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The Madeline Davis Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual,  
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8-1998

August 1998

Buffalo Belles

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# BUFFALO BELLES



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AUGUST '98

SISTERS IN CHARGE:  
JEAN H.  
CAMILLE H.  
PATTI J.  
KATHY LORRAINE

Hi, girlfriends!

*This is going to be quick and short. Our July meeting on the 11th found ten members chatting, discussing, laughing and generally having a good time. Our agenda was comprised of a discussion of the upcoming Annual Picnic, to be held on Saturday, August 1 at 7:00pm. Please, if you come bring a simple dish (homemade or store purchased) to pass around. Please no potato salad, ladies. We're well covered in that category. If you can't think of anything to bring, just bring yourself and enjoy the evening. Do try to get there early. We also talked about establishing a regular "Issues Discussion" at our meetings for those of us who wish to discuss/inquire/explore ideas, lifestyles, family matters, gender issues, etc. Any topic could be considered. We'll get the ball rolling at our September meeting.*

*The other topic discussed was the trip to Toronto. That will take place the weekend of September 19-20. We'll start our adventure at the Colony Hotel in the downtown area. It's situated right around the block from City Hall and a few blocks from the Eaton Center. A great location for easy access to the many sights and sounds of this very TG friendly city. Our arrival at the hotel on Saturday morning will give us ample time to shop, if that is your preference. Or there are many museums and other must see areas and sites (CN tower, Science Center, Chinatown, Kensington Market) to amuse and entertain. In the evening we'll dine at Pimblett's and then on to Toronto nightlife. Sunday brunch at the hotel and then we'll head home. And for those who haven't rid themselves of the shopping bug, a stop at the Niagara Factory Outlet Mall may turn up a bargain or two.*

*So think it over and let me know no later than the Belles meeting on September 5. We will need to know how many will be going so we can make reservations. Any questions regarding this trip can be directed to me or the hotline.*

*Well, gotta run. Hope you're enjoying the summer. See you at the picnic. (August First-ed.)*

*Hugs, Camille*

## JULY MEETING ATTENDANCE:

Jean H.  
Patti J.  
Colleen R.  
Michelle G.

Joy S.  
Camille H.  
Susan R.

Karoline  
Vaughn (also made June meeting)  
Donna S.

Dear Sisters,  
 Yes, it is me. Dragged off the golf course and out of retirement to put together a newsletter once more. The wench down in the printshop is given voice once again. So to speak.

One last 'cut and paste' newsletter, before next month. Camille will premier her all computerized version. Assuming that when she returns home from her latest vacation/travels, her new computer will be awaiting her and actually work! And her too.

Speaking of computers, I recently dumped my address book and may have lost some of you. (E-mail addresses only!). Since it has been awhile since we last ran the list, now seems like a good time to do it again. If you are missing and wish to be added, drop me some a note.

ALLYSON- ALLYSONN@TGFORUM.COM

CAMILLE- camille.h@mailexcite.com

DANA D.-SUZIECAB@aol.com

JEAN H.- jean1ts@aol.com

MICHELLE G.- WJG1970@aol.com

KATHY L.-kathylorr@aol.com

**AUGUST MEETING:** Just a week away, the FIRST, our annual picnic meeting. This is usually one of the finest meetings of the year, (Christmas being the other). The grill will be going, the weather has always cooperated in the past, the gardens should be full floral glory for picture taking. Please think of taking along your spouse, as this meeting has often been one that brings them out, more than any other.

If you want to know something specific to bring along to pass around, contact Patti. Otherwise, just wing it.

**DEEPEST SYMPATHY:** Our hearts go out to Michelle G., who recently lost her father.

**SEPTEMBER MEETING:** on the Fifth, will be our sixth anniversary! Denise Miller had taken it upon herself that summer to get a Tri-Ess chapter going in WNY. She had secured our meeting place and sent out invitations to the first meeting. Denise met Janice at that year's Be-All and another set of prospective members was added to the list.

As they say, the rest is herstory. Attending that first meeting in September '92 was Denise, Jean, Kelly, Janice, Dana, and Connie Lee.

