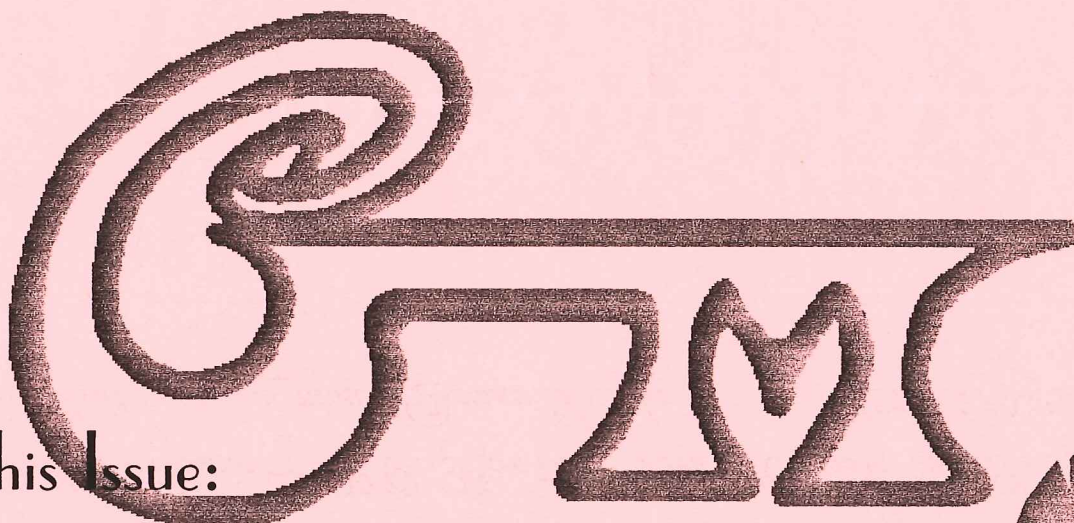


Notes From The Underground

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October 1997 3-97



In This Issue:

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The Presidents Corner

1997 Executive

President: Joanne Law
 1st Vice President: Linda
 2nd Vice President: Sophy
 Treasurer: Sharon
 Secretary: Natalie
 Editor: Michelle Renée
 Advertising: Penny
 From: The Presidents Dining
 Room in Downtown Hull
 Quebec

Did you see the picture of Nathalie and myself in Capital "X" Xtra. Issue 46. This was taken at our first social at the church. Nathalie and I are very pleased with the interview that Yolanda House a reporter with the Capital Xtra and her positive writing about the Transgender Community. Capital Xtra is a free Gay and Lesbian Monthly magazine which is distributed across Canada.

My column for this issue is very long so I have asked Michelle Renee to spread it out as she sees fit. It is just that so much has developed so fast in the last two months and I want to relate to all the events personally and to thank everyone for their efforts and dedicated support in making Gender Mosaic one of the best volunteer social support groups in Canada. We are all ambassadors for our community, and it's up to you to make us feel and be recognized as the very real people that we are.

The Treasures and Lace auction held at the Wet Lounge on July 5th. Raised \$165.00 for Pride In The Capital Committee. Not bad for used light bulbs, rusty tools, lamp shades, boxes of treasures and Just plain junk. Thanks to Michelle Renee and Linda for taking on the task of co-ordinating with only one week to go. The day started with a brunch at 11:00 am at the Wet Lounge, then a leisurely walk down Bank Street to walk it off before the auction started. The models in the auction were myself, Linda, Michelle Renee and Lynn. Each of us had four outfits changes during the auction and all of the outfits were impeccable. Some of the audience wanted to buy the clothes we were wearing, and were willing to pay good money for them, maybe next time. The audience was responsive as the day wore on, people left and others showed up to bid on items displayed by the auctioneer. Thanks to Steve of The Wet Lounge for donating the space, Richard, Sylvie and Mitch volunteers of the Pride Committee for helping us out with the auction. Michelle Renee was able to invite some of her Transgendered friends from Southern Ontario, New State and a friend from Detroit I guess this makes the Gender Mosaic auction an international event. After the auction, we all headed over to the Wall Street Cafe on Bank St. for a delicious supper and drinks. It was getting late and some of the girls were getting tired, it had been a long day, and they had to leave early Sunday morning for the long drive home. Hugs for everyone as we said our goodbye's and after more conversation standing by our cars. The remainder of the group headed over to a women's dance at the Hintenburg Community Centre, which we were invited

