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the Tartan Skirt

AUTUMN 2000 (Vol. 7, N0. 8)



the magazine of the scottish transgender community

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The **TARTAN SKIRT** is the magazine of the Scottish Transgender Community brought to you through the efforts of the members of the community and friends.

We are proud to acknowledge the generosity of all concerned who self-lessly contribute to these pages giving freely of their time, expertise and experience.

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Editorial

There can be few left unaware that the report of the Home Office's InterDepartmental Working Group on Transsexual People was published in April this year. In presenting its findings, the report acknowledged that:

- Gender reassignment is a change in the person's physical characteristics.
- At present, a change of gender can be recognised only where the issue concerns civil not legal status.

In summary, the working group proposed three courses of action for further consideration: to do nothing, to issue new birth certificates to transsexuals, and to offer the individual full legal status in their new identity. Hopes are running high that the present legal situation *will* change, albeit someway down the line.

It's not often I find myself sharing a platform with the Evangelical Alliance but, like that organisation, I felt unable to share equally in the enthusiastic welcome that so many transsexual's leaders had given the report. I read it against the question I continually ask and to which I have yet to receive a satisfactory answer, ***'what constitutes a transsexual?'*** Drawing lines between ourselves has always caused serious difficulties for our community – and for the Evangelical Alliance too! In their submission to the working group they make the observation that, *"Some transsexuals simply feel they are members of the opposite sex, others have begun to live their lives in this role. Many have hormone treatments to effect secondary sex characteristics and some go on to have surgery, whether to remove bodily features of their former gender or to construct those pertaining to the new gender.* ***Should all, or only some of these people be permitted to change gender legally?"***

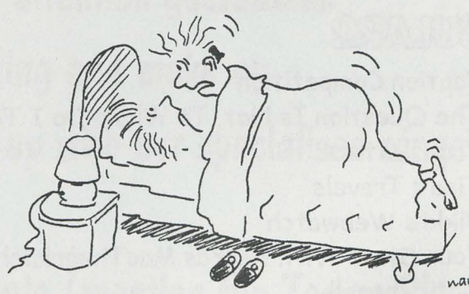
Of course, there are those who clearly meet the criteria held by the medical profession at large, necessary for a 'diagnosis' of 'transsexualism', and throughout the report it is clear that the group has examined many of the anomalies that cause difficulties in the lives of such persons. But there are others - many others. Individuals who, to all intents and purpose, feel they have changed their gender but not their physical characteristics. Individuals who feel they have reached a decision about who they are and act in accordance with this, with little or no medical intervention, giving their lives over, in part or in full, to their circumstance. Their situation is less clear and presents some of the more difficult ethical issues surrounding legal recognition of gender. The supposition, for that is what it is, that preceded the report, that transsexualism is biologically based, leaves these individuals no better off. Their gender is their own understanding of themselves reflected in thought and deed, rather than something that external physical change is necessarily a part of. And so it will be with any legislation that may eventually result from the findings of this report, that there will still be those who are passed over, discriminated against still, because they do not fit the mould, and there will be yet others who will distort who they are in order to fit the mould, as this is where they see their best hope lies.

That many within the transgender community feel encouraged as a result of having their difficulties acknowledged by this report, has got to be welcomed... that the report may force change in society's behaviour towards us, should be applauded... and for what it may do in legal terms to improve the disadvantaged position we occupy in society, must be seen as progress. But while it may be instrumental in changing others' perceptions of us, what this report* must not do is influence how we see ourselves. That battlefield was drawn within us when we engaged our first skirmish with gender. Within ourselves we experience the pain of defeat, within ourselves lie the honours, only within ourselves shall we find the peace we long for ... the final resolution and acceptance, individually, of who we are.

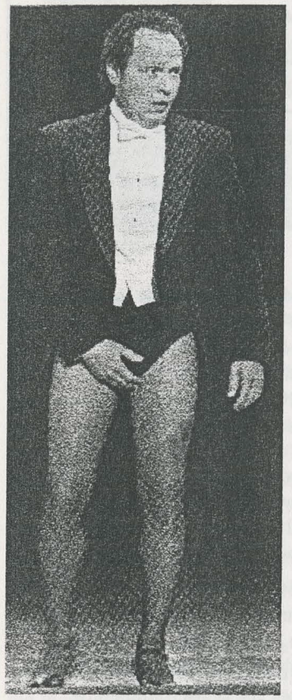
There's good news, and some not so good news, about your magazine! It's going to look better and brighter with improvements in the quality of printing and with the addition of colour - starting (hopefully) with the next issue! It's taken me longer than I would have liked, but I'm just about there. Of course, this comes at a price - the cost is going to rise. I hope you'll still think it's worth having.

Julia Graham

* If you want to read the small print you can find the full 67-page report on the Home Office web site at: *http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/ccpd/wgtrans.pdf*



When I asked if you'd had the op,
I wasn't referring to your appendix!

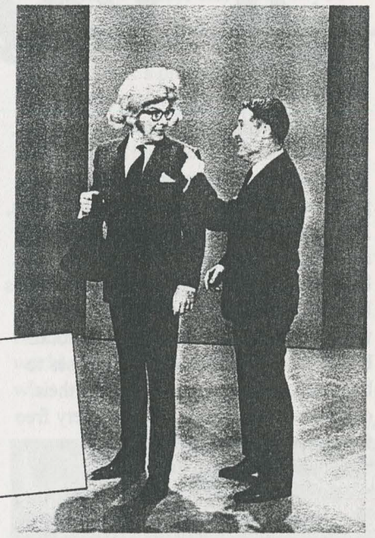


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All you have to do is think of a funny caption for the picture and send it in. The winning entry will appear in the next issue of the magazine.

Closing date for entries is 31st October 2000.



The winner of the Billy Crystal caption was ...

Stephanie from London, with ...

'You don't need Crystal balls to see you've cocked up!'

We've all needed something pointed out to us as *some* time ... but what's Ernie saying to Eric *this* time?



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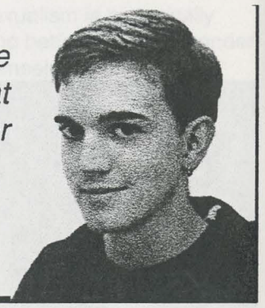
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***Jamie Heckert**, President of Intercourse, Co-ordinator of the Diversity Area for Pride Scotland, and a PhD student in sociology at the University of Edinburgh, questions purple pennants, transgender political groups and the missing voice.*



A Voice?

In the spring issue of the Tartan Skirt, Christine Burns argued for the need of a 'true political voice' for trans people. Against all conventional wisdom, I don't think that's a good idea. The assumption of politics of identity as the best strategy for changing social attitudes has a long history. Many believed that to move to a classless society, it would be necessary for the working classes to become politicised, to overthrow their oppressors and create a new society free from class oppression. Similarly, many radical feminists have argued that in order to free the world from the grip of patriarchy, women would need to join together and build a non-sexist world in which men may or may not eventually be allowed to join. Of course, Marxism and radical feminism are two of the more extreme forms of identity politics. Other examples range from the Black Panthers to Zionists, from Disability Scotland to the Women's Liberation Movement, as well as various groups within the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender movements.

Although in many ways these groups are very different, they also have much in common. All of these groups have formed in response to discrimination, oppression and/or social exclusion (depending on the language in vogue at the time). Each is based upon the belief that unity as a category is the best way of dealing with these social problems. This approach has certainly had its successes - we wouldn't be where we are today without it. But perhaps now it's time to consider alternatives.

I'11 give you three reasons why I think that a transgender movement or a transgender voice is a bad idea. **Firstly**, it reinforces the categories that are the real problem in the first place. **Secondly**, it's taking the political too personally. And **thirdly**, it makes us define who is *in* and who is *out*. Who qualifies as *really* trans? Who *isn't* trans?

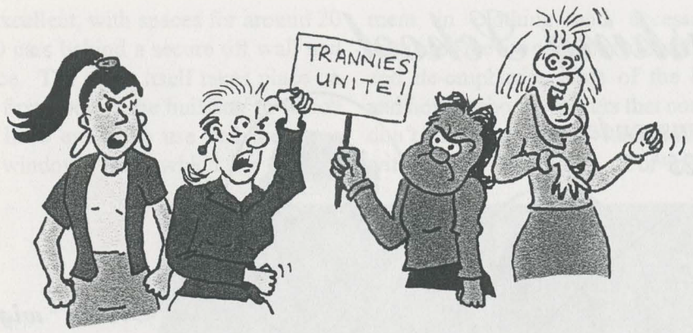
Let me explain each of those points a bit further. As you all know, transsexual and transvestite were originally, and still are, medical categories used to define forms of mental illness. This was done in order to separate trans people from "normal men and women." In this way of thinking about things, there is a problem with trans people that needs to be fixed, while there is no problem with being a "real man" or "real woman." A transgender political movement is based on flipping this idea upside-down. It says that, there is a problem with the "non-trans" world that trans people need to fix. As Christine said, it is the *'stereotypes harboured by non-trans people [that] are the real problems.'* This flipping the categories upside-down doesn't ever question the categories. Now, if your goal is a world where "biology is not destiny," where your bits or your chromosomes aren't expected to define your dress preferences, your sexual desires, or anything else about you, then the strategy of maintaining the categories "trans" and "normal" seems like a poor one to me.

> '... it makes us define who is *in* and who is *out*.'

Taking the political too personally? But didn't we learn from feminism that the personal *is* political? While this slogan was very important, it is dangerous to take it too far. This slogan came out of the argument that domestic issues were personal, not political. The feminists argued, rightly so, that so-called personal issues such as housework, sexuality, and marriage were actually political issues. However, the problem comes when we take the political too personally. For example, gender expression is both personal and political. It is personal because it is an important part of how we express our selves. It is political because some expressions are punished while others are rewarded.

While this punishment or reward is given on an individual basis, it only appears to be personal. If a young girl gets punished for acting "unladylike", it is because she is not living up to the ideal of a lady, not because there is anything wrong with her personally. Similarly, if a man gets fired because it is discovered that he likes women's pants, he is being punished for not being a "real man." While being harassed, attacked or discriminated against is a powerful personal experience, it is also an example of a political problem and should be addressed as such. But who should address it? Not a transgender movement made up of a group of people who are taking this political problem personally.

The third problem with transgender politics stems from the first two. Reinforcing the categories of trans and non-trans and then making them political, leads to policing of the boundaries of those categories. It also leads to hierarchies within those categories. We've seen it before in other movements based around categories. Many lesbian feminist groups excluded women who slept with men, and women who used to or still did have penises. These women,



it was argued, were not *real* lesbians, and possibly not even *real* women. In debates around this issue, one woman declared *"the lesbians will decide who the lesbians are."* I've already seen similar things among transgendered people. At the InterPride Conference in Glasgow, a transsexual woman was disgusted at the idea of being grouped together with a heterosexual man who got off on crossdressing. In other words, transsexual is *more* trans, *more* queer, or *more* worthy than transvestite.

Another problem is the way in which many trans women attempt to be the *most* womanly - Miss TV Scotland is a prime example. Exclusiveness and hierarchies are a poor way to work towards a better world. Julia picked up on this issue in her last editorial. She suggested that we value everyone *'within the broadest spectrum of transgender.'* Kate Bornstein, author of Gender Outlaw, defines transgender as the transgression of gender norms. This definition includes everyone, because no one is able to live up to the social ideas of "real man" and "real woman." Although I find this definition quite appealing in some ways, it makes me wonder whether there is a point to the word any more.

So instead of saying transgender includes everyone, let's say that gender *affects* everyone. And if gender affects everyone, then there are no purely transgender issues. And if there are no transgender issues, why should there be a transgender movement? Rather than saying there are group of people who are oppressed based on their gender, I would argue that our society has got dodgy ideas about gender. And instead of campaigning for equal rights for transgender people, I would offer society new ideas about gender. I would try to get people to think about what it means to be a "real man" or a "real woman." And I would encourage people to talk about their experiences of gender so that we can develop empathy for the situations of others. In this way, we can work toward a world with more open ideas about gender. Such alternatives may present a considerable challenge, but potential benefits make the effort worthwhile.

While I expect that many of you won't accept my arguments, I hope you won't simply dismiss them with the thought that it's pretty theory, but it won't work in the real world. There are many ways of looking at the real world. Most people might say that there are only two genders and that anyone who disagrees with that is not living in the real world. Others might say that in the real world, men are aggressive and women are passive. I hope that there is a growing number of us who disagree with those two ideas, and others, about the real world. I believe that the real world is what we make of it.

End

For further reading on this subject, I recommend **Read My Lips: Sexual Subversion And The End Of Gender** by Riki Ann Wilchins published by Firebrand Books in 1997.



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The Chester Finishing School

Diane [redacted] reporting on the Transgender Finishing School held on the 25th and 26th of March this year.



Liz Allen - wigs



Chris Hart - laser hair removal



Mandy Rigby - manicure & hand care routines

Sandra Bradley - colour management in clothes & accessories

"It has to be said that if you are, after all, serious about passing as female or learning about how to put on hair, make-up, what to wear, and how to improve your feminine image, this must be the best course available in the UK, if not the world." Such was Adrien's comment after the 1997 event. And now? So much has changed to make this event even better, as I found out in March, this year.

The organiser, Liz Allen, contacted me in a blind panic soon after the advertising for the Spring event had gone out. *"Di, we have a problem."* (Heard this one somewhere before, I thought.) *"We can't have the use of the little theatre for the whole weekend."* My stomach churned. I had just mailed 600 fliers. *"What are we going to do then? Any ideas?"* I said, just hoping Liz had something up her sleeve. *"Just a couple" she said. "There's a newly refurbished hall not far from home."* OK, sounds good so where's the catch. *"I've not seen inside and the place is called ... well it's called ...*
... the Odd Fellows Hall. Do you think they'll mind?" I could only laugh.

For those of you not acquainted with the Finishing School, it's an annual non-profit making event held in Chester once a year around the first week in November. It's aims are to provide the transgendered community with a high quality training event, enabling people to acquire both the skills and confidence they need to commence their real life test or simply improve their skills generally. However, the 1999 event had to be postponed through to the spring of 2000 due to my almost fatal experience with a pulmonary embolism - but that's another story in itself.

The main driving force behind the event is Elizabeth Allen. She runs this event with her friends and colleagues, some of the most knowledgable and skilled people in their fields. It's truly an event run by professionals. Liz is currently the National Training and Product Information Officer for the British Association of Skin Camouflage and she also teaches through the Northern Academy of Makeup Artists. She manages to persuade many other friends and contacts in the beauty business (two of the girls are lecturers at the Chester college) to come along and give advice and assistance normally costing several hundreds of pounds. All this, plus accommodation, for a nominal £145. And you even get a discount as a Gems or Beaumont member! In addition you also get beauty samples, a manual giving details of make up techniques, wigs, make-up, and handouts from the speakers.

The hotels are comfortable, reasonably priced, discreet, and treat you as a normal girl. You can dress while you are staying there, take your breakfast and chat to the other guests, etc. One of the owners is so much a friend to the event that she looks forward to it coming around every year. On one occasion she said, *"If any of the other guests have a problem then they are perfectly free to have their meal off a tray in their room."* Of course, no one yet as ever complained and the other guests have always been absolutely charming.

The new venue is situated on one of the main routes into Chester from the south of the city. It's parking facility is excellent, with spaces for around 20 - 30 cars behind a secure 6ft wall and fence. The event itself takes place on the first floor of the building to which we have exclusive use and there are no windows from which we can be overlooked. The setting is just perfect and a definite improvement on the old premises when there was a bad access problem for cars and never enough spaces for parking.

Unlike other occasions, when I travelled in straight from home, this time Liz had left behind her flip chart and had asked me to pick one up on my way in on the Saturday morning. Only trouble was... the first speaker needed it and was due to start at the same time the shops opened. Panic ensued but of course we eventually coped with the crisis.

The Saturday morning started with essential manicure and hand care routines, presented by Mandy Rigby. We were all astonished at how much we learned. We would never have thought of some of the points she made. (The same was true for all of the speakers.) She gave advice on colour, how to make fat fingers look thin, and how to ensure that you can grow your nails with the minimum of splitting!

