

The Monmouth & Ocean News

A Publication of M.O.T.G.

Monmouth Ocean Transgender

An Affiliate of Renaissance Education Association

M.O.T.G., P.O. Box 8243, Red Bank, New Jersey 07701

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May, 1994

GOVERNOR WHITMAN MEETS M.O.T.G.!

MAY 9, 1994, STATE HOUSE, TRENTON, NJ -- M.O.T.G. Co-Director Terry M. represented the transgendered community in a high level meeting with **Governor Christine Todd Whitman**. This meeting was set up under the auspices of the NJ Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual communities. It was designed to present to Governor Whitman issues of importance to all. The main topics of discussion included civil rights, bias awareness, youth, family issues, and AIDS. In her presentation to the Governor, Terry explained briefly what it means to be transgendered and also pointed out the fact that under civil rights law, transgendered people are not protected. Governor Whitman indicated a willingness to maintain an ongoing relationship with all our communities.

In all likelihood, this is the first time any New Jersey governor has met a representative of our community!

High Notes

by Marybeth, Editor, M.O. News

Many thanks to **Kate M. and Vikki M.** for their very enlightening discussion on the **similarities and differences between transsexuals and crossdressers** at our April 23rd meeting. Please read Dianne's column, **Girls Night Out**, page 4, for a lively account of the evening.

Take note of our new phone number at the top of the page! (908) 219-9094 is our new information line. You can leave your phone number if you wish, and someone will return your call. Please pass on this number to those who need us.

Mark your calendars with these meeting dates:

May 28	June 25	July 23	August 27
September 24	October 22	November 26	December 17

Our **May 28** meeting will feature a presentation by **Dr. Aviva S. Nubel**, "Choosing a Therapist." During her talk Dr. Nubel will stress the following issues: 1) how to choose a therapist who is right for you; 2) self esteem and self acceptance for crossdressers and transsexuals; and 3) respecting the differences among transgendered people. Dr. Nubel is a psychotherapist with a PhD. in marriage and family counseling. She is a psychological and mental health clinical specialist as well as a licensed RN. Dr. Nubel is in private practice in Bridgewater, NJ; she counsels couples, individuals, families and groups. In addition, she is a clinical specialist at Marlboro Psychiatric Hospital.

Our next business/newsletter meeting will be on **June 17 at 7:30 at Elaine's condo.**

Dates to Remember

Sunday, May 15	NJ Lesbian/Gay Coalition Meeting, New Brunswick
Sunday, June 5	Pride Parade, Asbury Park
Thursday, June 16	Special Stonewall Transgendered Event, Lesbian/Gay Community Center, New York
Friday, June 17	M.O.T.G. Business Meeting, Elaine's condo, 7:30 pm
Sunday, June 26	Stonewall 25 March, New York

Please see Terry M. for information about Stonewall and the NJ Lesbian/Gay Coalition.

Our small room is available to both **transsexuals and significant others** and a "rap group" room. **8:30-9:30 -- Significant Others; 9:30-10:30 -- Transsexuals.** We ask our TV members to respect our need for our own space.

The M.O. News offers full page ads for only **\$90.00 a year!** **Half page ads are \$50.00;** **business card-sized ads are \$25.00.** Contact **Marybeth** via the P.O. Box regarding advertising.

Contributions to the M.O. News are due on the 5th of each month. Please send them via the P.O. Box. My apologies to Dianne and Maryann Kirkland of Renaissance. Since there were so many contributions for May, I was able to reprint only one of each of your articles in this issue. Your other stories will appear in the June issue. We will be printing the most timely articles each month. If you do not see your particular contribution in an issue, be patient.

I have **Mary Kay yellow concealer** on sale for only **\$5.00.** If you are in the market for concealer or other Mary Kay items, such as **French manicure products**, please contact me.

This month's issue marks the debut of **Stephanie's** advice column. She promises to answer every letter personally. Please indicate on your letter whether or not you would like us to publish it in the newsletter. If you would like us to use initials or just plain "Anonymous," let us know. Send your letters to **Dear Stephanie, c/o M.O.T.G., P.O. Box 8243, Red Bank, NJ 07701.**

Hello again girls

by Stephanie, Co-Editor, M.O.News

Amazing, summer is nearly upon us, and that can mean only two things for most of us. 1) Unfortunately, the days are longer and the nights are warmer, which means it is more difficult for some of us to get out of the house. Even if we do, most of us might begin to melt, not unlike snowmen in July. 2) Fewer activities are available to the group as the season approaches.

At a recent meeting at Elaine's condo, some suggestions were brought up, some of which I am very supportive of. First, again the idea of an after meeting night spot has been brought up. I am interested in such a place. However, it must be in a secure, non-threatening environment that will be welcoming to the gender groups. If any of you know of such a place that is close to our meeting site, please let me know.