to by a very dear friend of mine, after meeting with the organizer of the dance. She had mentioned that the Transgender community should be accepted too. Thanks to Marion the co-chair of the Pride Committee for her support. We left the dance party around 11:30 PM, it had been a very long day indeed.

This could be a very good means in which to raise awareness of our community to others by having an auction semi annually to raise money for some charity in Ottawa. This was our very first one and I hope not the last. Anyway we had a lot of fun raising money for a good cause.



The Treasures and Lace Models

From Left to right: Michelle Renee, Lynn, Joanne and Linda.

Well folks a little reminder:

October is Membership Renewal Time. The revised schedule of dues are listed below.

Single Member \$20.00
Family Membership \$30.00
Special Membership \$15.00

NOTE: Special membership is intended to be used for students and those who for whatever there circumstance may be, can not afford the price of a full membership. Proof must be shown for special membership.



From The Editors Desk

Well here we are again with our 3rd Newsletter so far, the comments about the new format our letter has taken have been all positive and to an editor that is Great News.

I would like to take a minute to sincerely thank those who have taken out advertising space in our Newsletter. As you can well imagine the cost

of printing and mailing out our newsletter is a costly undertaking. In order to produce a quality Newsletter, the advertising will aid in the growth and content that we produce. It is felt that at some point, we may start to even put colour into some of the pages and rather than a photo copied production, it will be printed. The printed matter allows for a substantial cleaner image in graphics and pictures. For those of you that are not aware, our Newsletter is sent to other support groups all over Canada and the United States as well as the various Transgender Support agencies.

As you in the President's Corner, I had the privilege of being one of the models at our Treasure and Lace Fashion Show. Wow what a thrill! As it was a lot of fun and a first for me, it also gave me a little insight into the world of the professional model. Although it was fun, there is a great deal of work and effort that goes into "strutting your stuff" We all see the beauty and glamour of the runway, but little of what goes on behind the scenes. I would like to Thank Nancy and Diana who helped us with those zippers, the makeup touch ups and hair fix-ups.

This edition has a few articles to provoke a little thought for the wives and significant other who will be starting their regular peer support meetings ***beginning September 30th at 7:00 PM. These meetings will be held the Last Tuesday of each month. For further information and the location of the meetings contact Nancy at 746-8905 or Julee at 731-8058.***

For the Transgendered members, the peer support meetings held the second Wednesday of each month have been very thought provoking, leading to many very productive and useful discussions. A big Thank You to Margo who has been the most perfect hostess for the last three meetings. For those who have not attended a meeting yet, they are also missing Margo's culinary prowess as well as some of the other girls. If you would like more information as to the location of the meetings, contact Joanne or myself. The topic of the October meeting is "Out" what does it mean to you? If you are having problems dealing with Transgendered issues, no matter what they may be, or would like a solid sounding board for questions that you may have, this is an excellent venue for you to pursue. With the growth of our Newsletter, I will be printing the outcomes of some of our though provoking meetings. Some of the issues discussed may provide you with some answers to questions you never thought to ask. Please remember **"The Only Foolish Question, Is the One Never Asked"**

Telling Your Wife And Beyond

The wife or significant other should be told, keeping a secret will ultimately contaminate the marriage or relationship in ways that very often will not become immediately perceptible. However, this revelation will undoubtedly instigate a unprecedented level of stress in the relationship unless it is appropriately managed and dispersed.

(1) Talk a lot with your loved one. Not only about Transgendered issues, but most of all about other matters. She will feel very intimidated by this revelation of yours. You must make a extraordinary effort to assure her that this is not a menace to your relationship.