Sandra Bradley was the next speaker. We looked at colour management in clothing and accessories, discussed the use of colour to emphasise and de-emphasise parts of the body, and how to choose colours that not only don't clash but are in total harmony with your own colours. For me that meant out with all my blacks - which seem to draw all the colour out of my face - and down to the shops for a few more browns and beiges. There was also a very useful handout on scarves, and ways to tie them. Personally, I love scarves, but somehow I never seem to get the hang of tying the knots.



Make up artist, Jane, looks on ...



Mandy lends a helping hand ...

Our next speaker was Chris Hart from the Christianos Lazer Clinic in Altrincham. Chris is probably the most experienced laser practitioner in this field working with the transgendered community, who account for around 70% of her clients now. She explained about the growth of hair, through both its dormant and active growing phases, and spoke for around 30 minutes on the treatment process, showing photos of before and after results.

After a short coffee break we had an interesting session on Speech Therapy.

Our speech therapist, Carol Woods, was unable to attend owing to sudden unforseen circumstances, so Chris from Manchester who co-hosts regular speech therapy sessions with her, stepped in at the last minute to save the day. After appearance, your voice can be the biggest giveaway. Getting the voice right can seem an impossible task, but one that can be so rewarding when it starts to go right. For instance, six months ago, before going full time, the telephone was always the problem for me. When asked, I would usually give my initials and the person on the other end would just assume I was male. These days I am much more successful at coming across as female on the telephone. I put much of this down to practice through necessity. In other words, the more you work at it, the better it becomes.

All this is borne out by the story

of one of the finishing school's really dramatic success stories where voice is concerned. I had occasion to phone one of the previous event's delegates about two years after she had attended, when a beautifully spoken girl answered the phone. I assumed that my friend had acquired a girlfriend. Not so. Her voice had changed so much I wanted to know which speech therapist she had been seeing! Her answer was even more staggering. All she had done was go home and religiously practice, every day, for the next two years, what she had been taught in Chester. It just goes to show what can be achieved.

As well as pitch, women converse using a different style from men. They use different adjectives, and ask questions differently. You wouldn't necessarily be aware of this if it wasn't pointed out to you, but now that you know ... just listen and learn!

At this point we broke for lunch and devoured the wonderful buffet lunch that had been laid on for us, while trying to remember what we had learned from the morning sessions and consolidating new friendships we had made within the group.

After our lunch we had the most recent recruit to the staff of the finishing school in the form of Fiona Martin who runs the Fiona Martin School and Modelling Agency on Merseyside. She gave the most absorbing two hour session on deportment imaginable. Without any doubt she was my star of the weekend, with her very professional stage presence and sheer charisma. The session involved lots of practical exercises and Fiona had us walking, turning, sitting, etc. for most of the afternoon. She had met the odd cross dresser in theatrical circles before, but had never before been part of an event such as our finishing school, and she found it truly captivating. Like a real sport she agreed to come along for the evening meal. This she did... and had a ball. Her only regret was having to leave because she was working elsewhere on Sunday.

And now it was now my turn to take to the stage, presenting first of all on the subject of prostheses, the various forms of false breasts that are available on the market, their different shapes and cost. During the talk I recounted some hilarious experiences where people had tried to use things like jelly in bags (which leaked), bird seed (which left a trail for the pigeons) and other substances of a suspect nature. I still collect amusing anecdotes about prostheses so if anyone has one they'd care to share with me, I'd be very grateful. One interesting and cheap development is the enhancer type which can be purchased through many of the catalogues stuffed through our doors these days. These are only £30, but excellent value for money. If you want to splash out, a good pair of falsies will cost you upwards of £140, but are generally well worth it. Together with breast prostheses I also gave mention to padding the hips and the importance of creating a shape to your figure that is balanced and in proportion.

Next came my presentation on 'street cred' which gave me the opportunity to get across all the little insignificant but totally crucial things most people tend to overlook, which ultimately includes cultivating an attitude that supports your appearance. You have to behave like a woman, not just look acceptably female if you are going to pass successfully in a female role. Women still experience life as second-class citizens! The discussion also covered getting duplicate bank accounts, credit and store cards, etc.



Class of Spring 2000 with teachers

Sadly, this marked the end of the presentations and workshops for the day, but we still had the rest of the evening to get to know each other. Liz had negotiated with a large hotel in the centre of Chester for a room we could take over for dinner. Dress was smart but casual, remembering that real women don't often dress up as much as *we* like to at times.

What was really good was the opportunity to talk to others about their hopes and fears, to share experiences and find out how people were coping with their transition. Also, learning how people were handling the problems that being transgendered can create, but also to laugh and feel among friends, too. That to me is an essential part of the weekend that forever makes it so memorable for me and, I'm sure, for the others.

Sunday morning got under way with Liz Allan talking about the wig (or postiche, as the professionals call them) their choice and care, and she gave lots of useful tips on the right shapes and lengths, colours, etc. If I learned anything from this, it was that you should never ever use a hair brush with those little blobs or balls on the end of the bristles as these simply destroy wigs like no tomorrow. Sunday was devoted largely to faces, however. Once again Liz had done the girls proud. There was one professional make up artist or beauty therapist for every two or three 'ladies'. Heaven or what?

The girls went through the whole routine, from choice of concealers and how to apply them, to choosing foundations, with lots and lots of samples for you to find out what was right and suited you. Expert help was there at your side, advising on eye make up, blusher application, lipstick, etc. It was about this time I decided to start taking pictures of the girls to illustrate this article.

Everyone learned lots and lots and the results were superb. I thought I knew how to put make up on from my previous experiences at the finishing school, but there's never a year goes by I don't learn something new. Sunday, as always, was a day to treasure! And in common with other events, it held a kind of magic. We had all grown together so much. And although everyone felt they could have gone on forever experiencing this unique event, like all good things, it reached it's end. But not before there was the opportunity to have a professional photographer record the beautiful you for posterity! At only £10 for a session, and without the embarrassment of using your local photo studio, I just wish he had been doing passport photos as well!

I can honestly say the weekend in March was one of the most successful weekends we have ever held in Chester. I'd like to express my thanks on behalf of all the delegates, to Elizabeth and the rest of her team, without whom this event could not have taken place.

End

The question is not, to whom do I talk, but who listens?

of Courage ...

Courage does not always roar.
Sometimes it is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, *"I will try again tomorrow."*

of the Future ...

By learning from the past we can ensure a better future through the choices and decisions we make in the present.

Kenneth Meadows
Where Eagles Fly -A Shamanic way to Personal Fulfillment

of Joy and Sorrow ..

Your joy is your sorrow unmasked.
And the selfsame well from which your laughter rises was oftentimes filled with your tears.
And how else can it be?
The deeper that sorrow carves into your being, the more joy you can contain.
Is not the cup that holds your wine the very cup that was burned in the potter's oven?
And is not the lute that soothes your spirit the very wood that was hollowed with knives?
When you are joyous, look deep into your heart and you shall find it is only that which has given you sorrow that is giving you joy.
When you are sorrowfull, look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight.

Kahlil Gibran
The Prophet

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YOUR LETTERS...

Dear Tartan Skirt,

Re: Stockings Suppliers

In the last issue of the magazine Vikki referred to my search for stockings and gave two web addresses and after a long search, I have finally tracked down a supplier of coloured stockings.

The firm is LadyBwear who are TG friendly. Check them out on the web at www.ladybwear.co.uk and you can also e-mail them at [redacted] *where you can place orders as well. They are very fast in responding to enquiries.*

I purchased stockings in wine, royal blue and purple. They are available in three sizes and are manufactured by Jonathan Aston in 15 denier. They did not come cheap at £5 a pair, but then all specialist stuff is expensive. And they are good quality. It appears they can supply colours to order! How about lime green? If you wish to contact LadyBwear by post the address is: The Tellurian Partnership, 4 Wood Street, Cheadle, Cheshire, SK8 1AQ.

Another purchase I made recently was single leg tights. These are sold in packs of seven singles and come in various sizes of hip measurements. I bought 42" to 48" at £14.99 (post free) in nearly black. This firm specialises in items for people with health difficulties, hence the open crotch design. I certainly prefer them to ordinary tights. You can get their catalogue from: Independence Ltd, 95 Main Street, Witchford, Ely, CB6 2HQ.

Alexandrina



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Late Night Opening

PROMOTING CONFIDENCE IN HEALTHCARE WITHIN THE NHS

Following the Scottish Executive's ***"Making it Work Together – A Programme for Government"***, which identified the provision of a modern, high quality, responsive NHS in Scotland as one of its major objectives, the Clinical Standards Board for Scotland was established as a statutory body in April 1999.

Its role, in line with the Scottish Executive's commitment to quality, openness and public accountability, is:

- ✓ To promote public confidence that the services provided by the NHS are safe and that they meet nationally agreed standards and
- ✓ To demonstrate that, within the resources available, the NHS is delivering the highest possible standards of care.

It is the aim of the Board to develop and run a national system of quality assurance and accreditation of clinical services, adopting standards related to patients' experience as they move through different parts of the NHS. It will achieve this aim by developing an annual programme of services to be reviewed, with opportunities for those within the NHS and the public to put forward suggestions. Standards set will either be specific to particular conditions, or be generic to all clinical services.

In May this year, the Generic Standards Group of the Board issued draft proposals for generic standards for consultation. These standards were developed in the context of the following values:

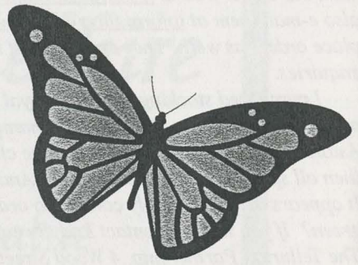
PATIENTS ARE INDIVIDUALS

In the pathway of care within the NHS in Scotland (from the very first contact) each and every patient should:

- ✓ be treated politely and considerately in a setting that is safe
- ✓ be involved in and informed about all decisions on that pathway of care
- ✓ receive treatment and care based on clinical effectiveness
- ✓ be cared for by members of the health care team who have all been trained for the job they are doing, are taking part in on-going training for their current role, and see themselves as members of the health care team
- ✓ know that privacy, dignity and confidentiality will be respected.

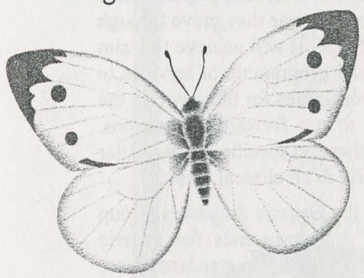
(Copies may be obtained from Clinical Standards Board for Scotland, Elliot House, 8-10 Hillside Crescent, Edinburgh EH7 5EA. Tel: 0131-[redacted])

BUTTERFLY - IMAGE OF THE SOUL



The butterfly's metamorphosis from caterpillar to pupa to winged creature has turned it into a near-universal symbol of the soul and an evocative image of mystical rebirth. In much Christian imagery the butterfly emerging from the chrysalis represents the soul leaving the body at death. The Australian Aborigine regards the butterfly as the returning spirit of a dead person who has previously taken the form of a caterpillar to reach the afterlife.

In Aztec Mexico, the butterfly was associated with women who died in childbirth. Such women received the same glory as warriors who had fallen in battle, and in their mythology and religion it was associated with the bloodthirsty goddesses Xochiquetzal, Tlazolteotl and Itzpaplotl and with their devotees, who included transgendered and same-sex inclined persons.

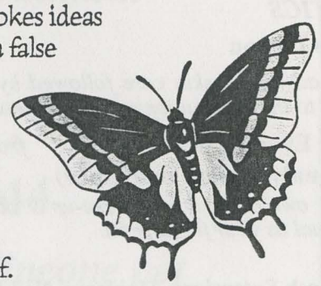


In Native American Indian mythology and religion, Begochidi, a bisexual or pansexual, sometimes transgendered deity of the Navaho pantheon, is said to belong to the Butterfly Clan.

Although some butterflies hibernate, most live only a few weeks, but as an emblem of rebirth the butterfly has also come to represent longevity and immortality to the Maori of New Zealand, a view shared in China where it is also connected with the pleasures of living, it's ceaseless, erratic movements signifying high spirits.

In the Euro-western tradition, butterflies also signify frivolity, wantonness, and extravagant or gaudy taste in clothes, qualities often associated with transgendered, homoerotically inclined males. The folk figure Scrat, an archetypal "hairy androgyne" revered in the Middle Ages by some Germanic and Anglo-Saxon groups, may also assume the form of a butterfly.

In contemporary usage, "to be a butterfly" denotes someone who cannot concentrate on one thing and is thus never satisfied. Such imagery evokes ideas of inconsistency, especially in love. In Japan the butterfly symbolises a false lover, a vain woman, or a Geisha, and in Latin America the Spanish word for butterfly, mariposa, can refer to a prostitute, moving from one man to another, a gay male or 'queen'.



Associations between the brightly coloured butterfly, "painted woman", passion and inconsistency are encapsulated in the Greek myth of Psyche, personification of the soul, whose name also means, "butterfly". Her beauty ensnared Eros, the god of love, himself.

The butterfly, especially as red or lavender, came, in the early 1970s, to be employed as a symbol of gay liberation and, more recently, has become widely adopted by the transgender community as a symbol of gender transition.

YOU AND THE LAW

This Issue:

ENTERING YOUR HOME/SEARCH WARRANTS/SEARCHING YOUR PERSON

by Catherine

Catherine served in the Armed Forces for sixteen years before becoming a Police Constable.
Now, after thirteen years protecting and serving, she looks forward to the time when she can retire and pursue her reassignment.
Her decision not to come out to the Force stems from the belief that her colleagues are not yet ready to accept LGBT minorities within their ranks.

In this issue of the Tartan Skirt I want to talk about your position with regard to the police entering your house and when you may be required to be searched.

As you can imagine, having your house gone through - whether this is done by a burglar or by the police - can be extremely traumatic, as can having your person searched. It might be helpful in allaying some of these fears, therefore, to have some understanding of the process. Normally, if the police propose to enter your house against your wishes, they require what is called a **search warrant** before they can proceed. There are several different forms of search warrant depending on whether the police are interested in stolen property, drugs, firearms, and so on, or if they intend to apprehend the occupier or someone else within the house. I'll come back to this again, later.

A police constable is empowered at common law, however, to enter any house or building without a warrant when,

- on hearing the noise of a serious disturbance in the premises, in order to enquire into the cause or to suppress the disorder, and
- when in close pursuit of a person who has committed or attempted to commit a serious crime, e.g. murder, rape, robbery, theft by housebreaking, etc.

The constable may enter by force, if refused admission after revealing his identity and purpose.

Let's say there's a serious disturbance coming from your house. (This could be a party with noisy and unruly guests, a 'shouting match' between partners, loud music coming from the house, and so on.) When the police arrive and there's no one going to answer the door, then they can and will, in all the above instances, force entry into the house. And if someone does answer the door, the police can enter without a warrant to ensure that no one has been injured or to stop the disturbance. At this point the police cannot search, that is, look in drawers, etc. for stolen property or drugs. However, if they see controlled drugs lying about then they can detain the persons in the flat and apply for a drugs search warrant to allow them to search the house.

The second instance above speaks for itself. Being caught out and about cross dressed is not likely to result in hot pursuit by a policeman! (I can't say the same for 'tranny chasers' and louts, though.)

Apart from the power at common law, there are also a number of Statutes which give the police the power to enter your house without the need for a warrant, such as the **Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act 1937, and the Fire Services Act 1947.**

In Scotland, either a High Court Judge, a Sheriff or a Justice of the Peace normally issues a warrant. In each instance, the police must apply to the respective court - High Court, Sheriff Court or District Court - for the warrant and must show the grounds for applying for the warrant. These are not just handed out, ad hoc. The police must show to the respective court that they have good evidence that, for instance, stolen property is in a house, or that drugs are in the house, or that there is an illegal firearm held in the house. When the court is satisfied that the evidence given is adequate, then a warrant is issued.

