

NARCISSE

ISSUE 4 MARCH 2006



Híya friends, well here we are again, hope you all had a lovely Valentines. Mine, alas, was a lil sparse when it came to gifts, but I will let it slideTHIS TIME!!! TUT, just can't get the members these days! Gíggle. So.... What will March hold for us all? Well, plenty of days to celebrate, Mother's, St. Patrick's, St. David's, National Leg's Day.....OK, OK I made the last one up, but I can dream can't I?

Plenty for you to peruse this month, a couple of new feature writers, so be gentle with them, an IPL feature, Spring shoes, interview, the all important Centre-fold, jokes, your views, a blog by some demented (but gorgeous looking) individual..... Goodness, more features than you can shake a stick at!!!

So go on then..... What are you waiting for? Go on, be off with you And don't darken my PC again!! Gíggle xxxxxxx

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ROGUE'S GALLERY

OR CONTRIBUTING REPORTERS IF YOU LIKE!!!!



ME



TAMMI



BECKY



LISA-GAYLE



CHLOIE



AMAYI



NICOLA



LEIGH

I think, therefore, I **BLOG**

The wonders of technology never fail to astound me, not least of all the trusty, common, or garden, telephone! But why? I hear you bleat, well sssssshhhhh and I'll tell you.

For those of us who are unfortunately of a certain age, we can remember the good old phone-box on the corner of every street, standing there, like a beacon, our sole means of communication with the outside world (well that and hand-written letters – remember them?). Now, correct me if I'm wrong, but, back then, did you ever see a vandalized one? No, didn't think so, how times change eh?

So, there we would stand, come rain or shine, gassing away to our hearts content, stuffing every available piece of loose change in the slot..... then re-inserting it 8 times until the damned machine would accept it, Licking it, spinning it, we all had our own personal methods, but we didn't care, that was where phone-calls were made.

Then came the breakthrough in technology, you could have your very own phone IN YOUR HOME!!! As long as it was in the hall-way! And you took out a small mortgage. No more standing, queuing in the rain, while some plonker called everyone in the greater London area. Now you could sit on the bottom stair in your own home, till your bum went numb, or, if it was peak-time, talk for 3 seconds until your Mum screamed at you to put the phone down!

I'll never forget, everyone at school thought I lived in Big Ben, solely because our phone was situated under the hall clock!!

Many years passed, the calls got cheaper and everything was grand.....until.....CORDLESS PHONES!!!! Now, not only could you have your own phone in your house...but you could walk around with it!!!! Seemed like a good idea at the time, BUT!!! With this newfound technology comes more hazards. One in particular has caused many rows in my house and that comes when you lose the bloody thing!!!!

I myself have got even posher and have 3 cordless phones, which begs the question as to why I end up with all 3 of them on the arm of the settee!! Defeats the object I think!!

Then there comes the step backwards into times past. How many of you, like me, have found it hard to hear when the TV is on, so what do we do?..... Yup..... Walk into the hall so we can hear better!!!!!!!!!!!!

And lastly, up to present day comes the curse of the modern world, THE MOBILE PHONE!!! Hateful creatures, every last one of them. They look stupid, sound stupid, you look stupid using them and don't even get me started on the freaks who use hands-free!!! Do they not realise they look like they are hearing voices and need locking up????

So then, your mobile goes off, you're indoors, you know, IN THE WARM, but, you decide that you would like some more privacy, you know, it's a loved one, you want to talk all lovey-dovey to, or maybe a bit of business....what do you do?

YOU GO AND STAND ON A STREET CORNER WHERE IT ALL BEGAN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

JEEEEEEEEEEEEZZZZZZZ!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



“ Knowing me, Knowing you “

INTERVIEW



This month's interview is with a good southern lass from Reading who goes by the name of Rachel Boom Boom

WARNING:-THIS INTERVIEW CONTAINS SOME DISCRPTIONS OF SEXUAL PRACTICES

Age?	25
D. O. B.?	09/03/1980
When did you start cross-dressing?	When I was 5 , I had an older sister.
Did she dress you or did you borrow her clothes?	No, I borrowed her clothes; I've always been in the closet
So when did you start dressing regularly?	When I was 20, I found a Transformation shop on the Net and I was hooked.
What was the first thing you bought and why?	6" Stiletos because it had been my life's ambition to own some!!!
How did you feel when you got them?	Turned on, and girly, and fulfilled.
What is the most unique thing you have bought?	My Tartan mini, I've never seen another like it. Kinda punky with the leather bit and chains.
Are you out on the scene yet?	I'm out and about, and go to stuff, but I'm not out of the closet yet.
Where was the first place that you went to?	Pink Punters in Milton Keynes, with my friend Natalie, in October 2004

A good night?

Amazing, just meeting people, a few pictures which put me at ease, there was a photographer there and met a lovely TV there who invited me to Torture Gardens.



Did you go?

Yes, in my red PVC, and then she lead me around in a collar and lead !!

So, are you into Fetish then?

Oh, I like to be tied and spanked and wearing PVC

Is that linked to your Cross-dressing?

Yes, it's all tied up in me, being submissive when I dress.

What has been your best experience when dressed?

Oh! That's tricky, would have to be between the black gang bang and meeting strap-on Jane.

OK, tell us about both.

Well. Strap-on Jane was amazing! I got asked to a sex party, got there and got dressed. There were lots of people there, all wondering when it was all going to start. I was too shy to say hello to Jane & her husband, but they said hello to me. I told them about myself, being a submissive. Next thing I know she grabs me by the hand and leads me into a bedroom full of people and announces that she is going to F*** me! I nearly fainted when she showed me her biggest strap-on, so she settled for the middle sized one. My howls brought in more on-lookers as she held me down and gave me a good seeing to, making me S*** off a well hung black tranny at the same time! I couldn't see straight by the time she had finished!

Did that change you?

How do you mean?

Drag you more into the D/s role? Were you scared how you felt after?

Nooo!!! I loved every aspect of it.

What have you been up to since?

Well "Rachel" had a hiatus when she found a girlfriend, but she is back in business now.

Would you like to share Rachel with her

I'd like to share Rachel with an understanding girl, definitely

So, now your back in business are you making up for lost time?

Big time!!! Especially with my friend Rachel.



Is she a GG?

No.

How did you meet?

We met on-line and then she came to mine a few weeks ago.

What attracted you to her?

Initially because she was fit, but she is really sweet and has a wicked sense of humour, we click quite well, and the sex is mind-blowing!!

Would you like SRS?

No way!! I get off on the whole very cute sissy thing.

So where would you like to be 5 years from now?

In a house with an understanding girl who loves all parts of me, especially Rachel.

Would you like to live 24/7 as Rachel?

No, I love the transformation too, and doing boyish and girlish things.

What boyish stuff do you like to do?

Football, drink beer and chase girls.

Do you get a tinge of jealousy from the girls in the clubs?

No, I want to S* then and have their clothes, I would like to go out and shop and try stuff on like they do though.**

Your fav outfit?

The PVC for sex and that lil black dress and boots for out.

Do you and Rachel go out?

We went to TX and are going to Pink Punters on Friday.

Have fun & thank you

Thanks .

**How many Social Workers' does it take to change a light-bulb?
None - But 15 to write a pamphlet on "Coping with Darkness".**



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OK Guy's and Girl's....are you sitting comfortably?....then (god help us!) let her begin!!

GG in a TG world

Hi all, I am Tammi, the brains and short-ass cute one of the group. So, to answer all your questions (Mainly why the hell are you here?) I grew up with a TV bro. He used to nick my clothes (Sorry Stacy it wasn't you). Well he admitted everything (although it would have been hard for him to deny it with him standing in my room wearing my party dress). I guess being so young helped (I was 11) and I thought it was great to have a life size Barbie and seeing as I'm a bit of a tomboy at least those horrible dresses I had as a kid got some use. So that's how I was dragged into this life and I have to say I have met some great and caring people and so it's a good thing in my life.

In my life

Well, the toughest month of my life is over (TFFT!!!). It's amazing how much you miss and more importantly how much crap you thankfully missed. Celebrity Big Brother!!! Can't the trade description people sort them out? And a (Crap) Paris Hilton look alike won!!!! So a non celeb look alike won??? I'm still waiting for the pet version, Lassie and the Monkey from friends in the next series. Gotta love those wacky Dutch producers and the British TV execs that take a good idea and milk every penny out of it.

Bits & bobs

Steelers won the Super bowl. As a passionate Titan I detest the Steelers (and Colts, Jags and Raiders while I am at it) however its great to see the Bus exit the sport at the height of his game. With all the sports stars who think they are the great thing since the wheel and three times as important. It's good to see a popular, talented and down to earth athlete go at the top of the game.

Talking of **** in sport. England have let Sven go. I am thinking of going for his job. Sex crazed staff and more pay raises then Mandy owns mini skirts. Seriously next England manger its called 3-5-2!! What odds can I get on my home land finishing above the country I live????