(2) Do not pressure her to see you dressed. Remember, she married a man and you have demolished the image of who she believed she married. She may very well be disconcerted by seeing the man dressed as a woman. Each woman is different in how she will react to this revelation, and most will not want to deal with the actual sight of the cross- dressing. Seeing the clothing is not a discerning threat. In fact it may be good for her to see them to remove any thoughts of hers that there is something "outlandish" in your wardrobe.

(3) Institute clear boundaries in which you can remain and continue to dress. Be honest with your needs, but at the same time do not push her into something which she is not comfortable with. Establish a room or location in the house were your wardrobe can remain, and times that are acceptable to her. Arrangements should be agreed upon as to where you can go while dressed.

(4) Keep the man and the woman separate. Most wives do not appreciate the fact that you are wearing pantyhose or other items of female clothing underneath the male clothes. She needs to know that the man she married is all man, when dressed as such. Imagine yourself being in an accident on the way home from work, you are seriously injured and hospitalization is required. Now imagine you or your spouse having to explain pantyhose under your pants. Imagine her embarrassment and yours.

The opinions expressed are those of the Editor ~ And she stands behind them with conviction!

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Our Girls Are Coming Out.... Here Are Their Stories



Lynn's Evolution

For those who don't know me, I joined Gender Mosaic fairly recently (December 1996) when I attended their Christmas Party at Manfreds. That was only my second time "out" (the first time was on Halloween 1996) and that event literally changed my life. Since then, things have changed tremendously. As of August 31st I have been out a total of 57 times. Needless to say, it was a rough road that brought me to this point.

As with most Transgendered people, I have known I was different from a young age. As the years passed I learned to suppress these differences in attempt to "fit in" with everyone else. Of course, this was not always successful, but I managed to survive.

After I graduated from College in 1983 (and was looking for a job), I started to seriously question my gender identity. I was on the verge of "coming out" at that time, but had absolutely no idea where to go or who to ask. When I did get a job, I once again suppressed all my differences and focused on work.

Of course that's not to say I didn't continue cross dressing. I had been dressing in private on and off since I was 10 or 11 years old. In 1986 I got my big break. I managed to get a job in Ottawa and so I quickly packed up and headed east. Things couldn't be better. I had a good job, I knew very few people here, and I was now living alone (up until then I had been living with my Mom).

As things turned out I still wasn't ready to deal with my Gender issues and I once again submersed myself in work. From 1986 through 1996 I made countless trips to Montreal and Toronto to buy some decent clothes, but most of the time returned empty handed - by the time I arrived at the stores, I had lost all my courage to go in.

There were a few times that I actually managed to buy some things. One time I was on course in Toronto for a whole week and was staying near the airport. Every night I would take the bus and subway downtown and stare into the store windows. On my last night there I finally got enough courage to buy a pair of boots (which were one size too small)! Another time I decided I would spend a couple of days in Toronto shopping. I drove down on Friday Morning and went shopping downtown. Once again I stared in all the stores without going in. On Saturday morning I finally decided ENOUGH and actually got up enough courage to go into some stores and try some things on! That time I managed to buy some 4" pumps and a black jean skirt. WOW what a feeling to actually go into a store, try clothes on and come out with something I wanted.

Unfortunately, my fears returned after that, and it was quite some time before I was able to buy clothes again. When the fall of 1995 arrived, I was starting to realize that I would need to deal with my issues in the near future. I had recently found the Internet, and was surprised to find the number for Gender Mosaic posted on Ottawa Freenet. It took a while, but I eventually called Joanne a couple of times to find out more about the group. Once again my fears overcame my needs, and I put everything on hold.

Eight months passed. In September of 1996, my needs became overwhelming. I NEEDED HELP! I got back on the Internet and found a rapidly growing wealth of information on Transgender issues. I also decided that I had to start exploring my feminine side more. I put together a plan that would culminate in "Lynn" going out somewhere on Halloween. That meant I HAD to get a good wig, breast forms, decent clothes, and good makeup (I was determined to do this right)!

