

Renaissance News



Volume 7, No. 6

Vision - Integrity - Quality

June, 1993

En Femme at the March on Washington

Terry M. (MOTG/Renaissance)

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 25, 1993 — An estimated one million people participated in the largest civil rights march ever held in the nation's capital. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Straight, and Transgendered people from all walks of life marched together to call for an end to discrimination and for the inclusion of all persons as valued members of our country. I had the honor of participating in this very special event as the representative of Monmouth Ocean Transgender of New Jersey. Here are some of my impressions of that historic day: I traveled by bus to Washington, D.C. with my local "Transgender Friendly" Gay and Lesbian support group. I felt the sense of anticipation and excitement build as we arrived and disembarked at R.F.K. Stadium. We then merged with the many other groups and quickly became a rather large and growing crowd as we all squeezed into the Washington subway system. The Metro was full of people going to the March. The packed subway cars produced an air of electricity and excitement. People were cheering and greeting each other with a great sense of joy. Finally, I emerged from the Metro onto "the Mall." To the right was the Capitol, to the left the Washington Monument, and in between and beyond was a sea of colors, banners, flags, and people, people, people! I

felt like Dorothy entering the Emerald City (and probably looked a little like her, too!). I then began my search for the Transgendered contingent. I walked past the huge display of the AIDS Quilt and felt very humbled and emotional. Just over the hill on which the Washington Monument stands my heart skipped a beat and then quickened. In the bright light of an especially sunny day I saw the sign that I was searching for. On a rise overlooking a grand sweep of grassy field that leads directly to the White House, a large blue and white banner was held aloft. It boldly proclaimed to all:

**TRANSGENDERED
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"Hooray!", I thought, "I found us!" I fumbled with my girlfriend's camera and quickly took a snapshot of our banner, held aloft by our Transgendered sisters and brothers (and friends), in our nation's capital. What a special thrill it was to climb up that hill and join our proud Transgendered family! The March on Washington was not just an immense, peaceful demonstration for civil rights, but it was also a joyous celebration of the diversity of humanity. It was not just a politically

transforming experience, but it was also one of spiritual and emotional enrichment for all. I would just like to share a few of the special moments of the day: — to hear Reverend Jesse Jackson address the crowd as Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered. He included me! He included all of us! He urged us to "Keep Hope...Alive!" — to hear our friend Phil Donohue do the same, and then to hear him tell the rest of the world who might have a problem with our differentness to "get over it!" — to stand with our Transgendered contingent as my femme self and feel a great sense of joy and hope! — to hear and cheer, at long last, one of our own, Phyllis Randolph Frye, address the rally on our behalf. We finally had a chance to celebrate ourselves and the purpose of the March with our own dynamic speaker on the podium. Wow!

It was the thrill of a lifetime!

(The transcript of Ms. Frye's speech is on page XX. See the Letters To The Editor for another view of the march. —Ed.)

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Chapters & Affiliates

New Jersey

South Jersey: Meets on the first Saturday of the month at the Atlantic Mental Health Center, Inc. 2002 Black Horse Pike, McKee, N.J. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Call (609) 435-5401 or write Renaissance SJ, PO Box 189, Mays Landing, NJ 08330. Chapter leader - Terri Risley; Assistant Leader - Phil Muniz

Pennsylvania

Greater Philadelphia: Meets on third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia, PA. Doors open at 8:00 p.m. Write to Renaissance PHL, Box 530, Bensalem, PA 19020 or call (215)630-1437. Chapter Leader - Maryann Kirkland

Lower Susquehanna Valley: Meets on the first Saturday of the month at The Greens at Westgate in York, Pa. Write Renaissance LSV, Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105, or call (717) 780-1LSV. Chapter Leader - Yvonne Sullivan

Affiliates

MOTG: PO Box 8243, Red Bank, NJ 07701

American Educational Gender Information Services (AEGIS): PO Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033, (404) 939-0244

Renaissance News

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Renaissance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing education and support to the gender community and the general public.

And, don't forget about...

Articles, opinion pieces and letters to the Editor are always welcome at the Renaissance News. Ideas for articles and opinion pieces should be sent to Renaissance News, P. O. Box 530, Bensalem, PA 19020. Complimentary and irate letters to the Editor may be sent to the same address.

Significant Others who have article ideas or opinions they would like to share should send their ideas to Evelyn Kirkland, c/o Maryann Kirdland, P. O. Box 1242, Newtown, PA 18940.

Background Papers are available for \$1 each plus \$.25 postage for each pair ordered. Eight papers are available: 1-Myths & Misconceptions About Crossdressing, 2-Reasons for Male to Female Crossdressing, 3-PARTNERS: Spouses & Significant Others, 4-The Matter of Children, 5-An Annotated Bibliography, 6-Telling the Children: A Transsexual's Point of View, 8-AIDS & HIV Safety and Ethics, and 9-Understanding Transsexuality.