One of the things Denise did in starting the group was to send out a questionnaire about what the girls would like to be about, do, when, where etc. May is time to do that once again. So with next month's newsletter will be a questionnaire about what you want and what you will do. We have grown quite stale lately. We used to do many more activities than we have in the last couple of years. Perhaps all you want is just a safe place to go once a month and dress up. Not that there is anything wrong with that. Or have so many of us gotten so comfortable with the notion of going out in public, that special times and places aren't necessary.

**ATTENDANCE RECORD:** Just how the heck did I know who was at that first meeting anyways? Being the anal. retentive type personality, I've kept a record of members and meeting attendance for years. No computer necessary, just a sheet of notebook paper, pencil and ruler to make some lines, and you've got it. Here is a copy of the current sheet. Hope it copies OK. Find your name and look across and you see how many meetings you attended in a given year. Current members are highlighted. '98 is shown by month. There is sort of a hierarchy, as you are entered when you make your debut. The last two columns are total and place. From this we have Jean in first place by two meetings over Janice, Patti, myself, and Colleen for the first five. It is also easy to pick out other things, like our Bad Girls of the Year. Those who haven't made a meeting this year! Denise, Linda, Tammy, Caty and Cleo feel shame and come on by and sin no more!

There is another group of girls who never get any recognition, those who don't attend meetings for what ever reason. Our membership total is back up to 41 now. So a special hug to these sisters we haven't had the chance to meet yet: Alison, Carolyn Ann, Elaine, Francis R., Jackie T., Jamie, Jean W., Kim, Lisa, Marcia, Renee F., Robin, Sharon S. Then again, there are a few more out there who attended in the past but didn't make one in 97 to carry to the current list! You know who you are!

	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	TOTAL	PLACE		
Denise M.	3	7	8	7	6	5	3	3												36	7		
Jean H.	7	8	11	12	12	11	5	5												59	1		
Janice	3	8	11	11	10	12	5	5												57	2		
Patti J.	1	5	10	10	12	12	5	5												56	3		
Holly I.	1	7	8	6	6	6	3	3												33	8		
Renee K.	1	6	4	5	5	3	2	2												(24)	(107)		
Dana D.	1	4	7	7	8	5	3	3												37	6		
Kathy L.		7	12	11	11	6	4	4												(51)	(4)		
Linda V.		3	4	3	0	1	1	1												12	16		
Tammy Z.		6	7	5	5	1	2	2												24	10		
Colleen R.		5	11	8	6	8	3	3												42	5	Kathleen CALVIN	
Kathryn Y.				4	6	10	20													(20)			
Michelle F.				4	6	8	18													20	11		
Joy S.					6	6	12													14	14	Lill	
Becky Angella A.					6	10	16													19	12		
Camille H.					7	12	19													26	9		
Susan R.					2	11	13													18	13		
Alicia					1	5	6													(6)		Dorothy	
Sharon C.					1	4	5													(5)			
Crystal F.					2	8	10													13	15	Tanya	
Sharon F.						9	9													11	17		
Carol S.						3	3																
Kendrak K.						3																	
Caty						3	3													3	2		
Brenda						3	3															Judy	
Cleo						2														2	23		
Katharine						2	2													4	21		
Vaughn						2	2													9	18		
Donna S.						1	1													5	20		
Debbie						1	1													6	19		
'98 DEBUTANTS SO FAR																							
Alison							0													1			
Allyson							0													1			
Celeste							0													1			

guests  
 girls

Brenda

Brenda  
 Cindy

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### Just because he plays soccer in ballet slippers does that make him a weirdo?

My son is a cross-dresser. Most mornings he gets up, puts on a hand-me-down dress stolen from his sister, wraps an old white pillowcase around his head with a ribbon (his "long blond hair") and prances around singing, "The hills are alive with the sound of music." My son is 3 and a half years old.

At the toy store, he does not want Batman. "I want a Batgirl doll," he cries. When he begs to play with his friend Margo, it is not because he likes her better than his best friends Billy and Andrew, she just has more to offer -- like an extensive collection of Barbie dolls and a whole wardrobe of little clothes he can dress them in

He loves preschool -- partly for the teachers, somewhat for the other children, but mostly for its wonderful selection of tutus, fancy party shoes and pretend jewelry. His grandmother (my mother) received the shock of her life when she went to pick him up one day and he was wearing a blue tutu with beaded gold slippers. The other mothers laugh and tell me he is such a thespian. The teacher tells my husband and me that he is "highly in touch with his feminine side."