Also, a summer outdoor get together has been mentioned. It is intended to be during the day on one of the weekends, maybe in June or July. Obviously, some of us won't be going "en femme," so please consider bringing your S.O.'s, and even the kids. Mine will all be attending. For our T.S. members, you are most welcome and I urge you to attend. I will probably be organizing this event, so please let me, Terry, Marybeth, or Elaine know of your interest in this event, and any other ideas you can think of. By the way, the cost is minimal, maybe even free. I will let you know next time.

Until next month girls,
Love, Stephanie

P.S. Drop a note to the P.O.Box and let me know if you would like to participate in the outdoor gathering [Bar'b'cue and fun].

Sometimes You Can't Go It Alone

by Donna, Member, M.O.T.G.

I'm writing to ask my sisters for a little help. I would like to have someone to go shopping with, or maybe to go out for dinner or just for a walk on the boardwalk. I am in the process of getting a divorce and am not able to dress at home. I would appreciate being able to dress at someone's apartment or house, since it's hard to go to a motel on the weekend. Please contact me at one of the meetings or through the P.O. Box if you can help out. Thanks for caring.

Love, Donna

Dear Stephanie

by Stephanie, Co-Editor, M.O. News

Dear Stephanie,

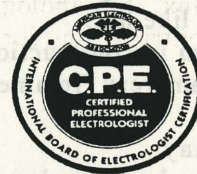
Hello, my name is Tiffany. I am 36 years old; also I am very happily married. I have been crossdressing for most of my life, having borrowed from my older sister's collection of theatrical assortment. Items such as clothes, shoes, make-up and wigs were plentiful.

My problem is simple. I wish very much to explore my very feminine side; however, it is

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Barbara A. Susinno R.N., C.P.E.

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not my wish to explore the personal ads in the paper in order to obtain a date for the evening. What I am looking for is to be with others such as myself and to see how Tiffany would interact with other like her.

I am in construction work and so the clothes are very male during the day, but at night as Tiffany I am very "femme" and without male problems.

Thank you, Tiffany

Dear Tiffany,

I am happy to hear from you. In reading your letter, I was wondering: Does your wife know and approve of Tiffany? If so, does she know of your desires? How does she feel about being in public with Tiffany?

What I would suggest to both of you is to come to the next M.O.T.G. meeting and be warmly received by the rest of your "sisters" and their S.O.'s. Perhaps it would be good for both of you. I for one will look forward to meeting the two of you.

By the way, I, like you, am also in construction and I experience feelings similar to yours. See you soon, Stephanie

Girls Night Out

by Dianne W., Member, M.O.T.G.

OCTOBER 23--Thanks to Kathy for the scrumptious tray of strawberries, grapes and peaches sitting on the most beckoning of pastries. In jest I warned her she could not come next month without another. I am sure she will again bestow this gift from the gods upon us.

Elaine and Marybeth brought us up to date. Terry is representing us before Governor Whitman. Our rights as transgendered people should be protected as well as the rights of gay people. As the astronaut took the first step for mankind, Terry is taking one for all of us.

Our new phone line is now working. Be not afraid to call. Through the wonders of call forwarding you will be able to talk to someone who will try to answer your questions.

Stephanie came up with the great idea of the picnic, and we discussed a larger meeting space. Jude is currently scouting out some possibilities. We also talked about a place we might go after the meeting, since it is our "girls night out." Also, we hope to see new friends and faces in response to our newspaper ads that will be placed shortly. Let's keep our fingers crossed.

Our guest speakers, Kate and Vikki, did a fantastic job of bringing us together, whether CD, TV, or TS. Kate gave us a very good insight into the world of being a TS. She mentioned that it is expensive, talked about rejection from others, and discussed the pitfalls that have to be met and dealt with. Vikki talked about being a crossdresser. As moderator she made sure all could express their feelings and ask questions. It is in this type of round robin discussion that we can realize that we have a common bond. Each can add something special in shared friendships and discussions. Jennifer is composing a letter that will be mailed to psychotherapists so that they will be aware of our existence and of the friendship we extend to others.

Many thanks to Kate, Vikki, Elaine, Jennifer, Stephanie, and Jude. And a special thanks to Terry for doing the leg work to see that our rights are protected. It is this type of concern for our group that will help M.O.T.G. grow and attract new members.

This is our newsletter. I am sure all have many stories or anecdotes to tell. They can range from the serious to the comic. We would love to hear from you. Remember that there are no grades issued, only "A+" for all who write. Hope to see you next month wearing that outfit that was made for you. I will be wearing the one made for me. After all, it is our "girls night out."

Let's Go Shopping

by Maryann Kirkland, Renaissance Education Association

Spring is finally here. The recent warm temperatures caused leaves to bud and flower, tulips to bloom, and dandelions to cover my lawn (ugh!). Current circumstances have allowed me plenty of time to visit malls. Seems as if stores are always having sales and there are always plenty

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of people around. Shopping during the day off peak hours is quite pleasant no matter how you are dressed. Sales people are glad to see you and they re very talkative and helpful. The cosmetics and fine fragrance sales girls are usually the most thrilled to hear that you are a crossdresser and a consumer--they will try to sell you the store!

