

Gender Mosaic's

Notes From the Underground



Ottawa, Canada

Sixth Anniversary Issue

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

I guess another year has gone by. It went by so fast, but I loved every day of it. I hope that 1994 will be another great year for me and my friends in Gender Mosaic. It's not too often that I write about issues of gender, so I am not going to start now. Representing gender topics on the television, radio and at Carleton U. has made me aware of who I really am. I hope that I gave a proper interpretation to the public during the last month of interviews.

On another topic we had our elections on March 5th during our social and here are the results for the up and coming year.

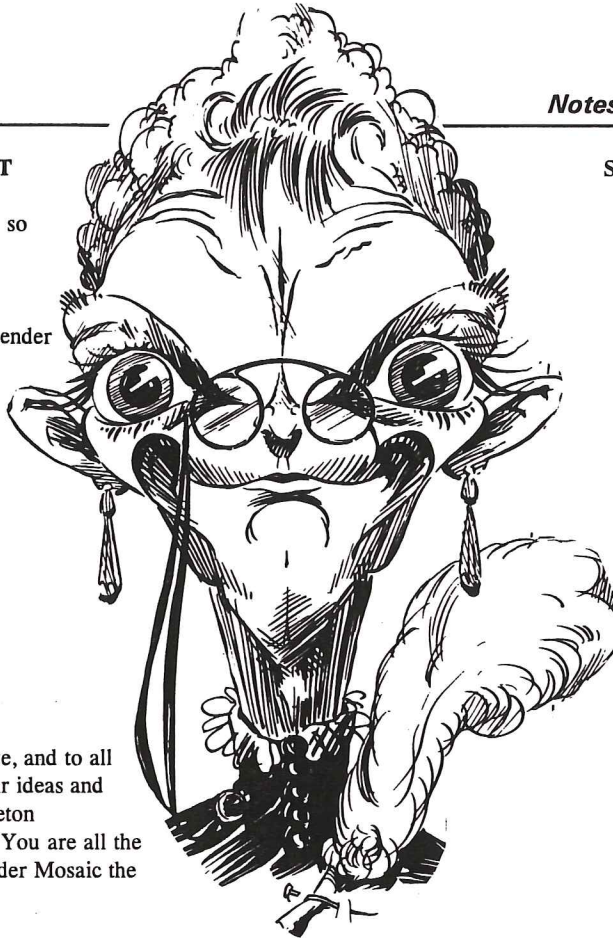
President	Joanne Law
V. President	Linda
Secretary	Natalie
Treasurer	Diana Coltridge

Welcome to all our new faces on the executive, and to all the members who attend and give to the group with their ideas and time, and to the students of Ottawa University and Carleton University, and the wives and friends of the members. You are all the best people in the world and together we can make Gender Mosaic the best support group in the country.

Take Care
Joanne

MANY THANKS TO LEIGH FOR TWO YEARS OF "ACCURATE" PERFORMANCE AND KEEPING THE CLUB OUT OF THE RED ZONE!!!

Gender Mosaic Loves You!!!!



SOME PARTING THOUGHTS

This is my last issue as editor of Notes From the Underground. It is obvious that despite having many good points, it is in need of following some of its own advice. The newsletter needs to get rid of baggage. It has obtained a life of its own and in my mind, had started to become a self-justifying entity. These are signs of a newsletter that is on the eve of decline. The sooner we intervene the better. Given the increase of our community involvement, it is obvious that now is the time for the newsletter to take on a leaner, more nimble persona. Timely jabs and uppercuts will now be more effective than ponderous knock-out-blows that might arrive too late.

I am happy to introduce Sharon as the incoming Editor of NFTU. She brings not only her skills as a writer, but her past experience as President of Factt and Editor of the Factt newsletter. Her life experience of living as a full-time woman will give her perspectives and an intimacy to issues which can only be speculated on by transvestites like myself. As well she has forgotten more about computers than I will ever learn.

This leaves this issue. True to the subversiveness alluded to in the name "*Notes From the Underground*", this issue goes against the grain of various complacent mindsets which currently exist. The first is our community's total aversion to criticism. Amazingly, even the founder and executive director of IFGE, Merissa Sherril Lynn, calls criticism "poison". She is wrong. Criticism is a natural human trait. Indeed the strength of an organization or culture, even an individual, can be measured by the freedom it gives its members to criticize it, without fear of reprisal. Repressing the freedom to criticize is like repressing a TG's freedom to express gender: you end up twisting it out of shape. Our community has reduced criticism to the level of the snide remark in gossip columns. Connecting a person's name to a one sentence zinger is considered *daring*. It is pathetic. *This* is poison.

The second is our community's total aversion to trannys that have egos, personalities and are strong willed. According to certain segments (that I call BUREAUCRATS), it is these people's constant bickering and sniping which keeps the T-community from marching off to the promised land in perfect lock-step. What they fail to notice, or point out, is that these people who have big egos and personalities are the only ones to have created anything worth defending and bickering over. People with no egos, no personality, and no will aren't much good to anybody. More important is on what *criteria* do people base their egos on. This is what needs to be hashed out. We have too

many people who's ego's are based on dominating naive boot-lickers. They forget the entire purpose of the T-community is to act as a platform for people to develop an ego, to build pride in who they are, and to have the audacity to express their humanity and to defend it. This leads to the third which is more subtle but just as crippling.

There is this mindset that all interaction within the community should be calm and reasoned discourse and that any deviation should be frowned upon. This is ridiculous. People who love each other have fights and arguments to vent their frustrations. Indeed they are often necessary for the overall health of the relationship. To expect this from total strangers is to totally distort reality. Of course it is again BUREAUCRATS at the lead of this mindset. It's not just bickering they hate, but anything human. Sexual ecstasy, high energy partying, anger, love...any human emotion which is spontaneous and genuine, scares the shit out of these people. Why? Because they can't control it. They can control calm discourse but they can't control people who are pissed off and determined to go off and actually do something to make things better. Just look at all the newsletters that come into our library. Nearly every article has that same steady tone of calm discourse; it doesn't matter if the subject is finger foods at the club social, or TS's getting the shit kicked out them for the heinous crime of being themselves. An article from Arizona sounds identical to an article from Florida. With few exceptions, every article that comes from an IFGE staff member sounds like it came from the same person. This, from a community that has more acronyms than a government phone book. This, from a community that has enjoyed every sexual practice, passion and perversion known to human history. The reality is that our community is being strangled and paralyzed by conformity. And it is all being justified by BUREAUCRATS for the "good of the fight" which they don't have a clue on what it will take to win. They have the same Vietnam era logic that made it straightforward to burn down a village, "in order to save it".

So this issue does what it can to break this up. All the contributors have big egos. They all have personalities and they all have the need to exert their wills on more than just their own bodies. Institutions and people are not just criticised, they are dragged over the coals with gleeful abandon. There are declarations of love, there is anger, there is desperation. There is politically incorrect humour. Lots of people going out on the limb, there are no compromises and nobody agrees with nobody. At times it resembles a shotgun fight on paper, all illustrated with the help of some of the finest Italian pornography that could be smuggled into this country. This, to me, is "good". This, to me, has the potential to change the way people look at the world. This, to me, is the language of a minority group that is starting to exert itself. Dostoyevsky, I'm sure, would approve with a knowing grin, and clenched fists. Belinda Doree

REMEMBERING OUR ROOTS NOTES FROM THE UNDERGROUND Fyodor Dostoyevsky

In "Notes From the Underground" (1864) Dostoyevsky attacked thinkers who enshrined reason and science and believed that scientific laws govern human behaviour. He rejected the notion that once these laws were understood, people could create (as socialists in fact tried to do) utopian communities in which society would be rationally planned and organized to promote human betterment. The narrator in the novel, called the Underground Man, rebels against the efforts of rationalists, positivists, liberals, and socialists to define human nature according to universal principles and to reform society so as to promote greater happiness and security. For the Underground Man, there are no objective truths; there are only individuals with subjective desires and unpredictable wills.

Dostoyevsky maintained that human beings cannot be defined by reason alone-human nature is too dynamic, too diversified, too volcanic to be schematized and programmed by the theoretical mind. He urged a new definition of human beings, one that would affirm each person's individuality's and subjectivity and encompass the total personality - feelings and will as well as reason.

In the first part of Notes from the Underground, the Underground Man addresses an imaginary audience. In a long monologue, he expresses a revulsion for the rationalist's assertion that with increased enlightenment, people would become "good and noble"; they would realize that it was to their advantage to pursue "prosperity, wealth, [political freedom], peace." The Underground Man retorts that the individual's principal concern is not happiness, or security but a free and unfettered will.

Perry, Peden, Von Laue
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Gender Mosaic's First Annual

Casino Night

Saturday, 2 July 1994
7:00 PM for 7:30 PM

Games of Chance
Roulette
BlackJack
Wheel of Fortune
Elephant Races



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Notes From the Underground
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Printed irregularly by Gender Mosaic, a social/support group for TV's, TG's, TS's. The newsletter is for the sole use and entertainment of club members and supporters. Inquiries about newsletter exchange from other groups are welcome. Views expressed are those of the author. If you don't like them, please write...we need all the submissions we can get. This newsletter has a no censorship policy.





Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to two articles in your Winter 1993 Notes From the Underground.

First I read Belinda Doree's article "The Last Special Interest Group" with great interest. Go get'em Belinda! I am flattered to be mentioned, thank you. But I am simply one woman who is trying to make sure that everyone is treated fairly in this world.

Which leads directly into my second point...

In "Constable Presentation" by Samantha B. a large amount of very good information was given, but one point, # 5, about stores is grossly incorrect. It shows just how selective our equal access to society is really thought to be. The wonderful, emancipating message from that article was perverted, by this last paragraph, into "you have full rights and freedoms.....so long as nobody objects".

The Ontario Human Rights Code, paragraph 1, states "Every Person has a right to **equal treatment** with respect to **goods, services, and facilities** without discrimination because of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age marital status, family status, or handicap."

Dress shops provide goods (the clothes and accessories), services (seamstresses, alterations etc.) and facilities (the changerooms). The Ontario Human Rights Code legally obligates them to deal with you on a basis at least the equal of the rest of their customers. This means that they are not allowed to oust males and if they do not have a male changeroom, they must allow you to use the female's rooms. To do otherwise is discrimination because of sex, that violates the Ontario Human rights Code, and can be prosecuted under law.

Got tossed out of a store, restaurant, bar, spa, beauty shop..? **File a human rights complaint!** You have rights, don't surrender them to anyone for any reason.

Sincerely,
Laura Masters
(905-688-0276)

Dear Editor,

Thank You for your letter, comments and copies of NFTU. I have enclosed a years' worth of GenderFlex in return.

I enjoyed the issues you sent, especially the sardonic bits such as "Twenty-five ways to Cope with Stress" "Some Religious input..." etc. Plus the graphics and layout. Nice work (sometimes I don't even try).

And I have to say, even though Joanne Roberts is a personal friend, your editorial in issue #4, "The Last Special Interest Group" was insightful (as well as inciting) and hammered close to the core issue I have been discussing with people like Joanne. That is once you join, or enter into a structure such as a 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation, you are doomed. Same with all a the heifer-do about President this, Madam Treasurer that. And the need to get "organized".

While I often believe : "time is meant to be wasted", I hesitate to waste my time with the dysfunctional family model such as Merissa with IFGE (the mean mother and her crabby daughters). I'm also tired of the hierarchal arrangement of TS's being "the Goddesses gift" to all humanity, with "TV's" being servant class. So, there was a fair amount in NFTU I was bored with. But I'm easily bored (and boring)-we don't care about that do we?

Sorry about the delay in responding. I have been very involved with family concerns for the past several months. Right now I'm trying to get issue #19 printed (it's only about four+ months late) so I can finish #20 (perhaps only a month-and-a-half late) and maybe get #21 out close to the time it is dated (I write the past into the present to catch up to my future). I would like to continue exchanging.

I've also enclosed an article published in "Chrysalis Quarterly" #5. This piece caused the TS printer to refuse to print CQ, and delayed publication by seven months.

Take Care & Luv
Billie Jean Jones
3430 Balmoral Drive #10
Sacramento, California
(916) 457-5305



**Some Suggestions from Diana Coltridge
(A Brief to Project Affirmation)**

Project Affirmation should take a look at the serious problems faced by transsexuals trying to cope with the world around them. Due to misinformation and discrimination, the transgendered are often suffering from poverty and constant unemployment, and health problems often caused from poor self-esteem. (Such as depression, suicidal tendencies, and passive forms of suicide, like HIV infection, and drug addiction.) It should also take under scrutiny the psychiatric community's treatment of those who come for their help.

The Clarke Institute in Toronto makes a transsexual's life more difficult than it need be. It asks a transsexual to follow a program that, by its very design, is detrimental to his/her career, social life, and financial stability. To follow their suggestion that you work full time in a female role for a year without the aide of hormones is highly impractical. Job loss over this requirement castrates a transsexual financially when money is very important. Especially when OHIP requires that you pay for your surgery up front.

Gender Dysphoria is the only condition in DSM III where the medical authorities refuse to treat you on the grounds of a criminal record. The Clarke Institute also refuses to deal with those infected with HIV. Both the criminal record and the HIV infection are symptoms of a life ruined by gender dysphoria. General discrimination at the workplace makes prostitution the only available work for many transsexuals. And makes the requirements of the Clarke for treatment look like an impossible dream.

Many transgenderists/transsexuals have job skills and education. Yet even with diplomas, the great majority spend their lives on welfare due to lack of opportunities. The general perception is that we are all flakes, mentally disturbed, and ditzzy. Even if we are allowed into the workplace, we are often seen as an inconvenience (men's or women's washroom?), and are treated differently than someone else with the same skills.

Although homosexuals were taken off of the psychiatrist's books more than twenty years ago, we are still there, and we are often treated as mentally challenged because of it. However, we are not treated like other mental patients by the psychiatric community. We cannot get a disability pension for just being transsexual, and yet we are perceived as being crazy by the public. This leaves us in an unenviable position. Unemployment because we are viewed as crazy, unavailability of social programs because we aren't.

The most effective solution to the problems faced by transgenderists/transsexuals is information. Doctors should have access to information on how to deal with our problems. Information should be available in public libraries for those looking for it. Guidance councillors in high schools should have information available on the subject. Parents should have resources to call on for guidance. At present, this is not out there.

