

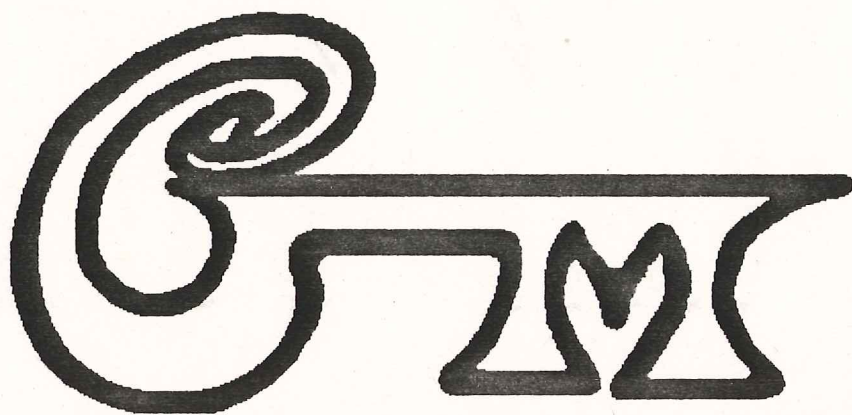
Gender Mosaic's

Notes From The Underground

P.O. Box 7421 Vanier Ontario K1L-8E4

A Free Bimonthly Newsletter From Ottawa's Transgender Community

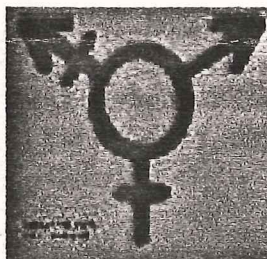
10th Anniversary Edition



May 1988 - May 1998

In This Edition...

The President & Editors Desk,
Tips & Tricks,
Articles and Stories
Tasty Recipes





The Executive

President:
Joanne Law
1st Vice President:
Margo Ross
2nd Vice President/Editor:
Michelle Renee
Secretary:
Lynn Lefevre
Treasurer:
Sharon

From the Presidents Diningroom in downtown Hull, Quebec.

The months of February, March and April have seen lot of excitement in the Transgender community in Ottawa. First was the elections in February for our executive of Gender Mosaic. Thank you for electing me to another term as your leader. I will try to keep the energy flowing for another year. Some of you may know that I will be stepping down from all executive positions in 1999. The new board will have the privilege of bring Gender Mosaic into the next millennium. I have been on the executive since we started in 1989 in one capacity or another and I want to take a rest.

To my dear friend and past members of the board I have these thoughts; Linda thanks for the morning girl talk, your ideas are always needed, To Sophie the lady that keeps the GM constitution in her purse all the time and had the ability to keep my adrenalin flowing, and Natalie our secretary the lady that puts it all on paper then tries to read what she wrote, then tries to puts it on record, I think she has been on the executive as long as me. You have all helped me make decision for the best of Gender Mosaic.

Now we have some new faces and some familiar or re-cycled ones. First to Sharon who was re-elected as our treasurer, she keep the book strait and me balanced or does she keep me strait and the books balanced. Welcome Margo our 1st VP, she has a lot energy and knowledge to bring to the meetings. Welcome Michelle Renee our 2nd VP, she is our editor of NFTU and has the energy for this position. Welcome to Lynn our secretary who has the lap top computer and decipher all of the dialogue good and bad, and puts it in a recognized format for others to read. I hope she deletes the bad stuff.

And to all the people that ran for executive positions, Gail, Sophie, and Carol, may-be next year 1999. Thanks to Norma for taking on the task of elections officer.

April: I had the privilege of being a speaker at the I F G E convention held in Toronto. It was like old home week, meeting with friends that I had met over the years and remiss about some of the stories, I think was I that crazy. Did I really do that? Gender Mosaic was well represented having five members there, representing Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec and we all had a wonderful time. Eating, socializing, meeting new friends at these conventions is what is was all about, and for some it was the work shops and the educational seminars through the week and I finally met the real people behind the picture that I had seen in Tapestry all these years.

My presentation about the police and the Transgender community in the Nations Capital success, I had a full house I even had a Canadian flag at my table. My dear friend Christina opened the presentation for me and gave the audience my advocate background and what was happening in Ottawa. I met many VIP some I had seen on the public affairs program 20/20, Tony Barreto-Neto a F-M police officer a member of TOPS Transgender Officers to Protect and Serve, and also CEO of Gender PAC a national US organization. He was sitting in on my presentation. We talked on and off for the duration of the convention. WOW. A very interesting career.

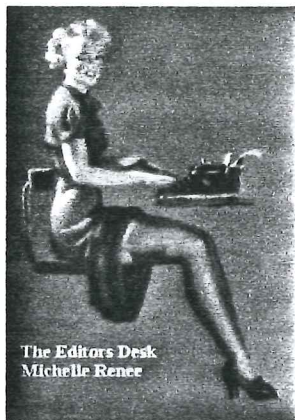
HAPPY 10TH ANNIVERSARY TO GENDER MOSAIC. Is it 10 years already. The bash at the Super 8 Hotel will be exiting for me and by the time you have read this message the party will be over. To all my friends who were able to attend thank you for being a part of this great community. We will be here in 2008. Did you recognize any VIP"S and yes they were invited. The press are writing about this one. Until next...Ta Ta....Joanne.

Dear Gender Mosaic,
On behalf of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgendered (GLBT) Centre collective I would like to thank you for your participation in Campus Pride Week '98.

