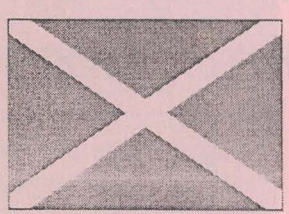
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the Tartan Skirt

Volume 7, Number 7
Summer 2000

The Magazine Of The Scottish Transgender Community

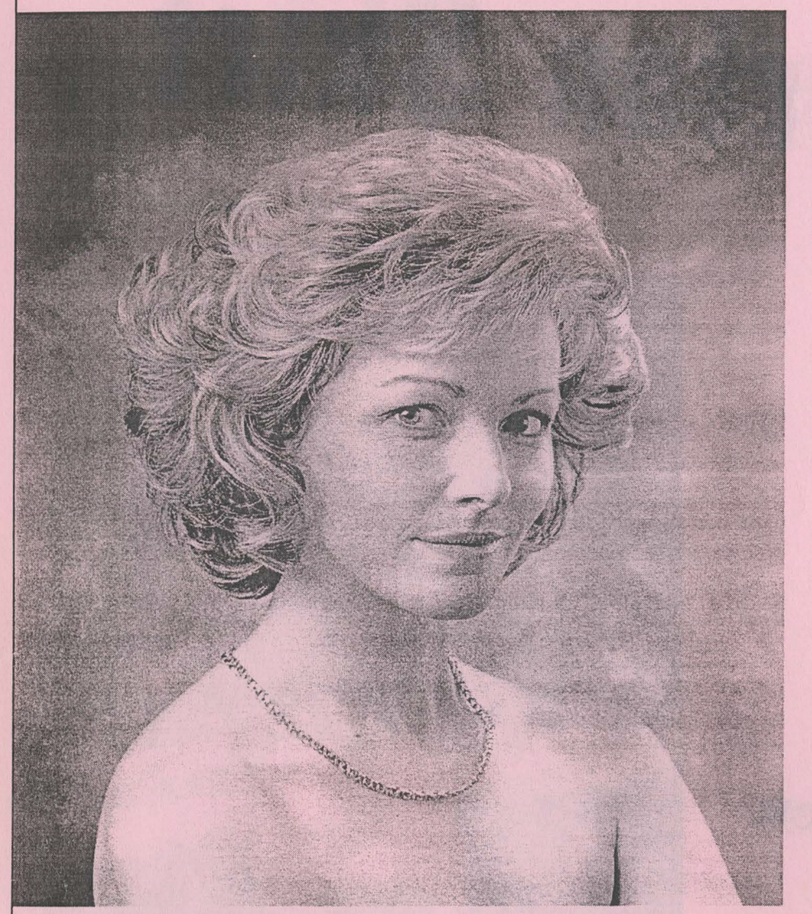




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The TARTAN SKIRT is the magazine of the Scottish Transgender Community brought to you through the efforts of members of the community and the support and encouragement of REACH OUT Highland.

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

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The TARTAN SKIRT is sponsored by REACH OUT Highland, 34 Waterloo Place, Inverness, IV1 1NB. The views expressed in articles and contributions are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the editor or Reach Out Highland. All items are published in good faith. No responsibility is accepted by the Tartan Skirt for items or services featured or advertised.

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Editorial

Livingston has been making the running again! Of course, I suppose it was only to be expected that, when they stuck their heads above the parapet, some folk would take a pot shot at them. But all credit, I say, for knowing what they want and going for it. Nine days on, people will have forgotten and they can get on with providing their local T-community with a better service, thanks to the £1000 grant from Lothian Health Board.

I was really impressed by the write-up over this award in the Courier, their local newspaper. It was interesting to compare the reporting here with the commentary I found in the Sunday Mail. For example, the Courier accurately reflected the language we use ourselves - transvestite, transsexual, and transgender, but nowhere in the Sunday Mail, however, did I find such an accomodation. Instead, they retreat to the comfort and safety of language their readership is accustomed to, the language of 'sex-change', the language that causes their minds to be stimulated in a certain way, but not so much that they have to think for themselves.

I guess Phil Gallie, the Conservative Party's home affairs spokesman, is able to think for *him*self. After all, it takes an informed mind to be able to come to the conclusion that the money would be better spent on the elderly and disabled, doesn't it? And I'm sure we're not going to catch Ann Allen, Convener of the Church of Scotland's Board of Social Responsibility, reading the Sunday Mail either. She knows only too well that a helpline for a marginal minority group like ourselves, will be under utilised. Now why didn't the Lothian group think to ask her first, before going to all that trouble?

I guess Lothian Health Board is way out of line with comments about their 'equality strategy' and 'confidential advice'. Never mind, your Tartan Skirt will continue to bring you news of what's *really* happening - if a little tardy. Now, excuse me while I add another two names to my list of folk to receive complimentary copies!!

Julia Gordon



A sneak preview of the banner the Livingston Group has come up with for the Scottish transgender community. See it for yourself, unfurled in Glasgow on September 2nd at the PRIDE Scotland event.

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Speak Out!



Use these pages to express your views and opinions, your anger or frustration, to ask for help, or just to say what's happening in your life right now.

Dear Tartan Skirt,

Re... The Missing Voice by Christine Burns (Vol. 7, No. 6)

Somewhere in the space you so kindly gave to Ms. Burns, there may be a decent (maybe even a new) point trying to get out ... but I have read it three or four times now, and I can't decide what it is! It became something of a challenge to find out what she was writing about! Better than a Times cryptic crossword! That is, if 'read' is the right word for struggling through three and a half pages of poorly scripted, bigoted bile, in which the word 'though' appears (quite unnecessarily) more times than 'the'! I am really annoyed that the Tartan Skirt should give Ms Burns such a wonderful opportunity to perhaps make some valid testament – only for her to screw it up!

I take it as a fact that Ms. Burns, as a Vice President of Press for Change (PfC), has a big hand in the preparation of their Press Releases and other written/spoken works. In which case, this article clearly shows why hard bitten national-media sub-editors must tend to spike anything with a PfC header as soon as they get it. Hence PfC get less press coverage on TS issues than they should. And that's why Ms. Burns gripes that the press should 'pause and feel ashamed' when it's actually Ms. Burns & Co. who should do that – for writing poor, boring stuff!

My perception – merely as a reader of only some national and specialist/relevant media is this, some brave transgendered individuals take the important steps, which PfC then claim as their own results!

If I'm correct, then that's PfC's fault, not the Press's! Surely PfC should be in there before the Scottish tabloids and News of the World, the People, the Mail, etc.?

In reality, all PfC have left to lobby for these days is the 'birth certificate & marriage' issue. Most of the other problems Ms. Burns identifies as 'TS bias' are fairly universal and actually happen to several other minorities too. These include various ethnic groups, fat people, the sick and disabled, and anyone over 40 seeking a new job, to name but a few (and I have personal experience of the last)! You won't get any change of Blair/Brown/'New' (sic) Labour in that direction! I was at Gendys a few years back when one presenter clearly showed that the experiences of TS people in the workplace was NOT very much different from that of anyone else! Check your facts, Ms. Burns.

I also get a strong impression (nothing is clear) that Ms. Burns (a.k.a. a voice of PfC) thinks she writes and speaks on behalf of ALL gender dysphoric people? I don't have any problems with B-Cert. changes myself, they make sense to me. But Ms. Burns and her cohorts certainly do NOT speak otherwise for me, as a married, heterosexual 'ordinary TV'. I suspect she despises us as not being 'real' transgenderists? Yet we make up at least 80% of the transgender world (as all the accredited independent research shows). Discussions with several fully changed transgendered people of my acquaintance suggest they don't all see themselves as gay either (although this remains a theoretical grey area in my view). Yet what does the executive of PfC imagine many thousands of ordinary people will think when they see (for example) PfC and TG banners at gay pride marches up and down the country? That ALL we cross dressers must be gay too, of course, just like those on Jerry Springer and especially on the Ricki Lake TV programmes. As the public at large does not draw much distinction between TV, TG and TS people, PfC's activities cast (in my view) very negative aspersions on all 80% of us. I deeply resent PfC's hand for creating and then confirming their impressions!

After this letter I shall ignore PfC as an anachronism and a pestilence.

Danielle

*****

Dear Tartan Skirt,

Re: Christine Burns' article – The Missing Voice

Let me state I am not Gay, not Bi, and categorically not homophobic, simply a hetero full-time trannie who gets on with life! I live in a glass house and refuse to throw stones at other people's sexual proclivities. But I do not agree with or support Press for Change for a number of fundamental reasons.

I believe the basis of their existence is to obtain the right to have their birth certificate changed under the column delineating sex from M to F, or the reverse as required? And thus be able to marry legally what had previously been a same sex person? A Birth Certificate is, by its nature, a historical document. It records an event in time. If you condone this change, then where do you stop – the Magna Carta?

C. Burns' argument for those with ambiguous genitalia at birth is to all intents and purposes, irrelevant to the argument for belated change (post transgender surgery). I asked a question, along with others, of a surgeon who did my 'prostate' at the Nuffield last year, as to the incidence of 'confused genitalia' at birth. His reply was that such accounted for a fraction of one percent, and almost infinitesimally so when it came to mistaking sexual identity for a B. Certificate. It can happen – but it's so, so rare. On such occasions Birth Certificates are sometimes changed.

What change are PfC pressing for? As I understand it M to F's want to be considered a woman in every respect (and vice versa). The definition of a woman in my dictionary is – *The female of the human species, capable of bearing live young'*. Likewise, the male is *'capable of impregnating the female with live sperm so that she conceives'*.

No matter what surgery may do to our bodies, we are born men and stay men (or women and stay women).

Should any change to the Birth Cert. of a post-op TS be considered, then it must (per force my argument above) be to change the considered and determined



"Has it ever occurred to anyone that if we stopped wearing these damned skirts we wouldn't have to march off to defend our manhood every five minutes?"

birth sex from either Male or Female to Neuter!

A post-op TS of either gender cannot conceive or impregnate by natural means. Therefore they (I can't say he or she) must be neuter – neither one thing nor the other.

I do not wish to get drawn into the *'with the right mental/outlook/lifestyle, a M to F TS becomes totally a woman'* argument, for I could advance the same reasoning process to myself and qualify fully as female – yet I am in no way a TS.

Surely all but the most bigoted must concur that a physiology displaying overtly male characteristics cannot plead an 'accident of genetic information' at conception through to birth for their unequivocal maleness? To argue for a Birth Certificate on this factor alone is paramount to making a mocking, burlesque travesty of a historic document, not to mention an insult to true biological womanhood!

As to the article in Tartan Skirt itself, it's been a long time since I read anything so bigoted, bitter, twisted and intolerant. Not to mention narrow-minded and tunnel-visioned! We should perhaps be thankful that the basic construction of the article is so ill-conceived as to be almost unintelligible! It is nothing but a diatribe at anyone and everyone who is not a TS person … blaming everyone else for TS ills.

What I find a little worrying is that you, dear Tartan Skirt editor, seem to condone and agree? Perhaps you will tell us what you really think? Any editor who supports this 'whole world is against us' argument from a TS is on very soggy ground, to say the least, I'd say!

Millie

THE EDITOR REPLIES ...

Thank you, Millie, for inviting me to respond to your letter.

As editor of this magazine I have a responsibility to ensure that all voices are heard, that personal attacks are not encouraged, and that constructive debate is engaged within our community and elsewhere. The views expressed in articles and contributions are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent the views of either myself or Reach Out Highland.

You ask me what I think? I hope the following helps.

I believe each of us has a belief system that enables us to function in our own reality, for better or worse. But at times these beliefs, our truths, can be called into question by the views of others - and this can feel uncomfortable. Rather than examine our own truths for flaws we choose rather to seek out those views similar to our own that reinforce the belief we are right, or else we hold those views in opposition to our own as a threat to the structure that supports our sense of self - and we react accordingly. Seldom do we attempt to address this fear, to see clearly where it comes from, in order to begin to feel comfortable in acknowledging and respecting the truths of others, without necessarily agreeing with them.

As for the birth certificate issue, it's generally known that I am of the opinion our cause (for all 100% of us) will be better advanced by the recognition of equal rights in law for same sex relationships, and that the use of birth certificate information for the purpose of discrimination is discouraged in law. Then, the issue is returned to where it rightfully belongs, to the individual concerned, to determine who <u>they</u> want to be.

Julia Gordon

Dear Editor,

As I read Christine Burns' article 'The Missing Voice', which appeared in the last issue of the Tartan Skirt, I thought to myself the world was definitely changing and that Press for Change was no longer an exclusive organisation catering for the interests of post-operative transsexuals.

'Trans people', I read. How wonderful, how absolutely delicious. The word conjures up images of everyone coming together, with the welfare of the silent majority being addressed by an organisation operating from a position of inclusion, not exclusion.

What disappointment I felt as I went on to read, *"Well, of course, we have a model for that ... we call people who express that [making a stand as feminine men] now and then, transvestites ... nor would they claim to feel in themselves the hunger for recognition known by trans-sexual and transgendered folk."*

So what's with "trans people"? I can easily think of myself as a trans person and feel the use of this 'inclusive term' by PfC is misleading. Stick with 'transsexuals', please.

Furthermore, I'm extremely angry at the arrogance of someone who tells me <u>I cannot feel the same hunger for recognition of my own circumstance</u>!

It is little wonder that attempts to heal the rift between different groups prove so difficult when such prejudice and ignorance is still rife and being perpetuated by individuals who assume positions of authority without exercising the responsibility that accompanies them.

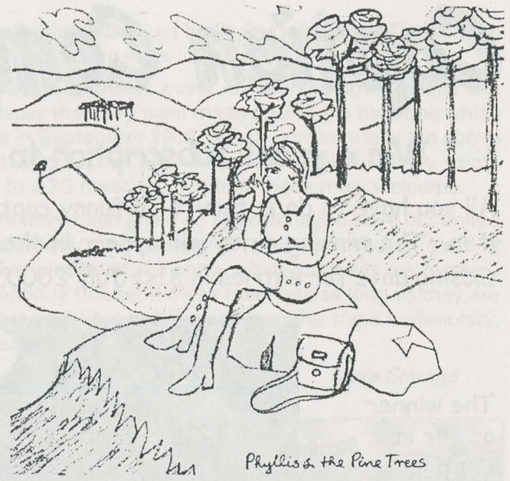
Susan

Dear Tartan Skirt,

I've just recently acquired two copies of our national magazine and must praise the dedication of the editor and all her contributors.



Although I have been a lifelong transvestite, it's only in the last few years that I've started to emerge as Phyllis. I live in a fairly tough inner city area so I chose a dark Autumn evening for an early expedition as far as the local Post Office to drop off a letter. All the kids would be indoors and although I would probably be read nobody knew me very well and they would just have to put up with an eyeful!



I got as far as the second corner when I noticed a bunch of 9 or 10 year-olds on bikes outside the local chip shop. I crossed the road to keep as much distance as possible between us and made it round the next corner before I heard screeching and yelling as, hot on my trail, came the aforementioned boys on their bikes. Not far to go, I told myself and continued to the letterbox, trying to ignore them. As I turned to make my way back one of the boys rode up close to me and shouted "Hey mate, dae ye no' get embarassed goin' roon' dressed as a wifie?" That nearly finished me. I knew I was doomed.

Sure enough, a few days after the event, dressed in my regular clothes, I passed a group of children and had to endure a barrage of verbal abuse.

Strangely, apart from worrying and annoying me, it seemed to strengthen my determination to pursue my instincts, though with a great deal more caution in future.

Phyllis

PS. I've enclosed a drawing of how I see myself in a country setting – as well as a photograph of how others see me!

*****

Dear Tartan Skirt,

Quite recently I answered an advertisement in 'Tartan Skirt' for a dressing service in Scotland and I thought I would pen a line to tell your readers about it.

I must admit I was nervous when I called the phone number, but the lady who answered was extremely friendly and helpful. Jean offers a service covering a visit of a few hours, to overnight or a full day inclusive of makeup, clothing and meals. I had to book in advance, confirming the day in question, then I was given directions to a pay phone, for security purposes, from which I was to call.

With increasing nervousness I made my way to the phone box and made the call. Jean answered and I was given directions. I was greeted most warmly and ushered into the tastefully decorated lounge and, as it was a really cold day, really welcomed the warmth of her coal fire. Jean made a cup of tea and we chatted for a few minutes about what I was looking for, which gave my nerves time to settle down.

I was then shown the facilities upstairs where I had full use of a rail of beautiful clothes and was told I could change as many times as I wished. The selection was wonderful, ranging from suits to evening wear in a variety of styles and colours. I had a glorious time humming and hawing over what to try first in the clothing line and deciding whether I should be blonde, brunette or red-head, short, medium or long in my choice of wig.

I opted for a beautiful white evening/cocktail dress with evening gloves, matching jewellery and accessories and a page-style wig. Later, I chose a more daring suit made of leopard-print lycra, something I would not ordinarily have worn if I used the rolled sock method of creating a bust. However, Jean can supply false breasts and these gave me the added confidence to experiment.

Jean was ever ready to chat, offering advice on styles and make-up. Her friendly, bubbly personality and infectious humour melted my inhibitions. I had an absolutely wonderful time. All in all, I can thoroughly recommend a visit to Jean's.

Doris

Dear Editor,

At the end of October my wife and I attended the Rose's Harmony weekend in Scarborough and I bought a copy of the Tartan Skirt. As I expected, it was rather interesting to read of things from North of the Border and I noticed the appeal for photos of 'girls' wearing something tartan to go on the front cover. So I've sent a few of myself in case you get little response. I must, however, point out that I am not a member of any of the Scottish groups but belong to Rose's of Sheffield (No. 986) and occasionally visit a group local to me on the outskirts of Nottingham.

