HCA/D1748/1/10

The indispensable companion to Scottish transgender lifestyle, culture and current affairs

the Tartan Skirt

SPRING 2001/£3.50







CUTTING LOOSE...
orchidectomy - a stepping stone to physical reassignment

NEVER GROW UP...
be a little girl forever

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU ASK FOR...
you might just get it!

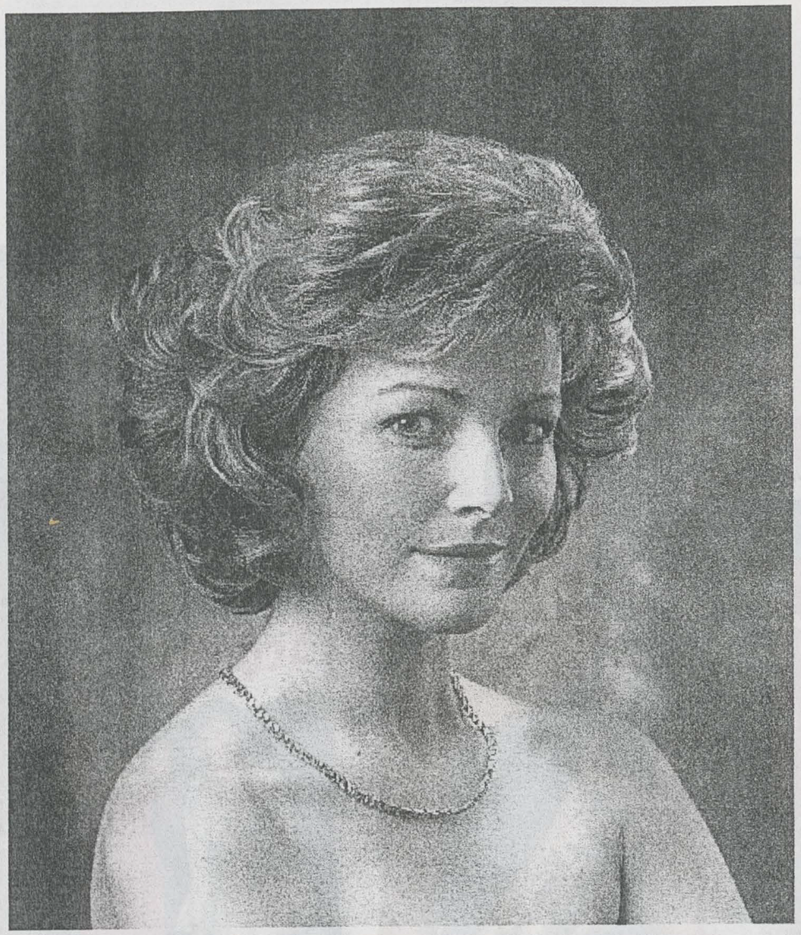
THE GATHERING O' THE TRANS
the Miss TV Scotland 2000 Weekend in Edinburgh

IT'S A FAIR COP!
new Police training acknowledges LGBT issues

SWEPT CLEAN
... the making of a eunuch

WELL HEELED!
whether the heel's a Point, Cuban, Havana or Manhattan, stockings have stood the test of time

YOUR ALTERNATE HAIR.....



a and a studios

8-10 Tanfield
Inverleith
Edinburgh
EH3 5HF

Tel: 0131 [redacted]

Fax: 0131 [redacted]

THE HAIRDRESSING & BEAUTY SUPPLIERS' ASSOCIATION

NIA ISO9002 REGISTERED COMPANY

- Wigs and Hair Extensions by the recognised specialists
- Complete privacy and individual attention guaranteed
- Consultations and advice on styling and make up
- Co-ordinate your hair and make up with our specialised range of "Grimas" products
- Telephone for private appointments (mention the Tartan Skirt)
- Brochure available

CONTENTS

	Page
Editorial	
FEATURES	
Miss TV Scotland 2000	11
Working With Diversity	15
Seams To Me...	18
Our Forgotten History: Gallae On The Palatine Hill	25
In Charge Of The Bed	30
Lassitude! Transgenerational Cross-Dressing	37
HEALTH & WELLBEING	
Personal Development - Affirmations	16
Seven Habits Of Highly Effective People	17
Fact File: Orchidectomy	34
PERSONAL PERSPECTIVES	
A Mint Weekend	9
The Jaggy Thistle	28
SHORTS	
What A Life	14
Celebrity Cross-Dresser	24
Against The Odds...	26
REGULARS	
Caption Competition	2
Speak Out	5
The Question Is Not, To Whom Do I Talk, But Who Listens	7
Tina's Travels	21
Vikki's Webwatch	29
Noticeboard	41
Directory	42
Order/Subscription Form & Back Issues	44

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

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

EDITOR Julia Gordon

ILLUSTRATIONS Nancy

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Alexandrina
Claire [redacted]
Colette
Daisy
Julia Gordon
Rev. Andrew Hunter
Jackie
Laura Darlene Lansberry
Vikki [redacted]
The Jaggy Thistle
Tina
Sgt. Grant Wallace

Special thanks to Press for Change News Bulletins



COVER
Miss TV Scotland 2000

The Tartan Skirt
c/o REACH OUT Highland
34 Waterloo Place
Inverness IV1 1NB
Tel: 01463 [redacted]
Fax: 01463 [redacted]
E-mail: [redacted]

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.

Help Wanted!

The Tartan Skirt urgently requires a website.

If you are familiar with Mac operating system 9.0.4 and Adobe Pagemill 3.0, and willing to volunteer your services to assist with setting up a website, then please get in touch with:

The Tartan Skirt
Reach Out Highland
34 Waterloo Place
Inverness IV1 1NB

Tel: 01463-[redacted]
Fax: 01463-[redacted]
e-mail: [redacted]

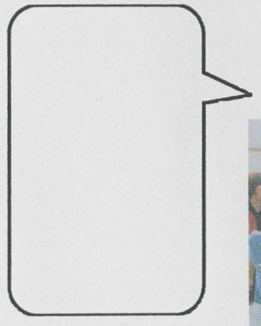
Caption Competition

Win a year's subscription to the Tartan Skirt!

This time its Gregory's fitba' pals. They've got their minds on some other spherical objects!

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 30th April 2001.







AMYRIS

Health & Beauty by Appointment

Offering a range of Health and Beauty Treatments and Therapies

- Facial Treatments using the Susan Molyneux skin care range.
- Epil pro - A revolutionary permanent hair removal system using soundwaves. Non-invasive, minimum pain, no skin trauma. A superior alternative to electrolysis. Suitable for diabetics. Free consultation.
- Waxing - a semi-permanent method of hair removal using a warm wax roller system.
- Holistic Therapies offer treatments for stress and related disorders using pure essential oils in a carrier oil and applied to the body by massage.
- Reflexology - This ancient Chinese art reduces stress, tension and aids deep relaxation.
- Eyelash Tinting enhances the eye area. Suitable for those who dislike mascara or who enjoy water activities.
- Massage - Relaxation treatment using an oil, cream or talc to suit the individual.
- Piercing of earlobes only.

BANTAC Registered

For further information, prices, or to arrange a consultation, contact Peggy:
Tel: 01360 [redacted] (Glasgow North) Mobile: 07801 [redacted]



EDITORIAL

"ALL ARE EQUAL BEFORE THE LAW AND ARE ENTITLED WITHOUT ANY DISCRIMINATION TO EQUAL PROTECTION OF THE LAW."
Article 7, Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

On Saturday, 3rd February 2001, I found myself surrounded by representatives of all nine Scottish Police Forces, the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS), the Association of Scottish Police Superintendents, British Transport Police and the Scottish Police College, as well as the Scottish Executive Equality Unit, Outright Scotland, Equality Network and various agencies and organisations representing the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) communities.

The occasion? The inaugural meeting of the Scottish Police Service and the LGBT Community Liaison Forum. Convened by Outright Scotland, this initiative was born out of a growing awareness of the difficulties encountered in both the delivery and receipt of a service in accordance with the highest expectations of Article 7.

Such studies as have been carried out into the nature and frequency of homophobic/transphobic hate crimes (TASK Agency Report, Plant Report) have affirmed our own experience that being identified as belonging to a sexual minority group places us at greater risk of attack than would otherwise be the case.

In the light of the Stephen Lawrence Enquiry Report there has emerged an awareness within the Police Services of the need for a strategic approach in dealing with the problems encountered by sexual minority and other groups as well as those of an ethnic nature.

The world has changed. Society today has never been more diverse in its composition. A corporacy in police practice throughout Scotland... a sensitive and professional approach... closer agency and partnership working... were all proposals put forward as necessary implementations if the distrust which lies at the heart of the problem was to be addressed.

The Forum has created an opportunity for LGBT community groups to meet with representatives of the Police and Scottish Executive, to provide, at a national level, opportunities to identify and share good practice in terms of LGBT community safety and police liaison, to advise HM Inspectorate of Constabulary on developments and initiatives arising, to advise ACPOS, the Scottish Executive and Convention of Scottish Local Authorities on service delivery and policy issues in relation to policing the LGBT communities, and it has formalised such issues on a strategic level.

"When our fear of asking for help is greater than our fear of being abused, it is time to look at our own complicity in creating the situation in which we find ourselves today."

When our fear of asking for help is greater than our fear of being abused, it is time to look at our own complicity in creating the situation in which we find ourselves today.

I repeatedly hear the argument, made with indisputable logic, that *'until an offence has been reported, there has been no offence.'* How often have we, as individuals, failed to respond to a threatening situation simply because of who we are? I can personally recall numerous instances when my personal safety has felt threatened in some way, but the only time I responded in what might be described as 'a socially responsible' way was when that threat came from a police officer!

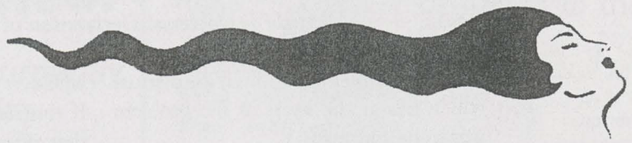
When I think back on this incident I wonder if it might not have happened had we all been in the habit of reporting to the police instances of intimidation, harassment, victimisation, verbal abuse and physical assault upon our persons, wherever and whenever these took place. If this had been our practice, I believe that officer would have come to my own situation with a different understanding of what presented, with a greater awareness that would have enabled him to deal with it more effectively.

In our embrace of it, we have encouraged a climate of fear, where we cling to the idea that our interests are best served by becoming 'stealth' people - totally hidden from view, or else disguised to an extent where we come to believe in the distortions we create for ourselves.

Failure to act in defense of the true self is a denial of self-responsibility, an acceptance of victim status – truly a *'cop'*-out. Yet each one of us believes we have good reasons for not acting; disclosure of a stigmatised behaviour to family and friends, employers... ridicule and the prospect of additional harassment. But my experience has shown me that being true to ourselves is all the protection we need, for *that* is what provides the *real* support and empowerment in our dealings with others.

What has brought the transgender community to the conference table today is, in part, a legacy of lives lived in fear, in lies and deceit, of damage done to the very people we say we want to protect - ultimately, a legacy of self-harm. Learning to ask for protection for ourselves physically, as our human right, must surely underpin our emotional wellbeing. The Scottish Police and LGBT Community Liaison Forum is ready to meet the challenge of change - are you?

Julia Gordon
Editor and tea lady
The Tartan Skirt



Extra Hair Salon
&
Hair Replacement Services
Ladies and Gents

Wigmakers/Fashion Wigs/Hairpieces & Hair Extensions
Synthetic & Human Hair

*All aspects of Hair Replacement
including Permanent Hair Systems

*Personal Attention

*Repair Work

*Aftercare Service

*Complete Privacy and Confidentiality

Telephone for Consultations and Appointments
0141 [redacted]
118 Sauchiehall Street (2nd Floor)
Glasgow G2 3DH



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.

[material deemed to be abusive or disrespectful will not be printed - Ed.]

Dear Tartan Skirt,

I'm writing to respond to the letters sent to myself and the Tartan Skirt in response to my article (**A Voice? Autumn 2000**).

First, I would like to apologise for not being constructive in my criticism of the Miss TV Scotland Competition. The information that I had about the event was obtained from the article printed in the Tartan Skirt in which it sounded like a competition to be the most like a 'real woman'. This article, like so many others, focused on trying to appear feminine or girlie, which is not the same as trying to pass or not be read. What I was trying to criticise is the idea that men who can look more girlie or feminine should be rewarded while we should feel sorry for those stuck with a 'horrid hairy boy body'. So here is my constructive alternative. Rather than having a girlie competition, why not organise a gender fashion show? Models of various genders could strut their stuff on the catwalk in clothing which expresses a wide range of gender possibilities. This would not exclude anyone, would not reinforce any one ideal of gender, would encourage people with a wide variety of genders to get together, and would be a lot of fun!

In this letter and others, people accused me of being anti-political. Quite the opposite, I think forming political groups is crucial to creating change and building a better society. However, I think political groups based around identities (like transgender, gay, black or woman) are inherently limited at best. Instead, political groups should be based around issues. Gender isn't just an issue for transgendered folk and women, sexuality doesn't only affect queer people and black people are not the only ones race affects. Gender, ethnicity and sexuality (amongst others) are social issues which effect everyone.

I realise that wanting to dress or identify as a person of the other sex is extremely difficult and is not acceptable in our society. But this doesn't mean that gender is easy for everyone else. In fact, I think it means the opposite. The problem does not lie just with the people who break the gender rules (e.g. transgender people), or even the people who maintain the rules (e.g. queer bashers, police, priests etc) but also the people who try very hard to follow them. Let's take those one at a time. The first one is easy - everyday people are harassed, abused and even murdered for breaking the rules, for not being 'real men' or 'real women'. (And no, I don't think there is any such creature either - these are ideals used to control people. They say this is what you should be.) Furthermore, people who want to break the rules live in fear that others will find out that they are 'freaks'. Obviously, these gender rules are not very good for those people. The second one might be a bit more difficult - everyday people harass, abuse and even murder rule-breakers. Rikki Wilchins suggests that *"a gender liberation movement is not just about people... [who] died simply because of the way they expressed sexuality and gender. It is also about those who felt impelled and even empowered to kill to preserve the regimes of gender"*[1]. I would say that it also includes everyone who has ever used a gendered label (e.g. poof, girl, dyke, tomboy, slag, girl's blouse) to attack someone else. People attack others because they feel defensive. They feel defensive because they do not live up to the ideal of 'real man' or 'real woman' either - no one does! And what is a better way of showing that your gender is fine than attacking someone else's? These people obviously have serious issues about gender as well. Who will support them? Who will help them? Finally, we have our third group - those people who quietly follow the rules, the 'normal' boys and girls. Surely this doesn't have anything to do with them! 'Normal' people aren't oppressed because of their gender, you might say. Let me give you an example. I work part-time doing sex education with 15 and 16 -year-olds in Edinburgh schools (when I come out of my ivory tower and take off my rose-tinted glasses!). The thing that struck me the most when I started the job was how strictly gendered the young people are. The boys are **boys** and the girls are *girls*! They don't act like this because it is their 'nature', but because they are very afraid. They follow the rules very carefully because if they don't they will be punished. They also think the rules are natural and if they don't follow the rules they are somehow 'unnatural'. Who will tell the boys who aren't 'real boys' that they are OK? Who will work to change the rules so girls don't have to spend so much of their lives trying to be 'real girls'?

So the reason I say that trans-

gender politics is not a good idea is because it reinforces the idea that gender is only a problem for some people - transgender people. What about everybody else? Gender is a problem for everyone! So my constructive comment is to suggest that rather than a transgender politics or a transgender voice, we should be working with other people who are concerned about gender (regardless of identity) to build a gender movement. Louise said that changing attitudes *"falls on people who are dedicated and passionate about their own cause"*. I say this is everyone's cause.

So here are a few concrete suggestions for an alternative gender politics:

1) Rather than lobbying for protection for a transgender minority, argue that discrimination based on gender expression should be illegal. Just as 'transgender' people should be able to express their gender as they choose, 'women' who work for British Airways, for example, shouldn't have to wear high heels and those stupid hats (and 'men' should be able to if they wish).

2) Challenge the idea that gender is natural. Gender is the product of social ideas and structures. Remember the feminist slogan, biology is not destiny.

3) Promote the idea that toilets should not be segregated. Not only does this create hell for people who do not look like either 'real' men or women, but it also reinforces the idea that there are two kinds of people. (According to the signs, the two kinds of people are those who wear skirts and keep their legs together and those who wear trousers and keep their legs apart). While you are at it, you could suggest that all cubicles should be wheelchair accessible rather than having special non-gendered disabled toilets. Not only would wheelchair users no longer be stigmatized in this way, everyone would have more room for baggage or to prevent claustrophobia.

4) Encourage everybody to talk about gender. Get them to think about what it means to be a man or a woman. Ask them how they feel about their gender rather than letting them assume that only transgender people have to talk about it.

5) Suggest that more effort needs to be put into understanding why gender-based violence and discrimination occurs, rather than just focusing on the 'victims'.

I'm not suggesting that these are (or should be) priorities, but simply examples off the top of my head. I leave it to you to come up with your own priorities. I only hope that you will consider what I have said in setting them.

Yours sincerely,

Jamie Heckert

PS I do not feel comfortable being called Mister or using any other gendered titles. Please question your assumptions about my own gender identity.

[1] Rikki Wilchins (1997) *Read My Lips: sexual subversion and the end of gender.* p87



Dear Julia,

In an earlier issue of the Tartan Skirt my attention was drawn to your request for 'Cover Girls'. Well, here I am, in tartan and not OTT! Use me if you like it enough.

I have lovely friends who help to influence my dress taste and sense – to prevent me being "mutton dressed as lamb." I would like to hear from other similar 'girls' of mature age and fashion, but discretion has to be the watchword because of my circumstances.

Veronica [redacted]

[I'll be happy to forward any letters to Veronica. Ed.]