Despite all my fears, I actually managed to get everything I needed for the big day. In fact, it was a lot easier than I expected (the sales girls/ladies were wonderful). So there I was, it was Halloween and I was all dressed up with no where to go! None of my friends were having a party this year (not that I would have been brave enough to go dressed up). I didn't know of any clubs that would be "safe" to go to, so I ended up driving to the mall and walked around the stores for half an hour. There weren't too many people at the mall, and the ones that were there didn't even give me a second look (although I was a little over dressed for shopping). IT WAS GREAT!

After just one time out, I knew I could no longer ignore my needs. I called Joanne again and asked if I could join their next meeting. As it turned out, I just missed their November meeting, so I would have to wait until their Christmas party in December (besides Joanne wanted to meet me first).

As the date approached, I was becoming both anxious and nervous. The only person I knew was Joanne, and I really had

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PAGE 3.....

Our Girls Are Coming Out.....^{est}contd...

..no idea how good (or bad) I looked. I arrived at the restaurant without incident, and noticed that other members were going in (OK, I was at the right place at the right time and on the right night). I joined those going in and was quickly put at ease - these people were a lot like me! Of course the evening went far too quickly, and it was soon time to leave (over 4 hours had passed).

Since that time I have only missed one Gender Mosaic meeting. In addition, I have gone out to restaurants and bars with other members and, of course, have done more shopping. Every time I have been out I have thoroughly enjoyed myself. I am free to be myself, and have decided there's no going back now - look out world, here comes Lynn!

Coming To Terms - Our Story

As the wife of a Cross-dresser who has only come out in the past 3 years, I feel my story could be of benefit to some of the other spouses who are dealing with this phenomenon. I will give you some of my background history so that you may identify with some of the turmoil we all have to go through from time to time.

I was married for 18 years to a man who was very much a control person and verbally abusive. We had to have dinner at a certain time, we went on vacations of his choice and the discipline of the two boys was completely hard and fast. We parted in 1984 for various reasons and I started to put my life back together. I had come to terms with an alcoholic son, mother and boyfriend and did so by going to meetings of Alanon. This in turn led me to see that I was a compulsive overeater and joined overeaters anonymous. By working through the issues of my life using the 12 steps of the program, I was able to see that I was partly responsible for the breakup of my marriage and that I could not possibly control the events or persons who came into my life. I learned to be an independent, confident person who enjoyed my own company and the company of others. I could accept people for who and what they were.

About this time, I met Al. We lived in separate cities, he in Kingston and I in Ottawa. We enjoyed each others company a great deal and we were able to get together here after 2 years. He had been laid off his job in Kingston and was going through a painful separation with his wife. He had two young boys who he couldn't bare to be separated from. Also at this time he revealed to me that he couldn't understand the compulsion he had to put on feminine apparel. He felt that he was weird. He told me that he had bouts of depression then anger. He was angry that he needed to put on these clothes, then angry that he had. When he moved in with me, the bouts of anger were terrible. About this time, through the ad in the Ottawa Citizen, Al was able to get in touch with Linda and she was good enough to come over after work one day and explain his feelings and how Gender Mosaic had been able to help her. I encouraged Al to be himself and learn to like this person inside. We named her Allison and began to

accumulate a wardrobe for her. It also helped that we were similar in size.

Al spoke to our family doctor about his "condition" and she sent him to see a doctor at the Royal Ottawa. After 3 or 4 sessions with her in which she wanted to do some weird tests to see if he was abnormal sexually, he gave that up as a bad cause. All he needed was someone to talk to. We have found that our social evenings with Gender Mosaic have helped him a great deal to learn that he is not weird or different. He still hasn't completely accepted Allison as an attractive lady or someone whose company he enjoys. However he has come along way in being able to don his femme apparel and have a comfortable evening at home. The rages have all but disappeared and he is far less depressed. We have spent a few times experimenting with makeup and outfits to get the desired effect. He still hasn't gotten the look he desires. I feel that this will come with time and help from his friends at Gender Mosaic.