My first introduction to the Tartan Skirt was via some Scots people we met during a trannie holiday in Kentisbury, Devon, in May of this year. And what great people they turned out to be – thank you Ann, Margaret, Kim and Rosemary for the hospitality. I've also noted never to challenge you to a whisky drinking contest!

After next pay day I will be investing in a subscription to the Tartan Skirt. Lots of love to you all.

Wendy

Caption Competition

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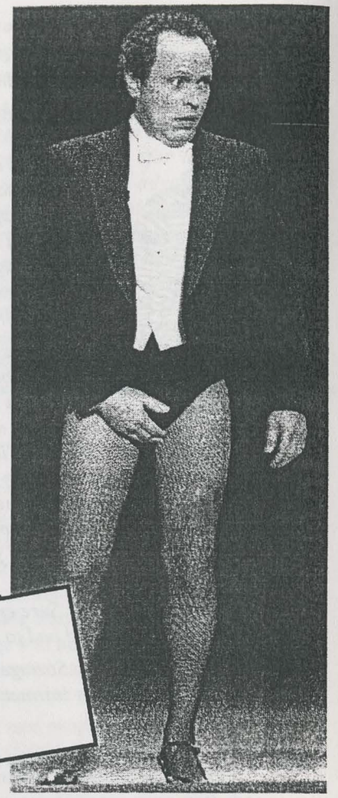
All you have to do is think of a funny caption for the picture and send it in. The winning entry will appear in the next issue of the magazine. Closing date for entries is 31st July 2000.

The winner of the last Caption Competition was ... Zara from Aberdeen



Congratulations!

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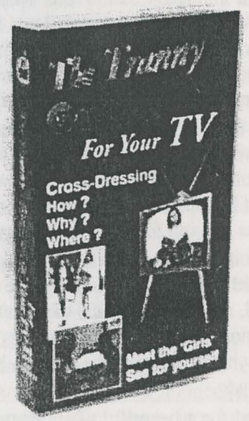
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Aberdeen Royal Hospital's Multidisciplinary Group Meeting March 2000



This was the first occasion that a member of the trans community was invited to join this medical specialist group which comprises representatives of psychiatric, psychological, speech therapy, endocrinological and nursing services. I noticed, with interest, that plastic surgery is not represented.

The group meets every six months and I was invited to join that part of the meeting that discusses general developments in treatment for the transgendered community, endocrinologist, Dr Mark Hamilton, chairs the meetings. On this occasion there was also a psychiatrist from Tayside Health Area observing the meeting with a view to setting up a similar group within her area.

I was made very welcome by all the others on the group, all of whom appeared genuinely interested in learning more about our perspective of the medical treatment transsexual people receive in Grampian.

As this was my first meeting I planned to spend most of the time just listening and getting a feel for things but did wish to take along one key point from our community. Having discussed the matter with the others at 3G (Grampian Gender Group), it was agreed that I should point out that we, as patients, should be given a greater say and involvement in our own treatment. This point was noted but only time will tell if it makes any difference.

Those of you who know me will not be surprised to learn that I didn't manage to keep my mouth shut for very long as it became clear very quickly that this was to be a very good opportunity to put forward a positive image and one not to be wasted.

My knowledge of female to male issues and problems, however, is limited to what I have learned from trans men from Glasgow and further south so if there are any trans men wanting me to put forward anything relevant to their treatment, please let me know by e-mail to [redacted] or by telephoning 01674-[redacted]

We talked for an hour about many issues, all of them very constructively, including reputable hair removal specialists and the one burning question that all transsexual people want to know - HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE.

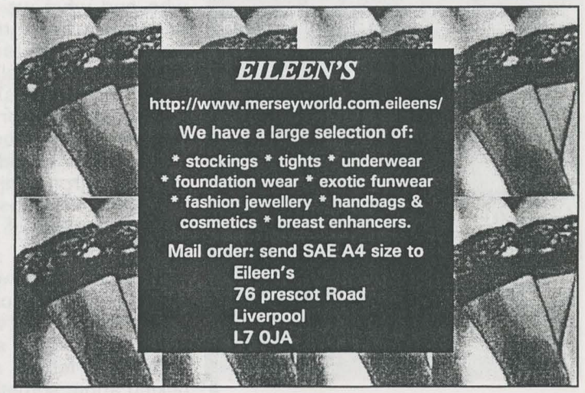
Whilst trans people and medical experts alike agree that each case is different and must be treated on it's own merits, there is an official overarching protocol for the assessment and management of gender dysphoric and transsexual patients in Grampian. I now have a copy of those guidelines and they clearly show that, at present, only after a second confirmatory referral and after patients have been living in opposite sex role for a minimum of 18 months may they receive hormone treatment. Referral for surgery will only proceed if -

- there is a good response to hormone treatment
- the patient has been living full-time in the opposite sex role for 18 months, minimum, and
- confirmation is given by Dr Russell Reid of The London Clinic that surgery is indicated.

The group meets every six months so if anyone has any issues that they want me to take to the next one which will be in September 2000, please contact me at the above e-mail address or phone number. Alternatively come along to a 3G meeting. You'll be made most welcome.

We have been given an opportunity to have our united voices heard by our medical professionals, to make it effective please let me know what you want me to say. I will continue to attend these meetings as long as they are effective and I have the support of the trans community. Do please let me know.

Zara Strange





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Late Night Opening

A survey conducted on behalf of Edinburgh City Council has found that over 80 percent of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people in Edinburgh have been the target of hate crime.

Eighty-one percent of those questioned had experienced verbal abuse (61 percent within the previous 12 months) and half had experienced physical assault (36 percent in the last year).

One third of respondents reported they had been sexually assaulted.

The survey was conducted by interviewing 133 gay men, 105 lesbians, 27 bisexual men and 18 transgendered persons.

Putting it into perspective, in the general population, one Scot in forty can expect to be assaulted or robbed in a given year.

FOOTNOTE

If we, in the UK, were to experience the same level of violent fatalities as exists in the USA, it would amount to two or three of us murdered each year.

Don't just play safe - *think* safe when out and about.

COMMUNITY POLICING IN EDINBURGH

A report of the Police Awareness Day organised by the Edinburgh LGBT Safety Forum - 9th March, 2000.

Some time ago I volunteered myself to be a member of the Edinburgh LGBT Safety Forum to represent transgendered persons. Invited to attend the Police awareness day and give a T-folk perspective to an assembly of Community Constables, I readily accepted - and then started to panic! How could I best put across who and what we are to a group of people whose awareness is likely to be extremely limited and whose reputation generally is not one of broad-mindedness? There was an additional issue for me in that in my former life I had been a serving police officer. How would I cope with being in an environment which so firmly belonged to my past?

I decided to put my previous experience to use, remembering from my police training how the best sessions were run on a 'shoot from the hip' basis. So. that was my game plan. I was well used to standing in front of people and talking. and this time I was talking about something very precious to me. All I could do was be honest and open and try to inform and hopefully challenge.

The day dawned and I felt the excitement and fear build throughout the morning. It didn't help that the previous day I'd decided to stop smoking... so no crutch there. I'd been given the option of either attending the entire session. or just arriving in time for 'my bit'. I decide to bite the bullet and be there from the beginning. That way I could suss out the 'enemy' and better pitch my delivery. After battling with the Edinburgh traffic, I duly arrived and was shown into a small room crowded with people, none of whom I knew. I was found a seat and a very pleasant female Police Inspector came across and sat next to me - which helped my nerves.

The first presentation was by Dr Martin Plant who had conducted a survey into Hate Crimes against the LGBT community in the Gayfield Square area. With a style very reminiscent of David Attenborough he lead us through the findings and statistics which were very detailed and far reaching. For me the most frightening aspect was that T-folk appeared to be the most 'at risk' section of the community. So girls, let's be careful out there! He was followed by Bob from the Edinburgh Gay Switchboard who really set the cat amongst the pigeons by pointing out that the '-ism' that caused the problem was 'heterosexualism'. In other words, the society in which we are trying to exist is shaped by white heterosexual males, and this automatically denotes us as minorities (deviants in the literal sense of the word) and therefore potential victims. This stimulated really lively discussion and I found I was able to contribute in what I felt was a very positive way.

Next up was Mike Stewart from Gay Men's Health talking about the under reporting of crime in an LGBT context. Fairly dry for the likes of me, but meat and drink for the officers. After a break, Grace from Stonewall Youth Project and Anne from the Gay Switchboard tackled Lesbian issues. I was due to speak next so I confess that a lot of what was said and done flew past me as I felt my emotions scaling up in preparation, and then, it was me!

I nervously stood at the front of the room. I had prepared notes. but in the end I didn't use them. Choosing instead to just speak from my heart, my starting point was that whilst everybody in the room had at least some concept of the reality of gay issues, I felt it unlikely that there was any clear concept of what transgenderism actually meant. Keeping it simple I explained transvestisism and the differences between that and transsexuality. I took them through the concept of a scale of sexuality in 'normal' society, how TG fitted into that, and our own scale of sexuality within the T-community. So far so good. Everyone seemed interested and had followed me well. I then had to tackle the issue of how they as serving police officers should handle a T-person. I'd thought long and had hard about how to present this and settled on an analogy, *"If I hand you a glass of amber coloured fluid. and it looks like whisky, smells like whisky, and tastes like whisky, are you going to treat it as a glass of Vodka?"*

This got them thinking. Unwrapping it, I explained that if the person in front of them looks female. then surely it would be appropriate to treat them as female. The penny dropped! My session ended with questions from the floor which gave me an opportunity to further stress our rights regarding treatment under the law. and our desires to be so treated. Then it was over, and I gratefully dissolved myself in a large cup of very strong coffee.

During the break, almost every officer in the room took the chance to talk to me personally, and I was able to answer other questions. The afternoon (by now evening) finished with Andrew O'Donnell from ROAM talking about his work with those involved in 'Cruising and Renting' and then it was all off to Planet Out for drinkies (paid for by the Police!).

From the comments I received it appears that the officers genuinely appreciated the input we had all given during the day, and I made many 'network' contacts which I shall hopefully follow up at later dates.

This event was scheduled as the start of a more positive approach to policing the 'Pink Triangle' in Edinburgh and there are high hopes for the success of the project. As for the message I feel I should bring out of this for you. my sisters, it is this - there is a change in attitude amongst the Police in Edinburgh regarding LGBT issues. They genuinely want to help and support us and they are actively putting things in place to do this. Perhaps the ball is now in our court?

Andrea Brown

PRO
West Lothian Transgender Support Group.



The following is a list of police officers operating out of the Gayfield Square Police Station in Edinburgh who are willing to act as contacts for the T-community.

They may be contacted directly at 0131-[redacted] or 0131-[redacted]. Alternatively, the operations room at 0131-[redacted] will put you in touch with them.

PC 2928-B Toni Kot
PC 3257-B Nick Berrgan
PC 3373-B Fiona Blenkiron
PC 3507-B David Ross
PC 3540-B Graeme Nisbet
PC 4202-B Duncan Fraser

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(Answerphone at other times)
SCOTLAND CO-ORDINATOR: 01463-[redacted]
Rank Outsiders, BCM Box 8431, LONDON WC1N 3XX
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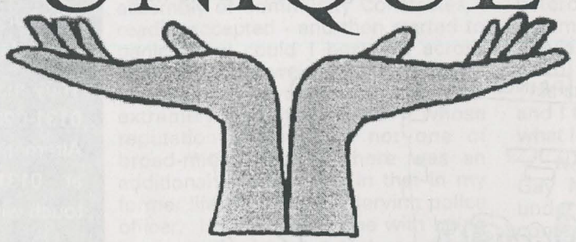
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THE TARTAN SKIRT INTERVIEW

Ruth Stewart talking to Janett Scott, President of the Beaumont Society



Ruth Can you recall when you first started to wear women's clothes?

JS I remember around ten years of age, putting on some of my mother's underwear. She was a very big woman - they flooded me. It was only some years later, when I discussed this with some relatives of mine who had no problem with my transgender feelings, that I was in fact dressing up as a girl, much earlier; as young as four or five. But I don't remember that. Some times I'd put my mother's knickers on under my trousers and go to school, and then think, *"Oh my God, have I got PE today? - am I going to have to take my trousers off, show I got me mum's knickers on?"*

They were my early recollections, and they used to be few and far between. And the difficulty is, in those days when you were young, and you put these clothes on, you get sexually excited by them. And you turn to sexual release. Now that, in itself, begins to cause problems in a young mind, certainly in my day back in the 1940's. I believed I was some kind of sexual freak, because I was putting on girls' clothes and getting sexually excited by it.

Then when I wasn't wearing girls' clothes, I found that I enjoyed playing with the girls, and I enjoyed playing with dolls and I liked doing girlie things. But it wasn't acceptable for a boy to do girlie things, so at the same time I was doing that with the girl next door, playing with her toys and playing 'Mummies and Daddies' and stuff, I would also have to be the boy who looked after all the other boys, and climbed the biggest trees, jumped the biggest brooks. So, in those early years, I was the boy who climbed the haystack, the boy that got into the farmers' barn and things. I was also the boy who wanted to be a girl, but couldn't let anyone know. It wasn't until, perhaps, I had left school at about fourteen or fifteen that I became interested in girls. So then I had this strong confusion in my mind. Certainly when I was sixteen or seventeen, I was sexually excited by girls. I was certainly dressing up as a girl because I had started to buy clothes by then, and it had become very confusing to me. A phrase I've often used since is, as a young man the confusion was that I didn't know if I wanted to get into their knickers or wear the bloody things. The cliché was that boys who dressed up like girls were queers, pooftahs, and weirdos. And I thought, I'm not one of those, really. Am I the odd one out? Now, in hindsight, I can look back and see I wasn't the odd one out, I was part of tens of thousands of others.

> ***"I didn't know if I wanted to get into their knickers or wear the bloody things"***

RS ***How did you tell your wife about your dressing?***

JS I got engaged in 1957, and I did explain to my wife then that I enjoyed putting on girl's clothes and dressing up as a girl. It was something she hadn't come across before and she didn't have a great problem with it in those days, and I suppose to be fair I didn't do it that often - perhaps once every three months. We got married in 1958 and afterwards lived in furnished rooms just outside London. She used to allow me to dress up in her clothes and, on occasion, she would help me do my make up and take some photographs. This was fine. A year after we were married we temporarily separated, not as a couple, but because I went after another job and it meant living

The Beaumont Society

The Beaumont Society is a nationwide self-help organisation for people who cross-dress or who are transsexual. The Society has many open social meetings around the country and offers a good quality quarterly magazine, a Bulletin for members only, a confidential mail-box system and access to the Beaumont Society library.

Further details can be obtained from:

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

Telephone information line - 01582 [redacted]
E mail - [redacted]
Website - http://members.aol.com/Bmontsoc

with a relative of mine while she went back to live with her parents. It wasn't until we were able to get together again, where we had furnished rooms in Watford, that I started to crossdress again. She didn't seem to have any problem with it, until one day she said *"I think I'm pregnant, and I think you should go to the doctor be cured."* Which I agreed to do.

When I did this the doctor said *"Well, you're a transvestite"*, and I thought 'transvestite'? ... I couldn't even pronounce the word. So when I got home and told my wife that the doctor had called me a trans-something we looked it up in the dictionary and it said *"man who wears women's clothes for the sexual thrill and excitement it brings. Sex pervert"*. My God, I thought, even the dictionary called me a sex pervert.

I never really understood what it was all about until many years later when I joined the Beaumont Society, around 1967. That's when I discovered I was fairly normal in my need to dress up as a girl and be a heterosexual male. But it took another twenty-odd years for me to come to terms with all aspects of my feelings. Many of those I never discovered until after my wife had died back in 1987. And in these last few years I have been able to explore, not only my own sexuality and gender feelings but talk to many thousands of other crossdressers and explore their own experiences and everything else, besides.

RS ***How is your relationship with your family? How do your sons view your situation?***

JS Well my sons are all grown up now. My eldest son is 37 and my youngest is 35. We get on extremely well. My youngest son recently informed me that he plans to get married and I'm curious to know what I'm going to wear at the wedding because both he and his fiancee have made it quite clear that I am 'Janett' as far as they are concerned. My eldest son is married with two children. I don't see my grandchildren, for reasons to do with other people finding out about my lifestyle and causing problems for them. So I've agreed not to see them although I am in touch with them. I see my daughter in law and my sons on a very regular basis. The relationship that was a very difficult one after my wife died has now been resolved and we are a very happy family again. I think we understand each other's feelings and emotions a lot better than was once the case.

> ***"My God ... even the dictionary called me a sex pervert"***

RS ***Janett, you live full time as a woman. How did you arrive and this position and what do you feel it offers you?***

JS My choice to live full time as a woman came in 1991. I had the opportunity to take early release from my job with a full company pension. I took that opportunity and on 3rd January 1992 I legally changed my name to Janett Scott. I became a woman and have lived as such ever since. It was my choice. There are people who say I'm a transsexual who hasn't got the courage to go through with it, but I don't think that's totally true. I'm a person. I can live as a woman. I don't have any problems with that and my life is very full and very successful. I don't think surgery is going to alter that, so I'm very happy living that way.

RS ***What changes have you seen since becoming the President of the Beaumont Society?***

JS I took on the role of President initially in a caretaker capacity to serve out a two year term of office because the previous two Presidents had resigned two years into a four year term of office. My immediate aim, at that time, was to update the image, and an expression I used at that time was *"I'm going to take the Beaumont Society into the 21st Century - screaming and shouting if necessary, but I don't want to wait another ten years before I do it, I want to do it now"*.