[In the course of discussing why some members of the community are reluctant to be seen in public in the company of other t-girls, a stateside friend of mine recently gave me an account of an experience she'd had, and her permission to print her thoughts on it. Ed]

Hi Julia,

A few weeks ago, an out-of-town friend who is a cross-dresser came to visit. He's been here a few times previously so I was unprepared when he showed up in full drag this time. This is a nice chap but he doesn't have a chance in hell to ever pass. Six and a half feet tall (198cm), 250 pounds (113kg - almost 19 stone!), balding, face like a horse, prefers a flame-red pageboy wig, walks with a cane, sounds very male and does things like a man does. He trotted up the walk in an ill-fitting suit obviously purchased from a catalog and shod in sensible shoes. It was a vision. He was here to meet my sister who was visiting at the time. I wasn't worried about her reaction - she doesn't react. What did cause me concern was his need to go out to eat before leaving. That meant that I would appear in a public place with someone who would attract lots of not-too-favorable attention. That means I share in the attention. You realize, of course, that it wasn't just his lack of clothing sense. He is very obviously a male. He acts like one. He thinks like one. There are a gazillion different ways that we disclose our true gender in every movement, how we speak, how we think, etc.

You know that I live as a female and have for many years. I used to pass just fine. In fact, I was considered quite a pretty lass. I'm older now, though, and like most women do when they age, I've started to look more male. I don't need extra attention called to my appearance.

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

Of Attitude

Our lives are not determined by what happens to us,
but how we react to what happens.
Our lives are not determined by what life brings to us,
but by the attitude we bring to life.
A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive
thoughts, events and outcomes. It is a catalyst ...
a spark that creates extraordinary results.



Of Ignorance

Darkness cannot be directly removed,
but it automatically disappears when
you turn on the light.

Of Jealousy

A jealous person is doubly unhappy - over what he has, which is judged inferior,
and over what he has not, which is judged superior. Such a person is doubly
removed from knowing the true blessing of creation.

Desmond Tutu
An African Prayer Book

I don't feel safe. I worry about all the hate crimes and don't want to become a target of one.

Anne [redacted]

[redacted]

http://www.napierdot.com/

Dear Tartan Skirt,

We go about our daily lives continually interacting with others around us, each of us concerned to some degree with what other people think about us, how they will react to us and, sometimes, the effect we ourselves have on others. We form relationships with many different people, not just in a romantic sense but in the much wider sense of the word. We form relationships with our parents, our children, neighbours, colleagues at work, our doctor, our electrologist... the list is endless. The other people in these relationships will inevitably be affected by exposure to our gender 'difference'.

Some folk come to the view that we are merely self-indulgent and lacking self control. It's easy to see why. Only recently, a friend said to me that, being transsexual, working towards reassignment surgery was all about looking after her own interests. She was putting herself first, regardless of the effect that this might have on others.

If we hold the personal value of not hurting others, then should we not give some thought to the effects that our gender experience may have on them, especially on those we love dearly? And here's the rub! Then, there is a possible conflict of interest. If we are genuinely concerned not to cause pain and hurt to others, how can we be considering actions that so often have just that effect? So what are we to do? Should we be true to ourselves and go ahead regardless of others, or should we be considerate of our loved ones and continue to sublimate our own deepest inner feelings? This would seem to be a 'no-win' situation, for whichever path we choose causes hurt, to our loved ones or to ourselves.

Perhaps for many cross-dressers the situation, while still difficult, is less impossible. Here, their ability to construct gender experiences outwith established social relationships enables them to maintain the latter relatively intact, particularly if the cross-dressing is kept hidden or engaged out of sight of family and friends. For the individual concerned with living and working in their chosen gender identity, however, where changes in appearance could be more permanent, a satisfactory resolution to the dilemma appears to be impossible.

Reassignment surgery is often the focus of others' pain, the critical step which disables the relationship. Partners and parents alike, can experience a profound sense of loss for the person they knew. Of course, many transsexuals do not go on to have surgery, finding a balance in their lives which enables them to avoid the total disintegration of such relationships, even if it leaves them feeling personally unfulfilled at times. Not everyone can manage this act of self-sacrifice, though, for gender dysphoria can cause such pain to the individual that nothing short of surgery will be seen to offer any chance for relief. Some choose to remove themselves physically from the relationship, often moving away from the area in the belief that their loved ones will be spared the pain and anguish, often clinging to a forlorn hope that they may yet return to find themselves accepted at some time in the distant future.

Can we resolve this problem, avoid hurting others, but at the same time be true to ourselves? I really wish I had an answer. Must it rest in the hands of fate, for I've known situations

where there was complete acceptance, where there was no suffering... and I've also known of others who experienced total rejection, to the point of being told to commit suicide, due to the hurt felt by the family.

Susan [redacted]

[If we are to make a difference, it is perhaps to a society that fails to recognise the value of it's individual members, to a society that ignores the needs of the individual, that we must set our face against - Ed.]

<>

Dear Tartan Skirt,

Every TV wants to be convincing, but sometimes we may be too convincing. I have recently found that out. Let me tell you this true story with no embellishments.

I have been going out dressed a few times and on this occasion I drove to The Ness at Arbroath, a popular spot for cars to park and for folks to sit and look out to sea. I noted that a white Audi was parked close to me on the driver's side with a sole male at the wheel. I wonder if he notices me? *'Like my hair style, fella?'*

Coffee time. I had a flask with me and sipped out of a mug delicately - very ladylike, you know. I should add that, although I was wearing a short orange kilt bought at Pitlochry (see my article in The Tartan Skirt, Autumn 2000), I was also sporting a mink jacket which I inherited from my wife and which is most chic. Yes, girls, it's real mink and heavenly to wear.

I went off to the ladies loo, walked along the esplanade a bit, then back to the car. This is where I have to admit to being foolish. I deliberately opened the back door and bent over into the car, knowing that my kilt would ride up and show stocking tops, possibly even suspenders. I stepped smartly into the driver's seat, allowing a pleasant view of leg before closing the door. The single male did not seem to pay any attention to these antics.

I drove off soon after and I was alone as I returned into the town. Then, to my horror, I discovered the white Audi was following me. I traversed the town centre and carried on. The Audi was on my tail. On a section of dual carriageway leaving the town I kept to regulation 30 mph. Every other car was passing ... but not the Audi. As we came up to a side road leading to the western esplanade he signalled left. I drove straight on. The indicator stopped signalling and the Audi followed me. I began to get worried. This is what a real girl must feel when a man stalks her. What will I do?

I continued on the main road towards Dundee and it was obvious that his frustration was mounting. He not only signalled left when we approached a side road, but also flashed his lights several times. The intention was clear; he wanted me to turn off. Fortunately, vehicles were following close behind the Audi and he was forced to turn off as I sailed on into the sunset. Of course, he may have got fed up and decided to give up the chase. However, my heart was pounding and did not settle for a few miles. Yet I felt elated - after I realised I was now safe from the amorous male. I had really been convincing. But as what? A tart?

Thinking about it afterwards, I thought he was even more stupid that I had been. Had I been a prostitute I would have approached him directly. If he had wanted to chat me up, he should have done so at The Ness. A woman wearing a mink coat was hardly likely to be a low grade pick-up. On the other hand, some people may say it depends how she got her mink. (There is the story I heard a few years ago about the girl who said she would anything - ANYTHING - to get a mink. The problem was that by the time she got it she found she couldn't button it up.)

I am still worried because he would have noted my registration number. I know it is possible to write to DVLA to obtain name and address of owner. I doubted, though, if the man would pursue me further. He was probably annoyed, cursing me for 'leading him on' then rejecting him. But surely he realised that he acted stupidly. Any woman, even a prostitue, would have qualms about pulling off the road for a strange male. OK, few men are rapists and violent, but there is always the odd male who will attack a woman, especially on a quiet country road. He would be even more annoyed if he found out that the centre of his attraction was an elderly male!

It taught me, too, to be much more careful in future. You may think that men are not paying any attention, but they can be eyeing you lecherously. You may be more convincing than you think!

Alexandrina

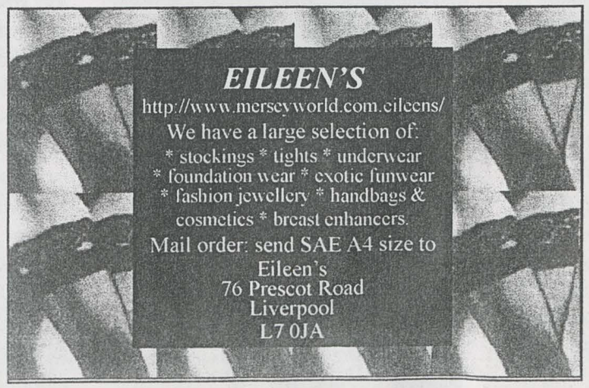
<>

Dear Tartan Skirt,

The Miss TV Scotland Competition is supposed to be a bit of fun. At least, that's what I thought. But I was dismayed and angered by the ruling that people who are taking hormones could not compete. I've come to expect this sort of discrimination from certain minority factions within the community but if TVs are going to adopt these childish tactics I fear the game has been lost without a winner.

(name withheld by request)

[Are there still people out there who think that 'transvestites' don't take hormones, for instance, or that 'transsexuals' never promote their sexuality, or that the practice of discrimination that excludes is the way forward for us? Ed.]



A Mint Weekend!

by Alexandrina

Should I? Shouldn't I? I cogitated a long time before finally deciding to take the plunge and book for the first TV weekend ever that I was to attend. It was to be staged by Hide and Sleek and booking was easy by e-mail.

Like many other TVs I had to 'invent' an excuse so I said I was going to a TV Drama Conference - workshops, talks and that sort of thing. As one of the girls later remarked, there is certainly an element of drama.

It was the Miss TV Scotland Weekend held at the Minto Hotel in Edinburgh, during the middle of November. I was in bad mood when I arrived, having taken ages to drive the last few miles into the capital, then finding the hotel carpark choc-a-bloc. A car was moved and I squeezed in.

The event was so popular that the hotel could not cope with all the participants and some were in other hotels - two blocks away. I also had to share with two other girls. That was not much of a problem, but drawer space was non-existant. Result - bras, stockings and knickers were all jumbled up in the suitcase.

Let me add quickly that the atmosphere compensated for the bedroom deprivations. One room-mate, Denise, has been a friend for some time and she initiated me into a true tranny scene on the Friday evening. This was an informal gathering, termed the Ice-breaker Party in the bar, where we also enjoyed a buffet meal.



We were intrigued by Penny who spent that evening - in fact the whole weekend - serving the girls. Yes, even at the dinner on Saturday, in her imaculate maid's uniform, she bustled here and there serving. I am sure that Penny got as much of a buzz out of the weekend as we did.

Saturday morning was free and easy, with the trade stalls opening late morning. These were, apparently, quite successful for the sellers. What girl does not take the opportunity to buy that extra dress? I found it useful to have the expert advice on lip and eye cosmetics with modest purchases.

We lazed around for most of the afternoon, being served coffee by the diligent Penny, and listening to interesting talks on hair styling and colour imaging. These were indeed useful as the speakers gave every opportunity for questions. Sometimes I have been at events where questions from the audience are dissuaded; here the speakers actively encouraged the onlookers to spell out their problems.

The main event of the weekend was the competition for Miss TV Scotland. For the hell of it, I entered. It was quite an experience!

The timetable was demanding and made me feel like a real model strutting the catwalk. Talk about quick change! We had dinner first and, of course, we had to be dressed accordingly. Hardly time to finish coffee then a dash up to the bedroom to change for the Casual Day Wear Section.

The contestants - all 11 quivering-with-excitement dolly birds - were lined up in the foyer. As names were called in turn we had to walk up to the top of the hall and back down the other side so that all could view our *haute couture* outfits.

Then another mad dash up to the bedroom for a change for the Evening Wear Section. Another competitor was in the room with me. We struggled to get her into her dress until the penny dropped. She took out her boobs... and the zip went up.

Panic! I had just succeeded in sticking on a full set of midnight blue nails when two disappeared, as nails often do. Fortunately, I had another set of blue nails. Stickers were attached at frantic pace. Only 15 minutes allowed for changing. Hurry! The nails went

MsDemeanour

IS HERE!

Edinburgh's Only Regular TV/TS Night Club

ON: Saturdays 8.30pm - 1.00am

AT: The Phoenix Cellar Bar, 46 Broughton Street, Edinburgh

T-Girls: £4.00 *Regular Boys & Girls:* £5.00

Grand FREE Opening Night: 17th February 2001

Upcoming dates: 10th March - 31st March - 28th April - 19th May - 16th June - 14th July

Visit our website at: www.msdemeanour.co.uk

or E-Mail us at: [redacted]

For advance tickets, please write enclosing a cheque or PO for the full amount and an SAE (we'll put the stamp on) to MsDemeanour, PO Box 17176, Edinburgh EH11 1TD

We strongly recommend purchasing tickets in advance as entry can't otherwise be guaranteed!

on. Hair OK? Last check on dress. Fantastic! We got to the foyer just in time.

Now Louise, the compere, was asking questions such as, *"Do you come here often?"* She looked down on me from a great height and asked, *"You say you're a maniac for kilts, Alexandrina, so where is your kilt?" "Well,"* I spluttered, *"I was wearing a kilt in the Day Wear Section."* That seemed to throw her more off balance than me.

I didn't expect to win, so I was not disappointed. But girls, if you want to experience the sensations felt by models, just enter next year's Miss TV Scotland Competition.

Plus Points ...

Taking into account that this was an Edinburgh Hotel, the cost was reasonable. The costs were certainly moderate for extras in the restaurant, coffee served by Penny, 'phone calls, etc.

The whole atmosphere was one of informality and friendliness, with particular thanks to the staff who did not bat an eyelid at our outlandish attires.

Loraine of Hide and Sleek has the organisation down to a fine art. Everything (apparently) went like clockwork - apart from the fetish gear brigade who gate-crashed on the Saturday evening made our eyes come out on stalks.

Minus Points ...

Cramped quarters (for us anyway).

Loud music for the disco on the Saturday. (The Friday one was more tolerable.)

Smoking before, during and after the meals. Bring back the Queen - all is forgiven.

Only two or three of us wore kilts. Shame! Where are the TRUE Scots lassies?

General Impression ...

A wonderful experience for a 'virgin' at such an event with pleasant memories of so many friends and happy people. It really is a tranny's dream world come true.

End

A Warm and Friendly Welcome

Come and spend a few hours, a day, or longer at our friendly Guest House in the Highlands of Scotland.

Or, if you wish, have your portraits taken through our photographic service.

For further details call Sheila and Dennis (Denise) on
01667 [redacted]
or 0410 [redacted] (mobile)
Or e-mail us at -
[redacted]

TV/TS NEWS

Free information for Everyone

This is a monthly newsletter dedicated to the distribution of information without prejudice or bias to any individual or organisation.
It is produced thanks to donations and gifts.
Write with S.A.E for copy to:-
TV/TS News, Box 2534,
London WC1N 3XX.
Fax/phone:
0171-[redacted]
email:-
[redacted]
Read the latest issue on the web
http://www.crag.dircon.co.uk./news/index.htm

ADVERTISEMENT



Official opening of Hide & Sleek's new facility...

The 'Studio Lounge'

The beautiful Miss TV Scotland performed the first of her official duties in 2001 by opening the luxurious "Studio Lounge", at a special party on the 11" January. At long last, Hide and Sleek have expanded their service to include a Dressing Service, which is very much needed north of the border. You can now visit the Studio Lounge and take advantage of everything being provided for your perfect stay.

Our resident consultant, Ann, will quickly put you at ease and over coffee will help you choose something from our extensive wardrobe. Don't worry, it will fit, we know everyone is not a size 12! All underwear is provided and we offer the luxury of real silicone boobs as standard for our appointments. Ann will transform you with make-up into the woman you didn't believe you could be, and together you will select that perfect hair style to finish off your new look. You can then relax, chat with Ann, read or watch TV or one of our excellent make up videos, or browse in the shop.

So next time you are in our area, give us a call. Even the most nervous of guests, who have never been to a Dressing Service before, will be guaranteed a wonderful time and we know you will definitely want to visit us again.

Loraine [redacted] (Hide & Sleek Designs)



Miss TV Scotland 2000

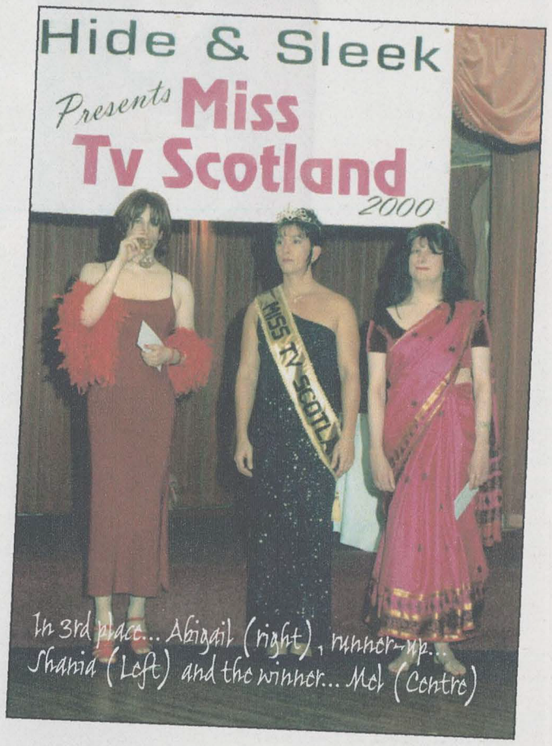
A report of the event by... Jackie

The 17th to 19th November 2000 saw the Hide & Sleek ***Miss TV Scotland Weekend*** held at the Minto Hotel in Edinburgh.

I had left home with Jackie in my wheelie case to travel by train from Ardrossan to Edinburgh, and then through the streets of our Capital City, to reach the Hotel. When I arrived on the afternoon of the 17th, I was greeted at reception and asked my name, to discover that my room had been booked in my female name. As I went upstairs to change I noticed others beginning to arrive, some in male and some in female attire. I picked up a portfolio of the Weekend's events from the organiser, Loraine [redacted] of Hide & Sleek, who was handing them out at the door.

When I went back downstairs for a drink I had the opportunity to say hello to some old acquaintances before I went through to the front lounge for the start of the evening's proceedings.