If we only had to worry about preschool, life would be fine -- but his grandparents (on both sides), his aunts and uncles, his baby sitter and just about everybody else are up in arms. "Boys should be playing baseball, not Barbie," my mother-in-law exclaims. "I was so embarrassed," complains my mother after the harrowing tutu incident. "He keeps taking my daughter's Cinderella slippers!" my neighbor told my other neighbor who told me. The older siblings of his friends have called him an oddball, a weirdo and generally not normal. Adults tend to be more subtle with questions like: "So when do you think he will grow out of it?" or "How does your husband feel about it?"

I have tried to explain to each of them that my son approaches life with a unique flair. While he loves soccer, he often plays it wearing a silk cape that flutters in the wind when he runs. Playing with

his cars takes on new dimensions when he acts out both the "damsel in distress" and the "sheriff to the rescue" role, alternating hats to represent each character. My husband can't wait for Little League to start because he sees a little slugger in our son who can already hit the ball out of our relatively large backyard. Our son also can't wait to play baseball, but for a different reason: He says that cleats "are just like tap shoes."

Thankfully his preschool teacher has assured us that he is simply "evolved." "I wish all of my children were as well-balanced as your little boy," she told us at our first parent-teacher conference. "I love the way he plays cowboys and Indians wearing his favorite ballet slippers." She credits our "nonjudgmental and accepting parenting" for his creative expression. Frankly, I was a little relieved. So he is not a weirdo -- he is "evolved." I wish I could take credit for this, but it is all of his own creation.

Interestingly, no one seems the least bit disturbed about our friend (I will call her Gillian). At 5 and a half years old, she refuses to wear dresses, plays T-ball and soccer and is proving quite skilled at climbing trees. She has more cuts and bruises as a result of roughhousing with her older brothers than my husband claims he ever received playing varsity college football. Gillian, I am told, is a tomboy. "Isn't she cute," a friend exclaimed to me when we were at Gillian's house for a Sunday barbecue. (My son was inside watching "Pocahontas" with two girls.) And my son is not cute when he dresses up and reenacts the glass slipper scene from "Cinderella"?

If Gillian is a tomboy because she likes to do boylike things, what then is my son who likes to do girl-like things -- a janegirl? As far as I can tell there is no equivalent in the English language (at least there is not one in my Webster's Dictionary). More important, there is no acceptable behavioral equivalent.

I have begun to ask myself what is normal? My son loves trucks, cars and trains. He plays for hours with his Brio train set while wearing his sister's striped dress. He is very affectionate and

will frequently tell his friends he loves them with a hug. Last fall, during those terrible twos, he was accused of being a bully because he bit a girl at the playground. How can a child go from bully to sissy in a mere nine months?

I am coming to realize that while our sex-role stereotypes have expanded for girls, they have not for boys; there seems to be no acceptable cross-gender equivalent. A gay friend of mine claims all of the uproar is a homophobic response to my son's actions. "I remember loving to dress up and put on makeup, too," my friend tells me with a knowing glance. He is only 3 and a half years old, I remind my friend -- a little early to be defining his sexual preferences.

The feminist revolution appears to have successfully helped foster an environment that makes it "cool" to be a girl. Much research is being done to ensure that girls are encouraged to excel in math and science, overcome the repression of adolescence and, with luck, one day be more than tokens on boards of directors across the land. I am thrilled. Trust me; I have a 1-year-old daughter. I want her to understand and respect her power, her opportunity, her femaleness. But what about my son? I would like him to be able to respect his power, his opportunity and his maleness even as he explores his feminine side.

It's not just in my house that the days of "boys will be boys" are over. A few months ago, the Wall Street Journal ran an article that claimed prescriptions for Ritalin were at an all-time high and increasingly, boys are expected to be less rambunctious and more docile (that is, more girl-like). And a guest commentator on an NPR program about youth violence expressed concern that the rise in the births of boys would result in a coming "deluge of testosterone-laden young men" creating havoc in our society. My mind reels: Is the conclusion that a 3-and-a-half-year-old should be more like a boy but a 12-year-old should be more like a girl?