So the first things I did were to update the Constitution, get rid of the BM box number, and use a proper address. We replaced the Ying/Yang symbol with the butterfly, this taken from the icon I had chosen to reflect my own change of life. The quote I use is *"From ugly caterpillars, lovely butterflies arise"*. I think that the butterfly symbol was much more symbolic of what the Beaumont Society had become.

A couple of years earlier, the word 'heterosexual' had been dropped from our Constitution. We were open to people who crossdressed. We were there to support them, transsexuals and their families. We didn't ask whether or not a person's sexual preference was heterosexual or homosexual, it was of no concern of ours. And so we've become a much more open Society.

I took a stand to be much more open in public in my own appearance as a transgendered person and consequently the Beaumont Society got a much higher profile through television, radio and magazines . In the last ten years I've been president, I think it's fair to say the Beaumont Society has shed its image of being a bit staid and frumpish and has now got a much more open and caring image.

RS ***Could you explain the difference between the Beaumont Society and the Beaumont Trust?***

JS The difficulty is, of course, we both use the word 'Beaumont'. The Beaumont Trust, a registered charity, was started five years after the Society and was made up of trustees who weren't transgendered themselves - doctors, religious leaders, people from other organisations, etc. - but they were interested in the Gender Community. Because members of the Beaumont Society were so secretive and so scared of being identified as crossdressers or transsexuals, and because of fear of losing their jobs etc., it was felt that the Trust could produce booklets, leaflets, go out and give talks to Samaritans, to RELATE and other interested bodies.

The Trust raises funds through the leaflets and booklets it produces but is also supported financially by the membership of the Beaumont Society.

I think it's fair to say that in the last ten years the Beaumont Society has jumped forward in leaps and bounds and is now doing the work that the Beaumont Trust originally set out to do. We're the ones who are doing the lectures, the talks, the interviews, the magazine articles. We're the ones who are raising the profile of understanding of transgendered issues. Personally, I don't think there is a need for the Trust anymore. That's a personal viewpoint, and possibly not shared by many of the trustees, but one I am sure is shared by many of the Beaumont Society members. It's hard to see what the Beaumont Trust has done that the Beaumont Society hasn't done better in the last ten years.

RS ***Why did the Beaumont Society set up a help line for women?***

JS When a woman had difficulty and wanted to talk about it, we found she didn't want to speak to a man with a woman's name or to someone who tried to make himself sound like a woman and maybe come across as camp. She wanted to speak to another woman, and she wanted to speak to another woman who would understand what she was going through.

I think, over the years, the Women of the Beaumont Society (WOBS) telephone helplines have helped a lot of women because they are seeing it from the point of view of other women. Most of the women who help have come through their own difficulties and are well able to relate to the person on the end of the phone.

> ***"From ugly caterpillers, lovely butterflies arise."***

RS ***There are very many sources of information available to people now. Does it concern you that this can be totally unregulated?***

JS Information is one thing, help is another. I think sometimes people who set up information lines see themselves as experts in helping, which can be very dangerous. I've been appalled at some of the advice given out by some so-called 'helplines'. It's a difficult one. The Beaumont Society runs an information line and a befriending line. By its very nature, it becomes a helpline in the sense that it promotes understanding. That's why it's important that the people who operate helplines are experienced cross-dressers themselves and have worked through their difficulties. We make it clear that we are befrienders - not counsellors. I would also emphasise the fact that we do not charge for any kind of service. The service we provide is free, based on personal experience.

I'm appalled by what is offered on the Internet more than at the end of a telephone. There is so much information on the Internet that is not only worthless and out of date, but also very dangerous. And it can be difficult to get to it's origins to update it or amend it. I'm aware that some individuals seem to become a law unto themselves, promoting potentially harmful material, and that worries and frightens me.

RS ***You have appeared on a lot of televised chat shows. Do you find these useful in promoting transgender issues?***

JS Well, I know from my own experience of many years that it is a very powerful medium. I do have a problem with it, however. I want to see people who are both presentable and able to articulate their case. It's too often the case that someone who can speak very eloquently about their subject also looks like something the cat's dragged in! However regrettable it may be, the viewing public tend to be more interested in the image than what's being said. And then there are others who look so stunning that you can never believe the person is anything other than a natural born woman ... and the minute they open their mouth they talk such drivel and crap. The difficulty with television is getting the balance right. I would say it has probably done us more favours than harm.

I'm very pleased, certainly, that a programme like *Coronation Street* has taken on board the subject of trans-sexualism in a very positive way. It is being helped and supported in the script writing by people from Press for Change and the subjects coming up are close to the hearts of many transsexuals.

RS ***What are your thoughts on how the media treat transgender issues?***

JS Ten, twelve years ago, I'd have said the treatment was appalling. Today, I have to say it's changed. And it's changed because the crossdressers and transsexuals have themselves complained to programme makers, to magazine publishers and to journalists about the way a particular subject has been handled. Now you are much more likely to encounter a more sensitive approach to trans-gender issues, especially trans-sexuality.

I've seen some radical changes for the better over the past ten years, especially in the last five, and I see no reason to believe this trend will not continue in the years to come.

RS ***Do you consider cross-dressing to be an illness ?***

JS No. Cross-dressing, trans-vestism, gender dysphoria - these days it's not considered an illness, either physical or mental, but because psychiatric assessment is a

WOMEN OF THE BEAUMONT SOCIETY

Help and support for wives and partners of cross dressers - tel. 01389-[redacted]

requirement of any treatment the assumption is often made that it is a psychiatric illness.

Along with many others, I believe it's something that develops in the womb, in a way we don't fully understand, not something attributable to the way we are brought up. Nature makes us the way we are, nurture gives us the problems to go with it.

It's largely the Anglo-Saxon, Western, Christian culture that has a problem with what we are, based on perceptions grounded in ignorance and bigotry.

It's as much a part of our personality as the colour of our eyes, or whether we're left handed or right handed. If only we ourselves could come to accept this more easily, we wouldn't have to live in fear and secrecy.

RS ***Are there any statistics available to indicate how prevalent men dressing as women might be?***

JS I'm afraid there aren't any accurate figures. From information based on numbers of people using helplines, we believe there could be as many as two million men in the UK alone who share a need to put on women's clothes in one way or another. That can be simply a young child dressing up in girlie clothes, a teenager dressing up in underwear and being sexually turned on, right through to people who have gender reassignment surgery. Some think this is a conservative figure, others think it's exaggerated. Because it's so secretive it's very, very difficult to get any clear indication.

In terms of male to female transsexuals, where visibility is much more the case, there are about seven thousand in the UK at present.

RS ***How do you feel about the more fetishistic cross-dresser being admitted to the Beaumont Society?***

JS For myself, I don't have a problem with the fetish side of cross-dressing but I would not want to see it promoted and supported by the Beaumont Society. Those who dress up as adult babies, schoolgirls, French Maids, etc. just don't meet the requirements of membership of the Society, I feel. It's not part of the 'classic' cross-dressing scene. This area of fetishistic behaviour is better accommodated by specialist clubs and groups.

RS ***Where do you see the transgendered community going as we approach the Millennium?***

JS We started this Millennium with crossdressers having no sort of recognition and we're leaving this one to join the next in the belief that transgendered people have the same rights as other people. We're not perverts, freaks or weirdos.

In the next three to five years I'm certain the birth certificate of post-operative transsexuals will be able to be amended so that they can assume a role within society in keeping with their chosen gender.

The crossdressing community, in the classic sense, will become more widely accepted in the years to come. Organisations like the Beaumont Society may either become redundant as people no longer need the sort of support we offer today, or they will adapt to meet new challenges.

My view for the twenty-first Century is therefore one of hope. Perhaps within the next thirty years cross-dressing won't even be an item worthy of media coverage any more.

RS ***On behalf of the Tartan Skirt, thank you for agreeing to speak so openly about your personal life and your position as President of the Beaumont Society.***

End

Birds, Bees and Cross-Dressing Scotsmen - Sex Education, the Polish way!

The Polish Ministry of Education has authorised a new sex education manual for teenagers which, as well as covering the usual birds and the bees, includes a section on transvestism. This, the book states, is a predilection towards wearing clothes of the opposite sex.

No problem there - until you see how this is illustrated ... with a Scotsman! Complete with tammy, the wee man is depicted unfolding his kilt in a very provocative manner. Next to him is a young woman wearing a mini dress, platform shoes and a pensive expression.

When questioned about the illustration Chris Bobinski, who was at the launch of the book, said: *"It's aimed at 15 and 16 year-olds and is an approved publication. I don't believe the Ministry is deliberately trying to poke fun at the Scots, but you certainly couldn't mistake the picture for a Maori warrior. It was probably an illustration someone happened across and thought it pertinant."*



Robert Ostrychartz, the vice-chairman of the Polish-Scottish Educational and Cultural Society, said: "In Poland it is a well known fact that Scots wear the kilt as a national dress and not because they are strange."

Clearly, though, stereotypes about Scots still exist. It could make a Scot think twice about wearing his national dress while on a holiday visit to Poland. Funny looks, you know?



THE GATHERING OF THE TRANS

Hide and Sleek's Glasgow Fashion Show at Cafe Stella

A report by Hazel [redacted]

It came to pass that when Loraine [redacted] of Hide and Sleek fame, decided to hold a Fashion Show evening in the West of Scotland, about fifty girls gathered together in the cellar bar of Café Stella in Waterloo Street, Glasgow on the night of Saturday, 15th April.

Café Stella is a pretty atmospheric venue for the purpose, and they certainly did us proud with the buffet. There was a disco which must have been good because I liked most of the music I heard. Too bad about the unservicable ladies loo, though, as it was a long climb up to the restuarant's own toilet. Naturally, as a Vanity Club member I took this opportunity to allow the regular punters to admire my beauty and elegance as I passed through.

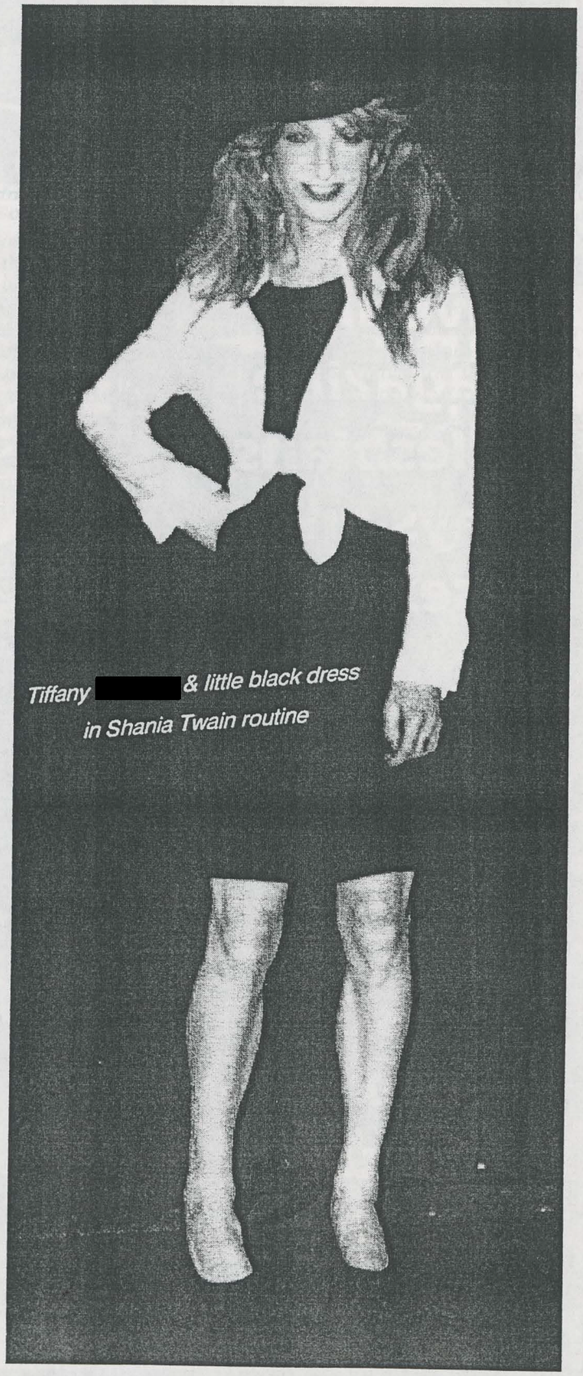
High spot of the evening, of course, was the fashion show itself. The models were stunningly passable. Louise, Mel, Alison, Gina, Heather, Lisa and, of course, the deliciously sexy Tiffany [redacted], strutted their catwalk stuff in six different costumes, with only the slightest of pauses behind the scenes while the dresser, Loraine herself I suspect, struggled to get all of them shoehorned into the next outfit.

The costumes ranged from elegant ballgowns to undies, oo-er, and every one of them cost less than £30. And not all the girls were size 8 either, so there's hope for the most modest pocket and the most generous bust yet! In fact, I'm used to being the tallest girl at the venue but at 6'7" Louise beat me by four inches and looked every inch the perfectly outfitted lady of the cocktail bar, if not "Lady of the night".

The girls had come from far and wide, Milton Keynes (yes, honestly) and, er, Paisley, and, always a good sign, everyone was talking to each other! My greatest pleasure, having come 350 miles from Cambridge, was being able to introduce two Dundonian girls I met during the evening, to one another. They hadn't met previously.

Eventually pumpkin time drew near, and as it was the chauffeur's night off, I needed a taxi back to the B&B. I was just going out to hail one when the Cafe Stella waitress stopped me and insisted on going to the Central Station cab rank herself (she ran there and back) so see that there were actually taxis there for hire. She was 5'1" but she must have thought I was too weak and vulnerable to be let out on the streets of Glasgow on my own.

A great evening, and I'm looking forward to the next event Loraine stages which, I am reliably informed, will be the Miss TV Scotland 2000 Weekend, 17-19th November. Not to be missed.



Tiffany [redacted] & little black dress in Shania Twain routine

Lisa, Tiffany & Heather in daywear

Les Girls ... Louise, Alison, Tiffany, Gina and Mel

Alison and Louise in lingerie

Photographs courtesy of Loraine [redacted]

A MODEL'S PERSPECTIVE

Now it may sound like every tranny's dream to appear in a fashion show, but let me tell you *NOTHING* can be more frightening! Myself, Tiffany and Gina are getting old ... old hands, that is, at this game, but that doesn't mean it gets any easier. Despite weeks and weeks of fittings and more fittings, on the day you still have to arrive with practically your entire wadrobe - just in case. Now I know Tiffany does this all the time and she has it down to a fine art, but it's still a novelty for the rest of us. I can still see the looks of terror on the faces of Alison, Heather and Lisa as they appeared pulling British Rail trolleys piled high with their suitcases!



Louise in daywear

Now we all know that when you're getting ready to go out on a Saturday night, in the normal run of things, some slight untidiness is almost inevitable. But within the confines of the *tiny* changing room on that night ... nightmare! And another thing, folk don't understand the need for rehearsals - at least tranny models don't! We all know that walking in heels of any height, in a feminine manner, only takes a little practice. But what we overlooked was trying to do this to the beat of Loraine's musical selection for the evening! Nuff said. As I recall - it all seems so long ago, now - when I appeared in the first Fashion Show in 1999 we had six weeks of rehearsals, and this time we started rehearsing at 2 pm on the day and were due to start that night at 10pm, eight hours later. Nerve wracking? Not a bit!!!!!

Time to go on was fast approaching as we started to get ready. We wore two layers of clothes for the first section in preparation for a quick change. The music started, Alison and myself took a deep breath, and we were off.

Now after only the first two sections things might not have been expected to be so disorganised, but if you can imagine seven trannies trying to function in a changing area of 8ft by 10ft, with only *THREE* mirrors between us ... how we ever survived is, I think, a matter of lots of luck and a little alcohol - or was it the other way round?

We quickly seemed to arrive at the final routine - Shania Twain and the little black dresses and stetsons - and just as we were really getting into the swing of things ... it was all over. Cheering and applause to a tranny is like nectar to a honey bee ... we couldn't get enough. After one more quick change we were into party clothes and ready to enjoy the rest of the night.

No behind the scenes exposé would be complete without reference to Mel's undergarments! Seemingly designed to withstand a nuclear blast, she was so tightly wrapped up in them I swear her height increased by four inches!

The end came too soon, although I'm sure by the time it arrived everyone had thoroughly enjoyed themselves, models and guests alike. Now it was time to clear up, and this was not going to be easy, pulling back the curtain to our changing area! In spite of it all, however, the lure of the catwalk remains irresistable to the kind of girl I am ... step aside, professional coming through, luvvy.

Louise

PS Loraine's on the lookout for models for November's Miss TV Scotland. Send your portfolios to Loraine [redacted], Hide and Sleek ...



MAID FOR THE JOB

A below stairs perspective of Hide and Sleek's Fashion Show

by Penny

I really think it's the working staff who have the most fun. The cat-walk stars may have the limelight but, helping out for the evening as waitress, I'm sure I had just as much enjoyment as the others swanning about in ball-gowns! (I must say, though, the models at this Fashion Show were impressive.)

I arrived early because Loraine said she could do with someone 'on the door' from seven o'clock. When I arrived the models had already run through their final rehearsals and were sitting down to a substantial pre-performance meal. They looked so good I almost packed up there and then and went home. But then I thought, a waitress can be more or less any age or size ... she doesn't *have* to look like Julia Roberts ... and big hands are quite a practical asset when all is said and done. So I stayed.