There were by now around 70 guests in attendance for the 'Ice Breaker' party and Louise welcomed them all and invited everyone to join in a music trivia and general knowledge quiz. This was followed by a buffet, ably managed by Penny who runs the Hide & Sleek 'Catering Department'! A Disco set the scene for the rest of the evening with an appearance by cabaret star, Gladis Alcock. It was well into the wee small hours before the last of the girls had drifted off to their beds for some sleep.



In 3rd place... Abigail (right), runner-up... Shania (Left) and the winner... Mel (Centre)



Louise, Melanie and Loraine

When Saturday morning came I went down to breakfast in female attire but afterwards declined to join some other adventurous souls who had decided to go for a walk in Edinburgh. The weather was too inclement for my liking. Instead, I spent my time in the main function suite which was laid out with various trade stands. Hide and Sleek had their range of products on display and were advising on any and all aspects of your wardrobe. From shoes to corsets, beauty therapies to spectacles, from colour consultancy to photography, to information about the Beaumont Society, our needs were being catered for by a number of helpful manufacturers and agents. All the while, Penny was busy making sure our cups were kept filled with tea and coffee.

After my walk around the stands it was time for lunch before returning to my room to change into my dress for the afternoon session.



The presentations got under way at three o'clock with a talk by Gary, Hide & Sleek's consultant make-up artist, on choosing the perfect hairstyle, selecting the best colour imaging and style to suit your face and shape, and the use of different types of makeup to bring out the woman in you. This was followed by Yvonne from Total Image who discussed different aspects of colour imaging and style. She made recommendations on how to choose your wardrobe and opened it up for discussion with the group of guests who were seated in the talk area.

When the presentations were finished I took another walk around the stands, talking to different people, and decided to have a photographic portrait done by Jenny who was offering this service.

An interesting development which was going on in the background was the filming of the day's events by a group of gorgeous ladies, Jill, Alison, Julia, Pamela and Laura, who were studying Communications & Mass Media at Glasgow's Caledonia University. The recording would take the form of a mini documentary, as part of their course work.

When I returned to my room to get myself ready for the evening event, it was also to consider whether or not to enter the 'Miss TV Scotland' contest. I decided not to, so I simply changed into my eveningwear before joining others for a drink and some conversation in the bar. Some guests had changed in a room especially provided by the hotel for anyone arriving in male mode for the evening event, and like the TV programme 'Stars In Their Eyes' they would reappear transformed in female mode, to everyone's delight. By now, around 110 guests were gathered in eager anticipation of the evening.

Pre-dinner drinks were served in the Premier Suite followed by a three-course dinner rounded off with coffee and mints. It was a lovely meal enjoyed by everyone I spoke to.



Louise interrogating Rita

With the meal out of the way, the host for the first part of the 'Miss TV Scotland' competition, Louise, interviewed each of the contestants in turn - Abigail, Gina, Melanie, Ruth, Ailsa, Liz, Alexandrina, Amanda, Shania, Rita and Steph - who were dressed initially in casual daywear. The second part of the contest saw Louise chatting to them again, now dressed in evening wear, while the three judges looked on.

The winners were announced in reverse order. In third place was Abigail and runner-up was Shania. Both received £20 vouchers as prizes. The winner was Melanie who was crowned 'Miss TV Scotland 2000' by Joanne, last year's winner, and she was presented with her prize of £200 for an outfit to be designed especially for her, and made by Loraine of Hide & Sleek Designs.

After the finale of the event, another award was made. This was a gift presented to Ruth Stewart for her work with the transgender community in Scotland.

A disco followed this into the early hours once more, when we gradually drifted back to our hotel rooms or home to our beds, with the morning heralding a return to our everyday lives - 'til the next time.

End

BODY
complete body treatments
for both men and women
care
SKIN & BODY CLINIC

within

The Head Gardener
58 Church Street
Inverness
IV1 4SY
(01463) [redacted]

Sebastian Coe Health Club
Jarvis caledonian Hotel
33 Church Street
Inverness IV1 1DX
(01463) [redacted]

Improve your feel good factor

Full skin care and beauty treatments
non-surgical face lift
ear piercing
make-up lessons
hair removal treatments inclusing depitron electrolysis

free and confidential consultation





TransLiving International

TransLiving International is a non-profit limited company dedicated to serving the needs of TVs, TSs, their families and friends. It has the world's finest TV/TS magazine, hosts the UK's biggest monthly TV/TS party, runs a friendly HelpLine service and offers lots of useful information for the gender community and those who need to understand it.
Do pay us a visit.
TransLiving — the group to join!

TransLife INTERNATIONAL

- *colour pictures*
- *stories*
- *personal profiles*
- *contacts*
- *beauty features*
- *medical & legal*
- *big A4 size*

The colourful A4 quarterly magazine *TransLife International* is available from good newsagents (and sex shops) at £10.00 per copy, or by mail order from us.
Membership and four copies for just £30 (UK); £32 (EC) or £35 (Rest of World). Price includes post and packing.



TransCare

CHANGING FACILITIES
--- come and enjoy a few feminine hours with us
--- We don't supply clothes, but we'll do your make-up and arrange your hair.
£30.

WIGS
BREAST FORMS
BEARD COVER

Make up Lessons, Facials, Waxing and Electrolysis (send a S.A.E. for our brochure)

MAKE A DATE
for
THE FOURTH FRIDAY
EVERY MONTH
to
COME AND JOIN US
at the
TransLiving
"Nightclub of the South"
7.30pm to Late

• BAR •
• FOOD •
• CHANGING AREA •
• CAR PARKING •
• DISCO •
• RAFFLE •

Members - £5.00
Non-Members £7.00
Send for an info pack for directions --- or ask us to e-mail or fax a map.

For a full info-pack and sample copy of the world's best transgender magazine, send a cheque or Postal Order for £10.00 to:
TransLiving International, Dept WO, PO Box 3, Basildon, Essex SS14 1PT.
For the info pack only, please send two first class stamps. Our information is sent in plain brown envelopes and you will not be contacted further unless you ask.
Tel/fax: 01268 [redacted] e-mail [redacted]



Divine Beauty

Tanning Lounge

The One Stop Beauty Shop

COSMETICS

Make-Up Lesson £24.90

Including advice on skin care followed by a step by step guide to the application of professional make-up.

Bridal or Evening Make-over *from* £14.90

Colour Analysis *(inc. make-over)* £59.50

Learn your own best colours, make-up & skin therapy. As individual as your fingerprint.

also,

Waxing, Lash Extensions, Manicure, Nail Extensions and all other Beauty Treatments and Sundome.

CONFIDENTIAL CONSULTATION AT T-FRIENDLY VENUE

Beauty Image Consultant: *Roseann Foy*
Unit 4, Forfar Avenue, Cardonald, Glasgow
Tel: 0141-[redacted]

Late Night Opening

What is Life

What is life I often wonder?
I toil I strive and still go under
Within a vacuum I scream and shout
But nothing on earth ever comes out

What lies within this mortal shell?
Emotional soup a living hell
Anxiety, Depression swirls all around
Never allowing myself to be found

The pressure is building in the core
How can this body take much more?
The gauges are reading in the red
What's the point of getting out of bed?

Clad in steel so you cannot feel
The love that pulses within
To penetrate my armour plate
Exposing my Heart and all the hate

Just walk away with nothing to say
Don't look back on Jack
Grandpa's love is still the same
Therefore my son we are not to blame

The candles out the lights go dim
She has taken my grandson away
The bond is strong so we belong
Forever in life we stay

Let the rain wash away my tears
The thunder drown out the jeers
I stand-alone in an empty zone
Not knowing which way to play

I lie awake in the silent dark
Trying to re-light life's vital spark
Nothing works the pilots out
What's the point no love's about

Clanking chains and shuffling feet
Head hung low our maker to meet
The chair is ready no more talking
Cries ring out "dead man walking"

The gift of life is somewhat short
So, why throw it all away
Get up and fight with all your might
Live life for another day

Think positive for millennium years
Join in the festival and fun
Come out of the dark and into the light
God will be waiting to keep you right

Claire [redacted]

Sergeant GRANT WALLACE

Sergeant Wallace is a member of the NEOTS working group and has been researching LGBT issues consulting with groups throughout Scotland. He was appointed to Grampian Police in 1979 and has served throughout the force area. In 1991 he was promoted to Sergeant and latterly has been a member of the forces Training Department. He is married with two children and resides outside Aberdeen.

SCOTTISH POLICE COLLEGE
Tulliallan Castle
Kincardine
Alloa

Originally built for Lord Elphinstone, a senior officer with Admiral Lord Nelson, Tulliallan Castle is a 160 year-old mixture of Gothic and Italian architectural styles set in some 90 acres of parkland just north of where the Kincardine Bridge spans the River Forth.

During the Second World War it became the headquarters of the Free Polish Army before being purchased by the then Scottish Home Department in 1950, for the sum of £9,100, with the view to establishing it as a centre for training Scottish police officers. The building was extensively modernised and renovated and the first courses for inspectors and sergeants began in 1954.

Over the years, facilities have been added until, today, Tulliallan Police College features - kitchens, dining room and an assembly hall for 300 linked to accommodation, classrooms and a resource library, stables and garages converted for driver training, a skid pan, manoeuvreability area, and display rooms for working models, and a recreation block with gymnasium, fitness suite, swimming pool, lounge bar and shop. The Scottish Police College is rare among central training establishments in the United Kingdom, in that it provides Senior, Junior, Traffic and Detective Training all on one campus.

Working with Diversity

The ethos of the Scottish Police Service hasn't changed very much since its inception a hundred and fifty years ago. Laws and Governments have changed, society has developed but the essence of policing remains the same – protecting and serving communities. This does not, of course, mean that the police service has stood still. The world has changed beyond the wildest dreams of Robert Peel and the service has had to constantly adapt to that change.

Working with diversity is obviously an integral part of modern day policing – both as an internal matter affecting all members of staff and externally in relation to service delivery. In the last 25 years the police service has positively responded to a host of new Equal Opportunities legislation, changing policies, practices and procedures to ensure compliance. But the change didn't stop there. Chief Constables recognised that there also had to be attitudinal change and a deeper understanding throughout the service of the communities served by it.

The National Equal Opportunities Training Strategy (NEOTS) is part of that process of change. The strategy was born out of a desire to ensure that every force adopted a common approach to diversity training and aspired to the same comprehensive standard of training. In 1999 a working group was established to research and design a strategy to take equal opportunities training in the Scottish Police Service into the twenty first century. This working group reported its findings to the Association of Chief Police Officers Scotland (ACPOS) last summer and a new working group was established at the Scottish Police College to design the training.

NEOTS includes training on race, sex, disability, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues. The methodology of the design team has been based on considerable research and genuine consultation with the representative bodies and communities involved.

The training packages are currently being written and it is anticipated that training for *every* member of staff in the Scottish Police Service will begin in the Autumn.

The training will be carried out at the Scottish Police College and at a local level within the Forces. Forces will be encouraged to approach members of their local minority communities to assist in the delivery of training.

Chief Inspector Ian Elder, leading the NEOTS team, told 'the Tartan Skirt', *"I am delighted to have been given this challenge. I want what we are doing to be hard hitting and to make a real impact. This training is not just about legislation and procedures – it is about challenging prejudices and attitudes; it is about eradicating stereotyping and labeling; it is about treating people as individuals with respect and dignity. At the end of the day it is about improving the service we provide to all our communities."*

Robert Peel would undoubtedly approve of such sentiments. Things have changed but the ethos remains the same.

End

Personal Development:

AFFIRMATIONS

by Rev. Andrew Hunter



Affirmations are any statement we make.

Too often we think in *negative* affirmations and that only creates more of what we don't want in life.

What we give energy to, we create.

Thought is energy.

I hate my work
You always start the arguments
I don't want to go on living here
I don't like being fat.

And as the non-conscious mind does not recognise negatives, it won't hear the "don't" in the above statements. Instead it will hear *"I want to go on living here"* and *"I like being fat"*. Result??? So move away from the negative and put your attention into what it is you ***DO*** want. **Do this through the daily use of affirmations.**

A positive affirmation is a verbal and/or written description of a desired outcome - stated in the present tense, ***as if the outcome had already been achieved.***

For example,

I now have a permanent, fulfilling (type of) ***job at*** (type of company) ***which is*** (describe)

rather than

One of these days I'll manage to get a better job

Clearly state the full outcome you want without paying attention to HOW it will be achieved. Do not limit or restrain yourself - abundance is the natural state of the Universe. Prosperity in money, friendship, health and opportunities for creative expression comes to those who are willing to have it. The good that is yours will come to you in the perfect time and space, often when least expected.

It is important to state your affirmation very specifically, otherwise you may get something you hadn't bargained for! Once, on a training course, I affirmed that ***"all the places are taken"***. They were - mostly by people who were totally cynical and destructive in their outlook. So now I affirm instead, ***"All the places on course ... are taken by positive and co-operative people willing to learn and open to change."***

HOW DO YOU WRITE AFFIRMATIONS?

1. Choose the subject of your affirmation with care. Look for:

- things in your life that are lacking and that you would like to happen
- things in your life you would prefer to be free of
- thoughts that create in you feelings of anger, resentment, fear, unhappiness, etc.
- your dreams! What do you really want? Remember - no limits!

2. Many people have trouble converting the negatives. So, first **write out any negatives** you are aware of, and any statements with "oughts" or "shoulds".

For example,

I can never...
I should always be on time
I'm not good enough
My biggest fear about sex is...
I've always been told I was no good at...
I ought to be able to...

Then take each statement and **turn it around** into a positive one.

For example,

I can now...
I am easily on time, achieveing all I need in the process
I trust the process of life to bring me my highest good
I release my fear about sex; I deserve the best and accept it now
I go beyond the limitations of others and am now good at...
I am now able to... with ease.

3. **Imagine a picture in your mind** of the desired outcome happening right now, with you in the picture enjoying it wherever possible. Write your affirmations on a piece of paper, your diary, etc. I suggest writing key affirmations ten times in the first person, e.g. *"I, Andrew..."* then ten times in the second person, e.g. *"You, Andrew..."* then ten times in the third person, e.g. *"Andrew..."*

4. **Read your affirmations every evening** before you go to bed and when you get up next morning.

5. **Paste the affirmations** on your mirror, dashboard, telephone, diary, anywhere... as a prompt.

6. I like to **record** my affirmations - often over soothing music - and listen to the recording whilst in the car, going about my chores, or whilst going to sleep. This I find *very* powerful.

7. **Make a magnet map.** Paste brightly coloured pictures or draw them on a large sheet and write alongside your affirmations. Always include a smiling or good-mood picture of yourself and a special spiritual symbol which connects you with the universal source. This latter symbol is a reminder that your desires are in harmony with your higher self and for the greater good of the world. Place your magnet map wherever you can see it frequently.

8. Remember you cannot write affirmations for other people, e.g. *"Jane is now working in a new job at..."* or, *"David is fully recovered from his illness."* We are each here to live our own lives and to learn our own lessons. We can only affirm what is for their highest good. If you want something for someone else because it is what *you* want then it will not happen for that reason. Your desires for others have to be with the sincerest intention that what happens is for their greatest good, and not just to make you feel good.

9. For affirmations to work you must have *DESIRE*, *BELIEF* and *CERTAINTY*. If you make an affirmation, then visualise it, whilst all the time thinking that it's unlikely to come about then it will not happen. Your negative thought energy would prevent it.

For further information on the age-old technique of affirmations consult ***Creative Visualisation*** by Shakti Gawain or ***Choose Your Thoughts, Change Your Life*** by Jane Duncan.

Andrew Hunter Associates

Meditation made Simple

A Beginner's Guide

Gently spoken by Andrew Hunter, Healer, Intuitive, Metaphysical Counsellor and Teacher, Personal Development Guide.

With music specially composed by Michael Groth.

CD - £13.99 incl p&p

Tape - £9.99 incl p%p

Track 1 - Information about meditation - how it helps, how to practise - as well as answering many questions people have about it.

Track 2 - A simple, powerful guided meditation, which if practised regularly can bring enormous benefits.

Please send order to -

Andrew Hunter,
Winterfold Cottage,
Altonburn Road,
Nairn IV12 5NB

http://www.benu.com/quest

SEVEN HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PEOPLE

HABIT 1: BE PROACTIVE. The key foundation for success is to take responsibility for your life – for your attitudes and actions. (The way you respond to situations fundamentally changes the reality of those situations.)

HABIT 2: BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND. The most important kind of leadership is leading your own life. Highly effective people have a clear set of goals.

HABIT 3: PUT FIRST THINGS FIRST. The majority of desired outcomes flow from only a handful of key activities. Highly effective people say 'no' to the unimportant, and 'yes' to the important.

HABIT 4: INVOLVE OTHERS. Willing co-operation enhances outcomes. Highly effective people negotiate around positions of mutual benefit.

HABIT 5: SEEK FIRST TO UNDERSTAND, THEN TO BE UNDERSTOOD. Communication is the greatest of all life skills. Highly effective people communicate with empathy, a willingness to try to understand the other's position.

HABIT 6: SYNERGISE. Highly effective people stay flexible. They are always on the lookout for the best ideas of others to take on board for themselves.

HABIT 7: SHARPEN THE SAW. *Why does it take so long to cut down the tree? Because you're far too busy sawing to sharpen the saw!* Highly effective people always think ahead - this allows time for constant self-renewal.





SEAMS TO ME ...

by Jackie

Everyone who can remember them knows that 1940s and '50s stockings had that unmistakable something that made them exquisitely sensual to wear, to see and to touch. And the stockings you can buy in the shops today - even the best and most expensive - are nothing like them.

Why not?

Real 1940s and '50s nylons were fully fashioned. They were made from wonderfully silky non-stretch, gossamer nylon fabric (so they couldn't be 'one-size'). They were made to the shape of the leg, just as a tailor cuts clothes to the shape of the body, and were finally seamed up the back. The seam was an essential part of the stocking's construction - it was the seam that held it together - unlike modern "seamed" stockings which are knitted in a tube shape and the "seam" is merely an added decoration.

Real fully-fashioned stockings are unmistakable in look and feel. They set a standard in stocking glamour that has never been equalled.