(2 hopes Tammi and one of 'em is Bob!!!! M xx)

“POLLS APART”



Well!!! What can I say What a cultured lot you are!!! Needless to say I knew this anyway, after all you read a very discerning magazine after all!! That's what I love about these polls, I can never second-guess the results Well...except the one concerning the photo shoot for this month! Let's see...Mini-skirt & Stilettos... Now there's a surprise ...NOT!! The colour will be a close call between Pink and Black, I wait with baited breath xxxx

Next up you got to vent your spleens on what you wanted to see more of in the magazine itself. The main issues that you wanted to see more of were Fashion, Make-up & members pics. Well, as you will see I have made a start on all three already , but only touched on the subjects due to lack of time, so future issues will be covering these a lot more...see, I do listen you know!!! Giggle

Now then, the Quiz. You're a lazy lot!! Heres me offering you a chance to show us how dim...I mean Quick witted you are and it's like pulling teeth!!! You managed just about enough to start a table, but that was hard work. GIVE IT A GO – IT WON'T BITE!!! In the poll you asked for multiple choice...TOUGH!!! Tammi's not slaving over a hot laptop just to GIVE you the answers!!! BUT , as requested , there will be more picture rounds, so stop bloody moaning ...GOD , your worse than school-kids... OI!! Stop that at the back!!

Onto holidays next. Blimey , you're a strange lot, the world is your onion , as some short bloke once said , and where do you pick for your Hols?.... well...nowhere !!! OK OK, so the majority plumped for Europe (sun/sea & sand) (10 votes/20%) fair enough, but the UK (8/16%)?! And Nowhere (8/16%)?! Adventurous lot aint ya!! Well , a few of you are anyway, with World (sun/sea & sand) and a cultured city break (oooh 'ark at her!!) both on (4/8%).Why oh why Shopping Trip limped in at 8% also astounds me! Weird lot, giggle.

Clubbing and Cruise were high and dry on 6%, with a few rich girls trekking off to the Far East and Florida (both 4%)- all right for SOME!!!!

And what to wear whilst strutting your stuff in pastures new, I hear you cry!! Well, not so much what, but made out of what. Mmmmm close one this, had a re-count just to be on the safe side, but....yup...by a short nose... Silk! By.....41 votes! A WHOPPING 57%!!! Bloody posh lot aren't we!!! I went for warm and cuddly velvet so there!!!

Joint second came...surprise surprise (giggle) leather and PVC (kinky lot – gimme gimme!!!) hehehe with a measly 9% apiece. This was followed by all the awkward buggers who thought of some that I missed – Other (8%) S'pose you think your clever don't you!

Cotton was a surprisingly popular choice on 7% too, with Velvet on 4% and for the true fruit-loops amongst you; there was Rubber & Metal on 1%.

So then, what does this tell us about your common or garden Lil Boutique member? Well, quite frankly it's scary! You're all Aristocrats!! Have to be! Swanning around your stately piles bedecked in silk from top to toe, with rubber and metal undies on. Getting your none-too-bright Butler to do the Quiz whilst you sip Pimms and chortle at the fashion pages.....

Oh well! No wonder I feel at home...toodle-pip xxxxxxxxxxxx

A *first step* to CONFIDENCE

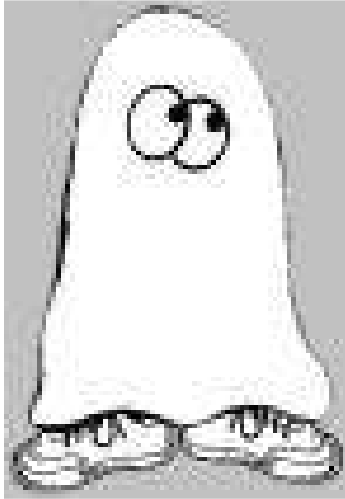
OR (In her own words!!) Hair today, gone tomorrow

When Mandy asked me to write an article for *libboutique* I was at a loss on what to write about she suggested something that I am going through at the moment. As part of my transition, the main focus for me at the present is hair removal. This is a key component in passing, who want to be a bearded lady after all? This has been a big decision for me, something I have not undertook lightly, as it's the 1st positive step I have undertaken so far. I have only been out of the closet for 10 months and, though I feel am taking my transition slowly, I do wish to live part time as a woman quite soon.

Even finding a place in which to have hair removal seemed really scary. I should explain. I am painfully shy at times, add to this the fact that this was a huge decision, and you got a paralysed gal who did not know what to do. Even the fact that most places are happy to treat Transgender folk these days did not help. I was discussing my fears with a person I had only just become friendly with, when she told me about the place where she was having her treatment done and suggested I give them try. It seems really pathetic now, I was hounded by my friend to ring her every time we spoke over the ensuing weeks. It was "Have you rung Tina yet?" to which I usually replied "I will soon I promise" even though she reassured me that 'she knows your ringing she is nice, no, she wont bite etc

So thanks to my friend for pushing me I rang up and made an appointment for a test patch. So a week later I was standing at the door of Tina's house feeling very apprehensive but I needn't have worried Tina was very friendly and soon had me at my ease I should explain Tina is herself TG and does appreciate the needs of TG woman. Tina sat me down and ran through the various process involved in IPL which I wont bore you with but if you do wish do read more I have provided links. During this 1st visit Tina told me that I was too tanned to have IPL at this stage the reason being the IPL targets the melanin in the hair follicle so a tan would mean that it would also destroy the melanin in my skin and cause my skin to become blotchy with light and dark patches.





I was pretty upset to hear this after the effort it took to get to even this early stage. I left feeling deflated with an appointment booked in six weeks time. I had six weeks to lose the tan. This was no mean feat considering I work outside and it was summer. Next day at work I told the guy I work with who does know about my gender issues what happened and that I needed to lose my tan I must admit my paranoia was at it's height during the 1st month of operation total sun block a vampire would have been proud of my sun avoidance efforts this caused much hilarity with my work colleague. I had always tried to keep the sun on my back and with my collar up and sticking large amounts of sun block. Slapping on a lot of sun block did draw a fair bit of unwanted attention. I don't think I did myself any favours with the amount I was using either. I suppose its human nature to assume that the more you use the better it will be. I had a white face that seemed to attract and turn a greyish white during the course of the day, but my workmate was fantastic at deflecting all unwanted questions on why, as most people said, 'wearing make-up'.

Flashlamps/Intense Pulsed Light (IPL)

Basic facts

Some consumers have experienced permanent hair reduction, but there is limited data on how much hair reduction is typical, and how often hair reduction occurs.

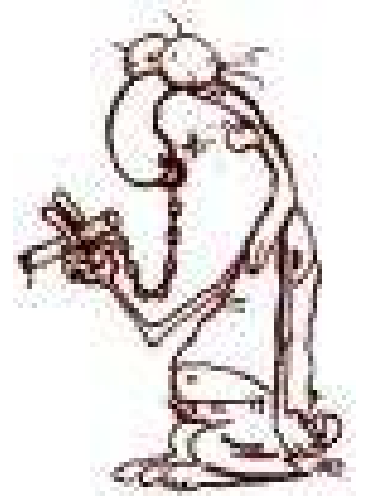
Description

- ▶ Full spectrum (non-coherent) light and low-range infrared radiation are filtered to allow a specified range of wavelengths.
- ▶ This filtered light is delivered from a hand piece into the skin, where it targets dark material such as the pigment in hair.
- ▶ This is intended to cause thermal and/or mechanical damage to a hair follicle while sparing surrounding tissues.

So anyway yaaaaay me I lost the tan and had my test patch which involved a series of 4 shots on various power settings to see how the skin reacts. The only thing I felt was a slight stinging pain which is pretty much what I expected. I had no reaction from my test patch and made an appointment for a full treatment.

I spent the next few days in nervous excitement. So, finally after an 8 week delay from my 1st appointment I was laying back waiting for my 1st treatment I must admit as I lay there waiting I had a bit of a panic I mean this is going to change my appearance for ever.

I confessed this fear to Tina who soothed my fears with her lovely friendly manner and as I lay there with my heart pounding Tina cleansed my face and applied a gel which is just like the one they use on the ultrasound for pregnant woman this helps the light pass in to the follicle. Then Tina said are you ready and she started to give me shots from my ear down to my lower jaw line. This was not too painful just like being flicked by a finger and there was a slight smell of singed hair. I must admit as she moved into the more central areas of my face the pain increased and you could feel the heat generated going straight through my skin into my mouth, the top lip was by far the worst pain. When the treatment was over I was soaked in sweat and my face radiated heat and felt a little bruised Tina then applied an aloe vera moisturiser to help soothe the heated up skin. I asked Tina how many shots I had received she told me it was 190 which I was rather surprised at. Tina told me not to expect instant results that the follicle had been killed and it will take at least 2 weeks for the hair to grow out.



I made an appointment to come back in 5 weeks. I could not seem much change in the 1st week maybe the facial hair looked a bit burnt and I developed spots which caused by the heat damaging the tissue around the follicle so in the 2nd week an amazing thing happened my hair started to thin out under my chin and I plucked a few and they came out with no resistance and within 3 weeks I was pretty much clear of the dark hairs which when I shaved I would say made me look facial hair free. This has made such a difference in my pass-ability I felt confident to go out shopping as a woman and drive home from nights out as a woman something I have tried to do in the past and felt so man like with a beard shadow staring at me, but now though I am still not happy with aspects of the way I look, I now feel free to go in the direction that I want to.