I had previously served at a couple of Loraine's Thursday Coffee Evenings which she holds once a month in her shop. At these, I'd proved myself to be a, well, *semi*-competent waitress. I didn't attempt the typical frilly French maid thing. Not quite my scene. My black and white uniform seemed to appeal to Loraine and it reminded some of the coffee evening guests of the Lyons Corner House 'nippies' of yesteryear.

At the coffee evenings I only spilled occasional cups of coffee, only once gave a lady coffee instead of tea, and I had even improved my sad sandwich-making technique a little (early attempts showed large indents where my thumbs had been! Loraine was terribly disapproving.) And I had actually, now and then, managed to remember what a number of guests had ordered without having to ask them a second time. Waitresses need phenomenal memories, I discovered.

Maybe semi-competent is over-stating it, but I was already fairly efficient at washing-up, even as a male, and I would make best use of that skill. I've discovered, however, that I wash up better as a woman. I wonder why? Could it be that we do things best when we are enjoying ourselves most? Anyway, when I asked Loraine if she'd like waitress service at her Glasgow Fashion Show, she did not (as she has been known to do) throw her hands up in the air and cry, *"You must be joking!!!"* To my surprise, she said yes, I could do the job.

My fantasy is to do things as much as possible *for real*. Serious work! Some people assume that trannies only want to pose and preen ... though I did keep my lipstick, face powder and hand mirror close by while I was in charge of the cloakroom - just in case. Like any woman, a flattering remark about my appearance is likely to ignite a little thrill inside me. And, in any case, even a ticket-girl needs to check for smudges from time to time. (Oh, vanity, thy name is Femme.)



Loraine said I could glimpse the fashion show when it begun by perching somewhere so I could see out of the corner of one eye while keeping the other trained on the entrance for intruders! I was, in fact, a kind of bouncer-ess (bouncer-ette?). So I watched the show from the back, just as real staff would. It felt right.

The show over, I was suddenly, and rather alarmingly, approached by two bulky chef-types emerging from the kitchen. They were in uniform too - black and white check trousers, white chef jackets, white skull caps. With perfect seriousness they said,

"We understand you'd like to help us this evening?"

"Yes please."

They had me stand at the kitchen door and handed me the plates and dishes piled with food for the buffet. Now I really *was* a waitress! I was charging back and forth on my sensible little heels, through the milling guests, muttering, *"Excuse me, Madam. Please mind your back,"* and depositing endless dishes on the white tablecloth. Cold dishes on the left, hot in the middle, desserts on the right.

At one point, as I came through from the kitchen bearing a dish of coleslaw, the proprietor of the Café Stella, a large, imposing gentlemen, said to me with a definite touch of indignation,

"We have STAFF to do this kind of work!"

"Th-they told me I could help ... "

Someone then said, *"No, you see, she WANTS to help."* And someone else chimed in with, *"She LIKES doing it."* Light then dawned on the Boss's features, and he smiled. *"Ah yes. That's what it's all about, isn't it! Enjoying yourselves."*

Once the buffet was all set out, I was approached by a young chap from behind the bar who said he was pleased I was going to help them out that night (not the slightest hint of a tease) and he showed me where to put the empties and dirty glasses, the plates and bowls, and the rubbish from the ashtrays.

From then on till nearly one o'clock in the morning I stayed on duty, frenetically doing my rounds. It was amazing! I felt I was part of the scenery. A lot of the guests just took me for granted. I loved that.

I only spilled one beer. *"That's amateurs for you,"* I said, apologetically as I rushed off for a cloth. I got some nice compliments about my service, and at one point I was even pursued by a real girl with a camera ... I suspect her pictures will be rather blurred. One table caused me a bit of humerous grief when it appeared they had decided to resist my attempts to tidy their table, as they clung pro-tectively to their ashtrays, empty bottles and glasses every time I appeared!

One individual from a group of real men standing at the back of the room, pals of one of the models, greeted me like a long-lost friend every time I went past. He started pestering me to bring him a plate of sandwiches and then, later on, to bring his mates' desserts. They then handed me more empty glasses than I had fingers to hold them with ... and I started to think I knew what waitresses really felt like. Rushed off my feet, I was!

I got two offers of future work. One to serve at a private party in June, and one, near the end of the evening, when a nice young woman from the Café Stella staff came over and said to me,

"My boss wants me to ask you if you'd like a job?" She seemed serious about it ...

"What's the wages?" I asked.

The regular bar staff had a break at one point and said that I should, too ... union rules! But I didn't want to stop at all. I mean, I don't do this sort of thing every night of the year. I wanted to milk it to the last drop. One of them then remarked, *"Clearly, you're maid for the job!"* I didn't like to tell him it was an old joke so I laughed and said, *"Good one!"* as I shot off to grab a couple of empties and an abandoned plate. Maybe he was right. I'd really like to think so.

End

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Founding member of Reach Out Highland, the Highlands of Scotland's first sexual health charity, Andrew Hunter comes from a background in Education, Training and Counselling. Also qualified in Spiritual Healing, Reiki Healing, Hypnotherapy and Psychotherapy, Swedish Massage and Neuro Linguistic Programming, Andrew introduces us to the first in a series of short articles around personal development.



Personal Development: Projection

It often happens that we get upset, disturbed, irritated and angry at other people. We think it is all their fault, they are to blame. And we get fixated on *"It's all down to them to change"* and *"If only they could be different then how much easier life would be for me"*. Is this familiar at all?

This is called projection. We project onto others the parts of ourselves, the problems and issues in ourselves, that we can either not recognise or if we do we deny or don't deal with.

So often we blame others, instead of seeing ourselves.

We transfer our problems onto those who are quite innocent. In doing so we avoid looking at ourselves. We all do this in tight situations. And we all have, more or less, been subjects of adult projection when we were children. Do you remember getting accused for something you didn't do or being blamed for something someone felt?

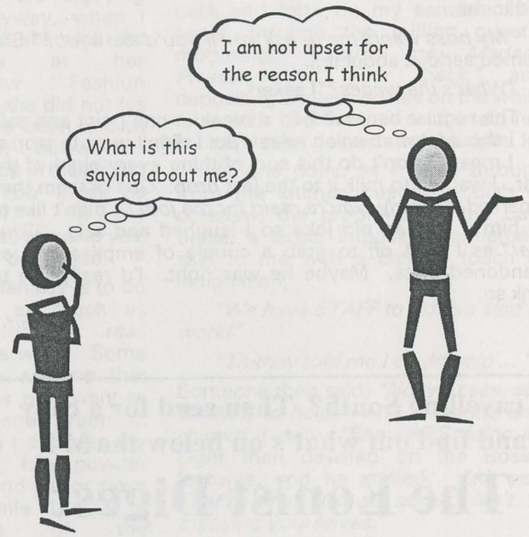
Example: When an adult is under stress because of his or her own problems, a child might hear: *"How whining and tiresome you are! Stop being so awkward!"*

Example: *"Look at the state of that desk. It's a mess. What a lazy swine you are!"* When all the time the person saying this is not aware of the extent to which they may also be lazy, that in some aspects of their life (not necessarily the desk) they too are untidy (they could be sloppy in their thinking).

These are examples of projection – transferring your own stuff onto someone who is totally innocent. This is how most of us were treated as children. Adults loaded their own problems on to us, not necessarily aware that they were doing so! (However, this is about getting understanding - not about blaming parents and other significant adults.)

And so it was that most of us learned how simple it can be to 'solve' life's problems – by putting the blame for our own stuff, problem or feelings onto somebody else. This of course is hardly constructive.

So next time you get angry, upset, irritated, disturbed or whatever, step aside and tell yourself ...



It is sometimes difficult to see this because most of us have been taught to do this, that it is *'they'* who are the cause of our feeling the way we do.

This will open up the possibility of seeing yourself instead of blaming others. It allows you to step into your personal power and take responsibility for your life. It puts you in your own driving seat.

Once you have found one such example where you do this – truly feeling it to be relevant – then quite soon you will find more of them... And when you can become aware of this once in a while, then you can take giant leaps in your personal development – and you will feel much better.

Be sensitive.

Be kind to yourself.

Andrew Hunter

Invite a trusted person to point out when you might be projecting.

Find your own examples.

If you hear someone gossip – ask them if their statements are also true about them!

Andrew Hunter Associates: www.benu.com/quest

Conference Report

OUR NATION?

QUEER VOICES FROM SCOTLAND'S PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

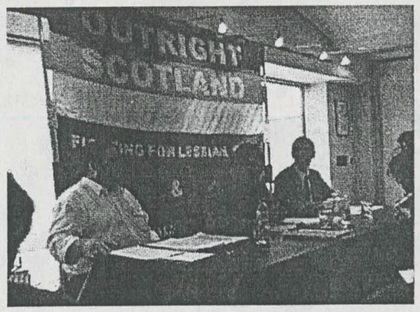
Our Nation was heralded as the first conference for five years to provide a forum for exploring the histories, present times and futures of the LGBT communities in Scotland. The venue was the Festival Theatre in Nicolson Street, Edinburgh and as I made my way down from Inverness to attend on the 15th April 2000 I wondered who else might be there from the T-community.

The Conference had been organised by Outright Scotland, a membership-led organisation which campaigns for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality. As I poured myself a coffee and folk began to arrive to register, I was not the least bit surprised to find myself renewing my acquaintance with many of the individuals whose work I have come to know and respect through my contact with other organisations such as PRIDE Scotland and the Equality Network. Indeed, the turn-out was both reassuring and encouraging for such an event - although it was still looking as if I was the only representative from the T-community as we went through to take our seats.

"Diverse and glorious lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities are to be found in Scotland's past, present and future."

Following the plenary session and introduction, Janey Buchan, former MSP and President of Outright Scotland, addressed the conference in her usual inimitable Glaswegian mix of humour and serious observation. Rab C. eat your heart out!

This was followed by the first of the presentations which was given by Andrew O'Donnell of ROAM, who spoke about *Cruising, Cottaging and Rent.* Brian Dempsey, Secretary of Outright Scotland, looked at *Sodomy and Scots Law to 1900: Taxonomies and Silence, Law and Identity.* (I must admit to taking some perverse pleasure from the 1849 case of the Christian Israelite preacher who was charged at Inverness with sodomy. Alleging that the charges were got up by Roman Catholics, he was nonetheless sentenced to ten years transportation.)



Iona McGregor presented *On Being Lesbian in 1950s, 60s, 70s Scotland.* Professor Kenneth Norrie spoke at length on *Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Relationships at Home and Abroad.* Alec Deary, Convener of Outright Scotland delivered his *Personal Odyssey,* Jamie Heckert presented *Sexual Identity Politics in Scotland: A Critical Perspective,* and playwright John Clifford spoke on *Two-Spirit People: A Voice To Be Heard.* Walter Morani looked at Gay and Lesbian Theatre in Scotland, *"Mum, Dad, There's something I've got to tell you...",* and writer/director John Binnie of Clyde Unity Theatre led an informal theatre workshop.

I spoke to John Clifford after the close of the conference and he kindly gave permission for me to reprint his presentation in the Tartan Skirt. Interestingly, he said afterwards, *"It was lovely to see you at the end of that meeting. I had, as so often, assumed I was alone."*

Julia Gordon

Photograph courtesy of Alec Deary

OUTRIGHT SCOTLAND works on a variety of issues affecting the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Scotland, including: Scottish Parliament elections, partnership rights, gay bashing, lobbying local councils, harassment and discrimination in housing, police entrapment, young people's rights and safety, lobbying MSPs, supporting marginalised individuals, employment discrimination, the rights of LGBT people with disabilities, violence in the home, discriminatory sexual offences laws, supporting our friends in other countries, hate crimes, asylum and immigration law, consulting with government and Scottish Executive Departments, challenging prejudice in the media...

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Carolyn's Corner

First off ... ***Passing***

Be honest, how much do you want to pass as a woman? Isn't being accepted what you really want? Very few of us can pass all of the time ... most of us none of the time. Being accepted, however, means you must be comfortable with yourself as a crossdresser. Until you are, you cannot expect others to be so. You have a right to go where and when you want, but that requires confidence ... confidence in what you wear, the way you move, your 'attitude' as drag artistes put it. I've encountered almost no hostility in the years I've been dressing and I think that's because I don't slouch about head down, mentally apologising. Remember, let people get a good look at you before you speak. First impressions do count ... keep your head up!

Next up ... ***Mannerisms***

Appearing more feminine starts with a lot of time spent observing women, followed by adapting your body language to match. Women have different mannerisms to men ... *lifting your pinkie whilst drinking is not one of them!* Pay attention to your personal hygene. Body odour is an extreme turn off and women are far more concious of it than men. Men like to control their personal space, whereas women have a different attitude towards this. They enjoy their space but are not as concerned about others sharing it. When walking, men tend not to get out of the way of others. Women avoid such confrontation.

Being feminine doesn't necessarily mean being quiet and mousey so don't try to change your personality when dressed ... you won't be comfortable and you'll most likely revert back to being yourself.

Then there's ... ***Posture***

Make the most of your features and try to think female all the time. This doesn't come naturally. Avoid sitting and walking like a man. If you slump with your legs apart you'll only look like Les Dawson, or worse, Zoe Ball (yuck).

And what about ... ***Speech***

Personally, I don't alter my voice when dressed. For me, once again, this is not about passing but being accepted for who I am. I was once described as *"a better looking Bet Midler sounding like Billy Connelly!"* It seems to work for me anyway. The choice is yours. If you do decide to try and change the timbre of your voice, remember you'll have to keep it up all long night long. Not so easy after a few sherbets!

And on ... ***Style***

One way to gain a feminine image is to have a style all your own. If you follow fashion, most of the time it won't suit you and more importantly, it will bankrupt you! Developing a style is what dressing is really all about ... for women too. Get known for something! Colour, textures, cut, hair, jewelry, etc. Because style is such a personal thing, I'm afraid I can't offer you much more guidance here except ... don't buy on impulse!

Think of the icons - Joan Collins for classic, timeless elegance, Cher for hair and revealing outfits, Zandra Rhodes, pink hair and wonderful fabrics, Vivianne Westwood, punk, bondage and high heels, Bet Lynch, big blonde hair, big earrings and big ... I know what you're thinking! Also, Nina Myskow - always in pink. Perhaps not *your* taste but no one mistakes these ladies for someone else!

I realise the above goes a bit further than passing or acceptance, but in your male role you *are* an individual. Would you want to be anything else when dressed? ... and why not be even more individual?

Dressing stylishly without seeming to go over the top is difficult these days when women are dressing more and more like men. If this trend continues, being a trannie could lose it's appeal, and If you did see another skirt, odds are it'll be a fellow (sister?) crossdresser wearing it!

When Marlene Dietrich arrived in Paris in 1929 wearing a man's suit, the Prefect of Police warned her she would be arrested if she appeared again dressed as a man. Things have certainly changed ... maybe too much?

Finally ... ***the Third Way***

This, as Tony would have it, may be the future for crossdressing.

As, more and more, women are adopting the male role and losing the desire (perhaps confidence) to 'dress up', it could be up to us to provide the 'feminism' in the traditional sense, that is missing from life today. I'm surely not the only one who aches for glamour, glitz and style as it once was. Go on, do your bit for Queen and Country ... and make an impression out there!

Carolyn Stevenson

Voice from the Future

by Alexandrina

I've just discovered a way to make my voice more feminine! It may not be very practical at the moment, but who knows what the situation might be in the future? I use my computer to produce the effect.

For some time I have been editing videos with this modern marvel. I can manipulate not only the video part of the movie in the edit program, but I can also change the *sound* in various ways. By changing the speed of the 'clip', I find that speech gets altered. Actually, I found something similar many years ago with a tape recorder ... the only difference being that a tape recorder is restricted to changing the speed by doubling it. With the computer, however, I can a fine tune the sound distortion by using incremental speed changes of one percent.

If I increase the speed to around 103%, this has the effect of reducing the base and increasing the treble ... without sounding like a chipmunk! OK, you say, that's all very well, but it's not much use when you're out and about. You can't easily carry a computer around with you. Or can you?

We do have laptop computers which are totally portable, if not quite able to fit in the handbag - but what about future developments? I recently heard something to the effect that the next generation of computers are likely to be the size of a folded piece of paper which can be placed in a wallet. If so, they can go into a handbag!

Still sceptical? OK, so the computer program is only intended for recorded speech - you're not going to be able to speak through this machine very easily, are you? Well, what if I tell you I'm writing this article by dictation? I'm speaking into a microphone and the computer is printing out what I've just said. At the press of a button I can replay what I've dictated. I can even get the computer to read my manuscript for me! I must admit that the voice sounds a bit like a dalek, but then I discovered another feature. By going into *advanced settings* I can change the voice to other 'actors'. So, now I can have a *female* voice speaking back to me!

OK, you don't want to sound like a dalek - even a female one - but if the voice reproduction could be improved, say to imitate one of those glamorous girl announcers on television, then we might have something approaching acceptable.

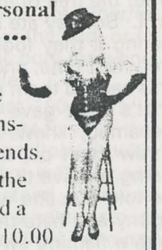
I was about to add that I may never see the day when this technical wizardry will allow trannies to really put one over on RGs, then I remembered that technology is not just advancing, it's accelerating! Just imagine, a small silicone chip planted in your wig. You simply whisper, *"Sophie Rayworth voice, On,"* and you're voice assumes the sultry, sexy tones you've only ever dreamed about before.

End



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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.

Being Bi-Gendered

by John Clifford

Gender is something it's very hard to talk about. For one thing, it's immensely complicated, and our culture has barely begun to understand it. For another, it's something fundamental to the way in which we understand and define ourselves. It's a kind of foundation stone. And if like me that foundation is rather wobbly, or the wrong shape somehow, or even just made of sand, it's very distressing and very frightening.