Whenever I attend a tranny event and find myself in the company of other girls, the discussion usually gets around to an interest in stockings, or more accurately, to my own passion for fully-fashioned and seamed nylon stockings.

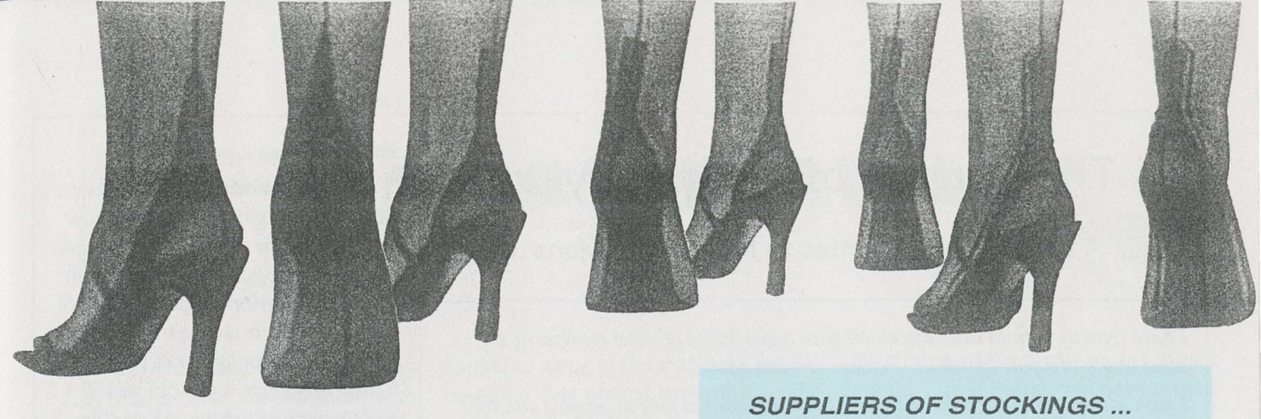
My attention was first drawn to them in the early 1960s, when I saw them covering the legs of my mother and my aunt as they made ready to attend a wedding. Later, my curiosity aroused, I examined the packaging that had been discarded when I was alone in the house. **'Aristoc Harmony Point, Fully Fashioned, Nylon Seamed Stockings,'** it declared. I made good use of some of my mother's make-up and tried the stockings on beneath a dress that I had set aside when I had been collecting for a jumble sale. I would never be the same again.

When I started work, and had money in my pockets, I began to buy my own stockings. Mind you, 6' tall with size 11 feet made it difficult to find the seamed variety in a size that fitted well. It was in 1996 I came across an advert in the Daily Express, placed there by a company called **'Sheer Factor'**. They were advertising foundation garments and hosiery that including fully-fashioned nylon seamed stockings - so I wrote off to the London address for their catalogue. I was also interested in their foundation garments but as they were experiencing difficulties with their suppliers they were only able to supply me with the stockings at that time. (Liz Garner of **'Limited Edition'** eventually stepped in to take over the manufacture and supply of foundation garments for Sheer Factor.)

Through Liz Garner I then got in touch with another company, **'Touchable'**, who were able to supply me with the seamed stockings I desired. Like Sheer Factor, Touchable offer a range of foundation and under garments from basques and waspies to French knickers and stockings, including fully fashioned nylon stockings in both Cuban and Point styles. The latter, they make on the original Aristoc machinery bought over when Aristoc ceased production.

Over the years I have acquired the particulars of a number of suppliers who are able to offer fully fashioned, seamed, nylon stockings. These are available in a variety of colours - black, natural, white, copper, ivory, navy blue, pale blue, red, mink, taupe, pewter grey, fuschia pink, bitter chocolate and topaz. They can come with contrasting back seams, or with four different heel styles; Point, Cuban, Havana and Manhattan.

Regardless of individual preferences in hosiery, I realise there are many girls just like me to whom the wearing of fully fashioned, seamed nylon stockings is seen as the quintessential experience of feminine adornment.



Left to Right Havana Cuban Manhattan Point

Sizes (these cany vary between manufacturers)			
XS	extra small	up to 4'11"	(up to 150cm)
S	small	4'11" - 5'4"	(150cm - 162cm)
M	medium	5'4" - 5'8"	(162cm - 172cm)
L	large	5'8" - 5'10"	(172cm - 178cm)
XL	extra large	5'10" - 6' plus	(178cm - 183cm)

sssh
PO Box 122, West Haddon, Northampton. NN6 7DS
website: *www.fullyfashioned.com/sssh-pg-thisis.htm*
A society with world-wide membership for those fascinated by seamed stockings and stiletto heels.

THE HARMONY CLUB
PO Box 320, Nottingham. NG8 5JF
website: *www.btinternet.com/~harmony.club*
email: *harmony.club@btinternet.com*
A club for like-minded enthusiasts of Fully Fashioned stockings.

SUPPLIERS OF STOCKINGS ...

TOUCHABLE
Box 100, Eastwood, Notts. NG16 5FW
tel/fax: 01773-[redacted]
website: *www. touchable. co.uk*
email: [redacted]

NEW LADY NYLONS
B. M. Elegance, London. WC1
tel: 020[redacted]
website: *www.aristasia.org/newlady/index.html*
email: [redacted]

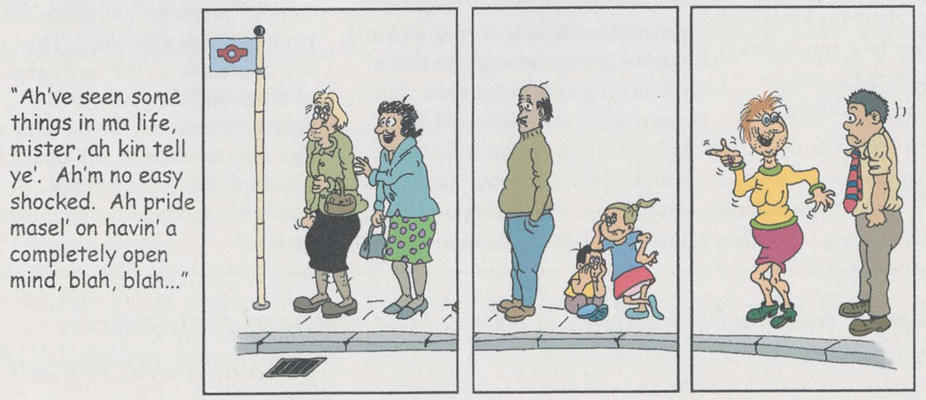
CHRISTEL
PO Box 20, Stockbridge, Hampshire. SO20 6WU
tel: 01794-[redacted]
fax: 01794[redacted]
website: *www.christel.co.uk*
email: [redacted]

GLAMOUR GIRL
PO Box 200, Stroud. GL6 8ZA
Stockists of fully-fashioned stockings manufactured in the USA.

OVERSEAS ...

SECRETS IN LACE
PO Box15332, Arlington, VA 22215.
website: *www.secretsinlace.com*
email: [redacted]

DE AN DREW DESIGNS
8884 Warner Avenue PMB,172 Fountain Valley, CA 92708.
website: *www.deandrewdesigns.com*
email: [redacted]



The Length of a Girl's Nylons'

A correspondent writes to New Lady Nylons ...

I have recently been in some discussion with a girl friend of mine concerning the ideal length of a pair of nylons. Perhaps you can advise.

I have always taken the view that they should be worn as long as possible and that certainly as much of the thigh as possible should be covered. My friend however is of the view that the important factor is the tightness of the suspender and that a stocking, particularly if fully fashioned should not be so long as to prevent the suspender from being tight. We appreciate that most suspenders are adjustable to take account of the length of the stocking but even so, in practice the amount of adjustment is somewhat limited.

The danger of course with too short a stocking is the obvious one of accidently showing ones nylon tops if the skirt is relatively short.

Talking of skirts, given that PROPER suspenders are metal and fairly substantial, when they are worn with a tight or pencil skirt no matter what the length, the suspender and its adjuster may well show through the skirt material especially when sitting down. What steps if any should a modern lady trying to regain the elegance of former times take to avoid the sight of the shape of her suspender or does etiquette allow such a display?

Thanking you in anticipation of your reply,

STELLA

Stella raises many interesting questions often asked by girls new to the wearing of stockings. Actually there is a great deal of variation in the way girls wear their stockings, all of which is entirely legitimate.

With a short skirt, it is, of course, necessary to wear the longest possible stockings and correspondingly short suspenders in order to prevent an embarassing display when crossing one's legs. However, the wearing of very short stockings with (necessarily) very long suspenders is a style often depicted in pin-up paintings of the 1950s and is considered very attractive.

Our own preference certainly coincides with yours - that stockings should ideally be as long as possible, the largest amount of thigh being covered by nylon film. Aesthetically and for reasons of modesty, this would seem preferable, ensuring that only the most determined gust of wind shall reveal more than a length of elegantly gossamer-sheathed leg. But the other school certainly has its proponents.

As to how these effects are to be achieved, a few observations may prove helpful. In the first place, the shortest and highest suspenders, permitting the longest stockings and maximum leg-coverage, are to be found on girdles rather than suspender belts. These will also hold the stockings most firmly in a high position without slipping or dragging. Nonetheless a good suspender belt can be adjusted high enough for most purposes.

Different stockings have different fittings, and a girl should know how to deal with the various different non-stretch stockings she may encounter. Real, 100% nylon stockings will not expand and contract to fit different sized girls like bongo ones but with a little ingenuity, a girl can wear a wide variety of nylons. Short ones, of course, require long suspenders. Nylons that may be a little too long may be suspended not at the top of the welt (stocking-top) but further down its depth (but not on the delicate unreinforced fabric of the sheer stocking itself. This gives a "gathered" effect that is not unattractive (assuming it is seen) and may be observed in many glamour photographs of the 1950s.

On Stella's second question, we would reply that metal suspenders are certainly a little heavier, but not necessarily more bulky than plastic ones - indeed, metal being the stronger material it should, in theory be possible to make them less bulky without loss of strength. In practice we should say that both kinds of suspender are of about equal thickness.

Metal suspenders come in two kinds, flat ones cut from thin metal plate and round ones "wrought" from strong wire. The flat ones are slightly less bulky, but this is probably less significant as the most protruberant part of the suspender is the "button", and this is what is most likely to show as a distinctive "nipple" pressing through the taut cloth of a very tight skirt. This will only show on the very tightest of skirts, and then only to the deliberate observer. We can only say that such an observer will certainly not think the less of you for seeing this subtle evidence of correct dressing.

"A woman without stockings is like a rose without fragrance."

Cécile Saint-Laurent

The Tartan Skirt's roving reporter with news from around the world

TINA'S TRAVELS



Apparently our army of tartan transsexuals should meet with less resistance as they head South, since the decision was taken to treble the number of sex-change operations carried out by the NHS in England. As if fending off angry criticism from surgeons who have other priorities wasn't enough of a headache, Charing Cross hospital now has to find the £60,000 salary to pay the consultant who'll lead the gender reassignment team carrying out the extra work. Under such pressure from demand, perhaps it won't be much longer before we have this service on offer in Scotland - I hear the HCI hospital in Clydebank is in the process of setting this up, even as I write.

Move over, comin' on board!

Pressure is only likely to increase further if the findings of new research are to be believed, that ***half of all men want to be girls!*** Forty-six per cent of men aged 18 to 35 questioned for a survey for Cosmopolitan magazine said if they could be born again, it would be as a woman. Does this trend in social anthropology herald an end to the exclusivity of transgender? Will the only way left for me to make a statement about my individuality be to develop an obsession with breasts, beer and football? Oh oh - I already have one of those...

The shape of things to come...

Just as mind-boggling is the discovery that the Y chromosome – remember, if you inherit a Y chromosome from your dad you become a boy, if you inherit an X chromosome from him you become a girl – was a bit of an accident, some 60,000 years ago! Apparently, genetic scientists have proved that it was only some 84,000 years *after* the first woman with a modern-sized brain was walking across Africa that 'modern' man happened along in the shape of a genetic mutation that proved irresistible to the evolutionary process! So maybe there wasn't any of this transgender stuff around in the 'good ol' days' when X and Y's ancestors were a pair of identical chromosomes? What's more, if the Y chromosome is still mutating, as we are reliably informed, will our ancestors still need transgender support groups in another 50,000 years?

Socially conscious?

Just a short time ago in India, Kum Kum Roy Choudhury, executive director of the Lucknow fashion house Tanpriya Creations, caused something of a stir when his models sashayed down the catwalk. Not because of the designs of their clothing, but because the models he used to display them were hijras - outcasts. One factor behind his decision was ***"to give them social acceptance."***

In India there may be as many as 1,000,000 hijras. Once a community of eunuchs, hijra now encompasses individuals who are transgendered or intersex. They are considered lower even than untouchables and face widespread discrimination, being denied all basic rights.

But last summer, Shabnam Mausi, an independent candidate, was elected to the legislative assembly in the northern Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. And "aunt" Shabnam is hijra. And soon after, in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh, Asha Devi, 45, was elected mayor of Gorakhpur. Devi is also hijra.

Many observers see the trend of electing civic-minded hijras into public office as the beginning of a new chapter of enfranchisement in the history of India's eunuchs and marks a step towards social acceptance for a community that has been reviled for centuries. And others believe it's too soon to know if any movement has finally started to gain ground... or if it, too, will be mutilated at birth.

Fashion conscious!

I like to keep abreast of fashion, so I was interested to find out about the debut collection of Italian transsexual designer, Robertina Manganaro. Hers was part of the Milano Collezioni Donna shows which feature the fashions for Spring/Summer 2001. Never given to false modesty, Robertina told the Italian press, ***"Everyone knows I'm a great-looking transsexual, and a year from now I will be the personification of fashion,"*** referring to herself as, ***"the cherry that was missing from on top of the fashion cake."***

Her fashion cake certainly had lots of cherries of a kind on the night, given the fifteen naked male models who decorated it!

Unconscious!!

I've a lot of sympathy with the view expressed by many of the patients who have undergone reassignment surgery at a South Korean hospital in Seocho-dong, Seoul, when they voice their objections to plans by the medical centre to show a sex-change operation live on the internet. Chung Ik, a programming director with the hospital reckons it will help *"give a better image of transgender surgery"*. I'm not so sure. I certainly don't think that showing my operation for piles would have done anything to make my haemorrhoids any more respectable!

Faith healing?

They're at it again! The Evangelical Alliance claims that reassignment surgery is 'unnecessary'. Rather, they are in favour of 'psychosomatic unity' - treating spiritual and mental health without recourse to surgery. Can't

continued from page 21

recall psychosomatic unity' being raised by my GP the other day when I called in to see him. Mind you, it was my piles that were playing me up again - nothing psychosomatic there. My point is, given the unquestionable benefit of surgery for some, the disappointment of others should not be used in this perverted manner to promote a wish fulfilment fantasy of a group of people whose long history of intolerance towards the gender diverse has contributed to present-day attitudes which lie at the heart of our oppression and mindstate. (Pause to draw breath.) If they are really sincere about wanting to help and feel they have something positive to contribute, let them establish a Centre for Psychosomatic Unity, to help those that surgery did not... and let the rest of us get on with the difficult task of deciding where our own best interest lies.

All that glitters...

Taiwan is in the throes of a deepening recession and work is hard to come by, especially if you come across as a bit effeminate and have transsexual leanings. There's an increasing number of such men who think they can find a way out of their economic difficulties by having sex-change surgery then working as female entertainers. According to the China Times, they have their operations carried out in Thailand and hide their original identity on their return. However, a transgender support association reveals that few are finding happiness with their sex-change, with some turning to prostitution.

Storm in a Thai-cup!

Thailand's trans character in their own version of Coronation Street is causing uproar in the corridors of local adminstration. Phoodee Isaan (Isaan Elite) plays a woman who is passing as a man. Problem is... another man falls in love with Phoodee, and that man is a District Chief! Now, District Chiefs are banding together to protest, claiming they are deeply offended having been made out to be both stupid and gay. *And*, they point out, his shoulder badges are not properly positioned on his uniform!!!

If at first you don't succeed...

Well, that was Jonathan Agudana's strategy for gaining entry to Club Royale in Cebu, Philippines. After twice denying him entry because he was wearing women's clothing, he borrowed a friend's sweatshirt and put this on over his blouse. It worked! He was in. But when he took it off again, security guards dragged him off the dance floor 'like a criminal'.

The incident has given rise to the Philippines first Human Rights complaint which is being investigated by the Commission.

"More than my job's worth!"

Esther Ranzten once brought to our television screens, examples of inane behaviour by individuals, frequently beaurocrats, whose decision-making was based rigidly in a "more than my job's worth" philosophy. When Stacey Hickey tried to return to Britain with her young son, who was born while she was in Spain, passport officials told her he couldn't enter because a Spanish midwife had incorrectly entered the sex on his birth certificate as female. Now Stacey faces a court battle to get the certificate changed. She said, *"I've been told if I'd noticed in hospital, they'd have changed it there and then."*

I say it's high time we ended the birth certificate fiasco and simply stopped entering the person's sex in the document. I can't think of any consequences that couldn't be more appropriately addressed elsewhere, in any case.

Still on the Iberian Peninsula, it's a first for the Carlos Haya Hospital in Malaga where Spain's first female-to-male sex change operation went ahead last December. Carlos Haya is the only public hospital to operate on trans-sexuals. The patient was a 38-year-old who acquired a 7 inch penis! Well, if you're buying, you get to choose. I only hope he checked his receipt!

"More than your job's worth!"

Imagine going into work one day and being called into the boss's office to be told you're fired. When you ask why, the reply is, ***"I didn't like what you wore at home last night."*** Peter Oiler, a 21-year employee with Winn-Dixie's suburban New Orleans, US, distribution centre, was fired for being a cross-dresser.

Peter had complained to his managers about rumours circulating in the workplace that he was gay and had asked to have them stopped. His supervisor enquired why it bothered him so much. Peter matter-of-factly answered, ***"Because I'm not gay. I'm transgendered."*** He was subsequently asked to resign, and when he refused, he was sacked. ***"I never expected Winn-Dixie to approve of my personal life, or to punish me for it,"*** said Oiler. ***"I just never thought it had any bearing on how I do my job."***

Last month, Peter Oiler filed a federal lawsuit claiming sex dis-crimination. The basis for the complaint is that female employees of Winn-Dixie wore men's clothes off duty without consequence, but the company fired him 'because he failed to conform to the corporation's stereotyped notions of how a man ought to look and act.' The retailer claims that having Oiler, a truck driver with a good employment record on the job, was 'bad for their image.' The National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC) has thrown its full support behind the efforts to have Peter reinstated.