I have to admit, sometimes I am embarrassed by my son's behavior. His declaration to my father-in-law that he wants to be a ballet dancer when he

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grows up almost created a family feud. When the father of one of his preschool classmates unintentionally called him a girl (he was wearing the favorite blue tutu, mind you), I cringed just a little. And I am often confused about the messages I'm sending him. I don't mind if he wants to wear lipstick to a birthday party -- "Mom, you wear lipstick when you dress up!" he reminds me -- but how do I protect him from the inevitable taunting that will occur as he ages?

I come back to my original question: what is normal? Sadly, my husband and I are learning all too early that the constraints of normality are very narrow indeed. Happily, my son, who at the moment is pretending to be Belle from "Beauty and the Beast," adorned with his favorite pearl necklace and earring ensemble I gave him for his birthday, does not yet know this. With luck and a little parental intervention, he won't for a very long time.

Written by Lisen Stromberg

Reprinted from Salon, May 27, 1998

### *JUST DUCKIE:*

*It's getting so you can't even take a bath without worrying that you'll go in as a man and come out as a woman. In Europe, plastic ducks are reportedly being banned from bathtubs out of fear that they might cause cancer or sex changes in children. According to the London Evening Standard, plastic ducks have been outlawed in Denmark, Austria, and Spain, with other countries set to follow. The demonic ducks apparently contain a small dose of phthalate, a chemical used to soften plastic in teething rings and inflatable swimming pools. Some experts claim the chemical might be linked to tumors and sex changes in fish. The toy industry dismisses the charges as absurd, but maybe this explains why all those British comedy troupes whose members dress as women.*

From Off-Kilter

Written by Roy Rivenburg, Time Staff Writer

Los Angeles Times, May 20, 1998,

Provided by Lois Fulmer

Someone e-mailed me this and it's about the best TG joke I've seen. Hope you like it!

This lawyer was so fanatical about his golf game that he played every day. One morning after he had completed the first hole and was just about to tee off on the second, he noticed the most gorgeous woman he had ever seen putting alone on the first green. The lawyer waited until the woman had reached the second tee and asked if she would like to join him and finish the round together. To his surprise the woman agreed and they played the remaining holes.

Not only was this woman beautiful, she was also a good golfer and gave the lawyer a very competitive match. When they completed their round, the lawyer told the woman that, not only was he a lawyer, but he was also a cordon bleu chef and wine buff. He invited her back to his place for a meal and a few drinks. The woman accepted enthusiastically and off they went. Back at the house the lawyer cooked a magnificent meal. In fact it was more than just cooking - it was a performance to behold. They enjoyed good food, good wine and good conversation. After the meal, the woman repaid the lawyer with the best oral sex he had ever experienced.

Provided by Christine Burns

Originally from Reuters

Tehran - A film about an Iranian who resorts to cross-dressing in an effort to emigrate to the United States has come under fire from Islamic militants opposed to the government's liberal policies permitting the screening.

Residents and newspapers said groups of militants over the past week attacked cinemas showing the Iranian film "Snowman" in several cities, including Isfahan, Shiraz and Rasht. The daily newspaper Salam said a group of militants from the Ansar-e Hizbollah (Supporters of God's Party) attacked viewers leaving a cinema in Isfahan, including a disabled veteran from the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

The violence was the latest in a series of recent incidents across the Islamic republic in which militants attacked cinemas showing the film

The lawyer was so taken by the beauty and skill of this woman that he desired her to no end. He asked if she would like to play golf the following morning, to which she agreed. Once again they enjoyed a great game of very competitive golf, a magnificent evening meal and once more the lawyer received sensational oral sex. This went on for three weeks when the lawyer finally said, "Listen, the golf and the company have been fantastic, but there is only so much oral sex a man can take. When are we going to have sexual intercourse?"

"We can't," said the woman.

"Why not?" cried the lawyer.

"Because I'm a transvestite," replied the woman.

"YOU BITCH!" screamed the lawyer. "I can't believe that you've been playing off the ladies' tees for the last three weeks!"