Expressing and exploring it tends to bring up a lot of fear and distress in others. A man dressed as a woman, a woman dressed as a man: these are powerful figures. These provoke profound fascination, and profound repulsion. The whole subject is charged with powerful emotions, most of them negative: guilt, fear, shame, denial.

It's very hard to find a clear way through all this, and very important not to make categorical statements. I can't claim to speak for or on behalf of the transsexual community, assuming such a thing exists. I cannot claim to speak for anybody. All I can try to do is speak for myself: try to make sense of what has happened to me. And what continues to happen: try to understand who I am. Because I think it matters: it has profound implications in particular as to how we define manhood.

Whenever I start to think about this, I think about Genesis. You'll know the story: it's about a powerful and rather unpleasant being called God, who, the story goes, made a man called Adam. And he made a beautiful garden for him to live in. But Adam was lonely in his garden, which seems to have come as a big surprise, and so God invented anaesthetic, took out Adam's rib, and made a woman out of it. And they went off to live in the garden and the deal was they could do anything they liked except eat the fruit of one particular tree: the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. So they ate it, as you would, and after eating it they looked at each other for the very first time, and noticed they were different. And this caused them profound anguish and shame. And that's what gave them away. God saw they were ashamed, knew they'd eaten forbidden fruit, and threw them out the garden. He told Adam he was going to have to work for his living, and hate it, and he told Eve she was going to bear children in great agony and hate that too. And then he put an angel with a flaming sword at the entrance to paradise to make sure they would never be able to get back there again.

I grew to hate myself ... I felt sick, perverted, loathesome, and profoundly alone.

John Clifford is an established scriptwriter whose work has been adapted for theatre, radio, TV, film, opera and puppet theatre. His work has been staged throughout this country and abroad. John combines writing with being a parent and lecturing at Queen Margaret University College in Edinburgh.

This article is a transcript of a talk he gave at the OUR NATION Conference, reported elsewhere in the Tartan Skirt.

It's a nasty story, and I hope they don't teach it in schools. It promotes organised religion, misogyny, and all kinds of unpleasantness. What's surprising is that although our external circumstances in the west have changed beyond recognition since the story was first told, our internal landscape seems to have hardly changed at all. Our culture remains profoundly misogynist; and the god in the story strikes me as a perfect image of the sexist life hating culture that has done so much to make our lives a misery. It is powerful, cruel, arbitrary, unjust: and profoundly insecure. And the wrath of God, and the wrath of his angel, falls particularly heavily on those of us who cannot and will not conform to what our culture demands of us in terms of our sexuality or gender.

I don't know when I first ate the forbidden fruit. All I know is that when I was a teenager I became aware of the fact that I hated being a boy, I couldn't relate to it, it really wasn't me. And there being no other option, I assumed it had to be because somehow I was really a girl. Certainly I was far happier dressed as a girl, or at least would have been if I hadn't had the same time been so possessed with fear, with guilt and shame.

So I did exactly what God did in the story: I split myself in two. There was a male me, which was the me that had to function in the outer world, and a female me which I tried to split off from myself: put in a box, and lock up deep and dark in a secret closet where I tried (and tried and tried) to forget about it. It didn't work of course. These are the kinds of feelings in the end it is simply impossible to repress. They simply rebound on you; and rebound on you with a renewed strength. And often the act of trying to suppress them gives them a vicious twisted kind of energy that often makes them very destructive. I grew to hate myself. I hated my male self simply for being male; and I hated my female self for causing me so much shame and suffering. I felt sick, perverted, loathsome, and profoundly alone.

I was wrong, of course. I was not sick, I was not perverted, certainly not loathsome, and most definitely not alone. Never was, never am, never will be. But it has taken me many many years to understand this. I am sure that in every secondary school in Scotland right now there will be at least one, probably two, three, or even many more, boys and girls, just feeling now just what I felt then ... very frightened, very ashamed, with no-one to turn to, having to deal with this anguish all on their own. And it is such a waste, such unnecessary suffering. It's another reason why it is so important to repeal section 28. Guilt and shame never helped anyone. It is time to stop blighting young people's lives.

In retrospect it all becomes very clear: of course I was not alone. There are huge numbers of us: the reason we are unseen and unheard is because most of us feel so bad about ourselves that we go to enormous lengths to remain invisible. We are too frightened to speak, and so we remain unheard. I think of the men who go to work wearing frillies under their business suits. Of the men who spend the day pretending to be ordinary men, and then at night, or at weekends, pretend to be women. I know these men very well; I used to be one of them. We take quite extraordinary precautions not to be discovered; we go to unbelievable lengths to keep our feminine identities well hidden. And if we do go out together we are terrified: terrified people will 'read' us: terrified people will know who we are: men in frocks. As if this was the most terrible, shameful thing in the world. I'm thinking of so many unhappy lives. Lives possessed by shame and guilt. Lives governed by lies.

"What is life? A delirium..
Life's an illusion.
Life's a shadow, a fiction,
And the greatest good
is worth nothing at all
For the whole of life
is just a dream
And dreams...
dreams are only dreams."

Calderon, Life is a Dream

Many of us get so desperate that we decide we've had enough; that we have had enough of being a man. That the answer to all this anguish is to remove the duality of it: get rid of this male body and do all we can to turn it into a female one. Surgery will help us here: for once, there is one thing in this otherwise hostile world that seems to offer an answer. It is not surprising so many of us grab at it. And this is an important right. It saves many, many people from lives of profound sadness and desperation. It takes great courage: courage to face the disapproval, and sometimes the detestation of family and friends, to face mockery at work, mockery and often great physical danger in the street, and profound discrimination in the workplace.

I repeat: this is an important right. People have the right to take this step, and deserve every support for it. What saddens me is how often at the end of it all: castration, removal of the penis, creation of an artificial vagina -all this intensely painful genital surgery - and the surgery of the throat to gain a more 'female' voice, and the surgery of the chest to gain more feminine breasts, and the (usually quite damaging) intake of hormones, the endless sessions of electrolysis to remove facial and body hair, all the extraordinary effort required to erase all traces of masculinity... at the end of all this how many of us remain haunted by the same fear of being discovered. As if it was a crime. And the only cure for it is to disappear.

I spent many years wanting to be a woman. I couldn't understand it, I couldn't make sense of it, I certainly couldn't even begin to feel proud of it. And how many, many times it would happen that I would see a woman in the street: usually not especially beautiful or glamorous or feminine in the conventional sense, but a woman with something about her that would make me long to be her. That would make me convinced that somehow she was more 'me' than this male sense I dragged around with such reluctance. And I always thought I would go down that road in the end. But at the time I was simply fighting to survive. Fighting with all my strength to establish myself as a playwright, earn enough money to support my children; I was most intensely involved in their upbringing, too, and as any parent knows the demands of young children are so intense and so wonderful and fulfilling (usually much more so in retrospect) that they leave hardly any space to consider yourself. And besides all that, there was an immense barrier of fear and of shame. And I could find no way to cross it.

What surprises me now, now that my children are so much more grown up, and I am established, and I have the money and the time and the opportunity; now that I understand far better, and am far less frightened and far less ashamed, is that I do not want to go down that path at all. I don't consider myself ill. I am not prepared to define myself as such: to go to a doctor, or see a psychiatrist in the "Sexual Problems Clinic". I am not nearly so convinced that the 'sexual problem' resides in me; not at all convinced I suffer any fundamental sickness. If there is a sickness, I would say it resides more in the world around us.

I would say I was not a "transgendered" person, not, as I seem to have been encouraged to define myself, a "man trapped in a woman's body" (though it has often felt that way) but a *bi-gendered* person. A man who partakes of both genders. That my situation is not either/or - either a man or a woman; it is both/and. Because in the end, or in the beginning, we are all part of a spectrum: we are all both male and female. Indeed, in the womb, we all started out female.

One way of understanding Feminism of the past 100 years is partly about women reclaiming their male side: the right to vote, the right to be intellectual, the right to have equal status and power with men. But men have not taken the corresponding step; we have not embraced our femaleness, our lost selves. Instead in these reactionary times, men seem to be in full retreat: into a hetero-sexist bunker: of laddishness, football, Chris Evans, and Cardinal Winning. This is not a good move to make.

What happened to me is only a very extreme example of what happens to every boy growing up in this society: we have to cut ourselves off, repress our capacity for empathy, intuition, for deep feeling and turn into a very psychically maimed being called a man. This really has to change: we have to try to rediscover our lost repressed feminine selves. Our culture is so profoundly imbued with misogyny that it is difficult to express this, difficult to understand what it might mean, difficult to imagine what we might become. It is one thing to build a programme around votes for women; quite another to build one on housework for men.

Thinking of it makes me often feel very helpless. But I can at least begin with myself: I can stop being invisible. And when I make myself visible, I can try to stop expressing myself in ways that express misogyny and the domination of women. I can begin to try to make myself heard. But most importantly I can begin to discover my pride. A pride which for many years seemed lost for ever. And this is the last thing I have to tell you: that I am profoundly grateful to be who I am. Profoundly grateful, and profoundly proud.

End

Continuing Tales of Transgender in Myth and Legend...

Our Forgotton History

MONTANUS ...

VOICE OF THE NEW PROPHECY

During the sixth century reign of Justinian, one John of Ephesus exhumed the bones of the central figures of the Montanist sect – the remains of Prisca, Maximilla, and some unknown "woman" buried with them, Carata! The late Rev. G. Salmon, of Dublin's Trinity College wrote, "What is disguised under the name Carata, we cannot tell."[1]

Carata, a name on the grave markers, has no known place in the history of Montanism. "Gender dysphoric" Christian theologians, not comprehending sexual and gender diversity, would be incapable of making a connection that is at once obvious to a gender variant. From fragmentary accounts, we offer a probable answer to the mystery of Montanus/Carata, identified by Jerome as a semivir (half-man/half-woman) and abscissus (cut one) and described by several writers on religious history as a former priest(ess) of Cybele.

Laura Darlene Lansberry

Autumn of the nineteenth regnal year of Antoninus Pius (156 C.E.), in the dusty, remote Phrygian village of Ardabau... In a private chamber of the village shrine of Magna Mater, Archigalla Carata spoke solemnly to Prisca. *"A new religion is drawing the common people from our ancient practices. They call us heathens and ridicule us. People sense that the world is coming to an ending; they are desparate for simple answers... seeking assurance of salvation, not esoteric mysteries so loved by the learned sophisticates. Perhaps this Jesus is Attis reborn! Yet, it disturbs me to see how these Christian dogmas decrease women, manifesting men as superior, to dominate over women. When I was dancing for the Mother and Her only Son, but two nights ago, Her voice spoke within me! I was given to know that our only chance for survival is to meld our spirituality into a new form."*

"My Lady, what are we to do?" asked Prisca, her stola shimmering in the light from the temple torches.

"Dancing to the music of the flute and drum and playing my tympanum until my hands bled, Magna Mater descended into me and spoke through me. She called herself the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, Divine Sophia, the Holy feminine aspect of God. Behold! Man is a lyre and I play upon him as with a plectrum; man sleeps and I arouse him. Behold! It is the Lord who throws men's souls into ecstasy and gives them a heart! [2] *I've been charged with bringing forth the New Prophecy, and at my side shall be Maximilla and you, my Priscilla, my little proud one. The Holy Spirit will continue to speak with my tongue, and with yours."*

"What is the New Prophecy?" asked Maximilla, slipping an arm around the waist of Prisca.

"Some Christians, believing the usurper Paul, claim the time of prophecy is past, and the books are closed. This isn't true. I have been given to know that the Divine Creator, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, are Three, yet they are One. The Triple Goddess is retained in the heart of the Christian Way, although they aren't aware of it," answered Carata, casually plucking a grape from the patera of offerings upon the altar.

"How do they view deity, if not as we do?" questioned Prisca, strolling casually toward the brazier sitting on the altar near the dish of fruit. Warming her hands she gazed expectantly at Carata, waiting for an answer.

"They view divinity as three separate beings and have rejected, at least for now, that the three are one. Also they cast off the feminine aspect, making the Holy Spirit sexless and leaving no place in their religion for women, except as obedient, mindless servants of men. Neither do they honor Eve, considering her wicked for disobeying God's admonition not to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. They are, of course, unversed. How is it that God would put it there, if he had not intended the fruit to be eaten?" responded Carata placing the grape in her mouth, biting down gently, and then swallowing.

"They can't do such a thing. Women won't put up with it," responded Maximilla, her blood beginning to boil.

"They can and they do, and dissenters are relentlessly hounded. Dispute from the grave is fraught with extreme difficulty," answered Carata, light perspiration glistening on (he)r forehead warmed by the flames of the torches.

"What are we to do?" asked both women, their voices joined in unison.

"We must bring forth new prophecies, retaining as much of our ancient worship as we dare. We will retain our musical instruments, our dancing, our singing, and our ecstasies. I will invoke the Goddess in the form of the Paraclete; speaking Her ancient wisdom. We can't allow Her to be swallowed up by the new religion. If we disguise Her, She may yet be saved. You both will have, as you do now, the highest authority and will continue guiding the people with your prophecies," answered Carata, placing a hand on the left shoulder of Prisca and (he)r other on the right shoulder of Maximilla, as they stood before (he)r arms encircled around each other's waist.

"And you, what will become of you?" asked Prisca, her eyes glistening, wide awake, alert.

"I will do as I must. Except for the ecstasies, and in private with my dearest friends, I retake my family name, Montanus. I will be known to them as a priest. The hatred of the Messianic Jews for the Gallae is retained in the Christian theologies. They wouldn't tolerate me in the form you know me. However, for those who understand me, I shall always call forth the Goddess in my person and in my heart. I am no less a woman for what I do, I am more. I'm presenting the greatest of womanly virtues; self-sacrifice for the greater good," Carata spoke with pride and a certain joy, then (s)he hugged both women together and they hugged (he)r in return.

"With the blessing of the Goddess, we will endure," (s)he continued, tears brimming (he)r eyes. *"I am most blessed to have the two of you at my side."*

"It's we who are blessed, My Lady," quietly cooed Prisca, her head on Carata's shoulder.

"I agree," spoke up Maximilla, kissing Carata lightly on the lips.

* * * * *

Two years later... in ecstatic trance before the crowds in Pepuza...

Maximilla, trembling, whirling, drenched in frenzied sweat, shouts, *"I am the Word, and the Spirit, and the Power!* [3] *"Be resolute! Be chaste! Be perfect! I see the coming of a great war... a war of all against all, in which the mighty shall be brought low! The Spiritual will triumph over the Carnal. We must dedicate our bodies to chastity. Blessed are they who leave their husbands and wives for the sake of the Lord! Those widowed should not remarry in any case, for the time grows short. Spirit enjoins us henceforth to fast two extra weeks on dried foods. In this fast, abstain from flesh, wine, and the bath. Focus your spirit wholly on the Blessed Lord!"*

Prisca rose, singing in an unknown tongue, then grew still and spoke of her ecstasies in hushed tones. The crowd strained to hear. *"I had a vision of the Christ, come in the glorious form of a woman, arrayed in royal garments of purple and gold.*

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



OF PERCEPTION ...

A bird is one egg's way of becoming other eggs.

The Book - On The Taboo Against Knowing Who You Are

OF STRUGGLE ...

If you stop trying to become whatever it is you are trying to become and instead have the feeling that you are what you are, and this is the moment - your struggle stops.

Bartholomew

OF VIRTUE ...

Go placidly amid the noise and haste and remember what peace there may be in silence.

As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant, for they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit.

If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.

Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery.

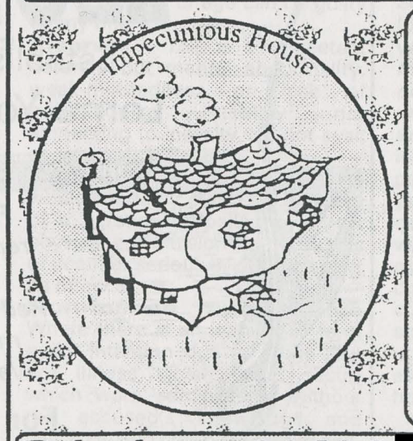
But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be careful.

Strive to be happy.

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events which will transpire soon. Only those of purest heart shall endure. Most Blessed are they, for they shall see New Jerusalem desending from the Heavens in Celestial Glory. This very city, Pepuza, shall be the earthly throne of the Divine One. And She shall come as the Bride of Heaven, arrayed with jewels of light!" [4]



Cybele, Mother of Gods

Thus it was that Carata (Montanus), Prisca, and Maximilla began the Montantist sect of Christianity and it thrived, spreading into Europe as well as North Africa. In 178 C.E., as it grew in influence, Roman bishops condemned it. Spreading abroad, and with the passage of time, Montanist doctrines grew more in accord with those of other sects, though retaining strict morality and apparent eagerness for martyrdom. Tertullian embraced the cause while placing his own stamp upon it.

Among facets of Montanism that were originally found objectionable were Prisca's prophecies that the return of Christ would be as a woman, implying that Christians watching only for a man would miss Her. The Spiritual Ones (pneumatikoi) had little enthusiasm for building up earthly organizations and hierarchies, because they believed in the immanence of the Apocalypse. Not to mention that Montanism encouraged followers to prophecy through ecstatic dancing and speaking in tongues. If common folk had the gift of prophecy and the authority that came with it, what need would they of priests? Church coffers would be empty. Then, some Christians regarded the sect as too ascetic, their morality too strict in character. Others honored it too highly, Hippolytus wrote: *"They claim to have learned more from these women than from the Law, the Prophets, and the Gospels. Yet they raise these wretched females above Christ's own Apostles and the gifts of Grace... so much so that a few of them dare to assert that they contain in themselves something superior to Christ Himself!"* [5]

After the passing of Montanus and the prophetesses, leadership of the community passed to Themiso. The sect, under Themiso's leadership, shed many of its more radical aspects, which was when it attracted the allegiance of Tertullian, a church father of North Africa. It also had become obvious that the expected universal wars and awaited Second Advent were not taking place in that generation.