Pen Pal Program: If you would like to be a pen pal contact Maryann Kirkland at P. O. Box 530, Bensalem, PA 19020. Attn: Dept. PP.

If you are a transgendered person with children and would like to network with other transparents, contact Elsa Larson at: Transparent, C/O Renaissance LSV, Box 2122, Harrisburg, PA 17105.

For TS information and peer counseling in South Jersey call Kelly Harris at 609 641-3782.

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Events Calendar

June: Susan McPhie-Cosmotologist, Makeover

July: Selma Blaker, Hair Styling & Wig Care

Sept: Vendor's night

Oct: Dr. Sheila Kirk, Hormones

Chapters wishing to have their programs listed should get them to the Newsletter at least one month in advance. Two is better.

South Jersey Chapter

July: David Alcantara, Attorney on N.J. lawabout crossdressing

ROGER'S NOTEBOOK (#78)

by Roger E. Peo, Ph. D.

Recently I have found myself in circumstances where one of the concerns was permanently changing gender roles. As a therapist there is always a balancing act between helping the person find the best possible solution for their concerns while trying to ensure they do not get into a situation that they will regret later. While this is an ethical issue for therapists, it is also a question that is encountered by the cross dresser.

Some clients seem to have an irresistible pull toward the other gender role. It seems to them that by just adopting that role all their other problems will vanish. This is not an intellectual desire but an emotional (psychological) one.

Let me illustrate this dilemma by describing a recent meeting I was in with a number of other professionals. We were discussing the case of a transsexual who was already cross-living full time and who wanted surgery. As this person's situation was described it seemed that he did not understand what the surgery was about nor that it was irreversible. All he could see was the need to get his body modified so that it conformed more closely to the de-

sired sex. His feeling was that by doing this, other problems he was facing would somehow be removed. Our concern was whether any surgery should be approved. We could see aspects of the situation that he could not (would not?) acknowledge and yet to withhold approval left him in a painful state. The main issue was whether we should expect him to have the same perspective we had on his situation.

To a greater or lesser extent none of us can be completely objective about our own situation. In the process of making life altering decisions we often turn to professionals who not only have more expertise but also can bring objectivity to our choice. Lawyers, doctors, religious leaders and therapists all fill this role. Regardless, it can be hard to accept their guidance.

For the cross-dresser there is often an irresistible pull toward the wearing of women's clothing. The sensuality of the fabrics coupled with the temporary escape from what seems an oppressing masculine role is often overwhelming. To stay in this state forever would seem to be bliss. Sometimes these sensations propel the unwary cross-

dresser into taking hormones or even "playing the game" well enough to get genital surgery. The results can be tragic.

I am not against cross-dressing nor the feelings associated with it. I do want to highlight the potential for a subtle progression towards a state that can create other problems.

There is no "magic" in either gender role. Each has its advantages and disadvantages. In our society, the masculine role appears to have more power but this is accompanied by what sometimes seems to be heavy responsibilities. The feminine role seems to have more freedom and sensitivity however it often lacks power and the advantages associated with power. Trying to assume a "middle" gender role may not work because our society expects us to make a choice. The middle ground is discriminated against by people in both traditional gender roles.

It can be very difficult to find value in our own situation because the problems seem overwhelming. However acknowledging the advantages we have can be the most effective solution. There are few, if any people who "can have it all."



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This column may be reprinted in any non-profit organization's newsletter if Dr. Peo's name and address appear in the reprinted version. Others must obtain written approval from Dr. Peo. A copy of such a reprint should be sent to Dr. Peo.

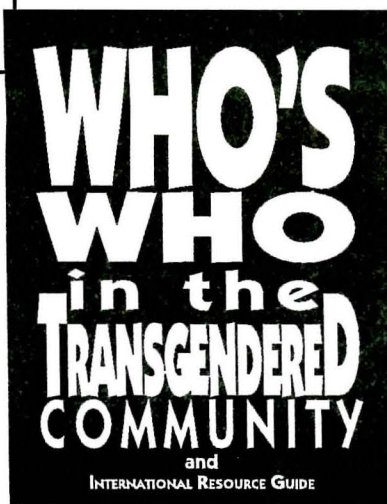
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Reminders & Beatings