This has even spilled over into work because a female friend told me that some of the women at work have noticed the change in me she said one told her have you noticed how feminine he looks he even plucks his eyebrows and his skin looks amazing. I was dead chuffed. I have now had 3 treatments and I would expect to have well over ten before I will move over to electrolysis to get rid of the lighter colour hairs that IPL wont target. I should say even if I never live full time I doubt that I could give up expressing my femininity and 'hey' I will never have to shave again. 'How cool is that?'



Flashlamps/Intense Pulsed Light (IPL)

Advantages

- ▶ Some consumers have experienced long-lasting hair removal or permanent hair reduction.
- ▶ Considered safe if performed properly.
- ▶ Useful for large areas such as backs or legs.
- ▶ Regrowth can come back lighter in colour or finer in texture.
- ▶ Light-skinned consumers with dark hair have the best results.

Disadvantages

- ▶ Long-term data on safety and effectiveness have not been established.
- ▶ Response rates have not been established.
- ▶ Not as effective on unpigmented hairs and red or blonde hair.
- ▶ Must be used very cautiously on darker skin tones or on consumers who tan themselves.
- ▶ Improper treatment can cause burns, skin discoloration lasting several months, or patchy/grid-like regrowth.
- ▶ Requires eye protection.
- ▶ Can be expensive.
- ▶ Some find treatment painful.
- ▶ Regulation varies by state, so inadequate controls exist to ensure competent practitioners.
- ▶ Some consumers do not respond to treatment.



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leigh



Smythe



IT'S AGONY!!!!

The most important identity device of a Tgirl, the wig.

by Leigh Smythe

I've been thinking, what could be the most important thing that identifies a woman. Boobs? hips? No, I believe its hair! Here's why. Have you seen a woman or two, with virtually no boobs? Yes. Have you seen a woman with the straight figure, no waist, no hips, that could be mistaken for a man's nondescript shape? Yes. The one thing that let's you know if you got a woman is the hair. Yes, girls, all that work curling, straightening, shaping, shinying (herbal essence??), and generally keeping the hair nice, has worked. So, isn't it tempting to resort to the occasional wig. When you're really pressed for time, cause your husband, or your roommate didn't do his or her share of the chores. Or the boss, kept you late, at work, so he could chase you around the copier, your best friend is your wig. Hair takes a lot of maintenance!! If you use just half of the appliances invented to be used to make hair beautiful, you will take hours to get it just right.

So, we men have noticed. I mean girly-men, as The Arnold would say, and has. Perhaps, the quickest way to beauty for us is that styled wig. Sure, it takes us an hour or so , depending on proficiency, to paint on a face, and there are a number of means to create a feminine shape, and wear heels to get a shapely flash of leg/foot, and with practice, that wiggle. But, if a Tgirl has no wig, sHe's not a girl, right? Bless all those wig makers who have saved us!! Haleileula! I have my wigs displayed prominently on the top shelf of my closet(you know, where the oxygen is thinner), (in, which, I was reported to have spent my entire youth.) on those Styrofoam heads that sometimes seem to be much more alert and intelligent than I. Sure, they're up high, but I'm pretty tall, and when I put on my heels, I can easily scrape the ceiling with my nails. No, the glue on one's. Of course, I don't do that, cause the last time I did, all those little bits of confetti that came off the textured ceiling, were on my head when I put on the wig, and talk about itch!!! ALL NIGHT, too. The biggest problem I have is getting the part straight front to back. Does yours feel just right when the part line is tilted like a broken wiper on a windshield? And the bangs! They don't go together like normal hair. Of course, I don't know how they get all those fibres to stick on that "cap" with out sticking out in every direction. If I were inventing the wig, I'd have to be standing there like Clyde Beaty with a whip and a chair. No, I have tremendous respect for the guy, or lady that figured that out.

So, you get the wig on, and the first thing you have to know is to put on your earrings first. Cause as you're messing with and trying to get the wig in just the right place, those fibres are slowly winding and twisting themselves around your dangly earrings like snakes. I use clip ons, well, cause I believe if we were supposed to have holes there, we would come that way. It's just like leaves. Every fall, my wife was out raking leaves off the lawn. I just couldn't help, cause, I figured that if God didn't want them there, why'd he drop them liberally around my yard?

Anyway, so ya got everything in place and as you're walking out the door on your fabulous night out, sure, it has to happen, fibres from that gorgeous shiny confection launch themselves out, like a mountain climber's safety lines, to grab the door closer and abandon your head for brighter climbs. But, you're stuck, cause going without the wig would tend to spoil the entire effort. I think wigs are like tribbles, mean! Thank God they don't make that purring noise, though.



“LUCK of the IRISH”



This month, as its St. Patrick's Day (17th March), I thought that we could have a giggle at some of the exploits and near misses we all seemed to have suffered whilst dressed and still in the closet!

Here's mine !!!

“It all happened when I was about 13 years old. Everyone was out, so I stole into my Sister's bedroom and gathered together tights, skirt and blouse and ran back to my older Brother and my bedroom. No sooner was I dressed than I heard the front door opening!!!! I could tell immediately it was my Brother, so, rather than get caught in our bedroom, I darted into the bathroom and locked the door. He came lumbering up the stairs, but instead of going in our bedroom he thumped on the bathroom door wanting to come in!!!!

In sheer panic, I stripped off my sisters clothes and threw them out of the window into the garden, pulled on a pair of track-bottoms and let him in. Once he had locked the door behind me I dashed downstairs, scooped up my sisters clothes (extracting some from a rosebush!), ran back upstairs, put them back in her wardrobe and slumped on my bed, just in time for him to come out again!

He suspected nothing, I suspected a heart attack!!! To this day he doesn't know, but a funny footnote to this story is, I only found out about 6 years ago that he is a TG too!!!! “

“Well, it must have been about 1.30 am and all was quiet so I get me stuff and go down stairs. I put on me nail-varnish and then do me makeup and get dressed then I put me boots on. I went for a look in the mirror, then. OMG!! No mascara! I can't be seen with no mascara. It's the Law! .he he so back to the loo and get me best black Rimmel out. One eye done, mmm that's better, just start me other one and..What's that???? I'm sure I could hear a noise. I stand bolt still. I've got my really clicky boots on too and dare not move cos the heel click would be heard all over the house. After a few seconds it goes quiet and I feel ok again .I open me mascara again and put the brush up to my eye lashes, then I hear footsteps coming DOWN THE STAIRS! OUCH!!!! The mascara brush goes right in my eye. I am trying to stand still and I have tears rolling down my face. Oh well! That's it I think, then I hear footsteps on the stairs again. PHEW. Which ever one of my clan it was they just wanted a quick drink and were too tired eyed to notice the loo light on. By then I was far too wound up and that was the end of my dressing for that night. I found out later that they had not come down for one of them was sleep-walking!!! “

PJ



“LUCK of the IRISH”



“ I have been cross-dressing since my two elder stepsisters, who didn't care that much for me, thought it was fun at the tender age of 12 to humiliate me by dressing me as a girl. Although, at first I didn't like it, after many months of this I began to and wanted to be more like them, in fact, as I now know, they were very impressionable on me, so I didn't let on to them that I began to like it. In fact I used to do it when they weren't there. This is where I nearly got caught out. I was about thirteen yrs old, my step sisters were out and I was raiding their wardrobe and makeup. I was so engrossed by what I was doing that I didn't hear them enter the house. I can remember hearing them coming up stairs, many voices I could hear, they had brought some friends back!! In a panic I jumped into the wardrobe, and hid. It was many hours before I could sneak back out and dive back into my bedroom and barricade the door, few!! How lucky was that! “

Zany x

The times where I was almost caught dressing were few and far between, as I have gone to extreme lengths to be careful over the years. Being the eldest child of fundamentalist Christians, I realized early on that being discovered would not only be embarrassing, but would probably earn me a trip to an exorcist to rid my soul of the "nancy boy demon" that was making me do such things. However, careful as one tries to be, situations will occur. One such event happened when I was around 18. I was still living at home, but my room was in the basement and my parents thankfully gave me my privacy; so long as the door was closed, I could do what I liked without real fear of discovery. A few years earlier was a little different - I was hanging out with a "bad crowd" and my parents kept an eye on me; but when I was 16, I got involved with the theatre, straightened myself out a bit, and gave my parents a great deal of relief that I was now in the company of nice people.

It was a Sunday; I didn't have a show that day, it was raining and cold - the perfect day to stay inside and perfect one's makeup. I had been keeping a collection of pix from fashion magazines and set them all up in front of my mirror; then pulled out my "theatrical" makeup box and went to work recreating the looks of the models in the pix.

I had been working for about an hour and was thrilled with my results. Every once in a while, you manage to do your makeup just right, and you can finally see that pretty girl shine past your male face looking her very best. I was truly revelling in looking so femme, when I heard my





“LUCK of the IRISH”

Father calling me from upstairs. Apparently, my girlfriend had decided to "drop by" for a visit and he wanted to know if he should send her down or if I would be coming up. Once I pushed my heart back down my throat, I called up to say I would be there in a minute.