Since money is always in short supply, you can tell something about the person by what she buys. This article is about personal growth of the typical crossdresser. It suggests that changes in what you buy reflect periods of growth on the way to becoming a mature and contemporary woman. Like many others, my years in the "closet" were spent as a lingerie queen and nobody did chiffon and lace peignoir sets like me. I was the best--just ask my spouse. Crinolines? Of course, by the dozen. Now we must hide them from the kids. How many crinolines can one stuff in a four foot Lane Cedar Chest?

Seven years ago Renaissance was formed in May 1987, and I answered the call to leave the closet. Creating and presenting a new woman to the world was a "social birth" for me. Those previous years in the closet are akin to time spent in the womb (chiffon). So the average American crossdresser has the longest gestation time of any species on the planet!

Growth is a natural process--to accelerate it at "warp" speed produces poor results. The longest stage of growth is adolescence. Going through adolescence at age 40 is not funny but really painful: this time with a more rounded figure--all in the wrong places.

On leaving the "womb" or house for the first time, a handbag and overcoat were necessary, right? These practical items opened your eyes to the discovery that women use many departments other than lingerie. Quickly you appreciate the handbag as a statement of fashion and femininity. And what a civilized way to carry all those new necessities. Words fail to describe my loathing for carrying a male wallet while doing male drag. And I have discovered that the winter clothcoat is a wonderful garment--hides figure flaws, improves passability, and is warm.

Some indications of "turning the corner" into the maturity phase is when your wardrobe becomes indistinguishable for your spouse's. You now wear shorts, stirrup pants, slacks, culottes, rompers, and jumpers. Shoes are flats, penny loafers, sandals, tennis shoes, sneakers. These shoe types are wonderfully androgenous and can be worn with male/androgenous attire. If you are blessed with small feet like me (ladies 9C) you should check out the 50% savings of women's shoes over the comparable men's shoes. The sportswear sections of department stores are quite extensive in giving the message: Women want to dress casually and comfortably. Some popular labels to check out are Alfred Dunner, Cricket Lane, Chaus, Season of the Ticket, Liz Sportswear. If you like three digit price tags go for Donna Keran (DKNY, of course).

The dress and heels that we so cherish are in reality the female uniform that full time girls avoid as much as possible. That is why you--the part time girl--should give plenty of thought to the time of day, place, occasion, season, and weather when planning your outfit for a public outing. Real women do; so should you.

Being very public at work, I was curious which kind of female presentations would draw comments and cheers. When I finished my photo album of six years of reasonably decent pictures, I took it into the workplace--a factory of beer bellied, belching, hairy men. The outcome supported what I said above. The best female presentations were those pictures in sportswear--romper, shorts, jeans. Why? Because that is exactly the clothing they see their wives and girlfriends wearing. Now their expectations for slutty, provocative, alluring, sex kitten stuff reflected 1) the public stereotype of TV's and 2) their own immature sexual fantasies. Showing them clothing that their own wives would wear replaced the fantasy with reality and enabled them to better respect my alternative lifestyle.

If you can forgive my self-indulgence I will tell you what Maryann received for Mothers' Day. This year we learned all about the fragrance counters. Elizabeth Taylor's name has been used to sell Passion. But did you know that four other expensive top shelf fragrances have her name on them? They are cleverly called the Jewels: White Diamonds; Diamonds and Emeralds; Diamonds and Rubies; and Diamonds and Sapphires. More on the joys of this most ladylike pursuit in a future article. Now don't confuse White Diamonds with White Linen or with White Shoulders. Happy Shopping!



CDS Premium Videos

CDS is committed to producing only the highest quality VHS videos for the transgendered community and that's a guarantee. Here's the lineup for 1994.

• **NEW• Fashion Accessorizing** — Stretch your fashion budget with these simple, money conscious tricks. (Order VCL1) • **Straight Dope on Hormones** — Delia VanMaris, M.D., provides you with the essential information you need about the effects of taking hormones. (Order VCD1) • **Cosmetic Surgery Options** — This video with Dr. VanMaris discusses the most common cosmetic surgeries and what effects you may expect. (Order VCD2) • **Coping With Crossdressing: the video*** — Three couples candidly discuss their relationships and how they cope with crossdressing. (Order VCC1) • **Speaking As A Woman™** — Alison Laing's most requested voice workshop. (Order VCA1) • **What Is Femininity?** — Alison Laing takes you through the construction of a feminine persona. (Order VCA2). • **LadyLike™ Deportment** — Paula Jordan Sinclair, teaches proper feminine grace and poise when standing, walking, sitting and other social situations. (Order VCP1) • **Art & Illusion™ Tricks & Tips** — Here are ideas you just won't find anywhere else. Based on the popular workshop presented by JoAnn Roberts. (Order VCJ1) • **Basic Makeup Application** — JoAnn Roberts lets you look over her shoulder during a complete makeup application. (Order VCJ2).

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