

Renaissance takes ACTION

Advisory group and counsel added to organizational structure

In order to better serve the transgender community, the Renaissance national board of directors recently approved the formation of an advisory committee to review policies, procedures and plans. The group, known as the Advisory Committee on Transgender Information, Outreach, and Networking (ACTION), represents a cross-section of the community.

“We recognized that it is very difficult to truly represent all the varieties of transgender behavior,” says JoAnn Roberts who presented the idea to the board. “The concept behind ACTION is to get unbiased and varied representation from outside of Renaissance. Obviously, we think we’re doing the right things here, but what do others think?”

The structure of the committee is open-ended: there is no fixed number of positions. The initial committee is composed of a transvestite, a transsexual, a significant other and a helping professional. More positions may be added if necessary. ACTION is directed by and reports to the managing director of the national board.

The ACTION members are:

- Denise Mason, of the connecticutView, represents the transvestite community. She has been an outspoken member of the community for many years, and most recently has been organizing a group and publishing a newsletter in the Constitution State.

- Dr. Roger Peo, a board certified sexologist in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., represents helping professionals. His work with couples is very well known in the community. He is a member of the board of IFGE and a member of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sex.

- Ginny Knuth, of ETVC in San Francisco, represents spouses and significant others. She is very active in the ETVC couples group, and she was one of the prime movers behind the recent IFGE convention in San Francisco.

- Leslie V. is the group coordinator. She is a post-op transsexual, is married and raising a family, and is working in a professional capacity. Because she has established herself in her local community and has taken some risk ac-

cepting this position, the board is especially grateful for her active participation.

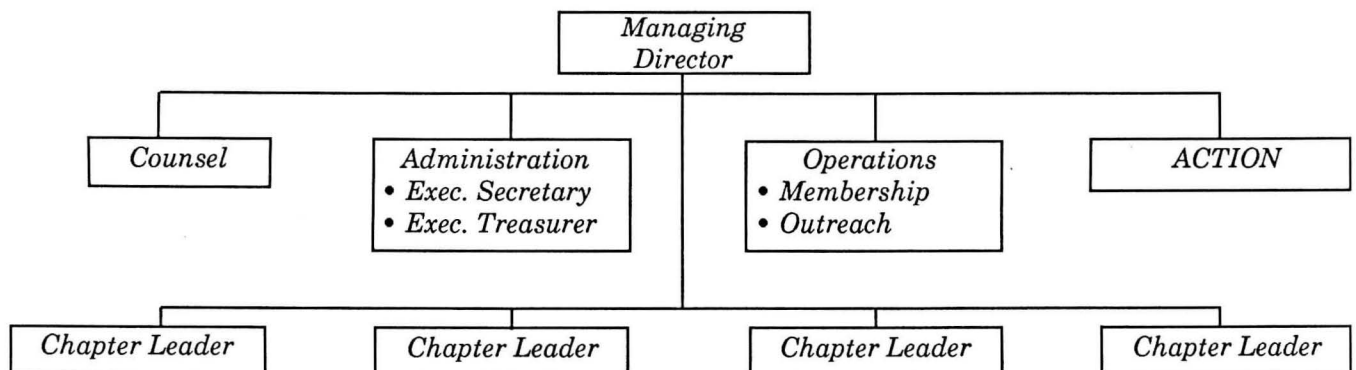
Two leading voices in the transgender community declined appointments to the committee: Veronica Brown, of the Twenty Club (a transsexual support group in Springfield, Mass.), and Dr. Richard F. Docter of the Gender Project at Cal State, Northridge. Brown declined because of her present workload with the Twenty Club, and Docter declined because of a potential conflict of interest with his research. Both were thanked for their consideration of the positions.

ACTION’s first job will be a review of Renaissance policies and publications. The group will be asked to review the current set of background papers and suggest additions, deletions or changes.

Earlier in the year, the board voted to create a position for a corporate counsel for advice on legal matters. Melanie Bryan, Esq. was appointed counsel to the board.

The overall structure of the board is illustrated below.

Structure of the Board of Directors



Chapter news & notes

If no address is given for an organizer, write or call the office.

Louisiana

New Orleans: Leslie Addison, chapter leader. Write Renaissance N.O., Box 58428, New Orleans, LA 70158 for details. Provisional chapter. Meetings are held in a Metropolitan Community Church.