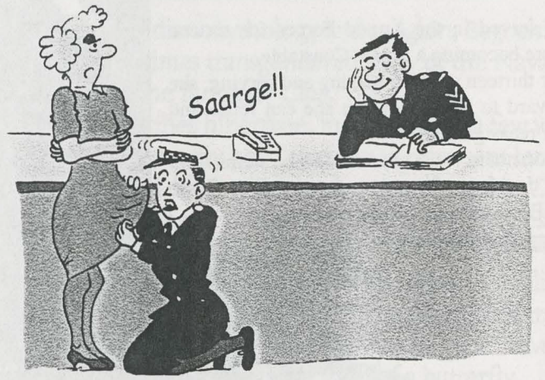
A **search warrant** gives the police power to force entry into a house, if required, and to search the house, outbuildings and those persons in the house, for whatever stolen property is listed on the warrant. This warrant can only be used once. If the police are required to return, then they must reapply for another warrant. A **drugs search warrant** is very similar. Again, the police may force entry if required and can search the house, outbuildings and any person in the house or person who enters while they are there. The main difference is that a drugs search warrant can be used for one month and as many times as necessary within that period. A **firearms warrant** is the same as a search warrant and permit the police to search for a firearm.



...likely to return as you're applying the finishing touches to your make-up.

The police may, on occasion, require entry in connection with an apprehension warrant for a named individual. This may be the last tenant who lived at the address, or someone who has given the address as his own. The police, in this instance, have the power to force entry if they think that the person is inside. If they arrive at your door, explain that the person does not live there (unless they do) and let them have a look around. This is when you may start to feel anxious about the stockings draped over the radiator, or the wig hanging by your dressing table! But don't worry, once they have confirmed that the person is not there they will go. Their interest lies elsewhere... unless I'm there, myself, that is! Just ensure that they take note of the mistake and have your address changed for the named person, otherwise they're likely to return just as you're applying the finishing touches to your make up. At times like that it is as well to remember that unless the police have a warrant in their hands you can refuse them entry.

The police have power to search your person under several acts and under common law. The common law power works like this: ***when you have been arrested for an offence the police can lawfully search your person.*** They can also photograph, fingerprint and now take DNA samples from you. These, however, are normally done at the police station.



The police can search you if they have reasonable cause to suspect that you are in possession of controlled drugs, an offensive weapon, such as a knife, or that you have stolen property on your person. Remember, ***it is an offence to refuse to allow yourself to be searched*** and you can and will be arrested for refusing to co-operate. If the police find nothing you would be allowed to go unless you have refused to be searched and/or have struggled with the police during the search. Again, these powers of search are subject to the police officers ***having reasonable cause to suspect that you are either in possession of controlled drugs, an offensive weapon or stolen property.*** The police do not have the power to stop and search people without good cause.

If you find yourself in the invidious position of having to be searched while dressed, you may request to have this done by someone of the same sex that you, yourself, identify with. Depending on the individual officers involved, and the presence or otherwise of procedural guidelines for dealing with transgender persons (this can vary from Force to Force), your request may or may not be complied with. It is not unreasonable, however, to expect a male-to-female post-operative transsexual to prefer to be searched by a female officer. Otherwise, you are likely to find yourself being treated in a way that is determined by the police themselves. The best advice I can offer you is to allow them to proceed, however much you may dislike how this is done, and then complain in writing to the Chief Constable of whatever Force is involved. (You may want to draw on our own editor's experience of the complaints procedure to help you with this.) Without reasonable cause, you should not have to be subjected to a search of your person. The officers concerned will be required to justify their actions and any complaint that is upheld is dealt with according to strict procedures.

Whether in the street or at your house, if someone in plain clothes, that is, not in uniform, stops you and tells you they are the police and that they are going to search you or your house, remember to **ALWAYS ASK THEM FOR IDENTIFICATION**. They must show you their warrant cards. Should they refuse to do this contact the police immediately.

End

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A regular contributor to the pages of the Tartan Skirt, Andrew Hunter was the founding member of REACH OUT Highland, the Highlands of Scotland's first sexual health charity. Andrew's background is in education, training and counselling. A practising spiritual healer, he is also qualified in Reiki healing, hypnotherapy, psychotherapy, Swedish massage and Neuro-Linguistic programming.

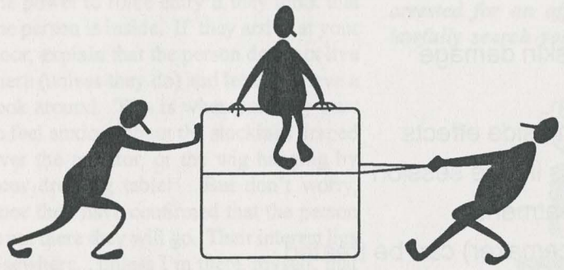
Continuing his series in Personal Development, he now invites us to consider how we can become more effective in our dealings with others.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT: PUSH - PULL

We can use our energy in different ways to help us influence and work with others.

When we use ***PUSH*** style behaviours we tend to... ***PERSUADE*** through the use of logic, reason and facts. We make proposals by offering ideas, suggestions, recommendations, and asking questions that present a position. Or we may REASON with facts and reasons, or arguments for our own position as well as give counter arguments to another's position.

When we use ***PUSH*** styles we tend also to... ***ASSERT*** ourselves - by upping our demand, by dictating and by bargaining. To do this we ***STATE EXPECTATIONS*** - by making demands, requirements, stating our standards. Or we ***EVALUATE*** - we provide positive or negative judgements based on personal or intuitive criteria (i.e. we don't always need or have facts - sometimes we operate from a 'hunch'). We may use ***INCENTIVES*** and ***PRESSURES*** - by stating tangible or intangible rewards and 'punishments' – *"Brian, what I really expect from you is... I need that by Friday and if you cannot deliver it then... (state implication)"*



On the other hand when we use **PULL** style behaviours we are attempting to **BUILD A BRIDGE** between us and another. To do this we would we need to involve them, draw them out, and share.

We do this by... **INVOLVING AND SUPPORTING** through soliciting different views and feelings, encourage people, respond to their questions and concerns.
We do it by **LISTENING** - *really* listening – not interrupting every time we hear something we dislike or just because we like to chatter.
We **PARAPHRASE** in our own words what they have said, or we may **SUMMARISE**.
We can **REFLECT BACK THEIR FEELINGS** or ask them for clarification.
We **BUILD BRIDGES** also when we **DISCLOSE** something of ourselves, when we admit our own weaknesses and vulnerabilities, when we let our uncertainty show and when we ask for help.

WE also use **PULL** behaviours when we attempt to **ATTRACT** the other by inspiring them, using synergy, and motivating them. We do this by use of **VISIONING**, when we give them an image of the result we seek (we may draw it or get them to really imagine it), appeal to common values, and articulate exciting possibilities. We do it by **FINDING COMMON GROUND** - where we highlight areas of agreement (and maybe acknowledge those areas of disagreement which can be worked on later), pointing out common goals, interests and themes.

Very often what we tend to do instead of the above is engage in judgmental blaming, attacking or bullying language or behaviours - or dredging up the past. Or we become very ***DIFFUSE***, we move away - by deflecting, refocusing and withdrawing. (Sometimes we may *need* to disengage - useful if either party is upset or angry. We may need to postpone or reschedule the meeting, stay cool, lighten the situation with APPROPRIATE humour, reduce tension while continuing to pursue objectives and intent.) But often we AVOID the situation by backing down, withdrawing, changing position, dismissing differences, by using bureaucratic avoidance. If used through choice, this is likely to have a positive outcome - avoidance as a pattern, however, is unlikely to be healthy.

Whether we use ***PUSH***, **PULL**, or ***DIFFUSE*** behaviours, will depend on our intent - what is the purpose in working with the other in conversation? What is our desired and intended outcome?

Andrew Hunter Associates 1998

Continuing Tales of Transgender in Myth and Legend...

Our Forgotten History

ELAGABALUS (Marcus Aurelius Antoninum), emperor (AD218-22), was the son of Sextus Varius Marcellus and Julia Soaemias Bassiana, niece of Julia Domna, the wife of Septimius Severus. A beautiful young man, he often dressed in feminine attire, employing elaborate make-up and wearing exquisite jewellery. In doing so, G. H. Halsberghe (1972) explains ELAGABALUS sought to "identify himself with the female principle ... the Sol cult ... wished to incorporate the female as well as the male principle in a single divine being." Others have been less compassionate. C. Scarre quotes the ancient historian, Cassius Dio, for evidence for barbaric sacrificial rites, orgies and sexual practices that gained ELAGABALUS notoriety and an uneviable place in history. But if any facet of historical dscription is in the least accurate, Elagabalus was what today we term transsexual.



VARIUS AVITUS BASSIANUS was holding the priesthood, hereditary on his mother's family, of ELAGABALUS the presiding deity of Emesa in Syria, when his mother and grandmother, JULIA MAESA, with the support of the Third Legion "Gallica", used him as a figurehead of rebellion against MACRINUS, the reigning emperor, whose troops were overthrown at Antioch on June 8th, 218. Shortly afterwards AVITUS was proclaimed Emperor, as the son of his mother's cousin CARACALLA, and renamed M. AURELIUS ANTONINUS after him.

AVITUS, SOAEMIAS, and MAESA didn't go directly to Rome after he became emperor, but spent a number of months at Antioch and later Nicomedia. SOAEMIAS, fearful of the growing popularity of her lover and co-conspiator GANNYS, persuaded AVITUS to execute him, lest he lose the throne he had so recently occupied. Consternated at this turn of events, he did as he was told. However, it had been his intention to give GANNYS the title of Caesar, allow him to marry his mother, and then, a deeply devoted believer, he would return to his religious devotions. With GANNYS gone the real power in Rome was his grandmother and his mother - which was apparently what they had intended from the start.

Thereafter, he took the cult of the solar deity SOL INVICTUS-ELAGABALAL, by whose name he is known, to Rome, which he reached in July 219. (Followers of this religion worshipped an androgenous being represented by a conical black stone.) In Rome, AVITUS later also became a priest(ess) also of the cults of the goddesses CYBELE, DEA CAELESTIS, and VESTA.

The prejudice against gender variants and the spirituality of gender variants had already begun, the fires of aversion fanned by Jews and the early Christian cult. However, when ELAGABALUS entered Rome the antagonism wasn't nearly as pervasive as it would become once Christianity dominated Rome, although homo-sexual acts and gender variants had already begun to be viewed with some irritation. Soldiers of the empire, in particular, were among the first in Rome to embrace the animosity toward gender variants inherent in Christianity. Christianity sanctified their view of men as macho, women as subservient, and gender variants as a perversion. The two forces fed each other and supported each other until, with the advent of Constantine, even the emperors took up the Christian cross.

But when AVITUS entered Rome as their new emperor, a Syrian and a hereditary priest(ess) of an oriental sun god, there was no open concern or misgivings - at least initially.

We know much about AVITUS, the youth, from accounts of the day telling us he would visit the baths with his female entourage and run *psiothrum*, a depilatory, over his own body and theirs. And he would go to the taverns at night wearing a wig, women's clothes and make-up and ply the trade of a prostitute. Although marrying women on several occasions, to satisfy his grandmother and to win allies, he was homoereotically inclined; he took a man named Gordianus as his husband and

another, Hierocles, a Carian slave, as his wife. Hierocles was even permitted to beat the emperor when displeased, as any man might beat his wife in that day.

Not only acting and dressing like a woman, Avitus asked his physicians to contrive a vagina for him, promising huge rewards for success. There is no record of any claim for such a reward.

While some in the Empire appreciated him, including those women who took part in the womens' Senate he established and those sub-Saharan Africans who took part in his religious cult, many others had grown to despise him, especially for his luxury and effeminacy.

His attempt to unify Rome under one religion met with strong resistance and did nothing to moderate his growing unpopularity. He had declared ELAGABAL precedence over all other gods, even Jupiter. Further, the god was to have a consort, PALLAS ATHENA, a goddess tended by the Vestal Virgins. But there was considerable opposition to PALLAS, and URANIA, a moon goddess, was chosen instead. As part of his strategy, Avitus married one of the Vestals, thus violating one of the most sacred laws of Rome.

In the very year that ELAGABUS became emperor, the Third Legion, which had placed him in office, attempted to replace him with VERUS, their commander. The attempt failed. Over time, subsequent attempts by the Fourth legion, by the Roman Fleet, and by a pretender called SELEUCUS, also failed.

As emperor, AVITUS had a Temple built to ELAGABAL, restored the Flavian Amphitheatre (the Colosseum) that had been damaged by fire and completed the construction of the public baths of Caracalla in the Vicus Sulplicius. He also built a palace complex, the Horti Variani, with an amphitheatre, a circus, a bath, and audience hall. His most famous projects, however, were the temple of ELAGABAL (the Elagaballium) on the Palatine hill, and another such temple on the south-eastern edge of the city. From these temples the emperor delivered largesse to the crowds that gathered below. But none of his works, or gifts would offset the growing dicontent of the people for their emperor's behaviour.

As his popularity dwindled his mother, JULIA SOAEMIAS, and other supporters recognised that the royal family was in danger of their lives. Rome had a tradition of murdering unpopular emperors, and sometimes their adherents as well. In hopes of rescuing the regime his close family and supporters induced ELAGABALUS to adopt his cousin BASSIANUS ALEXIANUS, a young man popular with the Praetorian Guard, and name him Caesar, heir to the throne. The scheme backfired in that JULIA MAMAEA, ALEXIANUS's mother, was as ambitious as JULIA SOAEMIAS and desired to see her son emperor as quickly as possible. MAMAEA, playing



on the Praetorian Guard's contempt for ELAGABALUS entreated for his assassination. SOAEMIAS, discovering the adoption had created greater danger, not less, urged ELAGABALUS to have his cousin killed lest he himself be murdered. However, no one would obey the order.

Here is where we catch up with JULIA, SOAEMIAS and ELAGABALUS in Laura Darlene Lansberry's imaginative ending to the reign of MARCUS AURELIUS ANTONINUS, transgendered emperor of Rome:

▲▲▲▲▲

"Mother," spoke the young emperor, 18 years old, the glow of childhood still reflected in his eyes, *"they don't understand what I want to accomplish. If they did, they wouldn't hate me."*

"Child," replied Julia Soaemias, *"they have more than one reason to hate you. You're obsessed with being a woman and you flaunt Roman tradition. You seek to bring down their gods and make them slaves to Elagabal. Elagabal knows I worship him as much as you, but he wants not that we place him above other gods."*

"I will go to the Praetorian camp and entreat with them, explain what I intend. Surely they will listen. A single god for all Rome would unify us as naught else might. Our former glory would be restored and Rome would endure forever. I will go. I will go now! The armies must be made to understand," declared the emperor, rising from his throne even as he spoke.

"If you go to the guard they are as likely to kill you as listen to you," admonished his mother.

"That is a chance I must take," he retorted, *"Rome is more important than my life."*

At the Praetorian camp:

"All hail Nellie Ellie," sarcastically called a guardsman upon the approach of the emperor.

"Run, fear for your manhood, she comes to drain us dry," screamed another voice.

Other guardsmen laughed and joined in, a little nervously at first - after all this was the emperor of Rome - but with growing enthusiasm. Stepping down from his chariot Elagabalus, dressed as a woman, his wig meticulously styled and his makeup artfully done, spoke in a loud voice, *"I have come to discuss with you the fate of Rome."* His mother, having accompanied him stepped down beside him, on her countenance fear was plainly written. She had a bad feeling about what could happen that night and the crowd of soldiers mocking and jeering did nothing to lessen that fear.

"Alexianus would have me murdered and restore the old gods, the many religions which kept Romans apart. I have dedicated my rule to bringing our great nation together under one god, you must see the wisdom in such a venture," he called out in a loud voice, ignoring the insults and belittling remarks.

"Wisdom from a boy whore," yelled out a disgruntled soldier, *"Drunk one night, boy, I had you. Was that your wisdom, Nellie Ellie?"* The crowd laughed uproariously.

"I am the priestess of Elagabal. It is my place to be among my people, to suffer the worst and the best at your hands. I am also your emperor and I command you to kill my rival, Alexianus," he ordered.

His mother leaned forward and whispered in his ear, *"Tread softly my son, their temper is not to be trifled with. I like not their mood."*

"You have had my spear once, priestess," venomously spat a soldier near the front of those gathered. *"Now have another!"* As the soldier uttered the words he hurled a spear. It landed to one side, but came perilously close to hitting Elagabalus.