We greatly value the time, energy, and work put into your workshop planning and attending the Info Fair. We appreciate the support of the community in all of our endeavours, & look forward to working together in the future.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Christensen,
GLBT Centre Co-ordinator

From The Editors Desk



Well at the time of writing this article, our 10th Anniversary Bash is but only weeks away. I am sure that many of you are just as excited as I am. Another chance for us to get out in our finest formal wear and dance the night away. Our 10th Anniversary is really something not to be taken mildly. From my research, I found that Gender Mosaic is the oldest support group in Canada, and is possibly

rivaled by one other support group in California. Many groups have come and gone in the 10 years that Gender Mosaic has existed. Something to be proud of not to mention the fact that we are in Canada's Nation's Capital.

As appropriate as our 10th Anniversary will take place, it seems that the Transgender presence is becoming more visible and certainly more widely excepted. The visible aspects of our community without a doubt help in our voyage of credibility. Seeing different faces at social outings, workshops and info fairs all help to show our presence. It was with great pleasure that Veronica joined me in manning the Gender Mosaic table at Charleton Universities GLBT info fair.. This was Veronica's first big public appearance, and I know that she certainly enjoyed herself.

On numerous occasions many of you have heard me say that Ottawa is without a doubt one of the most Transgender friendly cities, bar none. It was never more evident, nor Joannes efforts with the Ottawa Police Liaison Committee more greatly witnessed than the incident following our last church social. While on the way home with my wife, Lynn and Christina, my van broke down on the way up Bearbrook Road. under most circumstances, a Transgendered persons worst possible nightmare come true. Without getting into all the details, I must give the highest praise to the Ottawa Police Force. All too often you only hear of the negative aspects of a Police Officer. However, in this case I can't thank enough the two cruisers who stopped to render a "damsel" in distress assistance. Four officers helped to push my van out of the way as it was blocking a road. During this whole ordeal they were nothing less than absolutely professional and courteous in every way imaginable offering their help and assistance. There is very little doubt in my mind that we indeed have "Ottawa's Finest" And to them they certainly have my heart felt **Thank You!**

I would also like to report that out numbers of TG Couples are rising which is very encouraging to see. Not only here in Ottawa within our own group but certainly via the internet as well. To date, there is very little support to be found for Transgender Couples world wide, so once someone discovers a credible source, an interaction is soon to follow. Other couples need to know that their is support available for them and we certainly offer it. I would like to share with you a le.ter that Nancy and I received following numerous weeks of daily e-mails.

Subject: Re: Michelle & Nancy

Date: Mon, 6 Apr 1998 18:23:11 EDT

From: Alison CD

To:Michelle Renee<tgcouple@canadamail.com>

Dear Michelle & Nancy:

Thank you so much for your letter. I hope someday when I attend the Tri Ess meetings to meet someone as understanding an experienced in the transgender movement as you. Of course its my wife that I want this for. After 30 yrs together I now realize what's important in life to me. Without my wife the things that I now place value on have no meaning. After a real bad two days last month when she left me mainly because of my xdressing. The route cause being that we just don't talk about it, my needs and hers too. I have read everything I could get my hands on about the subject and feel very well informed. Getting my wife to read it is the set I have been working on and the Tri Ess SO group is the key I feel that's been missing. She has agreed that talking with others in the same position would be something she would like to do. So the next move is up to me.

I am always so jealous when I hear of a girl who can dress as often as every week and then get out also. Sometimes I go as long a two months. When that happens I go crazy inside. I find now that I only want to be completely dressed up, you know going to mall dressed not just hanging around the house with a skirt on and no makeup.

Thanks again....

Yours

Alison

By the time this is printed, Nancy and I will have moved to a downtown location, and with that a new phone number. So if you or someone you know would like another couple to talk to we can be reached in confidence at (613) 233-4024

Regular Meetings To Resume

You will all be pleased to know that a regular location has been secured for our regular socials. The location is rich in history and a very safe environment. It is pretty much in the same area of the city that you have been used to going. The exact location and direction with a map will be mailed to all members under separate cover. The next social will be June 13th at 6:00 pm. We will be following the previous format of a potluck dinner. This meeting will also be a general meeting so you will get the scoop on what is going on from the executive. If you have some ideas for the next meetings, bring them with you and the executive will try to secure them. We will be resuming the schedule of the socials being held the second Saturday of every month.

This month I have added a recipe page to the newsletter, most recipes are easy to prepare but will astonish your guests. It is hoped that we will have a featured restaurant each month as well. In our next edition, I am hoping to do a featured member, a new one each edition. If you are interested, please let me know. If there is not sufficient interest immediately, you may see you executive being highlighted. Until next time...**STAY STRONG & PROUD!!**

Page Two.....

Hi, my name is Louise and I would like to tell you a little about my background so that you may better understand how I can accept to live with a crossdresser.

I was only 21 years old when I married a man who was eleven years older than I was, he was very possessive and any kind of conversation about feelings and our relationship was out of the question, not because of the age difference, but that was just the way he was. The marriage lasted for 15 years. The second relationship I had was with a kind man who was a very good listener but didn't talk much, so it was usually a one way conversation. I don't remember us fighting, and again, feelings and the problems of living a platonic relationship were very difficult, so I decided to leave him after six years.

A friend told me at this point that it must be difficult for me since I had two relationships that were failures which made me mad, so I told her that they weren't failures, I had just made the wrong choices. We learn from our mistakes and I think it has made me more understanding and open minded towards others. I am not afraid to speak my mind which gets me in trouble sometimes, but hey, that's who I am and may be the reason why I have always accepted people as they are, so I firmly believe in live and let live. Who am I to judge?