I was trapped in my bedroom - no towel, no water, no real way to remove all of my feminine face and no time to do it properly so no evidence remained. The only thing I had going for me was the fact that I was in the theatre. I quickly pulled my clown white makeup from my box, and slathered it all over my face, feverishly working it in and smoothing it out, so that the femme face underneath was completely buried. I then walked upstairs laughing and explained that I was working on some mime makeup and that she should really call next time. I was laughing, she was laughing, my dad was laughing, and I went to the bathroom and washed off both layers of makeup. Crisis avoided - BARELY! (PS: I would STRONGLY recommend to all the young crossdressers out there to get involved in your local community theatre groups! Where else can you wear eyeliner and have no one think anything of it? :))

Katherine x

My time come, back in 1998, to buy a new wig. It was a hot 30deg Cels summer weekday, Tuesday as I recall, and I had no car at this point. So I dressed up, as I woman does, to travel to the big smoke, the city, Melbourne. I live about 55kms south of the city around Port Phillip Bay, so I had to get on the bus to travel to Frankston. That was OK and the train trip into Melbourne from Frankston seemed OK too, stopping at 33 stations. Lots of people going about their business, about one hour was the tripthe express I missed by 2 minutes as I had rolled my ankle and was hobbling a little. I travelled the short underground loop of 5 or stations to the end, arriving at my destination, Flinder St Station. The walk up a gradual gradient of 45degrees in high heels was fun! My ankle seemed sore but not too swollen, but my calf muscles started screaming out halfway up the concourse and by the time I had reached the top each and every sinew of muscle in my legs were telling the brain STOP! STOP! I needed to rest a few minutes and enjoyed a cup of tea, you see I'd not worn my heels for some weeks, and I was wearing medium length black skirt white open neck blouse with small frill down the front with 3/4 sleeves, leather shoulder bag + black high heels and sunglasses, thank the lord.



What's Irish and comes out in the spring?
Paddy O'Furniture!





“LUCK of the IRISH”



From this point, I had to walk 3 street blocks "oh bother" pain of my ankle as I arrived at the building. I thought no lift "stairs" up one level to the wig salon, thank u handrail ...finally arrived. They told me on the phone Tuesday was their SLOW DAY but it was very busy there and I had to wait awhile ahh!! Finally a sales person. Well I spent a good three quarters of a hour trying on wigs, and she wasn't that much help, she said I looked great in a reddish 3/4 wig but I liked the brown one that framed my face as I'm heavy set... so no joy here and so expensive! So my time was up now, to shop around or go straight home? My feet, toes & ankles and all muscle groups in my legs were shouting Home HOME! By the time I was street level again from those stairs. Well I thought "What a waste of time today was!" I walked along the Swanston St strip stores with people going every which way. I was halfway to the station when it happened!

It was like the parting of the Red Sea! The people where are they going???? When a cameraman and reporter appeared from nowhere making a beeline towards me!! OK! Stay cool Tammi, don't blow it.... the reporter asked me "And WHAT do YOU think of MELBOURNE as a city"? as he shoved a microphone towards me, I said sorry but I'm late for my train, as I dodged the Q, and then, hurrying on my way as fast as my feet could go, the pain was not a factor now only to get away and to the train station and the thought of going down the same incline the torture of crushed toes once again. The train finally arrived and I found a seat for only myself and one other and sat in the corner A little taken back by the event that had just happened.....was I going to be on National TV Australia ..oh don't be silly they will cut that bit out.....yeah.... so 2 weeks later I arrived at the Seahorse meeting only to be told by no fewer than 3 friends that I was on Rove a very popular live show across Australia on the 10 network!!!! And only that ROVE himself held the mic OH GREAT!!! here I'm only back in this country a few month from living over sea's 5yrs and I had to run into the most popular night time Live Celb TV person in Melbourne Australia!! Oh, by the way, I did get home finally to soak those feet and legs in a Big Bubble Bath and sip wine by candlelight!!

Tammi in OZ

Three buddies die in a car crash, and they go to heaven to an orientation.

They are all asked, "When you are in your casket and friends and family are mourning upon you, what would you like to hear them say about you? The first guy says, "I would like to hear them say that I was a great doctor of my time, and a great family man."

The second guy says, "I would like to hear that I was a wonderful husband and school teacher which made a huge difference in our children of tomorrow."

The last guy replies, "I would like to hear them say, "Look! He's moving!"

HAPPY



*St. PATRICK'S
DAY*

Write to

In response to last month's question:-

WHY IS TRANSVESTITISM & BONDAGE SO CLOSELY LINKED

Good question!

2 opinions.

1). It's the 'damsel in distress' feeling. The helplessness of a sweet innocent damsel, at the mercy of her captor. And what better way than being the damsel. We all used to love seeing Emma Peel, Cat-woman, Superwoman and the likes all being tied and left to struggle but these are not 'real' girls so we TV's try to replace them.

2). Alternatively I believe some TV's re-enact bondage scenes as deep down inside that is something they would love to do to a GG but never had the opportunity or chance so instead they re-enact it themselves, trying to fulfil the role meant for another.

Either way TV's tend to be particular with looks such as clothes and make-up and applying bondage can involve some neat and tidy lengths of rope too. They take particular attention.

In addition GG's tend to want to dominate (as suppose that's why we hear so often "...so who wears the trousers at home...") thus they don't as easily submit themselves, so the only way to compensate is have TV's step in and be the victims.

Hugs

Kirsty xxx

Reply



Review



Spring Foot-wear Special

Well girls its that time of year when we unleash our legs and ankles again, blinking in the day-light, and what better way to finish off the perfect pins, than with the perfect shoes. Here's a few of the best for this season.

CHEAP

PAYDAY

HOW MUCH?!!

Ankle Boots



Schuh Power Buckle
Ankle £30.00



Schuh South Buck Stud
Ankle £64.99



Christian Dior Langford
Round Toe Boot £399.00

The perfect accompaniment to jeans.....Anyone got a spare £400?.....please!

Ballerina



Closed Back Open Toe
Sandal £19.99



Moda in Pelle Francesca
Ballet Pump £55.99



Jane Brown Satin Bridal
Ballet £230.00

OK OK Lets haggle , perfect for long skirts, I'll have the £56 onesAlright?!!!

Courts



*Schuh Taffy Metallic
Trim Court £15.00*



*French Connection
Sweetpea £80.00*



*Marianna Satin Pump
from R. Sanderson £310*

Now call me old fashioned, but you can't beat a good Court shoe (PS – Mines the middle one!)

Mules



*For details see below
£16.00*



*Pump & Circumstance
Backless £35.00*



*Birkenstock Boston
Nepalese £49.99*

Lovely though they look, if you ask me they are a Gin & Tonic & a loose floorboard away from a broken ankle.

Sandals



*Closed Back Open Toe
Sandal £19.99*



*Red or Dead Marley
£55.99*



*Knotted Sandal from
Adele Clarke £440.00*

Gorgeous, but if they billed me for £440 it would be then getting knotted!!!!

c/o vivaladiva.com & Bonprix.com

COMING SOON!!

Around America IN 80 Days



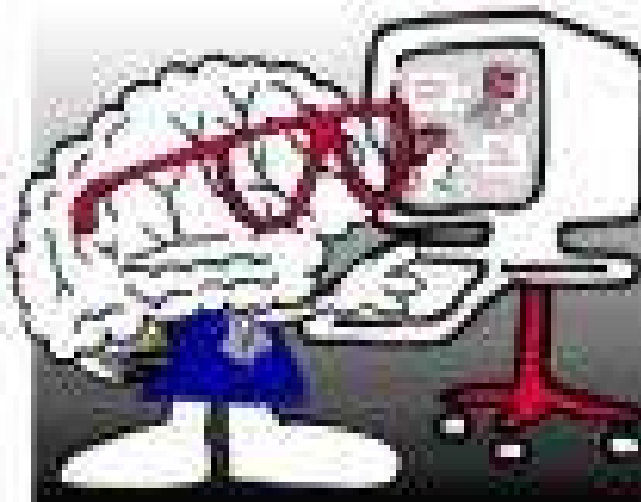
Coming soon to a magazine near you..... Well.....you get the idea!! In June of this year, this intrepid explorer is taking to the open road, to take a trip of a life-time that many of us only dream of. Travelling on his trusty Hog the length and breadth of America!!!

And for those of us less fortunate Mortals, he has agreed to report in weekly with tales of his adventures! How cool is that!! So get down the market, grab yourselves a map of the Good Old U S of A and some pins and start tracking the route of this modern day Columbus

BRAIN

OF

NARCISSE



<i>Pos</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>Possible score</i>	<i>Actual score</i>	<i>Possible total</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
1	Kirsty Scott	38	31	38	31
2	Nicola James	38	30	38	30
3	Kirsty Darling	38	28	38	28
4	Rachel Greene	38	26	38	26
5	Abigail McChristie	38	26	38	26
6	Karen James	38	19	38	19
7	P J James	38	17	38	17
8	Katherine Sloan	38	10	38	10
9	Lisa Gayle	38	9	38	9
10		38		38	

What do you get when you play country music backwards?

You get back your wife, your dog, your truck...

CENTRE-FOLD

Hi Mandy!

Well. Here goes. :-)

What an honour to be chosen as Centre-Fold of the Month! Mandy is a doll, and has so many gorgeous friends to choose from as well.

Mine is a rather simple story, and one that I am sure most of us can relate too.

Starting as a young boy with an older sister and younger brother, I fondly recall my sister dressing me in some of her cloths so as to have a "play friend" during her dress-up moments. I vaguely recall that excitement, and soon found a neighbouring girl of about my age who loved to play dress-up too! Mind you I was only about 8 years old at the time.

