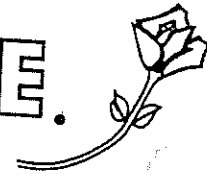




# The Crystal CHRONICLE.



December 1989

## Calendar of Events

Calendar of Events			
1/06	Crystal	Post-Holiday Party	Columbus
1/13	Alpha Omega	Meeting	Lakewood, OH
1/13	TransPitt	Meeting	Pittsburgh
1/18	Cross-Port	Meeting	Cincinnati
1/20	Paradise	Social - Open	Lakewood, OH
1/27	Crystal	Meeting	Columbus
2/10	Alpha Omega	Meeting	Lakewood, OH
2/15	Cross-Port	Meeting	Cincinnati
2/17	Paradise	Meeting	Lakewood, OH
2/23-25	Boulton&Park	Texas Tea Party	San Antonio, TX
2/24	Crystal	Meeting	Columbus
2/24	Lambda	Lambda Ball	Pittsburgh
3/10	Alpha Omega	Meeting	Lakewood, OH
3/15	Cross-Port	Meeting	Cincinnati
3/17	Paradise	Social	Lakewood, OH
3/3		Night of 1000 Gowns	New York City
3/20-25	IFGE	Coming Together Convention	Natick, MA
6/6-10	Several Clubs	Coming Together	Pittsburgh, PA

## Treasurer's Report Nov. 1989

Starting Balance	253.40
Meeting Fees	225.00
Memberships	30.00
Total	508.40
Food and Beverages	-62.86
Meeting Rooms	-187.00
Newsletter	-77.34
Total Expenses	-327.20
Ending Balance	181.12

Susan

## Your Name in Lights

Ladies, this is your space. We'd really like to have you write articles for the newsletter. Surely there are some interesting stories out there. Or some tips on how to avoid getting read. Or some great ideas about things to do. Some feelings about the club, or about how your first time felt. We'd like to hear from the newcomers.

*Welcome, new members!*

Please write something up for the newsletter and bring it to the next meeting, or mail it to the club PO box.

### Editor's Edict By Rochelle

Hi girls, it's just me again here to report on the great time we had at the December 2nd meeting. All and all I feel that we had a great turn out. I'd like to thank everyone that came to the meeting and made it a great success. I'd like to say thanks to Beth for all the great music for the night, and everyone else that helped take care of the food and games. I hope that we have just as good a turn out for the "after the holiday" party on January 6th. This is just to help us unwind from the hassle of the holidays. A chance to say thank goodness the holidays are over. We'll just let our hair down and enjoy our new found friends. So let's all come out and relax with our friends.

I'd like to share something I saw in Dear Abby several years ago.

### THE MAN IN THE GLASS

When you get what you want  
in your struggle for self  
And the world makes you  
king for the day,  
Just go to a mirror  
and look at yourself  
And see what THAT man  
has to say.

For it isn't your father  
or mother or wife  
Whose judgment  
upon you must pass,  
The fellow whose verdict  
counts most in your life  
Is the one staring back  
from the glass.  
Some people might think  
you're a straight-shootin' chum  
And call you  
a wonderful guy.  
But the man in the glass  
says you're only a bum  
If you can't look him  
straight in the eye.  
He's the fellow to please,  
'never mind all the rest  
For he's with you  
clear to the end,  
And you've passed  
your most dangerous test  
If the guy in the glass  
is your friend.  
You may fool the whole world  
down the pathway of years  
And get pats on the back  
as you pass  
But your final reward  
will be heartache and tears  
If you've cheated  
the man in the glass.

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

When I first read this I thought that I could have that man in the glass as my friend. But until a little over a year ago we weren't friends. In the last year and since I found others like myself and began to accept the total me, it was hard to look that man straight in the eye. With the help of friends I've made through Crystal Club I now feel better about myself and can look him straight eye and see the whole

picture.

I know that each and every one of us has a little something that we could share the others. The GGs could help others that are having problems accepting, knowing that they are not alone and that you are there to help. We also like to get your input on what you'd like to see happen in the club in the future. Remember this is your club as well. So please write and let me enter it in the newsletter.

Also remember we have two more meetings till we have elections.

Until we meet again  
have the best of all.

Rochelle Richards

### Printing the Newsletter

Well, as you've no doubt noticed by now, the laser printer is gone. I'm printing this newsletter on a crummy old Epson printer. We'll keep an eye out for a better way, but laser printers cost upwards of \$1100, and one that speaks PostScript like the old one did could run \$3000 to \$5000. We may be able to buy services on a PostScript printer locally. It may also be possible to ask for favors from sisters who have laser printers, but we'd have to mail them back and forth, which would either delay the newsletter a week or two, or cost \$8 each way for express mail.

Note that it costs extra for postage when there are more sheets of paper in the mailing. We can fit about 5 sheets into an envelope for a single stamp. If we add extra stuff, like the Renaissance newsletter, or the Coming Together flyer, it takes more stamps. A laser printer can fit a lot more on a page than a regular printer, so this printer takes more pages to print the same amount of information. This 8 page newsletter would have been 4 pages on the laser.

We are looking into the possibility of the club either buying some equipment, or arranging with a member for the member to buy the equipment and sell the use to the club on a monthly basis. For example, we could buy a copier for anywhere from \$400 to \$1000. We currently spend about \$20/month on copies, and with growth, added pages, and Renaissance pages (see below,) that could go up considerably. A copier could pay for itself in two to four years.

While the club doesn't have that kind of money to invest in a copier, a member might buy the copier personally and then sell the use to the club. For example, if I bought it, I'd essentially be carrying the loan. It would be worthwhile to me since I'd get to use the copier personally.

This may make sense economically, and even save us money, for a copier. A printer is another story. If we could find a \$2400 PostScript laser printer, and expect it to last 3 years, that's \$67/month. Assuming we have 20 dues paying members receiving the newsletter, that's \$3/month or about \$40/year additional dues. Alternatively, the meeting fees could go up by \$3 to \$5 to cover it. That strikes me as pretty expensive to get a nicer newsletter. But it's up to you, the members. Please let us know what you think.

### **Renaissance**

We received a very nice letter from the Renaissance Education Association this month. They are proposing a new category of affiliation. It sounds promising.