Due to the movie industry, we have a bad public relations problem. "Dressed to Kill" and "Silence of the Lambs" have made many people wonder if I'm an axe murderer. Well, I'm not. And I don't think I've ever met a transsexual that was. We are no more violent than any other people in a similar social situation. If a

transsexual is in prison, it usually is due to poverty, not gender identity. The health information available should reflect this.

Employers and society in general should be reminded that if they refuse to give us paying jobs, then they will be paying for our welfare cheques through their tax dollars. By allowing us to have access to employment, they will at least get something for their money. It is frustrating to see thirteen years of publicly paid education and often more, get wasted because it didn't produce someone that fit the mold. And yet we are just as able, just as intelligent, as the next person.

Doctors rarely look at alternatives to SRS. There is no focus on coping with our day to day life. They are simply given the Clarke Institute's criteria, and not much else. There should be methods available for coping with life, if SRS is simply unavailable. Public health dollars are being wasted on psychiatrists that do nothing but monitor us. I have yet to hear of a doctor offering common sense solutions to the problems we face. Instead, they simply tell us whether or not we are fulfilling the Clarke's guidelines. This is inadequate "treatment." If this is all psychiatrists can do, then perhaps their funding can be diverted into something more effective.

Adults should have the right to be in control of their own bodies. The psychiatric community has done nothing but interfere with this. Not only do we have to prove we are sane, but we have to prove that we fit the exact guidelines in their textbooks. This is ridiculous. Has your life ever fit precise textbook guidelines? The money paid to these buffoons would be better spent subsidizing voice therapists, electrologists, and psychologists (who are more apt to listen to actual problems and offer real time solutions.) Better yet, train transsexuals to offer these kinds of services to their peers. We do not belong in the forensics ward. We are not criminally insane. We deserve a little better.

Getting us out of the hands of psychiatrists would be a great step forward. Not being under their "care" would not only give us more power over our lives, but eliminate the social stigma attached to going to a psychiatric hospital. Just ask the gays if their lives have changed since the shrinks got off their backs.



THINGS WORTH BICKERING OVER

Oct 5, 1992

Ms Laura Masters
165 Ontario Street, Unit 609
St-Catherines Ontario
L2R 5KR

Dear Ms Masters



**RE: TRANSSEXUAL RIGHTS PURSUANT TO SECTION
1,2,3,4, OF THE ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS CODE**

Further to our recent conversation of Sept 11, 1992, I wish to confirm with you **our commitment to provide law enforcement services to the transsexual community of Ontario.**

Our present practice in this regard would be to accept inquiries and the filing of complaints **on the basis of sex as a prohibited ground.** However, in some exceptional circumstances it may be necessary to include "disability" as an additional ground to cover specific events alleged and/or experienced by complainants.

I trust this information conveys our present practice and affirms with you our commitment to advance protection against discrimination for transsexuals within our communities.

Yours sincerely,

Marty Schrieder
Director
Regional Services Unit



710, boul. St-Joseph
Hull (Québec) J8Y 4A8
Tél. : (819) 777-4884

February 5, 1994

International Conference on TG Law
5707 Firenza St.
Houston Texas
USA 77035-5515

Attn: Phyllis Randolph Frye, Exec. Dir.

Dear Ms Frye;

Yesterday I received your ICTLEP newsletter, and discovered that your agency has forwarded case precedents to a lawyer prosecuting an Ontario Human Rights Commission case. Now, we have a problem.

Five years ago, I began petitioning the Ontario Human Rights Commission for legal equality and access to their process. I thought it obvious that the best way to do this was to **first declare social equality** for transsexuals, transgenderists and transvestites, and then to **systematically educate** the Commission in the most beneficial ways of removing society's permission to discriminate against us. Our discussions had, of course, centered on discrimination because of Sex. After all, we don't get thrown out of stores, refused housing, or fired from jobs because we are suddenly incompetent or because we have become sexually perverse; these things happen to us because of society's sexist expectations about lifestyle and sex organs.

The information sent to Ontario depicts transsexuals as medically disabled. This stupid perspective reflects society's pejoratives right back upon the transgender/transsexual communities. It openly declares us to be less capable than social averages. It also places the onus of social fit squarely upon our shoulders. Surely you can see that to declare a transsexual, a transgenderist, or a transvestite to be anything other than a capable, equal participant in society is tantamount to screaming "Slut!" at a Rape victim.

By providing this information, your group expounds the very thing I've just spent five years eliminating. In conversation with the OHRC, I've learned that the Smith vs. Jackson City finding has been used in the filing of a case, and thus has established its credibility with them. And why not? It feeds their sexist misconceptions and gives everyone permission to treat us just as unfairly as they wish.

Please, in future, do not plunge blindly into situations about which you and your cohorts know nothing. We had very workable policies and guidelines in place -- until the ICTLEP "helped" us out, that is. Looking forward to your most expeditious reply.

Sincerely
Laura Masters

March 19, 1994

International Foundation For Gender Education
PO Box 367
Wayland MA, USA 01778

Attn: Vivian Allen, Editor of Tapestry

I am writing in response to the article, titled "Stonewalled: by Phyllis Frye (Tapestry 67, p. 30).

Ms Frye screams "Yuppie Gays and Yuppie Lesbians are dragging the transgendered from their rightful place in history." She makes false claims saying "The transgendered made the Stonewall incident happen 25 years ago" and then threatens the Stonewall organizers saying "My people are fixing to do battle with you".

This is sheer lunacy! Ms Frye desperately needs to grow up!

This is no time to attack the Gay and Lesbian community. In fact, we would do well to learn from their example. They have established their own separate group identities, they have learned to honour their own heritage, and they have formulated a community pride that is virtually absent in our midst.

When is the last time any of us spoke of our own very colourful heritage? How often has our community been discussed with unabashed pride? How many of us even bother to explore crucial issues (like heritage and agenda) that connect people together?

We have no right to usurp the Gay and Lesbian heritage, we must learn to celebrate our own!

Ms Frye does not speak for me. I want no part of her hollow threats and babyish tantrums. Our community has enough problems without pissing off yet another 10% of the population.

Sincerely,
Laura Masters

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A TRANNY MOVES TO OTTAWA

A PERSONAL DIARY

- Sept 12, 93 Moved to our new home in Ottawa. It is so beautiful here I love it.
- Nov 23, 93 It snowed last night. Woke up to find everything blanketed with white. It looks just like a postcard. We went outside and shovelled the driveway. We had a little snowball fight, (I won!), and then when the snowplough came by, we had to shovel the driveway. What a beautiful day. I love it in Ottawa.
- Dec 2, 93 Well, all the snow has melted. I hope we get some more.
- Dec 12, 93 More snow last night. I love it. The snowplough did his trick again on the driveway.
- Dec 19, 93 More snow. Couldn't get out of the driveway to get to work. Am exhausted from shovelling. I think the snowplough hides around the corner and waits until I'm done the driveway. Asshole.
- Dec 25, 93 Merry Fuckin' Christmas! More goddam snow! If I ever get my hands on the son-of-a-bitch who drives the snowplough, I swear I'll fucking kill him.
- Dec 27, 93 More white shit last night. Been inside for 3 days. Can't go anywhere, cars stuck in a mountain of goddam snow. The weatherman says to expect another 10 inches of the white shit tonight. Do they know how many shovels full of snow 10 inches is?
- Dec 28, 93 The weatherman was wrong. We got 14 inches of the white shit. At this rate it won't melt till fuckin August!!! The snowplough got stuck just up the street. The guy asked if he could borrow my shovel. I hit him with it.

TWO WEEKS TO BUILD A TREE
(A Very Special Personal Diary from Rhonda)

18 DEC 93 - GM CHRISTMAS PARTY.

-RHONDA LEAVES CONDO, DRIVES TO FREDA'S to have finishing touches done to long ash blond wig. Freda and Cheryl are quite taken with overall image and personality. Very positive comments on choice of clothing appropriateness for occasion etc.

OFF TO HULL. HOTEL CHECK-IN IS EXHILARATING. DECORATE PARTY ROOM WITH FRANK, DIANA, & COLIN. This is fun. This is real. This is normal. Staff treat us all like real people. Diana is her normal self - who would know? I feel great, accepted and ready for anything (well not quite *anything*, but you know what I mean).

PURCHASE WINE AT CONVENIENCE STORE ACROSS STREET. Well received by two male clerks who are most polite. The walk up the street and back feeling and looking good (perhaps even great) except that I should have put my boots on - heels in three inches of new snow and some slippery slopes were a little scary but I think I looked pretty natural trying to accomplish this very normal task.

THE ROOM IS DONE, THE TABLES SET, ITS FIVE TO SIX. There's less than an hour to go from daytime to the evening dress. Tonight the aim is sophistication and sensuality. A short but soothing bubble bath (I am in character - Rhonda is dominant, the bath is sensuous, the steamy mirror reflects the dream. Reality? I feel alive. I am alive. This is good. This is me.

-THE TOILETTE COMPLETE I LEAVE THE ROOM. The elevator door opens. The reflection in the full length mirror on the back wall smiles at me. Yes! I see a hint of the presence which I sought to achieve. There is no decision. It is automatic. Descend to the lobby not the party room floor - cross to the stairs and continue. Do not rush. Sway do not swagger. Revel in the glow. Drink it all in. Although not woman they **can** hear the roar. They look and I love it. They see what? Confidence? My inner self? Rhonda. The afternoon activity was crucial to the achievement of this confidence tonight.

FRIENDS FRIENDS - THE ROOM IS FULL OF FRIENDS. We greet. The gently offered hand. The cheek to brush as the air is bussed in that very feminine gesture with the gentle hug so as not to disturb the finery. The acceptance once again by the lone business-suited male present. The masculine handshake so familiar in another world is much more gentle this night and warm in its greeting. Warmth abounds.

Ted. Not seen since the Cantley barbecue and then only after a lengthy period of absence from our midst. Ted, the first person on this earth with whom I had shared what had been my deepest darkest secret. It is good to hear his voice. It is distinctive. Ted and Larry - two unique aficionados of the phenomenon - no femme names - just Ted and Larry - but it works.

Wives are here. Pearl is sad. Not bubbling as when hosting the day-to-day personae at the cottage by the bay late last summer.

Others are happy even joyous. As couples, each individually basks in the glow of the other. Estella speaks of Dana with love. Happy and secure in the pleasure and relief her acceptance brings. She expresses some concern with respect to the ability of the children to accept and understand what they do not yet know.

Karen and Sandi glow with love for each other. There is such joy between them. The envy of others with children is truly open. No secrets here, the girls are blessed, as are the parents. Open, loving, caring, sharing, are in the vocabulary. Not just preached but practised. (witness the family interaction at the BBQ). The joy these two have brought to Marcie's family. The kids are in the picture here too: and in such a short space of time since Marcie's entry into our circle. What is not possible given such truth and honesty?

Belinda and Diana - THE COUPLE FROM HELL. What love; what joy; what fun; what adventure; what the fuck am I talking about? Sorry 'bout that - the Devil (or Frank) made me do it - but its them. Love, not to mention lust, walking, nay running through life leaving no turn unstoned, no opportunity denied. Who could not delight in the love and joy in their hearts. The jewellery may be fake but the passion's real....

Where are Karen and Sharon? Although not a couple per se, certainly shipmates and soulmates on their incredible journey. They are missed this night for they too are dear, dear friends.

Steven and Hanne - the most unique couple in the group. I adored her top and his tie was very nice, but when it comes to coveting, you know where I'd be. Real people whom we are honoured to call friends and supporters of our group. What fortunate folks we are.

What words can we use to express our joy at seeing Elizabeth here. Linda is absolutely radiant with the added support. We welcome you to our circle of friends. Do feel free to come again.

Lee arrives with the lovely Sande without whom most of us would still be afraid to poke our noses, let alone the rest of us out of the door, be it closet or domicile. Warm people where a friendly gesture on the part of one, makes it possible for the other to be present at this gala event.

Joanne without Cindy, who is conspicuously absent. Understandably, with the fantastic things happening in her life. We wish her well and hope that we will have the opportunity to see her often. Joanne, ever the recruiter of support for the cause, and GM's sincere ambassador at large, introduces a new and delightful person to our group. The sister of one already mentioned and one-time co-worker and friend of a longstanding member, (although she didn't know *that* until tonight) she readily fitted in with our motley crew of merry revellers.

If there has been some hint of a teenage girl to these ramblings this far, I must confess that the reason for the attitude is about to be revealed. I spoke with this guest of Joanne for some time and have continued to do so on a very regular basis since that evening. It is known to some and may well be shocking to others, but the writer, if not already in love, is teetering precariously on the brink. Yes world, there was a click which became a clang, a big-noise-making-earth-shaking chain reaction all starting with the connection made this night with a lady named Gail. If not love then but somethin's burnin' real deep like and the world is a much more beautiful place.

So you might ask what's this got to do with a tree
and what's the significance of two weeks
and what do you mean build a tree?
Didn't I read that that's something only God can do?
Well wait for it, this is only the end of page three.

(Ed Note: Font change - ah but great poem anyways!)

To the Editor

I am writing in regard to Belinda Doree's article "The Last Special Interest Group". Ms. Doree has a serious problem that has impaired her ability to think and reason. **YOU HAVE DONE A GREAT DISSERVICE TO YOUR READERS BY PRINTING HER RAMBLINGS.** The article to which she refers was not titled Legal Positivism. It was, in fact, a speech titled Gender Roles, Gender Rights. Further, the article has absolutely no relevance to Canadian Law since it dealt specifically and only with US Constitutional Law. I have enclosed the original speech as given by me at the 1993 IFGE Convention in Philadelphia. I would appreciate it if you would reprint the speech as given by me in its entirety so that your readers may judge for themselves whether or not I have "sold out" as Ms Doree claims.

Additionally her article contained many factual errors and some incorrect conclusions and I'd like to address those points.