New Jersey

South Jersey: Tina Louise, chapter leader. Address inquiries to chapter secretary Emily Sheldon, P.O.Box 4457, Greenville, DE 19807. Regular meetings on the first Saturday of the month at the Atlantic Mental Health Center, Inc. 2002 Black Horse Pike, McKee, N.J. Meetings start at 9:00 p.m. **No smoking is permitted in the meeting rooms.**

Scheduled programs: Sept., L.M.Cozzi & Assoc., fashion critique and computer aided wardrobe selection; Oct., K-D's Boutique will show lingerie and Savarese Electrolysis will discuss hair removal.

Pennsylvania

Greater Philadelphia area: Teri Kay, chapter leader. Write c/o Box AD, Bensalem, PA 19020. Meets third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia, Pa. Doors open - 9:00 p.m.; new member orientation, 9:30 p.m., main program, 10:30 p.m.

No smoking is permitted in the meeting rooms.

The September meeting will feature a discussion by Electrologist Ed Strauman. Mr. Strauman has had experience with our community.

On November 9 the chapter will host DRAGMANIA I. See NGN this month for more information.

Reading: Susan Marshall, chapter leader. Write c/o Box 14421, Reading, PA 19607 for the latest information.

The Reading chapter meets twice a month. There is a dinner-social held at THIS IS IT, 801 Walnut St., in Reading, every second Wednesday of the month. A regular membership-business meeting is held on the second Saturday in a variety of locations.

Lower Susquehanna Valley: Elsa Larsen, chapter leader. Write c/o Box 7412, York, PA 17404.

This chapter will begin a regular meeting schedule in September. Elsa is also producing a monthly newsletter.

Are you interested in forming a Renaissance Chapter in your area? Write or call the Renaissance national office.

And, don't forget about...

• The last of the Benjamin books, *The Transsexual Phenomena* are back in stock. When these are gone, there are no more. The Deluxe Edition is \$39.95 and the Regular Edition is \$35.95.

• 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, 7-What Is Renaissance?, and 8-AIDS & HIV Safety and Ethics. A paper on transsexualism is in work.

• 3R addiction recovery support group meets at King of Prussia on third Sat. of the month.

• The Pen Pal Project. If you are willing to write letters to pen pals, please let Alison know. Write to the office, c/o Dept. PP.

• Articles and opinion pieces for the newsletter are always welcomed. We want to hear what you have to say about what goes on in Renaissance and in the community at large.

Renaissance News

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For information about events call: 215-640-9449, 24 hours a day.

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

Events Calendar

September

- 2nd Ren. So. Jersey Chapter Computer Aided Fashion
- 13th Ren. Reading Chapter Dinner Social
- 15th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter Electrolysis lecture
- ?? Ren. Lwr.Susquehanna
- 21-24 CDS *Paradise In The Poconos* Weekend

October

- 7th Ren. So. Jersey Chapter Lingerie & Electrolysis
- 11th Ren. Reading Chapter Dinner Social
- 14th Ren. Reading Chapter Regular Meeting
- 21st Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter
- ?? Ren. Lwr.Susquehanna
- 12-22 Outreach Institute's Fantasia Fair - P'town
- 20-22 Dressing for Pleasure, NY
- 31st Henri David's Hallowe'en Ball - Warwick Hotel, PHL

November

- 4th Ren. So. Jersey Chapter
- 9th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter DRAGMANIA, New Hope
- 11th Ren. Reading Chapter
- 18th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter
- ?? Ren. Lwr.Susquehanna

Opinion - Forum - Information

Revelations...by Jan, reprinted from the July '89 Reading chapter newsletter

My name is Jan and I'm a GG (genetic girl). I want to share with you the experiences I've gone through in the past few months, and how I feel my life has been affected.

Three months ago, through a set of most unusual circumstances, I met Ted (not his real name). For several weeks, I got to know him solely through telephone calls that sometimes would last for hours. He was my rock; he was there to help me through one of the most difficult times of my life. I will always thank him for that.

When we finally met we found we had so many things in common. We spent that first evening talking and dancing. I felt this was a person I really wanted to know better. From that point, our relationship started to grow. We kept telling each other we were "just friends," but all of a sudden we found there was much more than friendship between us. Ted is warm, caring, thoughtful, sober; all the personal traits that I was no longer used to. Our times together were great, and Ted was extremely wise and supportive.

In the back of my mind, however, I knew something was not quite right. Call it a GG's intuition (I'm

not suggesting we are the only ones who have it, but mine seems stronger than most peoples'), but I knew he was holding something back from me. Because I can't stand not knowing everything, I kept questioning. Like a terrier on a mail carrier's pant leg, I wouldn't let go. So...