The Crystal Club would pay something like \$25 for the first year to Renaissance for "affiliate status". This would entitle us to say that we are an affiliate and use the Mona Lisa logo. We would get a handbook with guidelines for operating a group. We would get a complete set of Background Papers and Community Outreach Bulletins, with permission to reproduce them for our members. We would get member referrals, as we do now. Renaissance would be able to claim us as an affiliate and use our club name and membership count in their own statements about

their size and scope.

For an additional similar fee, we would receive their newsletter, either galley copies or computer readable floppy disks, which we could enclose in part or in whole with our monthly newsletter. We're enclosing a recent Renaissance newsletter to give you a better idea what it looks like. If you think you might want this on a monthly basis, or certain parts of it, I'm sure something can be arranged.

A third service, for a similar amount, is a "voice mailbox". This would allow any member to phone the voice mailbox number (in PA) and leave a message for any other member. When the other member calls the mailbox number, any messages left for her will be replayed. There is a demonstration number of the system at 1-800-6-WATSON. You can call it from any touch-tone phone and a computer will demonstrate the system for you. The demo is annoying, because they hype their product, but you'll get the idea.

I can imagine leaving "meeting status" messages on it with last minute information about the meeting, so that members can call for last minute updates. (We could also do this with an answering machine on a local phone line, but it would cost \$22/month for the phone line.) We could communicate

with new members without them having to give us their phone number, or us giving them ours. Voice mail allows messages to be left for a specific person.

Please let us know what you think. In particular, do the expenses seem reasonable, and are the services something you think you might want?

Mary Ann

#### Letter from IFGE

We received the enclosed from the International Foundation for Gender Education. To those who voted to let the IFGE keep the \$10 rebate from your IFGE membership, instead of sending it to the Crystal Club, your contribution has helped IFGE turn the corner. If you haven't already joined IFGE, it's the best \$40 you'll spend in a long time. Their quarterly Tapestry magazine is excellent.

Dear Friends,

Last year we took a gamble - we rented an office and hired a full-time staff, thereby tripling our expenses. It was a gamble taken without resources or capital, and could easily have destroyed IFGE, but we turned to you for help and you responded. The result

was the office not only survived, it became a haven for people looking to help, and people looking for help. Our publications were not only put back on schedule, we tripled our circulation and expanded our list. We were able to improve the communications, information distribution, and support within our community thereby building the foundation for our future. We were able to help an uncountable number of people we would not otherwise have been able to help. Please, if you get a chance, stop in at our office and see for yourself the good that has been done, the good that was made possible because of your support.

Your contributions have made a great many things possible. For instance, when we were developing our national convention we turned to you for help. The result of your support was we were able to create an event that was of actual and effective service to our community. We were at last able to bring committed people together to work on those issues that would help us all live happier and better lives.

When Christine Jorgensen passed away, we created a memorial fund in her honor. The purpose was to raise money to benefit our transsexual brothers and sisters. The result of your support was we were able to raise the money necessary to

publish Sr. Mary Elizabeth's most important work, 'Legal Aspects of Transsexualism'.

The point is we want you to understand that every gift, donation, endowment, or other means of support are wisely used to help people, and the results are there for all to see. Please help us continue our work.

On behalf of all the people who will benefit from your gift, THANK YOU!

With Love and Gratitude,  
Merrissa Sherrill Lynn,  
Executive Director, IFGE

IFGE's address is PO Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778. Their office is at 6 Cushing St, 2nd floor, Waltham, MA 02154. Their phones are 617-894-8340 and 899-2212.

### Tania Volen

Some of you may be familiar with the Tania Volen "Transvestian" newspaper that comes out several times a year. It's pretty different from most TV publications. It's mostly sexual in nature, and the heterosexual stories seem to be few and far between. I did subscribe, but now I'm having second thoughts. I thought you might be interested in the story of the "free gift".

Each issue of Transvestian comes with an ad saying that if you pay \$40 for two years, they'll throw in your choice of three free gifts.

These are a "Goldtone Bangle-Style Lady's Digital Wristwatch", a men's "Alarm/Chrono Calculator LCD" watch, or a "Solar Powered Card-Size Calculator." They show a photo of each item. The calculator watch is described as "Black quartz digital watch performs calculator functions, chimes the hour, displays dual time, a.m./p.m., day, date." The watch shown has the label "CASIO" clearly readable in the photo. My male counterpart normally wears this watch, and it was due for replacement, so I figured, "what the heck" and ordered 2 years and the watch.

Two issues came and went and no watch. I figured Tania had forgotten, so I sent a note asking where the watch was. A week later a package arrived in the mail. In it were a calculator watch, a plastic envelope, and a small photocopied sheet of instructions. The first thing I noticed was that it wasn't a CASIO. In fact, it wasn't anything like the familiar CASIO. It had no brand name on it, just a sticker that said "Made in China."

I really like the CASIO, and it's just 20 bucks at Service Merchandise, so I got myself a new one and figured I'd let my kids play with the Tania Volen special. But first I needed to set the time, since it's off by 4 1/2 hours. Well,

the instructions are written in Chinese. They sort of talk about setting the time, but I quickly discovered that the instructions were for a different watch! The picture shown had different buttons, and the instructions told me to press buttons that I didn't have.

Well, maybe I can figure out how to set it myself. After all, I work with computers, I ought to be able to figure it out. How hard can setting a watch be?

I tried all the buttons. If I press two of them at the same time, they let me change whether the alarm will go off or whether it will chime on the hour. If I hold down certain buttons for several seconds, it will let me set the alarm time. Nothing will set the time of day.

I took it to work and offered it to anybody who could figure out how to set it. Nobody could. I threw it on a shelf on my desk and forgot about it.

A month later, suddenly the alarm started to go off. The display was really faint but seemed to have every segment set. No matter what buttons I pushed, it would not stop beeping. After several minutes of this, I was about ready to soak it in water. Finally, it stopped beeping, and went into a coma. No matter what

I push, it doesn't do anything.

I'd say this watch is worth what I paid for it. If you order from Tania Volen, all I can say is let the buyer beware!