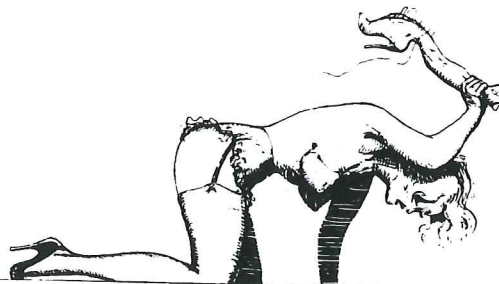
The document is titled A Bill of Gender Rights, not a Gender Bill of Rights. I have no plans to further the status of any transgendered individual. I wrote the Bill of Gender Rights as a foundation document for the entire community. Whatever they wish to do with it is OK by me. **The Bill was never intended to be enacted into law.**


Ms Doree states "You have to be an 'expert' to understand it [legal positivism]" that's not true. You only have to be somewhat intelligent and able to read. The US Constitution says that any right not specifically called out in the document is retained by the people and/or the state. This was done to prevent the federal government from usurping individual rights. However, if we want protection at a federal level, our rights better be spelled out in federal law. That seems pretty straight forward to me. In fact, that what the US Bill of Rights is all about. Never the less, and this is ironic, I agree with MS Doree that the principle seems to do more harm than good. Our right to be who we are and present ourselves as best comforts us should be a priori and not require a "law". I didn't invent "legal positivism" and I don't agree with it philosophically, but if that's how the system works, then we better learn to use system for our won interests. (Please note: This does not apply in Canada).

I never said fetishistic transvestites are a non-existent category. Ms. Doree has taken a simple statement of fact out of context for her own purposes. What I said was that fetishistic transvestitism is a non-existent category as a mental illness. Now that puts a whole different spin on it, doesn't it? I probably know more fetish TV's than Ms Doree will meet in her lifetime.[!] They're warm, wonderful people who enjoy erotic crossdressing. I have always openly admitted that my crossdressing has an erotic foundation. I am not ashamed of that, nor do I whitewash the fact. I never have and never will marginalize any segment of the transgender community.

As much as I would like to admit to being the person in the ad Ms Doree claims to have seen, I cannot. I don't own a body-hugging PVC dress, nor do I own a body that anyone would want to see in such a dress. Ms Doree has mistaken me for someone else.

Ms Doree states that when she looks "down south there seems to be a concerted effort to make sure there will be no more Tri-Ess's, no more Rennaisances, no new clubs at all. It isn't clear on what Ms Doree bases this assertion, but is perception is severely clouded.





kink **Great Publications!**

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Transsexual's Survival Guide, Vol. 2

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JoAnn Roberts:
Author,
Publisher,
and Owner.

kink

Since 1987, the year Renaissance was started, there has been an explosion of support groups down here. New groups start up every month. Whether they last or not is another question. However, Ms Doree is not privy to the internal communications of the board of Renaissance and therefore could not know if any "new" Renaissance organizations were forming. In fact, Renaissance, as a national organization with non-discriminatory open membership in yet two more states. I'd say that Renaissance was doing more than its share in developing organizations and producing people able to manage those organizations. But I must stress that I had little to do with this sudden spate of interest in Renaissance. I am not synonymous with Renaissance, never have been and never will be. They stand on their own two feet and take responsibility for themselves. That is the legacy of my term as their first Managing Director, self-empowerment.

Ms Doree is again ignorant of the facts surround the Congress of Transgender Organizations. The CTO was formed because IFGE did not do a good job of coordination with the various groups. The CTO was formed because the board members of IFGE do not represent a constituency. There for if an organization of individual wanted to get their message across to IFGE, there was no mechanism to do so. If the "community" believed there was the community gets their voice heard in the boardroom of IFGE and any other organizations for that matter. It has "clout" because it represents the consensus for a large body of organizations. Since Ms Doree has never attended a CTO meeting, I think it is inappropriate for her to denigrate the CTO without a firm basis for her remarks.

The long harangue about my integrity indicates to me Ms Doree feels I have somehow failed her. I am sorry that I do not live up to her expectations. Isn't it strange though? Unreasonable expectations by others is just what Ms Doree rails against so vociferously. I have no intentions of conforming to her or anyone else. I take responsibility of only myself.

Contrary to Ms Doree personal opinion of me, I believe that I still champion diversity and openmindedness. The closed mind, it seems to me belongs to Ms Doree. I don't really care if Ms Doree thinks I'm a nice person. I do care that she attacks my integrity. I make it a personal policy never to judge a person by the colour of their neck, but Belinda Doree sorely tests my resolve.

Respectfully,

Joanne Roberts.

THEY SHOOT TURKEYS DON'T THEY?
An Open Article For JoAnne Roberts

by

Belinda Doree

"SACRED COWS MAKE THE BEST HAMBURGER".

Don't you publish a book by that name? Aren't you the one who follows her columns with "Opinions expressed are those of the author. If you don't like them, write your own column."

Surprised weren't you?



Since your letter came after the article was published, I could hardly have used it as source material could I? My article clearly specifies that I referred to your article in Tapestry Issue # 64. Turn to page 31 of that issue. What's the title? L-E-G-A-L P-O-S-T-I-V-I-S-M. Turn the page. There is a picture of a tranny. Her dress is black, shiny, plunging and "body-hugging". Who is in that dress? YOU are in that dress! No mistake. You assert "No one would want to see me in such a dress". Really? Why then do you use that same picture for full-page adds?(p.10) Boy that's a tricky question huh?

A Bill of Gender Rights...A Gender Bill of Rights..Rights of Bill Gender. Does this

make *any* relevant difference to the contents of my article? Or are you trying to confuse the issue?

You write, "The bill was never intended to be enacted into law." Why write it then? Why call them "rights" instead of "goals" or "objectives"? Why then do you write, "The Bill was created out of need based on a philosophy of law called 'Legal Positivism'" Why go on to say, "Based on this principle then, it was necessary to write down our gender rights so we can work toward getting these rights protected by law"?

You write, "I have no plans to further the status of any transgendered individual". Why the activist type speeches? Just killing time? Are you that cynical over your own ideas? Or does the methodology of legal positivism mean more to you than the results it gets?

LEGAL POSITIVISM

Stand down-town. Ask the first fifty people who walk by what legal positivism means. Ask the next 50 people what it means to be treated ethically. Which do you think gives a better baseline to work from?

You state here that Legal Positivism does not apply to Canadian Law. At the time of your speech I know you were sending snot-grams to Laura Masters insisting it was. Guess it all depends on what kind of spin you want right?

As you say it is a "philosophy" and as such can be applied anywhere people decide to implement it. To call legal positivism a "philosophy" is blasphemous. It is nothing more than a technique. It is an ivory tower exercise which has proven to be a failure in real life. Webster's defines legal positivism as, "concept of law as commands of authority without regard to moral considerations".

What the T-community needs now is more moral considerations...not "commands of authority" and certainly not theories or concepts. We've been jerked around enough by the implementation of theories. The roots of our rights problems comes from the fact that the basic rights that are given to Joe Q. Public are not extended to the T-community, and it is there where the focus of our attention will ultimately have to fall. Agitating for special rights and recognitions separate us from the society we want to participate in; makes it that much easier to categorize us as other than social equals. It allows enemies to attack those rights with full force with absolutely no risk to their own. Legal positivism won't give us equal access to society; it will hermetically seal us off from society.

THE ROOTS OF POSITIVISM

Positivism was invented by the French sociologist Auguste Comte. Positivism states that anything that cannot be seen, anything that cannot be measured with certainty is unreal. Now is there a group in society that is more resistant to direct measurement than the T-community? Positivism is what allowed shrinks to turn "social deviance", a mere statistic, into the modern day version of sin. It is these same ignoramuses posing as "experts" who then present themselves as solutions to the problems which they themselves created. Positivism is the theology that turns shrinks into the priests of the modern age, dispensing miracles to the lucky few while whetting the appetite of the masses for more. Society falls for it and we fall for it, which is why TS's get their dicks wired up and shown dirty pictures...so their sexual response can be "measured". We're supposed to be attacking this, not co-opting it. Do you really think you can use positivism against itself? Positivism has been going through iterations for 300 years. You're going to need bigger guns.

I was impressed with your defense of legal positivism. "Well...It seems straightforward to me." That's it? "Straight forward." So what? To a lot of people it's straightforward, it is "logical" that TV's and TS's are psychotic flakes. "Straightforward" divorced from ethical considerations is responsible for most of the social catastrophes of the past 500 years.



THE CASE OF THE MISSING FETISHIST

Spin is irrelevant here. One can put a positive or negative spin on anything. Spin is for BUREAUCRATS who put their image of credibility ahead of all else. Let's cut to the chase. This is exactly what you wrote in your article:

"Another part of the problem is the popular misconception that transgendered behaviour is a "sexual" dysfunction. Both transvestitism and transsexualism are often referred to as "sexual" deviations. For example, DSM-III-R correctly lists "transvestic fetishism" as a Paraphilia (a perversion). However, many people, counselling professionals included, easily transpose these two words to create the non-existent category of 'fetishistic tranvestitism' and then assume that all tranvestic behaviour is fetishistic, i.e. sexually deviant. This is an unwarranted and illogical conclusion.

Are all TV's fetishistic? Of course not. It's idiotic to say so, just as it is idiotic to describe fetishistic transvestitism as a non-existent category, mental or other wise.

Transposing what you wrote in your letter doesn't help. Fetishism is officially recognized as a mental illness. Transvestitism is officially recognized as a mental illness. Why are you so shocked that these idiots consider any combination of the two in the same light? What did you expect them to do...consider it a cure?

I did not take all this out of context to suit my purpose. It already suited my purpose, which was to show how when one subjugates one's judgement to the rigidity of a technique or a system, then one becomes divorced from reality. Religion again offers many examples. Look at the priests who dealt with Galileo. They knew the earth was not the center of the universe. They could see that! But they had subjugated their judgment to a system of thought, and could not acknowledge that reality, no matter how obvious that reality was.

So spare me the condescending pap about fetishistic transvestites being warm cuddly creatures. Fetishistic TV's are the most politically incorrect men in today's society. Your ridiculous friendliness reminds me of politicians who think people are idiots.

You believe that "my purpose" was to accuse you of selling out. Not true. I don't waste time on people who sell out. Define selling out. To me it means to screw some one over for financial gain. I suggest that fetishistic TV's are among your best customers. Unwittingly bad PR? - sure; Selling out? - never.

Your chest pounding attracts attention. Why? I go back to Tapestry issue # 60. There you write, "By focussing on gender instead of sex, we may be able to defuse hysterical attacks by anti-sex

advocates." Good luck. The only way to diffuse them is stop crossdressing. That's why they're called zealots.

So in one case you admit that there are many TV's who dress out of erotic motivation and yet in another you urge everyone to state its a function of gender for political expediency. Basically you ask people to misrepresent themselves just so Falwell can sleep better. One of the *necessities* of legal positivism?

WHO IS ALLOWED TO CRITICIZE? EVERYBODY!!!

I don't attend meetings of the Congress of Reps. So what? I criticize the evangelicals even though the Roberts clan doesn't take me into their confidence. Are you implying that criticism can only come from the inner circle, by only those people who attend the meetings? That would be convenient. Wouldn't want something like reality to come creeping into the Boardroom now would we? You sound like a BUREAUCRAT hiding in his little compartment behind the veil of "privileged information".

GROUPS THAT GET RESULTS/GROUPS THAT JUST EXIST

Performance orientated groups that successfully achieve results have very identifying characteristics. The leadership of such groups put their emphasis on clearly articulated objectives. As long as that organization **remembers** its **purpose**, the people involved will find a sensible way to run it. They minimize attention to the means and details of how they're going to be carried out. Instead, they stress principles which are used as guidelines. The actual mechanics they leave to the people actually doing the work, since they are the ones most familiar with the situations they are facing. Such groups are founded by people who correctly recognize the need and demand for such an organization. They have leaders who have a vision of how the world's supposed to work and have a philosophy of how to get there. The people in these groups are motivated by a belief in that vision, are usually formed characters who have experienced first hand the shortfalls of the current "system". They are people who participate, and who understand the relationship between ideas and physical action.

These characteristics can be seen in successful organizations in all types of human endeavour: religious, military, and business. What is pertinent to crossdressers is how these groups stagnate into irrelevancy. In each case it is the same - in which BUREAUCRATIC mindsets, unable to independently think, forget the original purpose of their group. They take techniques, procedures, processes, and structures that were ably used to solve a particular problem at a particular time and place, and turn them into dogma. These are then uniformly applied to all problems irrespective of reality, and of results.

BACK TO THE CONGRESS

I did read Allison Laing's (past National Managing Director now Director-at-Large, Chairperson of the Congress of Transgender Organizations, *I mean really*) article in Tapestry Issue # 63. I see an organization whose primary concern to date has been with process, procedure, and pre-structuring. These are the key ingredients for a bureaucracy. This concern is a sign of an organization that is coming to the end of their useful existence, and the Congress is using it as a startpoint! No wonder they have had such a tough go getting started. Even bureaucracies have to be built upon something real.

WHY BUREAUCRACIES AND T-PEOPLE DON'T MIX

Bureaucracies are fine if they focus their attention are inanimate objects. They are inept at handling social, legal or political problems. The more human the task at hand the more they will fuck it up. One just has to look at how educational and judicial systems are unravelling despite the huge resources being allotted to them. Total Quality Management works great if you're building VCR's; yet it is slowly dismantling our Canadian Health Care System.

Bureaucracies are designed to process technical information and thus they are at their best solving problems which require technical solutions. Technical info is measurable, predictable, and lends itself to "positivism". They work less well when technical solutions conflict with human needs. Why? In processing that information they filter out all sense of nuance and context...anything human. Consider the standardized form and how inept it is to the reality of a transitioning transsexual. More important is the clerk who looks at you with that "deer in the head-lights" look that says they don't know how to handle this reality. If emotion is visible, it is one of irritation over the "inefficiency" you are causing.

BUREAUCRATS - THE LATEST IN SUBMARINE BALLAST

Form an organization that puts emphasis on procedure and structure and you will attract people who thrive on such an atmosphere. They are the very people who place some of the biggest obstacles to our dignified participation in society. They are BUREAUCRATS. I don't mean people who hold necessary administrative positions, but BUREAUCRATS, people who by character and training have a certain mindset. They have no intellectual, or moral underpinnings - only the implicit assumption that **efficiency is the principle aim of all social institutions**, and that other goals are less important if not worthy. People see rednecks as our enemies. But rednecks hold little real power beyond immediate physical intimidation; which can be countered with a few dirty tricks, or 30 minutes training on a pistol range. Their catcalls are dismissed by people who have built up faith in who they are.