Hugs Stephe :-)

Stephe's T\* Home

<http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Heights/8187><BR>

The actions target attempts by the new moderate President Mohammad Khatami to ease censorship and fly in the face of his stated policies to reinforce the rule of law in Iran.

The black comedy, directed by Davoud Mirbaqeri and called "Adam Barfi" in Persian, shows a man disguising himself as a woman with heavy make-up in the hope of marrying an American and emigrating to the country of his dreams.

It has been attacked as immoral by the militants, despite its politically correct ending in which the man falls in love with an Iranian woman and both return to their homeland. The daily Salam said militants in Isfahan tore down posters at the cinema and stopped the screening of "Snowman."

"Although the film is authorized and is being shown in 22 cities throughout Iran, the attackers threatened to set the cinema on fire so we were forced to stop showing it," the manager of Qods cinema in Isfahan told Salam.

The film is being shown in 18 cinemas in Tehran alone, where tickets have been sold out for several days in advance.

Iran's Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Mohammad Mohajerani authorized the showing of "Snowman," which his predecessor had banned. Asked about the incident in Isfahan, Mohajerani said police later detained the troublemakers, who had acted illegally, and the cinema had reopened.

He said such incidents were good publicity for the film, Iran's top box office hit this year. But Salam on Saturday quoted Ayatollah Jalaeddin Taheri, a moderate senior cleric who leads Friday prayers in Isfahan, as criticizing police, intelligence ministry and provincial officials for not putting a stop to instances of militants taking the law into their own hands. In related incidents, the Salam paper said Ansar-e Hizbollah members stormed the Guidance Ministry headquarters in Isfahan on Tuesday, threatening female staff. The office's director-general had filed a lawsuit against the intruders, it said.

The group also attacked the Sadr theology school in Isfahan the following day, beating up two clerics and damaging the school, the paper said.

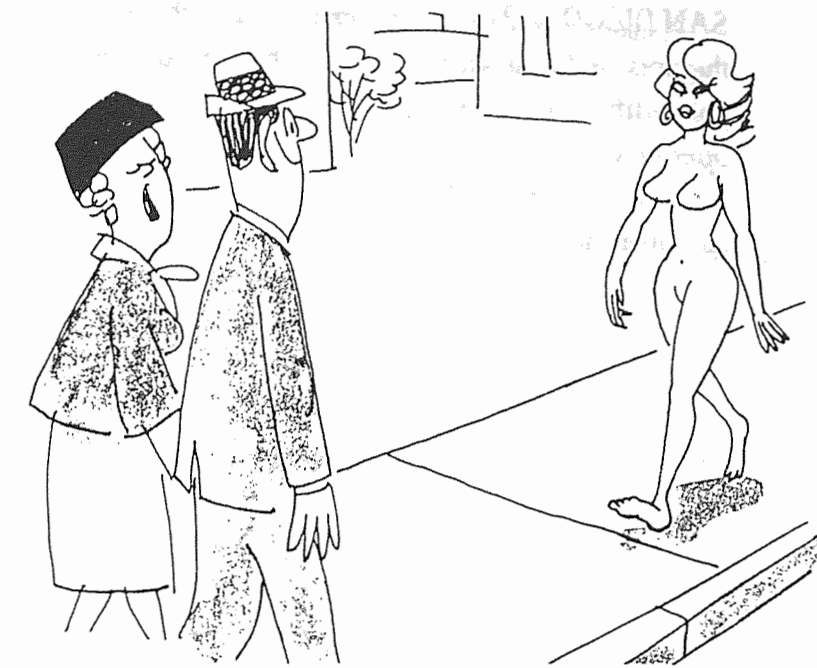
"We have identified the members of the group and informed the police", a security official told Salam.

Ansar-e Hizbollah members have also recently attacked the offices of Salam and Navid magazine in Isfahan, a library at Isfahan university, and the houses of a clergyman and a university lecturer, the daily said

"I love seeing the drag queens do me. It's such a compliment. The new album is full of songs the impersonators are going to jump all over. I can't wait to see what they do with 'Real Woman.'"

"You're going to have a field day with it!"

--Singer Gloria Estefan to Chicago's Windy City Times, May 21.



"Oh, that's just our neighbor, Mr. Blithers, walking in his dreams again."