"I want nothing but the betterment of Rome," shouted Avitus, taking his mother by the arm and retreating to his chariot. Too late he took the reins of his spirited horses, the soldiers had already surrounded his chariot and taken control.

"You will agree to abdicate in favour of Alexianus before you leave this night, or you shall not leave," spoke up the closest of his adversaries. The army heard the words and began to chant, *"Alexianus, Alexianus, Alexianus."*

Enraged the youthful emperor screamed, *"I am emperor. It is I who know what is best for Rome. Not you traitors. Now, let go of my horsed"* With his whip he struck at the face of the nearest soldier, landing a vicious blow that brought blood. The soldier in turn pulled Elagabalus from the chariot and stabbed him. Others joined in. The last thing Elagabalus saw before he died was the soldiers pulling his mother from the chariot, *"Let my mother be,"* he tried to yell, but only a whisper passed his lips.

▲▲▲▲▲

So ended the reign of the teenage Varius Avitus Bassinus, having ruled Rome for but four years. He had been the first emperor to attempt to unify Rome with a monotheistic religion. His gender variance, his sexual escapades while frowned on but tolerated, had destroyed his credibility. Had he been more respected, a more traditional figure, more believable, he might have succeeded in bringing a singular god to the Roman Empire. Unfortunately, the god Elagabal didn 't find much favour with the soldiers of Rome. However, the double jeopardy of Elagabalus' promiscuous nature and attempt to instil monotheism assured his downfall. After the murders, his body and that of his mother, were dragged naked through the streets of Rome. Finally, beheaded, both bodies were thrown into the Tiber - the punishment for convicted criminals.

Laura Darlene Lansberry

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Conner, R. P., Sparks, D. H., and Sparks, M. QUEER MYTH, SYMBOL AND SPIRIT, Cassel, 1997

Lansberry, L. D., THE UNTOLD HISTORY OF ELAGABALUS

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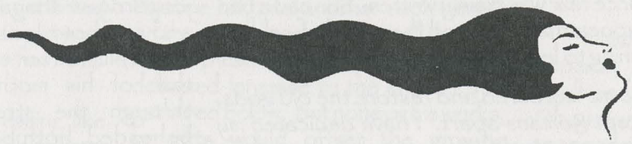
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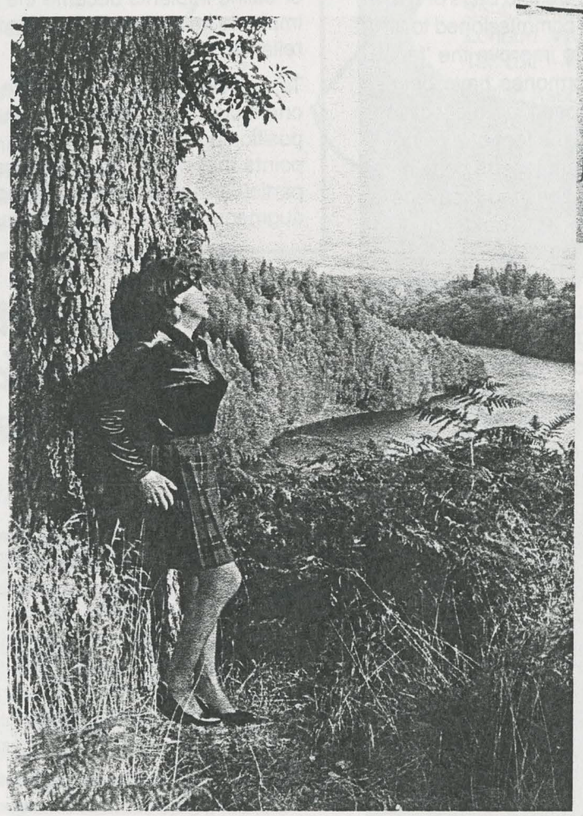
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Pitlochry Pleasures

by Alexandrina

We all remember those special times - particularly holidays - when we were carefree. For those of us who are married TVs, with the constraints that that normally implies, a break away on your own is bliss.

I enjoyed just such a weekend last Autumn. I was attending a conference at Pitlochry (yes, a genuine one). Naturally, I had taken an assortment of nice clothes with me - appropriate kilt, of course. Well, I was in the Highlands! There was a free afternoon on the Saturday so I took the car along the Foss Road, parked above Loch Faskally, and got dolled up.



There is something about going out dressed in the open air; it is stimulating, exciting ... with that tinge of danger. What if some walkers come by - there are quite a number on that road - and they want to have a chat? What do you do? Pretend to be frightfully posh? *"My dear, the scenery is absolutely gorgeous, isn't it?"*

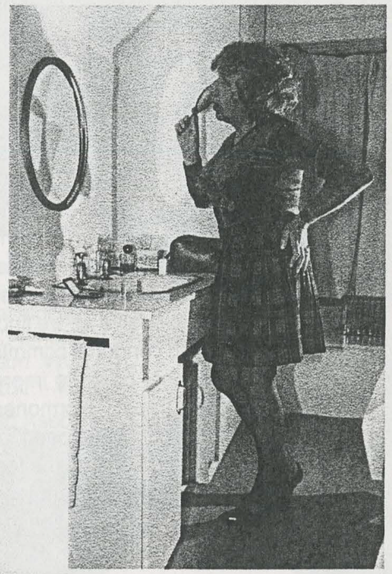
No one accosted me, so I was able to lean against a tree and drink in the view. It was a lovely October day.

Now dressed, I drove on to find another spot where I could wander down to the shore of Loch Tummel – with the inevitable photos in mind. A kilt is a must in such surroundings; it really 'fits' into the landscape.

I was staying at a guesthouse and in the evening I again dressed and pretended to be going out for a 'night on the town'. Mark you, in Pitlochry I doubt if there are any dens of iniquity - not even disco dives. But if I had had the courage to wander down the main street a kind gentleman might – just might - have offered me a drink.

Like all good times, this one came to an end too soon, but the pleasant memory lingers on.

Now, there is a sequel to this tale. No, I did not succeed in getting off the leash for another weekend of unrivalled debauchery. I had another short break recently in the same guesthouse - with wife. Yes, it was different, yet still enjoyable.



I am never one to miss a trick, so when my wife was off to the hairdresser one morning I dashed round one or two shops in Pitlochry. Acquiring jewellery is not awkward since everyone is buying presents in a holiday town.

At the Edinburgh Woollen Mill I made a careful study of the kilts. Being a large store they had a full selection ... of minis. Well, they describe them as minis but the length is 17", not really mini as far as Colette and I are concerned, but a nice length nevertheless. I was sorely tempted to purchase about half a dozen, but that really would look suspicious - and be ruinous. I decided, at £24.95 apiece, to settle for one only. The purchase is in a gorgeous orange shade - really cool - although it is pure wool! If you are on the lookout for a similar it is called BRT RYL STEWART. I assume that stands for Bright Royal Stewart, unknown to me, but then there are several Stewart tartans. Roll on next time I am in Pitlochry, whether for a few days on my own or accompanied. I shall certainly pay another visit to the Edinburgh Woollen Mill.

End

GOING FOR BUST!!!

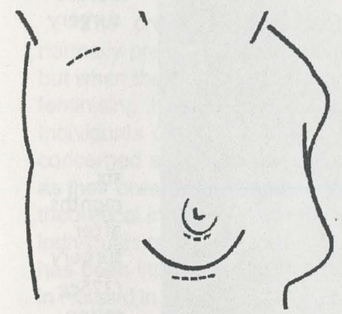
If there's one thing guaranteed to deflect your date's attention from the stubble that's fast pushing up through your foundation, it's a sweaty cleavage staring him in the face as you boogie on down at the local disco on a Saturday night. So if your boobs disappear into your chest when you let them go, just how ***do*** you achieve that vision of femininity? There are only three options open to you - false boobs, feminising hormones or breast implants.

Falsies have been on the go forever. Old corsets were stuffed with as much padding and wire as the modern Wonderbra – and were probably just as uncomfortable. Teenage girls and virginal cross dressers have been known to stuff socks inside their bras, just to see what they might look like as Kelly Brook. And the creativity borne on the back of a desperate cross dresser is nothing short of impressive as we find bags of bird seed, water-filled balloons and condoms commissioned to fill the gap, with jelly and wallpaper paste to improve the 'feel' of these home-made 'booby traps'. Hormones have been swallowed in quantities that would have been more effective in creating a bust had they been tied into the feet of a pair of old tights and stuffed down the bra! Foam inserts certainly attract attention, not because of the 'unabashed cleavage' they proffer, but because your boobs appear to be dead!

In time, all roads lead to the professional boob-maker and whether you need total filling out or just a helping hand because your statistics are static, you will want to think ***SILICONE***. But quality never comes cheap. In spite of the abundance of silica in nature, silicone as in 'breast enhancers', will set you back almost £40. These may be secreted in your bra if hormones have left you a few cells short of the full mammary gland. They claim to add a "naturally curvy, feminine silhouette", *and* they come packed in a satin-lined box.

For the fully Monty, however, we're talking **breast prosthesis**, silicone breasts manufactured for women who have had breasts removed surgically for health reasons. *"Natural"* breasts made from *"hypo-allergenic, dermatologically tested medical-grade silicone covered with a soft skin-like film which feels, moves and looks like real breast tissue"*, as it says in the brochure. Some even provide *"areola and nipple colouration to match the female anatomy"*. Definitely not cheap – we're fast approaching three figures now. On my meagre income I can just about run to a pair of silicone nipples. These, you can buy separately on the internet at Lucy's online shop, and are available in beige or natural, small, medium or large. Large is a massive 2¼ inches wide – but don't bother going on-line, because they've sold out!

breast augmentation surgery



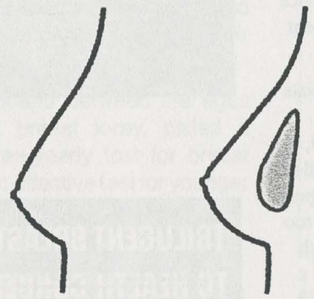
Breast enlargement, or 'augmentation' is often requested to enforce an individual's perception of feminine gender, and enhance their physical proportions. It is considered a cosmetic operation and is not normally available as part of gender reassignment treatment. Because of this, it is usually carried out privately when it may be combined with other procedures such as vaginoplasty, Adam's apple shaving, or rhinoplasty. You may pay around £3,000 for breast augmentation alone. It is performed under general anaesthesia and takes approximately 1½ hours to complete.

Until the 1990s the standard implants were silicone, but due to concerns regarding their implication in serious health problems, soya oil (now also causing concern) or saline implants became the preferred choice. Saline implants have been in use since the 1970s and have enjoyed a long history of safety and reliability.

To achieve chest fullness, the implants are inserted under your existing breasts. Only one incision per breast is required and where this is done, the volume of augmentation, positioning of implants (either subglandular or submuscular) are some of the important points that ought to be discussed with your surgeon. He should take into account your particular needs and goals, individual features and anatomy. For example, too large an augmentation can end up causing other problems, such as backache. After surgery, patients will be bruised and swollen and will have a great deal of discomfort for 2-3 weeks.

If you are thinking about having your breasts enlarged, it might be prudent to check out your surgeon by making enquiries such as:

- Is he a consultant plastic surgeon in a local hospital?
- Can he supply you with several cases as testimonials?
- How long has he been doing this type of surgery?
- What will the total price of the operation be (including his own fees, hospital costs, anaesthetist, tests, follow-up examinations, etc.)?



If you need to locate a plastic surgeon in your area, or have any queries or concerns about the procedure, the following should be able to help you with the information you require.

British Association of Cosmetic Plastic Surgeons
Royal College of Surgeons of England
35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London WC2A 1DA
Tel: 0171-[redacted]

British Association of Cosmetic Surgeons
17 Harley Street,
London W1N 1DA
Tel: 0171-[redacted]

Or call The Harley Medical Group helpline on 0870[redacted]

TIGHT CURVES - my experience of breast augmentation I had done two years ago, about a year and a half after reassignment surgery.

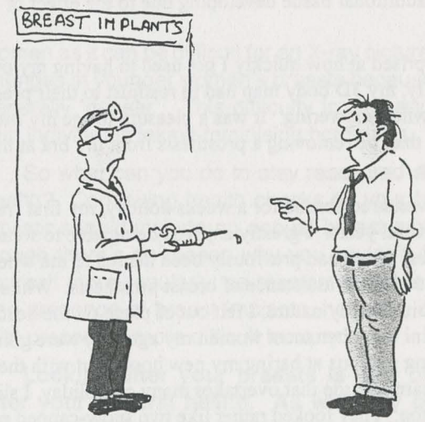
Catherine [redacted]

I had hoped I might develop enough 'up top' on hormones alone so that I would not feel the need to have breast implants. But I was soon to learn that few transsexuals develop a full bust like this, and that all those super boobs you see are the result of the surgeon's knife and a goodly amount of silicone or saline implant. I only ever got to a 38AA cup and often felt flat chested if I didn't resort to padded bras or silicone prosthesis which, frankly, become a pain when they had to be worn on an almost daily basis.

I resolved to investigate the possibility of private surgery and after asking around, and having seen the results of various operations, chose my surgeon. An appointment was arranged and during the consultation the pros and cons of various types of saline and silicone implants were discussed. The option of placing the implants over or under the muscle was explained and we discussed the size of my new breasts. My many questions were answered satisfactorily and various dates were offered, with a date some six weeks ahead being selected. The surgery would involve placing a 375cc saline implant under the muscle in each breast. Time off work was agreed and soon the date was fast approaching and I was packing my bag and setting off for the hospital.

I had developed little in the way of boobs despite four and a half years of hormones – three years before GRS and 18 months following. My surgeon warned me that the lack of breast tissue might result in a more rounded breast than would have developed naturally as there was so little fat to hide the implant shape. Placing the implant below the muscle would assist this, although he did warn me that this option led to a greater degree of discomfort in the immediate post operative period.

When I first woke from the anaesthetic I was so groggy the realities of my operation were lost to me and soon I drifted off to sleep again. When I next woke some hours later, however, I was more together and after lying quietly for some time realised I had a raging thirst. Shortly after, a nurse came into the



Can I have one, please? In my mouth.

room and I was able to satisy this. She asked how I was feeling and told me the tightness across my chest was quite normal after augmentation surgery.

By now I was keen to see the results! I carefully unbuttoned the front of my nightdress, anxious at what I might see. I was bandaged across both the top of my boobs and below, with only my nipples and a strip of skin showing. My breasts were very swollen

and therefore larger than they would end up. The next day the surgeon removed the bandages and brought a mirror over see my new bust. I was very impressed! As my breasts were still very swollen he said he would like to keep me in for a second night before removing the tubes which drained fluid from the wound. He agreed that as I lived some distance from the hospital that my own GP could remove the stitches after one week and he would see me after a month for a check up.

By the time I went back for a check-up after a month, I had grown accustomed to my, by now, significantly enlarged bosom. Thankfully, the swelling had largely disappeared and my boobs were by now much softer than they had been in the immediate aftermath of the operation. The breasts were really indistinguishable from natures own. True, when I lay on my back they were perhaps more erect than those of a natural born woman, however, this was much less than I had seen in photos and I was glad I had listened to the surgeons advice not to be over ambitious with the size. The surgeon advised me that after three months once all swelling had disappeared the final size would become apparent and at that time I should be measured for my correct bra size.

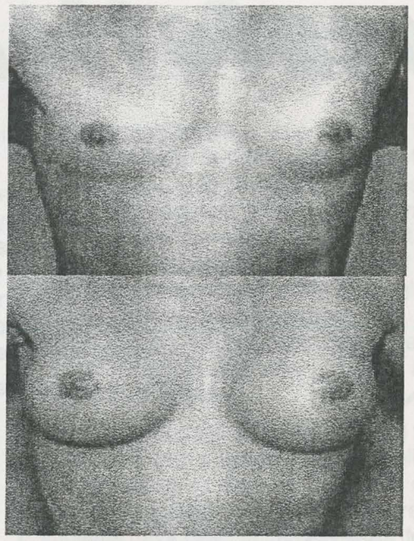
By this time all swelling had long since subsided. The breasts are now much less firm and are completely comfortable. Over the following months they softened further as the tissues settled, developing a natural softness and bounce. The breasts have settled down with a 38 B/C cup and are of a size not to require the support of a bra at all times. My surgeon advised me not to go bra-less too often thus avoiding unnecessary stretching of the muscles, which would cause the breasts to sag. As you can see the breast is slightly rounded due to the implant shape not being completely disguised by the fatty tissue. In the period since this picture was taken the appearance of the breasts has improved further, perhaps as a result of additional tissue developing due to the effect of hormones.