One Saturday afternoon, sitting cross-legged on the sofa, Ted said, "You want to know what's bothering me?" Of course, I said, "Yes." To the best of my recollection, he thrust some papers into my hands, said, "I'm transgendered," mentioned something about crossdressing, and walked away from me. I looked down at the papers he had given me and saw they were articles about transvestites, transsexuals and transgendered behavior in general.

I think I am a relatively intelligent person, and I recognized some of the terms in the papers. I sat there feeling my face get flushed, trying to act calm, and trying to read with some degree of comprehension. There were so many thoughts going through my mind, most of them self-centered. I had just gotten out of a disastrous marriage, and I thought this new relationship had a chance of going somewhere. Now, "Why me, Lord?"

I cannot remember all of my thoughts at the time, but I do remember feeling scared. I had spent the previous month or so weeping at the drop of a hat (suffice it to say I am slightly emotional), so I handled the situation with great originality; I went into the bathroom, shut the door, sat on the floor and cried.

After a few minutes (Ted says it was 15, but I know it wasn't that long), I washed up and came out to face him (her?) and talk. Talk we did. We also watched a tape of a Phil Donahue show concerning crossdressing. That helped answer a lot of questions going around in my mind. After that, we talked some more.

How can I explain that after the initial reaction of fear, I felt only empathy and a growing need to learn more about Ted/Sue and his need to crossdress? I did not walk out. I did not rant and rave. I knew, somehow, that this was a part of Ted's life and it did not change him/her as the person I was getting to know. It added another dimension that I would have to understand. But it did not change the warm, loving, person sitting there with me.

I still don't understand, myself, how I accepted this situation so

continued on page 9

Women's support group to begin in October

It isn't easy being a transvestite or a transsexual. But it might be worse if you are the person married to a TV or a TS. Who do you talk to? How do you find support from others in the same situation?

Beginning in October and running for seven weeks, a support group for women in a relationship with a transvestite or a male-to-female transsexual will be facilitated by Carol Cobb-Nettleton, Ph.D. and Ann Cowardin.

The group will focus on common issues that frequently arise in a

relationship where one partner exhibits transgendered behavior. Such issues may involve lack of intimacy, sexuality concerns, and sharing responsibility.

An objective of the group is to give women an opportunity to share their feelings and build a supportive environment for themselves. Nettleton and Cowardin will help focus the attention of the group on relational issues. They will also teach some skills for strengthening relationships.

Nettleton is in private practice

with Wm. R. Stayton & Assoc. Her academic and professional experience includes many hours of counseling both women and transgendered men. Cowardin is currently a doctoral student.

The group will convene at The Woods beginning Oct. 2 and will meet every Monday night from 7 - 9 p.m. until Nov. 13. The fee is \$25 per session. Third party insurance is accepted and limited scholarships are available.

For more information call Dr. Nettleton at 215-971-9771.

Public exposure, every bit helps...Thelma, Phoenix, RSA

Since its inception seven years ago, the Phoenix Society has worked to bring the facts regarding transvestism and transsexualism to the attention of a largely ignorant and grossly misinformed public. The goal has been to foster greater understanding and acceptance of the TV and the TS. This is not an easy task in this mostly "macho" and somewhat Calvinistic South African society.

Over a period of time, mostly due to the often single-handed efforts of our president and founder, Marlene, progress has been made. An increasing number of cautiously supportive articles on this previously unmentionable subject have appeared in family magazines and newspapers.

Two years ago came what we then believed to be the BIG breakthrough. South African Broadcasting (SABC) produced a 20-minute film with the cooperation of Phoenix

that featured several of our Cape Town based members. The film was scheduled for viewing during prime time on the Sunday evening program 50/50. To date, the film has never been seen by the public.

Earlier this year, another film was produced by the independent M-NET television service featuring two of our Johannesburg members and their wives in confrontation with a well known clinical psychologist. The original air date was April 9 of this year. The film was finally aired on June 18 during the controversial show *Carte Blanche*. This seemed to be a non-event for Phoenix for all references to the organization, including our address and telephone number, had been edited from the program.

We have discovered that the delay was caused by a committee that reviews all material of a controversial nature. One member of the committee is a minister of the Dutch

Reformed Church who reluctantly agreed to allow the airing of the film providing Phoenix was not mentioned. To do this, he said, would encourage a practice that the Bible describes as a sinful.

At least several hundred thousand South African families have now seen that the TV/TS community poses no threat to them. They have seen we are not rapists or child molesters, but ordinary human beings who only seek to express their gender role in peace, free from harassment or ridicule.