by Angela Gardner

Hey ho kiddies! It's June and here's the reminders and beatings. Let's get the beating out of the way right off the bat. Ha! It seems the flyer we included last month for the wine tasting was not properly proof read and a few little mistakes slipped in. The worst mistake was a transposed zip code. If you haven't sent your sixteen dollars in yet please check the zip code you use and make sure it is 19406 for the King of Prussia box. We're sorry about this zip up and we'll try to do better in the future. Remember the tasting is at the Chaddsford Winery on Friday, June 11th at eight PM. We should receive your check by June fourth. If it's after that give us a call and we'll see what we can do. Next in line for a bop on the cranium is the newsletter staff. We left something out last month. Caroline Reid was kind enough to send us a copy of the article by John Updike about the crossdressers of the fabulous fifties and she included information on how to get in touch with the New Yorker and obtain the reprint rights. We were going to run a short paragraph thanking her but somehow the paragraph got left out of the issue. Thank you Caroline. If anyone else sees a funny article in a

national magazine and thinks it could be of interest to our readers, follow Caroline's lead and ship us a copy of it. The final thank for this issue goes to the IFGE. That's right we're continuing our campaign of whining and complaining that started last issue when we bemoaned the fact that we had not received a personal thank you note from Merissa. Well she did get around to sending out a few thank you notes that were signed by her personally. Thing is some people got one and some people didn't. Oh well, at least she finally got around to it. Now let's talk about show biz.

SHOW BIZ NOTES

Drag and drag queens seem to be getting all the good parts in films and television these days. (I hope the trend catches up with me.) Ru Paul rules with a hit record and we told you last month about several projects underway that have crossdressing in them. The *Renaissance News* has learned that the forthcoming film "Orlando" features Quentin Crisp, once famous as the Naked Civil Servant, in the role of Queen Elizabeth I. Quentin said the constricting costumes made the part absolute hell. Hell or not we're sure he'll look

fabulous. What an inspired piece of casting. In another bit of casting news we find the star of the Ridiculous Theater Company, Everett Quinton appearing in a film directed by Oliver Stone. The big surprise is that Quinton, known for his drag roles on stage will appear in this film, "Natural Born Killers," as a regular guy. Now that will take acting. Quinton has just completed a drag role in Linda at the Ridiculous Theater Company. He portrayed a domineering, evangelist aunt and at one point in this country western musical there is a square dance in hell with a transvestite Satan burning up cardboard cutouts of right wing radicals. I might go up to New York and see this one.

TVs ON THE TUBE

Fox is the home of men in dresses this season. There's the show "Martin" which has the star portraying his own mother and the hip hop home girl across the hall, Sha Nay Nay but that's not all. On one May episode of the Simpsons, Bart and Homer were both in dresses. In Homer's case it was because he had run out of clean clothes and was forced to wear Marge's wedding dress. Right. Marge was in jail for shoplifting and

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Bart's crossdressing was part of a fantasy sequence that Bart dreamed up as a way of springing her. His plan was to dress up in a sexy cocktail dress and seduce the prison warden. Then, just as the warden was about to make a move Bart would pull a crowbar out of his cleavage, smack him in the head, steal the keys and let Marge out. He looked quite fetching in his frock. Hope the writers let him try it again. There has also been dressing up going on on "Saturday Night Live" and "The Boys In The Hall," among the first to do drag regularly on American TV have been appearing on network television as well as their cable forays. Remember way back when? The only men in dresses you could find on television were Milton Berle and Flip Wilson. Where's it all going to end? Even Arnold Schwartznager did drag in Total Recall. Let us know if you see David Letterman or Maury Povich in a dress.

BEST EXCUSES FOR DRESSING UP

Excuse number one was clipped out and sent to us by Bonnie Allen. It was a story from the Associated Press about some activities in the Middle East that haven't shown up on any television news shows. It

seems that soldiers on both sides of the Palestinian Israeli conflict have been slipping into drag to sneak up on their enemies. Women in these countries are not part of the conflict and are left alone so somebody decided it would be a good idea to go under cover in women's robes and veils. The article described a raid by eight soldiers dressed as women. It said that one of the soldiers did not wear the traditional robes, choosing instead to wear a fashionable short skirt and hot red lipstick. He claimed the short skirt made it easier to get his gun out. Probably made it easier to get picked up at a bar after the raid too. "I remember the strange feeling I had dressed up as a woman, with heavy makeup," said one member of the drag squad. He had completed a raid which had him wearing a blond wig, western clothing and makeup. Now call me crazy but it seems to me that traditional robes and veils aren't a bad idea to disguise men as women. Should be pretty easy. Why go through all the trouble to learn how to do makeup and wear short skirts and heels as a disguise? We all know how hard passing can be. Could the more glamorous members of the squad have a hidden motive? *Travesti* are usually frowned on in Middle Eastern cultures. What better way to satisfy your secret

desires than by doing drag as your patriotic duty? President Clinton, I'm ready to go undercover anytime you need me. My Chanel suit and pumps are at my countries service.