I remember soft sweaters being my most sought after item of clothing. and to this day that is still the truth.



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Halloweens were rather fun....why my Mom would dress my brother and I as little girls was beyond my recall. But who was I to complain!!! I loved it...however I think my Dad was a bit puzzled?

All the time this hidden desire was and still remains to this day to be hidden.

As one can imagine, HS and college years were difficult to dress...and I recall them being rather difficult times as I struggled with what was, at that time mind you, something I failed to know little about.

Did I WANT to be a girl? I was a boy...I dated way too many girls, but yet these simple yet strong desires to dress still plagued me



CENTRE-FOLD



Welcome the Internet!!! There I found I was not alone!! And it was at that point I plunged head first into the world of cross dressing. I guess I went on a spending spree, and REALLY got hooked on eBay. I found some wonderful deals, some of which have unfortunately been purged.

My first time out was one I will never forget, and if I could locate the TS friend I made on line who walked me through a hotel lobby, into the streets of Boston and through the door of Jacques,

I would thank her with all of my heart.

While frequenting Boston on many an occasion, I came across a girl on line who looked spectacular!

S



H

She told me of a local guy who worked "magic" and I just had to check it out. Well...that guy is none other than Jamie Austin, who at that time had little exposure in the glam industry.

In fact he didn't even have a studio, so many of my earliest transformations were done while in my hotel rooms.



CENTRE-FOLD



HEATHER

I have been out in the past, but now my days of dressing are a bit suppressed. I guess I have retreated back as you could call me "hotel-ed" instead of closeted, as it is in hotels (I travel a bit with work) that I get my chance to kick back, relax and put on some of my various outfits, which I have chosen for style and class.

I am still not out to any friends or family, and perhaps will keep it that way. I hate the deceit involved, yet I also fall into that class of girls who feel the ramifications may be disastrous.

Vitals

5'11"

shoe size 11.5 :-)

Dress size 11/12

Hair colour blond or red, short or long. that's the fun of it!

Likes

Family

Outdoor activities - hiking, cycling, ALL water sports

Dislikes

Naivety - don't judge what you have no idea about

The fact my legs are no longer as smooth as they used to be!

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"TAMMI'S



TORMENT'S"

QUIZ

OK Gang!! It's QUIZ-TIME!!! Each month there will be a selection of fiendish questions, sent to drive you potty. You will have till the 15th of each month to complete and return your answers. Once in they will be totalled and we will have a League table of the BRAINIEST LIL BINT on the block!!!

So if you want your name in lights and be higher in the league than your football team...get solving!!!



- 1) Name the spin off Star Trek shows (point for each)
- 2) Name the occupations of the friend's characters at the end of show (point for each)
- 3) Name the main characters in South Park (point for each)
- 4) Which characters live in wisteria lane (1 point)
- 5) In what cult TV show will u find the scobby gang (2 points)



- 1) The A1 racer Scott Speed is which nationality (3 points)
- 2) Which Italian soccer team have pink shirts (4 points)
- 3) Which golfer became the first surpass \$1 million in yearly earnings (5 points)
- 4) Which 1990 event attracted over 1 billion viewer's worldwide (1 point)
- 5) Who is the Cinderella man (2 points)



- 1) What group has the band member's 2-D, Murdoc, Russel and Noodle (2 points)
- 2) Name the song & artist who sang the hit from Daredevil's soundtrack (2 points)
- 3) What have these artists got in common? Black Sabbath, Blondie, Miles Davis, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Sex Pistols, Herb Alpert & Jerry Moss (4 points)
- 4) What was unique about Ian Browns hit FEAR (5 points)
- 5) Whose alums include watermark, the memory of trees, a day with out rain (3 points_

Last block is quotes just name the famous person or persons that came up with these gems (5 points for each)



"The object of war is not to die for your country, but to make the other bastard die for his."



"All science is physics or stamp collecting."

When asked after a loss about his team's execution he said, "I'm all for it."

"As far as I'm aware I'm not specifically banned anywhere in the USA, and am rather depressed about it. Surely some of you guys can do something?"

"There is more stupidity than hydrogen in the universe , and it has a longer shelf life."

The Who? What? Where? Round this month is Flags. Can you guess these national Flags (To make it tricky I have added only part of the flag he he) (5 Points each)

1)



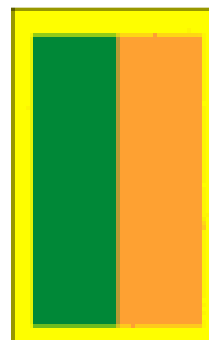
2)



3)



4)



So there you go, that wasn't too painful, was it? So, you have till the 15th to get your answers to me at Lilboutiquequiz@yahoo.co.uk and the results will be in next months magazine.

(The numbers beside each question are the point's value for that particular question)

How many candles????

happy birthday to all my friends xxxxxxxxxxxxxx



Joanne
Long-suffering wife
Of Mandy
(13th March – 39yo)



Nicola James
Mad Woman !!
(16th March – 44yo)



Stephanie Kargiola
(1st March – 40yo)
Congratulations honey xx



Maralyn Frances
(10th March – 57)



Tahlia
(March – 39)



Becky
(6th March – 35)

How to use a condom after the age of 50



Pete, you're a disgrace to trannies



PETE Burns's Big Brother "drag act" has set transvestites back years in their battle for acceptance, say campaigners.

The six-foot pop star stunned viewers with close-up shots of his surgery, acid tongued attacks on other housemates and risqué clothes.

Now the Beaumont Society, which helps the UK's two million cross-dressers and transsexuals, has branded him "grotesque".

President Janet Scott said: "He did absolutely nothing for the transgender community except reinforce ancient stereotypes of cross-dressers as over-the-top drag queens.

"All our members watching Big Brother agreed Pete Burns was just a sad, pathetic, character who would do anything for money!"

Pete shot to fame in the 1990s with his band Dead Or Alive's No.1 single You Spin Me Round and has undergone extensive surgery to make him more ladylike. He told housemates he'd had threesomes with his ex-wife and a string of men.

“

I believe Pete Burns needs the publicity to make some money. I am not too sure that he is a good role model for the average tranny because:

1. Most people have real jobs
2. Most people could not afford the plastic surgery
3. Tran sexualism/vestitism is a personal thing and acceptance by society will take its own course as society's attitude to Trans anything changes.
4. It's never been clear why Pete Burns does dress and look the way that he does. Most tran-somethings would be able to tell you immediately why they dress or why they feel the way they do.

I believe that the cheap women's magazines are a much better advertisement. They seem to have a constant flow of stories like my soldier wants to be a woman or how do I live with my lesbian husband. These stories are aimed at the women who would have to live with the Trans x dresser. They should be applauded for giving advice and also advertising the popularity of being a Tran something or x dresser. what is really needed is more meeting places, support networks on a local level and stories printed to ensure that acceptance through familiarity is strengthened

I will get off of my soap box now.
Love and hugs Autumn

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KILLER
HEELS
RUIN
SEX LIFE



Medical experts have slapped a health warning on this seasons must have 5” Killer Heels, as worn by the likes of Victoria Beckham and Sophie Anderton, citing that they can have adverse effects to neck, back, shoulders , legs ,feet and lead to hair-loss, head-aches and fertility problems!!! Your views

“ Do I think 5 inch heels are detrimental to TG's? No. I think they are just damn dangerous period. Being a TG isn't required here. I own one pair, a mistake I wont repeat. When ever I wear them I have serious concerns about getting hit by low flying aircraft, or losing the top of my head to any ceiling fans I may have accidentally left running in my house. Breaking an ankle or something along those lines is just an afterthought.....Ever try to negotiate a set of stairs in 5 inch heels? I rest my case! I guess being 6 feet tall doesn't help.

My preferred heel height is 3 inches, 4 is Ok, but that's the limit. “
Lori

“ Hi Mandy

5" heels on shoes this years fashion must have's. Well I never! I thought us girls always went for 5"! As for effecting our fertility....hhhhmmm? Don't think so. Just another excuse for this real GG's to get away with wearing something they say is difficult to walk in. Difficult? Try it I say before making such statements. 5" are about the most bearable before it gets awkward. Yes it can be difficult especially if you walk like John Wayne. So take short steps and make sure left foot in front of right at a slight angle. This gives a little 'wiggle' in the tush! A chunkier heel makes it a bit easier but hey not as much fun. Wear them doing the ironing and see how it is to stand in them. You'll be mildly surprised not that difficult. So on one hand feel some sympathy for the GG's who say difficult to walk in and then slip a pair on and show them how. I did!

Hugs

Kirsty xxx

(ps had the snip so does that mean I can wear them more often as fertility is no longer a problem! Tee hee!!) “

READERS THOUGHTS

So why do I dress?

So why do I dress? What I am about to write is probably not atypical. Do I get a sexual charge when dressed? Most certainly (okay, a tremendous sexual charge), and I suppose that this clinically makes me a transvestite. But beyond this, when dressed I love "being" (or "becoming" to the extent that I am able to) everything there is that I love about women as a man.

The softness. The gentleness. The empathy. The quiet grace, elegance and subtle mannerisms of a beautiful lady as she lights into a room. As a young boy and into adolescence, I always knew there was something a little different about me -- my guy friends sensed this, and I became the butt of a lot of cruel jokes. At times friendless, I sometimes cried myself to sleep, thinking my birth gender was somehow all a cruel mistake, and prayed to God that I please, please wake up as a girl.