I then decided that I would put relationships on hold for a while and live for myself and not for someone else, meet new people, date, but nothing permanent. I needed to do things on my own. But things don't happen that way. After a few months, I met a man, and it was almost instantly that we fell in love. I knew after only a short while that he was my soul mate and that I wanted to spend the rest of my life with him. After a few weeks of dating, he admitted that he enjoyed wearing women's clothes. I thought it was strange but it never even crossed my mind that he was a transvestite and I never asked myself if there were other men like him.

At the time, I thought a transvestite was a homosexual, and he definitely did not fit in that category. Due to very strange circumstances, we ended up living together after four months. At home he would wear feminine underwear under his pants, which were women's, and once in a while would wear dresses, skirts and blouses which I found amusing. We lived like this for over three years and then things started changing when we bought a computer and subscribed to Internet. I guess in a way you may think that it's easier for me since I knew, but as I said, things started changing. We both had our hobbies but we still made time for each other and then suddenly I didn't seem to exist anymore, all his spare time was spent on the Internet and sewing. After a few weeks of this, I came home one night which was a Thursday after an evening out with friends and was stunned to see that he had shaved off the mustache, was wearing women's clothes, make-up, was wearing a bra and had breasts (bigger than mine) and was now being called Johanne Larose and to top it all, the next evening was meeting with Joanne and Lynn of Gender Mosaic. The only thing missing was the wig. Now that was a shock! I then asked myself where this was going and realized that what he had before was not enough. He needed more.

On the following Monday, Johanne had an appointment to buy a wig and I did not want to go with her I felt very depressed, upset and alone and knew that I could not take much more of this. For the last three days I had been crying myself to sleep and found myself crying at any time during the day. I knew this could not go on, I had to say something. I had two choices, I try to live with this or I don't, which meant separating, which I didn't really want. We then had a long talk and I told him how I had been feeling and he explained what he was going through and one of the things that he said was that he was afraid that I would leave him and most important that he loved me. I realized that he had been fighting these feelings but now he had to come out of the closet. I knew then that if I could not beat him I would have to join him. So I did, and I went with him to buy the wig.

There was also the question of where would all this lead to? Will he turn into a homosexual, will he want to have a sex change, what will be the frequency of him wanting and needing to be a woman? I don't think that anybody can answer those questions, so I take it one day at a time. I then started browsing on the Internet, visiting Travestis Montreal and especially Gender Mosaic. I read everything I could and visited more sites than Johanne has. It was an eye opener, I was not alone, there were women out there who had gone through what I was going through. I knew at this point that I could not do this alone and needed someone to talk to, so I contacted Michelle Renee of Gender Mosaic and we had a long chat. I decided at this point that I wanted to meet with her and Nancy, so they came over to our house and we talked for many hours which was of tremendous help. It made me realize that my relationship was not over. Since Johanne had decided that she wanted to come out of the closet, I didn't know if I could handle all this, so I joined the women's support group.

A month ago, we went to our first meeting and outing with Gender Mosaic. That both of us were nervous, is an understatement. Since we had to be there at 6:00 p.m., Johanne started getting ready at noon (I'm not kidding) and barely made it. She wanted to be perfect and let me tell you that she looked great. I don't have children of my own and always wanted a daughter, well now I have. Having Johanne around is like having a teenage daughter. As women, we learn at an early age on how to wear make-up, so it becomes second nature to us. It feels so strange to try and teach a man to do it, not only on how to apply it, but what to buy. I have to admit that I enjoy doing this. As one of the rare women who hates shopping, I now find myself doing it more for Johanne than myself, ironic isn't it?

We are now both members of Gender Mosaic who made us feel right at home and very welcome and both of us look forward to more outings with the group. I would like to commend them for the wonderful work they are doing.

In any relationship, after a few years, it's very easy to fall into the same routine and take each other for granted, which is not good. I believe that it is important in any relationship to be honest with each other and to express our feelings openly. Since Johanne is not single, she needs to respect my feelings, and I don't think that I could live with her seven days a week. *Contd.....*

LIVING WITH A CROSSDRESSER.....CONTD

Crossdressers should not forget that we are first attracted to them because they are men, not women, even though we may appreciate the feminine side they have. Now that Johanne is able to express herself more, we have become much closer and it has taken away some of the pressure.

We have been brought up to think that women should be feminine and men should be masculine (macho). Well if you look at the evolution of women, we are wearing more and more men's clothing, such as suits and ties etc. and some men find this very sexy. So why couldn't men wear feminine clothes. It's not easy, but maybe its time we start changing our way of thinking.

I have found that for me, the best therapies in dealing with this, is in meeting other women who are in similar situations, meeting other crossdressers and last but not least, writing about it. I hope that my narrative will help you and if you would like to write to me about what you are going through as women, or even if crossdressers would like to write, please feel free to do so, I would certainly like to hear from you.

From the heart.

Louise

----- ANNOUNCEMENT -----

My name is Tarynn M. Witten, Ph.D. (check me out at <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~wittenm>) and I am the initiator and co-director of the International Longitudinal Transsexual and Transgender Aging Research Project (ILTARP). This longitudinal project is an attempt to address the life course needs of the transgender community. It is the first an ongoing project to formally address these issues and has many component projects which will be detailed on an upcoming web page - which will be announced very soon now.