Eventually, after Theodosius formally established his Church as the Imperial state religion in 381 C.E., Montanism was outlawed and state authority employed to harrass the remnant of the followers. However, it was during the reign of Justinian and Theodora that the worst toll was taken, decades after the last vestiges of Empire had crumbled in Rome itself.

The Byzantine Emperor was determined to eradicate all remains of the Montanist heresy. All Montanists, adults and their children, gathering in despair, were burned alive in their temples. Some historians prefer to believe that the Montanists, thousands of people, committed communal suicide, a most suspect conjecture. The Montanists' homes too were burned, along with all their meager possessions.

Even the bones of Montanus/Carata, Prisca, and Maximilla were dug up and burned by John of Ephesus in 550 C.E., lest their spirits walk the earth seeking vengeance. Thus, despite some possible survivals in the sect of the 'effeminate' Messalians in Mesopotamia, orthodoxy succeeded in crushing the last surviving members of Montanism in Phyrgia... and the strong voice of the feminine in Christianity, was to all intents and purposes, silenced for centuries.

End

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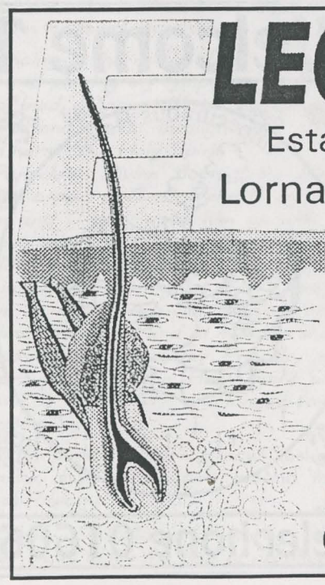
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YOU AND THE LAW



by Catherine

The editor has asked me to write about the law and how it affects you. I'll try to do this over the course of several articles and through these I hope to explain to you a little bit about the law and how it effects everyone.

The first thing that must be said is that the law of this land i.e. Scotland is there for everyone ,you, me ,everyone. I will make no apologies for repeating this throughout the articles as this is the main pitfall concerning the TS/TV community, the fact that no one reports, or is reluctant to report, incidents to the police. This is an area in which we as a community must better ourselves, as if we do not help ourselves then no one else will. The police cannot do anything if they are not informed. Each Police Force in Scotland should have a liaison officer for dealing with the gay/transgendered community and if you feel that you cannot speak to your local beat officer then you should ask to speak to the liaison officer who should deal sympathetically with your complaint. Remember the law is there for you and the police are there to enforce the law. It is a police officer's moral and legal duty to note any complaint made to him, make enquiry into the complaint and where sufficient evidence exists either warn the person, report the person to the Procurator Fiscal or if the complaint is severe enough arrest the person. Again I say it does not matter what colour, race, religion or sexual orientation you are, the police and the law are there for you and you must use them.

For those who are unaware, the law in Scotland is different from England. In England only one witness is required, whereas in Scotland we need two witnesses for any matter to proceed to court. However there are times when one witness is enough if, for example, this is corroborated by other evidence such as video, forensic, DNA etc. Scotland's legal system has developed independently over many centuries and significant differences will be found if a comparison is made with other countries. In Scotland responsibility for policing has been strictly separated from responsibility for proceedings in Court. Having reported an offender the Scottish Police have no part in the decision to prosecute that person nor any part other than as witnesses if a prosecution should take place.

Composition of Criminal Law

The criminal law of Scotland consists partly of common law and partly of enacted law. Broadly speaking the common law may be described as the universal law of the country, the fundamental principles of which have existed from time immemorial entirely independent of any enactnent. This unwritten law is not inflexible but may be amplified by decisions made by the high court of Justiciary.

Enacted law, which includes statutes, orders, regulations and bylaws is the written law of some body having legislative powers. In Scotland the courts must enforce properly enacted law, however anomalous the result might be and it is up to the appropriate legislative body, not the courts to amend an enactment, the operation of which results in injustice.

Criminal Liability

The general rule is that every person, whether a British subject or not, who infringes the criminal law within the jurisdiction of the Scottish courts, is liable to punishment. The exceptions to this are -

1 **Non-age** No child under the age of 8 years of age can be guilty of any offence.
2 **Insanity** This is a competent defence but mental abnormality, weak-mindedness or lack of psychological stability not amounting to insanity will not avail as a complete defence.
3 **Compulsion** This defence would probably suffice in the case of a person compelled by direct physical compulsion or by threats of death or serious injury to commit an offence.
4 **Non-insane automatism** Where there is an inability to form guilty intention due to drugs (but not illness which might recur) which were administered without the accused's knowledge and which caused complete loss of self-control, is a defence.

There are also exceptions under the Diplomatic Privileges Act 1964.

Remember! Ignorance of the law will not justify the commission of any crime or offence and an attempt to commit any crime or offence is itself a crime or offence.

Having dispensed with all the official bits, as I said earlier I will try to explain parts of the law which you as a member of the public may come into contact with, either as a victim or the accused.

BREACH OF THE PEACE

This is possibly the most used piece of legislation in the police officer's armoury. The official definition for this offence is *'any conduct which causes alarm or annoyance to another'.*

As you can see this can have a wide scope and could be used for almost everything. It can range from children playing football in the street outside your front door to being on the receiving end of verbal abuse or rude gestures. It can be anything from being shouted and sworn at in the street, to a work colleague calling you names. Do not imagine that just because you are at work you have to tolerate abusive behaviour from other people. You are still protected by the law and even if you have complained to your supervisor you can still make a formal complaint to the police. However, as stated at the beginning, in Scots Law you require two witnesses for any court proceedings. If however you do not have another witness *do not let this stop you from making a complaint.* All complaints are logged and if the person again harasses or abuses you and on that occasion there is sufficient evidence to charge the person, then on his conviction at court you can apply for a non-harassment order following a criminal offence (this will be discussed in depth in another issue). Having previously complained and having your complaints logged by the police shows the court a pattern of unacceptable behaviour which will assist them in their deliberations, hopefully in your favour.

As stated, breach of the peace can be used for most abusive behaviour and, depending upon the nature of the remarks or complaint, the officer will

either warn the person regarding his conduct, charge or arrest the offender. Don't imagine that because the person has perhaps just been given a formal warning that you are wasting your time. This is certainly not the case. If he (or she) repeats the offence he would then be charged with this offence. Please also remember that the officer who attends on the second incident may be unaware of the first so tell him that you have complained on a previous occasion and that the person had been warned. This will help the officer decide how to deal with the incident.

If you are unhappy with the way the officer has dealt with the incident remember, *you have rights!* It is your right to complain about the police if you feel you have grounds for doing this. A letter addressed to your Chief Constable outlining your complaint will be officially logged and taken very seriously.

End

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- has had The Times print a letter of support from 20 VIPs.
- has a case going to the European Court of Justice

— is fighting for YOUR rights and NEEDS your support

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FETISH ALERT!!

When police searched the home of a man caught stealing underwear from washing lines in Wembley, they found he had amassed over 10,000 pairs in a five-year knicker-knocking spree. The thief expressed relief when finally apprehended. *"I was getting really worried I'd have to move to a bigger flat"*, he said.



Playscheme clown, Gerald McDaniel, 23, begged a court not to send him to jail for stealing three blouses from British Home Stores in Princes Street, Edinburgh, and giving police a false name, Coco, and address.

And a man was undergoing psychiatric tests in a Bankok hospital after breaking into a model's home and eating nine silk dresses.

On the University of Virginia campus at Charlottesville, USA, someone is preying on women, rugby tackling them and making off with their clogs. While in Mexborough, Yorkshire, a "young man with only one leg" waylaid a 10-year-old girl and robbed her of a single shoe.



In Hilleroed, Denmark, a 70-year-old man was jailed for stealing 5,000 ladies shoes over a seven year period. In his defence he pleaded mitigating circumstances, *"I have so much trouble finding shoes that fit. They were either too small or too tight, the wrong shade, or the wrong height. So I had to keep searching, Your Honour"*, he said.



Finally, police in Hong Kong stopped a man because he seemed "oddly shaped". On investigation they found he was wearing 18 bras and 45 pairs of ladies panties!

NEWS

From Around The World...

UNITED STATES

Colorado

Don't cramp my lifestyle!

Under a new ordinance in Boulder, Colorado, companies must grant full rights to transsexual employees ... but may limit them to "three gender changes in an 18-month period."

New York

You're Nick..er..ed

A Manhattan police captain was quietly transferred to another borough after fellow cops spotted him wearing a woman's wig and a dress. The "very embarrassed" captain, the supervisor of a specialized patrol command, offered to resign - but police brass decided there was no legitimate reason to drop him from the force after nearly twenty years.

Priest recants his gender

Father Dennis Brennan, 65, the longtime pastor of St. Margaret of Cortona Roman Catholic Church, is in the process of making history as the first priest in America to become a woman. He's already listed as Denise J. Brennan on a newly issued New York State driver-'s license.

Not all his parishioners have welcomed the news - nor the bishop of Albany. It has also been officially condemned by the diocese's top spiritual leader, Bishop Howard Hubbard. Brennan left active ministry in September and has applied for laicization with the Vatican, which is a return to the lay state. He said, *"It was never a matter of choice. I had always been conscious of my inner female gender, although I had managed to hide or bury it."*

Texas

Ambigious Genitalia Leads To Infant's Death

In Dallas, Texas, a mother has been charged with killing her own child on December 8th, 1999, simply because the child was born with ambigious genitalia. The baby was three days old, and died of blunt force trauma to the head, as well as strangulation.

Detectives won't speculate whether Aruna Kavili allegedly killed her child because she was ashamed, or because she was pressured into doing so by her husband. Mr. Kavali has not been charged.

UNITED KINGDOM

Sexual discrimination case upheld

A care worker has been awarded nearly £3,000 compensation after a council banned her from looking after a patient until they decided her true gender. Deborah Fortnum won her sexual discrimination case against Suffolk County Council in one of the first cases of its kind in the county.

At an earlier hearing, the panel was told Ms Fortnum, of Ipswich, was taken on as a female care worker by social services in February 1998, before she had undergone a sex-change operation. She had been living and working as a female for four years and was still awaiting her sex-change operation.

In May 1999, the Government amended the Sex Discrimination Act to ensure employers can be held liable if they discriminate against people who have had a sex change. However, the legislation is complex and it is not clear to what extent the law protects those about to undergo physical changes.

Thrown out of jail!

A cross dressing jailer was forced to quit after his secret was revealed, it was claimed. Ex-Army sergeant Anthony Jensen-Read, 51, of Eastfield, Wolverhampton, claims unfair dismissal by Premier Prison Services of Banbury, Oxon. He claims his bosses saw him as an embarassment. Mr Jensen-Read, who escorted prisoners between jail and court, became the butt of colleagues' jokes after a local newspaper revealed he was a transsexual who liked to be called Tracey, an industrial tribunal heard.

Pulling no punches

Jamie Johnson, British Women's Boxing Lightweight Champion, is planning to realise her ultimate dream - she is preparing for a gender reassignment operation. She hopes the money from a forthcoming world title battle with Laila Ali - daughter of legendary heavyweight champion Muhammad - will allow her to undergo a double mastectomy and is investigating the possibility of having an artificial penis made from skin grafts.

Jamie, 36, says: *"I was born female and that's been a problem for me all my life. I bottled it up since I was about four. I always wanted to be a boy and later on, as I grew older, a man. I'm a man with a female physique but when I'm fighting, I can forget my body."*

Headteacher backs 'Sir'

The headmaster of a Catholic school has said he'll support a female teacher who is undergoing a sex change. Mrs Lesa Armstrong, a technology teacher at Blessed Robert Johnson Catholic College, in Telford, will be known as Mr Sam Armstrong. Headmaster John Martin told parents that Armstrong, 29, had *"begun a course of treatment to realign her gender."*

Prisons Inspector calls for treatment for inmates

Sir David Ramsbottom, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, believes that inmates should be allowed free gender reassignment treatment while in jail. He has stated that transsexual prisoners risk serious health problems because they have been denied treatment and should be able to access this the same as everyone else.

Awaiting release

Last year, a convicted kidnapper won a legal battle against the prison service to be the first British prisoner to undergo treatment at a cost of £11,000. John Pilley, who is in Gartree prison, Leicestershire, argued that having given him hormones, enabling him to develop breasts, it was unfair for the prison service to leave him in the limbo of being part man and part woman. But after seven years of this treatment he is still waiting for surgery.

Pilley is in the same state of limbo as at least five other prisoners. The Prison Service views the matter seriously and is drawing up guidelines for publication in the summer. A spokesman said that "any request from a prisoner to change their sex would be treated in line with normal NHS guidelines".

Body on the beach

The death of a transsexual whose body was found weighed down with body-building weights on a Suffolk beach is being treated as murder, police have said. Christine Chappel's naked body was found near Kessingland Beach near Lowestoft on 2nd March. Detectives

originally thought the 28-year-old victim, from Roxwell, near Chelmsford, Essex, may have drowned, but a post mortem has revealed she was murdered.

Ms Chappel, formerly known as Bryan Hooley, underwent a gender reassignment operation in 1994. She is believed to have been born in Perth, Australia, and studied electronic engineering at Salford University before moving to Essex.

Conditional discharge for soldier

A former SAS soldier, described as having an exemplary record, including active service in the Gulf War, appeared in court charged with assault. John White, who now calls himself Joanna, told reporters he was going through the early stages of a sex change. In court, it was claimed that White had to be wrestled to the ground by four police officers who were called to a pub in Maidstone after staff saw him acting suspiciously. He was carrying a hammer and screwdrivers. The officers said that the arrest had been exhausting. White was found guilty of four assault charges. Margaret Ivell, chairwoman of the magistrates, who addressed him as Mrs White, said that the court had *"taken everything into consideration"* in deciding that a conditional discharge was the most appropriate sentence.

Within the Law

Two lesbians are believed to be the first gay couple in Britain to legally marry - owing to the strict interpretation of the law. Diane Maddox produced a birth certificate showing she was born a boy so she could walk down the aisle with Clair Ward-Jackson. Clair, 23, wore a dress for the ceremony while graphic designer Diane wore a man's suit. The 43 year old, who had reassignment surgery three years ago, said: *"It's a simple love story. We want to be together and we have the right to be married. We are not out to make a statement but we would like to see the law changed so gay couples can marry legally. The register office had no problem and it was a lovely day for us."*

Loo'd behaviour upsets female staff

A train driver upset women staff at Newcastle Central Station today after rail bosses let him use the ladies' loos. The veteran railman is in the process of having gender reassignment treatment and bosses at GNER have allowed him to wear a woman's uniform. But the decision has provoked anger among female station staff who complained after managers said he could use their toilets. Now, unions and management are in talks with women workers in a bid to settle the row. A spokesman for the footplate workers' union, ASLEF, said: *"We are fully supportive of our member and his decision is one that we respect. Our local representatives are sensitive to the concerns expressed by female staff and are working to find a solution to this issue."*

A first for Scotland

The Adults with Incapacity Bill, passed recently by the Scottish Parliament, will result in same-sex partners having the same right as cohabiting heterosexual partners to be consulted if their partner becomes legally or medically incapacitated. The Parliament's Equal Opportunities Committee and the Scottish Justice Minister, Jim Wallace, accepted the arguments put forward by Outright Scotland and the Equality Network in defence of this position.

Tragic suicide ...

An elderly woman who killed herself because she could not face the indignity of old age was actually a male war hero, it has emerged. Major John Roche, who later became Joanna Roche, was awarded the Military Cross for bravery during the Second World War after risking his life to lead his troops out of danger. After serving in India, Africa, Burma and Malaysia he spent his last years living as a woman. He decided to take his own life earlier this year after being treated for a urinary tract problem. He was found the next day with a plastic bag over his head at his sheltered accommodation in Milton Keynes by the warden, who was not aware of his military past. His double life emerged as an inquest was told of his outstanding military career. Joanna Roche was born in Dublin in 1914 and joined the King's Own Royal Lancashire Regiment in 1939 before transferring to the the West Yorkshire Regiment.

IRELAND

Cork

More than 35 transsexuals undergoing 'urgent' medical treatment have been left without further care after the death of the only doctor looking after their treatment. Cork doctor and mother of two Margaret O'Regan drowned while on a family holiday in Thailand. The cases of all the doctor's transsexual patients have been put on hold.

SAUDI ARABIA

Unacceptable behaviour ...

Nine men in the Saudi Arabian city of Qunfuda were found guilty of violating Islamic Law after police determined they had been dressing in women's clothing and having sex together. Five of the men were sentenced to six years in prison and 2,600 lashes at the rate of 52 lashes twice monthly, the other four being given five years each and 2,400 lashes twice monthly.

JAPAN

Okayama

The ethics committee of the Medical Department of the Okayama University has approved treatment for gender dysphoric patients including reassignment surgery. The University in Okayama, about 600 kilometers west of Tokyo, will be Japan's second facility to offer this service, the first being the Saitama Medical College near Tokyo.