EXCUSE # TWO

Trudi Henry called in this item that she heard on the BBC World Service. It seems a group of gents called the Medical Research Expedition Society are trying a little experiment in the Himalayas. These mountain climbing doctors are going to go up a mountain while taking shots of progesterone. The female hormone is supposed to help them breathe better at the high altitudes they will reach. Well, that may be so but won't their tight bras make breathing a little harder on the way down the mountain. And how do you deal with a lusty Sherpa guide who likes your chest? I'm sure the expedition members are just doing it for science. I really believe that. I do.

BIZ MANAGER SEARCH

I spend so much time writing this column and editing the other content of the newsletter that I don't have time to stay on top of the business side of things. I would like to add a business manager to the

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newsletter staff. It would be this person's responsibility to keep track of the various advertisers, billing them and also soliciting new clients. They would also be in charge of distribution of the news letter to area newstands and bookstores. At present we are only available at Giovanni's Room in Philadelphia. With someone who could devote more time to it we could be in many more stores. If you are willing to help us out with this stuff drop me a line or leave a message on our machine. We'll do lunch. We'll take a meeting.

LIBRARIAN'S LAMENT

Our Library Lady, Lee Etscovitz, could also use a little help around the library. She needs people who are able to spend time cataloguing the periodicals, newsletters and news clippings that we have in boxes. If we can get them all in order and easy to find then they will be available to the membership along with the books. Lee could also use a relief librarian or two who could keep an eye on things while the meetings are underway. Then she could visit the munchie table or take in one of the programs. If you can help out in either of these capacities please speak to Lee at the next GPC meeting or

drop a line.

NO LIST FOR SALE

I keep getting mail from all over the place that's of interest to a cross-dresser like myself. I don't mind that. What's a little disconcerting is the fact that it arrives at my home address, sometimes in my real name. (Gasp!) A few years ago when I was still worried about that big TV concern — security — I would have been appalled that anyone at the post office knew that this kind of stuff was coming to my home. Now I don't give a damn. Frankly, Scarlet, it just bugs me cause it's junk mail. I also know that there are folks out there who wouldn't want that kind of material coming to their home address where the kids or the wife could open it and let the transvestite out of the bag. How does it happen that IFGE has my male name and address? How did other TV oriented companies get me on their mailing list? It's pretty strange and it probably happened when I signed up for something at some time in the past. In any event, this portion of my column is dedicated to allaying the fears of those who are afraid their names and addresses will get out into the general mailing lists of the world through Renaissance. Rest assured that we never have and never will sell our mailing

list to anyone. When you join Renaissance your name and address goes in our data base and Elsa prints it out on your mailing label. Beth puts your label on your envelope and the data stays secure.

NEW PRELUDE EVEN NEWER

There was labor trouble in New Hope recently as workers from The Cartwheel walked the picket line to protest high handed decisions by management concerning peoples schedules. The picketing didn't get them anywhere with the Wheel so they got together, went across the street and bought the New Prelude. The grand opening is set for sometime in May. We'll let you know if they plan to institute any special drag nights.

THAT'S ALL FOLKS

That's all we've got for this month. I'm glad that we're getting more letters to the editor. If you'd like to put in your two cents don't hesitate to drop us a line. Keep all that stuff on page two in mind and don't forget about the availability of classified service ads. In the meantime, hasta la vista babies!

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Letters ... We Get Letters ...

To The Editor

I wanted to take this opportunity to write and tell you what a fabulous job you're doing with the *Renaissance News*. I first learned about Renaissance from you and Paula Sinclair on the Morton Downey, Jr. Show on television. I wrote for information and joined and have been a member ever since. Unfortunately, I don't live close enough to any chapters where I can attend meetings, but I have always enjoyed the *Renaissance News* very much. I don't know the reason for the departure of Paula, but I was concerned at the time what the effect would be on the newsletter and Renaissance itself. I am extremely pleased that, if anything, the newsletter has gotten even better during your tenure. I particularly enjoy reading JoAnn Roberts' "Hot Buzz." All too often, we tend to complain about things we don't like, but we never take the time to praise someone for a job well done. Please allow me to express my appreciation for the fine job you are doing and to thank you for helping me understand that there are many others like me and that I am not bizarre. Renaissance has helped me understand cross-dressing better and to feel more comfortable about it. Thank you very much. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Dear Editor