Gonnae no dae that!

When you have to go... and you're told you can't! Oooooh. That's what happened in America to Julienne Goins, a transgender employee who was denied use of the women's toilet at her workplace. However, the State Court of Appeals has now given her leave to sue her bosses under Minnesota's Human Rights Act. Minnesota law affords protection to people who identify as transgender. The statute defines sexual orientation to include, "*having or being perceived as having a self-image or identity not traditionally associated with one's biological maleness or femaleness.*"

Julienne was male at birth, but has taken feminising hormones and consistently presented herself as a woman since 1995. Despite a Texas court order that year authorising a change of gender from 'genetic male' to 'reassigned female' on all documents, including her birth certificate, her employers, West Group, had previously argued successfully in Hennepin County District Court that they could legitimately segregate toilets by sex. Fingers (and legs) crossed for a more successful outcome this time.

"Does my bum look big in this, boss?"

I can well remember when the law was introduced in this country making the wearing of crash helmets compulsory for riders of motor cycles and scooters (wreaking havoc with my bouffont hairstyle of the day), and feeling somewhat envious of the fact that Sikhs were exempt from this as a result of their dress code. With the Human Rights Act now affording all of us our greater freedom of expression, employers will need to be careful when dictating dress codes to us girls. Lack of awareness could give rise to unlimited compensation claims! It would now appear that unfair dismissal claims based on appearance have more hope of success. But don't imagine you'll get away with wearing that micro-mini and fishnets when you're drilling for oil, though! Something about health and safety...

Terrifying ordeal

There have been times in my life when I've felt my good sense assaulted by quotations from the bible, but I've never yet been subjected to a sexual attack while listening to Genesis. That terrifying ordeal fell to a 32-year-old transsexual who jumped from her third-floor bedroom window to escape a convicted rapist who quoted passages from the bible as he attacked her. In court, Israel Lewis, 39, from Vauxhall, South London, was found unfit to enter a plea by reason of insanity. The case against him for indecent assault and attempted male rape, however, was

Thanks to Jennifer of Aviemore for sending in the following advertisement for LYNX deodorant bodyspray by Fabergé.

Could be an idea to keep some handy for when you break out in a cold sweat!



contiued from page 23

proved and he was committed to a secure hospital without limit of time.

Lawyers had hoped the trial would make legal history as the first conviction for female rape involving a transsexual, but the charge was changed to indecently assaulting a male after it was found that Lewis was mentally unable to instruct his counsel.

"Call me Madam, m'lud"

There's a small group of individuals who think nothing of dressing up in wigs, black stockings and flowing robes to tell the rest of us what we can and can't do. Now, in a new book entitled 'The Equal Treatment Bench Book', they are being told to be careful not to be prejudiced in their attitude towards LGBT folk.

When I first heard mention of this publication I thought it might be an S&M slave's equal opportunities charter. I was only slightly off the mark though, as it turns out... it's a guide for Judges in England and Wales!!! On closer scrutiny it can be seen to contain such helpful information as, *'being gay does not predispose a person to paedophilia'*, or *'Aids or HIV positive does not necessarily indicate homosexual behaviour'*, and *'cross-dressing is "an inescapable emotional need", not a fetish.'*

Ensuring that judges are fully abreast of changing social attitudes and act accordingly, has been the idea behind the guide and it follows an extensive consultation and drafting process carried out by the Judicial Studies Board under Judge Pearl. *(Now, I once knew a TV Mistress working out of Birminham's red light district who called herself 'Judge Pearl'. I just wonder...)*

End

Celebrity Cross-Dresser



Co-starring with Matt LeBlanc and Eddie Izzard in *All The Queen's Men*, a war comedy, Braveheart actor James Cosmo plays a member of a squad of soldiers who infiltrate the factory where the Nazi's famous Enigma code machine is being made. But only women work there - hence the reason for the Highland hero wearing a flowery dress.

Prior to commencing filming, James said, *"I'll be a very ugly fraulein. My hips are being made bigger to match the huge bust, and I'll need to shave my legs."* His trademark moustache will also have to go. He said, *"I have not shaved it off for 20 years. I'm dreading it."*

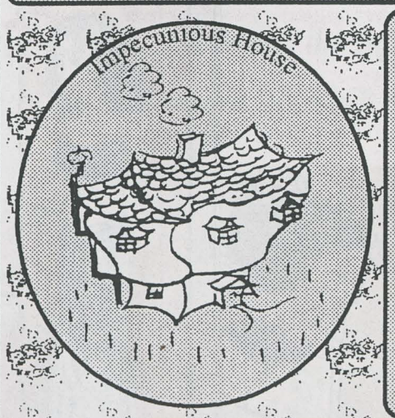
The Eonist Digest

The TV Magazine for the Southern New Woman.



Including -
Up to date news and views from the TV scene. The facts behind TV-ism. Beauty hints. Supplier gazette. TV/TS events/contact guide.
For a sample issue send 5 First Class stamps to:
The Eonist, PO Box 11, Swanmore, Hants SO32 2ZU

Welcome To Cheshire



Shirley and Christine offer overnight stays and meals at their cosy cottage in Northwich. Only 30 minutes from The Hollywood Showbar and just 6 miles off the M6 at junction 19. A friendly and totally safe atmosphere is assured for all.

Telephone 01606 [redacted] for details

Continuing Tales of Transgender in Myth and Legend...

Our Forgotton History

GALLAE ON THE PALATINE HILL

From the beginning of the Roman Republic, 509 B.C.E., until the Christian Emperor, Constantine, 313 C.E., Rome grew and prospered. Reaching its apex in 117 C.E., under the reign of Hadrian, Rome was open to Cybele and Attis, Diana, Isis, Orpheus, and other mystery religions of the orient. Rome began to falter with the advent of Christianity. And as Christian emperors began exiling, burning, murdering, and destroying these ancient religions, less than 200 years passed before Rome was finished. I am not suggesting that Christianity was responsible for the fall of Rome, but it certainly failed to sustain it and efforts to force a spiritual unity destroyed the morale of those who believed in the Roman Ideal. This is an imaginative historical reconstruction. Drawn from the brutality of that period it describes what Rome was like for Gallae.

Laura Darlene Lansberry

THE BEGINNING OF THE END

"Lavinia, what are we to do? How will we live?" wailed Demetria, the youngest of the current crop of Gallae.

"We will do that which we have always done, and we will live as we will live," replied Lavinia, last of the true Archigallae. *"The Great Mother will provide."*

"The Mother has betrayed us," screeched Demetria, panic in her voice.

Lavinia, her left hand striking with the speed of a serpent, slapped the young woman. Slowly, a red welt appeared on Demetria's right cheek.

"Foolish one, are you not here? Are you not alive? Are we not Gallae? Is our mystery lessened, our magic diminished? What the world does, the world does. We are eternal and the Great Mother is always with us," she responded, her countenance imposing and yet, imbued with the anima of Cybele, Mother of the Gods. Standing, her hands at her side, facing the frightened mystes, she stepped forward. Pulling the youth forward she hugged her and cooed, *"It'll be all right, sweet love. These evil times are not brought on us by the Goddess. They are brought on by the greed and wickedness of Rome, the Emperor Theodosius, and their new cult. Forgetting the past they turn their backs on us. They will fall and the world will endure two thousand years of brutality and domination before we come again to prominence."*

"Oh Mother, hold me tighter. I'm so frightened. They loved us so and now they seek us out and kill us. What are we to do? We will all be dead in far less than two thousand years," bewailed the trembling girl, her damp azure eyes turned toward Lavinia appealing for what comfort she might provide.

"We can not die, child. We are the very substance of existence, our nature immutable as the stars in the night sky. It's not our choice to be Gallae. We are chosen to walk this path. This is our mystery and our destiny, no man or cult born of man can erase us from the tapestry of life. But they will try. Conquerors are all the same and, because they fear us most of all, they will try to wipe out our history, savage us, kill us, and attempt to drive us from their midst. Nonetheless, they will fail. We are their children, their sisters, their brothers, and yes, their mothers and fathers. We will return again and again, born into their lives to alleviate suffering, to understand them, and to love them. Yet, they will deny us. However, this prophesy I make to you. A time will come when we shall arise from the darkness, and take up our birthright in honor and veneration. In the meantime, we must never forget what we are, who we are, or lose sight of the Goddess. Many people will love us and seek after our knowledge and wisdom. These will be our friends and comforters, even as we will be their friends and comforters. Those who turn their backs on us shall not seek us out. We will learn to avoid them. The wheel turns and it will turn again for the Gallae," Lavinia spoke softly, her words soothing the trembling of the youth.

Just then the doors of the temple

were thrown open and ten burly Roman guards swept in. Captain Lucius Marcus stepped forward grasping the arm of the Archigalla and pulling her away from the terrified girl. *"Well, Eunuch, you know why we're here. Deny the Mother! Call on Jesus the Christ and you shall live. Deny him and you shall die. What say you?"* demanded the Captain, his demeanor that of a soldier doing his duty. It was apparent he didn't care which way she answered.

"The Mother has been good to me. I will not deny her," replied the proud woman, her eyes boring into the eyes of Lucius Marcus.

"Then die! Slowly in agony," retorted the Captain. His face was hardened from the slaughter of many innocents as he stabbed through Lavinia's flesh and into her stomach. As swiftly he pulled the sword out and she sank to her knees, a stream of blood coming from the gash.

"Now you child, you are young. Do you wish to die or do you call on Jesus as your Lord and Savior?" growled the soldier impatiently.

"Mother, what should I do?" asked the mystes of the stricken Archigalla, *"I don't want to die."*

"It's permitted, child. Accept their Lord. The Goddess will not forsake you," gasped Lavinia through excruciating spasms.

"Well, answer child. Be quick about it. There are so damned many of you and I don't have all day," demanded the menacing figure.

"I choose ..." began the trembling young woman hesitating for a moment, *"Magna Mater."*

The sword sank deep into her stomach. As it came out she retched and then fell forward into her own vomit. The Captain and the soldiers turned and left, confident they had fulfilled the dictates of Theodosius.

"Child," cooed Lavinia sliding through the pool of blood between them in order to be closer. *"Why didn't you lie? Accept their Lord? They would have let you live."*

"Oh Mother, I wanted to live, but what would life be worth having betrayed my path?"

End

Against the odds...

Both drivers in a two-car crash in Ronda, Spain, were found to be cross-dressed when cut from their vehicles. *"Neither of them said they had any recollection of how they came to be wearing women's clothing,"* said a police spokesman, *"but the doctor doesn't believe them."*



Against the steering wheel...

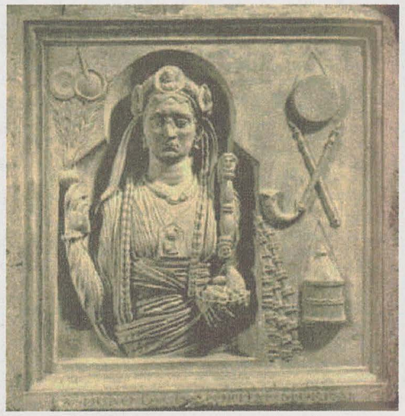
A policeman in Ogden, Utah, spotted a small car parked in a cul-de-sac in the Ogden City Cemetery, rocking on its wheels. Inside was a partially clothed man banging his head violently against the steering wheel while attempting to pull on a pair of tights. He was cited for lewdness, but insisted he had done nothing wrong.



Against good taste...

A teenage girl amazed customers at Sam's Sausage Parlour in Birmingham, Alabama, by ordering a frankfurter, *"easy on the mustard"*, then stripping down to her underwear before eating it. The thundering applause stopped abruptly, though, when she whipped off her panties to reveal a sausage of a different kind!!





Memorial to a Roman Archigalla
(from the reign of Antoninus Pius, 138-161 CE)

At the height of the Roman Empire, in the third century, a conservative estimate places the population at fifty million people. Cybele and Attis, served by Gallae, "male" priestesses, was the state religion. Temples raised to the Goddess were peppered all over the Empire, none more prominent than the one on the Vatican hill, where St. Peter's Basilica would be erected. The Holy Ones, another name for the Gallae, were at least thirty thousand strong and their followers were, by far and large, the entire population of the Empire. They performed the spiritual rites at births, deaths, weddings, state functions, and any function requiring special blessings and good fortune. The gift of prophesy was deemed to be their province. As vaticanari, they were fortune tellers and counsellors. The Christian Emperors, Theodosius through Justinian, escalated the persecution of the traditional religion, encouraging the destruction of the ancient temples and altars. The churches of the new religion were erected on the same sites. Not only did the Church lift the myth of Jesus from the stories of Attis, (along with naming Jesus' Mother "Maria" after Ma Rhea, another name for the Goddess Cybele) they had the effrontery to raise their main temple on Vatican hill.

When it first appeared in Rome, the Christians were warring cults brutalizing, vandalizing, terrorizing, and murdering, not only the citizens of Rome, but amongst their own kind; each cult seeking ascendancy over the other. Which is why Rome, in the beginning, considered them enemies of the state and decreed them outlaw. The Empire didn't persecute Christians for their religious beliefs, but for their acts of savage barbarism. Had they come in peace, Rome, openly accepting of minority religions, would have embraced the new religion. However, the new religion was anything but peaceful and, claiming theirs was the one true god, they were prepared to do anything necessary to force themselves upon the world.

Movies and stories about the persecution of gentle pacifist Christians by bigoted and hateful Romans are fabrication and revisionist history of the lowest order. Christianity was, and often still remains in nations such as Ireland, where Catholics and Protestants still murder each other, a cruel dominating patriarchal religion intolerant of divergent viewpoints. At the inception there were Gnostics, Nazarenes, Donatists (fantical terrorists), Pauline Christians (militant), Montanist (founded by a Galla), and dozens more. Those christian forms which were peaceful were stamped out by the more virulent forms. Pauline Christianity eventually established itself as the dominant practice. Paul, (Saul of Tarsus), only claim to leadership was his own proclamation that he had met Jesus in a dream as he was travelling to Damascus. Paul, with his nebulous self-appointment, usurped the positon of Priscilla and Aquila as church leaders. His governmental skill, with his nebulous self-designation, was sufficent justification for his followers to overwhelm the other religions.

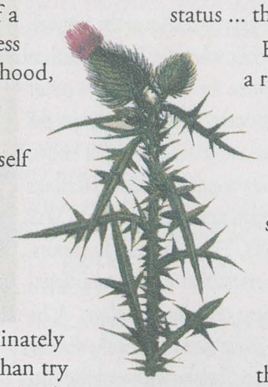
It is said that those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it, but to learn from history it must be recorded accurately. George Orwell's book, 1984, spoke of history being erased and altered to suit the whims of those in power. His readers took his book to be a pessimistic prophesy of the future, but it might just as well be taken as biting satire on what has already taken place.

We have a history, a heritage, and systematically we have had that history erased and our heritage taken from us. Not only were our spiritual practices stolen and "their" churches erected on the foundations of our temples, not only did they try to erase all memory of what and who we were, but church fathers, such as Augustine, labelled our nature as everything from abomination to aberration.

Well, sisters, the truth is out. We are now what we have always been, transcendent. We dare to dream a dream, and to whatever extent we dream the dream, we bring it into reality. It is our nature and our birthright. We, the Metro'on, and countless other sisters across the world, have come to recognize our gifts. We are gender mixed people, good people, proud people and we call ourselves Gallae to connect with our sisters past and present.

Laura Darlene Lansberry

For years I struggled to accept the position held by some of my sisters that they were *"born in the wrong body"*. In effect, they were women who, by some cruel twist of fate, had been born with the physical gender of a man. You see, feeling that I needed to express my gender identity in terms akin to womanhood, I was able to empathise with this sentiment, to a degree. There was a problem, though. Although I was sure I wanted to express myself as a woman, I knew I wasn't one. I also knew that no amount of rearranging my body parts would let me believe otherwise.



I had to conclude that I never was and never would be, a woman. But I *could* be a person who expressed my gender in predominately female terms, regardless of my sex. Rather than try to be something I knew I was not, I began to work at becoming the someone I knew I was, even when that caused others discomfort, for it was making *me* more comfortable with myself.

Now, I no longer yearn to be a woman. I have become who I am instead. Now, instead of solidarity, I feel only sympathy for the plight of some of my sisters who believe they are trapped in the wrong body, nurturing and promoting this belief as a truth for all to agree with and uphold. It must be a terrible place to be, where the consequences of one's personal truth are entrusted to victim status ... the luckless victim of a disordered gender identity.

But if you wish to be thought of as having a recognised psychological condition, you cannot also insist that others, who don't, subscribe to your vision of reality. You cannot rationally expect others to believe you *are* a woman when their understanding tells them something different.

That is not to deny or minimise your pain. If you wish to be *treated* as a woman, I will be the first to hold the door open for you. (If I wish to be treated as a woman, will you do the same for me?) If you wish to change the law to allow you to marry the person you love - will you be concerned that I may still be denied that right?

The status of womanhood cannot be ordained, it may only be experienced. In that respect we come full circle, we meet again, my sisters.

The Jaggy Thistle



Still only £7 from Rose's for current issue (back issues are even less). Note: the cover price is £8 which is the price in most other retail outfits.