Tokyo

A male-to-female transsexual will get a second shot at high school after a Japanese district court overturned an education board decision to bar the 30-year-old graduate from re-enrolling as a woman. The woman told the court she had transformed herself into a female 'physically and mentally' after graduating from high school in 1987 and had been diagnosed by a hospital as 'very close to being a woman biologically,' Kyodo news agency said. *"I want to start my life over as a female high school student,"* the transsexual was quoted as saying after the ruling was handed down.

THAILAND

Transsexual volleyball film scores with the public

In its first two weeks, a controversial movie that deals with gay and transsexual issues, and based on the katoey-led volleyball team that won the real-life National Championship in 1996, has reeled in $1.75 million and is on its way to becoming Thailand's second-highest-grossing film ever. *"'Satree Lex' is a major step forward for Thai films, which are generally pretty awful,"* says Kiccha Buranond, a correspondent for Dichan, a Thai women's magazine. *"The characters are developed, they're hilarious and they really touch your heart."* International companies are eyeing the film for distribution overseas, betting that its sight gags and bawdy repartee - plus its message of acceptance - will have a broad appeal, even if the phenomenon of katoey athletes is uniquely Thai.

End

Wendy Ellen J - a brief history



I was born on the last day of April in 1947 and from my earliest recollections had an interest in girls and, more particularly, in their clothes. Occasionally I would put on one of my mother's dresses when I was left on my own. At this time I was aged less than ten years.

This stopped as I grew older, although the fascination for female clothes continued.

In my early teenage years the urge to wear such clothing returned although I knew that these feelings were considered unnatural by others. At that time I had never heard of transvestites or transvestism and the only transsexual that I had heard of was April Ashley. I vaguely remember the controversy that was caused by her wedding and wished that I could wear a dress similar to the one in the newspaper report.

During these early teens I had a few girlfriends but no-one serious until I met the girl who was later to become my wife.

Many times I wished that I could try on her clothes and at times like Christmas I would envy some of her presents ... nylon lingerie or nightwear. Eventually we decided to marry and in preparation for this we started to accumulate things for our 'bottom drawer'. Some things I bought from a mail order catalogue and, realising how easy it was, thought I could get something female for myself and no-one would know.

My first purchase was a simple shift dress and full length underskirt. The opportunities to actually wear these items were limited to when I had the house to myself or when I locked myself in the garden shed with the excuse that I was constructing another radio project. It was somewhat risky as I could have been caught at any time by my parents with whom I was still living.

Gradually my store of women's clothing increased and I started to collect other items like bras and knickers, but feeling guilty that what I was doing was wrong, I threw them all away.

I must admit that I derived sexual pleasure from the female things (and still do) but when we got married I thought that I would no longer have these feelings. How wrong I was! It was not long before the temptation to try on my wife's wedding dress became over-powering. Now I was back to square one! Soon I was wearing more of my wife's things while she was working on a Saturday.

Once I persuaded her to allow me to dress in her clothes and for her to make me up, and although she did, as she was not too happy to see me like that, I decided to not mention it again.

It was not too long before we were allocated a Council house and the highlight of this for me was finding a large bundle of women's clothing in the outhouse that had been left for collection by the local council along with other assorted junk. Of course I extracted several items and hid them away.

Once settled, I resumed collecting female clothing, all of which was stored in my shed. The clothes came from all manner of sources ranging from mail order, high street shops, jumble sales, through to the odd item (usually an underskirt) stolen from either a washing line or from a friend's washing basket.

Again my dressing was either in the shed or in the house when I was alone. I still knew nothing about transvestism.

By this time my wife had stopped work to look after our young children so the opportunities to get dressed became fewer, but such times as I could change were very enjoyable.

Naturally, I wanted to go out as a girl, and I managed a few trips - usually a cycle ride - and how exciting they were. At that time I did not have a wig and could not risk make-up let lone shaving my legs but had no problems with anyone who saw me. Of course, these trips were always after dark and, at that time, headscarves were more regularly seen which got around the problem of a wig.

I expected my secret to remain safe - I had tried to impress the dangers from my high voltage radio equipment - but I was betrayed by the weather. One day, whilst at work, gale force winds blew the roof off the shed and my wife rushed out to protect the various items of my radio gear with polythene sheets and, in so doing, could not miss my store of female clothing.

That evening, after I returned from work, there was a most awful confrontation and argument with the both of us expecting divorce proceedings. Eventually I managed to persuade my wife that I was not gay and that she was not inadequate in any way. I told her, if anything, she should be flattered that I loved the female form and clothing so much that I wanted to share the experience.

Eventually she accepted my explanation (which is true anyway) and allowed me to dress indoors in her presence after the children had gone to bed. The added bonus was that I could now store my clothes indoors so they would not be ruined by dampness and I could wash them as required without any difficulty.

Since then my wife and I have moved into the TV world and have been on several holidays with many jaunts in daylight. We have made some wonderful friends. My wardrobe has grown to vast proportions and our children still have no knowledge of Dad's other self (we think). Our son is now married and lives 200 miles away, but our daughter is moving back in with us for a few months until she finds a small house to buy - something of a nuisance.

I have progressed beyond belief since seeing that photograph of April Ashley - now I have my own wedding dress(es). I am very adept with make-up and complete the illusion with a good wig and bust/hip padding. Dressed as a girl I feel at ease, comfortable.

Sometimes I have the fantasy of being 'chatted up' at a bar by a man. If this were to actually happen, I'm not sure how I would react. Certainly I would be flattered but whether it would go further than accepting a drink is pure conjecture.

In retrospect, I would not change anything other than looking after my skin and taking more care with my overall appearance. Perhaps I would even consider a sex change operation but, again, that could be wishful thinking as I am not attracted to men.

Briefly, that is my story. Of course there is so much more I could tell you but perhaps that is best left for another time.

Wendy

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BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE You may order on plain paper I am over 18

The Short Arm of the Law

... is the title of a book a friend brought to my notice recently. It's the memoirs of a distant relative of hers, Chief Constable Willlam Merrilees, who was a serving police officer in Lothian and Peebles Constabulary from 1924 till he retired in 1968. As well as being a wonderful opportunity for me to revisit a recent period in Scotland's history I had first became acquainted with when listening to my own parents' experiences of when they were young, I was fascinated to read of the exploits of this law enforcer, expoits which often involved procedures that would be regarded as highly questionable today.

Julia Gordon

William Merrilees was born in Leith (not yet a part of Edinburgh Town) in 1898. His parents were *"a steady decent working-class couple, God-fearing in the best sense of the word and with a notable dread of getting into debt. Father was a quiet man, a total abstainer with a strong sense of right and wrong. The chastisement of the family was pretty well left to my mother."* As he grew through his childhood it would appear that many of William's moral standards and values were acquired in no small measure from the influence of Sunday School, or the Mission, as it was then called. *"I do not think I can over-estimate the tremendous influence for good that this Mission had on our family life, and in particular on my own life."* (In those days poor folk didn't feel well enough dressed to go to Church.) As well as Sunday School William attended the Band of Hope and made frequent visits with his parents to the local Temperance Lodge.



Chief Constable William Merrilees

By the outbreak of World War One in 1914, William was working in the Leith shipyards as *'catch-boy'* - catching red-hot rivets for the riveters. At no time in his life did he ever allow his size (he was only 5'6' tall) or the fact that he had badly damaged his hands in a boyhood escapade (to the extent of losing four fingers) get in the way of whatever he wanted to do. He was, however, unsuccessful in passing the medical for enlistment, so he spent the war years in the construction and repair of warships at Leith.

He married in 1919 and with the end of the war was thrown out of work. For the next five years he turned his hand to anything that earned a penny to help support his family until in 1924, coming to the notice of Sir Thomas Hutchison, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, for *'having saved seventeen persons from drowning'* (at that time), he was sent for by Chief Constable Ross and invited to become a constable with Edinburgh City Police.

Initially his entrance to the police caused unrest with some of the other constables. Practically all policemen came from the Highlands or from farming communities - locals were seldom accepted. During the early period of his service, however, he soon gained the respect of many of his colleagues, and something of a reputation for shadowing suspects, *"mainly because I was small and light, and could disguise myself in many ways"*. He would frequently dress in women's clothing, complete with wig and make up, and once caught a 'flasher' by hiding in a pram with a baby's bonnet covering his head in order to get close to the offender, who then got the fright of his life when he leapt out and arrested him! So impressed were his superiors with these talents, he was appointed confidential enquiry officer in 1926. In 1930, he was promoted to rank of sergeant and placed in charge of the Recruiting and Licensing Department. Since prostitution and brothel-keeping were often closely associated with the illicit liquor houses, or shebeens, he now found himself in a position to influence the lives of prostitutes in the Edinburgh area, which he did through his charitable concern for their welfare and by being instrumental in introducing less harsh ways of dealing with them by the police.

Following his handling of the vice problem in Edinburgh, and in particular the part he played in the successful prosecution of the infamous Kosmo Club in Swinton Row (which occasioned him to assume the role of *"a somewhat elderly prostitute"*) Merrilees was promoted to the rank of Inspector in 1934.

At this period in our country's history homosexuality was not openly admitted to since acts of a homosexual nature were considered a criminal offence and the individual risked becoming the victim of blackmail. Following the concern of his superiors over the amount of homosexuality practiced in the city, Merrilees undertook to do something about this. *"Assuming that I would clear up this unpleasant business in two or three months ... it soon became evident that, in*

fact, I knew very little about the scale or scope of homosexuality in Edinburgh. At the time, very little was known about it [homosexuality], *especially in view of the large numbers of people I found to be involved. I discovered that there was a widespread and recognised traffic consisting, of course, of the two types of men. The effeminate sort practically all used assumed names, usually of contemporary film actresses or other well-known ladies such as Lilian Tashman, Tallulah Bankhead, Myrna Loy, Countess Betsy, and so on. They were also referred to as bitches. poofs. pansies, and white-hats, etc. They made a habit of frequenting public urinals, known to them as cottages, and there solicited their clients. They also haunted certain licensed premises, cafes and cinemas. As well as these places, I learned that the Calton Hill. a high open space at the east end of the city overlooking Holyroodhouse, was much favoured by these people and I decided to investigate for myself. The first Saturday night I discovered that the place was indeed hotching* [swarming] *with them, and we questioned fourteen suspects, all of whom admitted that they were there for homosexual purposes, eleven of them in fact having come into Edinburgh on half-day railway excursion tickets from areas outside the city. The following Saturday we netted eleven more, ten of whom were incomers, and the next week, seven out of eight. This was an eye-opener."*



'a homosexual'

Following a raid on a hotel in a very respectable part of Edinburgh, which was suspected of being conducted as a brothel, Merrilees found men, *"dressed in brassieres and knickers, with toenails and fingernails painted, using all types of cosmetics, and again adopting women's names - Gloria, Godiva, Blondie, Princess this and Princess that, and so on."* Love letters were siezed and subsequently used in evidence. *"Naturally, many were of a disgusting nature, but it was obvious that many of the letter-writers were in fact more female than male, and actually thought of themselves as women."*

At one time his campaign led to the closure of nine public conveniences and the Russian Baths at Infirmary Street and Glenogle Road. Now his attention turned to the Maximes Dance Hall. During his investigations of the two men who ran this, Merrilees confesses to having broken into their maid's bedroom in the basement of the house in search of her key, which he then passed to his accomplice to copy. The key enabled him to carry out a successful raid which produced all the evidence of *'unnatural practices'* that were required, and the subsequent arrest of the owner. Merrilees comments, however, *"In bringing to trial these homosexual cases, we found difficulty at first in obtaining convictions, owing to the activities of defending psychiatrists and other so-called experts, who assured the court that the accused were not really responsible for their actions, and that treatment in a nursing home was to be preferred to imprisonment. To my mind in most cases, this was farcical."*

By his own account, Merrilees was not averse to meting out his own brand of justice. On one such occasion he had been investigating Albert Percival Gow, well known for his outspoken anti-establishment views and who was standing for election to Edinburgh Town Council. Gow had been arrested no less than seven times on charges of robbery and gross indecency, but had never been convicted. Following Merrilees observations, which involved almost falling to his death from the roof of the Register House tower opposite Gow's flat, he obtained sufficient evident to arrest him. With a colleague, he went up to the flat and entered the room ... *"A terrific fight ensued, for as I have said, he was a violent and powerful man. However my fall on the roof, as well as shaking me, had roused my temper also, and I am afraid that I took the opportunity to give him something that I considered he deserved. Finally, he was subdued and I may say he had to be taken away in an ambulance."*



William Merrilees ... incognito

Merrilees' war on vice wasn't confined to cleaning up prostitution and homosexuality and his unorthodox methods were applied whenever he considered them necessary. Abortion was seen as a form of immorality and he relates an incident during his investigation of a certain doctor suspected of performing illegal operations, whereby he entered the doctor's surgery in his absence, put on the doctor's white coat and commenced to attend to patients! *"Five of them* [patients] *did turn up, and four others made telephone appointments while I was on the premises, and though I may be criticised for deceiving these unhappy people, we did in this way collect a lot of evidence to convict the man who was preying on their misery."*

In 1938, the year of Munich and the fear of

war, whilst still detective inspector, Merrilees was recalled from annual leave to form the Special Branch, a new department of the Capital's police force. With this move came responsibility for all civil security arrangements and was to involve him with espionage, sabotage and other subversive activities. In March of 1940 he was promoted to Detective Chief Lieutenant of Edinburgh CID and placed second in command - a proud moment. He had come a long way from the unemployed boy, not only without qualifications for police work but with handicaps as to height and education. Within six months he was again promoted, this time to Detective Superintendent and found himself in overall charge of CID. Although he was devoting more time to criminal matters, he was still in charge of his old department - Licensing and Vice, as well as Aliens, Dangerous Drugs and Firearms Departments.

In June 1944 Merrilees was awarded the King's Police Medal for distinguished service and three years later was promoted to the rank of Detective Chief Superintendent. On 16th May 1950 he was appointed Chief Constable of the Lothians and Peebles Constabulary. An OBE was bestowed on him on March 10th 1959, and later that same year he appeared on television with Eamonn Andrews on *'This Is Your Life'*. Due to retire in September of 1963, on reaching the age of 65, he was asked to continue in office for a further five years - the first time in police history that this had been done.

During his long career he had occasion to meet with royalty, politicians and celebrities, and throughout his life he devoted much of his time and energy to improving the plight of the under-privileged, in particular the handicapped and orphaned children, and the old folk - often drawing upon favours from his many friends and acquaintances in the process. It is as much for his charitable works as for his remarkable police service, that William Merrilees is still remembered as *'Uncle Willie'* by those whose lives were touched by his generosity. (And as *'Auntie Willie'* by my friend!)

End

Reference: ***The Short Arm Of The Law - the memoirs of Chief Constable William Merrilees OBE.*** **Published by John Long Ltd, London.1966**

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PAINTINGS DISCOVERY KNOX REFORMATION IMAGE

The image of Reformation Scotland as a land full of dour puritans is being debunked. Dr. Mike Bath of Strathclyde University has been unearthing risque imagery which has survived, often hidden behind plaster, in neglected 16th and 17th century buildings.

At a time when John Knox was condemning all festivities on the grounds they were Pagan, Scottish noblemen were enjoying images more reminiscent of ancient Greek and Roman hedonism in the privacy of their livingrooms.



"Hurry up Erchie, here comes that pain in the arse, Knox.

Ironically, one of the best preserved examples is that of a transgendered satyr which was found in what is mistakenly referred to as John Knox's House in Edinburgh's Royal Mile.



VIKKI'S WEBWATCH

Hi everyone,

I've been trying to keep up with new material appearing on the Web. There's such a wealth of this that I'm going to include a new (but brief) section simply called NEWS. At the rate at new personal sites keep appearing, someone may have to start up a support group for folk who only want to dress in male clothes! Anyway, on to my selection of interesting sites for this issue. Again I'll use the categories I specified last issue. To recap, these are:-

1. **Support Sites.** These are typically run and maintained by trusts, voluntary organisations and member-led support groups. They tend to be the best sources of information on all aspects transgenderism.
2. **Personal Sites.** These are designed and maintained by individuals.
3. **Commercial Sites.** These include on-line shopping sites and sites advertising various products and services.

SUPPORT SITE REVIEW

Trans Sister
Internet Address:-
http://www.trans.sister.org.uk

This may seem a bit strange – but a site I mentioned last time as a personal site I'm now choosing as my featured resource site for this issue. The site is Trans Sister. This is possibly the best put together site for the transgendered community I have come across. It is crammed full of links that are well formatted and therefore easily accessible. There is an incredible amount of information that can be accessed from this site, including personal sites, resource/ support sites, commercial sites and also an excellent section of links to TG related press articles. This site is also very well maintained with very regular updates (so there tends to be something new each time you visit) – something which is not evident in a lot of sites these days.

Conclusion – Well done Sarah!

OTHER SUPPORT SITES TO CHECK OUT

The Sussex Transgendered Page
http://www.transsexual.freeserve.co.uk/
Good general information as well as local goings on.

TranzNet
http://www.tranznet.org.uk
Not sure what category to put this under as there is a touch of all three in this site. Worth a look.

PERSONAL SITE REVIEW

Yvonne
Internet Address:-
http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/1130/

What an excellent site this is – and from a Scots lass too! Yvonne has put together a personal site which also contains a lot of useful information, especially for those of us living in Scotland. In addition to the standard features (i.e. biography, pictures, links etc.) Yvonne has a special links page dedicated to *Scottish Girls* (worth the visit for this page alone). But there's more - you will also find a page on *Places To Go* (mainly Glasgow and Edinburgh), *Make-up Tips* (you can never get it too right!), *Yvonne's Thoughts* and a very useful page on *Privacy*. This page has some good tips on Web and Computer privacy – a subject that I'm sure worries a lot of people, especially in our community.