BUREAUCRATS are not easily dismissed. We live in a society that gives them real power to impose their will on us. They are real enemies and our success as a movement will depend on our ability to convince society to throw these fuckers out of work, or more compassionately, put them somewhere where they can't hurt anyone. Jobs that involve inanimate objects - like separating red pens from blue pens.

"Know thine enemy" is a valid truism and it is important to know how to recognize these mentally castrated humans. I appropriate the words of cultural critic Neil Postman,

"The BUREAUCRAT considers the implications of a decision only to the extent that the decision will affect the efficient operations of the bureaucracy, and takes no responsibility for its human consequences. Thus, Adolf Eichman becomes the basic model and metaphor for a bureaucrat. When faced with the charge of crimes against humanity, he argued that he had no part in the formulation of Nazi political or sociological theory; he dealt only with the technical problems of moving vast numbers of people from one place to another. Why they were being moved and, especially, what would happen to them when they arrived at their destination were not relevant to his job. Although the jobs of bureaucrats in today's society have results far less horrific, Eichman's answer is probably given five thousand times a day in modern America alone: I have no responsibility for the human consequences of my decisions. I am only responsible for the efficiency of my part of the bureaucracy."

You interpreted the "Last Special Interest Group" as an attack on yourself, and what do we see you write in your defense?

"I didn't invent legal positivism" ... "I don't agree with it philosophically." "I take responsibility only for my self".

The fact that legal positivism "appears to do more harm than good", is dismissed by yourself as being.... "ironic".

I have much stronger words in mind.

The historian John Ralston Saul offers the following:

Unchanged from the seventeenth century, rhetoric has merely reversed its style from elegance to ugliness. This becomes more intriguing if you observe the way in which a technocrat deals with a discussion when he arrives on the scene after it has begun. What he does is find a way to abrogate the discussion so that it can begin again on his terms. The classic method is to make a violent, irrational entry, which often involves personal invective. The very rudeness of the attack will stop the discussion. The technocrat then picks up one or two small points-the weakest-out of the argument and concentrates all his sarcasm upon them. Such a reduction as absurdum catches everyone unawares and before they can recover he reintroduces the entire discussion in his own manner. This form of public debate made its entry into the twentieth century via the Heroes-Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin. After 1945 it was adapted by the new elites.

Reread your letter. Amazingly close fit.



IFGE - THROUGH ROSE TINTED GLASSES

I have noticed that you take a lot of potshots at IFGE, referring to them as a juggernaut, disparaging Tapestry's covers and quite a few at Merissa Sherrill Lynn herself. Little wonder. After all IFGE has displayed many of the characteristics of a successful organization that I brought out earlier. Compare their first 4 years with the first four years of the Congress. All this done by means which are totally incomprehensible to BUREAUCRATS even if they are steeped in the latest "management techniques". The bottom line about IFGE is that they actually do something, they produce: their conventions, educational materials, the Tapestry Journal, the IFGE newsletters, the constantly manned phone lines, the videotapes all of which have been distributed around the planet. They have the brass to say they want to save the world but the good sense to know they won't do it by tomorrow night and they won't do it alone. They understand that the problems facing the T-community are general and long-term. Unlike BUREAUCRATS who treat problems as being specific and temporary, and thus open to their quick-fixes.

The Congress? Well they have their rewritten by-laws. This is an organization that suggests it be called "The World Congress of Transgendered Organizations" and yet it cannot even handle functions that are performed by small social clubs. The Congress has no independent newsletter, no mailing address, no telephone line. If they do, this "privileged information" is not even listed in the Resource section of Tapestry. Withholding information - another characteristic of a bureaucracy. The Congress sells itself as the "voice of the international T-community", but the only way anyone can get heard is by attending the meetings. The individual TV, in reality, is **being cut off from participating in the formal evolution of their community**, leaving it in the hands of self-styled elites.

Looking at the Reciprocal Agreement between the Congress and IFGE (Tapestry Issue #63 p.48) your criticisms are again out of place. You are "disparaging" the organization that provides the Congress with the means and facilities to hold meetings, ensures that people will actually attend those meetings, maintains their mailing list, prints and distributes their information and then takes the time to listen to whatever they got to say.

In return the Congress "recommends" what IFGE should be doing and "participation" in activities sponsored by IFGE. Nothing that can't be done right now by anyone who's interested in putting their energies and talents towards the community.

In all but name, the Congress is just a sub-committee. A sub-committee whose only purpose is to screen and control what "recommendations" reach the IFGE Board. According to the Reciprocal Agreement you don't even talk to the Board, but through an intermediary, a "member who will be the single point of contact for IFGE Congress business."

Since both organizations meet together only at the IFGE Conference, the situation is comical. The Congress holds a big committee meeting to tell one tranny what to tell IFGE what they should be considering at their big committee meeting. It could take two years to go through a complete decision cycle. People who embrace political action groups as a panacea like to make out that we are in a war, "fighting" for our rights. They forget that speed is the essence of successful warfare.

You state in your letter, "...if an organization or individual wanted to get their message across to IFGE, there was no mechanism to do so. If the community believed there was a project that IFGE should undertake, there was no way to tell that to IFGE. The CTO is the way the community gets their voice heard in the boardroom of IFGE and any other organization. It has 'clout' because it represents the consensus of a large body of organizations"

I find it perturbing that one of the aims of the Congress is to bring "clout" to bear when approaching other tranny groups with their demands. Surely with Spring in the air these people can now find some flies whose wings need pulling.

All the Congress is really doing is putting two additional layers between the individual and IFGE. If I have something that I think IFGE should consider I can pick up the phone and be on line with them in a matter of minutes. I can send down a written proposal by courier within two days. I can write an article, put it in the club newsletter and have them get it within two months. If I want to make it sound impressive I can make a few extra calls and let them know that the "National Association of Canadian Crossdressers, which represents crossdressers from every club across the country, recommends that IFGE firebomb the headquarters of the American Psychiatric Association. Suggested attack plans are enclosed".

The Congress, in terms of its relationship with IFGE, is redundant. It is a waste of the Congress's time, and syphons off IFGE's resources. Worse it separates IFGE from the very people they are trying to serve - detaching *them* from reality. There are red flags that this is underway. It seems that the only thing keeping some people from turning IFGE, *a social institution*, into a "big business" is that they still have to contend with the reality, the inertia of its success. These people acknowledge the reason for IFGE's success and in the same breath try to put it off as part of a romanticized past. There is potential that these people will do for IFGE what Robert McNamara did to Pentagon when he was brought in from making cars for Ford. Military historians can tell you that he castrated the army officer corps by turning them into "staff executives", oversaw the Vietnam debacle, and fuelled the nuclear arms race through his theory of "Flexible Response". When finished, he went on to the World Bank where he threw the Third World into debt.

Military historians will also notice that the agreement between the Congress and IFGE is nearly identical to that one between Hitler's personal hand picked staff structure and the German General Staff that already existed. That these two organizations worked at cross purposes throughout the war is fact. That their antagonism resulted in bloodshed and violence is fact. That Hitler's staff structure, by 1943, was successful at usurping the influence and objectives of the General Staff is fact. That they went on to orchestrate some of the biggest strategic blunders of the war is also fact.

The faster the Congress frees itself by tossing their by-laws into the nearest garbage can, and start using their own minds and their own sense of what is right and wrong, the better off they will be. The sooner it weans itself off IFGE the better off everyone will be.

CONFORMITY

You write, "I have no intentions of conforming for her [Belinda Doree] or anyone else." This is informative, but nowhere in my article did I make that assertion. My only reference to conformity was directed at the Congress and that it is currently set up to impose conformity on the community. Interesting how any comment directed at the Congress gets interpreted as a personal attack.

The chest pounding again. You state that you "agree the principle seems to do more harm than good...that you don't believe in it philosophically". Yet we see you cheerleading legal positivism in a national forum. Isn't that conformism? Have you considered that I may be in favour of the T-community acting on YOUR philosophical beliefs, and what YOUR intellect discerns will do more good than harm? Now that's ironic. That's also my definition of not conforming.

If one refers back to my article, you'll see that I wrote,

"....A horrible misdirection, if not waste, of time, energy, and talent. All it will do is instill a drive to unproductive conformity. Any initiatives truly innovative, creative and relevant [i.e. timely] to the situation at hand will take place farther and farther away from the influence of these organizations...."

Your letter confirms this. Particularly the Congress's mandate to present a consensus, a "unified voice". The consensus will only be what an inner circle decides, no matter how much you decorate it with democratic trimmings. Everyone has their own idea of what should be done. Our community's problem is that not enough people are acting on their ideas. The community has to drastically increase the level of activity at the grass roots. Do we really need a national coordinating agency when there's not enough activity to coordinate? We have to learn to use the diversity of our community to our advantage; to hell with consensus.

Participation. We don't have it. We don't encourage it. 95% of the activity in our community is generated by only 5% of its members. And there's too many of that 5% who feel their positions threatened by any initiative to change that. Of course they don't get any support then. People are not going to fight for or support something they have put no personal investment in. Small comfort that too many of that 5% are headed towards broken marriages, broken lives and the rubber room from shouldering the whole load. Small comfort that they spend their nights wringing their hands on the brink of a pulmonary, trying to keep everything under their scope of management. Small comfort that to a fault they all lose everything of what they had. No comfort that too many dance on the graves of those who lose everything.

All of this is just in the "out community". The sorry truth is that the majority of TV's in North America are guilt-ridden closet cases putting on their wives panties while they're out shopping. There are guys out there that know how to create multi-million dollar enterprises; their only contribution to crossdressing is to sneak into motel rooms and walk around in tiny steps in high heels with raging hard-ons. That's not going to change by wishing it away. It's not going to be changed by abstract national structures fantasizing that they're running IBM.



"COMPETITIVENESS" - THAT EVIL WORD - NOT!!!!

Yes with diversity you're going to get competitive sparks. You're going to get competitive sparks **no matter what you do**. Because the T-community has lots of TV's and TV's are guys and guys are competitive. But the competitive sparks generated through imposing consensus are those that destroy. It breeds resentment from those who are less powerful or well-placed, it breeds cynicism and conformity, a "fear" of rocking the boat. Since there is no outwards focus, so sense of esteem through real accomplishment, the focus turns inwards, promoting tribalism and pettiness. Ego gratification is based solely on narcissism. The culture becomes one of disenfranchised doers staying aloof from a mass of passive domesticated cattle who are quite content to be led by the nose.

Competitive sparks through diversity are those that bring out the best in people and motivates them to base their ego on real accomplishments for the community. It motivates them to outdo other people. It encourages enthusiasm and risk-taking and paradoxically, irrationally, it leads to growing levels of cooperation. Because it makes bigger accomplishments possible. Because people are now dealing with projects they have sunk their own time into. This culture promotes people who can develop solutions that solve problems.

The herd above promotes people who can only recognize solutions which fit their "single voice". Solving the problem is a subordinated concern.

LEARNING FROM OUR WESTERN HERITAGE

Western Civilization is the dominant civilization on this planet. Does anyone ever wonder why? Refer to the first chapter of Kennedy's "Rise and Fall of the Great Empires" and you see that the reason was diversity. Diversity that was imposed by nature in the form of geography and thus language and culture. This diversity induced competition which propelled Western Civilization to the

forefront. Not just technical but social innovation as well, in the form of liberal democracy and individual rights. No liberal democracy has ever declared war on another liberal democracy. No other culture has produced a form of government that can say the same. Yes the West had slavery. Lots of cultures had slavery. The West was the first to abolish it. Genocide? Again yes. But people forget that nearly every culture has engaged in genocidal activity. But the West is the only one that has ever intervened to stop it. Can there be any denial, that for all its faults Western Civilization is a towering human achievement? Can you think of a better place to be a TV or a TS?

It has had its horrible, backwards steps, its wars and its violence. They happened because people refused to accept that diversity as a fact of life. They always come about when people like Napoleon, Frederick the Great and Hitler tried to impose, "a unified voice" for the sake of "strength". All they did was reduce their countries to shambles, losing everything they had.

The T-community can decide whether we will be a critical reflection of our society, taking for our own its best aspects; or simply be an exaggerated extension of the worst aspects of that society, which is currently in decline. Will we be a cosmopolitan, sexually sophisticated, outwardly focused community that accepts and defends our diversity as a source of vitality; or will we simply present society with a homogenized, sexless, navel gazing community that will not even have the brass to face up to its internal contradictions, to say nothing of its internal wars?

Taking a cue off Jefferson, the leadership of that culture can lean towards one of two categories: 1. those who fear and distrust people and wish to draw all power from them thereby justifying their own petty existence; those who have contempt for people and put themselves above the very people they profess to serve. These people see honesty as a metaphor for naivete, and reduce the collective wisdom of their culture to a single narrow view - their own; or 2. Those who identify themselves with people, have faith in them, cherish them as the most honest and safe, even if not the most wisest depository of the community's interest's. People who have come to accept the fact that people will make mistakes, but given experience they will learn from them, and thus grow in stature.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF A UNIFIED VOICE

By fighting for "crossdressers" you can lay only a semantic claim for diversity. Your incessant call for consensus is advertisement of quite the opposite, and can only be obtained in extreme situations or by applying secular power to deform reality. There is nothing original in what I am saying. One just has to look at the history of other minority groups to see the consequences of such a mindset. From innumerable examples I choose to refer to Dinesh S'souza's study of minority groups using legal positivism at universities. He reports,

"What transpires in the "race and gender" curriculum in anything but "diverse". As we saw at Harvard, typically these programs promulgate rigid political views about civil rights, feminism, homosexual rights, and other issues pressed by the activists who got these movements set up in the first place. Thomas short, a professor of philosophy at Kenyon College, observes that "ideological dogmatism is the norm, not the exception, in the studies programs, especially Women's Studies. Intimidation of non-feminists in the classroom is

routine.' Short adds that, curiously, ideologues in these programs practice the very exclusion that they claim to have suffered in the past.

Even if some faculty in the "race and gender" curriculum seek to promote authentic debate or intellectual diversity, this is difficult in an atmosphere where activists profess to be deeply offended by views which fall outside the ideological circumference of their victim's revolution."