At the time of this writing, it is less than 72 hours since the broadcast, and we have heard that M-NET is being inundated with calls and letters from viewers who are seeking advice or more information. Fortunately, the responses to these calls do not have to go before a board of self-styled public guardians, and all such inquiries are being directly referred to Phoenix by M-NET.

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Paula Jordan Sinclair... The NewsQueen

There are two things most people love: their mothers and a parade. This month we have three items on motherhood followed by veritable a parade of transvestites.



According to a report in a less-than-reliable source, a male-to-female transsexual in Sweden has given birth to a 7-pound, 2 ounce baby boy after undergoing a uterine and ovarian transplant in 1987. The report was sketchy, but here are the details that were available. Gunnar Johannson underwent the sex change in 1986 at the hands of Dr. Georges Chaison. A year later, Chaison performed the transplant on Guna Johannson, and within another year, she was pregnant.

According to Johannson's obstetrician, Rune Winslof, the birth was the world's first.



From Washington State comes word that men (or people born as male) don't need an organ transplant to experience the pains of pregnancy. A company called Birthways, Inc. of Redmond, has designed a garment that lets prospective fathers (and possibly others) feel what its like to carry a baby.

The garment is like a back pack, only it is worn in front. A rubber bag over the wearer's stomach can be filled with varying amounts of water to simulate different stages of pregnancy. Lead weights are stuffed into pockets on the tops and sides of the garment to press in on the ribs as some babies' feet and elbows do. A pendulum in the water-filled rubber bag simulates a fetus's kicking. In short, "we can create 20 separate symptoms of pregnancy for a prospective father in just a matter of minutes," said Linda Ware, the inventor of the Empathy Bulge. "Men who tried it become more understanding real fast," she said. "For some men it opens up a whole new world of feelings."

We can just imagine.



And now, the strangest pregnancy item. (Where would we be without the those supermarket tabloids?) A doctor in Yugoslavia is claiming to perform sex reassignment surgery on human fetuses.

Dr. Jarovic Borislavsky of Skopje, Yugoslavia says that by injecting a special mix of secret hormones into the wombs of pregnant women, and then by performing an operation directly on the fetuses to alter their sex organs, he can turn unborn boys into unborn girls and vice versa.

Borislavsky refused to give other details of his operation, but he did say that most of his patients are farm women who are carrying female babies and want them turned into males. "Girls are useless to these people," Borislavsky has said. "Their economic survival depends upon an abundance of males."

Government officials have reportedly banned the procedure, calling the plastic surgeon a mad scientist.



Here's our Transvestite Hit Parade, or, if you prefer, a crossdressed version of "What's My Line." Lest you think I am giving away my age with these references to two old television shows, I hasten to add that my mother told me about them while she was smearing cold cream on my mouth to remove my lipstick. The connection may be obscure, but so was my childhood. Enough of this; on with the parade.

Our first entry is an actor—one who crossdressed. B.D. Wong is giving up his geisha wig and kimonos from the Broadway play *M. Butterfly* for good. Later this month, he will take a short vacation and then return to the New York stage playing the genderless fairy Ariel in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*.



We have two entries in the transvestite prostitute category. First is the Fort Benning, Ga., soldier who told police he was assaulted by two

men in drag who had offered him a ride as he was on his way home from a party. The soldier at first thought that the pair were female prostitutes, and that he and his friends would have a good time with them. But instead of driving to the soldier's house, the transvestites took him to their home where one restrained him while the other forced him to have sex. At about 6:30 the next morning, the pair drove him back to the party. When asked by police if he could identify the suspects, the soldier only said that they were two good-looking women. The soldier refused to press charges.

Life on Italian streets is tough too, and not only for the living. When a transvestite prostitute in Venice died several months ago, her friends tried to buy a death notice in the conservative newspaper *Gazzettino De Venezia*, but editor Giorgio Lago refused to accept it. That prompted Ferdinando Camon to write in another paper that Lago was "perpetuating a moralistic system of journalism that denied homosexuals access to the press." The Italian courts didn't like what Camon had to say about Lago, and they fined him \$28,000 for libeling the editor.



What would any parade be without horses and riders? Ours has one of the most famous, Wild Bill Hickock. According to H. Franklin Green, former president of the Outlaw/Lawman Association, Hickock was gay and married a transvestite circus owner from Ohio. Hickock married Agnes Lake Thatcher in May of 1876, and the pair honeymooned in Cincinnati (still known as "The Queen City"). But after two weeks, they split. Agnes went back to her circus, and Hickock moved on to Deadwood, S.D. where he was later killed. "There's no doubt in my mind that Agnes Lake was a man, a transvestite," Green said. But he offered no proof

continued on page 9

On The Town...with Allison

☛ Your "Uncle" wants you!