One critical component of this project is an attempt to formally document the healthcare needs and experiences, experiences with violence and abuse, and general demography of the "T" community. For many years the "T" community has been silent and uncouned. What we call "invisible." While we are now coming out to claim our voice, we are still an unknown quantity and it takes numbers to make changes. We are trying to contact as many "T" people as possible around the world. Currently, the survey is being distributed in 10 countries worldwide. We are hoping to have 14 countries collaborating by the end of 1998. We have a comprehensive survey which we are trying to get filled out so that we can make an accurate international demographic description of the "T" community. "T" people includes pre/post-op transsexuals, transgenders (individuals who live full time in their non-natal gender) whether they are on hormones or not, cross-dressers, transvestites, transgendered, individuals with other gender perceptions, dual spirits, and any non-Western gendered viewpoints. We need to reach all races, all cultures, and all classes of the "T" community. Remember, many of us donot have access to the internet so please spread the word on the streets as well. We are also interested in collaborating with those of you are members of the "intersex" community as well.

I would appreciate your help in connecting with individuals in these categories. All work is medically confidential and is

anonymous. Surveys come in stamped, pre-addressed envelopes so that the sender cannot be identified. The ILTTARP has been approved by the University of Michigan School of Public Health Institutional Review Board. It is sponsored under the aegis of the Comprehensive Gender Services Program of the University of Michigan Medical Center.

If you feel you that can assist in any phase of this project, I would greatly appreciate it. Please circulate this message to anyone who might have access to the aforementioned populations, to anyone who might be interested in filling out the initial demographic survey, to anyone who resides in another country who might help us make contact with "T" people in that country, and to anyone who knows anyone who might be interested in furthering the cause. Please send your email address or phone number if you wish to be contacted by us. If you wish to receive the survey, please send a complete postal mailing address so that we can send you the survey. All addresses are treated medically confidentially. If you would like copies of the reports based upon the ongoing survey, please send me a note to that effect, with a postal address so that we can send you the reports. There are currently 4 reports available.

For further details, you may contact me at via any of the following:

Contact: Tarynn M. Witten, Ph.D., 313-936-2102 (also has confidential message machine)

e:mail:wittenm@umich.edu

tarynn_nightwing@hotmail.com

web: <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~wittenm>

postal: Tarynn M. Witten, Ph.D

ILTAR Project

Comprehensive Gender Services Program

University of Michigan Medical Center, University Hospital

1500 Medical Center Drive

Ann Arbor, MI 48109-0050 USA



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in all of us!**

VIVRE AVEC UN TRAVESTI

Bonjour, je m'appelle Louise et j'aimerais vous parler de ce qui m'a amené à accepter de vivre avec un travesti en vous expliquant un peu mon vécu.

J'avais seulement 21 ans lorsque je me suis mariée avec un homme qui avait onze ans de plus que moi. C'était un homme très possessif et toute conversation sur nos sentiments et sur ce qui ne tournait pas rond dans notre relation était quasi impossible. Non parce qu'il était beaucoup plus vieux que moi, mais tout simplement parce qu'il était comme ça. Ce mariage a duré 15 ans. La deuxième relation que j'ai vécue était avec un homme qui était très bon et savait écouter mais il parlait très peu, alors c'était toujours des conversations à sens unique. Je ne me rappelle pas que nous ayons eu des chicanes, mais encore une fois, discuter de nos sentiments était tabou. De plus, nous vivions une relation platonique qui devenait insoutenable. C'est alors que j'ai décidé de le quitter après six ans de vie commune.

Une amie m'a dit à ce moment là que cela devait être très difficile pour moi d'avoir eu deux échecs, ce qui m'a choquée. Je lui ai alors dit que ce n'était pas des échecs, mais tout simplement des mauvais choix. On apprend par nos erreurs et ces expériences m'ont rendue beaucoup plus compréhensive et ouverte vis à vis autrui. Je suis une personne qui dit ce qu'elle pense et cela m'a souvent causé des problèmes mais c'est moi et c'est peut-être pour cette raison que j'accepte les personnes telles qu'elles sont. Vivre et laisser vivre, j'y crois fermement et qui suis-je pour juger les autres?

C'est alors que j'ai décidé de ne plus m'impliquer dans une relation stable pour quelque temps. J'allais vivre pour moi et non pour les autres, je voulais rencontrer des gens, faire des sorties avec des hommes mais rien de sérieux. J'avais besoin de vivre pour moi-même. Mais la vie nous réserve souvent des surprises inattendues. Après quelques mois, j'ai rencontré un homme et ça été le coup de foudre. Je savais qu'il était l'âme soeur et que je voulais vivre le reste de mes jours avec lui. Après quelques semaines de fréquentation, il m'a avoué aimer porter des vêtements de femme. J'ai trouvé ça étrange mais l'idée qu'il pouvait être un travesti ne m'a jamais passé par la tête et je ne me suis même pas posée la question, est-ce qu'il y en d'autres comme lui. À ce moment là, pour moi, un travesti était un homosexuel, et il ne l'était certainement pas.

À cause d'étranges circonstances nous avons habité ensemble seulement après quatre mois de fréquentation. À la maison, il portait des sous-vêtements féminins sous des pantalons qui étaient souvent des pantalons de femme et de temps à autre, il portait des robes, jupes et blouses. Je trouvais ça étrange, mais amusant. Cela a duré trois ans, jusqu'au moment où l'on a acheté un ordinateur, et qu'on s'est abonné à Internet.