Conclusion – A must visit site for Scottish Girls.

OTHER PERSONAL SITES TO CHECK OUT

Debbie Taylor
http://www.maitland.dabsol.co.uk
A lovely web site with an interesting and entertaining glimpse into Debbie's world.

The Invisible Room
http://www.the-invisible-room.co.uk
Fancy a personal site that is a little different? Then look at Mal's site, unusual but entertaining.

COMMERCIAL SITE REVIEW

Doreen Fashions
Internet Address:-
http://www.doreenfashions.co.uk

Some of you may have come across this site already. It could represent a good one-stop on-line shopping facility for many of the items that the blossoming cross-dresser requires. You will find a wide range of products, including lingerie, corsets, wigs, breast forms etc. as well as magazines and videos. Prices don't look too bad, either.

Conclusion – Good range means that if you like to do all your shopping in the one place, then this is as good a place as any.

OTHER COMMERCIAL SITES TO CHECK OUT

Alexandrina dropped me an e-mail to ask about suppliers of stockings, so here are a couple of sites that may be of interest to her and others:-

http://www.silk-stockings.co.uk and
http://www.underwear.co.uk

WendyJane
http://www.wendyjane.co.uk
This is a fetish wear site – OK, not strictly transgendered, but great fun.

NEWS

Here is one of newest personal sites on the Web. This is Cindy's site (and it looks as if it has quite a lot to offer) –
http://www.geocities.com/cindyfelicityconstance.
Perhaps a more in-depth review next time.

FEEDBACK

Please e-mail me, [redacted], or write to me at 'The Tartan Skirt'.

Vikki [redacted]

Your Stars

with Seòras MacTheàrlaich



This quarter is marked by retrograde planets with Mercury also joining Uranus, Neptune and Pluto at the end of May. From the 18th July, however, things will become smoother and communications should improve again!

Aries ♈

(21st March - 20th April)

June Life might get a little bit hectic now as the Sun is transiting your third house most of this month. Don't forget that it is O.K. to relax from time to time, especially as the Full Moon around the 16th will be making you feel particularly restless.

July After your hectic time last month, you should really get some quality time now for yourself. Try meditating to regain your inner balance. The 7th and the 23rd could see a strong desire to improve your surroundings.

August After all the fairly stressful events of the last few months, you're yourself once more and are experiencing a great zest for life. Yes, you might find yourself restricted, but just use the lessons you've learnt recently and move forward!

Taurus ♉

(21st April - 21st May)

June Remember, money isn't everything in life. This is particularly hard for you as you are the first air sign. Now is a good time to review your priorities. On the 11th somebody will assist you with this task.

July Your home is your castle - this is the motto for you this month. You seem to be very restless, perhaps you could overcome this by taking a holiday abroad! Whatever you decide the 15th will bring new friends and experiences.

August Now is the time to state your goals and desires very clearly as others might try to take advantage of you, especially around the 8th and the 24th. The people close to you will be very important to you this month, but don't forget that you are an individual too.

Gemini ♊

(22nd May - 21st June)

June Stop moaning! Life's decisions aren't as difficult as they seem. Just use all the cosmic energy around you constructively instead of feeling apprehensive. The 2nd is very auspicious, a good time to rearrange your life and to go forward, but just be wary around the 26th!

July As I mentioned in the short introduction above, Mercury is turning direct on the 18th. If you have been putting it off, you can now go and have that talk you've been dreading with your bank manager.

August Just relax a little bit, your love life will improve as soon as you re-affirm the love for yourself! The Full Moon on the 15th will awaken the adventurer in you - come on, explore what life has in store for you!

Cancer ♋

(22nd June - 22nd July)

June Although you like everything to be straight-forward and comfy, you'll feel the need to delve beneath the surface of yourself and others around you. Your mystic water side will help you prepare for the hectic life in the months to come.

July Be careful not to let yourself get easily offended at the beginning of the month. Although you have the impression that others are out to get you, trust them, they just can't find the right words to show their affection for you. Things will definitely improve towards the middle of the month.

August Now you can appreciate your home, and at last realise the improvement you've wanted for so long, but please remember that others value their private space as well.

Leo ♌

(23rd July - 23rd August)

June You feel in your element, as your wish to socialise is very strong. Be careful, however, not to overdo it as you might come across as being very pushy. The Full Moon on the 16th will leave you very emotional, over-emotional almost, but that special person might not necessarily be looking for a substitute mother!

July Yes, even you are getting older, but don't start to getting moribund. Why don't you treat yourself, and don't forget to keep taking the St. John's Wort! You might feel as if you're suffering from a hangover after last month, but things will look up again!

August This month, money will come your way from unexpected sources but it will still feel as though your financial obligations are bleeding you dry. Loved ones will be there to support you, though relationships with women (no matter what sexual preference) might feel a little bit strained around the 15th.

Virgo ♍

(24th August - 22nd September)

June Your career will be very important to you this month - but don't forget to make time to play as well! Towards the end of the month, you might feel hampered in your dealings with others socially, but the Full Moon on the 16th offers you a respite before the storm.

July Through new interests you'll meet exciting new friends! Now that the wobbly bits of your career should have righted themselves you should have a chance to enjoy yourself, and if the weather isn't too bad (after all this is Scotland) treat yourself to a nice

iced coffee - perhaps this will lead you to something romantic!

August No, you're no going insane, you're simply a Virgo. It's O.K. to have some quality time on your own, believe me!!! Things will pick up later this month, and romance will blossom, especially as you have a very mysterious air about you (why not try essential oils to draw passion into your life?)

Libra ♎

(23rd September - 23rd October)

June Now is the time to set sail for new shores, not only physically, but intellectualy as well. Trust your emotions, but make sure that you sort out as many things as possible before the 23rd! Around the 16th you might be confronted with new opportunities but your past experience will hinder you in taking these up. Trust yourself and dare to move forward.

July Your hopes and wishes will encourage you to improve your social life. Around the Full Moon on the 16th you might be overly concerned with loved ones, so try to stand back and embrace whatever else life has to offer you.

August Once more, this is a time when your life tends to get out of balance. You shout at people you love and are nice to those you detest. The Full Moon around the 15th will help you to find the right balance again, and you will get satisfaction from new intellectual pursuits.

Scorpio ♏

(24th October - 22nd November)

June This month it might have been you who wrote the Kamasutra. Your passions spill over and your desire is intense, although the Full Moon on the 16th will make you seem a little bit irrational. Be careful what you spend your money on!

July Somebody will enter your life this month who will fascinate you! And you'll embrace this new opportunity whole-heartedly, although your attention will be drawn to your immediate environment around the 16th.

August If you haven't had a holiday yet, this is the ideal time to go. You might feel a strong need to re-charge your batteries, but just staying in the house won't do. Why not try to get in touch with old friends - a wee trip down memory lane can be quite nice from time to time.

Sagittarius ♐

(23rd November - 21st December)

June If you are in a partnership or just about to make a firm commitment, things will look good at the beginning of the month. Just be yourself and enjoy life, but be careful how you put things at the end of the month, as your relaxed attitude might appear objectionable.

July Your own life will still be rewarding if you allow yourself to be interested enough in what the other person experiences. And yes, it's O.K. to have a relaxed attitude to money, but do you really need this new gadget which will only gather dust as soon as you've brought it home?

August If you recently committed yourself to a new relationship this is the time to make sure you've build it on solid foundations. And be realistic about it. Your own freedom will always be very important to you, so try to make sure that you don't commit yourself to something the two of you will come to regret!

Capricorn ♑

(22nd December - 20th January)

June Be very careful with your health this month! There are so many temptations but don't forget that hangovers get worse, the older you get. Yes, I know, you're very sensible, but I also know that this is often a facade you can hide behind!

July Don't be so dour in your personal relationships, they are there to be enjoyed! If you really cannot stand those closest to you, you should reconsider your position. The Full Moon on the 16th might give you a push in the right direction.

August All the waiting is going to be rewarded now. The life which you sometimes experience as a little bit dull, will get spiced up - something that has been lacking for some time. You become a little bit more adventurous and you'll open yourself up to the pleasures of being alive. Enjoy!

Aquarius ♒

(21st January - 18th February)

June Your heart goes boom-bang-a-bang - and why not. Don't be scared to get romantically involved, your freedom will not suddenly vanish, your subconsciousness will make sure of that. The area where you should take some care is your job. It might seem like your boss has it in for you at the end of the month.

July Things go well, but you don't seems to trust the peace. Around the 16th, especially, your paranoia will try to get the better of you. Be patient. After the 18th things will become clearer and more relaxed.

August You feel reborn. Your energy is picking up, although you're not too sure where to put it. Why don't you give yourself over to total pleasure? Why should others dictate what you do?

Pisces ♓

(19th February - 20th March)

June What is it with you Pisceans? Relax, there are more things in life than pension funds, and things will improve towards the end of the month, anyway. As long as you make sure you stay realistic and remember that there are other colours to paint the future than black!

July After last month's gloom and doom, things look brighter again. Your intuition will guide you to pleasure, and once Mercury has turned direct after the 18th other people will be able to join you on your quest.

August Admit it, this year hasn't been too bad. And now the loose ends are coming together, as if by magic. That special person in your life will make sure that your melancholic mood around the 15th won't turn permanent. Towards the end of the month passion will enter your life, and your bedroom!

The Tartan Skirt Personals

Absolutely FREE ADVERTISING for members of the transgender community wishing to meet others, swap items, find things, etc. FREE advertising in four consecutive issues and now FREE to respond to advertisers. Just send the Tartan Skirt your reply in a stamped addressed envelope and we will forward it to the advertiser for you absolutely free of charge!

Essex Girl with large collection of TV magazines would like to swap them with girls North of the Border. **Box No. 006**



Bi-TV, slim, convincing, long-legged, seeks correspondence, possible meet with singles, couples, females. Job allows travel. SAE ensures reply. Anywhere. **Box No. 007**

Nicole, Bi-TV, 30, 5'10", slim and attractive seeks professional male to treat me like a lady. Can travel anywhere but not accommodate. Glasgow. **Box No. 008**



Slim, convincing, W/E, Bi-TV seeks adult fun/ correspondence with male, female, couple, TV, etc. SAE please. Can travel. Anywhere. **Box No. 009**

Professional male (amateur female), Jennifer, would like to meet understanding woman with good sense of humour. Age 25-35. Looks not important. All responses answered. Anywhere. **Box No. 010**

Tina, slim Bi-TV, loves dressing up in silks and satins and girlie clothes. Seeks male, TV, etc. for adult fun. Can travel and accomodate. Kilmarnock. **Box No. 011**

Convincing, lovely Bi-TV has access and information on products of interest to TVs and followers. Photosets, videos, including 'Transformation', wigs, clothing & jewellery, magazines and more. SAE to PO Box 5923, Thatcham, Berks. RG19 4TS.

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NOTICE BOARD

The annual Pride Scotland March and Festival has been rescheduled for Saturday 2nd September in Glasgow. This is the result of a disagreement over where the event was to be held. Apparently there has been a split in the organisation and a number of people have left to form Pride Glasgow with the intention of holding an annual event in Glasgow.

Please Note:
Deadline for all advertising and submissions for the Summer 2000 Issue of the Tartan Skirt is:

15th July 2000

DEADLINES ARE FIRM

Cover Girls Please Note -
Your photograph will say so much more if you smile! You may also want to choose your setting with the the picture in mind - outside works well and when indoors, an uncluttered background is usually best.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTION!

The Scottish TV/TS Group are having a Burns Supper at the Minto Hotel in Edinburgh on the 27th of January 2001. Everyone welcome. Cost is £15 per head and further details can be had from Irene at 0131-[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:

Keith Cowan, Human Resources Director

Pride Scotland

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

and

11 Dixon Street Glasgow G1 4AL
Tel: 0141 [redacted]
Fax: 0141 [redacted]

Equality Network

The Equality Network campaigns to remove the inequalities facing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the laws and institutions of Scotland.

58a Broughton Street
Edinburgh
EH1 3SA

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

The Tartan Skirt Directory

Scottish Support Group Network

CROSSLYNX TV/TS GROUP

Meetings are held in Glasgow on the second Wednesday of the month
Tel: 0141-[redacted] Monday, 7.30 - 9.30
or write to: CROSSLYNX
c/o SLGS
PO Box 38
Glasgow G2 2QF

GRAMPIAN GENDER GROUP

Meetings are held in Aberdeen on the third Saturday of the month
Contact: Gillian
Tel: 01224-[redacted]
Mondays and Tuesdays, 6.30 - 9.30 pm
Email - [redacted]
There is also an information page on the Press & Journal website - http://beehive.thisisnorthscotland.co.uk/Grampian3G

HIGHLAND T-GROUP

Meetings are held in Inverness on the first Saturday of the month from 2-5 pm. (doors open at 1 pm) at:
REACH OUT Highland
34 Waterloo Place
Inverness IV1 1NB
Contact: Julia Gordon
Tel: 01463-[redacted]
Fax: 01463-[redacted]
E-mail: [redacted]
or write to: Highland T-Group, c/o REACH OUT Highland at the above address.

SCOTTISH TV/TS 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]

WEST LOTHIAN TRANSGENDER SUPPORT GROUP

Meetings are held in Livingston on the second and last Saturday of the month from 5 pm onwards (please contact John regarding this meeting). Other meetings are held weekly every Tuesday night and Friday night from 6.30 pm tiill 9.30 pm at:
Crofthead Farm Community Education Centre
Templar Rise
Dedridge
Livingston
Contact: John at tel: 0780[redacted] (Monday to Thursday, 6-9 pm)
Email contact: [redacted]
Website: http://www.westlothiantsg.co.uk

National Helplines and Agencies

THE BEAUMONT SOCIETY

Tel: 01582[redacted]
E mail - [redacted]
Website - http://members.aol.com/Bmontsoc

THE BEAUMONT TRUST

Tel: 07000[redacted] (10am - 10pm)

EQUALITY NETWORK

Tel: 07020[redacted]
Email - [redacted]
Website - http://www.diversity.org.uk/

THE GENDER TRUST

Tel: 07000[redacted] (10am - 10pm)

THE IMPOTENCE ASSOCIATION

Tel: 0181[redacted]

NATIONAL AIDS HELPLINE

Tel: 0800-[redacted] (24 hour free service)

OUTRIGHT SCOTLAND

PO Box 23253
Edinburgh EH1 3XD
Tel. & Fax: 0131-[redacted]

PRESS FOR CHANGE

BM Network
London WC1N 3XX
Email - [redacted]
Website - http://www.pfc.org.uk/

PRIDE SCOTLAND

Tel: 0131-[redacted]
Email - [redacted]
Website - http://www.pridescotland.org/

RANK OUTSIDERS

National Helpline
Tel: 0171[redacted] (Wednesday 7-9pm)
Scotland Coordinator
Tel: 01463-[redacted]/0839-[redacted]

THE SAMARITANS

Tel: 0345-[redacted] (24 hours service)

COUNSELLING HELPLINE

Tel: 0131-[redacted] (Monday to Friday, 10am- 12 noon)
Tel: 0141-[redacted] (Wednesday, 10am-12 noon)
Tel: 0138-[redacted] (Thursday, 2-4pm)

WOMEN OF THE BEAUMONT SOCIETY (WOBS)

Tel: 01389-[redacted] (7 - 11pm)

the Tartan Skirt

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Back Issues of the Tartan Skirt are available for only £1.60 per magazine (incl. postage)

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A Retrospective Look Up The Tartan Skirt, Setting The Standards, London Pride '98, Male Erectile Dysfunction, AIUK.GLBT Network, Demet Demir, Our Forgotten History: Transgender In Myth And Legend, Gendys '98 Report, How To Love Yourself, Droit De Seigneur, The Bench Test: Sugaring, The Compliment, The Transgender Resource, and much more.

Vol. 7 No. 2

Equality For All: 1998 Equality Network Conference Report, Hepatitis: Know Your A, B and C's, Interview With Alice Purnell, Transgender Agenda: Report On The 3rd International Congress On Sex And Gender, Self-Esteem, The Bench Test: Niplettes, Hide And Sleek's Christmas Bash, A Trio Of Trannies, Tiffany's Tit-Bits, Our Forgotten History: Continuing Tales Of Transgender In Myth And Legend, News, Personal Listings, and much more.

Vol. 7, No. 3

The Brussels Experience, Carolyn's Corner; Wigs, Tiffany's Tit-Bits, Just Another Bottle of Prozac, Having Your Cake... And Eating It, Whatever I Feel, News From Around The World, Shaping Up, Our Forgotten History: Continuing Tales Of Transgender In Myth And Legend, Equality At Holyrood, Minto Fashion Show, Millenium Menu, The Purple Nails, Personal Listings, and much more.

Vol.7, No. 4

Pride Scotland 1999, Our Forgotten History; Continuing Tales of Transgender in Myth and Legend, Fash Bash at the Minto, Crossdress to Impress, London Pride, Potty Training: the Legal View in Scotland, Love, You Can't Change What You're Born With, Can You?, SNAP: Quietly Progressing, I Wasn't Born in the Wrong Body, I am Nothing Without Clothes, Released After 43 Years, and much more.

Vol.7, No. 5

HIV & AIDS - Living Your Life by Choice not Chance, Our Forgotten History; Continuing Tales of Transgender in Myth and legend, Livingston Update, A Day in the Life, Healing Yourself, News From Around the World, A Day at the Races, The Tartan Skirt Interview; Yvonne Sinclair, Transgender Horoscope, Personal Listings, and much more.

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