The repercussions on the tranny community can be quickly extrapolated. When you force everyone to goose-step along to same tune for the sake of political expediency, that community loses the flexibility to deal with real life. Indeed they can only wait around, trying to manipulate reality until it fits their proposed solution. It just doesn't work.

Look at the US Army. It can only fight in one way and all its huge resources are designed to make reality fit the way it needs to fight. In other words they need an enemy that will behave the way their doctrine says they should. Saddam cooperated nicely. He did nothing. Somalia? Different story.

Closer to home look at the TS track, formulated on a consensus of shrinks, that Toronto's Clarke Institute puts people on. A TS in transition, more than anyone, needs flexibility to deal with and respond to real life. Due to "caring professionals" however, they are forced to make reality fit the Clarke's view of how a TS should live their lives. The US Army can barely make this work with \$300 billion a year, and only against such heavyweights like Grenada. Is it any wonder that so many TS's get told they "fail"? By jerks who wouldn't know real life if it kicked them in the balls?

The ideas that come out of such groups have no connection with reality: At best they are crass overstatements; at worst they are no better than arbitrary acts of imagination.

We already see this happening in the tranny community, significantly from those groups that are taking legal positivism to heart. First, Phyllis Randolph Frye who is throwing temper tantrums at the gays, claiming that the Stonewall riot was a transgendered event and that the gays have stolen our heritage from us. She forgets that Stonewall was raided because it was gay, that it was gays that used it as a rallying point to initiate political action for the next 25 years. So when the gays put on demonstrations of 500, 000 people, of which we will contribute a few hundred, it seems rather strange that Randolph Frye is accusing them of stealing our heritage from us. Yes it would be very nice for the gay community to look at us as equal partners. This is not going to happen with Randolph Frye screaming "SHAME ON YOU! and "WE ARE FIXING TO DO BATTLE WITH YOU!! Does Custer ring any bells?

Then there is your example of how one perverts gender, which is an innate individual characteristic, to an arbitrary abstract value that a person can change at will.

It pains me to see so many trannies pin their hopes on the simplistic claim "Gender is a social construct". Can we do no better than provide recycled feminist ideology? Gender is something you are born with. Society can amplify it or repress out of recognizable shape, but it doesn't work on a vacuum. Every culture, no matter how different has evidence of transgenderism. Some handle it better than

others. People don't get the inherent contradiction of living in a bipolar society and then saying gender is a "social construct". Why is there a T- community? Why do TG's and TS's go through all this hassle? Why do they suck strange dicks in dark alley ways to get money for hormones and surgery? Because they have no choice...they are born transgendered in a society that doesn't allow them to fully participate.

In your second letter to Monarch you write,

"I would also argue that I (a mere transvestite) can shift gender roles and successfully pass myself off as a woman, if only for short periods of time. Am I any less a woman that a full-time TG or TS? I suppose that would depend on how successful I am and whether or not other people will accept me as a woman. Highly subjective criteria are at work here."

I certainly don't accept you as a woman and all the laws in the world aren't going to change that. Is that all woman-hood means to you? Passing at the supermarket? Don't you have any idea how you trivialize womanhood? Demean those individuals who are struggling full-time to be recognized as women? You sound like someone who wants a trophy without even entering the race. "Highly subjective criteria" Damn right. The only place where your claim "I am no less a woman" has any validity is in your imagination. Hey fantasies are fun, but only up to a point. It's like a kid putting on a green suit and pretending he's Peter Pan. He may actually believe it and from his perspective it does reflect reality. When he jumps out the window singing "I can fly...I can fly" a greater level of reality begins to make its presence known.

Can you imagine Charles Manson showing up at his next parole board in full drag demanding to be moved to a women's prison? They'd laugh their heads off. Which is fine but it makes that it that much easier for them to laugh when a real TS or TG wants to get moved. If you're a TV, you're not a woman. If you are, then have sufficient acceptance of yourself to declare yourself a TG or TS. A strong vigorous community has the will and the ability to draw lines, to set limits. Identity thrives on this opposition. Take these lines away and identity becomes meaningless. Gender becomes meaningless.

This all would be humorous if it came from some supposedly "extreme" corner of our community. No, it comes from the main stream, from our best and brightest representatives. As such the repercussions are much more serious than people rolling their eyes up in exasperation. What you are doing is changing the form of the hostility towards us. This will follow closely to what is happening at the universities:

"This new racism is different. The old racism was based on prejudice, whereas the new racism is based on conclusions. Prejudice of course means prejudgment, judgement in the absence of information.....The solution for old racism were education, enlightenment, and consciousness raising.....The old racism is not dead, by any means, but it is truly powerful only in small pockets of society, and it is discredited morally and politically in all sectors of public life."

The new bigotry is not from derived from ignorance, but from experience. It is harboured not by ignoramuses, but by students who have direct and first hand experience with minorities in the close

proximity of university settings. The "new racists" do not believe they have anything to learn about minorities; quite the contrary, they believe they are the only ones who are willing to face the truth about them."

You can try to regulate people's behaviour all you want but you can't legislate the conviction inside their hearts. To do that you have to build on common ground, on objective criteria.

LEARNING FROM EASTERN CULTURE

The enemy facing our community is a way of thinking as much as any group of people. This way of thinking externalizes itself in the form of dogma, ideology and abstract power. There isn't one "social theory" that has room for us, whether it be fascism, orthodox feminism, the garbage spewed out by the evangelical right or the use of pure reason. What they all have in common is that they dehumanize people; they are all inherently unethical.

William Blake, an unrepentant degenerate, but also a genius once wrote, "If I wish to avoid being enslaved by a system, I must invent another". You have not done that, and as such will become nothing other than a junior level jailer yourself.

In 500 B.C. Sun Tzu wrote a little book on military strategy called "The Art of War". 2500 years of history has shown that those parties which best executed his principles, whether by design or chance, found success. His practical strategy is timeless and can be applied today,

"What is of supreme importance in war is to attack the enemy's strategy. The next best is to disrupt his alliances. The next to attack his army. The worst policy is to attack cities."

When I look at the fledgling political activity starting up I see quite the opposite is happening: Embracing the enemy strategy of positivism, mimicking feminist ideology, succumbing to the pressure of christian fundamentalism, and attacking the gays. All this in leading us into a Stalingrad style quagmire of special interest politics.

The underlying message of Sun Tzu is that proper execution has nothing to do with fixed lines, fixed rules or fixed structures. Instead it is based upon a few principles, when applied by competent leaders, break down into a myriads of actions.

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Again you are steering the community to do the opposite, channelling all actions into one unified voice. The relationship between society and the T-community is analogous to that of the Wild West and the early Americans. We should be preparing for and encouraging a wild, chaotic, unpredictable charge into society, taking any path or channel available. Instead you are advocating putting all the wagons in order and in proper sequence before heading off.

Your reaction to these realities are those of the archetypical BUREAUCRAT. John Ralston Saul observes:

"They [BUREAUCRATS] don't seem to understand the historical process. Instead they seem actually to believe that their definitions of the world will become both real and permanent simply because they are the result of applied logic. When these formulae refuse to stick, the bureaucratic mind, rather than deal [maturely] with failure, simply wipes the slate clean [like a child] and writes a new definition. They are in that sense, slaves of dogma. At the same time they tend to avoid the maintenance of linear memory. An accurate picture of recent events would prevent the constant reorganizations which they use as a means of erasing the past and justifying current actions."

The movement of history is the great enemy of the bureaucrat. History is linear memory and as such is beyond organization and is therefore lost or rather, denied...If it must be remembered, the evocation of real events is always presented as either quaint ("ironic") or dangerous ("disservice to your readers"). The past, when it involves a failed system, disappears from the mind. The past is always ad hoc. The future is always optimistic, because it is available for unencumbered solutioneering. And the present lies helpless beneath his feet, just begging to be managed."

I could not have concocted better letters to form a basis of my remarks than those which you provided yourself.



THE QUESTION OF YOUR INTEGRITY

You state that my article attacked your integrity. Not so. Your integrity had dick to with it. Indeed the higher the degree of your integrity, the better the message my article was trying to convey. Recall the examples I use to demonstrate this: a field marshal, the Ayothollah, the Pope himself. I have no doubt that their integrity to their beliefs was of the highest order. Can there be any doubts about Carol Beecroft's "integrity"? What I said was that without ethics IT DOESN'T MATTER. Your integrity becomes as arbitrary as your gender.

But the chest pounding. Again. Fine.

To me a person with integrity is someone who displays some consistent connection between belief and action. With you I see a complete disconnect. Activist persona - no plans to further the status of transgendered individuals. Erotic foundation - but lets says its about gender to diffuse the anti-sex zealots. Don't believe in legal positivism - but rah rah c'mon everybody let's do it. Champion diversity but everybody has to talk in a single voice. I 'm openminded - but sorry I don't want to argue who's right and who's wrong. Now it applies to Canadian law - oops now it doesn't. Nobody would want to see me in such a dress - but hey ma look what I found in KINK. On and on ad nauseam, wheezing like the self-induced resuscitation of a fish out of water.

To me a person with integrity is someone who lives by some sort of code of ethics or morals. Your big strategy, legal positivism, is by definition, "beyond moral considerations". I can't help but notice, how, like a manager, you reduce even abortion to a decision based on "information", when it is obviously an ethical decision which must be made. (Tapestry #60)

When Merrisa Sherril Lynn presented you with her philosophy, (Tapestry #60) which is deeply ethical, she reports the following:

"I tried to share this philosophy with Joanne Roberts, to which she snootily responded, "Too diffuse!"

"What?" I insultedly replied. "I just gave you the answer to the salvation of the known universe, and you think it's too diffuse?"

"But of course!"...She treated it (philosophy) like a squeeze tube of Stop & Shop mustard.

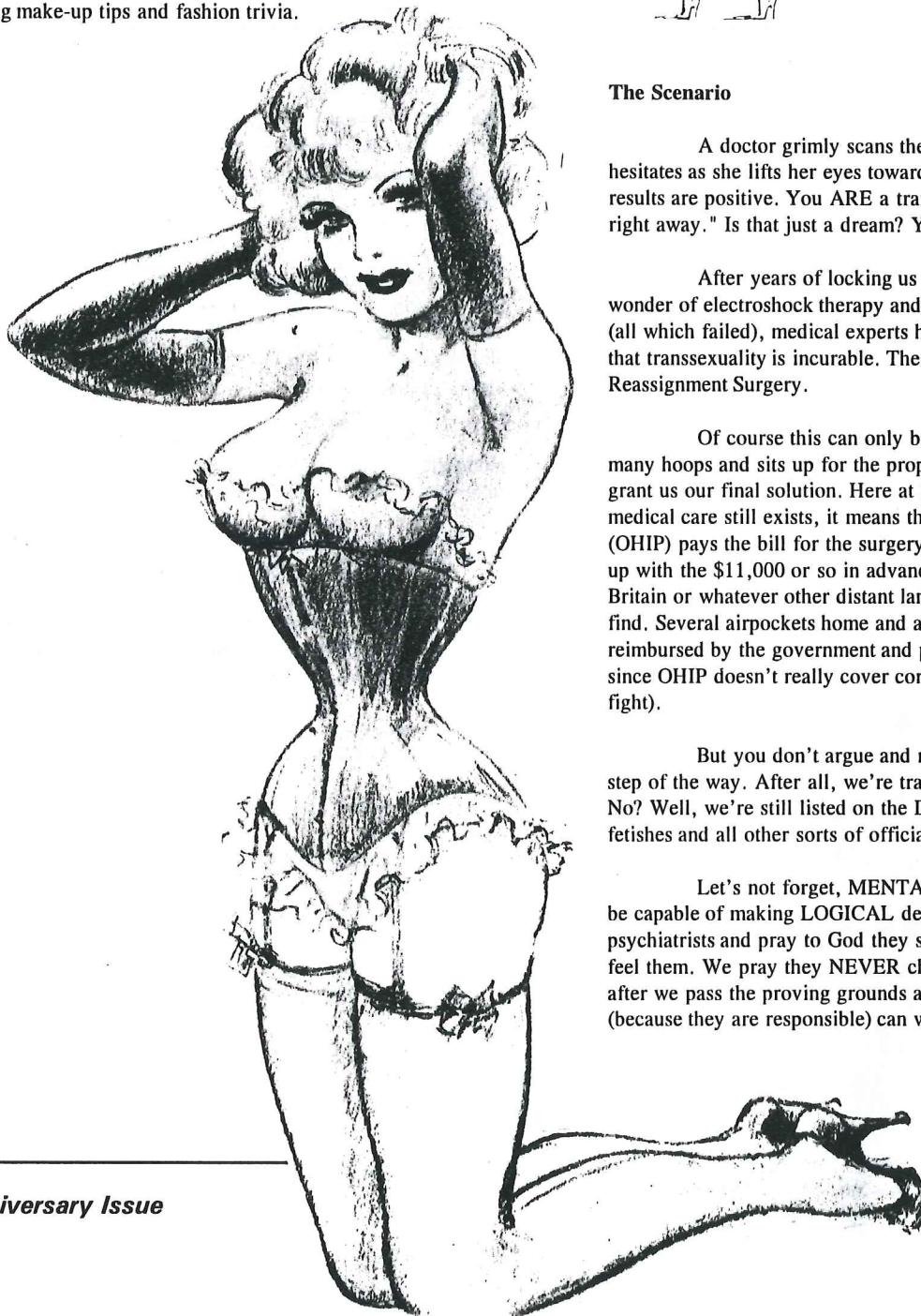
How like a BUREAUCRAT to put oneself above simple ethics. No wonder your babbling seems so out of touch with reality. Is it any wonder BUREAUCRATS are so random in the results they get. On one day the perfect unintentional saint, the next the perfect manslaughter...but hey always in control. Your snooty view of ethics is what makes you scary. It's like sending in a blindfolded SWAT team into a hostage situation, machine guns blazing away. Yeah they may get some bad guys, but at what cost?

Ethics takes those blindfolds off, it lets you see, it lets you aim...with practice it lets you perform surgery. Understanding ethics not only makes you a whole person, it can make a tranny delightfully dangerous.

Ethics are too diffuse only if you don't understand how they allow you to see the whole in an integrated way; too see where people can make the world better for trannies in ways that have nothing to do with crossdressing; in ways that ideologues could never perceive. That's good, because if we are to succeed then most of our victories will have to come about without confrontation. As Sun Tzu says, "those skilled in war subdue the enemy's army without battle".