Vous pensez sûrement que c'est plus facile pour moi parce que je le savais, mais comme je l'ai mentionné plus haut, tout a changé. Nous avions tous les deux des activités mais nous avions toujours du temps pour l'un et l'autre. Puis un jour, sans raison apparente, je n'existais plus. Tous ses temps libres

étaient passés sur l'ordinateur et à faire de la couture. Après quelques semaines, c'était un jeudi soir, j'étais sortie avec des amies et à mon retour, je le retrouve, évidemment devant l'ordinateur, habillé en femme, maquillé, il portait un soutien-gorge, avait des seins (plus gros que les miens), n'avait plus de moustache, s'appelait maintenant Johanne Larose, et en plus avait un rendez-vous le lendemain soir avec Joanne et Lynn de Gender Mosaic. Quel choc! Je me suis alors demandée où cela allait nous mener et j'ai réalisé que ce qu'il avait n'était plus suffisant, il avait un plus grand besoin.

Le lundi suivant, il avait rendez-vous pour acheter une perruque et je ne voulais pas y aller, je me sentais bouleversée, déprimée, et très seule et je savais que je ne pourrais garder ce problème pour moi seule bien longtemps. Depuis trois jours je pleurais tous les soirs pour m'endormir, et à tout moment durant la journée les larmes coulaient. Je savais que ça ne pouvait pas continuer je devais dire quelque chose. J'avais deux choix, je vis avec ou je le quitte, ce dont je ne voulais pas. Nous avons alors discuté longuement sur ce que je ressentais et il m'a expliqué ce qu'il vivait et ce qui m'a le plus étonnée c'est qu'il avait peur que je le quitte mais le plus important c'est qu'il m'aimait. J'ai réalisé qu'il refoulait ses sentiments, mais que Johanne devait sortir au grand jour. J'ai alors décidé d'aller avec lui acheter sa perruque.

Où cela allait-il nous conduire? Est-ce qu'il deviendra homosexuel, est-ce qu'il voudra devenir transsexuel et quelle sera la fréquence de son besoin et désir de porter des vêtements de femme? Personne ne peut répondre à ces questions, alors je vis au jour le jour.

C'est alors que j'ai commencé à naguer sur Internet et visiter des sites tels que Travestis Montréal et surtout Gender Mosaic. Je lisais tout et j'ai visité plus de sites que Johanne. Ce fut une grande découverte, je n'étais pas seule, il y avait d'autres femmes dans la même situation que la mienne et qui vivait ce que je vivais. Je savais à ce moment que je ne pouvais pas faire un cheminement seule, j'avais besoin d'en parler. J'ai communiqué avec Michelle Renée de Gender Mosaic et nous avons eu une longue conversation et j'ai voulu la rencontrer avec Nancy. Ils sont alors venus nous voir à la maison et nous avons discuté pendant plusieurs heures, ce qui m'a énormément aidé. J'ai réalisé aussi que ma relation n'était pas terminée. Puisque Johanne avait décidé de sortir au grand jour, je ne savais pas si je pouvais endurer cette situation et je me suis jointe au groupe de support pour les femmes.

Il y a de cela un mois, nous avons été à notre première réunion et sortie avec Gender Mosaic. Que nous étions nerveuses, c'est peu dire. Nous devions être prêtes pour 18h00, et Johanne a commencé à se préparer à midi (sans blagues). Elle voulait être parfaite et croyez-moi elle était très belle. Je n'ai jamais eu d'enfants mais j'ai toujours voulu une fille, maintenant je l'ai. Vivre avec Johanne c'est vivre avec une adolescente. En tant que femme, nous apprenons très jeunes à porter du maquillage et ça devient naturel pour nous. Par contre, pour un homme ça ne l'est pas et je lui montre de quelle façon l'appliquer et quels produits acheter. Je dois admettre que je m'amuse énormément. Je suis une de ces rares femmes qui

déteste magasiner et maintenant je le fais plus pour Johanne que pour moi-même, ironique n'est-ce-pas?

Nous sommes maintenant membres de Gender Mosaic et j'aimerais les féliciter pour le merveilleux travail qu'ils accomplissent, de nous avoir si bien accueillis et de nous avoir donné le sentiment d'appartenance.

Dans toute relation, après quelques années, il est très facile de tomber dans la routine et de prendre notre relation pour acquis. Je crois qu'il est important d'être honnête l'un envers l'autre et de parler ouvertement de nos sentiments. Parce que j'ai choisi de vivre avec un homme, Johanne doit prendre en considération mes sentiments car je ne pourrais pas vivre avec elle sept jours sur sept. Les travestis ne doivent pas oublier que nous sommes attirés vers eux en premier lieu parce qu'ils sont des hommes et non des femmes même si nous pouvons apprécier leur côté féminin. Maintenant que Johanne peut s'exprimer de plus en plus, nous nous sommes rapprochés et cela a contribué à diminuer la tension.

Nous avons été élevées à penser que les femmes doivent être féminines et que les hommes doivent être masculins (macho). Si nous regardons l'évolution de la femme, nous portons de plus en plus de vêtements masculins tels que costumes et cravates qui sont très acceptables dans notre société et certains hommes trouvent ces vêtements très "sexy". Ce n'est pas facile, mais il est peut-être temps de changer notre façon de voir les choses.

J'ai trouvé que pour moi, les meilleures thérapies étaient d'avoir rencontré d'autres femmes qui vivent le même genre de situation, de rencontrer d'autres travestis, mais surtout d'écrire.

J'espère que ce récit aidera quelques unes d'entre vous. S'il y a des femmes ou même des travestis qui veulent m'écrire sur ce qu'elles vivent, il me fera grand plaisir de correspondre avec vous.

De mon coeur.

Louise

Gender Variance Part Two

Process or Birth Defect?