I was among the Transgendered Contingent at the March On Washington, on April 25. It was a truly liberating and joyful experience, and I was often moved to tears from various sights and sounds. I don't know if I will ever have the chance to dress and act so completely my feminine self again in public, as I was able to on that day. There was an abundance of positive and sympathetic "vibrations" and I was complimented all day long for how I looked. This was a once in a blue moon chance for our community to stand up and be counted, and to show that we have nothing to be ashamed of. It was a day to smile and hold our pretty head high, and join with the Gay and Lesbian Community (that so graciously invited us) in sending a solid message to our elected officials right in the center of our Nation's Capital. Yet, there was a microscopic turnout from our community. Is it because not enough of us knew we were invited? As far as I know, every organization in the country had access to that bit of info. There were also more than enough buses taking partici-

pants there, and most if not all Gay organizations were taking riders from our community. Was fear of being seen on T.V. a factor? Did it just boil down to apathy? We must take advantage of such opportunities in the future, when and if they arise again. We must follow the lead of our brothers and sisters in the Gay and Lesbian Community and publicly demand our rights, in a tasteful and acceptable manner, for they will never be handed to us unsolicited. The nation and the world will not take us seriously until we demonstrate to them that we believe in ourselves, and in each other. It will not be over night, that we gain any appreciable tolerance and acceptance, we must do our part to make it happen.

Stacy R.

Dear Ladies of Renaissance

Thank you for a terrific convention. I am sorry I could only attend Saturday and Sunday! I had a brief encounter before leaving, (dressed once again in male clothes) while waiting for the elevator to the parking garage. I have to tell you about it. With bags in my hands I approached the elevator and noticed a strikingly

(continued on page 16)

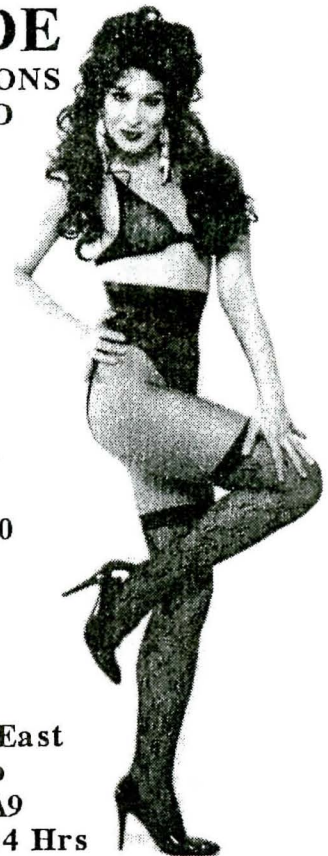
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South African Transgender Rights Advocate Quits

by Angela Gardner

As might be expected, South Africa doesn't care too much about the rights of transgendered people. The problems of the transgendered community do not exist in a political vacuum and with the turbulent political scene in that country any improvement in their status is hard fought. One of their activists is Michelle M.J. Emerich. She is a member of the Law Portfolio of the South African Transexual Research Unit and also a member of the ANC. It has been a priority of hers to get transgendered people included in the South African bill of rights and constitution that are being hammered out. The following is an excerpt from a letter that Michelle sent to JoAnn Roberts:

"It becomes frightening when we realize that we actually have no

friends in South Africa and realizing not only this but that human rights activists have been up to this moment targets for elimination in South Africa. If for one, who sticks out like a sore thumb have decided to call it a day. Just imagine it, being the only T/G human rights activist in the ANC and at that a civil servant, is inviting attention. Therefore I have made my final submissions to Government and the ANC, with the specific request that a preoccupation with the British legal system be moderated by a look at transgender rights in other countries such as New Zealand, Australia, USA, Germany etc. I cited medical evidence and genetic discoveries to prove the point that the gender observed at birth or entered onto a birth certificate was not necessarily the correct

one and that the medical world had come to realize this. I also stated that the implementation of Reversal Therapy at Groote Schuur Hospital, Cape Town was causing alarm, here and abroad as well as rumours that the Government intended curtailing the activities of specialists dealing with SRS.

"Finally I stated that due to the high suicide rate amongst our community the last year we were concentrating our energies on social support activities, and that the International Transgender Community would be monitoring the T/G rights issue in South Africa along with any other interested groups such as the gay movement here.

"My plea, therefore, for solidarity and support from your members is not without reason and founda-

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tion, especially in these critical times of negotiation in South Africa when the Bill of rights issue and a new Constitution are imminently to crystallize.

"The following addresses are furnished for the convenience of any interested parties:

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Republic of South Africa
- 2: The Minister of National Health & Population Development
Private Bag X399
Pretoria, 0001
Republic of South Africa
- 3: The President
The A.N.C.
P.O. Box 61884
Marshalltown, 2107
Republic of South Africa

4: The Director General The Department of Justice

Private Bag X81
Pretoria, 0001
Republic of South Africa

5: The Director
The Law Commission
Private Bag X668
Pretoria, 0001
Republic of South Africa

6: The Constitutional Committee of the ANC & Centre for Development Studies

University of the Western Cape
Private Bag X17
Belville, 7535
Republic of South Africa

"As I have already mentioned, my time for these activities has for obvious reasons come to an end. A person whose name I will not disclose complained to me that my submissions to the Government

Departments were rather emotional and that I should tone it down. Maybe, but my submissions were never without reference to facts. I do hope you will take the matter seriously and redistribute this information to interested parties."