By the time I went to college these feelings mostly subsided. I lost some weight. Women started finding me attractive, and I made up for a lot of lost time, being a virgin all through high school (which I despised). I enjoy(ed) dating and making love to women. I've never really found men as "men" attractive, at least in a sexual sense. I had one gay encounter with a friend who had come out to me earlier in my junior year. It didn't go very far, and it didn't "take," so to speak.

One summer while attending a language immersion program I met a girl who thought that I would look great dressed, but sadly it never went anywhere. I did privately dress from time to time into grad school, but having little money or the nerve to buy things at retail stores, it got a little boring with the few items I had. After quitting my first post-grad job after a year and being unemployed for a while, I got a job that took me back to my home town (something I had vowed I would never do.) I moved back in with my parents, who snow-birded down south for a good part of the year. I had the house to myself, and I would dress as soon as I got home from work. I would buy clothes around Christmas and Valentines Day, pretending they were for girlfriends.

I still dated and enjoyed meeting and seducing women, and eventually met my wife -- and then, until recently, I put things away. Would I have been happier if I had been born a woman? That's hard to say. Cruel fate also could have left me fat, ugly and stupid--life would not have been a picnic, but I certainly would have been less conflicted. Then again, my life does not "suck" as a man.

I have many blessings and I am not miserable or unhappy. I love my wife and my kids, who right now need their daddy more than another mommy. At a time in my life when statistically I have more years behind me than in front, and with youth rapidly fading, I have largely accepted my fate, either out of cowardice, convenience, a sense of duty and responsibility, or a little bit of all four.

I have made my choices in life. But I also now choose to quietly dress again. It is my release into perhaps my better half, and I cherish the few moments that I am able to do so.

Jen xx

MAKE-UP



MISTAKES

10 beauty mistakes

Don't spoil your appearance by making silly beauty mistakes. Avoid them and always look your best.

Mistake 1: too much make-up

Applying too much foundation and mascara are common mistakes. Foundation must never give the impression you are wearing a mask – too much can also emphasise fine lines and wrinkles. Too much mascara can look unnatural and become messy by the end of the day. Our solution: Invest in a good foundation or concealer and apply only where necessary. Give your eyes and lips a natural look by day, and ensure that your mascara doesn't leave clumps.



Mistake 2: not blending make-up properly

When it comes to eye shadow, the rainbow effect is taboo, as are hard lines around the eyes and lips. If you try to create 'contours' with bronzer or blusher, or try to emphasise your cheekbones in this way, chances are the result will be a grubby-looking face.

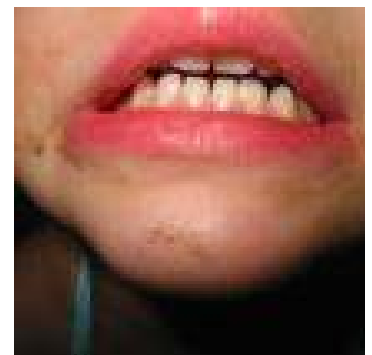
Our solution: Take a critical look at your made-up face: Are any lines visible? If so, blend them for a softer effect. Avoid liquid eyeliner unless you are able to apply it extremely neatly. Alternatively, use a small, stubby brush to apply eye shadow instead of eyeliner for a softer effect. When applying blusher, concentrate on the apples of your cheeks – the colour will emphasise the rounded part of your cheek and naturally accentuate the hollow beneath it.



Mistake 3: neglected teeth

Your smile is often the first thing that people notice on meeting you. Teeth that are well cared for are not only healthy but will take years off your appearance.

Our solution: Floss and brush regularly, and have broken or chipped teeth attended to. If your teeth have yellowed, consult your dentist about whitening them. ALSO!!!! Big big must do!! ALWAYS check for lipstick teeth!!



Mistake 4: unkempt or over-plucked eyebrows

Eyebrow fashions change as often as hemlines do – don't follow the latest eyebrow fashions slavishly. Never pluck your eyebrows too heavily – sometimes they don't grow back or they grow back in all directions.

Our solution: Maintain eyebrows of fair thickness and pluck in a neat, natural line. Fill any gaps with brown eye shadow and a fine brush, but ensure that there are no obvious lines.



Mistake 5: make-up that is too bright

Brightly coloured eye make-up and mascara may be the height of fashion but is not intended for everyday use, because it looks hard and unnatural. It can also make you look older. Forget about the old-fashioned idea of matching your eye shadow with your eye colour. Shades of bronze and brown flatter all eye colours.

Our solution: Leave the bright-blue eye shadow, eyeliner and mascara to the teenagers and rather go for neutral brown, grey-brown, beige and bronze, which always look more stylish. Experiment with different shades of lipstick, but avoid colours such as shocking pink and make sure that the shade suits your complexion.



Mistake 6: lip liner competing with lipstick

This is probably one of the commonest make-up mistakes: too-dark lip liner contrasting with lighter-coloured lipstick. Lip liner has many advantages – it prevents lipstick from 'bleeding' and helps it last longer – but it must be applied correctly.

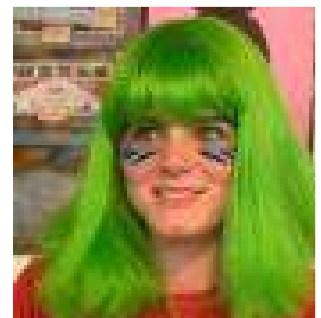
Our solution: Choose lip liner in the same shade as your lipstick – especially if it is a dark colour. Otherwise, choose one that is one or two shades darker than your natural lip colour. Apply it over the entire lip area before applying lipstick or gloss, as this will prevent you ending the day with a line around your mouth.



Mistake 7: the wrong hair colour

This is one of my interjections here, many of us wear wigs rather than have the luxury of using our own hair. At different stages of a TG's development there is an urge to change hair colour. Primarily, when first starting out we all have a hankering to be the Glamorous Blonde Bombshell, but alas, this does not suit many of us.

My solution (sic) : I have found over the years that sticking to a wig that is as near to your natural hair colour as possible, makes for a more natural look and hence improved "pass ability".



Mistake 8: end-of-the-day make-up

Check your eye shadow regularly. Because of the natural oils protecting the eye area, shadow tends to smudge, especially if it is cream-based. Foundation can also appear streaky during the day as a result of an oily T-panel or perspiration.

Our solution: Apply foundation to the eye area followed by powder to set it before applying powder eye shadow. Restrict cream shadow to the eyebrow area. Set foundation with loose powder



Mistake 9: neglected hands and feet

Well-cared-for hands and feet neatly round off your appearance and, with little expense and effort, are within everyone's reach. Neglected hands and nails, or cracked heels can ruin your entire appearance.

Our solution: Apply hand cream regularly – keep a tube in your handbag and at every tap in your home. Prevent cracked heels by regularly applying moisturising cream to your feet and buffing hardened skin. Give regular attention to your fingernails and toenails, or have a regular manicure and pedicure.



Mistake 10: no hairstyle

What we mean by “No” hairstyle is a style that doesn't suit you shape of face. Short hair & Bob's can be very unforgiving, adding pounds to the face. Long, straight hair, can make the face look drawn and will elongate an already “long” face, also making a “square” jaw-line squarer. Curls too, seem appealing, giving body and bounce, but it's a fine line between gentle waves and a bubble-perm, so beware!!!



Our solution: Get up the nerve girls, they have seen it all before and have heard all the excuses. Go to the wig-shop in person and try on EVERYTHING!!! That way you'll never be disappointed.



DEFINITION OF CONFUSION

Mother's Day



Mothering Sunday is a tradition that can be traced right back to the celebration of spring by the ancient Greeks. This was on honour of Rhea, the Mother of the Gods. In the UK the tradition seems to have become popular in the 16th Century. It was celebrated on the 4th Sunday of Lent which still remains the celebrated day in the UK. There seems to be two trains of thought on why it is celebrated.

The first is that traditionally, it was a day when children who had gone to work as domestic servants and apprentices were given a day off. They would be encouraged to come home to see their mothers on this day taking the gift of taking gift of a cake. This was a fruit cake or even a fruit-filled pastry which was known as simnels.

The other train of thought relates to the church. As mentioned above children left home to work as domestic servants or apprentices, sometimes as young as the age of 10. These youngsters would worship at their nearest church which became know as their 'daughter' church. Once a year, in the middle of Lent, they were given a day off and encouraged to go their 'mother' church. This was the main church or cathedral in their area. As most families went to church at this time it was inevitable they would end up as family get-togethers. As this happened in the spring time the church goers would pick spring flowers to take to the church, possibly even to the family reunions afterwards.

The two, as you can see, are intertwined. The only real difference being whether they were celebrating being back home with their family and Mother or whether the Mother is in fact the main church in their area.

In the U.S, Mother's Day started as the result of the death of Ana Jarvis's mother. Ana persuaded her local church to commemorate the anniversary of her mother's death by having a memorial service on 10th May 1908 in Grafton, West Virginia. When Ana moved to Philadelphia she again persuaded her new church to carry this service. A campaign of letter writing by Ana and some others to ministers, politicians and businessmen was started to make this a national celebration of mother's. In 1914 President Woodrow Wilson officially announced that Mother's Day was to be celebrated each year on the 2nd Sunday in May.