It shouldn't be surprising if gender variance is discovered to be process rather than a diverse collection of biological imperfections. After all, if we pair a black horse with a white horse the resultant offspring can be black with dormant white characteristics, or white with dormant black characteristics, or any shading in between including pinto, each with dormant characteristics. **Yet, even our scientific and medical communities seem to have a blind spot when it comes to sex. The categories of male and female are viewed as exempt from the laws of genetics, even though there are countless anomalies that put the lie to this misconception.** There are males who have various feminine features; female hips, breasts, a feminine voice, never grow a beard, soft skin, desire other males, and some even dress as women, just as there are females with masculine characteristics and inclinations. Many of these qualities are present in every higher species and not peculiar only to humankind.

These genetic propensities, much as bootstrap programs in a computer, set the stage for human development within our various bipolar communities. **Sorting oneself out is a difficult process even when we have nothing extraordinarily different about ourselves.** Just to become a man, or a woman, in our world is becoming increasingly an ordeal. The crystalline delineation between the sexes doesn't reflect the reality of the human condition and, it seems, the fewer people who manage to force themselves into the parts, the more distinct we attempt to construct the lines. We should be stepping back and examining the premises upon which society has been built, not erecting walls and cementing ourselves behind them.

Sectioning human beings into two categories presents difficulties for those without striking differentiation, but the complications for those with such differentiation also creates problems. Not only "Who Am I?" but "What Am I?" Most attempts to answer this latter question have led to societal deception and self-deception. As an example let us once more examine "transsexuality." Is it a condition or a process? Is it distinct from other gender variations or a phase which can, when conditions predict, be reached by any gender variant? Current hypothesis has it that transsexuals are born transsexual. **Those who manage to reach and obtain surgery are considered, if not females trapped in male bodies, certainly a mistake of nature, a much more compelling mistake than other males who present as women.** Accordingly transsexuals who want surgery and hormones have a vested interest in embracing definitions of their condition by the medical community, definition which label them as birth defects or mistakes of nature. In truth, all gallae are viewed as mistakes of nature. They fall outside the naive world view presently available in our gender dysphoric society and, make no mistake about it, **our society is gender dysphoric.**

How do we deal with our differences? Humans are pack animals, much akin to wolves. Each of us has an independent nature, but we also want to run with the pack. How can we accommodate our own requirements with the requirements of the pack? Young males (and young females) with bright creative minds are experimental and no where is this more obvious than

in issues concerning gender and sexuality. Creative minds recognize more potentialities within themselves. If parts of their physiology or mental perspective doesn't reflect that of their peer group, they discern the difference. Difference, in our uncultivated society, is seen as defective. Our society is uncultivated because, for the most part, children are expected to become men and women without adults participating in any major way. Some parents do act as role models, but even then they provide only two models, man and woman. The insecurities that some children have, their fears and anxieties, are rarely if ever noticed and when they are noticed are thought to be a phase the child will grow out of. **Some children do grow out of such phases, most do not.**

Males tend to discover their feelings of sexuality earlier than females. It is often suggested that this is because the male sexual apparatus is out in the open where it can be bumped, touched, and handled. Whether this is the entire answer or not, it is certainly true that young males generally masturbate at a younger age than females. It is also true that young boys who are "pals" sometimes masturbate each other and may even perform other sexual services for each other. **"I'll show you mine, if you show me yours," becomes "I'll do you, if you do me."** Of course adults never discuss such things for fear of embarrassment and for fear of putting thoughts in their children's heads. In short, our uncultivated populace hasn't the foggiest notion of how to help children deal with feelings, urges, and inclinations that are a normal part of growing up. **Most adults feel guilty and have unresolved issues over their own childhood behavior and, as parents, are unprepared to deal with their children's blossoming sexuality, a sexuality that begins virtually at birth.**

Some males who play sexual games with each other move on and leave it behind, some do not. Although a strong argument can be made for genetic propensity as causative in homosexuality, the reality appears to be that the human animal is simply a sexual animal. Males, unfettered by rules and encouraged by their peers, will do anything that feels good and almost everything feels good. This suggests that homosexuality, as it exists in society today, isn't a sexual issue. It is a gender issue. Healthy males enjoy sex, end quote. **Males who want to be close to other males are expressing much deeper needs than mere sexual gratification.** *Contd....*

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Gender Variance Part Two....Contd

As if to emphasize this point, there are other young males who are solitary masturbators. They express their creativity with various objects from toilet roll cylinders, vacuum hoses, washrags, towels, and women's silky underwear, to an almost endless list of items and methodology. All of these children enjoy fantasizing and their fantasies are often far reaching with ramifications that predict future sexual behavior.

A bootstrap program in a computer is the basic program that allows a computer to accept other programs. When we are young our bootstrap program is our sexuality and our emotional perspectives. Everything else develops slowly, but absolutely, from how we interface our bootstrap programming with our creativity, our environment, and our growing self-knowledge. Thus, if we are mostly male with dormant feminine characteristics we experience things leading to manhood, and mostly female children become women. Role models for men and women are in abundance and, relatively speaking, it easy to find someone to emulate. **However, if your sexual identity or sexual gender are not crystal clear, there are almost no role models.**

In the absence of gender variant role models, gender variant children are led to believe that they must pick one of two and that nothing else is available. Gender blends are virtually ignored, thought to be defective, and approved of only to the extent they can make themselves invisible. Which is why transsexuals are encouraged to attempt to merge imperceptibly into the mainstream. **Transsexuals are virtually required to view themselves as women trapped in male bodies.** Yet, the majority talking about their earliest feelings recall a time when they considered themselves homosexual, fetishistic, transvestite, or transgendered. Upon arrival, deciding they are transsexual, earlier views are dismissed, not as stages of development in a process, but as mistakes in analysis of their condition. They confabulate a conviction of always having been transsexual. **They had only thought they were gay, transvestite, or transgendered. That the incidence of males presenting as women is a single process operating differently depending on an array of diverse variables is not considered. What is the process and how does it work?**