By the way, I was in New Jersey one day on business, and had an hour to kill for lunch. I decided to drive by 200 E. Main St. in Tennant, NJ 07763, to see what their store was. Maybe they had merchandise for sale. It turns out that 200 E. Main St. is a PO Box in Tennent. The Post Office is at 100 E. Main. Address 150 is another PO Box. Very strange.

Come to think of it, this is supposedly a monthly publication (although it's hard to find anything that pins down a publication schedule or date) and I've only received 3 issues in about 9 months. It's been at least 2 or 3 months since I got the last one. It's probably tough putting out a publication like this one, but it would help if I felt they were being honest with me..

Mary Ann

#### **Crystal Club Cancellation And Refund Policy**

Cancellation up to two days before an event: 100% refund. From two days until noon of the event day: 50% refund. After noon on the day of the event: no refund.

**Policies**

The Crystal Club is an open support group for cross dressers. We welcome TV, TS, TG, FI, and others who assume a complete feminine identity. We welcome their wives and significant others (SO's.) We welcome guests from other cross dressing organizations, when cleared through an officer.

We do not care about the sexual preference of the members and attendees. We do, however, require that all attendees behave like ladies at all times.

Everyone has the right to feel secure, knowing they will not be ridiculed for their dressing or their appearance, and knowing they will not be "hit on" by anyone present.

We require that all attendees come completely dressed in feminine attire, or not dressed (i.e. in masculine attire). It is expected that most members will normally dress, but this is not required.

Persons are not permitted to arrive partially dressed, for example, a dress and male hair, or a dress and an unshaven face, as this may draw unwanted attention to the rest of the group.

Ladies pants and casual wear are fine. An adjacent changing room is available if you prefer to come in male clothing and dress at the meeting site.

Meetings are open only to cross dressers who have been screened or approved by an officer, and to cross dresser's wives/SO's, helping professionals, and approved guests. The location of the hotel is given out after the screening process.

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**Reservation Form**

For January 6th meeting, reservations must be received in the mail by Jan 2nd, at Box 287, with payment, to qualify for the "early bird" rates. You can also pay at the previous meeting if you wish.

Before January 2nd:	
Members	\$12.00
Member couples	\$17.00
Non-members	\$15.00
Non-member couples	\$20.00

After January 2nd:	
Members	\$15.00
Member couples	\$20.00
Non-members	\$15.00
Non-member couples	\$20.00

Femme name \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing name \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_  
address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To:  
Crystal Club  
P.O. Box 287  
Keynotesburg, Ohio 43068-0287



# Renaissance News



Volume 3, No. 11

Vision - Integrity - Quality

November 1989

## The Battle of Heaven: Great Britain's Stonewall

A Special Report by Phaedra Kelly

During this past June on United Kingdom's "minority" television channels—BBC2 and Channel 14—Stonewall was much mentioned. But it was never said that the push for gay rights began with New York drag queens resisting police harassment

It is true that the U.K. queens

real Gender Bender.

The trend lasted about six months, though the press tried to prolong the agony. The first generation of true Punks crowded out the New Romantics and drove them underground. But they soon emerge as second generation Gender Benders, with Boy George in the lead followed by the rise of radical street

cluded the "straight-gays," or what we call over here "male-impersonators:" cowboys, lumberjacks, balding bespectacled social workers, and faux skinhead/leatherboys. All of them crowded at one end of Heaven, clutching their pint mugs with as strong a wrist as they could manage and hissing bitch insults at those "swishy-girlie types, a dead give-away, my dear!"

This continued until a gang of genuine East-end skinheads conned their way into the disco and began bashing fags. The cowboys, lumberjacks, et al. left by the back door, screaming like kids on a hydroplaning school bus in December. But the sisterhood stood their ground, turned, and fought like she-cats.

The battle went on for some time since nobody would call the cops to save the trannies or queens, much less the skinheads and gays. By the time the metro police did manage to rustle up a paddy wagon and park it at the end of the street (for their own safety), what was left of the real skinheads came flying out of the gates of Heaven, some on the toe of a slingback pump. They ran in tatters up the road toward the police, screaming for the medics and sanctuary from those "bloody mad male hellcats."

The following night, Heaven restored, the avenging angels returned, expecting their due of a victory celebration. They found it stuffed to the fire doors with straight-gays who had imposed a ban on all men in frocks because they were "too rough."

Ever since, no British queen or tran need fear a skinhead because the skinheads would sooner fight beside one of us than with one of us.



A marriage made in Heaven: Diana Dore (left) & Tarty Tina (right)

won't take any bull from the bullyboys either. Such was the case in Britain's own Stonewall, known as the Battle of Heaven. This is an event that has not yet been acknowledged on television.

In the mid-seventies, gay liberation in Britain was a joke. They were the smallest of minorities inside a minority, with no real bite. This was also the time of the New Romantics, a brief media-hyped modern renaissance of frill-shirted men. Look alikes for Adam Ant, Steve Strange and others of their ilk; all imitating Bowie, the first

drag and Peacock Punk.

George and the others never would have emerged after the implosion of Punk anarchy if it had not been for Steve Strange and others who opened a disco known as Heaven. Heaven was meant to be for the gay community. While Blitz, and a few other small clubs existed, Heaven had a *je ne sais quoi*.

Accordingly, the entire London community of glitteratti, paparazzi and elite were invited to the opening, along with the queens in their finest, transvestites and transsexuals too. The opening party also in-

# Chapter news & notes

## Louisiana

**New Orleans: Leslie Addison, chapter leader.** Write Renaissance N.O., Box 58428, New Orleans, LA 70158 for details. Provisional chapter. Meetings are held in a Metropolitan Community Church.

## New Jersey

**South Jersey: Tina Louise, chapter leader.** Address inquiries to chapter secretary, Emily Sheldon, Renaissance SJ, P.O.Box 4457, Greenville, DE 19807. Regular meetings on the first Saturday of the month at the *Atlantic Mental Health Center, Inc.* 2002 Black Horse Pike, McKee, N.J. Meetings start at 9:00 p.m.

**No smoking is permitted in the meeting rooms.**

## Pennsylvania

**Greater Philadelphia area: Teri Kay, chapter leader.** Write Renaissance PHL, Box AD, Bensalem, PA 19020. Meets third Saturday of the month in King of Prussia, Pa. Doors open - 8:00 p.m.; new member orientation, 8:30 p.m., main program, 9:30 p.m.