Since Michelle must quit the fight for reasons of personal safety the least we can do is write a letter to the addresses she included and push for adoption of her proposals. Sometimes the pen is mightier than the automatic weapon and our location here across the ocean, half a planet away should make it a little easier for us to support our sisters on the front lines.

Barbara A. Susinno R.N. CPE.

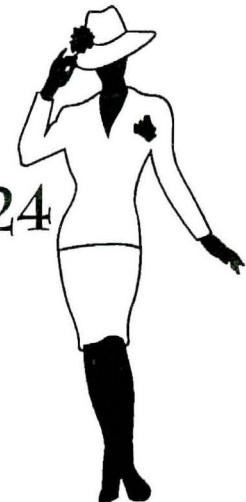
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Hot • BUZZ

JoAnn Roberts

"The best way to predict the future is to invent it yourself."

I apologize for the brevity of my column this month. I have been a very busy queen of late and the extreme activity has taken its toll — I have bronchitis, which has taken the spunk outta this funky diva. I should be up to speed next issue. I just couldn't bear the thought of missing my first issue in six years.

And that reminds me... Happy Birthday Renaissance. Six years old this month and still goin strong. I guess those people who thought we were just a flash in the pan were wrong, huh? Our strength is in our leaders and, make no mistake about it, we're growing the best of the best.

The Left Coast is buzzin 'bout a couple of things like the coalition between PPOC and Neutral Corner. (Ah, yah, PPOC stands for Powder Puffs of California.) Anyway, the two groups are coordinating schedules and activities. One outcome of the joint activity is a plan for the 1994 California Dreamin' event to be held in "neutral" territory... San Diego... at the Del Coronado hotel. Those of you old enough to remember *Some Like It Hot* will recognize the Del from the film. Apropos.

More buzzin 'bout Jim Bridges plans to open a store in Manhattan. Jim & Anthony have become virtual fixtures at any event that's worth attending. With the help of Ms. Monique (a la NYC), they hope to open the doors by late summer.

Lest I forget the East Coast buzz... make your plans now for Hallowe'en. Henri David has announced that the '93 Costume Party will be held at the new convention center. Admission *en costume* will be \$15. Get there early or get left out like last year.

No sooner had I swatted Merissa Sherrill Lynn for the "thank you" note she didn't send than a nice letter from the ExDir. of

IFGE arrived in the mail. I guess those Dale Carnegie courses paid off. By the way, the letter just raved about how Renaissance handled the convention. We deserved it and thank you for the recognition.

I gotta get some drag in here or the politics will wear me down. Let's see... have you seen *Dragazine*? If not, you're really missing a great fun 'zine with some really excellent writing and interviews. I love the names of the queens, not the least of which is editrix Lois Common-denominator. Doncha jus luv it? Write to DZDQ, PO Box 691664, West Hollywood (where else?), CA 90069. Single issues are \$4.95. Back issues 1-4, \$3.50.

If you're inta Hot exotic clothes, then ya gotta check out *Fantasy Fashion Digest* from Palm Springs (where else?), Calif. This magazine features wild fantasy fashions in leather, latex and PVC. The premiere issue is \$9.95. Write FFD, PO Box 9500, Palm Springs, CA 92263 or FAX 619-363-6030 with your order.

I'll be attending the "Be All" in Chicago,

so if you're there too and you see me, stop me and say "Hello." I always have time to talk and I want to hear what you have to say about what goes on in the community. How else do you think I get all the HOT BUZZ?

If you haven't seen it lately, you really ought to take a peek at the new *Cross-Talk* from Kym Richards at PO Box 944, Woodland Hills (where else?), CA. This newsletter-grown-into-a-magazine is chock full of stuff from all over and it's the *only* place that you'll find the NewsQueen.

QwickiQwiz: Terri M. is hereby banned from winning any more QQ's this year. She correctly identified Lassie as the TV on TV (female dog played by male dog) and Linda Hunt as the actress who won an Oscar for portraying a male in *The Year of Living Dangerously*. A new QQ next month... till then, stay frosty!

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Remember when?... Dina Amberle and Gloria A. Lange, Greater Phila.

It started one Saturday night when a small group of Renaissance members gathered at a club in New Hope, Pa. In conversation, we all began to think back to our own crossdressing beginnings. The remarks that followed made us realize there is a litany for crossdressers. The progression from novice to accomplished crossdresser has so many similar experiences that, as we're sure you'll see, we can all relate to it. Join us now as we walk down memory lane and ask the question, "Do you remember when?"