I was surprised at how quickly I got used to having my own boobs. Initially, my 3D body map had to readjust to their presence eg. in bed or when showering. It was a pleasure to see my own breasts rather than be removing a prosthesis from my bra at the end of the day.

In July I ventured abroad for a weeks holiday, my first 'real' holiday for several years. I greatly enjoyed being able to wear tops and sun dresses, which had previously been denied to me when my small boobs needed the assistance of breast prosthesis. Whilst not being an exhibitionist by nature, I felt out of place on the beach wearing a bikini top when most women my age (35) were going topless. Feeling nervous at baring my new boobs but with the sort of devil may care attitude that overtakes many on holiday, I slipped off my bikini top. They looked rather like two snow-capped peaks, rather exposed and vulnerable. However, once tanned I felt much more confident.

Was it worth it? Well I am happy with the result and now they have been with me for some time it is difficult to remember a time when they were there not there. Would I recommend it to anyone else? If you feel the need then go for it, however it won't change your life nor make you into Miss World. Life's problems at whatever level have still to be overcome. They have in a way increased my confidence and I now perhaps feel more complete.

End



six weeks before surgery

six months after surgery (375cc saline implants)

TRILUCENT BREAST IMPLANTS GIVE RISE TO HEALTH CONCERNS

The Government has recently issued a warning over soya bean oil breast implants, saying that patients would be advised to have them removed. Fears have been expressed that they could be implicated in breast cancer and may be harmful to the unborn babies of pregnant mothers.

The Triluscent implants were available from 1995 until they were withdrawn last year. They were introduced into this country, in accordance with European rules, after their use was authorised in Germany. They did not, however, have any clinical trials, even though the risks of soya bean oil leaking were known when the implants – mainly used for cosmetic surgery – went on the market.

Deputy Chief Medical Officer Dr. Pat Troop said there had been no evidence of serious health problems, although seventy women had reported swelling and discomfort. She described the step as 'precautionary'. Barry Jones , president of the British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons, said the 5,000 women could have replacement silicone or saline implants.

HEALTH CHECK ✓

The presence of male hormones in the body normally prevents the development of breasts in men, but when the effects of these are antagonised by taking feminising hormones some development will occur. Individuals on hormone therapies may then become concerned about the risk of developing breast cancer as their breasts grow and develop. There is certainly a theoretical increase in the risk of breast cancer among individuals taking feminising hormones, although there has been little research done in this area. (One study in Holland in 1997, covering 10,152 patient years, failed to reveal any evidence of breast cancer in any of their subjects.)

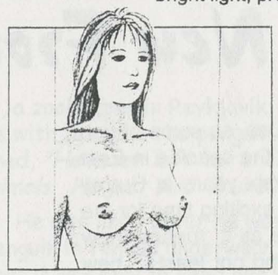
Currently, women in Scotland between the ages of 50-64 are invited for a breast x-ray, called a mammogram. This is a three-yearly test for breast cancer. It is not regarded as an effective test for younger women as it can be difficult for an X-ray picture to reveal changes in younger women's breasts because they are generally 'denser'. This difficulty is also encountered with individuals taking feminising hormones.

So what can you do to stay reassured about your health? Continuing health checks by your healthcare advisor should include an annual breast examination, though there's no reason why you couldn't do this for yourself more regularly, as recommended for women. The presence of breast implants, however, can make this procedure more difficult to carry out.

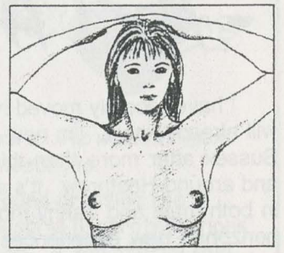
Looking after your breasts is part of looking after your general health. As with any other part of your body, keep a lookout for anything unusual, not just lumps. If you do notice a lump or any thickening in the breast, a discharge from a nipple (not to be confused with the milky discharge due to raised prolactin levels during oestogen therapy) or changes to its shape or appearance, puckering or dimpling of the skin or a change in the outline or shape of a breast after full development, or any discomfort or pain that is new and persistent, see your doctor as soon as possible.

LOOK FIRST

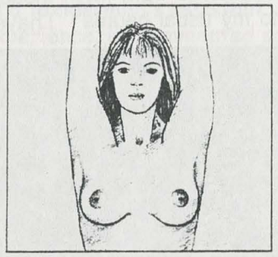
Undress fully to the waist and stand in front of a mirror in a bright light, preferably daylight.



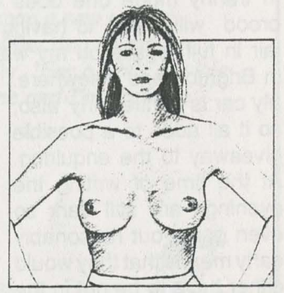
1 LOOK: With your arms down, look at your breasts from all angles - don't forget to look underneath too.



2 LIFT: Hands on your head, look for any rash around the nipple or discoloration of the skin.



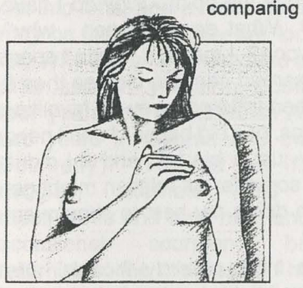
3 STRETCH: Watching closely for any irregularity of shape or movement of the breasts, raise your straight arms sideways above your head, then lower them.



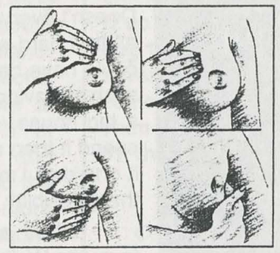
4 PRESS: Then press your hands firmly on your hips. Everything should move smoothly and evenly, with no dimpling of the skin.

AFTER LOOKING, FEEL

Lying on a flat surface, examine one breast, then the other, comparing the two.



1. Begin by squeezing the nipple, gently, noting any discharge. Then, using the flat of your fingers feel the breast gently, moving your hand in small circular movements.



2. Work out in a spiral from the nipple, checking always that the skin moves freely. Feel the full depth of your breast.



3. Repeat movements with your arm above your head, elbow bent. The breast gland is made up of many small parts which you will probably be able to feel. No part should feel hard.



4. Finish by feeling the tail of the breast, which runs up under the armpit.

Loftiness - And A New Frontier



by Colette

I have recently moved house, as some of you will already know. I'm now at the seaside in East Sussex after more than thirtysix years in Surrey and around Heathrow. It's an exciting time for me in both male and tranny mode as it means new horizons, new experiences and not least ... new neighbours.

Not that I'm a neighbour sort of person but in tranny mode one does wonder how the new brood will take to having me emerge from my lair in full regalia on my way to my usual haunts in Brighton and elsewhere. My car is a trifle 'girly' also, so it all adds to a possible giveaway to the enquiring. At the time of writing the evenings are still dark so even going out reasonably early means that they would either have to be out in the road or curtain twitchers, to determine the character within. Spring is just around the corner and by then I should have judged the various attitudes. Not that it bothers me much but I do not wish to make others feel uncomfort-able ... However, c'est la vie.



OK, so it's one of last year's numbers - but it's perfect for paddling and beachcombing.

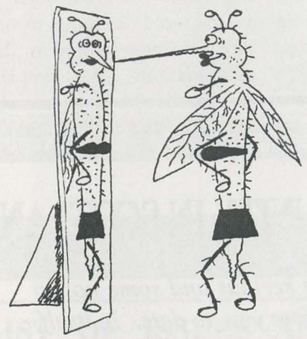
What is the most important job for a tranny when they have moved house? Come on now - it's an easy one. That's it, of course, where architecturally possible you fit a loft ladder and board out the available roof space. What else could be more important apart from increasing the mirror content considerably, perhaps.

Once the ceiling joists have been covered you are then free to festoon dowelling from all available trims, purlins etc. and if you have not already got a large supply to hand, you order a load of dress covers and fill copiously with your myriad of dresses, skirts etc. Actually, I only use suit covers in the main as my dress code can accurately be described as 'minimalist', with only the odd long outfit to wear when certain of my friends insist. I love those multi skirt hangers which I cannot seem to get any more. I have a dozen but could do with loads more. They are ideal also for those strappy numbers and with the sort of dress and skirt resource I have they are essential, even with all the space I have to hand.

Next to organise is the shoe and boot rack. The thigh boots can all hang up but the shoe mountain requires a lot more space. It's not easy being one of us but just think of the consolations. I'm not in the least a D.I.Y. person and loathe the very thought of all this effort, but when downhearted and getting just a touch ratty - I think of the goal and struggle on. There's no gain without pain, as my dentist implies ... and his new Jag appears to prove the point. Why do I have all this gear? What do you mean - why? Doesn't everyone? I mean, if I hadn't spent all that hard earned cash on clothes then it could have been frittered away on frivolities such as savings, or a big house. I don't need a big house - just a big loft, and if I didn't spend it then some far off relation might get it one day. I'm doing my best to circumvent that possibilty.

I had a fright recently though. My favourite Wolford tights are made in Austria. Now when I say favourite, it actually means they are the *only* ones I wear and in order to ensure I have a regular supply in case of famine, war, Brussels regulations etc., I try to maintain my stock at what I consider to be an adequate level. No, I'm not going to tell you what that level is. Suffice to say that my friends feel that I'm 'cornering the market'. Now you may be aware that Austria went through, well just let's say a 'difficult period', and was threatened by all sorts of reprisals by our 'sprouting masters' in Brussels. What if they were isolated and my top-up supplies were threatened? I did lay in a few extra pairs just in case and considered my options as to how I would get round any ban. There are ways after all, and the problem is not new. I'm a stubborn little so and so, you see.

My childhood in Central Scotland before and during the war - I repeat for those nasty ones who imply otherwise, the *Second* World War - made me conscious of how important it



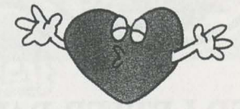
is to store what ultimately may be oin short supply. Don't mention bottled plums! Hence, my loft will be generously stacked with lots of slinky little numbers, tights, etc. for a sunny day. No, not a rainy day - might get my wig wet. Gosh, nearly forgot. Must add a shelf up there for my wig heads. Just a short one about six feet should do.

Don't forget that lofts can get cold in winter so you may like to add a tubular low wattage heater, thereto. Beware, however, if you live in 'midgie country'. They can get into lofts, and a nice warm one may be just what they are looking for. Why do you think I moved south after sixteen years in Scotland, four years in the Canadian Arctic, two years in Cyprus and one at Dounreay? I'd had my fill of midgies, alternate cold and mosquitoes and then heat and the occasional scorpion, before returning to the midgies. If I hadn't had my tranny side heaven knows what would have become of me. I could have been driven to golf or crime. My friend Barbara says my dress sense is criminal but I'm sure she means 'arresting'. At least it's not plus fours. Thank heaven for little girlie things in my youth.

Haven't found any of those nasty midgies in Hastings yet, but there are a few strange men wearing odd helmets and sporting bows and arrows. That, no doubt, may mean one in the eye for someone ... must keep a good lookout when beachcombing. No, not *back* combing ... put your glasses on ...

End

ANIMAL ATTRACTION!



Kennet Alboury, a zookeeper in Reykjavik, Iceland, fell in love with Brunella the penguin. A colleague explained, *"He never left her enclosure. He wouldn't look after any other animals. He just said 'Brunella needs me.'"*



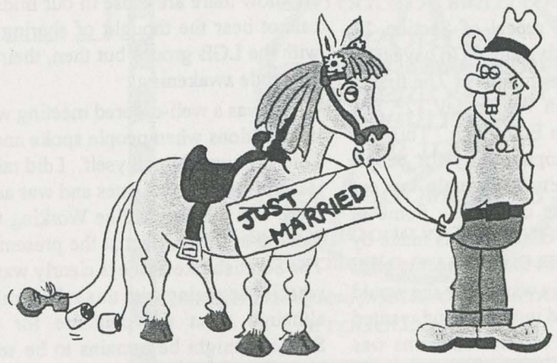
He was fired after he was found dressing the penguin in female underwear, despite his protestations that it was only to keep her warm. A zoo official said, *"How he was supposed to do this with a sexy bra and suspenders is anybody's guess."*

Kennet, in the meantime, began a new career as a taxidermist's assistant. Reflecting on his zoo experience, he commented sadly, *"For a while my life was perfect. But now she's gone and I'm stuffing squirrels."*

New Zealand poultry worker Norman Hireme was fined $50 after being found guilty of causing a chicken extreme pain and distress. Besotted by the chicken in question, he picked it up and gave it such a hug that its excrement shot several metres through the air to hose a fellow worker - who then brought this to the attention of the authorities.



Cowboy Ross Howard of Denver, Colorado, USA, got so upset about transsexuals wanting to marry, he wanted to make his point by marrying his horse. He was refused a licence, however, on a technicality. The law says three-year-olds need parental consent.



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

RED LETTER DAY FOR THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY IN SCOTLAND

"I have been the author of many articles and reports in my time, some serious and some not so serious. I consider the following the most important one to have placed before you, to date. In itself, it is nothing more than a report of a meeting, nothing more than a comment on the beginning of a process. But in the implications of what that process holds there lies the shape of our community and our individual lives for the future."

Ruth Stewart

On Wednesday 21st June this year, the Scottish Parliament voted by an overwhelming majority to repeal Section 2A (widely referred to as Section 28). Tremendous news for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities. So why didn't I hear you cheering? And why didn't I hear your outraged opinion when the issue was being spread all over the front pages of our newspapers, week after week? Ah... I've got it. This is about politics. This is about the *real* world... and you don't believe you're really a part of that. Do you? Well, have I got news for you – you can't escape from it. Politics is everywhere and everything. You want a better NHS for your old age, better education for your children, better security in employment, better pension rights, better...

Ruth Stewart is the Scottish Regional Organiser for the Beaumont Society and is Co-ordinator of Crosslynx, the West of Scotland Support Group

Following the repeal of Section 28, the Scottish Executive moved to have talks with the LGBT communities. The first of these took place on Wednesday 12th July at Victoria Quay in Edinburgh. This was a groundbreaking opportunity for people from our community to directly lay our concerns at the feet of MSPs. Some of you will be aware of the efforts made by Julia Gordon to elicit these concerns prior to this meeting. Julia was aware she would not be able to attend in person and wanted to ensure that a list of these concerns was presented on the day. True to form, hardly anyone bothered to respond, but the sixteen points that were forthcoming were placed in the hands of Jackie Baillie MSP, Deputy Minister for Communities and her team of advisors, by myself at the meeting.

So what happened at the meeting? Well, those who know me won't expect me to remember much of what was said over the 2½ hours I was there! But to set the scene... It was Chaired by Jackie Baillie and a team of five advisors, with 26 delegates from the LGBT communities. From the transgender community there were two people I recognised from the West Lothian Transgender Group and myself (on behalf of the Beaumont Society.) Although the LGB organisations were well versed in their own concerns, I was surprised to discover that some of these were on our list, too. We all know there are those in our midst who cannot bear the thought of sharing a bed with the LGB groups but then, their's will be a rude awakening!

It was a well-ordered meeting with no interruptions when people spoke and, yes, I did say something myself. I did raise the issue of Birth Certificates and was advised there was a Home Office Working Group looking at this subject at the present time. The Scottish Executive is clearly watching what is happening with this at Westminster, although what the outcome for us in Scotland might be remains to be seen. I was also, personally, very interested in education as a means of starting to remedy many of our ills. This is something the LGB groups are hopeful for in the future, too, since the repeal of Section 28. Who was it said, *"Education Education Education"* at the last general election? Unless we change attitudes at basement level – in the schoolkids of today – we'll never have a society that we can feel a part of. Your birth certificate changes won't matter a damn.