**No smoking is permitted in the meeting rooms.**

Programs for the coming months include a psychic, Dr. Bill Stayton, and Dr. Richard Friend.

**Reading: Susan Marshall, chapter leader.** Write Renaissance RDG, Box 14421, Reading, PA 19607 for the latest information.

The Reading chapter meets twice a month. There is a dinner-social held at *THIS IS IT*, 801 Walnut St., Reading, second Wednesday of the month. A regular membership-business meeting is held on the second Saturday.

**Lower Susquehanna Valley: Elsa Larson, chapter leader.** Write Renaissance LSV, Box 7412, York, PA 17404.

A social is planned for November 25, 8:30 p.m., at *Bube's Brewery & Central Hotel*, 102 N. Market St., Mt. Joy. A \$5 cover charge is required for the meeting room. If dinner is desired call 717-653-2160 to make a reservation in Alois's dining room.

**Are you interested in forming a Renaissance Chapter in your area? Write or call the Renaissance national office.**

# Renaissance News

© 1989 Renaissance Education Association, Inc., Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406  
\$2/copy, \$12 per year, 12 issues.

Senior Editors:

JoAnn Roberts

Paula Jordan Sinclair

Contributing Editor:

Alison Laing

Administrative Assistants:

Beth & Rachel M.

Design & Layout:

Creative Design Services

For information about events call: 215-840-8449, 24 hours a day.

Renaissance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing education and support to the gender community at large.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### November

- 4th Ren. So. Jersey Chapter
- 5th PCHA Dance Party II  
Pier 19, Phil Waterfront
- 11th Ren. Reading Chapter
- 18th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter
- 25 Ren. LSV Chapter

### December

- 2nd Ren. So. Jersey Chapter
- 9th Ren. Reading Chapter
- 9th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter  
Holiday Party-Gr. Valley
- 16th Ren LSV Chapter

### January

- 6th Ren. So. Jersey Chapter
- 13th Ren. Reading Chapter
- 20th Ren. Gr. Phila. Chapter
- 27th Ren LSV Chapter

### February

- 3rd Ren. So. Jersey Chapter
- 10th Ren. Reading Chapter
- 17th Ren. Gr. Phila Chapter
- 24th Ren. LSV Chapter
- 22-25 Texas 'T' Party  
San Antonio, TX
- 25-28 Mardi Gras, New Orleans

### March

- 27-1 IFGE 4th Annual Conv.  
Natick, Mass.

## And, don't forget about...

• The last of the Benjamin books, *The Transsexual Phenomena* are back in stock. When these are gone, there are no more. The Deluxe Edition is \$39.95 and the Regular Edition is \$35.95.

• Background Papers are available for \$1 each plus \$.25 postage for each pair ordered. Eight papers are available: 1-Myths & Misconceptions About Crossdressing, 2-Reasons for Male to Female Crossdressing, 3-PARTNERS: Spouses & Significant Others, 4-The Matter of Children, 5-An Annotated Bibliography, 6-Telling the

Children: A Transsexual's Point of View, 7-What Is Renaissance?, and 8-AIDS & HIV Safety and Ethics. A paper on transsexualism is in work.

• 3R addiction recovery support group meets at King of Prussia on third Sat. of the month.

• The Pen Pal Project. If you are willing to write letters to pen pals, please let Alison know. Write to the office, c/o Dept. PP.

• Articles and opinion pieces for the newsletter are always welcomed. We want to hear what you have to say about what goes on in Renaissance and in the community at large.

## Opinion - Forum - Information

### Who's disabled? ... I'm okay, but you're not.

Early in September the U.S. Senate overwhelming approved the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Chief co-sponsor Sen. Edward M. Kennedy saw the bill as way to ensure that all Americans, especially those with AIDS or who carry the virus "deserve the opportunity to work for a living."

But by raising the issue of AIDS (which everyone *knows* comes from "immoral lifestyles"), Kennedy and bill's other supporters also raised the hackles of troglodyte Sens. Jesse Helms and William Armstrong. And this is where the transgendered community enters the picture.

Armstrong first tried to amend the bill so that it would exclude people with AIDS, homosexuals, bisexuals, and those who face discrimination "based on bone fide religious or moral beliefs." Kennedy vehemently opposed the amendment, and convinced Armstrong to submit an amendment that was more specific.

The result is a legal definition of disability that excludes "homosexuality, bisexuality, transvestism,

pedophilia, transsexualism, exhibitionism, voyeurism, compulsive gambling, kleptomania, or pyromania, gender identity disorders, current psychoactive substance-induced organic mental disorders...or other sexual behavior disorders." Transvestites were specifically and solely excluded in another amendment proposed by Helms.

The distinctions made by Sens. Armstrong and Helms seem rather straightforward to us: transgendered people are *not* considered to be disabled solely on the basis of their gender role/identity. However, a transvestite with polio, for example, would be protected by the act insofar as she was discriminated against on the basis of having polio.

There are those in the gender community, though, who object to losing their disabled status. They see the Senate bill as chipping away at the rights of transgendered people. Others, more correctly we believe, object to the amendment because it again excludes transgendered people from federal protections afforded other Americans.

The business of whether or not we are disabled gets at many issues, few of which are easily resolved. A New York psychological therapist of our acquaintance rejects the whole notion of disability and mental illness as playing into the medical model of psychiatry, i.e. if it is a disease, it must have a cure. But by not claiming status as disabled, transsexuals would be rejecting the "birth defect" model propose by Kim Elizabeth Stuart.

Clearly the answers to this question, like many of the questions faced by transgendered people, are not black or white.

There is, however, an issue here that is clearly one of right and wrong, and it is the ease with which Sen. Kennedy and lobbyists for the gay and lesbian community ignored the sensibilities of transgendered people. Lumping us in with those who have an unfortunate—but real—mental illness perpetuates the notion that people who dress as the other gender, or who believe themselves to be of the other gender, are sick.

### IFGE convention set for historic Boston area in March

The International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) and the Tiffany Club of New England have announced the dates and location for the 4th annual "Coming Together" convention.

The convention venue will be the Crown Plaza Hotel in Natick, Mass., just outside of Boston proper. The

event runs from Monday, March 27, to Sunday, April 2.

The registration fee is \$220 per person for the full package with a special price of \$375 for couples. Discounts apply for early payment.

The registration fee includes all the workshops and seminars, unless specifically noted, Wednesday's

Orientation Buffet, Saturday's Award Banquet and Sunday's Wind-down Brunch.

Hotel accommodations and meals (other than those listed above) are not included with registration.

For more detailed information call IFGE at (617)-894-8340 or write P. O. Box 367, Waltham, MA 01778.

### Giving in to Pier Pressure

Philadelphia Community Health Alternatives and The Philadelphia AIDS Task Force are planning a party that may prove to be one of the most exciting that this city has seen in a great while. (Well, at least since Henri David's Hallowe'en Ball.)

The "Dance Party II, Pier Pressure" is scheduled for Sunday eve-

ning, Nov. 5, at Pier 19 on the waterfront. The event is an exciting evening of dance, music and surprises at a price affordable (\$25) by almost everyone.

The price includes admission to the party, food and an open bar from 8 p. m. until midnight. The sponsors are expecting up to 8000 people to

attend this evening extravaganza.

Proceeds from the party will benefit the AIDS Task Force and the John Locke Patient Support Fund. Tickets are available from PCHA, 1216 Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19107, (215) 545-8686 or from a variety of clubs and organizations in the city. See you there.

# Paula Jordan Sinclair... **The NewsQueen**

Leading lives of illusion as many transgendered people do, we can rightly consider ourselves actresses and actors. So with more than a little bit of professional curiosity, let's see what our colleagues on the stage have been up to.

There is a theater troupe in Japan where members of one gender take on both male and female roles. No, we're not speaking of Kabuki theater, but of the Takarazuka Revue Company, an all-female group of performers who last month started an American tour with a three-day run at New York's Radio City Music Hall.

The show included numbers from the Broadway musical "Me and My Girl," highlights from Western literature such as "Gone With the Wind," and traditional Japanese dance and drama. The company has a big following in Japan.

Does this mean that the male Kabuki actresses have to worry? Not according to Takarazuka president Haruhiko Saka. Back in Japan, he said, "The male girls are still top stars."



San Francisco recently saw a drag show of a different sort—a production of "The Odd Couple" starring men in roles Neil Simon rewrote for women. Audiences at the city's Theatre Rhinoceros Studio were treated (some critics would say "subjected") to seeing men portr~~y~~ sloppy sportswriter "Olive Madison" and neat freak "Florence Unger."

Simon inverted the sexes of the characters made famous by Matthau, Lemmon, Klugman, and Randall for a 1985 Broadway revival by Rita Moreno and Sally Struthers. This "Odd Couple II" failed to excite New York theatergo-

ers four years ago, and San Francisco critics say the drag version is worse.

One problem is that the actors/actresses, many of whom are associated with the San Francisco Imperial Court, are never able to break away from their drag queen images. One critic noted that Lilly Street, a former empress, "can never shake the singular persona of the drag queen he is known as. You never believe Olive's a slob... We should get Linda Ellerbee. Instead we get Diane Sawyer."

The production does provide an insight into the "appropriate" role for men and women. The play was first written for actors, then rewritten for actresses. But the licensor of the play, Samuel French Inc., threatened to halt the production by saying the use of male actresses was a

*continued next page*

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## Discoveries: The Facts About Transgender Behavior — Part 3

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### How It Happens — Maybe

Human beings are curious by nature. We have an insatiable need to understand how things work. Human sexual development is an area that only recently has received a lot of attention. Research in this area has given us some clues as to why some people exhibit transgender behavior.

### The Eve Principle

We all learned in high school biology class that the Y chromosome from the male sperm cell combined with an X chromosome from a female egg causes the egg to develop into a male child. Until just recently, science did not know how the Y chromosome performed this miracle. By studying people with unusual chromosome sets, some light has been shed on this process.

Beginning with the biblical account of the creation of humans (Genesis), we've always assumed that being male was the "natural" state of things and that "female" was somehow derived from male as an afterthought. This is known as the Adam Principle or "Man first, Woman second". (What would you expect from the men who wrote these biblical stories?) As it turns out, this is backwards. Just the opposite is true. Every fetus has the potential to develop into a male or female. There are clusters of cells within each fetus that could become a penis or a clitoris. In the absence of any masculinizing influence (i.e. the Y chromosome) the fetus will develop into a female. Whether the female is "normal" depends on the chromosome set. A normal female has an XX pair of chromosomes, sometimes denoted 46(XX). There are some females who are 45(X-). They are missing the 46th chromosome and although they are physically female they do not develop in a normal fashion. A "normal" male has an XY chromosome set, 46(XY). The Y

chromosome, at some point in fetal development, triggers a "bath" of masculinizing hormones which set the course of development onto the male path. There are also males with 47(XXY) sets or various other multiple chromosomal abnormalities, but whenever the Y chromosome is present, a physical male results. This process of development has been called the Eve Principle. Restated simply: A fetus will develop into a biological female unless there is the addition of appropriate masculinizing hormones and only then will a male result. This is true even if the male Y chromosome is present but does not cause the proper male hormones to be released.

It does appear that the process is not a simple one-step process, but occurs in multiple stages. Any error along the way may cause physical or psychological abnormality. This is significant because it implies that males are more "complex", biologically, than females and therefore more prone to unusual behavior. It is easy to infer why, then, with so many processes needed for "normal" male development, that transgender behavior is so pervasive in the male population.

### The Brain As A Sex Organ

The brain is the second largest sex organ, right after skin. Most of us never think (no pun intended) of the brain that way. It is the central switchboard for all signals and stimuli that get us "turned on". Everybody "knows" that men and women don't think alike, but it is only recently that we've been able to see why this might be true. The human brain exhibits sexual dimorphism which is a fancy way to say that there are significant differences between a male brain and a female brain. Exactly what these differences are is not clear, but all the indirect evidence points to this conclusion. These differences have

nothing to do with intelligence but more likely the ways in which men and women process information. For example, men, generally speaking, are more visually oriented, while women are more tactile.

Based on the Eve Principle, we must assume that a developing female fetus also develops a female brain. Certain instincts and behaviors are "scripted" or written into the developing brain for female behavior. For a developing male fetus these "scripts" must be erased and replaced with appropriate male "scripts". The two processes are defeminization (erasing the female script) and masculinization (writing the male script). It is not clear whether these two processes occur simultaneously or step-wise. If any thing goes wrong with either of these processes, there is the potential for transgender behavior, but it doesn't end with the developing fetus.

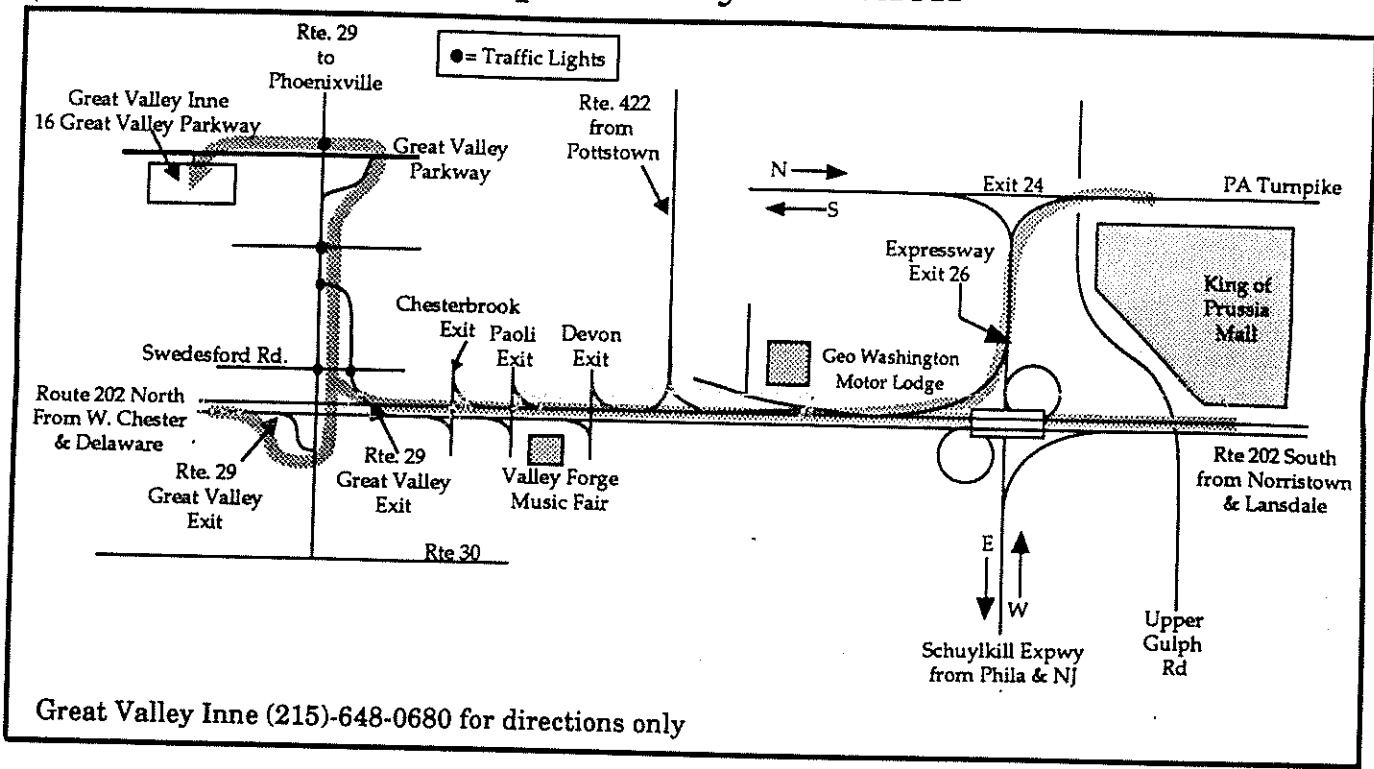
### Nature vs. Nurture

For years, students of human behavior argued whether our actions were determined by our nature (heredity) or by our nurturing (the way we are raised). As is usually the case, the answer seems to lie somewhere in between, at least for transgender behavior. The "stage" is set in the developing fetus, but the "play" unfolds after birth, and it is in several "acts".

Sometime between birth and the age of 4 years we begin to develop our sense of self — who we are. We begin to recognize the differences between males (boys) and females (girls) and we identify ourselves with one or the other. At the same time we learn the proper social behavior for our physical sex (gender role). All of this information flooding our newly discovered sense is "filtered", however unconsciously, by that sex organ between our ears, the brain. Our brain sorts the information

*continued on page 9*

# Greater Philadelphia Chapter Holiday Party Saturday, December 9, 1989 Map to Party Location



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**Let your hair down!**

**Dance your panthose off!**

**Hors d'oeuvres**

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The 1989 Holiday Party will be held at the Great Valley Inne, 16 Great Valley Parkway, Malvern on Saturday, December 9th. The festivities will begin at 7:30 PM with No-Host Cocktails. Ms. Charlene has some surprises planned for us all. The cost is \$25/person for Members and guests. Everyone is invited to attend. You must return this registration form and payment to the Greater Philadelphia Chapter Renaissance office no later than November 29, 1989.

## Holiday Party Registration

**Yes I am planning on attending the 1989 Renaissance Holiday Party.**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ spaces for me. Enclosed is my payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Send tickets to:

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to Renaissance, P.O. Box AD, Bensalem, PA 19020**

**Discoveries...from page 8** about behavior into sets. Some behaviors we accept for our own gender identity and are coded positive (Implementation - Set 1), while others are accepted as appropriate for the opposite gender identity and are coded negative (Complementation - Set 2). The remainder are behaviors that we code as acceptable for either gender (Set 3 or gray area). This scheme is shown in the Figure 1.

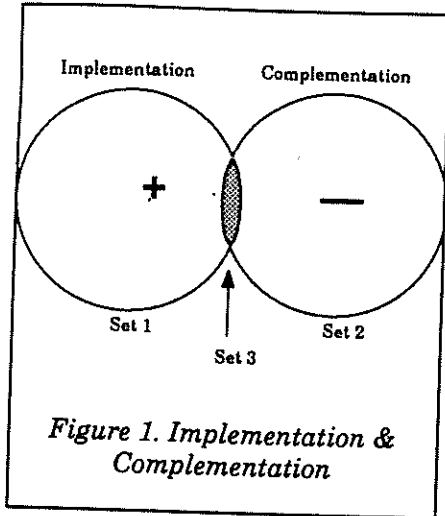


Figure 1. Implementation & Complementation

The diagrams for a "normal" male and female are shown in figure 2. (It is interesting to note most researchers agree that Set 3 is increasing.)

Now, let's apply this model to transgender behavior. Assume a biological female (46XX) who rejects feminine behaviors but accepts the masculine ones and has no gray area. The diagram might look like that in figure 3.

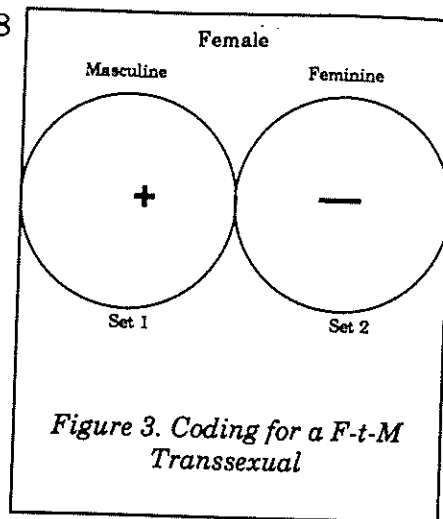


Figure 3. Coding for a F-t-M Transsexual

We would say that this person is a female to male (F-t-M) transsexual. Her brain has rejected those behaviors which society says are appropriate for her gender role, based on her biological sex (female), and she has accepted those behaviors which fit more closely to her gender identity (male).

Let's take another possible case. Assume a male (46XY) who accepts both masculine and feminine behaviors. The diagram might look like figure 4.

In this instance, we would label this person a Male Transvestite. His brain has accepted and coded behaviors that are deemed appropriate for both sexes and he will find that he has a need to express the feminine behaviors, usually through crossdressing. There is no confusion over gender identity but rather over gender roles.

So what does all this coding stuff

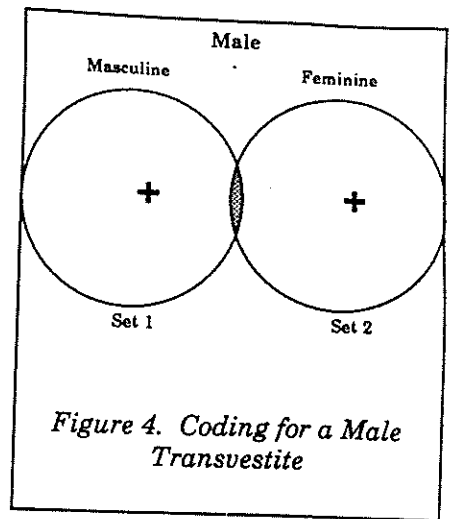


Figure 4. Coding for a Male Transvestite

mean? In essence, it takes both the prenatal influence during fetal development, and the environment around us, as we grow and develop as a person, to trigger transgender behavior. An appropriate analogy might be the development of speech. Almost all of us are born with the ability to speak, but the language we learn depends upon where we grow up in the world.

You can begin to see just how complex transgendered behavior really is. There is just no simple way to explain it all, in its every aspect and manifestation. All of the above describes current theories about HOW transgendered behavior might develop. It does not answer the question WHY. We may never know WHY and for the time being take what little comfort there is in knowing HOW.

(To be continued.)

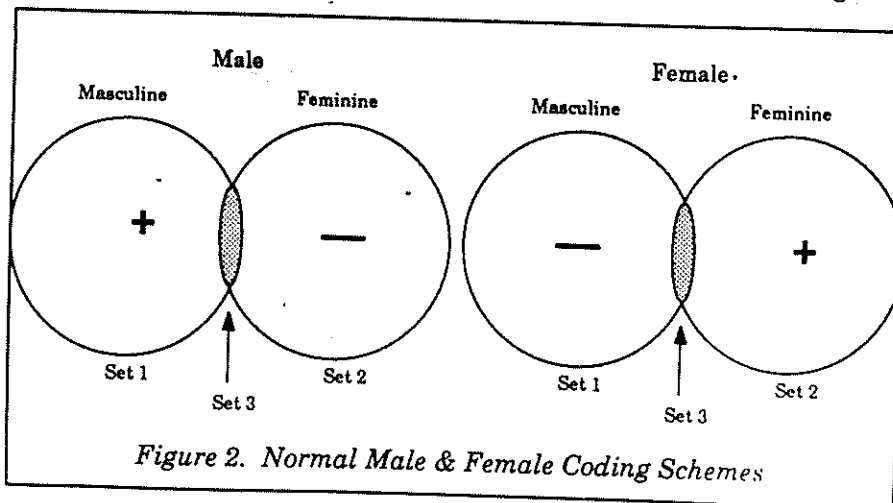


Figure 2. Normal Male & Female Coding Schemes

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*Risk* more than others think is safe;

*Dream* more than others think is practical;

*Expect* more than others think is possible.

Anonymous



# National Gender News

from around the TV/TS community

**INDIANAPOLIS** — In the wake of the brouhaha this past summer over crossdressers being barred from gay bars in this city, Justice, Inc. has called for a set of uniform bar policies. Justice is a politically oriented group which acts as a clearinghouse for gay organizations in Indiana. Their aid was enlisted by members of the **Indiana Crossdresser's Society (IXE)**.

Reported in the *New Works News*, Vol.9, No.1a representative from Justice said bars that choose to require ID — which is not mandated by state law — must make genuine, uniform efforts to compare each customer's appearance with their ID. If the ID does not match the customer's appearance, the bar owner should make every reasonable effort to confirm the customer's identity by other means.

Justice also stated that crossdressers should bear in mind if they plan to use any services that require ID, it's sensible to expect that the description on their ID and their appearance should be recognizably similar when judged by fair and reasonable standards.

In the same issue, Sharon Allan,

IXE Vice-president, reports a conversation with the manager of a local Indy bar that has agreed to review their ID policy.

It looks like progress is being made here but at no little cost to some of the IXE members. We are proud that our Indy sisters stood up to the discriminatory practices.