The Woman Who Worries about Everything Proposes a Modest Solution

At first I was shocked and saddened when Democrats began deserting the party in droves to become Republicans,



But now I'm irritated. It's too easy for these politicians to wimp out. Shouldn't we make switching parties at least as difficult as changing your sex?

I think Democrats who want to become Republicans should be required to cross dress as well. At the very least...



It means more women in Congress.



TRAGEDY IN SAN DIEGO, recently there was a story in the national news about a murder-suicide with a "man dressed as a woman" as the culprit. Here is the AP Newswire account and a follow up by Gwen Smith.

SAN DIEGO (AP) - A transsexual fatally shot his therapist and then himself because the woman would not certify him as mentally ready for a sex-change operation, police said Thursday.

The man, who dressed as a woman, made an appointment with therapist Rita Powers on Wednesday, apparently with the intent to kill her, Sgt. Bob Lopez said. "He obviously knew what he was going to do because he came armed," he said.

The bodies of Powers and the 26-year-old man were found Wednesday night in a hallway at the Cognitive Therapy Institute two hours after gunfire was reported at the office building. The shooter, whose identity has not been released, had been seeing Powers for nearly a year while seeking an operation to surgically alter his gender, Lopez said. "He needed a letter of approval from his therapist and apparently she was not willing to give that approval," Lopez said. "That appears to be the motive."

Police didn't discover the shooter was a man until the medical examiner came to the scene and examined the body. The gunman shot himself once in the head with a 9 mm semiautomatic handgun. The medical examiner was withholding his name until relatives could be located.

Powers, 41, was shot multiple times all over her body. Transsexuals are people predisposed to identify with the opposite sex, sometimes so strongly as to undergo surgery to change their gender. A patient seeking a sex-change is usually required to undergo counseling with a therapist, who then certifies with a doctor when that person is ready for the operation, Lopez said.

Between 15 and 20 shots were fired; six people were in the building at the time, including the shooter and therapist. Someone placed an emergency call to police about 5:30 p.m., reporting shots fired at the counseling center, police said. When an officer arrived, shots were still being fired. He helped two men escape through a first-floor office by breaking a window, and authorities evacuated about nine surrounding blocks. SWAT officers fired flash-bang canisters into the building and slowly entered. Lopez said police believe the gunman shot Powers, then himself within about 10 minutes from the time the first shots were fired.

Written by Paula Story  
AP-NY-06-11-98 2030EDT

stress grew in her life as well. While she was full time in most places, she still worked at the hospital as a male, barely disguising her ever-feminizing figure under women's jeans and t-shirts, leading to more and more strangers "mistaking" her for female. She feared losing her job over these issues, and had seemingly planned to leave the job after surgery. She was receiving some negativity from her therapist, probably over her "double life" at work, and had been given indications that her first surgery letter wasn't coming. Although I have been fortunate to not be in these same situations, I -- like most preoperative transsexuals -- have had a higher-than-desired level of stress in my life, and much has to do with transition.

Although those around her tried to talk her into changing jobs and counselors, she felt it would cost her more, in both time and money, than she was willing to spend. Her life-long independence also got in her way, as she seemed unable to let others help her live her life. I can only speculate that Julia began to see her hope-filled plans fraying at the edges, and she began to plan her own demise. After her June 10th therapy session, according to a source in the building, Rita followed Julia out of the office, and tried to coax her back in to the office to talk. Perhaps, for the independent Julia, this was a final straw: her plans for surgery in jeopardy, and suicide being the only other course of action that she saw, she violently took the life of the one person that was standing in the way of both options.

My situation and Julia's share many things in common. I am hoping for my first and second surgery referral letters soon, and have reserved a surgery date, in spite of some strong financial difficulties that could change these plans. I've always been a strong, independent person -- and yes, one that some might even call headstrong at times. Yes, I have even contemplated suicide as a way out, at times. How much different am I from Julia, really? How different are we all?

Many in the community, without knowing much about the circumstances of the incident, have been quick to vilify Julia, and try distancing themselves from being seen as being in any way similar to her. Yet, with only a little speculation -- if I didn't feel I had other options, if I was living with the additional stresses that Julia was, and so on -- I cannot honestly say if I would react all that differently than she did. And that is a frightening mirror to gaze into.