REPARTEE is fun but treats cross-dressing seriously. It presents a well balanced view of all aspects of transvestism encouraging the view that it is something positive to be enjoyed. **REPARTEE** is renowned for its excellent standard of production. In a glossy, full colour, large A4 format, each issue is packed with:

- practical help and advice
- news, what's on and reviews
- reports on social events
- stories – fiction and true
- interesting, informative & entertaining features
- female forum for the 'real' girls
- readers' letters
- loads of contact ads. with photos
- lots of pictures – nearly all in full colour

Subscribe to Repartee and get an extra copy FREE! (UK only)
Only £24 (UK) for four issues + one FREE on joining (there is no joining fee!). Overseas rates on request. Subscribers automatically also become members of ***Rose's*** – the largest TV group based in UK but with members worldwide. Members may also subscribe to a Newsletter (***Rose's Xtra*** – £6 for 4 issues) that includes a *Directory of Members* (optional entry) with hundreds of potential contacts. *Become a 'rose' today!*

Please send £5 (UK) for sample back issue or write for full details to:
Rose's (TS1), P O Box 186, Barnsley, S73 0YT, UK
or phone: 01226 [redacted] (credit card facility available)
See our web site at: http://www.repartee.co.uk

Absolute Confidentiality Assured
All mailings are in plain envelopes or packets with no outside indication of contents or sender. Magazines are sent in tough opaque polythene envelopes with a strong seal for extra security. There will be no follow up mailings unless you write again to us.

vikki's webwatch



Hi again everyone,

This time I'm looking at the growing number of facilities on the web... for chatting. Chatting can be fun. It can also be a useful way of making contact with others for the first time, particularly if you don't yet feel confident about meeting others dressed. But as these facilities can be accessed by anyone, you need to be prepared for the occasional bit of unwanted attention – the inevitable 'admirers' or 'trannie chasers'. Yes, chatting online can very entertaining as well as informative!

Vikki [redacted]

So what's out there? What I'll do is give you a brief resumé of some of the chat facilities that I've used, with their features rated plus or minus, together with a score - marks out of 10.

To begin with, I'll just mention the two types of chat available. First, there are 'group chats' where you talk as one individual in a group of people, in what's called a 'chat room'. Second, there are one-to-one or 'private chats' where you talk to only one other person. Most chat rooms have the facility to initiate private chats.

Gay.Com

Internet address: *http://www.gay.com*
You'll find a chat link on the home page of this site. There are a huge variety of chat rooms here, including a 'transgendered' room. Chat rooms are accessible by members and non-members.
Plus - Easily accessed, private chat facility, members can create profiles, no downloads to use, well used.
Minus - Each room holds 40 people therefore it can be difficult to get in when full at times, large number of admirers therefore best avoided for your first chat, no file transfer facility.
Rating - 7 out of 10

Yahoo Messenger

Internet address: *http://clubs.yahoo.com*
This is a very good facility for one-to-one chats. It's probably best to join one of the Yahoo clubs, Scottish Transgendered Pages <*http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/scottishtransgenderpages*> or Scotland Trannies <*http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/scotlandtrannies*> as these will put you in touch with other members of the transgendered community to chat to.
Plus - Easy to use, friend lists (lets you know when a friend is online), profiles, can send files, conference chats with two or more people.
Minus - Need to download program and create profile to use, prone to operational problems at times.
Rating - 8 out of 10

MSN Messenger

Internet address: *http://msn.co.uk/homepage.asp*
This is very similar to Yahoo messenger in the way it works and the facilities offered. However there are no clubs associated with this.
Rating - 7 out of 10

ICQ

Internet address: *http://web.icq.com/*
This is fairly new one for me. It's a powerful package with loads of features but I've found it more difficult than most to set up and use.
Plus - Chat rooms and private chat facilities, friend lists, file transfer, good search facilities, profiles, e-mail, loads of self-contained information.
Minus - A bit more effort needed to set up, takes longer to become familiar with.
Rating - 8 out of 10

IRC (Internet Relay Chat)

Internet address: *http://www.mirc.co.uk*
This is a chat system which allows you to join specific chat rooms. It's a no frills facility but I found it a bit frustrating to use.
Plus - Easy to join chat rooms, private chat facility, file transfer.
Minus - No profiles therefore limited information up front on people chatting to you, file transfer is slow, difficult getting connections at times, difficult to get information on this system. **Rating** - 6 out of 10

STOP PRESS ***Gay.Com have now added a second transgendered chat room which means that up to 80 people can now join the chat facility at any one time!***

Want to comment? Share something? Ask something?
Just e-mail me at: [redacted]
or drop me a line at the Tartan Skirt.

According to Hesiod's Theogony, Cronus, youngest son of Uranus (Heaven) and Gaia (Earth), castrated his father with a sickle and threw his testicles into the sea. They drifted away in the foam of their own semen, and it was from this that Aphrodite was born.

IN CHARGE OF THE BED

A testamonial[1] to the lives of eunuchs of times before

Julia Gordon

The word eunuch is Greek in origin, meaning *"he who has charge of the bed"*.

The eunuch of popular imagination is often a repellent, sinister figure, overweight, with a high voice, a taste for sweetmeats, bright colours and strong rhythms, and a disposition that is acquisitive, cruel and vengeful. Enforced emasculation may well have encouraged such characteristics but there is little substantive evidence for these traits among those who have chosen castration.

Today, emasculation may be linked to questions of gender identity, fears of prostate cancer, celibacy, or an attempt to take control of a problematic sex drive. Surgical removal of the testicles (orchidectomy) is carried out for medical reasons associated with cancer, injury, diabetes, etc. In the past, however, castration was regarded largely as a punishment meted out to criminals and captured enemies, although it also has been widely employed in religious devotions.

Near Eastern eunuchs are customarily associated with controlling and guarding the harems[2] of Sultans, as had been the practice since long before the days of the Ottoman Turks. Indeed, ever since Cyrus the Great had rationalised the matter in the sixth century BCE, it had been widely held that eunuch slaves, separated from their families and "unable in the nature of things to form any new family ties", would give their loyalty without stint to those who appeared to be in the best position to make them rich and to stand by them if ever they were wronged, and to place them in offices of honour.

Cyrus was not the first Near Eastern ruler to employ eunuchs, however. The custom may well have evolved from the practice of castrating men found guilty of rape or adultery. According to Assyrian laws dating back to between 1450 and 1250 BCE, a husband who caught his wife with another man was at liberty either to kill them both, or merely to cut off his wife's nose and castrate the man.

The Persians who succeeded to the Assyrian empire appear to have been among the first to castrate prisoners in cold rather than hot blood, though Herodotus mentions that they chose only the handsomest youths – which suggests that these, at least, were not destined for any conventional harem. On one occasion, the Persian ruler Darius commanded that Babylon and the rest of Assyria send him 1,000 talents of silver and 500 castrated boys as tribute.

From Persia, the idea of employing eunuchs in royal service may well have spread to China, if it had not already evolved there. Ancient Chinese texts indicate that not all eunuchs at this time were deprived of both penis and testicles. Many had their testicles only removed while others still chose to assume eunuch status, retaining both penis and testicles.

Young men usually became eunuchs for several reasons. Either, because they had been taken captive, or because they had committed a crime punishable by castration ('the palace punishment'), or because they had been born to poor parents who had sold them to wealthy individuals, or because they desired to become eunuchs.

Castration was carried out by paid specialist surgeons. The man's abdomen and upper thigh would be bound and his organs washed three times in hot pepper-water. He was then seated on a warm couch in a semi-reclining position and as assistants restrained his legs, his penis and testicles would be severed with a knife and a plug inserted into the urethra. The wound was covered in cold, wet paper and bound up. The eunuch was then required to walk for up to three hours before being allowed to lie down. He was not allowed to drink for three days until the plug was removed. If the man survived, it was calculated the wound took 100 days to heal completely.

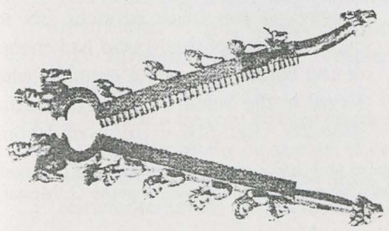
CASTRATION ANXIETY AND PENIS ENVY

According to Freud, both boys and girls at first assume they have phallic power of some sort – and mother is their incestuous love-object. But desiring Mum brings up fears of Dad! This leads boys to 'castration anxiety'. But the girl comes to realise that she is already castrated... The girl's discovery that neither she nor her mother possesses a penis is *real*, unlike the boy's *fantasy*-fear of being castrated. She can feel hostile and reproach her mother for bringing her into the world 'in this shape'. So while boys develop castration anxiety, girls instead develop what Freud called 'penis envy'.

Eunuchs were often chosen as companions for the children of royalty and nobility, although throughout China's history there have been many periods of anti-eunuch hostility. Even at the end of the nineteenth century there is evidence that a great number of eunuchs were still living in China. And Osbert Sitwell, during a visit there in 1933-34, recounts an afternoon spent *"drinking tea with some twenty, talkative, withered, sad old men, now,"* he said, *"who had formerly served in the Imperial Palace of the Forbidden City, seeing out the last of their days"*.

In China, eunuchs have a long association with sacred experience. Indeed, it was believed that a eunuch carried magical power with him wherever he went, in the form of an urn in which his genitalia were jealously preserved. These urns were often exhibited in ritual manner on the occasion of the eunuch's attainment of greater political or spiritual power or wealth and when a eunuch died, the urn was buried alongside him. They were also thought to be highly skilled in the healing arts, in divination and in interpreting the oracles of the *I Ching*, and were said to be expert acupuncturists.

In the Greek world, also open to Persian influences, castration was a more commercial proposition. It is recorded that one man of Chios, called Panionius, "made his living by the abominable trade of castrating any good-looking boys he could get hold of and taking them to Sardis or Ephesus, where he sold them at a high price." By now a market had developed in response to a growing demand.



Bronze castration clamp of the second or third century CE

Rome, too, had its eunuchs – but these were altogether different. Here, there was a new wave of voluntary castration favoured by the transgendered male priest/ess/s and noviciates of Cybele, the mother goddess whose worship formed the basis of the new emerging mystery religion of the Empire. Ceremonial castration took place on the *dies sanguinis*, the 'day of blood', when, to the insistent sound of music and chanting, devotees would cut and slash themselves, dervish-like, before the temple. Then, when religious excitement was at its most frenzied, the man would cast off his clothing and castrate himself with a single blow of the ceremonial knife or sword.

A few centuries later, the Romans had, themselves, developed a rather less hit-or-miss method of emasculation using a special clamp of the type shown in the illustration. The penis was drawn through the oval ring to keep it out of harm's way, while the scrotum and testicles were pulled through between the arms of the clamp, so that when everything was locked in position the serrated edges gripped the folds of skin joining the scrotum to the body. A single stroke of the knife and the cut edges were then either sewn up or cauterised. Most fatalities occurred as a result of removal of the penis as well, the urethra having to be stopped up for three days while the wound healed. 'Fully-shaved' eunuchs, those without penis and testicles, usually suffered from a weak bladder for the rest of their lives.

In 538 CE, Justinian, Emperor of the new Christian Roman Empire, aided by the growing strength of the Church, succeeded in combining Roman Law with Christian morality to make homosexual acts impious and introduced the punishment of castration for such a crime. Prior to this, Imperial Rome had taken no measures against adult homosexuality. The emperors, in fact, were in a difficult position since the army in the main favoured Mithraism, another mystery religion, but one with strong homosexual undertones. To legislate against homosexuality would have meant alienating the very men upon whom they depended for their survival.

Not until Christian Byzantium did eunuchs really came into their own. The violent record of imperial succession led its rulers to choose ministers and even church patriarchs who were believed to have been "freed from family ambition by their inability to father children." Eight of the chief posts of the empire were held by eunuchs. This encouraged parents with several sons to have one or two of them castrated on the principle that they would later then be able to exert influence on behalf of their uncastrated brothers.

If Western Christendom never adopted the habit of employing

MAKING THE PUNISHMENT FIT THE CRIME

- In Denmark, between 1929 and 1959, 300 prisoners or detainees chose to be castrated rather than serve a long jail sentence.
- In SanDiego, California, between 1955 and 1975, 397 sex offenders made the same choice. In 1996, an amendment to the Penal Code provided that any person guilty of a first conviction of specified sex offences may be required to receive chemical castration. In 1997, Texas approved surgical castration for certain offences.
- In the UK, advocates of chemical suppression of the sex urge for some offenders have been making their voice heard.

THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION STRONGLY OBJECTS

[1] I use this word not inappropriately since it derives from the ancient custom of swearing an oath while holding one's testicles - to be found out to have lied could mean castration.

[2] 'Harem' is an abbreviation of *harēmlik*, meaning "women's quarters" or "sanctuary", a Turkish version of the Arabic *harām*. The male domain was the *selāmlik*.

except as *castrati*[3] in the Papal Choir of the Sistine Chapel and on the Italian operatic stage, it was not averse to making them. In 693 CE, the Council of Toledo, describing sodomy as being "prevalent" in Spain, enacted that, "if any one of those males who commit this vile practice against nature with other males is a bishop, a priest, or a deacon, he shall be degraded from the dignity of his order, and shall remain in perpetual exile, struck down by damnation." A hundred lashes, a shaven head, and banishment were the penalties for guilt by association. To the Church punishment the king added the secular one of castration.

The reasons for the failure of a large part of Christendom to reject the services of eunuchs may well have been politically complex but the Western Church also recognised (as the Eastern did not) the verse in Deuteronomy which says, *"He that is wounded in the stones, or hath his privy member cut off, shall not enter the congregation of the Lord"* (23, 1). It would seem that this original Hebrew attitude may also have travelled to India with the Aryan invaders, for the Vedic and Hindu faiths regard eunuchs as utterly unclean. Such an opinion was certainly held by the Muslim Mughals who ruled India from 1526 until 1806 CE - the Indian *zenana*[4] was guarded by elderly men and armed women, and eunuchs were few and far between. (Mohammed, in Hadiths, says *"the one who castrates himself does not belong to my religion. In Islam, chastity takes the place of castration."*)

> ***"He was made to sit on the tip of a large, oiled, wooden phallus. Assistants pushed his thighs down onto it until he fainted. His testicles were removed with a razor and the wound was cauterised."***

In India, castrates are called hijra. They are the devotees of the Hindu goddess Bahucharamata. Hijras typically undergo ritual castration. An early account of the procedure describes how the youth would be seated and given opium before his organs were clamped in bamboo and severed with a knife. The wound was then washed in hot seed oil and covered with an oil-soaked cloth. He would lie on his back and be fed nothing but milk until healed. The following is an account made in recent times of the ritual castration of one young Indian boy.

"He was made to sit on the tip of a large, oiled, wooden phallus. Assistants pushed his thighs down onto it until he fainted. His testicles were removed with a razor and the wound was cauterised."

Hijras believe they are chosen to become so by the Goddess, their metamorphosis often commencing with a dream wherein Bahucharamata instructs young men to begin transforming their attire and behaviour as well as their erotic and spiritual lives. They often dwell in communal households called *jemadh*, where they relate to their fellow hijras as "sisters" and to their hijra guru, or master, as "mother". Hijras earn their livelihood in various ways, including begging for alms, prostitution, and singing and dancing at celebrations such as births and weddings. The primary musical instruments employed by the hijras are the *dholak* (a small cylindrical folk drum) and small copper cymbals. They also employ special hand-clapping rhythms and perform chants called *bhajan*, or *kriti*. Their dances tend to be sensuous.

Indian literature makes frequent references to hijras. In the *Mahabharata*, Arjun was a hijra. Arjun refused a goddess and was condemned to be neither man nor woman. And in the *Ramayana*, a Sanskrit epic poem written between 200 BCE and 200 CE, the hero, Ram, orders the men and women who are following him to turn back. The hijras, identifying as neither, do not turn back but remain, waiting for fourteen years for Ram's return, whereupon he blesses them.

While hijras are often ridiculed today, they are nonetheless still believed by many to possess magical power, their curses are feared and they are accredited with the ability to accord riches or rain.

Besides the Indian Mughals, muslims elsewhere had no difficulty with the services provided by eunuchs. In the *seraglio*[5], it was black eunuchs (six to eight hundred of them) who had charge of the harem, and white eunuchs who served in the Sultan's own quarters, the *selāmlik*. But this division of labour

> *"I sit in a daze and lost, abroad I know not where I'm going. Whenever I think of this shame the sweat drenches the clothes on my back. I am fit only to be a slave guarding the women's apartments - better that I should hide away in the farthest depths of the mountains. Instead, I go on as best I can, putting up with whatever treatment is meted out to me, and so complete my degradation."*
>
> Ssu-ma Ch'ien (145 – c.90 BCE)
> Grand Historian of the Han court, 'sent to the silkworm house' for the crime of attempting to mislead the emperor.

[3] Although Leo XIII attempted to put an end to this in 1878, castrati survived in the Vatican chapel and in Roman churches until the twentieth century. Recordings exist of Alessandro Moreschi (1858-1922), male soprano of the Sistine Chapel. Wagner wanted the male soprano D. Mustafa to sing Klingsor in his opera Parsifal, in 1882.

[4] The Indian word *zenana* is the equivalent of harem.

[5] The Italian word *seraglio*, an adaptation from Persian, properly refers not just to the harem but to all the buildings in the royal enclave, including the *selāmlik*.

For legal recognition of an acquired gender in Sweden, the Netherlands and Germany, chemical or surgical castration is a requirement.

Consideration is currently being given to this as a pre-condition for legal recognition of an acquired gender in the UK.

an entirely practical basis. There was doubt whether white eunuchs were genuinely impotent. Black eunuchs from Africa were shaved of all their external genitals (and had to pass water with the aid of a quill), whereas white eunuchs, who came in during the fifteenth century, mainly from Hungary, the Slav countries and Germany, and later from Armenia, Georgia, and Circassia, had usually lost only their testicles. It had been known from Greek times, and probably before then, that castration did not eliminate sexual desire, and that a castrate who had retained his penis was, under certain circumstances, capable of having erections for some time afterwards. Richard Burton, the Victorian traveller, reported that a eunuch's wife had told him that her husband could even be aroused to a kind of ejaculation (presumably of fluid from the prostate) after a protracted period of erotic stimulation.

It seems that the harem physicians in the Near East kept a wary eye on the eunuchs, but in China this precaution was often overlooked. One chief eunuch in the eighteenth century made the mistake of being insolent to a senior imperial official. This gentleman took his revenge by persuading the emperor Ch'ien-lung to insist that all eunuchs were 'swept clean' to prevent possible scandal. As a result, many eunuchs had to undergo a second operation and many died of it. Chinese eunuchs, like Africans, were now completely shaved.

