls.

No matter what they think over at *Allure*, the editors at *Bazaar* realize that gender-role bending is still news. The September issue has an article about Stephan Thorne, a female-to-male transsexual on the San Francisco police force. What was really interesting to me was Thorne's realization that not only was his body changing, but his brain had changed as well. He recounts an incident where he was attracted to a woman and had some stereotypically male thoughts flash through his mind. As a staunch feminist, these unbidden thoughts caused him to reflect on how he had previously refused to believe such behavior in males might be biologically driven. However, Thorne promises not to become "an asshole."

Another trend I've noticed, particularly for evening and cocktail dresses is bared shoulders. Lots of styles have halter necklines, or a bodice with a yoke that attaches around the neck with a choker. This means you've got to have nice, lithe arms, not too muscular, and preferably without a farmer's tan.

Most people who know me well, know that I believe in developing leaders, not managers. The lack of adequate leadership is one of the greatest shortcomings in this community. While rummaging around the Internet, I came across this quote on leadership:

"Fail to honor people. They fail to honor you. But of a good leader, who talks little, when his work is done, his aims fulfilled, they will all say, 'We did this ourselves.'" *Lao Tzu*

There's lots of BUZZ about mascara lately. Several lines have introduced new formulas that lengthen and thicken lashes better than ever before. Try new Diorcil Lengthening Mascara ($17) or Ultima II Falsies ($12.50). But, please note that even though makeup artists who tested these new formulas liked them, they're not switching from Maybelline's Great Lash Mascara. They say you can't beat the price ($4).

Liquid eyeliner is making a big comeback. (Personally, I never gave up cake liner.) But, after using pencils for so long, maybe you forgot (or never learned) how to use liquids. Here's tips for differently shaped eyes... Almond eyes: draw a thin line from inner corner that thickens at outer corner... Wide-set eyes: start with a thick line at the inner corner that gets thin at the outside... Small eyes: draw a thick line at the inner corner that thins in the middle and thickens again at the outer edge... Narrow eyes: draw a thick line on top lid and thin line on bottom... Take it slow. Draw a thin line first then go back over the areas you want to thicken.

There is a new flick advertised in *The New York Times* called *The Advocate*. I haven't seen a review of it, but I suspect the film is about Joan of Arc. If anyone has seen this movie, please contact me.

Normally, I don't deal in rumors, but I've been asked by Vernon of *Vernon's Specialities* to squash a rumor. Seems someone has been saying Vernon's is financially troubled and may go out of business. Not so says Vernon. They're in the process of expanding services and if a few people were paid a little late, they apologize. I've been dealing with Vernon for 10 years and he's tops in my book.

I gotta admit, as much as I don't like the A-line look in skirts or dresses, the older I get, the better they look on me. For those who are fashion-impaired, and A-line dress or skirt has a slight flare at the bottom, hence the "A" reference. A well-made A-line dress can give you a really nice shape without clinging to closely, and that's good if you don't have hips 10" larger than your waist. It will also cover that little potbelly you've been cultivating over the summer.

Everybody wants to cash in on the amazing success of the Wonderbra ($26) and lots of companies are hawking their own versions. So, if you can't find that little Wonder near you, here are some wannabees: La Lift by Lily of France ($18), Lilyette la Difference ($25), Incredibra by Lovable ($15), It Must Be Magic by Vanity Fair ($22) and Miracle Bra by Victoria's Secret ($38). Of course, Fredericks of Hollywood has been making super push-up bras for over 40 years. But, hey, what's a few facts among ads.

Let me get up on my soapbox. I was really excited to hear about ITA ("It's Time America) the new organization that wants to lobby federal, state and local levels for transgender rights. But I caution everyone to remember our community's history lessons. Back in 1991, an organization with the same stated purpose came out of California, the Gender Alternatives League (GAL), founded by Cynthia Howard. Both Howard and GAL made a big initial splash, but within a year GAL was dead and Howard hasn't been heard of since. Howard suffered from a common malady found among many organization founders, the "I" syndrome. "I" created [name of org.], therefore "I" know what's best for [name of org.]. Despite an elaborate structure that included national and local GAL representatives, Howard listened to no one and GAL collapsed for lack of community support. I hope ITA will establish a process for community input *and* heed that input. If they don't, they're doomed to repeat history.