Yes, ladies, your "uncle" does want you, for dinner. I mean the Center City restaurant.

Uncle's is a small, pleasant restaurant and bar located on Locust street in downtown Philadelphia. It is quite a comfortable place for transgendered folks like us. I'd had several good reports of the fine dining available, so on a recent night out JoAnn and I decided to give it a try. We were rewarded with congenial service and fine cuisine at reasonable prices.

Upon our arrival we were concerned to find the Locust street entrance locked. "Friendly" patrons, seated by the large front window, motioned us to use the side entrance on Camac street. We were escorted through the bar into the front dining area where we joined several other diners, among them Renais-

sance member, friend and patron Dr. Richard Friend.

For appetizers we ordered stuffed mushroom caps (\$5.50) and chicken livers sauteed with brandied mushrooms (\$3.95). Both were delicious. The salad with house dressing comes with the main entrees. There are a dozen or more entrees of a wide variety from the regular menu. The specials (all at \$6.95!) included veal parmiagiana, chicken cordon bleu, crab cakes, and chicken stromboli. For the hearty eaters, there is roast duckling (\$12.95), lamb chops (\$14.95), and filet mignon (\$15.95).

We selected pasta dishes as entrees — the menu usually lists two choices each day. Our choices were clams in white sauce and an eclectic combination of shrimp and scallops with black olives and artichoke hearts in a sauce of sun dried toma-

toes accented with capers.

For lovers of the sea, there is Cajun catfish (\$9.95) and flounder stuffed with crabmeat (\$10.95). For the budget minded there is a bacon cheeseburger (\$5.95). The Wednesday Special is prime rib (\$10.95). The desert selections vary. I had a raspberry-chocolate tart and they always feature their "homemade" ice cream.

But a word of caution. To look your best, stay out of the bar. The red lights there are *not* flattering. Paula Sinclair reports she spent hours getting ready for a date there recently, but when she walked into the bar, it looked like she had never opened her makeup kit.

Uncle's, 1220 Locust street. Dining room open 6 p.m. - 11 p.m. Bar open 10 p.m. - 2 a.m. Also open for lunch. 215-985-9617

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Discoveries: The Facts About Transgender Behavior — Part I

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Introduction

This paper is written to explain, in the simplest terms possible, the phenomena of transgender behavior, encompassing transvestism (crossdressing) and transsexualism. It is meant to dispel the myths and misconceptions about people who exhibit this behavior. It is meant, hopefully, to alleviate the guilt and pain experienced by transgendered people and those around them who do not understand what is happening. It is a compilation of literature research, personal experience, and conversations with literally hundreds of transvestites, transsexuals and professional counselors.

Transgender Behavior

Nothing seems to disturb society more than when something is discovered to be different than the rest of the so-called "normal" world. Is it any surprise then that behavior which society deems appropriate for the opposite sex should cause so much havoc in our personal lives? In this section I will try to define transgender behavior in very simplistic terms. I'll start with crossdressing.

Crossdressing

Crossdressing is the act of wearing garments appropriate to the opposite sex. Crossdressing is used synonymously with transvestism. In the strictest technical sense, it is not the same. Crossdressing is an activity, like running or swimming, and, as such, many different types of people crossdress for many different reasons. An actor may crossdress for a role in a play (Charlie's Aunt), a female impersonator crossdresses for a living (Jimmy James as Marilyn Monroe), a restaurant requires its staff (male and female) to wear tuxedos, or a current fashion fad has teenage girls wearing men's attire (boxer shorts as outerwear). All of these are instances of

crossdressing but none of these have anything to do with transgender behavior.

Transvestism

Transvestism is a Latin term which literally means "to crossdress". Confused? Join the crowd. There is an important addition to the definition, however. You are a transvestite (TV) if you crossdress for erotic and/or emotional pleasure. Transvestites crossdress but not all crossdressers are transvestites; the important ingredient being the erotic/emotional satisfaction. Originally, transvestism was treated by therapists as a fetish. A person has a fetish if he/she can't become sexually aroused without the fetish object, in this case female attire. It is easy to see how the link between transvestism and fetishism was made by early analysts. Almost all transvestism has erotic roots. For the transvestite, the act of crossdressing becomes linked to emotional and sexual release and is almost always accompanied by masturbation. Curiously, transvestites who are active on a social basis seem to dress more for emotional satisfaction than sexual. This is recognized by the professional community and "transvestic fetishism" has replaced "transvestism" as a diagnosis for the inability to be aroused unless crossdressed.