By this time the Mother's Day celebration in the UK had died out. This was the result of fewer children were leaving home to going into to domestic service therefore the lesser need to go home to see their Mother Church or their families. After World War Two, as a result of the Americans celebrating Mother's Day whilst in the UK during the War, Mothers Day was revived. The 4th Sunday of Lent was again chosen as the appropriate date.



ACROSS
GOLDEN
POND



Wow, that month went fast! Time for my second letter from Bushville already. A few things to talk about this month are how our dear president ignores the world situation and listens in on his own citizen's phone conversations. One has to have priorities you know. Oh wait. This is supposed to be about TG stuff. Sorry about that.

The buzz in the Capital District of New York is about an appalling situation that has come up in Glens Falls. In a club that has traditionally been welcoming to the TG community there has been a change in ownership and policies regarding clientele. Now this might not be anything surprising, after all clubs change hands quite a lot and one can not always depend on the new owners to keep up the old owner's policies. None of us has a problem with that. However in this case, the new owner is someone who has been a regular patron and has always seemed TG friendly herself. Well the first visit to the club revealed a new sign over the bar.

“NO DRAG, NO DRAMA”

Hmmmm. That doesn't sound good. But here's the real kicker. When one of our local ladies, Andrea Adams, who had not been hassled thus far by the new owner, And in fact who considered the new owner a friend, was on her way to the loo, she was stopped on exiting and told she could not use the ladies. She asked why, and was told that she was not a woman and the new policy was no men in the ladies room. Well, she took out her wallet and produced a valid NYS driver's license which identified her as female and a letter from her doctor saying that she was a female (She's pre-op). The club owner said “Not good enough” When asked what she would accept as proof...

Are you all holding on to something?

Her reply was “Drop ‘em and show me.”

I'll wait while the howls of protest subside..... Done? Can you imagine? Well, of course our girl refused and was told then that she was not welcome in that club any longer. Of course she left. Now I would probably have just vowed never to set foot inside again, but she took it a step further and went to the newspaper, The article came out and there was quite a commotion about it in the little burg of Glens Falls. Here is a link to the Post Standard article:

<http://www.poststar.com/story.asp?storyid=208365>

The article attempts to be neutral but there was still an obvious discrimination issue to be dealt with. This will be going on for some time, I suspect Meanwhile The backlash has already started. Here is the note I just received from Andrea

I have some wonderful news and this comes from a local business group who own four or five bars and an assortment of restaurants on both South Street and in the general region. From Dango, the owners mouth: "Andrea, you and all transgendered women will never have a problem at all using our facilities, and if you do encounter one, it will be settled ASAP". He owns on South Street a restaurant called "Tonys and Dangos" , a decent pasta house and, as well, a popular sports bar called "The Irish Pub". He also said that other bar and restaurant owners he's talked to are all abuzz about this and are in agreement with a "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in reaction to the article!

The article has had an enormous effect after all! To everyone who had participated in this exercise of protest by calling and writing, I thank you all from the bottom of my heart. The two bars in question are basically now isolated from those who care and understand. As he said "This isn't the 50`s. They gotta get a life and live in the now". AMEN!

Thanks again to all my sisters and friends out there on this List who shared and cared. A new day has dawned in this city, and all of you helped in achieving this.

Your Friend, Andrea

Kind of restores my faith in people a little bit. We'll have to see how this all plays out. Could have interesting repercussions elsewhere too.

And this from Rhea's Café last Tuesday night: There were some great ideas expressed; one of them is to have a day time Saturday Café in March which would include a "swap meet", make-overs, and a laser hair removal demonstration. Stephany said she may be able to sell her ear rings that day too. The web addy is: <http://www.earringgarden.com/> for those of you who are not living here in the Great NE. I suspect the make over will be courtesy of Ms. Christa Stroud, a girl (GG) who is a Mary Kay rep and who just moved here from Florida and bought an old church that she plans on making into a salon and safe place for all of us TGs.

And lastly:

January at the ALBANY TRANSGENDER SOCIAL CENTER

We're having a Valentine's Party (and Marsha D's Birthday) Sunday Feb 12 at 4PM. Bring Valentines! Dress like Cupid!

Over 30 people visited the TG Social Centre this month. There were 10 calls to the TG Help Line and we raised over \$200 and paid our rent until April. We've begun getting almost enough new memberships to pay our modest bills. One of our goals is to rent the downstairs of the building for more public events, having a bookstore/art gallery/café there. We have a partial deposit on it and the landlord's been holding it for us for months, because he wants to see the whole building used for the transgendered, but now there's a rental sign up and we're in a race for funding this exceptional possibility. It's a very nice 2 bedroom for \$650. Call the TG Help Line at 518-426-0415 if you want to steal it out from under us. The landlord especially wants to rent to trans girls.

We have leads on other available apartments for trans folks.

Instead of a new tri-fold brochure we're publishing an ATSC info sheet on newsprint soon, which will be easier to get distribution points for and more attractive to pick up. We're getting requests for advertising in these monthly mailings, which go out to 250 people and organizations, so we're hoping to develop more of a newsletter layout. We'll see...

Helen Farrell's Montage' Studios is a favourite aspect of the Centre. Helen has videography and photography facilities and computer graphic capabilities with printer and copier. Nobody can get enough portraits of themselves. Call her at 518-209-6298. She's at the Centre most days. March 5 through April 1 her photographs will be shown at the Romano Brooks Gallery at 332 Hudson Ave in Albany. Don't miss it.

Ross Levi's appearance for our Civil Rights Series broke our attendance records and led to a compelling discussion with social critic Callan Williams on the "T" place in the GLBT community and the Empire State Pride Agenda's role, and history, in transgender community development. The video is a must-see. Come and get one. We're preparing a dirt-cheap packet of disks of all of the presentations in our Civil Rights Series and are making arrangements to cablecast them in Albany, Schenectady, and other cities.

Cathryn Platine will be giving an overview of the ancient traditional roots of trans people at the Civil Rights Series Friday Feb 10. Cathryn is the founder of the Maetrem of Cybele, the revival of a Mother Goddess tradition that includes transsexuals and the intersexed, and was a co-founder of the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition. Supporters of this series include the Albany Gender Project, Capital District Gay/Lesbian Community Centre, Empire State Pride Agenda, Metropolitan Community Church, Spring Eagle Magick Shoppe, Montage' Studios, Housing Works, New York Civil Liberties Union – Capital Region Chapter, the Institute for Humanist Studies, and Social Justice Centre.

Andrea Adams has nailed down a location in Glens Falls to begin a GLBT Community Centre for counties north of the capitol. We may have the grand opening announcement next month. Andrea has also kicked up a hitstorm in Glens Falls over bars posting signs that "Chicks With Dicks" must use the men's room. At least one has presumably stated that trans people, or those suspect, must show genitalia for determination. The Glens Falls Post Star is working on an article about it and the New York Civil Liberties Union is interested in receiving complaints on the matter.

Letters and calls to St. Clare's Hospital by the ATSC, Rainbow Access Initiative, and Albany Gender Project concerning refusal to treat, and ridicule of, trans patients has led to an apology to one patient. The letters sent made it clear that educational programs or materials on trans health and social issues were in order, and that we did not desire an apology.

The Albany Transgender Social Centre is open for social drop-ins every Thursday at 7:30PM at 146 Central Ave, 3rd floor. The Transgender Writing Workshop is every Sunday at 4PM. We have a support network for and by transsexuals, especially those in transition. We keep a slew of literature and distribute Transgender Tapestry magazine and have dozens of videos of local TG programs and activities. And of course there are wigs, makeup and clothes available. Our website is www.freegenderexpressionforall.com.

My goodness, All that happening in this little corner of NYS? Who would have thought it? Any of you girls who might find yourselves in upstate NY be sure to contact me or the ATSC. Friends will be happy to meet you and show you around. And with that, I've burned more than my share of kbs so, 'til next month... Stay pretty
Lisa G. Harris



Born to SHOP

We all love to shop, but as we all know , from personal experience, some are...er...friendlier than others. Here's a few of the better ones, as recommended by you.

“ Hi Mandy, I have a review for you, **Wigsrus ltd** in Southport. Recently been there for a new style they are great. Hugs Julie Hi Ladies, After asking around for some advice on wigs I plucked up the courage to go and try a new style and I decided to have it fitted. I took the advise of an Angel and looked up **www.wigsrusltd.com** at **Southport**. This meant going out en femme for the first time and having a stranger see me as Julie. I made an appointment with Jennie and ventured out into the world as Julie. Jennie is a fantastic understanding lady; she puts you at ease straight away. All appointments are one to one and you can try as many styles on as you like. Jennie will give you advise on styles and colour. After you have chosen your new hair, Jennie will do the final styling and trim if required. The service was excellent and Jennie was wonderful, highly recommended. I felt so good and confident With my new style I had a walk around Southport, then decided to drive over to the Trafford centre and had a walk around the shops not bad for my first day out.“

Hugs Julie

“ www.frillys.co.uk is a friendly dressing service in **Droylsden** a town about 4miles from the centre and gay village in **Manchester**. The owner is called Julie and she now offers self catering accommodation above her shop.