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News Beat...

"The wig was the key. It had to look right. If it looked like a wig, the whole thing would be absolutely frightful." Well, the film is absolutely fabulous and had me fooled. I thought it was his own hair. If you can fool a drag queen you must be doing something right.

Wood Is Wonderful

Well all you fans of old, bad movies, the Tim Burton directed homage to The Worst Director Of All Time has hit the big screen. *Ed Wood* has arrived and I found it to be a great little flick. Just like the films of the real Ed Wood, it's shot in black and white, a technique that gives it greater realism than Technicolor ever could. Johnny Depp is Ed Wood, although, as I said in a long ago column when I heard he was slated to play the part, he's better looking than Wood, both in and out of drag.

The recreated cast of the Ed Wood films is perfect. Wrestler George "The Animal" Steele is, as Eddie himself would say after every take, "perfect" as wrestler-turned- actor Tor Johnson. As you watch Steele stagger across the exact replica of the graveyard set from *Plan 9 From Outer Space* you get the feeling that if you could superimpose the original footage it would match up perfectly.

Wood's crossdressing is treated as just another eccentricity. He is portrayed as a regular guy from Poughkeepsie who is thrilled by making movies and wearing women's clothes. Ed confesses a couple of times in the film about his crossdressing desires. Once to a prospective employer when Ed tries to get a job directing the Christine Jorgenson Story, "I'm uniquely qualified to direct this picture," and once to the woman who is destined to become his wife. After thinking it over for a moment she replies, "Okay." What more could a crossdressing director ask for?

If you are a crossdresser or not, see *Ed Wood*. Martin Landau's performance as the aged, drug addicted Bela Lugosi is worth the price of admission. Can you say Oscar Nominee? When you go be sure to wear an angora sweater and if anyone asks if you are a fruit, just tell them what Ed would, "I'm not a fruit, I'm a transvestite!"

Crossing Over

Into the mainstream press that is. Vera Rae's last clipping is a review of magazines in the Arts & Entertainment section of the *Sun*. Along with information about *High Times'* Internet connection and *Penthouse's* tour of strip clubs hosted by noted author Camille Paglia, there is a review of *Tapestry*. It's a pretty positive mention and it's really cool that *Tapestry* is treated just like the other publications. What more could a transgender journal ask for?

Final Notes & Frivolity

Colorado readers will be happy to know the Gender Identity Center, Inc. has a new home. Their new address is; 7951 West Mississippi Avenue, Suite

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B, Lakewood, CO 80226-4325. Their new phone number is 303-763-5097. They had an open house at the new location in October but we didn't hear about it soon enough to let you know. If you want something mentioned in *News & Views* get it to me at least two months in advance.

In sunnier climes, The Tampa Stress Center, Inc., the Office of Continuing Education, and Renaissance affiliate AEGIS are presenting the *Splendour Of Gender Workshop Series*. November 18 and 19 are the dates and it happens at the Marriott Hotel at Tampa International Airport. The workshop will cover psychological and medical aspects of diagnosis and treatment for transsexuals, transgenderists and crossdressers. Several emminent doctors and psychotherapists will be included in the panels. Sessions start Friday evening and run all day Saturday. The registration fee is $130. Send your check made out to the Tampa Stress Center, Inc. to PO Box 273107, Tampa, FL 33688-3107. They also accept Visa and MasterCard. Contact AEGIS for more information.

Meanwhile, back in Philadelphia, PFLAG, the organization for parents, family and friends of lesbians and gays is conducting a Coming Out Workshop on November 13 from 2 to 5PM. While this workshop is aimed at gays and lesbians, crossdressers who want to come out to their family and friends have to go through much the same process. If you would like to participate contact PFLAG at 215-572-1833 for more information.