No doubt you have some sense of idealism to go with whatever mechanical skills and intelligence you may have. But without ethics they are completely separated from each other. Your idealism unable to translate into practical action and common sense; your intelligence useable only in narrow compartmentalized fields.

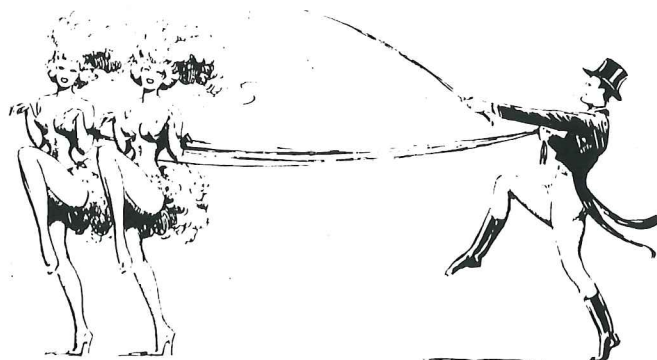
Even you should understand by now that I don't write for the purpose of making friends, or to make people feel comfortable. I suggest that if you plan to once again be a competent leading figure in our community, that you have got more important things to sort out than the colour of my neck. Otherwise your only real value will be in the dispensing make-up tips and fashion trivia.



TRANSFERRING THE POWER

by

K. Patrick



The Scenario

A doctor grimly scans the psychiatrists final report. She hesitates as she lifts her eyes toward a nervous patient, "I'm sorry, the results are positive. You ARE a transsexual...we'll have to operate right away." Is that just a dream? You better believe it!

After years of locking us up in psycho wards, the occasional wonder of electroshock therapy and a long host of chemical potions (all which failed), medical experts have come to the general conclusion that transsexuality is incurable. The logical answer today...Sex Reassignment Surgery.

Of course this can only be allowed after one jumps through many hoops and sits up for the proper professionals who in the end grant us our final solution. Here at least, where universal socialized medical care still exists, it means the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) pays the bill for the surgery. Well, sort of...you have to come up with the \$11,000 or so in advance and pay your freight to Holland, Britain or whatever other distant land Toronto's Clark Institute can find. Several airpockets home and a "reasonable wait" you are reimbursed by the government and pray to God nothing went wrong, since OHIP doesn't really cover corrective surgery (without a BIG fight).

But you don't argue and make darn sure you smile every step of the way. After all, we're transsexuals...we're crazy people! No? Well, we're still listed on the DSM along with transvestites, fetishes and all other sorts of officially mentally ill people.

Let's not forget, MENTALLY ILL PEOPLE aren't likely to be capable of making LOGICAL decisions, are they? So we go to psychiatrists and pray to God they see things the same way we actually feel them. We pray they NEVER change their minds too because only after we pass the proving grounds and tests they have devised for us (because they are responsible) can we finally be "cured."

Paying the Price

Since we are mentally ill and still happen to live in a province with universal socialized medical care...and do everything they tell us we have to do: Why are we PAYING for it? The surgery! Yes we get it back, but why do WE have to pay for the only solution with up front CASH?

Let me draw a few parallels: (i) A person is diagnosed with a serious heart malfunction...should OHIP make the patient pay upfront for surgery, then reimburse? (ii) Another person is diagnosed psychotic and is sent to a treatment centre...should OHIP demand upfront CASH? (iii) Why are WE singled out?

Since we are still under the DSM with a recognizable illness then perhaps the medical system is obliged to help us from start to finish.

Here's the general idea: You are diagnosed TS. You are then given FREE all the procedures necessary to "pass" reasonably well as a functioning woman in society which includes - Plastic surgeries, electrolysis, voice training or surgery, SRS, job protection or retraining, and disability benefits through the process.

Sound like a dream fellow trannies? WHY!! If we ARE mentally ill then why are we NOT given the same full care anyone else with an diagnosable illness receives in this land?

The doctors in this city keep reminding us the current (socialist!?) government is threatening to take SRS off the list of OHIP covered surgeries. In THAT case, we will be paying for everything from start to finish. Well, all EXCEPT for the very same psychiatrists who make us sit up, take tests and jump through hoops for a signature. Those doctors are still covered by OHIP.

Right here in Ottawa, we used to have a speech therapist for trannies...not anymore! In Vancouver, we hear the Gender Identity Clinic (the one everyone said was great!) is closed down...funding cut.

A Leak in the TS Ship

Slowly, we are losing our funding. As socialized health care in Canada unravels like a dance of the veils we are finding ourselves working harder for less. The Clark (and they set the standard for all in Ontario) still subscribes to the notion of hormones after a year of Real Life Test which even the Standards of Care document dropped about a decade ago. So you go to a GP on your knees and cry for hormones after buying them for a few months from friends or suspicious sources. This of course is a practice EXPECTED by the Clark! We are, after all...crazy l'il things and nothing less is accepted!

Even our Occupational Therapist (OT) at Ottawa's psychiatric hospital has had her hours cut in half. This comes just before a plan to launch an official hospital TS group where specialists would come and help us. (Wah, it's a bad time to be a transsexual!) Well, we might still get the group and I MIGHT get a speech therapist soon too...for a whole hour my OT hopes.

A Definite Path

So, where are we headed? There really are two pathways. Fight like crazy dogs to keep what was ours and then gnash our foaming teeth at the government for more (just like every other special interest group does) OR...Fight to get us OFF the DSM. Declare us sane people, we are NOT mentally ill and therefore capable of making our own decisions. Translation: "Get out of my way, it's MY life!" Do you like that?

Of course if we are taken off the DSM, then we really ARE on our own (and it appears we will be anyway) and better get good jobs for good wages. A typical TS is going to shell out close to \$20,000 or more to get what she has to have. So DON'T buy a car.

The Plan

While we're at it, let's get TV's, fetishes and any other crossdressing labels off the DSM too. That way if any TV is fool enough to ask for SRS HE can have it. (Remember the DSM reflects what society in general thinks of us, especially on a day you DON'T pass!) BUT...if we are making our own decisions, then we pay the price. This means: (i) You ARE sane, you are in control of your life. (ii) You pay the bills, it's your life. (iii) You change your mind, YOU pay for it...you don't advance to go, you can't get a lawyer, you can't collect for mental anguish YOU inflicted on your wonderfully sane self.

The Problem

So we have rational options to explore. The current one, which is being foisted upon us says: You are NOT sane, you WILL pay for more and YOU have no control.

The problem lies in numbers. We are a rather small group of sorry trannies. TS's (especially the post-op ones) are notoriously quiet sisters who tend to vanish into the echoes of societal life never to be seen again.

Not much chance to organize a rally with this group! Hence we will we NOT control our futures, medically or politically. We will NOT seek change and we won't dare complain! We will be too busy sitting up, jumping hoops, taking tests, and smiling for the proper professionals so we can get our signatures for the SRS we will pay for...so we too can disappear.



Marianne's

THE RELIANCE ON CHAMPIONS

by Laura Masters

In the last two years I've begun to notice a growing, and very dangerous, tendency in our community. We seem much more willing to go grovelling to someone outside our peerage for help, than to stand up for ourselves.

Recent documents, released into our community, have spoken of the self-motivated quest for social equality. Yet, even with offers of free support from TransEqual, JoAnne Law (of Gender Mosaic) has declined to file a simple human rights complaint that would have helped set valuable workplace related precedents for us all. Sara Geddes (Tri-Ess, Alberta) has said "We all pray for the day when we shall have the same rights en femme, as we have in our male personas", but has also made it clear she intends to do nothing towards this goal. Veronica Brown (WildSide), has even deliberately interfered with our offers of help, responding to someone making an appeal through her newsletter. On one hand everyone talks about rights, but when given the chance to put words into action, they angrily withdraw.

The plain fact is that 99.9% of our membership has elected either to remain silent, or to ally themselves with groups from outside our peerage. Apparently they hope to gain emancipation on the coattails of some other group's hard won successes. The reasons for this are obvious; first, they simply don't feel entitled to speak out on their own behalf, and secondly, they don't think anyone from within the community can do anything helpful. They have swallowed their own social ostracism hook, line, and 10 pound sinker.

Have you considered what could come from this sick reliance upon out-group champions, such as the Clarke Institute, Project Affirmation, or P.A.S.A.N? Has anyone stopped to look at the disempowerment inherent in a relationship based upon cowardice and dependency?

In fact, our greatest losses have come at the hands of those very people we run to for help. Gender clinics, lawyers, legislators, doctors, and gay community activists have all at one time or another, championed what they decided were "our better interests". We desperately need to look around and see just what they got us.

These "helpers" have wholly misrepresented us, they have taken away our social equality, blown up thousands of careers, caused dozens of suicides and relegated all of us to the ranks of "incurably mentally ill." The truth is, we were never consulted in any of the policy and practice that limits our freedoms and takes away our rights. All of it was put together by people presuming to know what we need.

How many of you know that the policy landing pre-op male-to-female transsexuals and transgenderists into men's prisons came directly from Toronto's Clarke Institute with the endorsement of Vancouver's Gender Dysphoria Clinic? How many of you know that at least one staff member from the Clarke's clinic has quite a reputation for travelling around and testifying against transsexuals in court cases?

In my human rights work, I have been entirely unable to find a single case where a job was reinstated, an apology was written, or a policy was changed because someone championed a cause for us.

A small number of active TransEqual supporters have done more to advance understanding and legal support of the transgendered in the last 3 years than any outsider has in the 30 years before. For example, the Ontario Human Rights Commission and the Canadian Human Rights Commission now support your rights; as social equals, not as mentally disabled freaks. You can thus effectively complain about many different issues, including loss of medical support, getting tossed out of stores, or being treated badly at work.

No, this is not bragging, this is simply an example of what can be done by a self-reliant and self-empowering agency. People listen when we speak, not because TransEqual has any special authority, but because we speak from first person experience and offer very pragmatic solutions to real-world problems. This is not the result of some unique skill or vast political connections; it comes directly from simple, everyday, common sense.

Gay-centered groups like Project Affirmation and P.A.S.A.N. that are now making a big fru-frow over "Sexual Minorities", and including transsexuals and transgenderists in their work, are not helping us; they can never help us. Their presence in our midst serves only to illuminate our own disenfranchisement. The very fact that they come to our rescue, without invitation, betrays their attitude towards us.

Project Affirmation, for example, plans to release a series of recommendations about the health care and social service needs of "Sexual Minorities" - including transsexuals, transgenderists, and transvestites. Ignoring the obvious misunderstanding inherent in their connection of gender identity with sexual orientation; we need to examine at least two possible outcomes of their work, and decide if their presence in our midst can ever be called "helpful".

At best, Project Affirmation will write a recommendation stating that we have no special needs in their researched areas. This equates to a verdict of "status quo", which, on its surface, seems harmless enough. However; there would then be a document in the public domain dealing with gender identity issues as though they related to sexual orientation. Since neither crossdressing nor transgender identity have anything to do with the person's sexual orientation, in the best case outcome we will be broadly misrepresented to the public.

At worst, their recommendation could find a whole litany of special needs based upon our own fear of the Clarke and other similarly oppressive agencies. This document, containing exactly the information others need to gain even more control over our lives, would no doubt be used against us. I would not want anyone to come up against a broadly distributed recommendation saying that "the majority of transgendered people want to be thought of as mentally handicapped" in a human rights case that sought job reinstatement. What good can possibly come from this?

To park ourselves under the patriarchal wings of these invaders will do nothing but confuse the public and further challenge our waning ability to speak on our own behalf.

We seriously need to get our excrement together, in one great big hurry - before our "helpers" land us all in asylums!

On Opportunity and Involvement

by Karen Patrick

Gender Mosaic is finding it's voice. In the past few months we have begun the process of graduating from strictly a social group to a fully involved community entity. We are meeting the press, talking to other peer support groups, local government, and generally getting involved in the grassroots things which affect our lives and dignity.

Kudos to Joanne Law for going on local television and radio! Now she's writing a regular column in a city-wide specialty magazine. Does it help? Check the phone calls, they are going up and more people are finding us ... as they should be able to ... EASILY!

Project Affirmation came to town. Despite some outside advice to stay away, both gender Mosaic and FACTT members chose to speak out. It was participation which served to bring together an eclectic group of members who found common issues instead of argument. We did not censor. We chose to let people speak for themselves. After all, we do believe in individual freedom and speech.

GM and FACTT are heading to Gay Pride Day too. Why? Because we share common issues with gays and Lesbians. Why? Because some of our members are Gay and we are not ashamed of that.

It looks like the ALGO center will be our monthly meeting place soon. It makes sense because it allows us to Crossdresser's and Transsexuals "meet & greet" at a centrally located place without having to screen people before inviting them to a private home to meet each month. It helps our group to grow. It helps other to find us - who need to find us.

We've just joined the Police committee. The Gays invited us after meeting us at Project Affirmation. It builds on the liaison we started ourselves with Bias Crime Unit. (ED. Note: Linda take another bow please!) It brings us closer to the people who affect what happens when a TS or TV is pulled over for a missing headlight. It expands our communication with the law. It provides a stronger voice to help our members avoid problems and creates a better bond of trust with those who are supposed to protect us. We do it in a landscape of open communication. The police are showing us they want to talk sincerely.

We have begun a dialogue with the Regional Suicide Coordinator to learn, exchange experience, and work toward prevention in our community too. Regional government is showing interest in talking to us. WE are taking those steps in creating more bridges.

Human rights are built upon understanding, not fist pounding. There are times to fight ... but only if talk fails first. But first we must talk. Not just to a few but to many. Peer groups, government, local institutions and yes, even the media. Modern communication is assembled upon a web of interaction, not the efforts of one or two champions from afar.

GM and FACTT are becoming involved. It will not change the world overnight. What does change quickly is what we have already gained on the backs of those who fought long before us. On

the backs of other Transpersons, Gays, Women's groups, Ethnic minorities, and those who fought for and finally won the Charter of Rights.