But it wasn't a meeting where decisions were going to be taken. That was not the purpose. The purpose was simply to open discussion on the following:

- consideration of the Equality Strategy* and report on responses
- future dialogue and consultation with LGBT communities in Scotland
- key equality issues for the LGBT community – within the Scottish Executive's remit to promote equal opportunities

Finally, there was a moment I think worthy of mention, when someone unconnected with the transgender community remarked on *"the balanced view of the state of the minority communities"* to be found within the pages of... aye, you've guessed ... The Tartan Skirt!

Don't bother cheering, or sigh with relief. That would be premature. And whatever you do, don't assume that someone else is looking after *your* interests. That's not what *any* of us is about, if we're really honest with ourselves. The best we can hope for is that others give us an opportunity to look after our *own* interests. Now we *have* an opportunity to show how a small, minority community can respond effectively to the needs of its members. The train pulled out of the station that day with frighteningly few T-folk on board... but there will be stops down the line, opportunities to get on board. Please don't leave a few to do the work of many, in case *your* needs go unheard.

End

* The Scottish Executive's Equality Strategy and a report on responses can be found at *www.scotland.gov.uk*

LIST OF ISSUES AND CONCERNS ARISING FROM LIVING A TRANSGENDERED LIFESTYLE IN SCOTLAND TODAY.

- *Unable to marry partner of choice if perceived as same sex in law - the birth certificate issue*
- *'Medical' grounds used to deny child custody and access, supported by Scottish Court system.*
- *Used as grounds for divorce – 'unreasonable behaviour'.*
- *Prevented from adopting or fostering children.*
- *Discrimination in education.*
- *Denied appropriate segregation and treatment in prison.*
- *Discrimination in employment.*
- *Local Government Act prohibits recognition of discrimination against transgender persons by companies tendering for contracts.*
- *Harassment and ridicule in public – issues around fears for personal safety.*
- *Unsympathetic and insensitive police attitudes.*
- *Media intrusion into private lives.*
- *Social exclusion.*
- *Lack of public awareness.*
- *Family alienation*
- *Transgender issues are not raised in schools.*
- *Patchy and inconsistent healthcare provision.*

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IMAGINE

Imagine there's a bank that credits your account each morning with £86,400.
It carries over no balance from day to day.
Every evening it deletes whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day.
What would you do? Draw out every penny, of course!!!
Each of us has such a bank. Its name is time.
Every morning it credits you with 86,400 seconds.
Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest.
It carries no balance, it allows no overdraft.
Each day it opens a new account for you. Each night it burns the remains of the day.
If you fail to use the day's deposit, the loss is yours. There is no going back.
There is no drawing against tomorrow. You must live in the present on today's deposit.
Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, happiness and success!
The clock is running, make the most of today.
To realise the value of one year, ask a student who failed a grade.
To realise the value of one month, ask a mother who gave birth prematurely.
To realise the value of one week, ask the editor of the Tartan Skirt.
To realise the value of one hour, ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.
To realise the value of one minute, ask a person who missed the train.
To realise the value of one second, ask a person who just avoided an accident.
To realise the value of one millisecond, ask a person who won a silver medal in the Olympics.
Treasure every moment that you have!
And treasure it more when you share it with others.
Remember that time waits for no one.
Yesterday is history
Tomorrow is mystery
Today is a gift
That's why it's called THE PRESENT.

. toc ... *tic* ... toc ... *tic* ... toc ... *tic* ... toc ... *tic* ... toc ... *tic* ... toc ... *tic* ... toc ... *tic* ... toc ... *tic* ... toc ... *tic* ... toc ... *tic* ... toc ... *tic* ... toc ..

Laffalongatrannie...

Men dressing up as women has provided American film-goers with some of their funniest moments. Recently voted number one of all time was **"Some Like It Hot"** with Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis, followed by **"Tootsie"**, starring Dustin Hoffman. (Stanley Kubric's "Dr. Strangelove" came third and Woody Allen's "Annie Hall", fourth.)





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Tina's Travels

The Tartan Skirt's Roving Reporter With News From Around The World

It seems another directive is headed this way from Europe, which is guaranteed to offend religious groups - again. Apparently, under the proposals, schools run by religious organisations will no longer be able to discriminate against employing teachers and other staff on the basis of their religious beliefs or sexual orientation. If there's one thing religions don't need to be lectured on, its how to show tolerance. Right?

After the weather we've had this summer, I'm trying to decide where to book my holiday in 2001. According to the 'gender empowerment index', an index measuring the comparative earnings of women and men, and the ratio of women to men in employment – a 'rough guide' to the tolerance factor for T-folk - I should take a look at Norway. Britain comes fifteenth in the list, so Torquay's out of it next year, and as for a trip to Chile... way down the list at 51!

I've been thrown out of more pubs than I care to recall in my time, but unlike Lisa Jones from Longwood, Huddersfield, I wasn't dressed at the time (that was precisely the problem) and, maybe I'd had one too many! Lisa, on the other hand, was barred from entering her local pub because *"her presence was upsetting the regulars"* and women had complained she was using the ladies toilet. (I just pissed in the corner!) Lisa lives as a woman but has not had reassignment surgery. She took her complaint to the Equal Opportunities Commission and agreed an out of court settlement of £1000 in compensation, an apology, and a welcome back from Landlord David Woodhead of the Jacob's Well at Honley. The 1999 Sex Discrimination Act, gender reassignment regulations, only cover issues in employment and vocational training. The Equal Opportunities Commission said it was important for the service sector to have policies which did not discriminate. I'll drink to that.

I cried for Argentinean transgender activist Vanesa Lorena Ledesma who died in police custody in Cordoba's 18th precinct on 16th February this year. She'd been arrested five days previously for allegedly damaging the premises during a fight in a bar. The cause of her death was given as cardiac arrest. Local activists claim that autopsy evidence reportedly found broken bones and signs she had been beaten all over her body, while still handcuffed.

I never thought, for the life of me, I'd ever want to get married again. First time I couldn't believe it... I tried it a second time. It *was* true! So as I sat in my tent in the windswept Outer Mongolian desert, tuning into the Beeb, you could have knocked me down with a camel's pubic hair if I wasn't being crackled at by that religious lot, the Evangelical Alliance, informing me in no uncertain terms that I was defying God's Law and being incompatible with his Creation (oops, sorry God) by wanting to change my birth certificate and get married. It strikes me they want to have their cake and eat it, that bunch. How can anyone claim to *"affirm God's love and concern for all humanity"* and then ration that out according to *men's* love and concern for all humanity? Never one to refuse a challenge, I immediately proceeded to place an add in the 'personals' column of the Ulaan Baatar Daily Sport...

Bussing my way across Colchester, earlier this year, my eyes were drawn to the person behind the steering wheel. I could only see the back of her head and catch the occasional, *"Exact fare, please"*, spoken in an undertone... so I couldn't say for sure... Tommy Simpson's been driving buses for Arivva for 20 years – and wearing women's clothes for twice as long. Now he's left the depot on a journey that will enable him to arriva as Thomasina in a year or so, after reassignment surgery. His boss, his Union, and his Mum are right behind him. Unfortunately, his four brothers and his sister got off at the first stop. One of his colleagues remarked, *"Tommy has always been one of the boys. It's a hell of a shock."*

I was sitting drinking iced tea with buttered scones in the Main Street Bakery and Café in Trinidad, Colorado, when screams of, *"Oh, my God. Those women I'm waiting on? They're men!"* caused me to turn my head, slowly and discreetly, in time to catch the person responsible for the outburst, a young waitress, clutching the lapels of her manager as he tried to withdraw into the kitchen, grinning Basil Faulty-style at the clientele as he withdrew. The waitress, well, she was new in town. Hardly anyone else gave the four sisters she'd been serving, a second glance. Not here, not in Trinidad, Colorado - Sex Change Capital of the World. What makes this former coal mining town unique is that for 30 years transsexuals have been a part of the landscape, ever since an Iowa native who once wanted to become a rabbi became a general surgeon instead (circumcisions had obviously whetted his appetite) and moved here in 1969 to set up practice. Now, Dr. Stanley Biber generates about $1 million a year for the Mount San Raphael Hospital - run by Catholic nuns! *"He's very good for business,"* said Steve Violante, the owner of the Main Street Bakery and Café. His wife Monica tells me, *"I live in the sex-change capital of the world. We've no industry, but we've sex changes. It's the norm. I think it's kinda cute."* Unable to finish my scones upon hearing the word "cute" yet again, fearful of a bout of uncontrolled nausea, I paid my bill and left.

I move around America with a heightened sense of caution as *'a person of transgender experience'* - sustained, I have to say, by the continuous reports of violence against my sisters who live in God's country. The latest horrific slaying of Amanda Milan in June this year brought out the very worst of hatred and intolerance when, lying bleeding to death on a sidewalk of New York city, the stabbing victim of an unprovoked and malicious hate attack, some cabbies were observed to cheer and applaud the incident. A yellow cab will mean something different to me from now on.

Another piece of useless research – honestly, have they nothing better to do with their time? – has got some of us in a tizz. Now, it seems most transsexuals are left-handed, at least, according to Richard Green, Professor of Psychiatry at Imperial College, London. But before you take this dictate as the ultimate vindication of who you've always known yourself to be, I should also point out that, according to another 'researcher' in America, you're also more likely to be a homosexual! But keeping sex out of it for the moment, we are further reliably informed that we have more aunts than uncles on our mother's side and male transsexuals tend to have a lot of older brothers! There's a word that comes to mind when I come across this bullshit... yes, that's the word. I wonder what Professor Green would make of my being ambidextrous? But then, maybe that's sex coming back into it.

Dib, dib, dib. Ah, fond memories of a misspent youth as a 'Boy' Scout were brought back to me as I read of the fight against the ban on gays in the American Scout movement. My God, I thought *everyone* in the Scouts *was* gay. Certainly it was the time spent in comradely pursuits under canvas that provided many of us with opportunities to explore the wondrous new sensations that puberty offered us. And as for our Scout Leaders??? We-ell, I have no personal experience here, but...

Since devolution, there have been over 600 challenges under the Human Rights Act concerning abuses by public authorities and institutions in Scotland. It's a badge of shame we wear so long as we continue to treat people badly. But it is also to our credit that here, in Scotland, we are prepared to support and encourage the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights in a way that is sadly lacking elsewhere. My understanding of events in the social history of our nation tells me there have been times in our past when we have held dear the values of equality and respect for the common man. Free to find our way again, will we once more strive to create the kind of society we can only dream about for the present?

Still on Human Rights, it's been a while since Canada lost its largely undeserved 'poor cousin to the USA' status. OK, so it's had its problems with the Quebec issue, and some of its prime ministers have displayed unique and individual styles of leadership, but for all that it's a country that knows its own mind and goes its own way – I'm very glad to say - particularly, since Ottawa has now made the recommendation to add gender identity to the 23 year-old Canadian Human Rights Act. Former Supreme Court Justice Gerard La Forest said, *"We find a small number affected, but grievously."* Yeah, know what you mean, Gerard. It was only in July this year that Jack Straw made the final preparations for the European Human Rights Convention to be incorporated into

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Boy Meets Girl... Boy Becomes Girl... Girl Becomes Boy...

First Channel 4 commissioned Big Brother – a 'social experiment' to find out what happened when ten men and women shared a house under constant scrutiny. Now they're planning an 'educational docu-soap', to see what happens when men and women switch roles. For at least three weeks, two men and two women will live, work and booze as the opposite sex. The three one-hour programmes, titled Boy Meets Girl, are likely to be shown early next year.

A spokeswoman for C4 insisted the programme was not about cross dressing, sex or trans-sexualism. *"It is about the social issues, about how people treat you in the workplace. It is not people wanting a sex change,"* she said. *"I doubt very much we are going to encourage people to go down the route of a sexual relation-ship. I think what you are more likely to find is the situation of going to a pub or a bar and the whole chat-up scenario."* Social issues? How people treat you at work? Difficulties forming relationships? I'd always thought a transgendered lifestyle was concerned with issues *precisely* like these.

Yet how very subversive and sexually titillating – and how culturally significant, how politically relevant. Or perhaps not, given the dubious assumption that gender is grounded in a checklist of behaviours that can be exchanged at will. No, gender is, of course, infinitely more complex than that, formulated as it is according to past experiences and the anticipation of future ones and, most significantly, grounded in the knowledge that 'this is it' for you. Your gender can't be shrugged off, swapped or replaced. Nor can it be learned in a Channel 4 crash course scenario. But if it gets people thinking...

English law. He signed an order giving full effect to the Human Rights Act from October 2nd. What that means is that England will fall into line behind Scotland in allowing complainants to pursue their cases through domestic courts rather than through the Human Rights Court in Strasbourg. Mind you, I reckon we've both still got a bit of catching up to do with Canada.

There's one part of the world I avoid if at all possible. It's where the women wear trousers and men wear long flowing dresses - and it gets very hot, for a lot of folk. In July this year, Saudi Arabia executed three Yemeni men found guilty of *'committing the extreme obsenity of homosexuality and imitating women,'* in violation of Islamic Sharia Law. Phew, all I've got to worry about back home is the odd bit of verbal and physical abuse! Sort of gets it into perspective, doesn't it?

Simon Funnel, headmaster of King's College, a public school in Taunton, Somerset, is clearly in possession of the facts surrounding his bursar's decision to undergo gender reassignment. *"The bursar has very little contact with pupils,"* he said, then quickly added, *"but, in any case, transsexualism does not involve any kind of threat to others."* Take a hundred lines Simon, *'I must appear supportive of the bursar at all times and not allow my personal fears to be in evidence when I am attempting to persuade parents not to remove their children from college for fear of being interfered with by a sexual deviant.'*

The Rev Peter Stone is set to become the first Church of England priest to undergo gender reassignment. Judging by the reception his announcement received I hope his faith is strong enough to sustain him. It's hard enough being derided and ridiculed in the Express (but what else can anyone expect from this publication) with diatribe like, *"Is he really going to bombard his body with powerful hormones ... allow a surgeon to mutilate his God-given genitalia for the dubious privilege of calling himself Carol, giggling with his girlfriends about what lipstick or nail varnish goes with his cassock and asking, 'does my bum look big in this?'"* without having to suffer the scorn of his brethren – or should that be cistern? – as well. The very reverend Vivienne Faull, Provost of Leicester Cathedral and the most senior woman in the Church of England, for instance, reckons the Rev Stone will always have hands and feet that are too large, a voice that is too deep and a muscular frame that betrays his masculinity. Your words speak of the compassion of your Church and say more of yourself, Vivienne, than they do of Peter.

Maybe Rev Stone could get in touch with Rev Erin Swenson, formerly of the Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia. Erin, born Eric, lost her congregation when, in 1966, she announced her intention to undergo gender reassignment treatment. Her efforts to be accepted within her Church came to nothing and now she leads an unofficial congregation... a transgender support group. *"When I'm with ministers, I'm the transsexual,"* she explains. *"When I'm with transsexuals, I'm the minister."*

Removing a cashier from their store in Piscataway, New Jersey, cost the retailing giant Wal-Mart $2,000,000 in a lawsuit. Ricky Bourdouvales, who dressed as a woman at his work, alleged that he had been sacked when the store found out he was actually a man. A spokesman for Wal-Mart said Bourdouvales was fired for *'misconduct'* but would not elaborate. At least now Ricky can afford his gender reassignment treatment. Can't say it pays to shop at Wal-Mart stores but it sure as hell pays to get fired from them!

It was sad reading April Ashley's recent comments in an interview she did for the Express. Now 65, one time queen of the catwalk, Vogue's favourite underwear model, erstwhile wife of Lord Rowallan, April has lived quietly in the States since leaving Britain forty years ago amid the scandal that followed when a friend sold her story to a downmarket newspaper for £5. Over these last few decades post-operative transsexuals have found themselves in the front line having to contend, in the full glare of publicity, with the fallout from legal inconsistencies within relationships and employment, etc. It was the voice of experience that said, *"People say things have changed but they haven't changed at all. I'm treated as a joke and I can't escape that. I'm stuck with it for the rest of my life." "Happily, I don't get slapped in the face any more but I think that has more to do with my age."* It was nothing short of ironic that her visit coincided with the long-awaited report of the government's interdepartmental working

group on transsexual people that acknowledges some of the difficulties faced by the transgender community.