That's it for another month girls. Remember buy bonds, brush and floss after every meal, and don't let the bastards get you down. And now (drum roll here) a closing joke from Jessica Brandon. I warn you in advance, it's corny...very corny. Why did the closeted, crossdresser quarterback always hand-off on game day? He was afraid he couldn't pass in public. With that... I'm outta here.

Clergy Progress...

about. One of the group's members gave Angela tomatoes from her garden and several people hugged her at the end of the session.

Anyone interested in attending services at the Unitarian Church of Washington Crossing should contact Donna Miller for information. Her number is 609-883-0002.

The meeting with the Welcoming Congregation group of the Mainline Unitarian Church took place on the evening of September 29. JoAnn and Angela spoke to around twenty people at the church in Devon, PA. The Mainline congregation were less familiar with transgendered people but they were extremely interested in the Renaissance ladies' presentation. It lasted for over two hours and was frequently interuppted with questions. At the end of that time the girls didn't get hugged or offered free produce but they were asked about speaking to the

continued on page 14

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Clergy Progress...

church's youth sexuality group and the possiblity of including another presentation on transgender people in the context of a regular service.

If you are interested in attending the Main Line Unitarian Church they are listed in the Main Line Yellow Pages. The main services are at 10:30 AM through the Spring of next year.

In the meantime, the Reverend Meg A. Riley, Director, Office of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Concerns in Boston provided Alison with some of the plans the Unitarians have for integrating the transgender agenda into their program along with recomendations on actions that the Renaissance team can take to hasten this effort.

In other church news it is worth noting that Doctor William Stayton, a member of the Renaissance National Board reports that the Baptist Church of Wayne, PA, where he is a member, welcomes transgendered people to their services. Renaissance members who are in search of a spiritual home my do well to contact any of the congregations mentioned in this article. (Renaissance Delaware is now meeting in the Unitarian Church near Wilmington.)

While it has not been formalized, the Renaissance long range goal will be to encourage programs similiar to that being undertaken by the Unitarians in other religious and social organizations.

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Vis A Vis...

contestants are members of the TG Outreach group but if they are, the rest of that gang must feel like chopped liver standing next to these dolls at the monthly meetings. We have these HTGO newsletters in the Renaissance library if you'd like to see how good a guy can look wearing a few strings of glittered material and a cascade of white ostrich feathers.

The *Chi Tribune* newsletter from the windy city took a shot at me in a piece titled "Slam Time." They were defending their friend Kiki Carmichael whom I needled in this column a couple of months ago. Actually, it seems that their real complaint against me was not that I trashed Kiki... but that they reserve the right to do their own Kiki-bashing. They were so offended by my attack that they were going to "have copies available at the next meeting." An interesting way to support their good friend Kiki, wouldn't you say? But at least someone recognizes good-natured joshing when they read it because they said that Kiki thought "the article was well-written and she enjoyed it and several others" written here. And that's just exactly the way I thought she'd feel about it.

Also got a piece of mail from Linda and Cynthia Phillips from the Boulton & Park Society whom I ripped in a previous column. The Phillips did the dirtiest thing you could do to someone when they used my own words against me. Seems they found an old personal profile I had written in which I said the TG community should pull together instead of apart. "What happened?" they asked me. How dare they dig into the research files and demand that I live up to something I said in print. If I'm going to be held to that kind of standard, I'm gonna be... well, I'm gonna be in big trouble.

Another person I needled in a recent item was Bobbi L. from Cincinnati's CrossPort group. What I didn't realize when I wrote my article was that the Bobbi I was giving the business was the same Bobbi with whom I have a correspondence friendship. The Bobbi I know lives in Kentucky—the part of Kentucky that is right across the Ohio River from Cincinnati—and it never occurred to me until we were comparing notes later on. Fortunately, Bobbi is a forgiving soul and said she was happy to get any kind of feedback from what she wrote—even if it took a satiric turn. Bobbi, I know the feeling. The only thing better than hate mail... is fan mail.