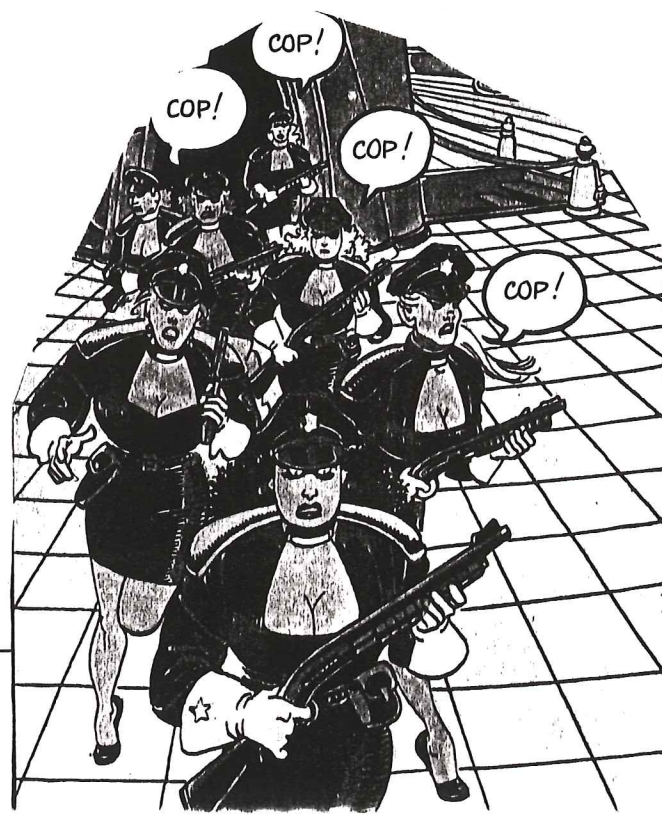
GM is not censoring the enthusiasm of it's membership. Each path leads us toward a common goal of acceptance. We may not always agree on which roadway, but each contributes to a mosaic of thought which can not be ignored, because of none of us, here or elsewhere, can truly say "I have a total lock on the truth".

Gender Mosaic Police Action

Gender Mosaic has expanded its liaison with the *Ottawa Police Department*. It is our goal to: (i) build a bond of trust with those who serve to protect us; (ii) educate our own community concerning its rights and limitations under current law; (iii) avoid legal misunderstandings; (iv) oppose prejudice.

- ☐ If you have questions regarding your legal rights.
- ☐ If you have experienced problems with the law due to Crossdressing or Transsexuality.
- ☐ If you have a suggestion for us.

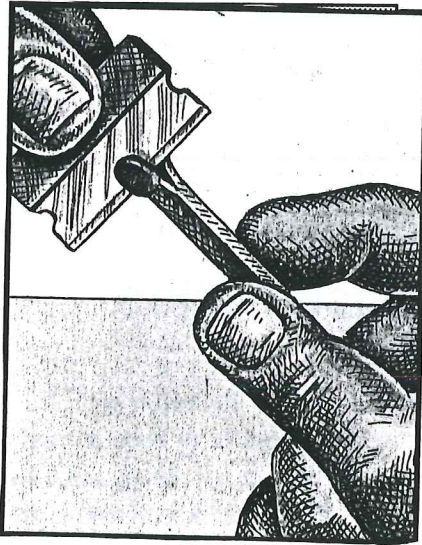
Write in confidence to: Karen Patrick or Diana Coltridge
c/o Gender Mosaic, P.O. Box 7421, Vanier, ON, K1L8E4



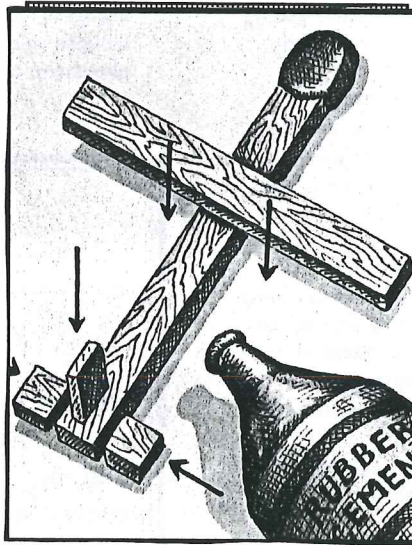
THE SOCIAL REALITIES OF FLYING "UNITED" AIRLINES

(Or How to Build a Bomber using a Matchstick and a Bunch of Flies)

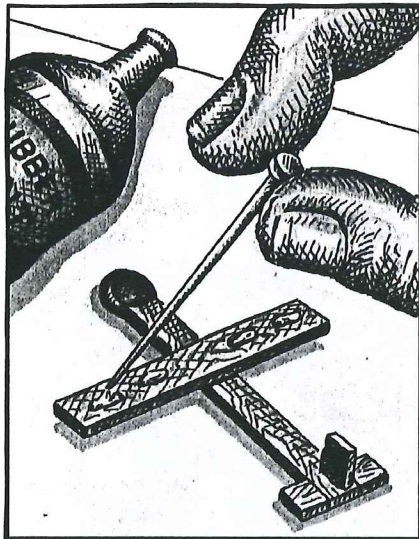
By Denis Boyles



A. Take a wooden matchstick and slice a thin sliver from one side. Then cut the remaining stick in tow, lengthwise. Make sure you leave a little of the red tip intact for effect. Discard one half.



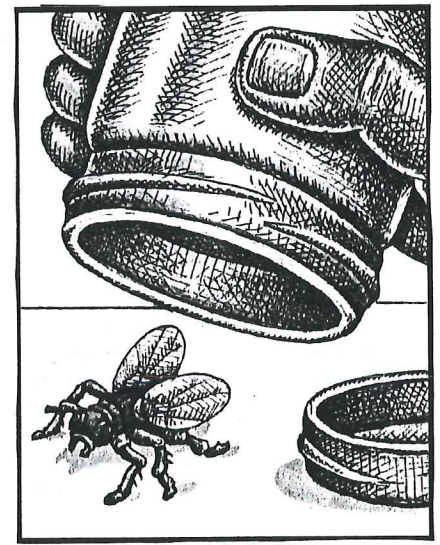
B. Make the aircraft by gluing the liver of wood-the wing-across the remaining part of the matchstick-the fuselage. If you want, you can use little scraps to make a tail section. Or you can make a biplane. Or you can use a couple of thin slices of balsa to make a huge wing, one that will carry maybe *twenty* engines. Indulge your aeronautical whims. Think of lift, think of thrust, think of innovation without benefit of an industrial policy.



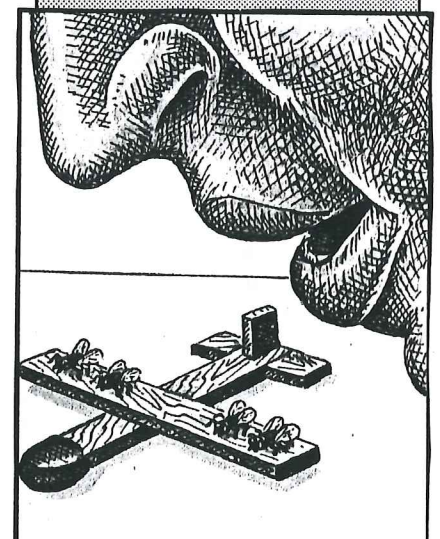
D. Meanwhile, put a tiny drop of rubber cement at each place where you want an engine.



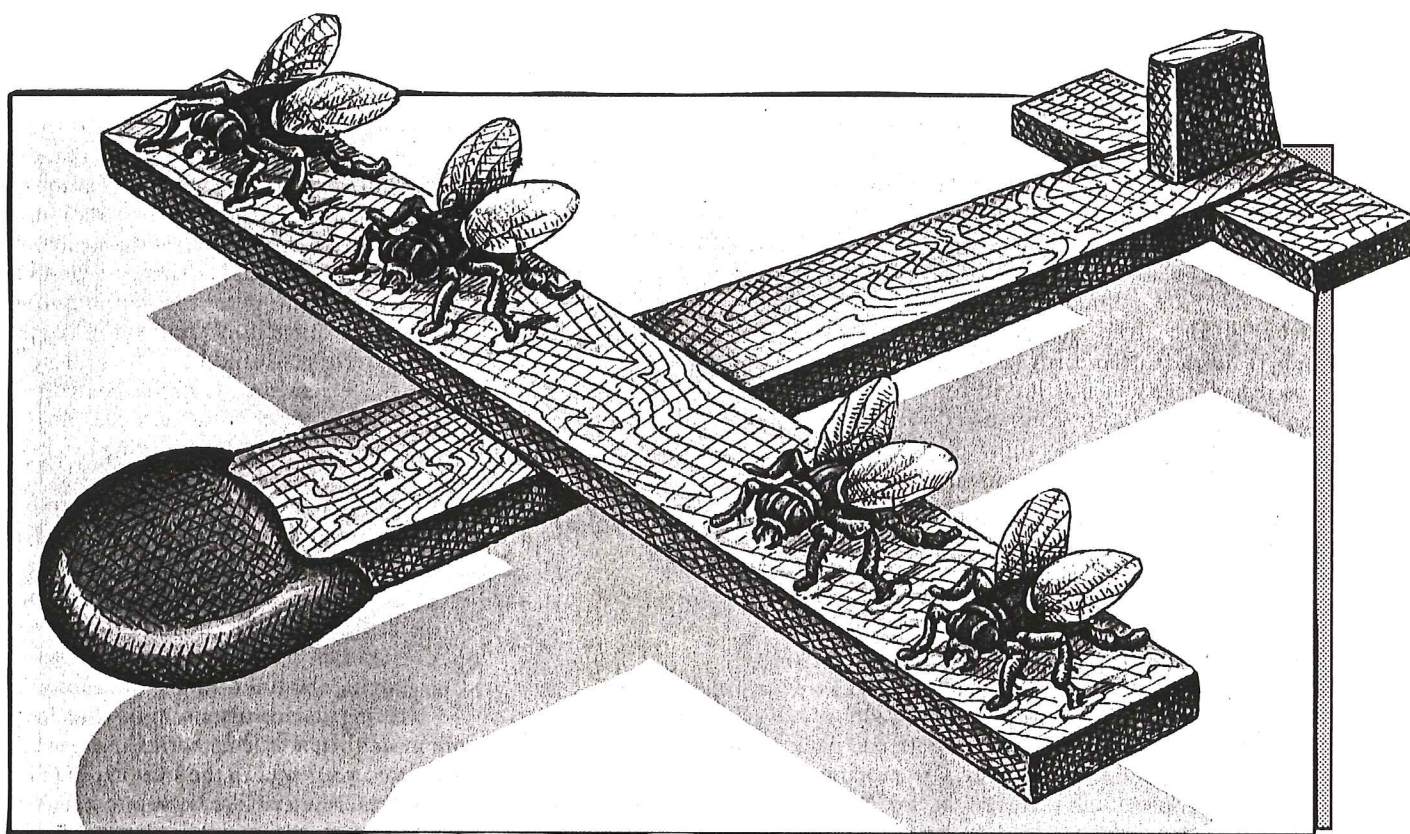
E. Take the flies out of the freezer. Attach the abdomen of one frigid fly to each drop of glue. Make sure all the flies are facing the same direction.



C. Catch a bunch of flies. Put them in a jar and put the jar in the freezer. In a few seconds the flies will be chilled out completely. This is called cryogenics, and it has its drawbacks. For example, the flies will be dead flies if you freeze them too long. Dead flies are no good. So if you're a tinkerer, refrigerate your flies. It takes longer to make them comatose, but they have a higher recovery rate than ones you leave in the freezer next to the burritos.



F. Breathe life into the flies. A miracle: A gentle puff of your warm breath will resuscitate the flies.



G. Launch the aircraft. It should fly like a charm, and, far from being cruel to the flies, you'll be teaching them a new and valuable thing, one that brings us to the virtue of this exercise. For we see that while flies think a lot alike, have a great deal in common, share many of the same hopes and dreams, they never act in concert, as a team, with regard for the worth of other neighbouring flies,

until forced to by grim circumstance-as, for example, when they are harnessed to fly and either first experience the exhilaration of high-altitude cooperation - or die. Redeemed by such a critical choice, they'll soar like a glider, race like a Stealth, and, when overflying a barnyard or kennel, turn into a wicked dive-bomber.

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March 19, 1994

Dear Belinda:

This is in reply to your query about a series of case histories for publication in "Notes". Please excuse my delay in responding but it has been very difficult to decide the best way to answer.

When most of us envision "transsexual" we tend to think of Carolyn Cossey (fashion model), Rene Richards (women's tennis champion), or Angela Wensley (a true Canadian success story). These people are the cream that has risen to the top of our particular vat. They are our heroes and, sadly, they are all the world sees of our community.

We tend to admire these people for a number of reasons. First and foremost, even though much of the world sees them with disgust, we look to them for hope, support and encouragement. Second, they are very accessible to us via news and TV stories. Third, they really have done some enviable things in the face of adversity.

But, as we lionize our community icons, we tend to turn a blind eye to the vast majority amongst us who are far less fortunate. Our heroes, no matter how visible, represent only a microscopic fraction of our numbers. The important stories actually come from the larger group.

Awareness of the human rights issues facing transsexuals and transgenderists is at an all time low; not because they are particularly well hidden, but rather because everyone is ignoring them and their needs. The tendency to recognize only the most fortunate amongst us, coupled with their own silence on key issues, falsely paints transsexualism up as though it is practiced only by a small group of highly successful sex-changed men. Pre-op transsexuals and transgenderists are being completely ignored.

Whether we like to hear it or not, many times more Canadian transsexuals work as hookers than as models or engineers. Although there is no formal research being done, my own anecdotal information suggests that as many as a quarter of us may be turning tricks and a fifth may well be HIV+. In other words; about a third of us have become so disenfranchised and destitute as to turn to self-endangering lifestyles in the sole interest of survival. Just as important as realizing that a third of us are in dire straits, we must also realize that almost all of us suffer lesser degrees of oppression. Most of my peer-friends have been unemployed, about half are on welfare (indicating long term unemployment). It is a safe bet that many of them will never work again. Social, medical and professional services are slowly becoming less and less available to us, as time progresses. It truly is not a pretty picture.

You must understand that all this does not come from within; it is imposed upon these people by society. Their situations are by and large the result of punishment for a "crime" no greater than an expressed desire to cross-live. In at least 80% of the anecdotes I've heard, the person's sole and only problem is that society refuses to accept them in their new gender presentation.