Transvestism is an activity practiced almost exclusively by males. (We may get an insight into why in a later section section.) The majority of transvestites are heterosexual, just as the majority of all males are heterosexual. There are bisexual and homosexual transvestites, however, contrary to popular belief or what some organizations would have you believe. Your sexual preference develops along with your gender identity, but is not directly linked to it. To transvestites, clothes

make the woman. It is both the visual image and the tactile sensations that create the pleasure. This is important in distinguishing a transvestite from a transsexual.

Transsexualism

You are a transsexual if you have a deep seated belief that your gender identity is incongruous with your physical sex. The cliché is "A woman trapped in a man's body" or "A man trapped in a woman's body." Transsexuals (TS) can be identified throughout history. It is only in recent times that the medical profession has had the ability to do anything to help them. Additionally, it is now recognized that there are at least two distinct types of people who present as transsexuals and these have been noted as Primary and Secondary Transsexuals. Primary transsexuals are generally believed to have a life-long fixed and consistent gender identity that is opposite from their physical sex. Secondary transsexuals are generally believed to be persons who, after a career of transvestism, seek gender reassignment in response to a personal crisis. Some professionals believe that Secondary Transsexualism is treatable with psychotherapy. It is estimated by some sources that about 30% of all cases presenting for reassignment are Secondary Transsexuals. The treatment or "cure" for transsexualism is Sex Reassignment Surgery, SRS. Unlike transvestism, which seems exclusively male, transsexualism is presented by male and female alike. The most (in)famous transsexuals are Male-to-Female reassignments which have been sensationalized by the media.

The process leading to reassignment is long, expensive and emotionally difficult. It is designed to make damned sure that those people presenting themselves for reassign-

continued on page 9



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Discoveries...from page 7

ment surgery are truly transsexual. There are many people who believe that reassignment will be the answer to all their problems when all it can do is remove one barrier that prevents them from finding real solutions. Guidelines exist for the psychological and physical treatment of transsexualism. Clinics have been set up to administer the guidelines and assist transsexuals seeking reassignment.

SRS is an art rather than a science. The risks are great and there are often severe complications. The risk factors depend largely on the experience and skill of the surgeon. While both the transsexual and the surgeon see SRS as a necessary surgical intervention, unfortunately, most medical insurance companies do not, classifying SRS as Cosmetic, and therefore not covered by medical plans. Depending upon where and when and who performs the SRS, cost of the sur-

gery alone can range from \$6000 to \$10,000. The total cost of a reassignment, including therapy, hormone treatment, electrolysis, and SRS can be upwards of \$50,000.

To most transsexuals crossdressing is not of major importance. The visual image is not as powerful as the mental image they have of themselves in their proper gender identity. Whereas with a transvestite the need to crossdress is episodic (frequent and repetitive), for a transsexual the dissatisfaction with their physical sex is chronic (all the time). This is the most distinguishing difference between the two.

Transgenderism

Just as in every other area of human behavior no two people are exactly alike, we see a wide range of behaviors even in transgendered people. Some transvestites may crossdress once a week or once a month. Some transsexuals may

never crossdress until after reassignment. And in between these extremes are people who may choose to live crossdressed full time, with no intention of seeking reassignment. These persons are called transgenderists (TG). The issue comes down to what is "right" for the individual; what is psychologically comfortable.

(To be continued next month)

NewsQueen...from page 5

other than Agnes' manish appearance. Maybe Green should teach a course at Fort Benning.



How about some crossdressing Nazis to add to our parade? Until recently, you could have found them in a Roman Catholic convent and orphanage deep in the wilds of Paraguay. The Rev. Juan Escalpa, a priest in the capital city of Asunción had heard rumors of the harsh discipline the nuns at the school enforced on the orphans in their care, so he decided to investigate. "When I spied on them," he said, "I say them goose-stepping around the convent in their black habits and singing Nazi songs." That was enough for the priest and he called the authorities who raided the convent. The raid produced a large cache of guns and explosives and Nazi literature and regalia. "We've been able to establish that the nuns were all high-ranking SS officers," said one police official. "Their leader was Col. Klaus Von Roeppegang who was also their Mother Superior."



Miss Sinclair claims to read several newspapers daily. But while she is shopping for maternity clothes to wear awaiting the birth of little Agua, she may miss a story or two. If you see an item regarding transgender activities, kindly clip it and sent it to her in care of the Renaissance office. Please note the name of the publication and the date.