Tough Gender Questions

1. *Are you on a trip, a journey, or a quest?*
2. *How does your inner life fit into your outer life?*
3. *Do you feel lonely, ashamed, or guilty?*
4. *How secretive do you have to be?*
5. *Do you like your situation?*

These tough gender questions and many more can be explored through individual and small group sessions with Dr. Lee Etscovitz, Director of Human Dimensions, an organization specializing in gender education. Dr. Etscovitz is also the Renaissance National Librarian and a former Professor of Human Behavior at Drexel University.

Further information, including fees and scheduling, is available upon request. Write: Human Dimensions, PO Box 471, Willow Grove, PA 19090. Or leave a private message at 215•657•1560.

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Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

I am writing to say goodbye to REA with whom I have been associated for the last two years. While I will finish out my membership as an inactive member I have no plans to renew. However, I want to express my thanks to all of you for your openness and acceptance of me during the time I was with you.

You may recall that I originally contacted Angela Gardner to find out more about transgender issues in the process of my studies at Villanova [University], I realized that there were several areas of human sexuality with which I had no familiarity and which would therefore make me less useful to potential clients who had orientations to those areas. I was as honest as I could be in explaining my reason for contacting REA and for having an interest in joining.

My subsequent involvement in being your layout [artist] was a way for me to get more in touch with many of you and to build some rapport. I feel I was accepted by everyone I came into contact with, and in the process I have learned a lot about transgender issues. I have also come to accept your various orientations to gender-related conduct.

I have met a lot of you and have made friends with a few of you. My interests overlapped with some of each of yours, and I have formed some close relationships. If anything, I am impressed with the diversity of the ways various gender/sexual components of human feelings are expressed. I understand your concerns with society's perceptions of those expressions, and I hope I have been supportive of your fears and struggles in coming to terms with your feelings. If in any way anyone has gotten the idea that I was being negative or condemning of your orientations, please believe that I have no such judgment of any of you.

The one thing I have noticed during this two years is that some individuals of the organization have been somewhat negative about the differences they have with other members. If someone's actions are felt to be harmful, I hope others will take steps to challenge, inform and help correct them. But I also hope that each member will be open to the feelings and drives of others and remain non-judgemental of the differences, whatever they be. There are no "wrong" emotions, no "wrong" feelings. This is one area I think the organization would be well served to work on.

I hope to stay in touch with some of you, and I will be available if any of you has a desire to call, talk or meet with me, but my schedule and activities will be in other areas as I move on with my work. I will miss many of you, because you are fun , but other duties call me.

God bless you. Don't give up. Continue to understand yourselves and live a sane, sensible, and fulfilling life. And, again, thank you for your kindness to me.

Sincerely,
Gary Labowitz

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Shopping With Jackie

Hi... it's me again and my mascara is running because of the tears. Your letters and comments are most welcome. After my plea article, I received many great letters and sources that I will pass along. Also, many thanks for the pats on the back about the column. I didn't know so many of you read it. Most of those who wrote expressed interest in the larger, hard to find items, and a lot were from newer members who are still finding their way in this hard to describe hobby of ours. I will continue to report on these areas and look forward to receiving more of your input. Remember, I can only report on what I know about and I thank you for sharing your sources.

Billie Jean wrote to tell us about **Fully Fantastic**, a second hand shop in Dallastown. The owner, Shirley and her assistant are sensitive to cross-dressers and the clothes are in excellent condition. Private appointments are available.

Vera Rae House sent me a page of shoe companys that carry larger sizes. Here are a few: **Jay's Wide Shoes** in Oregon has sizes 5-13 in widths D-EE. Call for the catalog at 503-627-0113. **Massey's** in Lynchburg, Virginia has sizes 3-14 in widths 5A-4E. Call for the catalog at 800-462-7739. **Mar-Lou** is located in Cleveland, Ohio. They carry sizes 7-14 in widths SS-EXW. 216-861-0730 is the number if you'd like the catalog.