The mind operates on similar principles to Newton's laws of physics. A mind moving in a given direction tends to remain in motion unless operated on by an opposite and equal force. Moreover, a mind in motion tends to "accelerate" in the direction of motion, protecting itself from opposing forces. The majority of gallae reveal this when relating how the need to dress escalates as time passes. The urge becomes stronger and the need to present as women becomes intense, irresistible. However, their are societal pressures brought to bear that discourage gallae from forward motion. With few exceptions males who present as women, in their early phases, go through periods of purging. They destroy their feminine wardrobe and attempt to resist dressing and presenting as women.

Transsexuals too, go through periods of purging and episodic behavior, as they evolve through the different stages. The transsexual need to express femininity is thought to be simply more profound than that of her sisters. Is it more profound? To become a post-operative transsexual requires accumulation of a portfolio of bona fides and an accumulation of a large amount of money. There are she-males, female impersonators,

crossdressers, transvestites, transgendered, and gay males who express the desire for surgical and chemical modification of their bodies. There are a lot of factors that may preclude males from obtaining these procedures. They first must be willing to jump through the hoops of the medical establishment, either convincing, possibly deceiving, that establishment, themselves, or both. They must accumulate a portfolio of credentials including one or two years of living as a woman (or lying about same), recommendations from one or two psychiatrists, two to six months of counseling in an accepted gender clinic, and, last but not least, fifteen to twenty thousand dollars.

If a male who presents as a woman manages to accumulate these necessities they will be allowed surgical modification and, no matter what their expression might have been, they become post-op transsexual. Failure to accumulate these bona fides indicates that the person wasn't motivated enough to be a transsexual and therefore is something other than a transsexual. Objectively it is an obvious marriage of circular reasoning with self-fulfilling delusion, not solely of the transsexual, but of the medical establishment as well. This is one of the cruelest things done to males who present as women who, for whatever reason, can not obtain surgery.

Self-knowledge and experience is opening the world to all of us. Many of us are discovering ourselves and the depth of our emotional needs at earlier and earlier ages. As gender variants learn what and who they are it opens doors to a better understanding of all people. As gender variants in a bipolar society we have a vested interest in self-discovery and in the process we can not help but learn a thing or two about human behavior and the journey that we all must take to develop from childhood to adulthood. **No one is in a better position or has more of a vested interest in lifting the illusions and embracing reality. What we learn from exploring gender and sexual variation may be the key to understanding the human condition. Part Three continues in July.....**

Editors Note:

The views expressed in this article are not those of Gender Mosaic or the Editor...They are met to spark thought and comments....Michelle Renee

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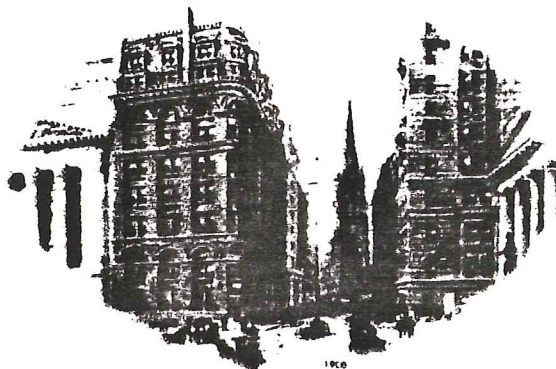
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Our First Recipe From Our Featured Restaurant
Submitted by Butch & Jimmy Prop. Wall St Bar & Grill
Honey Dijon Grilled Chicken

- 3 ½ Tbsp Dijon Mustard
- 3 ½ Tbsp Pure Honey
- 4 OZ Vegetable Oil
- 2 Gloves chopped Garlic
- 3/3 Tsp Course ground Black Pepper
- 2 Tbsp Red Wine Vinegar
- 1/4 Tsp salt
- 4 Boneless, Skinless Chicken Breasts

In a small bowl mix together mustard, honey, oil, garlic, salt, pepper and vinegar.

Arrange chicken in a shallow glass dish. Add mixture and toss to coat.

Cover and refrigerate at least 4 hours, preferably overnight.

Grill or BBQ chicken over medium heat, basting periodically with any leftover marinade for about 7 minutes each side or until cooked

Serve with baked potatoes and grilled vegetables, with a salad to start.

It's hard to imagine that anything this simple could taste so good. Enjoy..Wall Street Bar & Grill

From Michelle Renee's Kitchen

Roast Beef Diablo

- 1 Roast of Beef 3-4 pounds Rump or Sirloin
- 1 jar Heinz chili sauce
- 1 can Campbell's Beef Consome
- 4 Tbsp Presidents Choice Russian Mustard
- 2 onions chopped
- 2 Tbsp Worcheshire Sauce
- ½ cup red wine or sherry
- 3 Tbsp Flour
- 1 Tsp White pepper (black if you haven't white)

Brown the roast on all sides in a pan first and remove from heat.

Mix all the ingredients listed in a small bowl starting with the flour first followed by the consome, make sure you have no lumps.

Place the roast in in a roasting pan and cover with the mixture.

Cover and bake at 325 for 2 ½ -3 hours.

Slice the beef when cooked and place on a serving dish, pour gravy over the sliced beef.

Serve with mashed potatoes and favorite vegetable.