I would like to thank you for your support and can only hope that we can reach others who are in similar circumstances. I know that we no longer need to be threatened by the other woman in our lives.

Sincerely
Julee

The Editors Response:

Dear Julee:

Thank you for taking the time to share with us your personal story. The traumatic affect that Al's feelings have had on you both is so very typical of the struggle so many are attempting to deal with everyday. It is so very hard to overcome mankind's preconceived notions as to what a male and female are meant to be, make the struggle to understand those feelings even harder. We are happy that you found us, and that Al has been able to resolve the conflict within. With your help and the help of others like yourself, we will be able to accord the respect and dignity that the Transgendered persons deserve.

Al's desired appearance will develop in time. Al is discovering the frustration that many of us have overcome with time. Very often we Transgendered, try very hard to achieve what our spouses have had a lifetime to develop - how to be a woman.

We would be most interested in hearing stories from other significant others as well. Through the turmoil that you have experienced, only can others benefit in learning how to come to terms with their spouse being Transgendered. Your stories also help to identify concerns that those of us who are Transgendered, can become cognitive of so the similar errors can be eliminated or at least be addressed.

Again - Thanks for caring Julee.

Michelle Renee

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Hepatitis Alert !

By Michelle Renee: IRL An Infection Control Practitioner

The Hepatitis Awareness Program is again making itself be know in Canada. Why? Over the past five years the realization is apparent that academic physicians have not been very effective in communicating this knowledge to the community.

Background.. There are several types of Hepatitis, the common being A, B, C, D and E. For the purpose of this article we will look at HAV ,HBV and HCB as D only infects those with B or HBV and E or HEV is rare in North America and is associated with contaminated water in other countries.

HAV Hepatitis A Virus, is the mildest form and is a virus that causes inflammation of the liver. It does not lead to chronic disease. It is transmitted by fecal/oral route, through close person to person contact or ingestion of contaminated food and water .It may have no symptoms. Adults may have light stools, dark urine, fatigue, fever and jaundice.

HBV Hepatitis B Virus is a virus that causes inflammation of the liver. The virus can cause liver cell damage leading to cirrhosis and cancer. The average incubation period is 8-12 weeks. It is transmitted by contact with infected blood, seminal fluid, and vaginal secretions. Sex contact, contaminated needles, tattoo/body piercing, and other sharp instruments . Infected mother to newborn. Human bite. May have no

stools, jaundice.

HCV Hepatitis C Virus is a virus that causes inflammation of the liver. This infection can cause cirrhosis (hardening) and cancer. Average incubation 7-9 weeks. It is transmitted by contact with infected blood, contaminated needles, razors, tattoo/body piercing and other sharp instruments. Infected mother to newborn. It is not easily transmitted through sex.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Is there a cure for Hepatitis? HAV the actual infection will clear up in a few weeks to months. Once recovered, an individual is immune to HAV. HBV & HCV can be treated with Interferon and is effective in 50% of those treated.

What is the best defense so I don't become infected? The most obvious of course is to practice safe sex habits. Do not share razors, toothbrushes or makeup with anyone. If you feel that you are at high risk, three doses of vaccine are available for the prevention of HBV, there is no vaccine for HCV.

I don't have all the symptoms, how will I know for sure?

A simple blood test will give you results.

I want more information about Hepatitis, who can I call?

The Canadian Liver Foundation will have flyers available at doctors offices or you can call: 1-800-363-3422 code 212

symptoms, some people have mild flu like symptoms, dark urine, light

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More Articles Of Interest

Lies We Transgendered Tell....

Written By Michelle Renee Copyright September 1997

What is this girl talking about, lies of the Transgendered? Well if you don't think that this is factual, you have just told yourself another lie! With little reservation, Transgendered folks most likely invented this concept. You may well ask just how that can be, and the explanation is very obvious. From the earliest day that we all realized that we were a little different from all the other boys, the concept was conceived. That concept was started the very first time that we went into denial. For had we not denied ourselves that we were different, we would have announced to the world that we were somehow different.