There were four ways of castrating a man. He might be shaved of both penis and testicles, or have only the testicles removed. Sometimes, in the case of a very young boy, the testicles were simply crushed or twisted, causing permanent injury. And sometimes only the penis was removed. Standards of surgery and hygiene often left much to be desired. In the seventeenth century on the Upper Nile, the main source of supply for fully-shaved eunuchs in the West, only one in four could be expected to survive. In ancient times, in Egypt, the method of castration was recorded in great detail. A priest bound all the male organs with a woollen yarn and then quickly severed them. The bleeding was stopped with ashes and hot oil before a metal rod was inserted into the urethra. The eunuch was then buried in hot sand up to his navel and left there for five or six days. The records of the time indicate a very high mortality.

> *"God's mercy for us ... the wisdom whereby he made use of evil itself and mercifully set aside our impiety, so that by a wholly justified wound in a single part of my body he might heal two souls ... So when divine grace cleansed rather than deprived me of those vile members which from their practice of utmost indecency are called 'the parts of shame' and have no proper name of their own, what else did it do but remove a foul imperfection in order to preserve perfect purity? ... Join me in thanksgiving, you who were my partner both in guilt and in grace."*
>
> Peter Abelard (1079-1142 CE)
> *French logician and teacher, castrated by the uncle of his beloved Héloise.*

The days of slave eunuchs lasted as long as that of their masters, until the first decades of the twentieth century. But although in the late nineteenth century it was calculated that not less than 8,000 eunuchs a year were being imported into Arabia, Egypt and Turkey, by the 1930s N. M. Penzer was able to trace only two of "these strange beings" in the whole of Turkey, and was told that "these were the last of them".

END

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Conner, Randy P., David H. Sparks and M. Sparks, QUEER MYTH, SYMBOL AND SPIRIT, London, Cassell, 1997.

March, J., DICTIONARY OF CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, London, Cassell, 1998.

Tannahill, R., SEX IN HISTORY, London, Hamish Hamilton Ltd., 1984.

THE OXFORD COMPANION TO CLASSICAL CIVILISATION, Edited by Hornblower, S., and Spawforth, A., Oxford University Press, 1998.

Fact File:

ORCHIDECTOMY

Orchidectomy, or the surgical removal of one or both testicles, may be indicated in cases of testicular cancer or physical injury, but it is also an option for individuals intent upon emasculation for reasons connected with their gender identity.

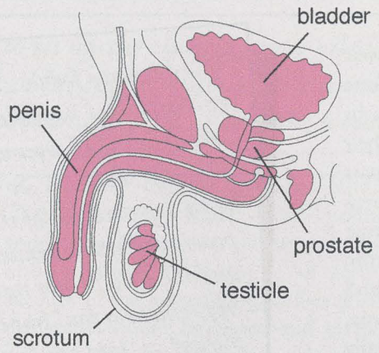
In the last instance, the removal of both testicles, or bi-lateral orchidectomy, can be the favoured option. This is especially so where the individual concerned does not respond well to hormone therapy or is thought to be at increased risk of deep vein thrombosis as a result of this treatment.

The surgery takes place in hospital and may be performed by a urologist or general surgeon. It may be carried out under general anaesthesia (spinal block) or local anaesthesia (local injection).

Since the scrotum is normally required for future gender reassignment surgery, the incision is generally made mid-line. The blood supply and nerves leading to the testicle are located and cut free. The testicle itself is then cut free from surrounding tissue and removed. The remaining testicle is dealt with in a similar manner. The skin is closed with sutures that will be absorbed by the body.

Possible complications include excessive bleeding and wound infection.

The average hospital stay is overnight if the procedure is carried out under a general anaesthetic – performed under local anaesthetic and you are treated as an out-patient.



Good quality analgesics should be to hand to minimise post-operative pain. Otherwise, following the operation, bathe and shower as usual. The wound may be gently washed using unscented soap.

Avoid driving for the first two weeks. Allow about 3 weeks for recovery from surgery. After 6 weeks you may return to vigorous exercise.

See you doctor if:

- ☹ you experience nausea, vomiting, or discomfort or difficulty in urination
- ☹ the pain, swelling, redness, drainage or bleeding increases in the surgical area
- ☹ you develop signs of infection – headache, muscle aches, dizziness or a general ill feeling and fever
- ☹ new, unexplained symptoms develop

PROSTATE CANCER

Orchidectomy is frequently carried out in cases of advanced prostate cancer (prostatic carcinoma), together with the administration of oestrogen or anti-androgen drug therapy. Such treatment is based on the concept that the androgen-dependent tumour will regress when deprived of hormone stimulation.

IS THERE SEX LIFE AFTER REMOVAL OF THE TESTICLES?

The brain is the largest sex organ. Removal of the testicles does not necessarily mean that all sexual desires will go. There have been reported instances of orgasm following removal of the testicles, either dry or accompanied by a mostly clear, watery ejaculate. However, in all likelihood the hormone-driven urges will eventually disappear (even though there is still some testosterone produced by the adrenal glands), libido will diminish, and impotence will ensue.

Important points to consider:

- 😐 Bi-lateral orchidectomy is an option which is not dependent upon the individual's compliance with the 'Real Life Test'. (In this respect it breaches the Harry Benjamin Guidelines.)
- 😐 There may be ethical or moral objections from individual health-care providers.
- 😐 The written approval of two psych-iatrists must be obtained, together with the patient's wife's written consent.
- 😐 The operation, done privately in the UK, using general anaesthetic and overnight stay in hospital, costs approximately £1500.
- 😐 The effect of bi-lateral orchidectomy is to render the patient permanently sterile.

End

ONE FINE DAY IN MAY

It was a lovely May morning, fresh and full of promise. Just the day for a walk along the beach, I thought to myself, as I entered the hospital to keep an appointment with destiny. I was scheduled to have a bi-lateral orchidectomy.

As I entered the outpatients' ward, I said hello to the three other ladies who were already there, before picking up something to read as I waited myself. No sooner had I sat down when the surgeon appeared to check that I was still intent on having a local anaesthetic. I assured him this was the case and he asked me if I wouldn't mind waiting till the end so that he could spend more time with me. The thought that went through my mind at this point was that there would therefore be fewer patients to hear me scream, then!

Hours passed. I was aware I was feeling very calm about the whole thing. I came out of a light doze when a nurse suddenly appeared and asked me to put on a theatre gown. With my bum exposed to the whole world, I was taken down to the theatre suite where I lay down on a trolley before being wheeled into the room for my operation.

All the way through, a nurse held my hand and talked to me, which felt very comforting. The surgeon began by injecting a local anaesthetic into the scrotal area. After a few minutes he started cutting. I could feel the scalpel but there was no real pain, as such, at this point. Throughout the procedure he gave me a running commentary on what he was doing. About ten minutes into the operation the surgery became painful, *very* painful. I tried to ignore it but the sweat was beginning to run down my face and I felt nauseous. When I mentioned this to the surgeon, he quickly administered some more local anaesthetic and after a minute or two I started to feel much better. The whole procedure lasted no more than twenty minutes and then I found myself in the recovery room, glad it was all over and done with.

Returned to the ward, I barely had the time to take a sip of my tea when the surgeon appeared again. He remarked how calm and relaxed I appeared and asked me if I was in any discomfort. As I wasn't, I replied that I felt fine. He said I could go home - drive myself if I liked - which I did as I live only a short distance from the hospital.

It was still a beautiful day so I took that walk along the beach after all.

Aileen



Jean and Mike

Passing through or taking a well earned break? Discreet accommodation and the opportunity to dress with understanding company. Now offering a range of clothes, shoes, make-up and wigs.

Tayside/Angus

Tel: 01241 [redacted]

Ask for Jean...



postal tarot readings

in the gender/sexuality inclusive spiritual tradition

for a reading send your question and date of birth to:

seoras
c/o tartan skirt
34 waterloo place
inverness
IV1 1NB

initial readings: £5.00

prices for more in-depth radings available on request

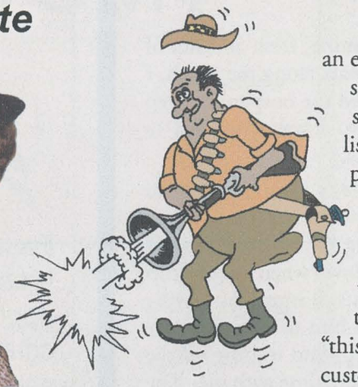
make cheques/postal orders payable to:
s. macthearlaich

Trafficking in auspicious (not suspicious) circumstances

by Colette

There have been many pieces written with advice for trannies on how to behave and react when driving dressed, and stopped by the law. However, there are new sisters coming out of the 'wardrobe' all the time, so here are a few tips and some advice from one who has a wealth of experience in this field - not that I go into many fields, I'll have you know.





I have been stopped on more than one occasion over the years and I must say that I've never really experienced any great difficulties. Once, it was a roadblock at 3 o'clock in the morning, with police advising motorists while searching for an escaped guest of a certain establishment at Broadmoor. I wasn't asked if I had been drinking... only if I had enjoyed the party! How did he know I'd been at a party? Now of course many of you will not be aware of how I tend to dress. Let's just say I'm a touch 'wild'. My friend Barbara says that I'm not a real tranny but, "an exhibitionist with tranny tendencies." I can't understand why she thinks this way, I'm sure. If you know Loraine Walker or Ruth Stewart, ask them. On second thoughts ... perhaps not. I was told by the officer manning the road block to get home smartish, and not pick anyone up. I was probably pushing it when I enquired if the escapee was dressed in female attire!

On another occasion I was returning from the '**1996 Alternative Miss Brighton**' contest, which was being held most appropriately in the tent of the Chinese State Circus. I had to travel home 50 miles in those days, and I was just wondering what the legal position was regarding a 'leopard' driving a car in the early hours and, indeed, whether it was the open season on leopards. You see, there was a 'thing' about the Surrey Cheetah roaming the Downs around that period, and one can never be too careful as I was in my favourite snow leopard, ultra-mini, one-piece outfit with matching thigh boots, at the time. Well, what else would a fashion conscious she-leopard wear on such an occasion? I had felt reasonably safe in the confines of the circus tent... although that guy with the top hat and whip seemed to be getting just a touch too familiar. Fortunately, I had my yellow and black nail art claws fitted as standard, so I was more than a match for him.

About half a mile from home I saw the flashing blue light reflected in my mirror so I duly pulled in. It was the customary brace of bored officers - one male and one female. They asked where I'd been and *"was it a party?"* All life is a party in my book, but I told them where I'd been and where I was heading. They asked for and checked my documents and then the girl enquired if I'd been drinking. When I confessed to a slimline tonic she sympathised with me and remarked, *"how boring."* *"Not necessarily for a leopard,"* I replied. We had a laugh. She loved the boots but declined my offer to try them on. They were pleasant and complimentary, and on I went with no suggestion of being breathalysed ... the stop had just been 'routine.' They can always find an excuse, and at that time of night stopping motorists often leads to successful 'collars'. No doubt I'm listed on the police computer, and possibly the 'green list', but who cares as it would appear I'm on every other list! The credit card and catalogue companies know what we are. Come off it, of course they do. Those media codes say, "this one's a tranny." Well we *are* good customers for them after all.

As an ex-professional driver, myself, here are my suggestions for those still unsure about driving 'dressed'.

- ✓ Always carry all your relevant driving documents with you. This can save you a lot of hassle and embarrassment - especially true if you drive a company car and don't relish the possibility of the company secretary being contacted. If it is a company car then say so, and give the company details and your position. Even if you *own* the company, explain the situation.
- ✓ If stopped, act normally - whatever that is. Tell the truth - no silly excuses like a fancy dress party, etc. They won't believe you, anyway.
- ✓ If they question your ability to drive in high heels, say that you feel comfortable in them and totally competent.
- ✓ If you feel the occasion warrants it, keep it light hearted - although I wouldn't suggest you go as far as I do!

Who knows, it might be a tranny police officer who stops you - and they are about. ***Aren't you?!!*** Those motor cycle traffic officers – I wonder what they wear under those leathers. Perhaps a tranny officer might care to write in and enlighten us. Just remember - don't try to be smart. Be ... well, ... SMART.

End

LASS-ITUDE!
TRANS-GENERATIONAL CROSS-DRESSING

by Daisy



Auld nature swears, the lovely dears
Her noblest work she classes.
Her prentice han' she tried on man
An' made them dress a' wee lasses.*

Wee Rabbie knew it - he very nearly said it - that there are men and boys in the cross-dressing world who like to dress as wee girls. Tiffany Tuesday, whose words often shine from these columns, has been pictured doing so. And yet who would accuse her of being anything other than the most fabulous TV? I like to dress as a 'Little Girl', as do many other cross-dressers (and even some real women).

Historically, previous generations dressed boys and girls alike until the boy, at about the age of 7 or 8, sometimes later, was 'breeched' into manhood - quite literally put into trousers after years in skirt-like garments. The father was, at least amongst the middle and upper classes, generally a remote figure in a child's life.

Now children grow up in a politically-correct world where fathers are still frequently absent, because of work or other reasons, but often because theirs is 'a single parent family'. At school, especially in younger years, children are likely to be taught by female teachers, with boys' interests, especially sports, getting little curricular time. So, oddly, in completely different circumstances, the experience can be similar - children, girls and boys, are reared in a strongly female environment. At some point the boy is expected to establish his male credentials. In some of today's family situations, where a father figure is absent, this may be more difficult to achieve!

According to a recently re-evaluated psychological postulation, during foetal development large parts of the brain (other than those required for auto-response) are blank. Many of these are not filled as they related originally to the first couple of months after conception when physical gender had not been hormonally assigned, and are left blank as the foetus develops into a boy or a girl. So after birth the mind is left with huge empty 'opposite gender' spaces.

So, during early nurture, all children are perforce exposed very much to the female world. Even so, boys seldom learn or experience seriously female things, whilst girls are brought up seemingly in their own environment. Either way, we don't have what might be thought of as a full set of opposite gender life experiences. But the mind, and therefore the person, is programmed by the brain itself to fill its gaps - Nature abhors a vacuum.

Just as deep traumas can affect the subconscious, even when the subject is not fully aware of this at the time, so 'joyous' thoughts can have a positive effect. It is then suggested that in later life, behaviour which serves to re-connects us to this 'joy' may manifest itself following some trigger happening - the brain is still seeking information to fill its gender gaps! For example, a husband's, perhaps latent, cross-dressing may be set off by contact with the sensuous materials worn by a new female wife/partner, or by some sexual activity such as breast contact. The brain wants to find out what it's like to wear and have such things. Or, again, the man uses sensual materials as an aid to masturbation and this leads to him putting on sexy underwear which, in turn, leads to more autoerotic sexual experiences ... and so on! Nature does not know it's a wasted effort, conception-wise!

I can think of numerous such triggers which may lead in other directions too, not just to cross-dressing - such as circumstances affecting the foetus, childhood experiences and experiences around puberty, marriage, the seven year itch, suddenly feeling old, bereavement, etc. Another example, a common family situation, is where one sibling becomes jealous of another who seems to get all the attention, all the nice clothes, and especially all the love! For the one who feels deprived, the subconscious creates often imaginary love/hate scenarios to compensate for what seems to be missing. This can be transvestic in nature and may apply to children of either physical gender.

** I'm aware that the last line of Robert Burns' poem is elsewhere printed as "An' then she made the lasses" - but I don't think the translators could read his writing properly! - Daisy*



A Guide to Dressing as a Little Girl/ Bow Belle - All Through the Day!

☺ Bow Belles generally sleep in "baby-doll' nighties with matching knickers, preferably in satin or broderie anglais. Hair should be tied back in ribbons, should be long and blonde or massive and curly, or beaded in ringlets. There should be giant puff-ball mules at the bedside and a giant teddy bear to hug. Mini-boobs (pubescent girls have only a vestige of bosom) might be contained in a soft A-cup sleep bra.

☺ During the school year, most 5 to 12-year-olds have to go to school. So in term time, LG's dress in gym-slip (preferably satin) and a peter-pan collar blouse, or a soft shirt and tie, plus long white socks and T-bar or cross-strap shoes. Hair should be neat and tidy, held in place with an Alice band if it is a bob cut, or arrayed in pigtails if longer. Bow Belles occasionally (when forced by teacher) play net ball or hockey, so a tee-shirt and pleated and flared net ball skirt should be part of the school kit. For summer school, a pink, green, blue or yellow gingham puff-sleeve summer dress with copious under-skirting and white sandals is acceptable.

☺ When school's out, Bow Belles should only be seen about in their best party frocks, with several tiers of satin, taffeta, or (if Daddy is seriously rich) silk. Every Bow Belle dress should have (as the name implies) very large bows! Under skirts should be short but massive and arranged to attractively peek out from under the bottom of the wide skirt. As before, long white socks and matching shoes or sandals, or ballet pumps in white, cream satin or a matching colour to the dress are suggested if they can be obtained.

☺ Bow Belles, of course, are at that age when they are desperate to be ballet dancers. Idols are the Sugar Plum Fairy, Cinderella and any of the Dying Swans. Consequently, having a ballet tutu in a Bow Belle wardrobe is a must. Ballet pumps can be worn with any Bow Belle dress (except school uniforms).

☺ The ultimate Bow Belle wants a white or ivory brides-maid's dress. This should be an even more frilly version of the satin party dress, but accompanied by a floral headband, lace gloves and appropriate footwear (white patent at least).

is generally unacceptable and therefore unattainable to the male child. Such individuals have nowhere to turn to and their angst can be directed inwards, sometimes destructively. The recent films *'Boys Don't Cry'* and *"La Vie en Rose'* deal with the problem sympathetically and movingly.

Recent USA research suggests you are most likely to cross-dress if you are:

a) the oldest child with younger siblings (40% likelihood of cross-dressing)

b) had a very positive relationship with your mother - many mothers have an especially strong attachment to their first born son (76% likelihood)

c) are heterosexual (80%-85% likelihood)

d) were strongly influenced by family dynamics/environment/gender envy (27% likelihood) and/or by the erotic appeal of feminine items (22% likelihood)

Robert Stoller observed in his studies that "depending on how and at what pace a mother allows her son to separate, this phase of 'merging' with her will leave residual effects which may be expressed in disturbances in masculinity". (*Presentations of Gender, 1986, p.16*).