Revelations...from page 3

easily. Intelligence? Tolerance? Could it be because I have a son who is gay and have learned that gay or not, he is still my son? Am I suppressing something deep within my subconscious? I don't have the answers to all those questions. I only know that my feelings for Sue have grown every day. This is a person who is sweet and tender. She is more understanding of a woman than anyone I have ever known, but she sure can voice her own thoughts. I told her from the beginning not to let me get away with anything because I thought she might be "too nice." I should never have said that!

I don't know where our relationship will go from here. I have seen Sue dressed once. I have not attended any meetings with her yet. I have not met any of her friends or "sister" chapter members. I will when the time is right and I feel ready. Right now, we have chosen to spend almost all our time getting to know each other. There might be

rough spots. ahead, but I'm sure as long as we continue to talk to each other, we can get through them. I'm thankful that Sue told me in the beginning of our relationship rather than a few months, or years, down the line. This way, I did not get a lot of preconceived ideas about what "type" of person she is and have to change all my thoughts. Again, as long as we communicate; as long as Sue keeps me informed, and, as long as I can think things through, there should be few problems.

Perhaps I should write a sequel to this at some time in the future, but I'm rather secure in the love we have growing right now. With the help and support of others, it can only get better!

I sincerely admire Sue's commitment to Renaissance. She is dedicated, hardworking and certainly cares about helping other people. Now, if only I could get her to change the oil in my car, like she's been promising to do for weeks.

National Gender News

from around the TV/TS community

Indianapolis — We continue to follow the ruckus in this city between some gay bars and crossdressers, particularly the members of the **Indiana Crossdresser's Society**, (IXE).

In case you missed last month's report, several gay bars in this city have instituted a "dress code" which specifically excludes crossdressed males. IXE members had been ejected from one bar and had dinner reservations canceled at another.

We've learned more details through IXE member, **Bobbi Alyson**, "There was a meeting at the Indianapolis police department on July 6 between the bars, the cops, Bureau of Alcohol Control, IXE and the gay media.

"One of the bars had taken their signs down ("Proper Attire Required. Your ID must match your appearance!") that afternoon. One bar owner was heard to say after the meeting, "Those fags aren't comin' in 'cause I can't be sure of their ID!" So he's going to need some help.

"The local ACLU says the Indiana Civil Right Commission has in the past ruled in favor of pre-op TS's

on "sex discrimination" grounds in just this sort of case, and ICRC indicates a willingness to go right on so ruling."

In a related incident, Alyson was arrested at a bar named **Our Place**. She was charged with resisting arrest and fleeing. A plea bargain reduced the charge to simply resisting, but it cost her almost \$1200 in attorney's fees, fines and court costs. In addition, she is on 6 months non-reporting probation.

The owner of **Our Place** has threatened to tell Alyson's employer the "truth" about her thus endangering her job. More to follow next month.

NGN

Isle of Wight, U.K. — We owe an apology to the director of the TransGender Archive, **Dr. Richard Ekins**. It appears as though we "Yankees" are having trouble spelling his name correctly. In the July NGN we spelled it "Eakins", and *The TV/TS Tapestry* has spelled it variously as "Elkins" and "Akins."

Our thanks to **Phaedra Kelly** for pointing out the errors.

Miss Kelly, as she prefers to be called, also provided us with an

account of England's version of Stonewall. Our editrix has promised to print the story next month.

NGN

Philadelphia— The **Greater Philadelphia Chapter of Renaissance** is planning an AIDS benefit. The chapter is following in the tradition set by the original founding group.

The chapter, under the able guidance of chapter leader **Teri Kay**, aided and abetted by producer, **Angela Gardner**, outreach director, **Therése Aigner**, and supported by a cast of thousands (well, maybe a couple of other people) will be sponsoring DRAGMANIA I.

Details are sketchy at this time, but we've managed to learn a few, such as the date (Nov. 9), the location (the Cartwheel in New Hope, Pa.), the beneficiary (The Hyacinth Foundation), and the cost (\$15). The event is planned as a variety and fashion show.

Everyone in the New York to Maryland corridor is invited to attend. Look for a feature article to appear in next month's newsletter giving the final details.

NGN

Denver— The **Gender Identity Center** has a new look to its newsletter. Called simply *GICenter Newsletter*, the publication uses a slick, modern, fashion graphic as the central element on the front cover. It's very attractive and eye-catching. The articles inside are informative as well. Nice work.

GIC has also put in a bid for the 1991 IFGE convention out west. So it seems there might be a little competition for our previously reported Texas site.

The GIC may be reached at 3715 W. 32nd Ave., Denver, CO 80211

NGN

San Antonio, Tex. — And speaking of Texas, the ladies at the **Boulton & Park Society** have wasted

continued next page



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National Gender News

from around the TV/TS community

no time in planning a replay of their highly successful **Texas "T" Party** for 1990. They should, however, proofread their newsletter. The "T" party ad in their July newsletter shows a 1989 date.