Pauline Wolf sent me a nice letter (thanks) and recommends these sources for shoes: **Shoe Express,** of Lafayette, Louisiana carries sizes to 15WW. They're a little expensive but if you need a size 15!! Request their catalog at 800-874-0469. Another spot Pauline recommends is **Tall Gals** in Accord, Massachusetts. She says they carry sizes to "**big**." Ask for the catalog at 800-225-5848 or FAX your request at 617-871-1976.

Josie P. , a newer member from Tallahassee, Florida sent me a list of her favorite catalogs. We have already reviewed most of them, but of interest are: **Simply Tops,** P.O. Box 12, Hanover, PA 17333-0082; **L'eggs Brands Inc.,** P.O. Box 748, Rural Hall, North Carolina, 27098-0748. They carry most styles, colors and sizes of pantyhose and stockings along with a selection of lingerie.

Jessica Brandon sent us another shoe source. It's **Ballow's Shoes,** 308 Mill St. in Bristol, PA. You can reach them at 215-788-2857. They also carry shoes up to size 15. Jessica reports that while she was shopping "dressed as a male," the salesman was very helpful and helped her try on her choices. The prices are reasonable and the service is very good.

Another shoe source comes from Lisa Martin. Lisa reports she has had great success with **Nordstrom's** catalog. (Ed. Note: They have an outlet store in **Franklin Mills**.) They have shoes to size 13. It seems Lisa likes to buy by the dozen! (Gad.) The catalog number is 800-285-5800.

A lovely letter from Arlene T. (thanks) also brought the following sources to our attention: A reminder about **Vanity Fair Outlets** in Reading, Pennsylvania. They have wall to wall lingerie at half price. Then, there's **Transformation,** (Ed.Note: See the January,1994 issue of the newsletter. These shops are mentioned in *Reminder Beat*.) a British company that offers a catalog for £12. (Around $18.) Among their offerings you will find waist clinchers, garter belts, breast forms, sex-aids, and bondage gear. You must buy the catalog by credit card. Your credit card company will do all the dollars to pounds conversions. Dial 0-11-44-61-773-4477. (Don't forget they are about 5 hours later than we are.) For stockings and pantyhose Arlene recommends **National Wholesale Co Inc.** in Lexington, North Carolina. They have a wide range of colors and styles, priced right. Order the catalog by calling 704-249-0211. And, here's some good news from Arlene for those of us who like to try things on before we buy. **Fashion Bug** now has a policy that lets us shop by appointment. Tell them you are a TV or transgendered person who would like to shop when it is convenient and they will set up your appointment. They welcome your business and will even give you a femme name credit card.

I must comment that many of our members have found **J.C. Penny** very accommodating to us and their prices and quality have always been good. And, that goes with my saying the best bargains are in your local department stores. Watch for sales and don't be afraid to shop. They really want your business.

Share your sources with us through this column. Drop a note to the Editor, Att: Jackie, and until next time... HAPPY SHOPPING.

(Ed. Note: Shameless plug to follow—An excellent source for vendors that specifically deal with the transgender community is the *1995 Who's Who & Resource Guide to the Transgender Community* from Creative Design Services. The new guide lists almost 200 vendors, plus personal biographies, a comprehensive list of support groups, and care providers. The price is $10 postpaid from CDS, PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406)

He'll Be Back Next Month

Dear Doctor

Dr. William R. Stayton answers your questions in a monthly column. Send questions to PO Box 530, Bensalem, Pa. 19020

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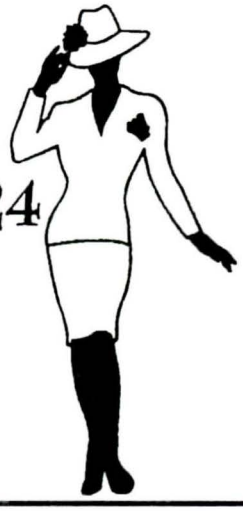

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