With so many single parent families (i.e., with limited male influence) in this country, this observation becomes even more strongly relevant.

There are widowers I have come across who only started cross-dressing in later life, subsequent to their bereavement. I believe they are trying subconsciously to recall/replace/be close to the missing and much loved person by dressing in their clothes.

Of course every case is individual. But we can all evaluate from our own experiences. And in discussions with others, I am amazed to discover how alike our general life stories are.

You'll know that the more we cross-dressers actually think about, then practice and develop our cross-dressing until we go out en femme in public, the more we personally experience the ever strengthening desire to cross-dress! We all know it won't go away, and that cross-dressing becomes ever more compulsive as time goes by. Why? As he grows in confidence, the cross-dresser also finds that he IS filling so many huge mental gaps in his or her transgender experience. As he studies and experiments, the cross-dresser is adding to, updating and correcting more and more of the original brain gaps by filling them with positive female data related to his actual cross-dressing experiences of life in the opposite gender role (and vice versa). Ever since birth the brain has been SEEKING these experiences to fill a deficit! Hence the enormous difficulty in stopping cross-dressing - it becomes irremovably a part of the brain! Some go further still and travel down the road of body modification (transsexualism) to attain their 'dream' gender status.

But there remains for most cross-dressers one huge mental transgender gap - childhood and/or young teenager experiences. I have noticed that all cross-dressers try to look younger than their real years - I just won't believe you if tell me otherwise. You do it every time you apply cosmetics, as do real women - a benefit of the advances in modern make-up. Even the oldest of us dress as 'sex-pots', trying to look twenty or thirty years younger than our natural age. But for some of us there is an even stronger desire to fill our mental 'very young female' gap - and to experience the joys and traumas of being opposite gender schoolchildren and teenagers.

The 'very young female' types can be described in the following ways:

◊ Infants - Individuals whose preference is to role-play as adult babies (both genders but predominantly men) and whose behaviour is catered for by a handful of UK 'nurseries'.

◊ Adolescents - Pre-teen, early post-teen and schoolgirl roles played by both men and women. 'Schools' tend to include corporal punishment as part of their extra-curricular activities.

◊ Adolescentism (pretty-pretty) - Dressing in flouncy, puffed-sleeved satin and silk clothes that might have once been worn by young girls. An almost exclusively male tradition. No corporal punishment is involved.

◊ Teenagers - No cross-dressing meeting/ event is without these. Frequently in attendance at cult events like *'The Rocky Horror Show'*, they dress in minimal, sexy, female garments. Common to both men and women.

◊ Sexpots - Cross-dressers who dress tart-style, often trying to look up to thirty years younger than their real age. Immensely popular!

◊ Fluffies (bridal/evening wear) - Some male cross-dressers just can't get by without a regular bridal or bridesmaid session, or an evening out in their most gorgeous ball gowns or cocktail dresses. Hugely popular with both men and women alike.

◊ Acting One's Age - The majority of cross-dressers dress most of the time to their age - a mere decade or so younger than they are!

◊ Grannies and Grandads - Even the 'oldie' look has some aficionados. The elderly of either physical gender can look much the same.

With the exception of the last category, ALL these cross-dressers try to look younger than they really are. So, if you are a cross-dresser who looks askance at the 'Little Girl' TV scene, just remember when you criticise, that even you will most likely be age-playing to some degree!

Personally, I'm into 'pretty-pretty' and bridal/evening wear. I love to dress in bridal frocks. It's the ultimate in femininity to me. I love equally to dress as a pretty 4-10 year-old girl in the most satiny of short bouffant party dresses - because this is deep in my subconscious mind, and I want to experience little girlhood (alongside my conventional transvestism, NOT instead of) - that missing part of my 'young' female life.

To me, being a 'Little Girl', is a very strong, very appealing mode of dress. And that is ALL it is. To be a Little Girl or a Bow Belle (or very unkindly, a 'Sissie'), to present myself as a pre-teen pretty-pretty girl may seem odd to

Are you a Little Girl/Bow Belle (a BOy Who'd BE a LittLE girl)?

'Sugar and Spice' is the Bow Belle anthem.

We love to be dressed in satin, taffeta, velvet and lace party dresses, with bows everywhere and loads of net under-skirting.

We adorn ourselves with lots of ribbons in bouffant, probably honey blond, hair.

We wear white knee socks and 'Mary-Janes', T-bar or cross-strap low-heel court shoes.

Boobs are never larger than A-cup size, in line with the pubescent development of the age group the Bow Belle is trying to emulate.

We take every opportunity to play with dolls (all I was allowed to do was to throw marbles at my big sister's Barbie-boy 'Ken' when I was younger), to have parties, with jelly teas, and to play on the swings and roundabouts.

We particularly love bridesmaid dresses - ballet tutus and satin pumps are clothes to die for.

Where IS the harm in that?

For more information send 6 x 1st class stamps and a clear safe address to...

The Bow Belle Sorority
PO Box 11, Swanmore
Hants ,SO32 2ZU



Phone / Fax 01489 [redacted]
E-Mail [redacted]
Website - www.girltalk-to

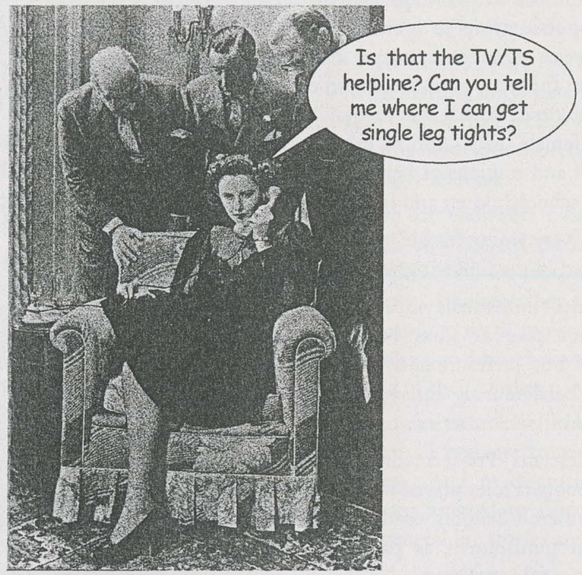
We aim to give enough information to be able to start someone on the Bow Belle yellow-brick (pink satin, green gingham or blue taffeta) road (if you haven't already!).

you ... but there are lots of us about! I suggest you take a look at the website *www.girltalk.to* To look something like Bo-Peep or Alice in Wonderland, or to wear a satin and net tutu and emulate a young ballet dancer is heaven to me.

So give LG's some lassitude! Why should I need to ask this? Because there are some people in positions of authority who, while seemingly happy to allow 'tarts' to attend meetings, display an antipathy towards cross-dressers who choose to dress as Little Girls. They show a lack of the live-and-let-live attitude so badly needed in the cross-dressing community, that I find quite appalling. Are they afraid I'll hit them with my Barbie Doll if I get too near?

The 'Bow Belle Sorority' and 'Girltalk-to' on the internet are campaigning to correct this prejudice and to demand the same rights as everyone else to attend tranny meetings and events.





WHAT YOU SEE AIN'T ALWAYS WHAT YOU GET...

When Raymond Lloyd was admitted to The Magic Circle, its 600 members were dazzled by his talent. The 18-year-old could burn a £5 note, then with a shake of his wand, magic up another.

But they didn't realise that Raymond's best illusion was that he wasn't really Raymond at all. He was a 28-year old woman.



In 1989, Sophie Lloyd, an actress, was encouraged to pretend to be Raymond by her friend Jenny Winstanley. Jenny, herself a brilliant magician, had been turned down by The Magic Circle. At the time, they refused to admit women on the grounds they couldn't keep secrets.

Sophie used body padding to create a more manly figure. She wore glasses and a wig. Jenny taught her all her magic secrets. *"It was great fun being Raymond. I did it to prove women magicians were every bit as good as men,"* Sophie says.

For two years, Sophie performed all over London as Raymond. *"After shows I'd drink pints with the best of them,"* she says. *"But I'd have to hold on to go to the loo until I was back home. I was never brave enough to venture inside the Gents."*

Finally, in September 1991, when The Magic Circle agreed to admit women, she told them the truth. But, failing to see the funny side, they withdrew her membership. *"They said I'd obtained it by deception, but surely magic is all about deception?"* she says.

Since then, Sophie has concentrated on her acting career. *"Often in productions, I play boys,"* she says. *"Being Raymond helped me master the right tone of voice."*



NOTICEBOARD

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS...

Fashion Show organised by Hide & Sleek to be held in May. Date and Venue to be arranged.

Miss TV Scotland Weekend, October 26th - 28th, Edinburgh.

For details of either event contact Loraine at Hide & Sleek, Tel: 01592 [redacted]

Volunteers required to help organise a T-float at this year's Pride Scotland event.

Please contact Loraine at 01592-[redacted]

TV Bridal Weekend 2001
March 23-25th
Bournemouth Venue
£99 all inc.
For more information contact Danielle at:
BD2001, PO Box 11, Swanmore, Hants, SO32 2ZU

Crosslynx Programme

March 14th - Wig demonstration by Linda of Extra Hair Salon
April 11th - Roseann Foy of Divine Beauty gives a non-surgical face lift demonstration
May 9th - Loraine of Hide & Sleek shows her range of dresses, lingerie, etc.
June 13th - Miss Crosslynx 2001

Please Note:
Deadline for all advertising and submissions for the Spring 2001 issue of the Tartan Skirt is:
15th April 2001
DEADLINES ARE FIRM!

Tranny Guide
NINTH EDITION
£16.95 inc p&p



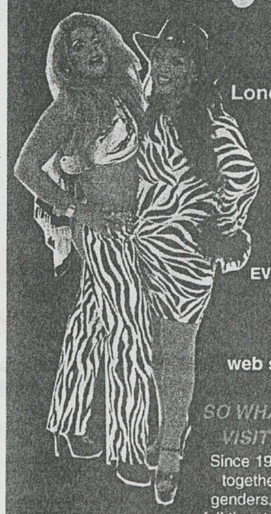
"The Tranny Bible"...
336 pages aiming to excite, inspire, comfort and spread awareness of the global nature of the growing transgender phenomena
Over 1000 NEW pictures
Many NEW Personal reports ... from all around the world
Over 1500 UPDATED listings
Many intriguing *NEW* articles ...

PLUS 'The WayOut of the Closet' 66 pages of advice for trannies, partners and those that want to understand more about trannies

also ON VIDEO
£19.95 inc p&p

Order direct - cheques and postal orders made out to 'WayOut Publishing' (add £1 EU add £2 rest of world)
All credit cards accepted - by phone: 07778 [redacted]
by email: [redacted] by post:
The WayOut Publishing Co Ltd - P.O.Box 70, Enfield EN1 2AE, UK
(secure ON LINE shop) www.wayout-publishing.com

thewayoutclub.com



The Jewel in the Crownof London's Alternative Nightlife
Just a precious stones throw from the Crown Jewels !!
Spectacular Shows
Wild Events
Dance & Dine
Be What you want to be
EVERY Saturday 9 till 4am £10 entry
£8.00 B4 11pm - Trannies £5 B4 11pm
9 - Crosswall (off Minories) London EC3N
web site www.thewayoutclub.com

SO WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT ON A VISIT TO THE WAYOUT CLUB ?...
Since 1993 'The WayOut Club' has brought together all ages, cultures, sexualities and genders, including, newly 'out' transvestites, full time trannies, transsexuals, drag queens, family and friends, tranny admirers, and party people EVERY Saturday night.
The atmosphere is so relaxed because it really does not matter what you wear or what you are. The club is stylish but not intimidating.
Steffan and Vicky Lee are looking forward to meeting YOU soon.

FREE quarterly newsletter call 24hr line **0208** [redacted]
plan your visit with tranny help from **www.wayout-publishing.com**

Equality Network

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

THE EQUALITY NETWORK
58a Broughton Street
Edinburgh
EH1 3SA

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

intercourse
talking sex

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

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

Press For Change

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

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

Press For Change
BM Network
London WC1N 3XX

Fighting for the Civil rights of ALL Transsexual people.

CALL IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE

RANK OUTSIDERS

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

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

CALL IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE

the Tartan Skirt Directory

Gendys Network

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

For further information, write to:

Gendys Network
BM Gendys
London WC1N 3XX

e-mail: [redacted]

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

The Beaumont Society

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

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

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

or telephone our Information Line:

01582 [redacted]

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

Pride Scotland

You Can Help Make Pride Scotland Today

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

contact: Keith Cowan
Human Resources Director
Pride Scotland

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

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

OUTRIGHT SCOTLAND

Confronting the issues that affect the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Scotland ... 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 ...

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

Couple Counselling SCOTLAND

Promoting, developing and co-ordinating a confidential counselling service for couples in Scotland

40 North Castle Street
Edinburgh
EH2 3BN

Tel. (0131) [redacted]
Fax. (0131) [redacted]
Web Site: www.couplecounselling.org

The Samaritans

You can telephone us, at any time of the day or night, on
* **0345** [redacted] in the UK and Northern Ireland
This service is available 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Calls are charged at the local rate.
The Samaritans listen in total confidence without judgement, whatever your situation.

3G
GRAMPIAN GENDER GROUP

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

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

E-mail: [redacted]

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

HIGHLAND SEXUAL HEALTH

Incorporating Genito Urinary Medicine and Family Planning

RAIGMORE HOSPITAL, INVERNESS
TEL: (01463) 704202
FAX: (01463) 705770

HIGHLAND COMMUNITIES NHS TRUST

FOR ALL YOUR SEXUAL AND CONTRACEPTION NEEDS

We are a clinical unit of Highland Primary Care NHS Trust and are part of a multidisciplinary team of clinical servants to T-clients - tailored hormone therapy, clinical support, pre- and post-operative advice.

CROSSLYNX

GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND TV/TS SUPPORT GROUP
C/O SGLS PO BOX 38 GLASGOW G2 2QF
CROSSLYNX HELPLINE: 0141-[redacted] *(7.30 - 9.30pm MONDAYS)*
SGLS SWQITCHBOARD: 0141-[redacted] (7.00 - 10.00pm EVERY EVENING)

SCOTTISH TV/TS SUPPORT GROUP

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

LGB Centre
63 Broughton Street
Edinburgh

Contact: Agnes Tel: 0131-[redacted]

WLTSG
west lothian transgender support group

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

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

transgender, family and friends .....

The Impotence Association

The Helpline 0181 [redacted]

The Impotence Association CHANGING ATTITUDES TOWARDS IMPOTENCE

National AIDS Helpline

0800 [redacted]

Call our advisors for free and confidential information, advice and support.

24 hours 7 days a week

Highland T-Group

Information and support for the Transgender Community in the North of Scotland. Meetings are held in Inverness at REACH OUT Highland on the first Friday of every month, from 7-10 pm.

Contact: Vikki [redacted] at [redacted]
or Julia Gordon at [redacted]
or REACH OUT Highland:
Tel. 01463 [redacted]
Fax. 01463 [redacted]
or write to: The Highland T-Group, c/o REACH OUT Highland, 34 Waterloo Place, Inverness, IV1 1DG.

the Tartan Skirt



ORDER/SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Make sure of your copy of the Tartan Skirt!

I enclose a cheque/PO for £4.00 (inc. postage) for the next issue of the Tartan Skirt (Spring 2001) ☐

I enclose a Cheque/PO for £14.50 (inc. postage) for the next four issues of the Tartan Skirt, ☐
starting with ..... (please state)

(Overseas subscribers - for single issue send an international money order or eurocheque payable in Pounds Sterling, for £6. For an annual subscription, send £22.)

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Post Code .....

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Cheques, etc. should be made payable to the Tartan Skirt and sent to:

The Tartan Skirt, c/o Reach Out Highland, 34 Waterloo Place, Inverness 1V1 1NB

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

Vol. 7, No. 1
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 Third International Conference 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, Millennium 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 And 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.

Vol. 7, No. 6
The Missing Voice, Hormone Therapy In Male To Female Sex Reassignment Therapy, Know Your Rights: Harassment, Tiffany Tuesday's Tit-Blitz! Our Forgotten History: Continuing tales Of Transgender In Myth And Legend, Hide And Sleek's Beauty Festival, Vikki's Webwatch, Make-up Video review, Report On The 1999 Interpride Conference, Transgender Horoscope, News, and much more.

Vol. 7, No. 7 OUT OF STOCK

Vol. 7, No. 8
The Chester Finishing School, Breast Augmentation Surgery, A Voice? You And The Law: Searches, Personal development: Push Pull, Butterfly - Image Of The Soul, Pitlochry Pleasures, Our Forgotten History: Continuing Tales Of Transgender In Myth And Legend, Tina's Travels, Promoting Confidence Within The NHS, Speak Out: Letters To The Editor, Vikki's Webwatch, and much more.



Hide & Sleek Designs

Presents

The opening of a new facility in Scotland for the woman in you ....

'The Studio Lounge'

*Dressing Service
*Photography
*Make-up Workshops

Also

Fully Stocked Shop.
Your own designs can be Made to Measure.

Hide and Sleek Shop
Tel: 01592 [redacted]

Studio Lounge
Tel: 01592 [redacted]

Send SAE for free Catalogue

Hide & Sleek (TS), 14 St. Leonards Place, Kinghorn, Fife, Scotland KY3 9UL

Tel: 01592 [redacted] Fax: 01592 [redacted]

Web Site: *www.hideandsleek.co.uk*

REACH OUT Highland

the Sexual Health Charity for the Highlands...

Supporting everyone - regardless of their cultural, religious, personal beliefs and values, age or lifestyle - to make effective choices about their sexual health and well being.

OUR SERVICES

- information on sexual health, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections and diseases
- support for those infected as well as those close to them
- information and emotional support on sexuality
- HIV counselling and testing
- training for groups, schools, porganisations and employers
- support to self help or other interest groups
- free condoms and lubricant

REACH OUT Highland
34 Waterloo Place
Inverness IV1 1NB
Tel: 01463 [redacted]
Fax: 01463 [redacted]
E-mail: [redacted]
Website: www.reachout.demon.co.uk/

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE