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GGA



Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another,
"What! You, too? I thought I was the only one."--C.S. Lewis

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Items must be received not later than the first Monday of the month preceding the issue date in which they are to appear.

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CHAPTERS

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AN INTERESTING EVENING

(A true story)

by Nichol (TX-26)

Barbara, a TV friend from Wichita Falls, came to spend a weekend "en femme" with me in April.

Friday night, dressed in tasteful skirt and blouse combinations, we had a wonderful time at a night-club and stage show. After the show we went to small restaurant for a late dinner. Passing presented no problem in spite of the fact the place was busy. On the way home we decided to go to a nice restaurant the next night. I suggested the Hyatt Regency but Barb had a better idea. She had heard there was a Benihana's of Tokyo hibachi restaurant here in Dallas so we decided to have a special night out by going to Benihana's.

Saturday night we each dressed with a great deal of care as to taste and style. I wore a white skirt, black leotard top with a gold belt, jewelry, frosted blonde wig and black patent heels. Barb wore a burgundy skirt, lilac shaded blouse, dark brown wig and brown heels. We examined each other for details and decided "to shoot the works and go out in style".

On the way to the restaurant we stopped at the Valley View Mall to pick up some items of make-up at a Merle Norman's outlet. The stop served the additional purpose of giving us the opportunity to see how well we passed. The excursion through the Mall was extremely successful, I even drew a low whistle from a guy walking behind me as I was leaving the Mall. I found it very flattering and saw it as a sign of approval.

On to the way to the restaurant we noticed the parking lot of every eating establishment was packed. On week-ends, everyone in Dallas eats out -- or so it seems. Benihana's was no exception. We found, upon arrival, their parking lot was filled to overflowing. We decided to go in anyway and wait our turn.

Upon entering and placing our names on the waiting list we were informed there we would be approximately an hour's wait, so we retired to the large cocktail lounge for before dinner drinks. Because the



lounge was extremely crowded we were seated at a table already occupied by two couples. After ordering our drinks we settled back for a long wait and engaged in small talk. Things had gone smoothly so far with everyone had addressing us as ladies - which elated us.

After about thirty minutes of chitchat and quick glances around the room to see if anyone had read us I noticed the attractive blonde seated across the table had a knowing smile on her face. I smiled back and she whispered something to her date, who was seated on my immediate right. He didn't look up but kept on talking to their friends. During a pause in their conversation he opened a pack of cigarettes and leaned over to ask if I had any matches. I replied that I was sorry I had no matches for I don't smoke. Barb also indicated that she didn't smoke. His friend across the table produced a book of matches so the conversation resumed. I watched the others at the table carefully now for I knew the match request was a ploy to get Barb and me to talk to them. The fellow leaned over and whispered something to his lady-friend to which she responded with an audible "But they have to be." She gave me a big smile and I smiled back.

About this time their names were called from the reservations desk so we bade them fair well as they disappeared into one of the many dining rooms. Barb and I chuckled over the incident but felt very secure.

Our little Oriental waitress was intrigued by us and seemed to make a point of telling the other waitresses about us. I watched, as one by one, the staff would smile and go about their business. I assumed they had figured it out but would cover it up nicely. Barb had one of Nature's calls and asked the waitress where the restrooms were located. I chuckled when I overheard her tell Barb "The ladies room is on the right and the other one is on the left." She had reversed them and smiled as Barb disappeared into the lady's powder room. Business had been very slow in the lady's powder room until Barb entered. As soon as she went in I noticed at least twelve women suddenly descend on the place at the same time. I thought, to myself, "poor Barb, surrounded by a bunch of chattering females in their domain." Barb, with a silly grin on her face, was

the first to emerge from the powder room. She almost broke up laughing over the female conversations about their dates, etc.

What really cracked her up was when the lady in the stall next to her's in dropped a roll of tissue and it went skittering and rolling through Barb's stall into the adjacent one. Barb almost broke up in laughter right there. We had a good laugh and heard our names called out, along with the fourteen other people who would make up our dinner party.

If none of you have ever been to a hibachi restaurant it is quite different from any dining experience you've ever had. Dinner is prepared on a grill, set into one side of the table, by a Japanese chef. Eight people are seated on three sides of the table -- two on each end and four along the side opposite the chef -- so the Staff tries to seat patrons in groups of eight. The room to which we were escorted had four grill tables, two of which were already occupied.

Since we were the two single females in our group everyone stepped aside and allowed us to lead the way. Barb and I chose seats at the end of the table with our backs to the wall so we could see everyone in the room, thus giving us the advantage of being able to read any and all reactions to our presence. The waitress came in, took our order and disappeared. The chefs, one for each grill, appeared and started their banter and showmanship with their carving knives and fancy techniques of preparing food. We knew it would be an interesting meal when our chef went around the table announcing what everyone had ordered. When he finished with Barb and I he exclaimed to the group "these two ladies get hamburger". Everyone chuckled since they knew we had ordered steak and lobster.

Everyone broke out their chopsticks and began to eat the salad. It was interesting to watch everyone trying to figure how to hold and manipulate them much less pick up the food. Having spent three years in the Far East I had learned the hard way how to use chopsticks. Everyone was probably aware the tall blonde at the end of the table knew her way around oriental restaurants. The meal, which is always the case with well prepared oriental foods, was very good.

After the cooking was finished the manager appeared, with several waitresses

and the maitre d', carrying a camera. The manager announced that the chef was leaving for Japan to be married and since it was his last meal to prepare they would like to have a group picture as a gift for his new bride. We all agreed to have the photo taken and put on our best smiles. Barb and I were pleasantly surprised when two chefs stood immediately behind us for the photo. The first picture was taken from a distance so that about half the group was included. The second one left no doubt as to what was going on for the maitre d' stepped up for a close up of Barb, me and the two chefs standing behind us. We smiled very nicely and the staff thanked us for the photos and departed.

Dessert was served, along with courtesy glasses of cognac as a gift from the manager in appreciation for allowing the photographs. During dessert the group, as a whole, engaged in conversation as to why different areas of Dallas County were wet or dry on the issue of alcoholic drinks. One of the women at an adjacent table had the question "Why is this side of the LBJ Highway wet and the other side dry?" I explained that each precinct voted on referendums during the general election and the alcohol issue was controlled by the voters, not by the City or County government. Barb interjected that it was local option method of government. We figured that surely if any doubt existed concerning our authenticity as females we could tell by actually talking to the entire group. Would you believe not one look of surprise, not one whisper, not one stare or look of curiosity? I was dumbfounded. I couldn't believe what had happened and was elated that we had really passed as far as the group was concerned. After settling our checks individually the group rose to depart. On the way out the manager ask if we had enjoyed our evening and ask us to come back again. We thanked him for his hospitality and a beautiful evening and headed for the door. The man and his wife who had been seated to my immediate left during dinner held the door for us as Barb and I departed. We smiled and thanked him and walked across the small foot bridge over the oriental ponds into the cool night air on feet that weren't even touching the ground.

We sat in Barb's car elated over the fact we had pulled off the ultimate de-

ception. If anyone, other than the staff of the restaurant, had figured us out they certainly did a fantastic job of containing their curiosity for not one patron, except the tall blonde in the lounge and she was nice in the way she handled the situation, gave even the smallest indication of knowing.

Our sincere appreciation must be expressed to the manager and staff of Benihana's for they obviously knew, but tastefully covered over their fascination of our presence. I wouldn't be surprised to find our picture on the employee bulletin board under the caption "Celebrity Visitors at Benihana's".

PILOT SUIT FOLLOW-UP

A story concerning the \$4 million suit filed by Karen F. Ulane, a former Eastern pilot, against Eastern Airlines concerning her post-operative dismissal appeared in the December, 1981 Phoenix.

Ms. Ulane's case took a step forward on April 27 when Judge John F. Grady ruled, in the Chicago U. S. District Court that the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which protects citizens from sexual discrimination, applies to transsexuals as well as other minorities.

While this ruling is a step forward for Ms. Ulane's case it does not open the door for other pre- or post-operative transsexuals to seek shelter under the Civil Rights Act just yet. However when this case is appealed, and certainly it will be, the ruling, if upheld, will then be considered a legal precedent and a matter of law which will provide an umbrella of protection for the pre- and post-op venturing out into the world seeking employment. Hopefully, there will then be no more open discrimination based on expressed or implied transsexualism.

Of course to take advantage of this new "coverage" you have to be willing to stand up and be counted when your time comes. Employers tend, at times, to run roughshod over those thought to have no legal protection or who are afraid to express or demonstrate their legal rights. If you get a pink slip -- no dear not the wearable kind -- because of your transsexualism you will then have a legal precedent on which to base a claim to your job or acceptable compensation.

THE AGE of AGUARIUS

Sylvia (PA-20) writes that she "stumbled onto something the other day that gave me a pretty good chuckle and thought I'd share it with others."

My wife brought home an armload of books (she never goes anywhere and comes back empty-handed). She dumped them on the coffee table and I glanced through them finding a paperback of simply huge proportions entitled LOVE SIGNS, by Linda Goodman (Fawcett Columbine, #9-0043-6), an astrological love guide. I'm not into astrology in the slightest but skimming through it I found a paragraph that tickled my funny bone. I guess, at this point, I should mention that I'm an Aquarius and the following, from page 789 under the heading "Sagittarius Women and Aquarius Men", is an obvious reference to us Aquarians:

"Many of the great minds responsible for the leaps and strides of knowledge in every area have been ruled by the progressive planet, Uranus. Fortunately for the planet Earth, we've been blessed with a fair number of Uranusaided Aquarian births, of the male and female and combined gender (Aquarius is the sign for uni-sex, so they're all 'a little of this and a little of that', which is why they're so fascinating) or we might not have progressed beyond the cave dweller stage."

So rejoice all you Aquarians, you now know why you delight in crossdressing and other "kinky" practises. Non-Aquarians will have to find another explanation. I hope all of you find this as amusing as I did.

It would be interesting to see the percentages of the various astrological signs for the GGA people. Maybe we're all Aquarians, or at least Uranus guided.

NORTON B. KNOPP

REGISTERED PSYCHOLOGIST

IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE RELOCATION
OF HIS LOOP/NORTH SIDE OFFICE TO

SUITE 807

151 N. MICHIGAN AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601

FOR THE PRACTICE OF PSYCHOTHERAPY

WIFE'S PLEA FOR HELP.

Normally letters to us are printed in the Mail Bag Column. However the following two seem, to us, to warrant special attention and therefore a special place in the Phoenix.

These letters, from two different wives, are asking for help and you AND your spouse can provide the help they seek, so sit down now and compose a helpful letter of meaningful information these woman can use in making their acceptance of the situations in which they find themselves easier.

"I was told that you are a support group for transvestites themselves and their families. I'm interested in getting any information I can in regards to any such group in my area, anything I can read or any resource I can use to help myself cope with the situation I'm in right now. I live in Greeley, Colorado (50 miles south of Denver) and resources here are limited as far as the contacts I've made. I would really appreciate hearing from someone in your organization -- you see -- I am a wife of a transvestite and am having an extremely difficult time understanding what's happening. I sincerely hope you will get in contact with me as soon as possible."

Rita
(Colorado)

"I am interested in obtaining information from transsexuals and/or their spouses who have children. My husband is a male-to-female transsexual. We are divorcing and trying to make decisions about informing children about the situation, visitation rights, etc. Our children are pre-school age. First-hand information would be most appreciated."

Elsa
(Minneapolis)

Now, here's how to direct your responses to these women. Write your letter. Seal it in an envelope. Write the name of the addressee (Rita - Greeley, CO; Elsa - Minneapolis) in the center where you would normally place the address. Place the sealed envelope in a second envelope and mail it to GGA, PO Box 62283, Sunnyvale, CA 94088. We will send the letters on as we receive them.

Don't let these women down. They are, after all, making a thoughtful attempt at resolving their situations with the best

interests of all parties involved -- not just themselves. We expect to be inundated with responses and will gladly expend the necessary postage fees.

LYDIA'S TV FASHIONS GROWS

Because of the positive response from readers and other clientele LYDIA'S TV FASHIONS has been able, in addition to retaining her mail order business, to open a store where you may go to shop and try on items before purchasing them.

Lydia is expanding her stock and soon both stylish and exotic shoes will be added to the many and varied items presently in stock or available. A new, full catalog will be available this Fall.

Lydia's is not located in "Rip Off City", as so many TV Mail Order houses are, so we are sure her prices will continue at the same reasonable level as before.

In addition to "regular TV clothing" she has added items from two new catalogs "of the exotic and bizarre items and fashions" for leather and rubber goods and B&D/S&M items.

She is planning a fashion show in October at Queen Mary's, in Studio City featuring many of the TV clothing items she handles so watch these pages for an announcement.

The store, located in Suite 8, 13837 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA 91423 is open from noon until 6:00 p.m. For those wishing to call ahead or order via telephone the number is (213) 995-7195.



CLARK - 1, ARMY - 0

(March 20). Joanna Clark's four and one-half year battle with the U.S. Army ended this past week with an out-of-court settlement and the receipt of an honorable discharge.

Clark, the first person known to serve in the military as both male and female, served seventeen years in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Naval Reserve before being honorably discharged in 1974. Following sex reassignment from male to female in 1975, she enlisted, with full disclosure of her previous sex reassignment, in the U.S. Army Reserve in February 1976, as a Sergeant First Class.

In May 1977 Clark reprimanded a subordinate for a security violation at Fort MacArthur USAR Center, San Pedro, California. Two weeks later she became the target of a character assassination which led to the voiding of her enlistment and dismissal from the Service in August of the same year.

Clark, represented by the law firm of Giles, Stewart and Barnett filed suit in Federal Court in February 1978. The complaint was dismissed without prejudice and findings in 1979. Subsequently, acting on her own behalf, Clark filed a series of administrative appeals with the Naval Discharge Review Board, Board for Correction of Naval Records, Merit Promotion Protection Board and the Board of Correction of Army Records.

In August, 1980, ACLU staff attorney Susan McGreivy and ACLU volunteer attorney Jack Cate, filed a new complaint with the U.S. Court of Claims to stop the statute of limitations from expiring on Clark's action against the U.S. Navy and Naval Reserve.

Clark's appeal before the Naval Discharge Review Board, Board of Correction of Naval Records and the Merit Promotion Protection Board were remanded to the Court for lack of jurisdiction. Her appeal before the Board of Correction of Army Records was successful. The Board confirmed that an injustice had occurred and ordered Clark be given an honorable discharge.

The constitutionality of AR 40-501, which precludes appointment, enlistment or induction of persons having undergone sex reassignment was not resolved. The complexities of Clark's case, involving the Army, Navy and Merit Protection Board made it unlikely that Clark would prevail 5

without a lengthy and costly court battle. Consequently, it was decided to accept the Army's offer and settle the matter out-of-court.

Clark resides with her parents in San Juan Capistrano, where she currently operates a word processing service and participates as an activist in civil and human rights. An ACLU volunteer, Clark chairs the ACLU Transsexual Rights Committee.

MEDICARE AND SEX REASSIGNMENT

by Joanna M. Clark

JOANNA M. CLARK & ASSOCIATES

Human Rights Advocacy Division

During the past few years there has been considerable confusion regarding whether or not Medicare will fund sex reassignment surgery and related therapies.

In 1978 the Office of General Counsel, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, reported that there were no explicit regulations prohibiting the use of federal funds for sex reassignment surgery and related therapies.

In October 1981, the Health Care Financing Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, issued Transmittal No. 883, which is referenced as 42 C.F.R. 405.310(k). The new regulation reads:

"Transsexual surgery is the culmination of a series of procedures designed to change the anatomy of persons who believe they belong to the opposite sex to conform with their believed identity. Although transsexual surgery has been performed for at least 50 years, it is still considered experimental because of the lack of long-term, properly designed studies of the outcome of the procedures demonstrating their efficiency. Moreover, there is a high rate of serious complications after surgery.

"Our decision not to cover transsexual surgery is based on the NCHCT's finding that there is a lack of well controlled long-term studies of the safety and effectiveness of the surgical procedures and attendant therapy for transsexualism; there is evidence of a high rate of serious complications of these surgical procedures; and the safety and effectiveness of transsexual surgery as a treatment for transsexualism are not proven and remain in question. The NCHCT

concluded, therefore, that transsexual surgery must be considered experimental. Their findings are based on the opinion of the National Institute of Mental Health of the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration, which conducted a literature review of the efficacy of sex change for the transsexual; an informational data base on transsexual surgery prepared under contract for HCFA by Health Information Designs, Inc.; and an NCHCT commissioned paper on the social and ethical aspects of transsexual surgery.

"Transsexual surgery for sex reassignment of transsexuals is controversial. Because of the lack of well controlled, long-term studies of the safety and effectiveness of the medical procedures and attendant therapies for transsexualism, the treatment is considered experimental. Moreover, there is a high degree of serious complications of these surgical procedures. For these reasons, transsexual surgery is not covered."

So, there you have it in a nutshell. Medicare will NOT pay for transsexual surgery.

This regulation could have been effectively blocked had there been sufficient funding available to provide a defense. Unfortunately, funding was not available and the bureaucracy scored another victory.

(Editor's Comments: It seems apparent, to us, that the crux of the denial of Medicare funding is the sentence of the above regulation which reads 'Transsexual surgery for sex reassignment of transsexuals is controversial.'

It also seems apparent that some bureaucrat decided "Since there isn't anything which prevents the expenditure of federal funds for sex reassignment surgery we had better find a reason to deny disbursement of funds to these weirdos. So, let's have some reputable contractor do a study on it for us."

And so, boys and girls, the big bad wolf in Washington D.C. contacted an unsuspecting bunch of outsiders, waved some money (actually the study completed by Health Designs, Inc. cost the taxpayer \$33,433.00) in front of them and they set to work like beavers on a new dam. And, boys and girls how did the beavers at Health Designs, Inc. find out about transsexualism, reassignment surgery and its attendant therapies?

Well, for one thing they sent a questionnaire containing 69 (coincidence?) questions to and "called upon a group of experts in relevant medical specialties (Obstetrics & Gynecology, Endocrinology, Forensic and Medicine, Psychiatry and Medical Psychology) and in the fields of Sociology and Bioethics, to provide clarification and technical direction on issues related to various aspects of transsexualism and sex reassignment surgery.

"These experts were selected because of their excellent professional reputation, technical knowledge and objectivity. Only one of the Project's consultants is currently involved in the treatment of transsexuals."

Golly, boys and girls, weren't they smart to select an objective "group of experts" who were not involved in the treatment of transsexuals? Of course, one "ringer" was slipped in, possibly to placate the TS community should this study fall into their hands. Presumably, if one is too close to, or directly involved in something their views of it tend to be subjective rather than objective (the old axiom of the lumberjack not being able to see the forest for the trees) and we wouldn't want "experts" with real knowledge of transsexualism and the transsexual as an individual participating in a study of that subject would we? After all they might arrive at a conclusion we didn't want.

We wonder, if the real intent of this effort was to provide meaningful, relevant information, why such luminaries in the fields of transsexualism and sex reassignment surgery as Paul Walker, Garrett Oppenheim, Sharon Satterfield, Drs. Biber, Huang, Wesser, etc. were not consulted. Why weren't post-ops, both successful and unsuccessful, consulted?

We obtained a copy of this report from one of our Senators in DC and have had it in our possession for over a year. The primary reason we have not brought it to your attention before this is quite simple -- everytime we open it we become so angry an objective review isn't possible and we usually have to head for the john so we can throw up without making a mess on the computer terminal keyboard.

During this year we will present sections of this study for your information and we will, of course, comment on each section as it is presented.

DEAR DOCTOR MICHELLE

by
Michelle
Williams, M.D.

The advice provided in this column is given with the understanding that the inquirer and readers MUST consult their own physicians for medical attention.



(If you have any medical questions which may be related to your crossdressing or transsexual lifestyle address them to Dear Doctor, c/o GGA, PO Box 62283, Sunnyvale, CA 94088.)

Dear Doctor Michelle,

Will birth control pills help me? Are they dangerous?

Sister Mary Ann (PA)

Dear Sister Mary Ann,

You're 47 years old in good health with no serious medical problems. Birth control pills, while containing minimum amounts of estrogen, may be of use to you. In his book, THE TRANSSEXUAL PHENOMENON, Dr. Harry Benjamin recommends hormonal therapy for more comfort from stress in the Grade 4 Crossdresser (a serious TV or borderline TS). Since I know you are borderline between a very serious TV and a questionable TS. I think some mild hormone therapy, such as birth control pills, would be useful to you. The action of these hormones is relatively light but should be appreciated. You may find a slight to moderate degree of nipple tenderness and minimal growth. The birth control pill absolutely will not cause the development of female breasts, but you will have a degree of sensitivity in that area. It will also probably make you feel better about yourself in addition to slightly reducing the amount of circulating testosterone and thus helping to calm, to a slight degree, your aggressiveness. It will bring you much pleasure by being able to take a very feminine medicine.

I think you will also have to consider

the "placebo effect" of the pill. If I were to present you with a sealed package of "birth control" pills which really contained nothing but sugar pills you would derive some benefit from that -- the psychological benefit would still be there -- and you would not experience any risk. The risks of the birth control pill are slight for you. Basically I state to women when I give them The Pill that it is 15 times less likely to kill them than having a baby is. It is, relatively, a very safe medicine.

Now, considering that you do not have many of the anatomical risks that a female does when she takes these pills the risks are very slight for you. Also you have testosterone which will counteract many effects of the pill. I think, for a healthy FTM crossdresser, the pill has very few risks. However, should you develop diabetes, high blood pressure, or liver disease I would, based on laboratory studies, recommend immediate discontinuance of the pill. Prior to commencing taking the pill I strongly recommend having a full physical examination and lab studies to rule out any of the problems that would make the pill more hazardous.

Dear Doctor Michelle,

I am 54 years old and a long-term crossdresser. I have not had a physical examination in 10 years -- I'm afraid to do so because I've had full body electrolysis and I'm afraid the doctor doing the examination would ask embarrassing questions. I'm very well known in my community and cannot afford the risk of embarrassment. Can you help me?

Betty
Provincetown, MA

Dear Betty,

Your situation is not all that unusual. Many crossdressers are embarrassed about showing a doctor their feminine nature. In most cases the doctor never notices since he/she is looking for things other than signs of crossdressing. Besides, very few doctors are knowledgeable enough to put the pieces together to come up with the picture of a crossdresser. I would suggest that unless you had a bikini line on your tan your doctor probably would not figure it out.

However, if you really do need a physical my suggestion is to contact a

gay physician in your area through the local gay newspaper. Gay physician's groups exist in every major metropolitan area of this country and a gay physician, in addition to probably being an excellent doctor, will probably be very understanding about your problem. I would have no reservation at all about asking a Gay Physician's group in your area for someone to see. Explain the problem in confidence and I'm certain you will find a physician with whom you can be comfortable.

Doctor Michelle

(Note: Betty did come to see me and during the examination I found high blood pressure which was somewhat serious. I have been treating her for better than a year and Louise's risk of having a stroke have been reduced considerably and she is now under the care of an understanding physician in her own area.)

Dear Doctor Michelle,

At the insistence of my wife I recently had a psychiatric evaluation done at a major university center here in Philadelphia. The physician in charge diagnosed my condition as transvestism (a 3 on the Benjamin scale of 6) and suggested I undergo a long course of psychotherapy in order to cure this condition. He said it would take between 2 and 4 years of weekly visits to attain this end. What is your opinion?

Phyllis
Philadelphia

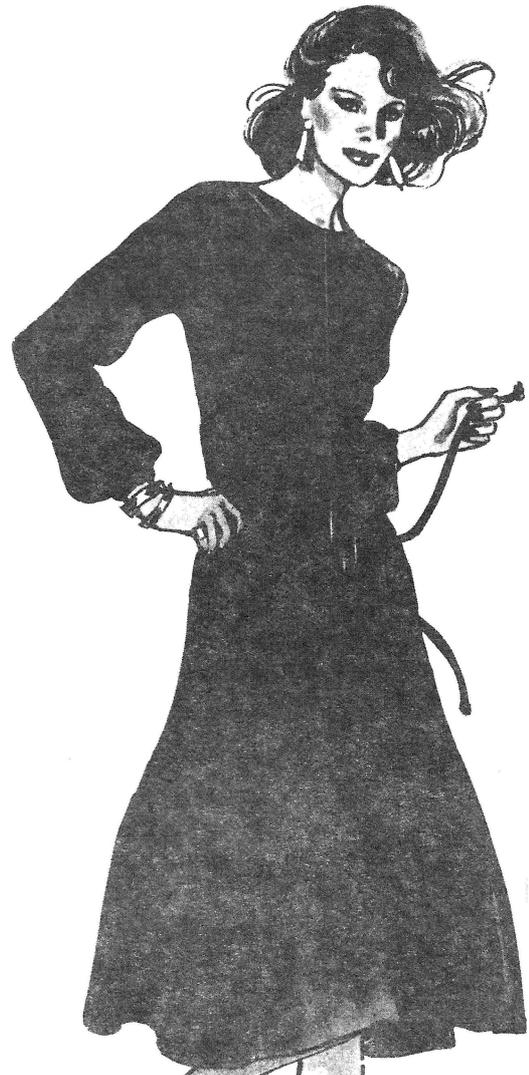
Dear Phyllis,

Though the psychiatrist of whom you're speaking is well regarded in his field I believe, in your case, he is off base.

In the first place if you don't want to be cured of the transvestism -- most of us don't since crossdressing is one of the great joys of our lives -- the psychotherapy will not work. Unless there is some other condition, outside of crossdressing, for which you really do require therapy I don't think it is advisable.

You are a well adjusted TV living in a marriage situation where your crossdressing is not accepted. I believe a better solution for you is to join a group, such as our Chapter, and put yourself in the company of others who share your feelings and can provide you with reassurance and companionship.

Psychotherapy would attempt to convince you that crossdressing is wrong or that it is bad for you. The behavior modification techniques which would be used could be ultimately more damaging to your psyche than almost certainly is crossdressing which, in and of itself, is a healthy variation of human sexuality. There is nothing wrong with crossdressing, rather the society in which we live is wrong by placing a moral judgment on those of us who crossdress. Your marriage situation seems to be the problem and the resolution will have to come in another way than for you to cease crossdressing. Frankly, I doubt seriously that you will be able to stop completely and for all time.





DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
8757 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring MD 20910

April 19, 1982

Ms. Georgia L. Saunders
Executive Secretary
Gateway Gender Alliance
P. O. Box 62283
Sunnyvale, California 94088

Dear Ms. Saunders:

This is in response to your letter of March 22, 1982, regarding the Electroh hair removal device.

The Electroh is an electric tweezer epilator. It is the opinion of the Bureau that electric tweezer epilators are no more effective than mechanical tweezers. Further, we have seen no well controlled scientific documentation to show that these types of devices will result in permanent hair removal. Since evidence is lacking, the conclusion of the Bureau is that claims for such effectiveness have no basis in fact.

I trust this answers your inquiry.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James N. Chantler".

James N. Chantler
Division of Compliance Operations
Bureau of Medical Devices

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CHAPTER CHATTER

WINDY CITY CHAPTER (Chicago). Only 39 people attended the April 14th meeting at the Lite Factory (much to the chagrin of Sharon, the Prez). The usual short business part of the meeting was followed by a talk by Linda Walker, visiting from the PHI Chapter of Philadelphia. Kimberly Khuen, who operates the clothing resale shop, Lipstick and Threads at 3016 N. Southport, described the services she offers (clothing for sale, make-over and shopping for people). A floor show presented by the girls of the Lite Factory cast followed the meeting.

A costume party with the theme of "Oldies, but Goodies" is scheduled for July 2nd. Attendees are encouraged to wear either styles from the '50s or "a prom gown". There will be a catered buffet and a special floor show. Admission to this special event is \$3.00 per person.

A Hawaiian Luau is planned for August 18th so plan now to wear your sarong -- or Muu Muu.

tended by eight lovely ladies from the NJ-NY Area. It was voted that since air-conditioning is available meetings will continue throughout the summer.

It was also adopted that the shorts and halters would be worn at the June meeting; bathing suits would be worn at the July meeting and we look forward to seeing you in your finest lingerie and sleepwear at the August meeting.

A meal of rolls and butter, vegetables, baked macaroni, and chicken cacciatore was served. Desert was a selection of jello, chocolate eclairs and/or chocolate cake. Our heartiest thanks go to Jane's wife, Arlene, for the preparation of the meal. She doesn't realize she is forcing the ladies to go on a diet for the rest of the month (but it's worth it).

Again, as usual, an enjoyable time was had by all attendees with parting wishes of seeing each other at the next meeting.

We'll try to acquaint you with some of the ladies via photographs in future editions of the Phoenix.



PHI CHAPTER - PHILADELPHIA. As you can see by the picture all the Chapter meetings are well attended. Things are going well and looking up for this Chapter. If you are in the Philadelphia Area and not attending meetings it's your loss.

NU CHAPTER - NORTHERN NJ. The regular monthly meeting of the NU Chapter was held on Saturday, May 1st, at Jane's house in Linden, NJ. The meeting was at-



The Phoenix Monthly-International

COMING ATTRACTIONS

**** NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA **** GATEWAY GENDER ALLIANCE

Meeting time at each location: 8 PM.
SAN FRANCISCO: 2nd Wednesday.* SAN JOSE: 1st & 3rd Friday.*

*A donation of \$2.00 requested!
Write PO Box 62283, Sunnyvale, 94088 or call (408) 734-3773 for information on specific meeting locations.

OTHER GROUPS

PACIFIC CENTER, 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley. 1st & 3rd Wednesday rap sessions. Last Friday, special topic or guest speaker. Meeting time: 7:30 'til 10:00pm

BI-SEXUAL CENTER. Rap sessions from 7:30 each Tuesday and Wednesday (\$3.00 donation is requested). For specific information write PO Box 26227, San Francisco, 94126 or call (415) 929-9299.

SOCIETY of JANUS. For those "into" or seeking adventure in S&M. For information concerning meetings and events write PO Box 6794, San Francisco, 94101.

**** SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA ****

SALMACIS: Unstructured social get-together on the second Saturday of each month. 7:30 pm. Contact Lynn or Ann (213) 241-9093.

SHANGRI-LA: First Saturday each month, 5-11 pm. Call (714) 834-0928 or write PO Box 18202, Irvine, CA 92713 for information.

MISSION VIEJO AREA: Gender Dysphoria Program for Orange County. Informational brochure "For the Record" - \$2.00. Contact Joanna M. Clark, 31815 Camino Capistrano, Suite L, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675. Group counseling: Dana Point facility on the 2nd & 4th Mondays; San Juan Capistrano facility 1st and 3rd Mondays.

SAN DIEGO AREA. Contact W Thomas, Post Office Box 99732, San Diego, CA 92109 for information on meeting times, dates and place.

**** COLORADO ****

TV/TS GROUP: Meeting every Monday, 8 pm. Members begin assembling about 7:30 so often no seats are left, so early arrival is suggested. Programs of primary interest to crossdressers are presented on even dated Mondays; programs of primary interest to persons in transition are presented on alternate Mondays. Location: corner of 11th Avenue and Filmore, Cherry Creek Area of southwest Denver. Call (303) 830-7353 for specific information.

**** CONNECTICUT ****

HARRIET LANE'S "The TV Set". Private facilities. Parties 2nd & 4th Saturday. Contact Harriet Lane, Post Office Box 2, Yalesville Station, Wallingford 06402 or call (203) 288-1166 for party information.

**** DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ****

DELTA CHI CHAPTER (GGA): Sandy Machin, Post Office Box 11254, Lincolnia Station, Alexandria, VA 22312.

CAPITOL CHAPTER (GGA) (Balt-DC Area): Lisa Rouse, Post Office Box 218, Burtonsville, MD 20703.

ACADEMY AWARDS (Drag-gay): Carl Rizzi 1015 S. Quebec St. (#9), Arlington, VA 22204.

**** FLORIDA ****

SUCCESS CHAPTER (GGA) Meetings on the 2nd Saturday of each odd numbered month. Contact Susan Armstrong, PO Box 1601, Pinellas Park, 33565.

**** GEORGIA ****

ATLANTA TransPersons Group. Meets in the Atlanta Gay Center, 931 Ponce deLeon each Tuesday. Time: 7:30. TS/TVs, wives/lovers welcome. Primarily a rap group. Call 876- 5327 for information.

**** ILLINOIS ****

WINDY CITY CHAPTER (GGA). Mailing address PO Box 2312, Chicago, IL 60690 or call (312) 472-4518 for the location.

Meeting time 8:00. Meeting schedule:

July 2nd - Oldies, but Goodies Costume Party.

July 28th regular meeting.

August 18th - Hawaiian Luau Party

CHI CHAPTER (Tri-S). Donna Martin, Post Office Box 218, Markham, IL 60426

**** MASSACHUSETTS ****

BOSTON AREA

TIFFANY CLUB: Tuesdays & Saturdays, 7-11 pm. Very attractive private facilities with overnights. GGA members welcome. Write Tiffany Club, PO Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778 or call (617) 358-5575.

KAY-MAYFLOWER SOCIETY: Every Wednesday, 7-11 pm. For information call (617) 254-7389.

CAPE COD AREA

TS SUPPORT GROUP: Contact Rachia Heyelman, PO Box 25, S. Orleans, 02662 for information.

**** MICHIGAN ****

CROSSROADS: Irregular meeting schedule. For additional information send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Grace Bacon, PO Box 3013, Flint, 48502.

Meetings: July 10 To be announced

**** NEW JERSEY ****

NU CHAPTER (GGA) (Northern NJ):

Meetings: 1st Saturday of each month. Facilities for changing on premises. Doors open at 6 p.m. and meetings run 'til ?. For specific information call (201) 540-0042 after 6 p.m. or (201) 925-6067 between 2 and 7 p.m. Ask for Jim.

**** NEW YORK AREA ****

GGA CHAPTER, NEW YORK CITY

Muriel Olive, 157 W. 57th St., Suite 601, NYC, 10019. Meetings: 2nd Saturday of each month. A facility for changing is available for those members needing it. Members may arrive anytime after 4:30 but the meetings start at 7:00 and run 'til 11:30ish.

ALBANY-TVIC. Meeting every 3rd Saturday. Contact Wm. Thordsen, 1104 Broadway, Albany 12200 for specific information.

**** OHIO ****

PARADISE CLUB.(Akron Area) Contact: Paradise Club. PO Box 24363, Cleveland, OH 44124. Reservations required as meetings are held at a motel and a room is often required for an overnight stay.

Meeting Schedule:

June 19th; August 21st; October 23rd; December 11th.

**** OREGON (OR) ****

NORTHWEST CHAPTER (GGA). Regular monthl meetings. For information concerning activities in the NW Area contact Olivia Perel, PO Box 13173, Portland OR 97213

**** PENNSYLVANIA ****

PI CHAPTER (GGA) (Pittsburgh Area)
Contact Patricia L. McDermott, PO Box 576, Export, 15632.

PGH CHAPTER (GGA) (Pittsburgh Area)
Contact Rachel Osman, PO Box 16080, Pittsburgh, PA 15242.

PHI CHAPTER (GGA) (Philadelphia Area.)
Contact Michelle Williams, PO Box 322, Collingswood, NJ 08108.

N.E.PA-GGA (Dallas/Scranton Area.)
Meetings: Third Saturday of the month beginning in Sept. '82

Contact Kathy Hivish, PO Box 268, Dallas, PA 18612.

**** RHODE ISLAND ****

HALCYON SOCIETY (Tiffany Club R.I.) Meeting 1st Saturday each month - 7pm. Contact: Occupant, PO Box 143, N. Kingston, RI 02852. Call (617) 678-0609.

**** TEXAS ****

SOUTHWEST CHAPTER, (GGA) Galveston. Galveston. Contact Alice (713) 763-6227 for meeting information.

**** VIRGINIA ****

HAMPTON RAOUS CHAPTER (GGA) N. Cooper, S-180, P.O. Box 2400, Virginia Beach, 23452

**** WISCONSIN ****

WISCONSIN TV NETWORK. Contact Post Office Box 813, Madison, 53701.

**** CANADA ****

CANADIAN COORDINATOR (GGA). Information on Canadian TV/TS activities. Write Linda T. O'Connell, Box 27, University Center, UOM, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 1N2

TORONTO CHAPTER (GGA). Individuals interested in increasing the membership of this Chapter should contact Yvonne King, (416) 298-7540.

WINNIPEG CHAPTER (GGA). Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Friday each month. Contact Linda T. O'Connell, Box 27, University Center, UOM, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 1N2.

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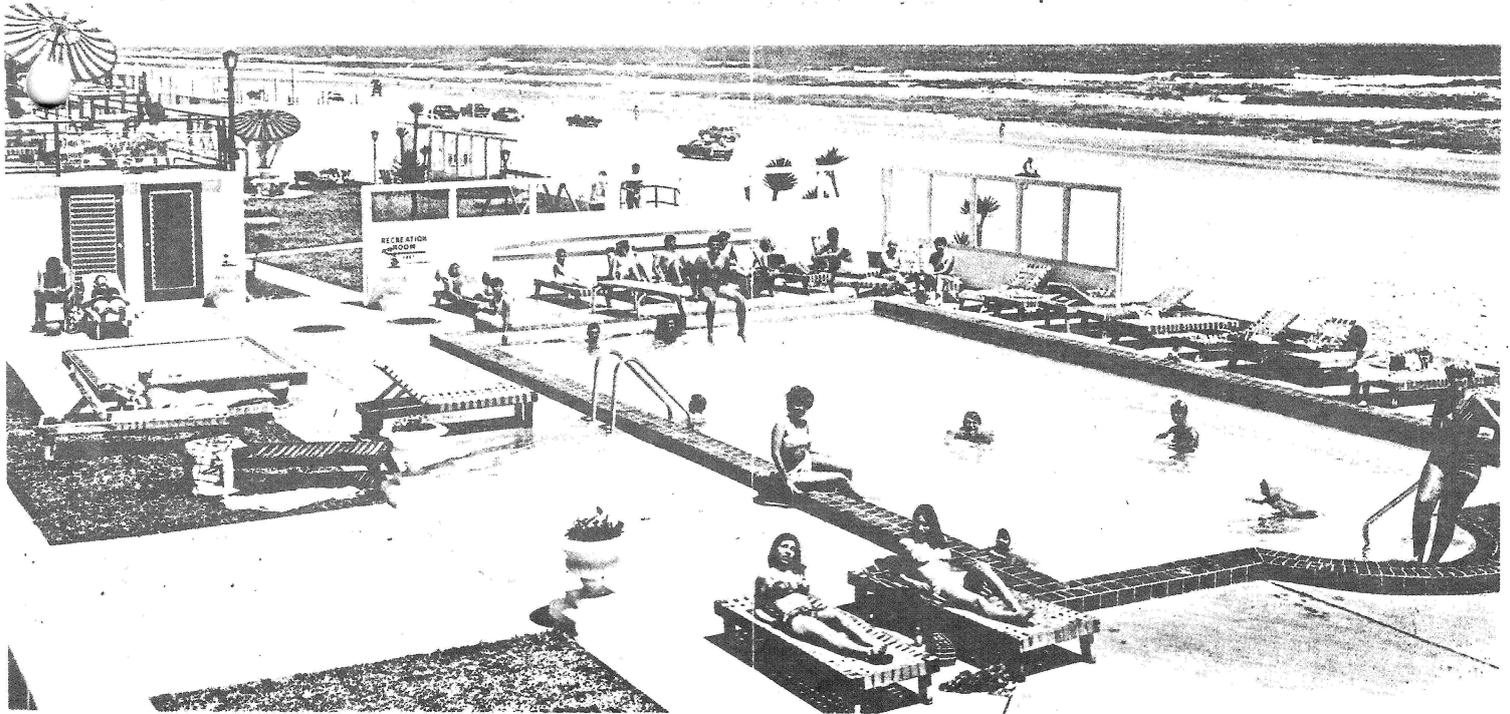
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