There's a somewhat disturbing report called the Aversion Project to have come out of Johannesburg in connection with abuses that allegedly took place within the Voortrekkerhoogte Military Hospital near Pretoria, during the apartheid regime. Under the command of army colonel and chief psychologist, Aubrey Levin, a policy of treating homosexuals and *'deviants'* using electric chock therapy, hormone treatment and chemical castration was in place during the 1970s and 80s. When other methods of 'curing' homosexuality failed, military psychologists pressured soldiers into surgery. The army carried out as many as 50 gender reassignment operations a year. When the project was shut down some individuals were left in a partially altered state. The Aversion Project argues that the doctors concerned broke International Law, ignoring terms from the Geneva Convention and Tokyo Declaration, and that while the South African Army as an institution should be held accountable, Dr Levin has particular responsibility. Dr Levin emigrated to Canada at about the time he was warned by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that he would be named as an abuser of human rights.

Tell us something we don't already know. Researchers in Boston, Massachusetts, have come up with the startling findings that transgendered folk have poor access to healthcare. It doesn't help to have experiences generally akin to, *"I can't even make it through the front door without staff staring at me, laughing at me or whispering."* Participants reported feeling unsafe to receive health care, to not being addressed by their pronoun of choice, to being refused healthcare altogether. *"I'm looking for a doctor who will treat me like a human being with feelings,"* said Jodi Sperber, the study's co-author. I guess before that happens, Jodi, they'll have to *see* us as human beings with feelings. Perhaps, though, if your recommendations for a standard of care at healthcare centres, sensitivity training for physicians and office staff, and forms that don't restrict gender choices to 'male' and 'female', are implemented *and* enforced then at least their behaviour should reflect this position. And who knows, perhaps in time they'll even begin to believe it! You know what they say - pull someone along by their balls and their mind soon follows. Right?

It's hard enough being granted asylum in the States without being transsexual to boot. Fleeing persecution from her native Mexico, Christina Madrazo's eligibility for asylum has been eclipsed by her allegations of having been twice raped by the same official while being held as a detainee in South Florida's Krome Way Station. The guard in question has been removed to administrative duty elsewhere and is currently the subject of another investigation involving the alleged pressure of another female detainee into having sexual relations. I hope you find your sanctuary, Christina.

They were the first lesbian couple to marry legally in the UK. Now they are set to become the first lesbian couple to divorce, also. After just five weeks together Dee [redacted], a MTF transsexual who fell in love with and married lesbian Clair, is planning her divorce on grounds of unreasonable behaviour. Dee had been able to legally marry Clair only because she was designated male according to her birth certificate. Ironic, really. And you'll get no sympathy from me, dears. Should have listened to your mothers.

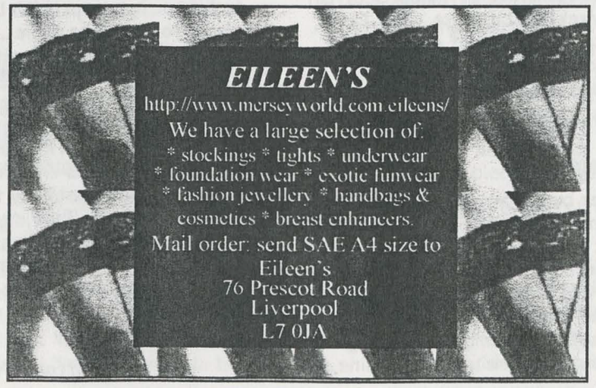
There's nothing so sad as a sore loser. The runner-up to 19-year-old Nguyen Thi Phuong Kieu, winner of the shot put at Vietnam's National Youth Games in July this year, claimed she was really a man. A medical examination showed that, while Kieu *did* have male genitalia, she also had ovaries. Despite the gender controversy this provoked, the result was upheld. Personally, I think it's time we did away with the restrictions imposed on men and women (and everyone else) competing together if they so choose. So much simpler – and much more fun in the showers afterwards!

Puerto Rico recently became a member of that fast-growing countries club that grants amendments to the birth certificates of transsexuals. The Supreme Court of this U.S. Territory permitted a male-to-female transsexual, Andres Torres Andino, to change the gender shown on her birth certificate. Ada Conde, president of a local gay rights group said, *"We have to respond to the times and to the social realities of the day."* Refreshing words of common sense.

Driving across Iowa State I was reminded of Ed Mathews who went along to update his address on his driving license so he could apply for a gun permit. As he checked his details on the computer screen in front of him, Ed noticed it read 'F' for female at the bottom. *"Wait a minute. What's this?"* he said to the clerk. The female designation, in fact, had been in Mathew's old license all along, but he'd never noticed it before. The clerk looked at the 'F', looked at Mathews and said she'd be right back. Forty-five minutes later he was informed he must produce a copy of his birth certificate before the 'F' could be changed to an 'M', whereupon Ed replied, *"That's ludicrous."* Taking a few steps back, he said, *"What do you think? Is it Ed or is it Edith?"* Not persuaded, in exchange for his payment of $1 the clerk gave him his new license with his sex still listed as female. We are not alone...

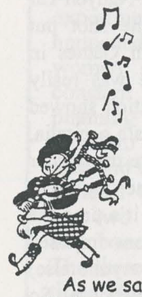
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(With grateful thanks for the contribution made by Press For Change News)



Bravetarts in Cyberia?

by Flora Frockland



As we say here in Bonnie Frockland ... hellorrare gu-rrrrl's, burly burdz, fella's n' frocks, lassie-boys and tuechter tarts!

It is always a sadness that more trannies, TVs, TSs, TGs, T-girls, cross-dressers, or however we may categorise ourselves, do not go out, meet and support each other. There are literally thousands of T-girls in Scotland, who, once, seemed poised in panties to effeminate Edna-bro' and girlify Gladys-gay, yet the scene seems to have deteriorated into a mere after-eight shadow! Have the bravetarts all surfed off to cyberia in a mass Hibernian cyber hibernation? Or is it high-time for those who talk the talk, to walk the walk **in real time?**

T in the Dark?

So what is wrong, why do so many Scottish lassie-boys say they want to get out, go public, meet other T-girls, yet they never do it? Is it because we have no national sisterhood, independent trannie club or even a fun event run by TGs for TGs? Are we all just shy guy mirror-tied trannie fantasists? Is it T in the dark?

Surely it is not .....

..... that there is no TG helpline and TG groups like Crosslynx, the Three 3G's, Reachout Highland etc, but ok I accept, quite rightly, these are aimed at help rather than fun.

..... that the numerous events run by Hide and Sleek aren't excellent fabby fun and very much appreciated, so much so, can it be fair to expect one person and their partner to continue to run our whole scene?

..... that Scottish t-girls have less courage or make less attractive girls?

.....that we are less supportive sociable or friendly than elsewhere?

..... because we have nothing like the English girls, who have endless numbers of events, clubs, weekends, outings and societies, all aimed at girls getting together for fun and making friends!

Or is that just it? We need more varied events and more people to get involved?

England 1, Frockland 0

Aaargh, so I mention the English ... sorree gurlz, but for me we are all sisters, and it is true they do organise things rather well ... Napoleon's in Manchester, Ron Storme's in London, Flamingo's in Blackpool, Brighton, Bournemouth, Leeds, Birmingham, wherever ... TransLiving, Roses, Northern Concorde, Mayflower Group ... Harmony Weekend, Bridal Weekend, Tinsel and Glitter Weekend! And what have we got on a regular basis ... a few, way too few fun girlies arbitrarily wiggling with great style, in a couple of gay clubs? Ok so I am trying to provoke us here, and what am I doing personally to improve the Scottish scene? We-ll each to their own, I would be delighted to help organise, be part of and support a club/café t-girl society, a float at Gay Pride, even reinstate an Annual Scottish TG Fun Weekend, but first, what I can do is write in the hope of starting a dialogue, aim to unite like minded girls and perhaps stir some Bravetarts into action ... so here are my suggestions ...

Gurrl Power

1/ Get yer buns down to your local TV meeting, Beaumont Society or Hide and Sleek evening and meet our sisters! These meetings are there to help us, the more who attend the better they will be ... ok it may freak you out at first or they may even appear boring to some, but they are utterly genuine, totally friendly, and a very good place for a girl to make contacts and friends! I confess I myself have had to miss the last two local meetings ... **but I still always aim to attend.**

2/ Get your gear on and come join in the Gay Pride Parade in Glasgow ... remember the more outrageous or feminine the outfit, the more make up you wear, the bigger the hair, the higher those heels, the more of us there are, the more fun it will be! Who the hell is going to recognise you? And so what if they do, just make sure you look your best and be assured it is Mardi Gras time when any boy is allowed to crossdress, even big butch hairy fairy ones!!! Oh, and it **is** totally ok for even "str8" people to show solidarity and freely walk with their sisters on Gay Pride Parades!

3/ Pick a town, a venue, a pub, a club ... and make it our place to meet each other ... a public place outwith the constraints and refuge of the TV help clubs, where any t-girl can go any time and the chances are she will meet another!

4/ Form the Tartan Skirt Sisterhood, Bravetarts, Frockland Femmes, whatever, with the singular sole purpose of meeting, making friends and furthering our love of being feminine. Easily done through this very mag ... all we need is some poor sucker to be secretary ... agree a modest annual fee ... and maybe even pass a gruelling initiation of submitting a piccie of you dressed ... and don't tell me that is difficult ... just ask at your local TV club, see who has a digital camera, and Bob's your auntie!

5/ Lets choose a place on the internet to make Scottish T-girl friends, keep in touch with each other and work on ideas to further our social scene.

Let's Talk Let's Walk

And if you have a problem sussing out where to go and be girlie ...you can contact me through my web site http://tuezdi.tripod.com ... [redacted] and I will be delighted to hear from you and meet you if possible. Chances are you bought this mag at Hide and Sleek or your local T-girl club ... so talk to the other girls and see what they think, or email me and tell me! Phew, that's nuff 'right on sister' stuff from me ... see ya honey bun ... oh btw I frequent the Polo Lounge in Glasgow and mine's a Bacardi Breezer!

hugz

Tiffany [redacted] x

VIKKI'S WEBWATCH

In this issue I'd thought I'd be a little less self-indulgent and shift the main focus to those long suffering people (no!, not the girls at the Boots make-up counter!), the wives and partners of transgendered folk. I will, however, keep to my main categories which are:

- ***Support Sites*** - Typical are the sites run and maintained by trusts, societies and support groups. They tend to be the best sources of general information on all aspects of transgenderism.
- ***Personal Sites*** - These sites are designed and maintained by Individuals.
- ***Commercial Sites*** - Theses include on-line shopping sites and sites advertising various services and products.

Vikki [redacted]

SUPPORT SITE REVIEW

Seahorse Society

Internet Address:-

http://www.btinternet.com/~seahorse.society

In keeping with my theme for this issue I found the Seahorse Society website to be a very good starting point for partners, friends and family of a transgendered person. Although not exclusively limited to friends, family etc. - it does cater for them. It also works closely with a number of other groups and the site has plenty of information and links if anyone wishes to explore further.

Conclusion - One of the best starting points for friends and family of transgendered people.

OTHER SUPPORT SITES TO CHECK OUT

- **Woman of the Beaumont Society (WOBS)**
  http://members.aol.com/wobsuk
  This a group run by, and for, Wives and Partners of Transvestites and Trans-sexuals.
- **Outskirts**
  http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Park/7312
  This Birmingham based group have a good site that will appeal to a wide spectrum. Liked the theme night initiative.

PERSONAL SITE REVIEW

Debs Space

Internet Address:

http://www.debsspace.f9.co.uk

This is simply a brilliant site. It offers a unique insight into the impact that having a transgendered partner can have. In Debs' case she tells, in detail, of the proverbial roller coaster of emotions she went through when she discovered her husband, Dawn, was transgendered. The site is very well put together (Dawn's handy work too!) and I found Debs' narrative to be very open and honest - basically it is a read that should not be missed. For all you romantics out there it even has a happy ending.

Conclusion - An essential visit for an insight to our often neglected partners. Congratulations to Debs and Dawn.

OTHER PERSONAL SITES TO CHECK OUT

- **The Two of Us**
  http://angelfire.com/me3/thetwoofus
  This is another charming site put together by husband and wife team of Sammy Jo and Odette.
- **Mandy Fraser**
  http://www.geocities.com/tallmandy_scotland
  Get to know another of our Scottish girls, Mandy, at her website.

COMMERCIAL SITE REVIEW

Two In One

Internet Address:

http://www.twoinone.co.uk

I bet you thought I'd struggle to find a commercial site for our partners - well I did. However I did find Two In One. It offers both online shopping and support services. The online shopping facility has all the essentials and prices are reasonable. One of the Support Services mentioned is to help with acceptance by friends, relatives, family etc.

Conclusion - Nice balance to this site offering the more complete package.

OTHER COMMERCIAL SITES TO CHECK OUT

- Here is another site that should go down well with most partners - it's a general shopping site after all. Check out *http://www.easyshop.co.uk*
- Again you could also try **Evans** - larger sizes including footwear to size 10.

NEWS

I recently came across this great site - yet another one that has everything. It's maintained by Crissy Wild and can be found at: *http://www.geocities.com/crissywild*

There is a lot to this site - but for this section I would direct you to Crissy's NEWS section for all the latest TG news. Watch out for more on this site in my next article.

Want to comment? Share something? Ask something? Just e-mail me at:

[redacted]

or drop me a line at the Tartan Skirt.

Your Stars



with Seòrus MacTheàrlaich

This quarter is still marked by retrograde planets so it's important for all signs to stock up for winter as Jupiter, the planet of plenty, will turn backwards at the end of September until January. Saturn, the planet of stability and control, will also become retrograde on September 12th so if you are planning improvements or changes it would be as well to have everything in place by then.

Aries

September - This month will be a busy one for relationships. Get out and enjoy yourself more often though you will be subject to powerful emotions and will feel the need to be alone around the Full Moon on the 13th.

October - Navel-gazing seems to be your favourite pastime this month. You can be quite headstrong and need to learn that the people around you are not just out to get you but to share their lives with you.

November - There will be quite a lot of tension in your life this month but Venus is shining favourably on you. And your professional life will improve later this month. It is also a time for reflection so look at what makes you to react to things the way you do.

Taurus

September - Have you prepared yourself for the coming winter? I don't just mean at the material level, but in your relation-ships with your friends. You may have neglected them lately so it is high time to rekindle the old fires.

October - You will need to look after your health or you could come down with a nasty cold. And it's not just your physical health you should be concerned about this month, but your emotional health too. Take time out for yourself.

November - If you followed my advice for last month, you will be able to endure this month without too many worries about your health. So now you can begin to enjoy life again a little bit more. Just don't forget to get all the necessary ingredients for a hot toddy, just to be sure.

Gemini

September - No, you can't escape your problems. You might feel better if you could simply run away, but let people close to you help - just keep your tongue under control.

October - You might feel like exploring new avenues, and that's great, so long as you do this before the 19th when Mercury is turning backwards, otherwise much confusion will be waiting in the wings!

November - For the first ten days relationships will be put under severe strain, but once Mercury is back to normal, you'll be able to contribute constructively once more to your work. And it seems romance could be in the air for you in the second half of the month.

Cancer

September - Things might be quite hectic this month, but remember to stop occasionally and just listen. Especially around the 13th as you have the chance then to come up with new ideas which might ultimately benefit you!

October - Family, where would we be without them? If you have sisters or brothers, they'll become very important to you this month, so long as you remember not to hide your true self .

November - Friends are very important to you this month, though you have to guard against being over-posessive with them. Remember to think first and speak only after you've carefully thought about what you want to say, otherwise you may find yourself spending a lot of time dealing with the repercussions your loose tongue caused at the beginning of the month!

Leo

September - Don't go into a huff just because people don't appear to be as interested in you as they used to. Perhaps you should make the effort to approach others rather than relying on them to come to you!