Remember when you thought that you were the "ONLY" guy in the entire world that wanted to dress in women's clothing.

Remember when trying on a pair of panties was a quick thrill (don't get us wrong, we still enjoy them). Now, they're worn every day.

Remember when you tried to get into our mother's/sister's stockings without leaving those tell-tale runners as evidence.

Remember when you had naturally hairless legs.

Remember when you looked at that garter belt thing and wondered, what if I ...

Remember when the biggest problem with brassieres was getting those back hooks attached.

Remember when you took that first step in those high heel shoes. Would have been great if they were the right size.

Remember when you had the house to yourself and spent the day in panties, stockings, garter belt and heels.

Remember when you got caught. (Oh yeah!)

Remember when what you've done so far was satisfaction enough. (Geez, if we only knew then.)

Remember when you thought, "I think it's time for a dress."

Remember when the disappointment set in because the dress didn't fit and just looked terrible. (Well, for most of us it did.)

Remember when, in our younger days, the only way to get your own stash (clothing) was clothesline shopping at night. (What can we say, things were tough.)

Remember when you tried to find the perfect place to hide your stash.

Remember when you looked at your collection of lingerie and said, "This is all mine."

Remember when you experimented with makeup the first time. What goes where and how much. Color didn't matter much back then.

Remember when you wondered, with terror, if the makeup would really wash off with soap and water.

Remember when you first saw the total package. Hair, makeup and clothing, all in their proper place.

Remember when you thought, "Hey, this has possibilities."

Remember when you thought you looked the epitome of feminine beaut, in your first cheap wig. I had a picture. I ate that picture. Maybe the wig too, can't say for sure.

Remember when you would dress, every spare moment, just to sit around the house.

Remember when dressing around the house was enough. Leaving the house, dressed, was just out of the question.

Remember when you thought, "Hm m m m m, it's dark, maybe a drive."

Remember when just driving around was enough, until you thought, "Hm m m m m, I'd love to get out of the car, just for a moment. It's dark, no one would see."

Remember when you walked to a MAC machine in women's clothing. Then thinking, "Is this thing taking my picture (SMILE)." For some of us, window shopping at night, while the stores were closed, became a regular occurrence. How about those walks through the apartment complex parking lots. Maybe it was a walk to the mall box or jumping into that dark phone booth, calling your-

self and hoping nobody was home.

Remember when you wished they made a quiet pair of high heels to use while you were sneaking in the shadows.

Remember when you thought that all this was enough to satisfy you.

Remember when you first saw another man dressed like a woman, on the television, of all places. Is that what I'm about? Where's the pencil and paper when you need them.

Remember when you first talked to another crossdresser. How about the first time that you met another crossdresser in person?

Remember when you went to a Renaissance meeting for the first time. WOW, look at all these men dressed like women. How about when you listened to another crossdresser's story and thought he was telling you your life history.

Yes, there are many memories that we all share. Hopefully, they are pleasant memories. Now, it's going to night clubs, parties, and out to dinner regularly. We've come a long way. We've grown. We continue to grow. Now we try to figure out how many body alterations we can get away with before anyone at work will notice. As you look at yourself in the mirror, say to yourself, "I do remember when."

The article on this page is a reprint from April of 1990. It's still a timely piece and it was well written. It is here instead of Vis-A-Vis because Brennda is still working that broken knee excuse and she had a large birthday party. Anybody want to write a regular column? Happy birthday Brenda!

Excerpts From the National Board Minutes

The National Board held a meeting on April 10th. The Treasurer's Report indicated a starting balance for the year of \$752.49. The ending balance as of the end of March was \$2789.33. Estimated income for the year is projected at \$8125.00 with estimated expenses of \$7886.00. The membership report projected that individual memberships are down this year. There is only 82.5% of the individual renewals that we had for the same period last year. We are also showing only 93% of the income from dues that we had for the same period last year in spite of an increase in dues from \$12.00 to \$16.00. The next meeting of the board will take place on June sixth at the LSV meeting site.

Poetry Contest

Several years ago, Jack Labow, the managing editor's brother, entered and won a contest held in *New York Magazine*. The contest was to write a poem about a current event which the magazine selected. Their choice was the news about police in Manhattan dressing as women and sitting in Central Park, waiting for someone to try and rob them. They would then spring into action and arrest the villain. The winning poem was as follows:

Policemen in New York wear dresses,
To attract lonely rapists' caresses.
They say they eschew it.
So why do they do it?
Policemen enjoy it, my guess is.

Poetry submissions (oooo, submissions) should be sent to the Editor.

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Transcript of Speech

Given by Phyllis Randolph Frye,
Attorney, From Houston, Texas,

transgendered speaker for March On Washington, 25 April, 1993.