Some of the cases I would like to see brought forward in detail are absolutely hair raising. Sadly, the people involved have declined.

There is, for example, the case of a California based pre-op transsexual, arrested for killing an attacker, who is spending her time

in a men's prison. She is regularly hunted down, by several inmates, in the fashion of a fox and hounds chase. She is tackled, beaten, and gang RAPED (a word I refuse to type in small letters). When her attackers are done with her, whoever tackled her pulls out one of her teeth (using a sharpened spoon) and wears it on a cord around his neck. Now, here comes the real shocker - I learned about this case on Gerry Springer's talk show. Where is the outcry?

Another fine example is the case of a Kitchener, Ontario transsexual who was forcibly ejected from a bar. While she was sitting at a bus stop, trying to recover a little of her dignity, a cop car comes by and the two cops offer her a ride home. When they realized she was a pre-op transsexual, she was advised to "put on pants and live like a man" and angrily told she "deserved what (she) got." The human rights commission mistakenly advised her that "bar owners have the right to enforce a dress code" without assessing if the dress code itself was discriminatory. In desperation for a little justice, she went to the local newspapers. When her story appeared, she was fired from her job as a trouble maker. When I last heard from her, she was living on welfare and turning tricks. No official complaints have ever been filed in this case and the time limits have long expired.

A third example is that of a Hamilton based pre-op transsexual. She went through the transition well before there even was a gender clinic in Canada and became one of the Clarke Institute's first patients, in 1969. She got legally married, before that became illegal in 1970. She was arrested in Montreal, her head was shaved and she was tossed into a men's prison where she was RAPED just hours before the charges were dropped. She has been outed several times, and has been assaulted a couple of times. Now at age 67 she is 24 years into the 2 year process of the Clarke's Gender Identity Clinic and still claims that her surgery is "just around the corner". She has also just been denied access to widow's benefits from her husband's pensions and, while still mourning the loss of her husband, she was outed by her lawyer who gave her name and address to several newspapers. She writes all this off as "bureaucratic red tape" and flatly refuses to complain for fear of being refused her surgery.

I hope you can now understand why this stuff gives me nightmares. It is likely that in the next two decades, more transsexuals will die of AIDS than of natural causes. We will find medical, social, and clinical services becoming increasingly unavailable to us. A third of us will do jail time. There will be many times more career destructions than sex-changes. And, it is also likely that unless we start speaking out now, we will end up forced back into the shadows and closets of a wholly unaccepting world.

We must each understand that, society's continued rejections come directly from our own reluctance to deal with these issues. By virtue of our silence, society has permission to discriminate. Because of our failure to stand up to our oppressors, we risk ending up as a welfare supported sub-culture that is already costing Canada's various social service agencies about 22 million dollars per year, for a population of about 3,000 persons. This represents per capita expenditures more than double those for most other groups. Only terminally ill patients soak up more resources - and we aren't sick!

I can indeed write quite a series of articles. But, I think it would make more sense to interview some of the Ottawa area transsexuals, transgenderists, and transvestites, and put their stories - both good and bad parts - into "Notes". Talk about their job losses, the hassles with

doctors, their struggle for acceptance, even the high risk sex; tell the whole truth no matter how much it hurts.

In my opinion, a regular "Personal Profiles" column in all of our community's newsletters, would contribute more to our community than all the shopping and fiction articles combined (though shopping and fiction both have their places, too). A well written series of articles would humanize the newsletters somewhat, I could add them to my personal information bank and (most importantly) they would expose our community members to both the joy and the misery right on their own doorsteps.

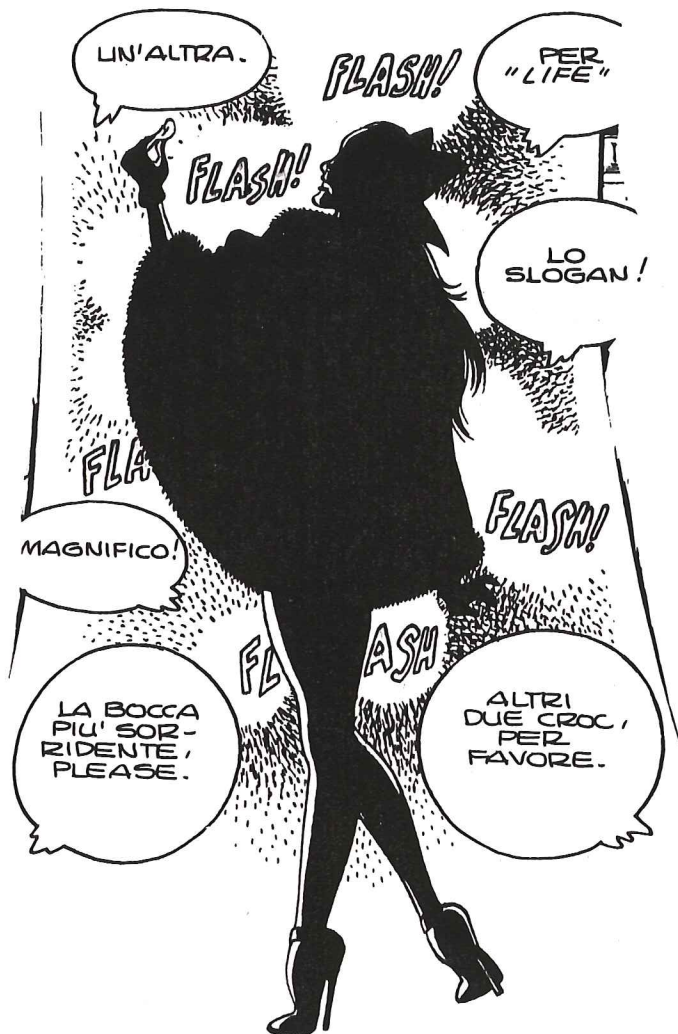
If I can be of any help in such a project, just ask...

As we have frequently discussed, I do what I do because I cannot not do it. The truth about our peers, once known, is so compelling that only the most uncaring idiot could turn their backs on them.

Sincerely,
Laura Masters



MEET THE PRESS/JOANNE GOES PUBLIC



Carleton University Students Association
Gay Lesbian & Bisexual Centre

I had been sending our news letter to the GLB Centre at Carleton U. though Peter Mogalo. We have had several conversations about gender issues over the phone and he asked me if I would attend the BGLD week and give a presentation to their members about crossdressing and other topics in general. I said OK, so on behalf of GM I made up a short speech and then a question period. My friends Gail and Karen P. came with me for moral support. I want to thank them for it, as this was my first public speaking engagement. Walking through the tunnels at the campus, from the 13 floor of the parking garage to the University Centre dressed en femme, and then through the Student lounge, my heart was pounding a little to say the least but I made it. I entered the room which the university had given them. Gail and Karen sat down and I went over to Peter and introduced myself. There was 10 people when I started, but more showed up as time schedules for class changed. A few members of GM were able to make it later. During the question period Karen was able to respond to the TS issues and she gave the right answers. Thanks Karen! After the presentation we talked informally in the room and with some of the late arrivers. As I was picking up all my stuff Peter handed me an envelope, which I later found out was a cheque. I have given it back

to the GLB Centre so they can buy books on gender topics. They can get them a lot cheaper through the university than we can. All in all it was quite a day, and I want to thank everybody for their support.

Radio CJSB 54 Rock - Ottawa's Best Rock

I got a call from Sue McGarvey, a radio talk show host on radio station CJSB 54 Rock. She has a program on the air each Sunday called "Sex with Sue". I had met Sue to give her some vital information on our support group, who we really are, and why GM exists. Well before I knew it, I was doing a 20 minute taping for the introduction of her show "The Other Alternative" a topic on gender. The taping lasted 34 minutes but some will be cut and edited. It was great to respond to her questions. She made me feel comfortable, even to say how nice I looked for her radio audience. The taping was aired on Feb 27. Before the interview I walked around Merivale Mall aimlessly trying to get rid of the jitters. This was my first time talking on the radio representing crossdressers and transsexuals.

Well I listened to the show the next Sunday and I was pleased with the results, although I would have kept some of the other questions and answers that Sue had asked me during the interview. The show was on sexual issues and alternative lifestyles. There was, I think three calls about crossdressing and nylon fetishes during the two hour show. But all in all I think the message was given out about who we are and what Gender Mosaic represents. Now I will go to the Post Office on a regular schedule to check for the mail. If I forgot to mention the interview on the radio lasted 8 minutes. Again learning about talking on the radio gave me some more experience for the next time.

CHRO Television Interview

I had made arrangements with Kimothy Walker a news reader to attend a gathering of members with their wives and girl friends, to give her a positive image about who we are. At Le Parmesan restaurant, there was Gail, a special friend, Samantha A, Linda & Elizabeth, Kimothy Walker, and me. It was on Feb 15 in the evening at 6:30 PM. It snowed like hell, about 10 inches that day but we all made it on time. Kimothy had her script and a few ideas to discuss, I made a few changes and we all talked about our little hobby. I think she was intrigued about our lifestyle, and again a positive image was sent out to the public. We made arrangements to shoot on February 24 at 1:00 PM. at the studio on Kimway Ave. in Ottawa.

It was snowing again on the day of the shoot. I had made a make-up session with Sande then drove to the studio. At the studio I was introduced to some of the staff before the taping in the main camera and sound room. A microphone was attached to my scarf and checked for sound, then the technicians checked for the right lighting. I was sitting in a chair with a background and Kimothy was off camera asking the questions and was able to relate to issues she had asked me. The whole viewing time on camera was set for 5 minutes but it took half an hour to complete the showing for March 8. After the interview I asked Kimothy to take a picture of me on "Bob's Couch" (a local fixture) and by the CHRO logo in the lobby. But Murphy was alive and well - my camera wouldn't work. The staff said that I could come back at any time to take pictures. I thanked Kimothy and the technicians, left the studio to my car which was under another 5 inches of snow. I drove back to my apartment, sat on the sofa, stared out the window, my mind was blank, in limbo, looking at the snow falling. I

must say that over the last month I had gained a education about the media, lighting, and microphones.

The big day arrived March 8, 94 (which ironically was also International Woman's Day) Carol and Rhonda came over to my place after work to watch the interview on CHRO. We were all dressed in male attire. Rhonda had bought some beer and we ordered pizza, just like the boys. The time slot was 6:05 PM. I was in a state of anticipation, as the count down started. All of us glued to the television. There I was prim and proper, dressed in a gray skirt and fuschia silk blouse, my new wig, and all the accessories. Joanne was on television for all the world to see! I was smiling as I answered Kimothy's questions. The camera took close-ups of my eyes, earrings, hands and feet with my high heel shoes. Rhonda and Carol said I looked good and they saw Joanne not me, which I was relieved to hear. All I could see was me but I was my own worst critic. A few friends called to congratulate me, and it made me feel good to hear their voices.

I want to thank the members and friends of Gender Mosaic for their support and backing me during the last month of interviews, and talks to Carleton U. All I can say is it was something I will never forget.



KUDOS

Kudos to Joanne Law for becoming a regular columnist for "Hot and Bothered", which features people such as Member of Parliament, Swend Robinson. Kudos to Karen for co-ordinating Affirmation meetings and to all those who gave of their time. Kudos to Diana for becoming secretary of the Gay Pride Committee. Kudos to Sande C. for hosting a magical figure skating party for the girls. Kudos to Diane for her independent outreach to Lesbian orgs and helping GM members with Human Rights Complaints. Kudos again to Karen and Diana for participation in Bias Crimes Committee and outreach to Regional Suicide Center. Kudos to Joanne again for leadership by example, and non-intervention, a rare capacity. Kudos to Sharon for volunteering as editor and revamping our info pamphlet. Kudos to Natalie for setting up Casino Night. Kudos to all who took the time to write articles. Kudos to all who found the piss & vinegar to come out of the closet. Work hard, play hard... then kick some butt. Rah Rah



NOTES FROM THE UNDERGROUND - SNAP QUIZ

Below is a "real-life" case study of members of the T-community being jerked around. It is quite possible that each of us will find ourselves in a similar situation before ending our time here on Mother Earth. You have, over the past few issues been presented with "solutions". After reading the case study, answer the following questions"

1. Who's right where - and why?
2. Who's wrong where - and why?
3. How must society change to avoid this happening again?
4. How must we change to help that happen?
5. What are you going to do to make that happen?

TRANSSEXUALS NOT PROTECTED

PHILADELPHIA -- a federal district court judge has ruled that transsexuals are not protected from discrimination under the federal law that protects men and women from "sex discrimination".

U.S. District Judge Herbert Hutton threw out a case filed by Andria Adams Dobre against Amtrak, saying that Congress did not intend Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to "protect transsexuals on the basis of their transsexualism," **PHILADELPHIA GAY NEWS** reported.

Hutton said that "sex," which refers to biological features, is not synonymous with "gender," which Hutton says refers to a person's sexual identity. Other federal courts have agreed that transsexualism is not protected by federal law; the clause may be protected in states with a sexual orientation clause in their human rights codes, but Pennsylvania does not have one.

Dobre was hired by Amtrak in 1989 as a male. When she told supervisors she was undergoing hormone treatment to become a woman, her supervisors began harassing her, insisting she dress as a man and use the men's restroom. In 1990, Dobre says she was forced to resign.

In a related case, Taylor C. Brooks, a 35-year-old woman, has filed a lawsuit in Federal District Court in Pittsburgh, Pa., against USX Corp. where she works, charging she has been subjected to harassment and other objectionable behaviour by co-workers and supervisors at the steel mill since she started the medical process of undergoing gender-reassignment to change from a woman to a man. Brooks' attorney, Suzanna Liberty, filed the suit under the Americans with Disabilities Act which she says covers such disabilities as gender reassignments.

"His disability is his medical condition because he's between two genders," said Liberty, referring to Brooks. Brooks, who has worked at the steel mill since 1976, has been subjected to harassment since starting male hormone treatments in 1987 as part of the gender reassignment process, the court papers claim. the suit seeks an order prohibiting harassment and asks the firm to give Brooks the promotions she says she was denied. *Washington Blade*



Sixth Anniversary Issue

*Happy Birthday!!!
Notes From the Underground
Six Years Old and Still Rockin!!!*



Sixth Anniversary Issue