We lie often, some lies very large and some smaller. As we became older, we denied ourselves even further because we began to learn that we really didn't fit into the heterosexual societies concept of what a man and woman should be. For the Transgendered, that became the motherhood of our denial. We lie to hide the shame, for nobody else could be like me surely. For many, the lie became our armor to protect us from shattering an image of the perfect little boy or girl that our parents believed that they were raising. So now, already we have learned at an early age, to lie to the first people who love us.

The lie, our armor, has kept us safe through our developing years. As we grow up we learn that lying is socially unacceptable, stronger our armor of denial becomes. Through time, our difference becomes more apparent. A young man in woman's clothes, a young girl in a mans clothes, surely the doctor made a mistake, for undoubtedly a man must act and feel like a man, a girl must act as a girl. Our armor is strong though, no one can possibly hurt me, and I won't hurt anyone else. The stage of life has been set, for in time surely, what I feel will go away. More denial, and another lie.

For our growing years, we continue to lie and cover our shame. Now a little older, hopefully, a little wiser. We do all those really neat macho things so that I can be a real man, and not think about all those feminine thoughts. I must fit in and be one of the "boys" more denial. The struggle to be just "normal" is not an easy one. Well if I act the stud and date as many women as possible, surely I won't feel those feminine thoughts, more denial. My suit of armor is getting ever so heavy. How much longer can I continue to carry it. If I could find but one person who is just like me, could I ever be able to shed my armor.

Even upon finding someone who is just like you, all the armor can not be shed. Although you learn that they too have survived the shame, the guilt, and the fears, just as you have. He must have a good suit of armor as well. So I guess I am not all so different. But wait, what if he tells someone that I know? Would he? Well we have to keep up the suit of armor longer, more denial...more lies...if he doesn't know my real

name how can he tell anyone? How can anything that feels so right be so wrong.

Finally, the woman of my dreams, she is beautiful, thoughtful, and so intelligent. To marry this lady, surely all those feelings and thoughts that I have kept beneath my armor will go away, no more armor, what a relief. My armor has done it's job, all my life I have survived and been kept safe with it. A burden that I will no longer have to carry.

But wait, my friend just like me shed his armor, and shared his fears, his shame with his wife. She has left him. So I can not shed this armor after all! In order to keep the woman of my dreams, I must carry this burden of armor forever.

For those Transgendered out there who have not yet told their wives, the hardest thing for a spouse to understand is the lie that you have lived. There will be no way that you can rationalize the lie to her. A lie is still a lie. At best, you may be able to explain why you have lived a lie. Albeit my story of armor is a very true one, we all know, and have lived, will never the less be a hard one for her to accept. If you are considering matrimony, shed the armor before you don the ring. Carrying the armor for any length of time will not be an easy burden for you to carry for long. You just may open a door of trust, that those of us who shed the armor too late, may never again know.

Many spouses, may come to understand the suit of armor, it is questionable if they will ever accept it, the longer you wait, the less the chance. They may, if you are one of the lucky ones even come to understand, and maybe even accept you being Transgendered.

When you do shed the armor, shed it all. Honesty will be a change that you will appreciate, as will your spouse. Shedding the armor, is a dream come true. After carrying it so long, the burden of not heaving the access freight will be one of the greatest joys that you are likely to experience.

To the wives, there is no way that you could be expected to accept the suit of armor, you may however, perceive the enormity of the burden.