Written and provided by Gwendolyn Ann Smith  
GwenSmith@aol.com  
Contact author before reprinting

#### ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE ON THIS TRAGEDY:

On June 10th, 1998, a preoperative transsexual, Julia Morgan, killed her gender therapist, then turned the gun on herself. You may have heard this tale, or at least heard the straight press shouting something about a "man dressed as a woman" killing a woman. Yet, there is more to this story than you'll find from the Associated Press or other media outlets. And when you look into the story of Julia Morgan's last act deep enough, you may discover that you are seeing something disturbing: **a mirror into our own selves.**

To those who knew her in San Diego transgender circles, she wasn't abnormal, nor some deranged gun-nut. There weren't any major clues that she would someday take her life and the life of her

gender therapist, an intern named Rita Powers. "She had been abandoned early on and had never known unconditional love," states a friend of hers, named Evelyn. "She was very independent and had come so far by herself. She had done 2 years of college getting 3.9 and had a good job, a car paid for, her own apartment, and was so proud of her getting somewhere with no help."

She also had plenty of future plans. She planned on getting her surgery referral letters, first from Rita Powers, then a second from another well-known therapist in the Midwest. She had planned her surgery, to eventually quit the job she was at, finish college, and really "be someone." How many of us have planned similar paths?

I don't  
ask for  
much in  
a man...

He only has to  
be tall, rich,  
funny, sexy,

single, strong,  
good looking,  
smart, romantic,  
charming, warm,  
sweet, sensitive, clever, athletic,  
kind, generous, punctual, sincere,

and of course he has to be  
willing to feed me ice cream in bed  
every night for the rest of my life.

BROCHURES AVAILABLE



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## "All The Right Moves"

By Sally Stone

The fact of the matter is, that for most crossdressers, myself included, passing as a woman can prove to be difficult. That fact notwithstanding; however, we all have an intense desire to present the best possible feminine image. Where image is concerned, we can do a great deal to help ourselves. We should always wear clothing that is appropriate for the occasion, apply make-up in a careful professional manner, and always act like a lady.

While appearance is certainly a good way to help us with our image, there is another image factor that is often overlooked. I am referring to movement. If you have ever taken the time to watch women closely, you will notice that they move in a distinctly different manner than do men. Female mannerisms vary in subtle ways from those of a man, and as crossdressers, we generally don't do a good job copying those mannerisms. Unfortunately, no matter how well we present our feminine appearance, mannerisms that are masculine, look out of place, and tend to underly our true identity. Because the human eyes are extremely sensitive to movement, they are drawn to any mannerism that seems to be inconsistent with the

individual executing that mannerism. As an example of this, let's say that you are dressed perfectly, and that your feminine appearance has allowed you to blend in with the crowd around you. As long as you are not scrutinized closely, you are dismissed as just another woman. So far your feminine image is supporting your gender, and you think you are passing. All of a sudden; however, you are read. What happened? Well more than likely, the give away had something to do with a movement or a mannerism, that seemed to the casual observer, as out of place. Had there not been something incongruous or unfeminine about a certain movement, then the observer would probably not have noticed you. The human subconscious; however, has a set of preconceived notions that identify how a woman is supposed to move. When that movement or mannerism doesn't jive with those established notions, it attracts attention. The natural tendency is to more closely scrutinize the object of that odd movement, and suddenly the casual observer realizes that the gorgeous blonde in the killer dress, is really a man. If the crossdresser's movements or mannerisms had been more feminine, the possibility exists that she would not have set off the casual observer's alarm. More than likely, she would not have been read.

It has been my experience that practice is the best way to emulate the mannerisms and movements of a woman. Watch women closely, and take note of the way they move. Note how their movements differ from a

man's. After you have carefully observed feminine movements, practice those moves yourself. Get your partner to critique your style, and encourage them to criticize. If you don't have a partner to help you, practice in front of a mirror. It may sound a little goofy, but the technique really works.

Remember, looking like a woman is only half of the equation. If you really want to present the best possible feminine image, you have to learn to move like a woman as well. Learning to do

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this will take a lot of practice, but if you study hard, and practice often, soon you'll have all the right moves.

Sally Stone

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