The correct dates and additional information can be had by writing to P.O. Box 169652, San Antonio, TX 78280.

NGN

Kansas City, Kan. — While we've mentioned proofreading, it seems that our editrix has been cat napping at her computer. We reported a while ago on a group in the Kansas City area but we neglected to give the correct address. **Crossdressers And Friends** can be reached at Box 4092, Overland Park, KS 66204.

NGN

Minneapolis — A bit gleaned from the newsletter of the **City of Lakes Crossdresser's Club** is this quote from **Ralph Waldo Emerson**, "Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us or we will find it not..."

NGN

Atlanta — In recent years, two major factors have pulled the gender community closer together. They are relatively inexpensive computers and electronic bulletin boards or BBSs. Many Renaissance members are familiar with the **JSS Gender Forum** operated by **Paula Keiser** in central Jersey and **Feminet** in California. Now there is another BBS to add to your list of reasons to spend your phone dollars. The **Dixie Belles** of Sigma Epsilon Tri-Ess have established a BBS at 404-922-2414. (For those of you who are computer illiterate, the next paragraph is boring, so skip to the next item.)

Set your modem for 300 to 2400 baud, No parity, 8 bits, 1 stop bit. The first time logon procedure is as follows: NAME?: (type) SIGMA EP-SILON; PASSWORD?: (type) TRIESS. To become a member of

the discussion forum select "Q" from the menu and answer the questionnaire. You will receive full user privileges in 24 hours. The basic rules are no solicitation for sex and no discussion of illegal acts or activities. Simple. Except if you are trying to decide which jurisdiction determines illegality.

NGN

Anaheim, Calif. — We're pleased to see that some of our ideas have been rubbing off on other groups. Several groups now offer a free trial subscription to their newsletter, and recently another group, **Powder Puffs of Orange County (PPOC)**, is considering video taping the program portion of their meetings.

Video taping a program is a good idea and helps to establish a history for a group. **Renaissance** started taping programs to provide startup material for its chapters. Someday groups may begin sharing their tapes with each other.

PPOC is also climbing aboard the "club event" bandwagon with **La Cage Aux Powder Puffs**, scheduled in October of 1989. With enough club sponsored getaways, we'll soon be able to go to one a month.

PPOC is one of the newest and fastest growing groups in southern California. Don't let their name fool you. This group is going to be one of the more active in our community. PPOC can be contacted at P.O. Box 9091 or 714-779-9013.

NGN

Katy, Tex. — We have a candidate for a MONA next year (see your April newsletter if you don't remember what a MONA is). **My Husband Wears My Clothes** is the title of a new book written by **Dr. Peggy Rudd**, who is the wife of a crossdresser. As funny as her title may be, she covers the subject in a serious manner.

We applaud Rudd for taking pen to paper on the subject. We'll be ordering a copy and a review will

appear in a future issue of NGN. In the meantime, if you can't wait for us, you can order your own copy from PM Publishers, 1811 Crutchfield, Katy, TX 77449

NGN

Chicago — We spotted this item in the *Primrose*, the newsletter of the **Chicago Gender Society (CGS)**. **Royal Gray** (what a great name!) who is a member of the newly formed **Chameleon Club (CC)** is also a representative of the **Central Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force (CIGLTF)**. Gray has invited all members of the CC and CGS to the CIGLTF picnic held in Springfield.

We hope they do decide to attend. It can only help to develop a solidarity among all sexual minorities in the Windy City area.

NGN

Toronto, Can. — A very impressive issue of the *TransNews* arrived in July. It contained two articles that would be of great interest to pre-op M-t-F transsexuals.

Lesley Bernard writes of a vocal surgery technique that employs a laser to thin the vocal membranes. Bernard underwent the surgery herself, so the account is firsthand. She reports that the surgery did not give her a totally feminine voice but rather the ability to achieve a higher pitch without effort.

Bernard, **Dawn Raby**, **Micheline Johnson**, and **Olivia Jensen** all contributed to an article entitled *Estrogens and Anti-Androgens: Canadian Practice and Research as Observed by the Consumer*. The article was well written in a very professional manner with many references. The piece was worthy of an academic journal.

Anyone interested in a copy of this issue should send \$3 (Can.) to **Transition Support**, c/o Church St. Community Centre, 519 Church St. Toronto, Ontario, M4Y-2C9. Request a copy of Vol. 1, No. 7.

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