HOTELS- I use **Travelodge** and the special offers of £10 & £26 a night per room are great value. I have never had any problems at these hotels. The only problem I have had at an hotel was at a gay hotel in Torquay where I got a really frosty welcome to say the least.

MAKEUP- I don't use **Dermablend** because it is expensive and difficult to apply so I use a Boots No17 cover stick or a **Rimmel** cover stick both are on sale at about £2.50. “

Raquel

Hi Mandy!

I order make-up from <http://www.blushedcosmetics.co.uk/> . They are very reliable and discreet with their deliveries even to Holland. And you know the all in price straight away, no need to email asking for price of postage. And they have a 50p and GBP1.00 corner!

Kirsty

Born to **SHOP**

1) The Casket store:

http://www.casketfurniture.com/caskets_coffins.php

A unique store offering casket shaped furniture for the gothics

2) The Baroness: Ok rubber and latex fetish store I have seen better and more but the craftsman-ship looks good and styles are their own

<http://www.baroness.com/RubberClothes.htm>

3) JT's Stockroom offers a wide range of fetish things from bondage beds to fetish toys, not a gigantic selection but enough to satisfy the novice and beginner.

<http://www.stockroom.com/search/search.aspx?i=20&search=furniture>

4) Lydia's offers a ok selection of transgender and cross-dressing items again not a wide selection but a ok one for the beginner and part time.

<http://lydiastv.com/osb/showitem.cfm/Category/12>

5) Corset Connection: Offers a very wide selection for all types of corsets everything from waist training to under-bust and to men to woman training corsets, and for those who never have laced their own corsets they offer a online training film for corset lacing A+.

<http://www.corsetconnection.com/Images/Vintage%20Glam/v1117.jpg>

6) Xtrax, I love this store humungus selection for the naughty little Goth Girls and boys a wide wide selection for everything A+.

<http://www.x-tra-x.de/english/bilder/heads-os/angebot-1.jpg>

7) Extreme Restraint is a awesome store I cant wait to order from them they have everything and anything from sex machines to the simplest anal plug.

<http://www.extremerestraints.com/Merchant2/graphics/0000001/ec715%20lg.jpg>

ADVERT

Born to **SHOP**

In this lovely country of ours there is a place that is oft forgotten. A place where the temperatures are warmer, where palm trees grow in some of the streets but, sadly where it has been a desert for those of us who dress. That place is Plymouth in Devon.

But now there is a place, a wonderful place, a place where girls can go without any fear of anyone casting them those 'sideways looks' that we get sometimes. Somewhere that they can find clothes to die for. That place is the Painted Lady.

The shop was started three years ago as a ladies clothes shop, with some new and some second hand items in it. But then for whatever reason Lyn, the lady who owns the place changed some of the clientele. Or maybe the clientele changed the place for her without it being realised. She had no problems with having TV's and CD's as customers and that was the change. The word soon got around and before long tv's were talking about The Painted Lady. Lyn's business soon began to pick up and now she has skirts, blouses, dresses of all types and designs, even wedding dresses. There is some underwear in the shop as well although it isn't a lingerie shop per se. But there are also wigs and shoes (the larger one's for tv's).

Everything is at wonderful prices, well within the price range of most girls. But, if someone can't afford something then Lyn has a 'put by' system and also a 'Saver Club' something akin to a Xmas Club where someone can put money by until they have enough to buy that long wanted item. What else is there???? Mail Order, is something new that she is going to hopefully get into. There is also a storage facility for those who have difficulty keeping their precious things at home and a mail drop system, where girls can have mail posted to the shop for collection. The lovely lady has also, with the great work done by her husband, converted their garage into a meeting room for girls. The room, which has a dvd, vcr, television, computer (net connected) plus coffee making facilities, is a lovely comfy room with a few soft seats and a settee, so that we can meet up and chat, do make up etc. The whole idea being to enhance our existence a little. All of this is at an hourly rental.

This review doesn't really cover it properly, but should anyone be interested in more they can go to www.paintedlady.co.uk which is the shops website. The site is still in it's infancy stage at the moment. But eventually we're hoping to be able to take photo's of some of the local girls wearing some of the items that are on sale in the shop.

I have even created a yahoo group for local girls

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/paintedladyfriends/>. If anyone wants to know any more then drop Lyn a line, contact address on the web site for the shop or you can always drop me a line at

angelatv@myway.com

If you're local, then please do drop in and see Lyn and if any of the girls are there say hello.

Hugs to all

Angela

ADVERT

GUY'S FOR DOLL'S

D R E W

JOINT POLL WINNER

Hi Mandy:

Thank you to you and the girls of the group for the compliment.

About me....I'm 37, single (and looking, girls!), and currently live in Detroit, Michigan. I lived in several parts of the United States, and have travelled often in my work. I'm an engineer working in the automotive industry.

Normally quiet, proper and reserved, I do have a naughty side. My interests include bondage and crossdressing, with strong fetishes for boots (I have about 10 pairs!), gloves, leather and latex. My interest in bondage started in earnest about 18 years ago, and I have been indulging myself ever since.

Fall and winter are my favourite seasons as the ladies indulge my fetishes.

My vanilla interests include hunting and fishing, football and baseball.



QUIZ

ANSWERS

For the month of February:-

MUSIC

- 1) DJ
- 2) Heaven
- 3) Biology
- 4) Tropicana
- 5) Guns & Roses/November Rain



SPORTS

- 1) Nashville/Tennessee
- 2) St. Johnstone
- 3) BMX
- 4) Floor, Asymmetric Bars, Beam & Vault
- 5) Spain



FILM

- 1) Colin
- 2) Idle
- 3) 13 Ghosts
- 4) X-men
- 5) Hitch-hiker's Guide to the Galaxy



CARTOONS

- 1) Ranger, Barbarian, Cavalier, Acrobat, Thief & Magician
- 2) Mr. Fantastic, Human Torch, Invisible Woman & the Thing
- 3) Incredible Hulk
- 4) Bruce Wayne
- 5) Hell's Kitchen



NAME THE PERSONALITY

- a) Alicia Silverstone
- b) Jennifer Love
- c) Renee Zellweger
- d) Sheryl Crow
- e) Uma Thurman



**How can you tell the difference between a woman with PMS and a terrorist?
Terrorists can be negotiated with.**

“ And now, The end is near”

Well gang, there you are , that's another magazine well and truly finished, and pretty good it looks too, we must be doing something right if the amount of larger sites who are copying us is anything to go by! So pat yourselves all on the back for a job well done & lets make each issue bigger and better (btw that was a MASSIVE hint for you to get writing - in case you missed it!! Giggle)

On a personal note, this last month has been absolutely massive in my own personal transition. The last, and probably the most important, person in my life has finally met Mandy and that is my nine-year-old son.

My wife and I had been discussing telling him, weighing up the pro's and cons , for some time now, I for one , wanted him to know, she , for the usual reasons (rejection, horror, etc) didn't. until a day in mid February, when the decision was taken out of our hands.

As usual, I was sitting on my computer, working on this very issue,



*“ And now,
The end is near”*



I had the front page up, when he came along, pointed at the picture and said “That’s you, isn’t it dad? I can tell by your cheeky smile”.

What could I say? I sat him down, and asked him how he felt about it. His first question made me want to laugh out loud; he asked “are you famous?” It was only later that I realised that the only other TG’s he has ever seen have all been on the TV, so the question made sense!!

Both my wife and I were physically shaking, as my son is so close to me, this was make or break time! But he was ABSOLUTELY fine with it, asked all the relevant questions, and reassured ‘us’ that he knew it was a secret and would tell no-one.

So, a few days later, he finally got to meet Mandy. I dressed fairly



“And now, The end is near”

Conservatively, and tentatively walked into my living-room, all the years of build-up, of turmoil, of guilt slipped away as he simply said “looking good Dad”. Probably the proudest moment of my life then and there, made possible by the completely un-biased views of a nine-year-old boy – my son.

So, what more can I say, the hard work, believe it or not, is not over, but the next bit is for me to do. Now that, with-in the confines of my home, there are no Taboo's, I must make sure I do not take it all for granted. Just because they don't mind doesn't mean that my wife and son want me to be Mandy 24/7, what it means is that its cool to be who I want to be, but think of the THREE of us , not just me.

The strangest bit came a few days later, the three of us were in a charity shop – my fav' haunt, as many know!!- when my wife and son grabbed a mini skirt from the rack saying “Here, Dad, this would look nice

on you!!” Truth is stranger than fiction!!

So now I have an official photographer, and pretty good he is too, as the photo on the left is testimony, the more 'risqué' ones I'll leave for when he is at school! Good thing is, he's damn cheap too! hehe

Lastly , I would like to thank all of you who have written in with your articles and quiz answers, and especially to the girls who have now offered and ARE regular writers, there is still plenty of room, so if you fancy being a budding writer or have an axe to grind, have a go and send it in! Hope you have a great March
Hugs



Mandy xxxxxx

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

"Reader's Thoughts:- Pete Burns clipping Courtesy of The Star Newspaper Group.

"Reader's Thoughts:- Killer Heels clipping Courtesy of The Star Newspaper Group

**THIS MONTHS WALLPAPERS -
NOW AVAILABLE -
JUST ASK X**



A



B



C



D