And we ask everyone to recall the words of Frank Zappa, "It can't happen here."

### NGN

**SEATTLE** — Speaking of political actions, **Karen Williams**, editor of the *Emerald City News*, laments the fact that there is still no long-hoped-for political organization to work toward equal rights for transgendered people.

Williams says that only a few cities prohibit discrimination against transvestites and transsexuals, Seattle being one of them. She says such an organization could be patterned after Greenpeace or the Sierra Club with lobbyists at the state and federal level.

We tend to agree with Williams in principle but see many obstacles to such an organization, the most serious being people to go public.

### NGN

**SPRINGFIELD, MASS.** — We won't have them to kick around anymore...

The "Octoboo '89" issue of *Twenty Minutes*, the newsletter of The XX Club, carried a notice that publication will cease after December unless a new staff is found.

Editor, **Veronica Brown**, is moving to Canada, assistant editor, **Lynda Breckenridge**, is moving to Florida, and the rest of the news staff will be moving on, as well.

Brown and life-partner, Paddy, visited us this past September. We presented Brown with her long overdue MONA (April Ren. News).

We'll miss the stinging wit of *Twenty Minutes* and lament the loss of a damn fine newsletter.

### NGN

**GURNEE, ILL.** — Another newsletter goes belly-up. Issue #43 of *Kiara* came with a notice that editor **Gloria Wright** will cease publication with the October issue.

Most interesting is the fact that *Kiara* is a recent name change for the publication which had been known as the *Crossdresser's Bureau*.

This is another publication we'll

*continued next page*



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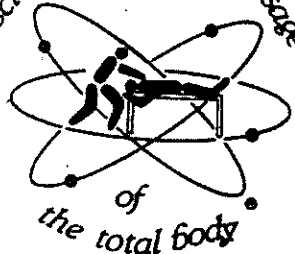
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# National Gender News

from around the TV/TS community

miss. Changes in Wright's personal and professional lives won't leave her much time to write. That's too bad because she has a real flair for the job but we understand the circumstances all too well.

Subscribers will be offered refunds on unfulfilled subscriptions.

## NGN

ARLINGTON, VA. — And we might lose yet another publication, *The Pinnacle*, newsletter of the Delta Chi Education Association. Editor, **Michelle Johnson**, has relocated to Dallas, Texas.

We're beginning to wonder if there is trend here. Now, if we could only get the really bad newsletter to fold up...

## NGN

BALTIMORE — We received a nice letter from **Shana Roberts** (no relation to our JoAnn) telling us that *My Choice*, a group started by **Kathy Stevens**, is still around, though we haven't heard from them in a while. They meet on the second Sunday of each month at St. Johns church, 27th and St. Paul street. Meetings start at 7 p.m.

Roberts tells us she's the only "straight" volunteer at the Baltimore Gay & Lesbian Switchboard. Her fellow volunteers don't necessarily understand her need to dress but they do accept and appreciate her. She also says it's a real trip to go to switchboard meetings as Shana. She's the only one in a dress.

For more information about *My Choice* write care of Shana at 7 S. Broadway, Apt. 1A, Balto., Md. 21231 or call (301)-327-0061.

## NGN

NEW YORK CITY — On Sept 14, photographs by **Mariette Pathy Allen** of crossdressers, transsexuals and their families went on display at the Big Apple's Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center National Museum of Lesbian and Gay History.

Then, on Sept 26, Allen, Renais-

sance Director of Public Affairs **Paula Jordan Sinclair**, and IFGE representatives **Yvonne Cook** and **Dan Riley** took part in a presentation on gender issues to a primarily gay and lesbian audience.

Cook and Sinclair are featured in Allen's forthcoming book, *TRANSFORMATIONS: Cross Dressers and Those Who Love Them*, to be published by Dutton in January.

## NGN

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CALIF. — J2CP Information Services has sent out a Legislative Alert to all transgender support groups.

In September the U.S. Senate approved the *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1989* which attempts to clarify the rights of disabled Americans. The bill includes an amendment introduced by Sen. William Armstrong (R-Colo.) that specifically excludes homosexuals, bisexuals, transvestites, pedophiles, transsexuals, exhibitionists, voyeurs, compulsive gamblers, kleptomaniacs, pyromaniacs, or those with "other sexual behavior disorders" from protection under the act.

**Sister Mary Elizabeth**, one of the founders of J2CP, finds the amendment offensive and urges all of us to write to our representatives and express our opposition to the bill in hopes that the House does not approve it. We certainly don't like being included with child molesters and drug addicts, but we also don't like being considered disabled either. We'd rather eschew protection under that guise.

## NGN

KING OF PRUSSIA, PA. — The Advisory Committee on Transgender Information Outreach and Networking (ACTION) of Renaissance has just finished its first review project.

The committee submitted its reports and comment on two Background Papers, *Spouses & Significant Others* and *Understanding Transsexualism*.

The paper on spouses had been previously released by Renaissance, while the transsexual paper is new. Both papers are in rewrite and the committee will have one last look before re-publication.

Renaissance will have ACTION review all of its current and future Background Papers.

## NGN

HARTFORD, CONN. — We're pleased to see the connecticutView coming along quite nicely. Their newsletter has a new look with a nameplate designed by Creative Design Services, the same folks who lay out our newsletter.

View founder **Denise Mason** seems to be getting a much needed rest while newcomers **Judy Summers**, **Jill Tarbox**, **Corine Klewer**, and **Lynn Anderson** take over the administrative duties.

Meanwhile, Mason is not idle, having just completed a review of several Renaissance Background Papers as part of ACTION.

## NGN

MADISON, N.J. — Last month we mentioned the publication of Dr. Robert T. Francoeur's new textbook on human sexuality, but we neglected to give its title.

The new college textbook is titled *Becoming A Sexual Person* and is expected to become available in the summer of 1990.

Over ninety-two friends and colleagues agreed to serve as special consultants for the book. These consultants will be identified at the opening of each chapter.

## NGN

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. — A flyer from DV&P, Inc., came through here recently. For a \$10 membership fee, DV&P will send you a bi-monthly catalog of larger sized fashions and accessories at special prices. They also have access to wedding gowns, square dance outfits and period costumes. Contact DV&P, Inc. at Box 2667, Minneapolis, MN 55402.

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