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Tips & Tricks

Things Girls Just Have To Know To Look Their Best



New Products

Two new products are now out on the market and available from you local drug store

(1) For getting a real nice close shave on those legs, try a new product call ed: **Skintimate -Smooth Shave - Creamy Exfoliating**, unlike the earlier product line this new one has an exfoliant built in. If you have tried Michelle's sought after shaving tip, you will know that exfoliant removes a layer of dead skin allowing you to shave closer to the hair follicle. It was designed for shaving your legs, but I have also got great results using it as a facial shaving cream as well. The first test was done following a good hot shower. The shaving lotion was applied to both legs and allowed to sit for a few minutes, using a new blade in the razor the legs were shaved and rinsed. It was about 9 days before any trace of a stubble showed up, and it was felt rather than seen. The same technique was applied to the face, but sat for a good five minutes. The normal close shave was done at 4:00 PM following a good hot shower, and a new blade. The following morning at 8:00 AM, there was very little trace of a beard shadow yet. This product works well indeed. For those who have not tried using an exfoliant before shaving and applying foundation, are missing the boat!

(2) The next product tested was one to use after you have tried the shaving product above. The product: **Gillette - Satin Care - Skin Replenishing Creme for After Shaving - Dry Skin**. This product applied on your legs following shaving, a good rub with a loofah, will replace the moisture in your legs. Not only does it smell very elegant it leaves your legs very soft and shiny. I do not recommend that you use on your face if you are going to apply foundation such as Revlon Colorstay, it doesn't like to bond very well to it.

The good news....both products are under five dollars each.

Time To Change Your Colours

With fall now upon us, now is the time to change to some of the new shades for the fall. Changing your colours is really only important to those who really would like to be able to "pass". If this is not you, this subject may not be of much interest to you. A good place to keep up with the latest styles and fashions via the net, is Women's Wire. It is updated often and has a host of information that is worth while reading.

Revlon's Currants are a nice line of colours if you are either a red head or blonde, while their line of Coffee colours are appealing if you are either brunette or black haired. The eye shadow colours have left the dark blues and pinks to browns, golds, bronze and green. Basically, all the earth colours. These colours, by all indication will be around for quite some time. The earth tones of eye shadow will generally work for any skin tone except yellow. If your skin has a

yellow or light orange pigment, then the colours will clash. In this case, you are better using some of the winter colours which are greys, blacks or some of the darker shades of navy.

A very nice affect is to begin with white eye shadow and coat from eye lash to the eye brow and blend well with an eye brow brush (not one of those tiny sponges). Next apply over the white with either a gold or a light green and again blend with a brush. The last step is to use either a darker shade of green or a dark brown and cover only the area of the eye lid that is covering your eyeball, using your brush, blend upwards towards your eyebrow. If all went well, you should have achieved a very natural looking appearance that works well for day or evening. You can also achieve a striking evening affect by deleting the white shadow, and using a green from eyebrow the eyelid, and then a dark brown over the eyeball and then blending the brown into the green. Have fun experimenting.

Another new product on the market that works very well for those with less than perfect eyelashes is one put out by Max Factor, called **2000 Calorie** one coat does a fairly decent job, but if you wait a minute and then apply a second coat, it does fill out your lashes very nicely. As a strong advocate of Revlon Colorstay products, this one beats the Colorstay mascara, hands down!!

Also soon to be in Canada is Revlon's counterstrike to Maybeline Express nail finish, which dries hard in two minutes. Revlon's product is said to dry in 90 seconds. Great stuff as long as you don't apply it in an area with lots of air movement, as it dries almost too fast.