Humour & Such

The Corporate Structure

Chairman of the board

Leaps tall buildings in a single bound

Is more powerful than a locomotive

Is faster than a speeding bullet

Walks on water

Gives Policy to God

President

Leaps short buildings in a single bound

Is more powerful than a switch engine

Is just as fast as a speeding bullet

Walks on water if the sea is calm

Talks with God

Executive Vice President

Leaps short buildings with a

running start and favorable winds

Is almost as powerful as a switch engine

Is faster than a speeding BB

Walks on water in an indoor swimming pool

Talks with God if special request is approved

Vice President

Barely clears a Quonset hut

Loses tug-of-war with a locomotive

Can fire a speeding bullet

Swims well

Is occasionally addressed by God

General Manager

Makes high marks on the wall when trying to leap buildings

Is run over by locomotive

Can sometimes handle a gun without inflicting self-injury

Talks to animals

Manager

Runs into buildings

Recognizes locomotives two out of three times

Is not issued ammunition

Can't stay afloat with a life preserver

Talks to walls

Trainee

Falls over doorsteps when trying to enter buildings

Says, "Look at the choo-choo."

Wets himself with a water pistol

Plays in mud puddles

Mumbles to himself

Secretary

Lifts buildings and walks under them

Kicks locomotives off the tracks

Catches speeding bullets in her teeth and eats them

Freezes water with a single glance

She is God

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For The Computer Folks

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Citing the case of a woman who claims she got pregnant from e-mail, an Ohio Democrat called Wednesday for a "chastity chip" for the Internet.

Rep. James Traficant, known for his flamboyant rhetoric, gave a brief floor speech about a woman named Frances who claimed to have gotten pregnant through an e-mail exchange with a paramour 1,500 miles away.

"That's right -- pregnant," he proclaimed, warning of the dangers of "immaculate reception."

He called on Congress to go beyond "v-chips" that would protect kids from sexual content on the Internet, saying: "Its time for Congress to act. The computers do not need a v-chip. The Internet needs a chastity chip."

Although Traficant did not say whether he believed the woman's account, he did say it was "enough to crash your hard drive."

Transgender Man Wins Custody Of Son

A transgendered man in New Albany, Indiana won full custody of his eleven-year-old son on September 26 after a court battle with her ex-wife that lasted nearly two years.

"I won!" Terri proclaimed on the internet. "Needless to say that it was a long, hard road and a dirty fight," she went on. "Having to sit in the courtroom and have a bunch of strangers see 30"x 30" color pictures of you dressed and to have your transgenderism describe in the most demeaning and sickest way possible by the one person in the world you thought you could trust was the worst part."

Terri tells The Letter that she had initially decided to give full custody of their son to her wife when they divorced nearly two years ago because she feared exposure in the courts and the media as a transgendered male. But when social workers uncovered the unsanitary conditions in which the boy was being raised, they removed him from the home, prompting the latest court battle.

"When it comes to your child, you have to put those fears of exposure behind you and fight for him," Terri says. "Even if it means losing your job and having to go to work for McDonald's, I'd do it for him," she added. Terri feels that she was lucky in getting a judge who had the best interests of the child in mind and wasn't intent on punishing a "dress wearing faggot." Although, according to Terri, the judge disagreed with her "lifestyle," he didn't think it mattered because she was keeping it a secret.

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TIPS & TRICKS

This edition we will have a look at "Message in a bottle" or perfume to you computer geeks. Buying a fragrance can be perplexing enough never mind trying to figure out the meaning of marketing buzz words on the label. Here are a few and what they mean:

Eau de cologne: Perfume is made up of three parts, oil (which carries the fragrance) water and alcohol (the binding agent which holds the water and oil together) Eau du cologne has the highest concentration of water and lowest percentage of oil making it the lightest of scents. **Eau de parfum:** It contains a high grade of oil, but a lesser grade of alcohol than pure perfume. **Eau de toilette:** This one covers the middle ground of fragrance with an average grade of oil and equal parts of alcohol and water. **Voile parfume:** Literally translated it means "perfume veil" and describes a scent made without any alcohol and as light as eau du cologne.

Some Do's and Don'ts of Fragrance Fundamentals:

- Don't spray your clothes or jewelry, The oil will stain, the alcohol will strip the finish.
- Do apply when you are nude, starting from the lower regions up.
- Do let the fragrance dry before you dress.
- Do watch how much you apply. Your sense of smell is less keen in the morning.

I recently sent an e-mail to the "Perfume Fashion Outlet" and asked them to provide me with the top 10 fragrances for women and this was their list: (Not in any order)

Pleasures Curve Beautiful CK 1 Amarige White Diamonds 360 Aromatics Tommy Girl Cool Water

If you want to check again at some time you can ask for Tiffany at the "Perfume Outlet" 1-888-656-0023 (Toll Free)

"Notes From The Underground" is published Bimonthly by Gender Mosaic in Ottawa. Articles reprinted have been done so with the permission of the author. Others are written by the Editor and she stands behind them with conviction.

Comments may be sent to the Editor at: nftu@canadamaail.com or (613)233-4024 or snail mail c/o Gender Mosaic P.O. Box 7421 Vanier Ontario K1L-8E4

If you would like membership information about Gender Mosaic, or need help with a Transgender issue, you can call our hotline at (819)770-1945, or send e-mail to gender_mosaic@canadamaail.com Significant others of a Transgendered person can contact: tgcouples@canadamaail.com or call (613)233-4024 All inquiries remain confidential

Until Next Time...STAY STRONG AND PROUD!

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