October - You're in the mood for dancing and socialising and singing, and so many other things, but also you feel very insecure when you're routine is compromised. Find ways to combine these two urges this month, otherwise the atmosphere at home might be strained.

November - Your home will be the focal point for you this month. Your parents and close family will be able to create the sense of security you're craving this month. But it might also be helpful to look at why you're feeling so insecure and try do something about this yourself.

Virgo

September - Time passes quickly. Instead of crying over spilt milk, get up, dust yourself down and get moving. This month the moon will cause you to turn your attention to your close relationships. This month, with Venus crossing her own sign Libra and your second house, these will become easier.

October - Now, you have plenty of energy to put into practice everything you've planned for so long. But hurry, your sign ruler Mercury is poised to put some obstacles in your way from the 19th onwards.

November - The pace of your life will quicken this month, and after some slight problems early on, your intellect will feel unconstrained. Your desire to discuss everything and analyse the slightest nuances will help you to feel on top of things, but remember that this treatment can cause also kill off a good idea.

Libra

September - Yes, here we go again. You want to throw convention overboard and live your life as the myterious temple dancer you really are. But the walls around you seem too inpenetrable. If you look hard enough, though, there's a little door, around the time of the New Moon, which hold the promise of freedom.

October - This month you have to put a lot of effort into balancing your private, social and public life. You feel you are being torn apart in all directions. Concentrate on the issues that are important to your true self and you will come out of this much stronger.

November - This month you have chance to rediscover the love that flows through your everyday life. Remember this, as your past will come back to haunt you. Remember, too, the past is only as real as you make it!

Scorpio

September - You enjoy digging around in the muck of other people's lives, but now you realise your own isn't much better. And you may feel threatened, so find ways of remaining calm and staying in control.

October - You are of a mind to follow your dreams this month. They seem very powerful but remember, it's for you alone to know how far you go with them. When Neptune turns again on the 16th your appreciation of reality will return.

November - Self-doubts are plentiful this month, especially early on. Remember, this is the start of the old Celtic year, so take the plunge and go for it. Trust the Universe around you to guide you.

Sagittarius

September - It looks as though this could be a good time to show your new face to the world, so long as it *is* a new face. Dare to step in a new direction.

October - What's up with you? Have you forgotten how to have fun? All work and no play, ... you know what I'm saying here, don't you? Think again about your inner needs to get back in balance.

November - People will gather around you like moths to a flame. This should help offset these morbid feeling you've been having. Things will even out eventually, believe me.

Capricorn

September - You feel bored? Well then, pack your bag and take in the pleasures of travel. Meet new people and gain new insight! While you might all too easily remember past disappointments, don't let yourself become intimitated by them.

October - Don't dream it, just be it!!! Your imagination is taking you off on flights of fancy that scare you a little. Why not let a little of it enter your life since, by the end of the month, your sense of reality will have returned to guide you once more.

November - It's a sair fecht. You're in a period when every-thing you achieve is down to your own hard work and right now nothing seems to be going right. But the Full Moon will offer deep, emotional experiences which could ultimately prove very rewarding.

Aquarius

September - So others might say you're kinky, but do you really care? You may become very emotional this month, especially around the Full Moon, but hey, that's life. It might be scary, but at least it's not boring.

October - You might just feel like doing your own thing, though you have to be careful not to become too egocentric. The people close to you really love and care for you, though your relationships might seem a bit confused from the middle of this month onwards.

November - The Full Moon on the 19th gives you a chance to take a good look at yourself without it being a soul-destroying exercise. Be honest with yourself, as then you can approach people much more openly. Beware of sacrificing yourself on another's altar. Stand your ground or you'll end up on your backside!

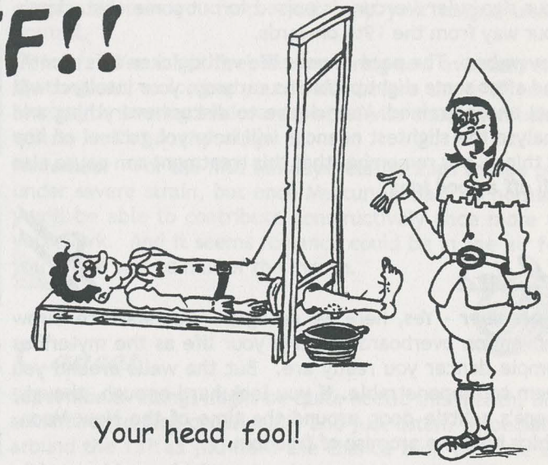
Pisces

September - "When I fall in love, it will be forever, ..." Does this sound familiar to you? Well it should, and this month tends to favour you in the romantic department. You will be able to find a new partner, or go over a present relationship, without compromising your own sense of self.

October - Have you checked your bank balance lately, or is this just too depressing? So depressing in fact that you have to try to cheer yourself up by going on a shopping spree? Might be an idea to get some money in first, though this may be not be as easy as it sounds, but Mars will help you.

November - Sex is uppermost in your mind this month, and you can connect with partners not only on a physical level, but on an intellectual level as well. So enjoy the short days and the long nights! Your close family will be able to create the sense of security you're craving this month. But it might also be helpful to look at why you're feeling so insecure and try do something about this yourself.

HAVING IT OFF!!



Your head, fool!

The very thought of removing a healthy limb in error is likely to give a surgeon an acute and overwhelming panic attack, as he envisions his career fast disappearing down the drain along with all the other blood and snot. Not so for John Ronald Brown. "Butcher Brown" was an unlicensed surgeon who operated *(no pun intended)* out of Mexico until sentenced to 15 years to life for the botched amputation of a healthy leg from a man who wanted it removed, and who had later died from complications. But Brown, in complying with the man's request, was also satisfying his own desire. His behaviour was precisely that of someone exhibiting a rare obsession - generally regarded as a sexual fetish, and similar to that of people who desire sexual relations with disabled people - called *apotemnophilia*.

The compliant removal of healthy body parts, on the other hand, has long been perceived as surgical mutilation and psychiatric collusion with delusion. But for a small number of individuals the removal of healthy limbs is the only hope they have for counteracting the overwhelming despair they suffer from. For people with **Body Dysmorphia Syndrome (BDS)** there is only the compulsion, the psychological obsession, to physically alter their body to match their 'idealised body image'.

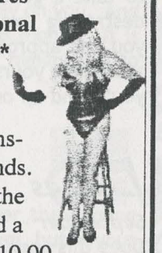
The desire to remove perfectly healthy limbs was brought to public awareness recently, following the limb amputations performed on two patients by Mr Robert Smith, general surgeon, at Falkirk and District Royal Infirmary. Subsequent media interest resulted in the hospital withdrawing approval for further operations. Such candidates for surgery do not respond to treatments such as psychotherapy or drugs, and will often consider self-injury, such as self-cutting, illegal surgery, the use of railway tracks to sever limbs, gunshot wounds, etc. to achieve their desired aim. An ophthalmologist was recently persuaded to remove a patient's normal eye because the person was beginning to injure it herself.

The cause of BDS is not known. For many, memories start in childhood and are frequently identified with an amputee. Attempts by the individual to repress their feelings only result in guilt and shame. The psychiatric view of BDS is one of a *body image disorder*, where the individuals concerned are unable to identify with particular parts of their bodies, and live their lives emotionally as amputees. While it is recognised as a condition having a potentially fatal outcome if untreated, it is a difficult concept for a surgeon. His fear of public reaction balanced against the clinical needs of his patient...

There are many similarities, both in their pain and in their histories, between sufferers of Body Dysmorphia Syndrome and surgically motivated gender dysphoric persons, and in the judgmental attitudes of society and of the medical profession towards them. Today, however, the gender dysphoric, at least, knows his goal of remedial surgery can become a reality.

End

Trans Life Magazine



*****colour pictures ***stories***personal profiles***contacts*** beauty features***medical and legal updates.** In fact it's the brightest, liveliest read for the whole trans-gender community, their family and friends. For a full info-pack and sample copy of the world's best Transgender Magazine, send a sterling International Money Order for £10.00 to:- **TransLiving International, Dept. T.S.S. PO Box 3, Basildon Essex. SS14 1PT. United Kingdom**

E-Mail:- [redacted]

To use Access / Mastercard or Visa.

Phone:- 01268 [redacted]

Our information is posted in a plain brown envelope. Your enquiry will be handled promptly and you won't be contacted further unless you ask.

TransLiving International is a British-based voluntary self-help network dedicated to serving the needs of Transvestites, Transsexuals, their families and friends. It hosts the UK's biggest monthly TV/TS group party, runs friendly HelpLine services and publishes a wealth of useful information.

NOTICEBOARD

Tartan Weekend – Friday 17th to Sunday 19th of November at the Minto Hotel, Edinburgh. Event organised by Hide & Sleek – phone 01592 [redacted] for more details.

CROSSLYNX PROGRAMME

Sept. 13th	"Other Peoples Lives" (true stories)
Oct. 11th	Beetle Drive and AGM
Nov. 8th	'Accessories' by Pearl
Dec. 13th	Disco 2000 Fancy Dress (optional)

CALL FOR SUBJECTS

If you would like to take part in, or find out more about a study of children of a transgendered parent being carried out by Diana Aitchison of Women of the Beaumont Society, please write to her at 3 Wiles Close, Waterbeach, Cambridge CB5 9LD. Or Phone: 01223 [redacted] leaving name and address clearly on answerphone if unanswered, or mobile: 0771 [redacted]. Or e-mail: [redacted]. Subjects may be reassured that ALL INFORMATION will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

New Guide...

The A-Z of Crossdressing, compiled by Carol Taylor, covers many topics - breastforms, make-up, hormones, wigs, clothing, etc.

Enquiries and orders to Crosslynx, C/o GGLC, 7 Dixon Street, Glasgow.

Please Note:

Deadline for all advertising and submissions for the Winter 2000 issue of the Tartan Skirt is:

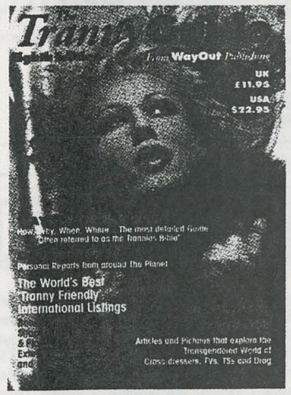
15th October 2000

DEADLINES ARE FIRM

Burns Supper at the Minto Hotel in Edinburgh - January 27th 2001. Tickets £15 from Irene at: 0131 [redacted]

The Tranny **Guide**

EIGHTH EDITION ***(the book)***



"The Tranny Bible" With over 300 pages aiming to excite, inspire, comfort and spread awareness of the global nature of the transgender phenomena through many great articles, over 1000 pictures and 1500 listings of shops, services, and places to go.

PLUS many personal reports including six from the UK alone.

PLUS "*The book within*" ***The WayOut of the Closet'*** with 66 pages of thoughtful advice for trannies, partners and those that want to understand more.

(£13.95 inc p&p UK)

The Tranny **Guide**

For Your TV (the video)

Cross-Dressing
How?
Why?
Where ?
Meet the 'Girls' chat in the dressing room.
Visit:-
Dressing
Services
Shops
Clubs
Mail order only



(£20.95 inc p&p UK)

WayOut Publishing, P. O. Box 70, Enfield, EN1 2AE

email [redacted] **Tel 07778** [redacted]

(payments to 'WayOut' EC add £1 Outside EC add £2)

www.wayout-publishing.com

Equality Network

The Equality network campaigns to remove the inequalities facing lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-gender people in the laws and institutions of Scotland.

THE EQUALITY NETWORK
58a Broughton Street
Edinburgh
EH1 3SA

Tel: 07020 [redacted]
Fax: 07020 [redacted]
Web site: www.diversity.org.uk/equality/
Email: [redacted]

intercourse
talking sex

Intercourse is about encouraging people to think and talk about sex in an open, mature and positive way.

60, The Pleasance
Edinburgh EH8 9TJ
http//www.intercourse.org.uk
[redacted]

Press For Change

— is fighting for YOUR rights and needs your support. JOIN THE FIGHT. Make a donation and receive a campaign pack.

- *has lobbied every member of parliament*
- *has had a Parliamentary Question asked*
- *has had The Times print a letter of support from 20 VIPs*
- *has a case going to the European Court of Justice*
- *has support from MPs in all political parties*
- *has the support of many Trade Unions*
- *is increasing public awareness of trans-sexual rights*
- *has 3 cases currently before the European Court of Human Rights*

Press For Change
BM Network
London WC1N 3XX

Fighting for the Civil rights of ALL Transsexual people.

CALL IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE

RANK OUTSIDERS

SUPPORT GROUP FOR GAY, LESBIAN, BI-SEXUAL AND TRANSGENDERED FORCES PERSONNEL, PAST & PRESENT

NATIONAL HELPLINE: 0171-[redacted]
(Wednesday 7-9pm. Answerphone at other times)
SCOTLAND CO-ORDINATOR: 01463-[redacted]
Rank Outsiders, BCM Box 8431, London WC1N 3XX
e-mail: [redacted]

CALL IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE

the Tartan Skirt Directory

Gendys Network

For all who have encountered gender identity problems personally, transsexuals, trans-gendered people and gender dysphoric people of either sex, and for those who provide care, both professional and lay.

For further information, write to:

Gendys Network
BM Gendys
London WC1N 3XX

e-mail: [redacted]

Scottish representative:
Sue Robb
3 Station cottages
Strathcarron
Ross-shire IV54 8YR

The Beaumont Society

The Beaumont Society is a nationwide self-help organisation for all those who cross dress. We hold many open social meetings around the country. The Beaumont Society is a welcoming membership organisation with its own magazine and newsletter.

For further details of Beaumont Society publications and events write to:

The Beaumont Society,
27, Old Gloucester Street,
London WC1N 3XCX

or telephone our Information Line:

01582 [redacted]

Web site - http://members.aol.com/Bmontsoc
E mail - [redacted]

Pride Scotland

You Can Help Make Pride Scotland Today

Whether it's volunteering with one of our working groups, helping raise money or staffing our offices in Edinburgh or Glasgow. It takes all kinds of people with all levels of experience to make Pride Scotland a success. Contact us today to find out how you can be a part of it.

contact: Keith Cowan
Human Resources Director
Pride Scotland

58a Broughton Street Edinburgh EH1 3SA
Tel/Fax: 0131 [redacted]

and 11 Dixon Street Glasgow G1 4AL
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3G
GRAMPIAN GENDER GROUP

Meetings are held in Aberdeen on the third Saturday of the month.

Contact: *Gillian*
Tel: 01224-[redacted]
(6.30 - 9.30 pm, Mondays & Tuesdays)

E-mail:
[redacted]

There is also an information page on the Press & Journal website -
http://beehive.thisisnorthscotland.co.uk/Grampian3G

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SGLS SWQITCHBOARD: 0141-[redacted] (7.00 - 10.00pm EVERY EVENING)

SCOTTISH TV/TS SUPPORT GROUP

Meetings are held on the last Saturday of the month from 1-5 pm at:

LGB Centre
63 Broughton Street
Edinburgh

Contact: Agnes Tel: 0131[redacted]

The Impotence Association

The Helpline 0181 [redacted]

The Impotence Association CHANGING ATTITUDES TOWARDS IMPOTENCE

National AIDS Helpline

0800 [redacted]

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WLTSG
west lothian transgender support group

Meetings are held on the second and last Saturday of the month from 5 pm onwards, and on every Tuesday and Friday evening from 6.30 till 9.30pm, at CROFTHEAD FARM COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTRE, TEMPLAR RISE, DEDRIDGE, LIVINGSTON.

Contact John at tel: 0780-[redacted] (Monday to Thursday, 6-9pm)
E-mail contact: [redacted]
Website: http://www.westlothiantsg.co.uk

transgender, family and friends .....

HIGHLAND T-GROUP

Information and support for the transgender community in the North of Scotland. Meetings are held in Inverness on the first Saturday of every month, from 2.00 - 5.00 pm at:

REACH OUT Highland
34 Waterloo Place
Inverness IV1 1NB

Contact: Julia Gordon
Tel: 01463-[redacted]
Fax: 01463-[redacted]
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Inverness IV1 1NB
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