INTRODUCTION: "Our next speaker is the founder and Chair of the International Conference of Transgender Law and Employment Policy and used direct action to overturn that Houston cross-dressing law. Please welcome Phyllis Randolph Frye."

"Listen up! I've got something to tell you! Why is it that the 1st March and the 2nd March and this the 3rd March does not have transgendered in the name of the March?

"The transgendered community includes crossdressers and transvestites, passing women and female impersonators, drag queens and male impersonators, and pre-, non- and post-operative transsexuals. We

definitely include females-to-males as in Joan of Arc, George Sand, Leslie Feinberg and the transgendered women who fought bravely as soldiers in our colonial and civil wars. Knowing this, why is it that with two rally stages, all day long, there are no female-to-male transgendered speakers? We embrace all races, sexual orientations, creeds, religions, ethnicities, nationalities, ages and physical impediments. Why is it then, that with two rally stages, all day long, there is only one transgendered political speaker?

"This, my friends, is a very unforgiving society for transgendered persons and their loved ones. While we were reared in one gender

identity, we have a definite, true-but-opposite gender identity that must express itself. The empirical data show that being transgendered is not a matter of mere choice. No, rational people do not take upon themselves such unrelenting and often hate-filled social pressures for a mere fling! Transphobia is at the heart of queerphobia.

"We are here today in a grand effort to change law and social understanding. The 1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRANSGENDER LAW AND EMPLOYMENT POLICY revealed that the transgendered have no legal protection and no employment protection. The transgen-

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dered require legal protection on the basis of "gender identification." Together, my sisters and brothers, we must seek legal protection from discrimination on the basis of BOTH "sexual orientation and gender identification."

"Listen to me. One of the ten legal strategies that we will develop at the 2nd Transgender Law Conference this upcoming August in Houston will be to resist those surgeons that demand heterosexual couples divorce as a condition to transgender surgery, even though both partners wish to remain married. Sex reassignment surgery on one half of an ongoing heterosexual marriage yields a same-sex marriage. Therefore, my lesbian, gay and bisexual sisters and brothers, it will be the transgendered community who leads you into the legalization of the same-sex marriage. Why then is transgendered not in the name of this march?

"Our history reveals that the majority of those people who died at the beginning of the Nazi Holocaust while wearing pink triangles were the transgendered of all sexual orientations. Our history reveals that the real heroes in the Stonewall uprising were the transgendered, the leather cultists and the street hustlers who stood up to the bully cops and presented in-your-face resistance to being pushed around further. Why then, are the transgendered being omitted and snubbed from the focus of the upcoming Stonewall 25? Sadly, the reward to the transgendered, the leather cultists and the street hustlers of Stonewall is condescension and stereotyping.

"You see, pitting lesbians, gays and bisexuals against the transgendered is another of the bigot's ploys.

It's called division. Many in the lesbian, gay and bisexual community resent being stereotyped as "crossdressing effeminate" simply because the bigots, the dividers, have successfully cast such with another pejorative label. While we quarrel amongst ourselves over stereotypes and labels, the bigots, the dividers, that fire us, that resist our marriage, that refuse us our citizen's share, those bastards continue to win hands-down.

"In order for us to resist this bigot's ploy, this division, we must today embrace each others stereotypes. We must embrace each others labels with pride: we must unite. We must go into Congress and into state houses speaking for lesbian and gay and bisexual and TRANSGENDER — AND

TRANSGENDER — say it — AND TRANSGENDER — and transgender rights. We must seek legal language that protects us on the basis of both "sexual orientation AND GENDER IDENTIFICATION." When you speak to your Member of Congress, tell them House Bill 431 needs to be amended to add "and gender identification" — "sexual orientation and gender identification."

"And in conclusion, when you see Sam Nunn, tell him that Phyllis Frye is an honorably discharged army officer. [Here, was a military salute to the crowd.]"

For an audio copy of this speech, send a blank cassette tape along with \$0.75 return postage to: Phyllis Randolph Frye, 5707 Firenza St., Houston, TX 77035-5515.

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(LETTERS continued from page 8)


attractive woman. While trying not to stare I noticed she had a lot of convention literature in her arms. Surprised, I struck up a conversation. To my even greater surprise this lovely person, inside and out, said she had been married for about a year and thought her husband might be a crossdresser. She had heard about the convention and driven in from New Jersey just to get more information. My congratulations to the PR group for getting the word out. This

woman might never have learned about transgendered behavior. Now hopefully her marriage and her husband can grow stronger. Her husband is a lucky man and the whole experience is uplifting for me. When the work at TGEA here in D.C. gets burdensome I recall that event and work harder. Perhaps my efforts will help someone else. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Jessica Warren
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