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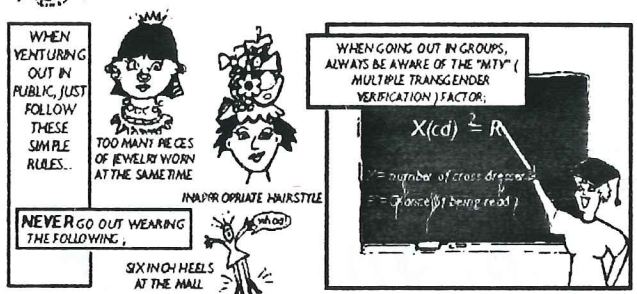
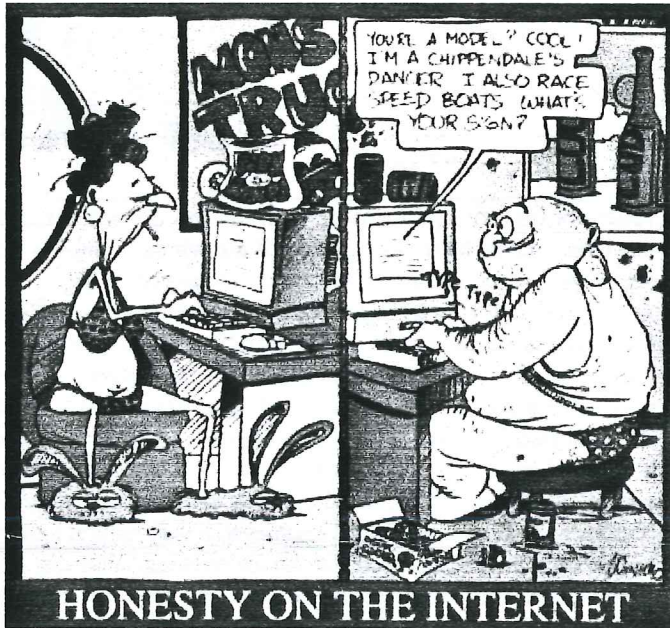
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HUMOR & SUCH



You MIGHT Be A Crossdresser If.....

You look better in your sister's dress than she does.

You own one pair of Jockey shorts....for visits to the Doctor.

That trunk in the attic doesn't really contain your old military uniform.

Those deliveries from Victoria's Secret are always for you.

Your mechanic says you need a new pump and you think he is talking about shoes.

They call you ma-am even when you are wearing jeans and a T shirt.

Your Victoria Secret catalogue has more dog-eared pages than the Canadian Tire catalogue.

You are better at getting into your bra than removing your girlfriends bra.

You always wear baggy pants so the panty lines don't show.

Your secretary borrows a pair of your stockings when she gets a run in hers.

Getting into your girlfriends pants, has a very different meaning to you.

You answer the door and your best friend asks you if your brother is home.

You always wear dark shirts so your bra doesn't show through.

The CD Wives' Bill of Rights

By Francis Farmer

- 1) We have the right to know about our husbands cross-dressing, preferably before marriage, but certainly when our husbands begin to make cross-dressing a significant factor in their lives and wish to contact support groups.
- 2) We have the right to honest and open communication with our husbands, with negotiation and compromises on both sides, particularly in regard to allocation of family resources and in matters pertaining to telling our children. Old patterns of selfishness and deception must cease.
- 3) We have the right to not be pushed to "accept" things before we have had time to learn enough about them and begin to get used to them.
- 4) We have the right to our husbands as men, the men we married, men who maintain a positive, healthy masculinity while "exploring their femininity" and seek neither to evade responsibilities nor to appropriate our own feminine roles.
- 5) We have the right to support groups for ourselves that promote our personal growth and well-being, help us understand our husbands needs, and provide tools for relationship building.
- 6) We have the right to our husbands masculine male bodies. Neither partner in a marriage or relationship has the right to alter body features without the full knowledge and consent of the other.
- 7) We have the right to support groups for our husbands that encourage their feminine development without denigrating healthy masculinity, that welcome us as full members on an equal basis with our husbands, and fully support relationship commitments.
- 8) We have the right not to be mocked and demeaned by sexually explicit or otherwise offensive conversation, dressing and behavior at group meetings.
- 9) We have the right not to be pressured to attend group gatherings at public locations, night clubs or other places that pose a security risk.
- 10) We have the right to be asked for our permission before our clothes, make-up, jewelry or other personal items are borrowed.
- 11) We have the right to personal time in which to get in touch with our own femininity, pursue our personal growth, and work on creative projects.
- 12) We have the right to expect local, regional, and national gender organizations and conventions to fully support and promote these rights in their programs and policies.

Note: This document is thought to be an old SPICE document, never-the-less the points outlined are still of value today. How do you think Gender Mosaic stacks up? Please let the Editor know your thoughts.

