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ISSUE 6  
MAY 2006



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**What do you call a nun who has had SRS?  
A Tran-sister!!!**

# ROGUE'S GALLERY

OR CONTRIBUTING REPORTERS IF YOU LIKE!!!!



**ME**



**TAMMI**



**BECKY**



**LISA-GAYLE**



**LORIANNE**



**RACHEL**



**MARIAB**



**HEATHER**



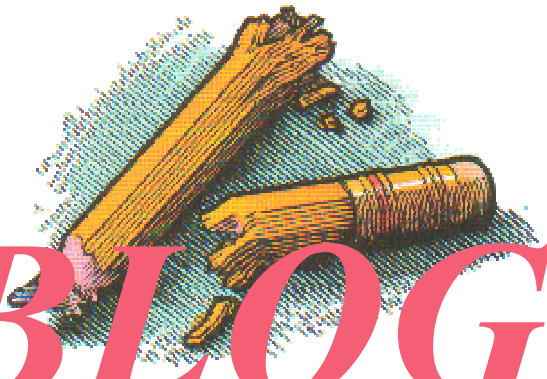
**LEIGH**



**LOWLA**



**NICOLA**



# I think, therefore, **BLOG**

Right then ..... Everybody here? ..... Yes.....gooooood. OK, what shall we waffle about this month? ..... Anybody?.....No? ..... So it's down to me again then is it? ..... LOAD of use you lot are!!! OK OK everybody sit down ..... YES, that means you too Rachel... Nooooo this is not the time to play Doctors and Nurses (strange child!) Nicola, Nicola dear, please pay attention, and kindly DON'T try and sharpen your pencil in Sarah's ear, its not very hygienic is it? Amayí and Chloie ..... rulers are for making lines on paper..... not on each others bottoms!!

Everyone settled? Then let's begin .....

You may have noticed that my mind tends to wander a .....ah now that's pretty ... a bit. Nay! I hear you cry - but it's true! I'll give you an example (ok who said 'here we go again'.....?) I have just spent the best part of an hour preparing my bag for a night out. Like many of us, I have an understanding wife, but who draws the line at actually LEAVING the house dressed. So, an hour long check-list to wade through from breast-forms to @-tips.

It was whilst mentally dressing and un-dressing myself (behave!) that my mind wandered to the Animal Kingdom (DON'T ask me?!!! It may be my brain, but it has a mind ((sic) of its own).

You see, I liken TG's in my position to Camels, loping from one venue to another, carrying only the essentials along with us. Why? I hear you chirp, not a tortoise or even a kangaroo? The reason, dear reader is simple. Have you seen the lashes on a camel? And besides, I've always got the hump! Hehehe sorry, had to be said!

Then we move on the CD's, straight away squirrels spring to mind, furtive, secretive, and always playing with their nuts - Boom boom!!

The next group are more complex. TV's are not necessarily creatures of habit, they have a zeal for all things fem, but the voracity of a rabbit. After much thought, several cups of coffee, and a generous flick through the National Geographic, I have deduced that, well.....quite frankly... your poodles aren't you!

Now before you scream like mating baboons in outrage lets look at the facts, shall we? Firstly, you invariably have a penchant for all things pink...true? Secondly, you like to strut around showing off and lastly, on heat you'll shag anything! Case carried!!

The next collective in the Trans food chain are the old Doris's. You know the ones, you see them in all the clubs, holding up the bar as if they own the place, looking down on all and sundry with an air of 'been there, done that, soooooo last season'.

Now, from past experience, I have found this group to be more than a lil spiteful, so, to illustrate the point, this group can only be represented by the peacock. Strutting around with their noses in the air, casting a disdainful eye over their domain, ready to give a nasty peck to anyone who doesn't toe the line.

But if you take a peek behind that grand plumage, all you tend to find is a knicker-less arsehole! Hehehehehe

Lastly, dear friends are my favourites of the bunch, the TS's. For them it has to be Lioness. The reasons for this are many. The lioness is graceful, extremely maternal and family orientated, proud, strong, but ultimately well camouflaged. Preferring to remain anonymous to a great degree. To me, they are the greatest of the Trans-animals

And I love each and every one of you xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

HUGS

MANDY XXXX





# “ Knowing me, Knowing you “

## INTERVIEW

**This month brings new meaning to the words “Sibling Rivalry” as we get the perspective of a TG’s sister (Andrea), on the life, love and wardrobe of living with a TG “sis” (Wendy-Sue)!!**

- Where were you born?** Manchester
- Have you and WS always been close?** Yes, me being the oldest of 5, and the only real girl and Wendy being the youngest, when I found out she was fem, I got a new sister!
- How did you find out about her?** I had invited her to stay at my flat. I came home early, feeling ill, to find her in my clothes, full out! Not just underwear.
- What was your initial reaction?** I was cool with it as I realised I now had a younger sister.
- Were there any signs before?** One or two signs because on previous stays I had found my underwear drawer and wardrobe messed up, to put it one way.
- What did she tell you?** She told me that she started dressing aged 9; getting clothes where-ever she could, because her older brother (by 4 years) was interfering with her in an un-natural way. In those days there was no ‘Ester Rantzen Child Line’ and when she told Mum, Mum denied it, and so Wendy was her way out.
- Did you know about TGism before?** Being honest, very little, because in those days it was very much a no-no to be gay, let alone wear opposite sex clothes, so it was not as accepted or open as it is today.
- Did you fully understand TGism before?** Again, to be honest, I thought that most did it just for a sexual kick, but having found out about Wendy I have realised that different girls do it for different reasons.
- Do any others know about Wendy?** Yes , her Doctor, Local Council, the Landlady at her local bar, her mum found out recently, my best mate, and anyone who asks her, she tells them what she is and proud to be one.

How did they react?

Her Doctor asked her if she was gay, Council was OK about it, they found out because someone had tipped her bin all over the floor outside, they were going to prosecute her for fly-tipping, so she had to explain then that Wendy and Andrew were one and the same, a bit like Jekyll and Hyde, except that its Andrew that hides, except for work. The Landlady had guessed and is fine and has told her to come in as Wendy anytime. She had a fancy-dress party at Christmas, and wondered how Wendy danced in heels, let alone walked, so she asked her, and my mate does Wendy's make-up for her for big nights out. She has met Wendy and Andrew, but prefers Wendy.

Ever had any bad reactions?

One or two, from narrow minded people, but she ignores them, while they are calling Wendy names, they are leaving others alone.

Do family know, and what are/were their reactions?

Her mother found out recently, but seems to think she will grow out of it. I don't think so though, Wendy will be 43 in August, and has been dressing since the age of nine, and fully since 14, when I helped her with clothes and a place, etc, so she has been dressing for 33 years, so I don't see it as a passing fad!

How has it changed your relationship?

We have got closer since I found out. I treat her like a girl and we have had many girly nights out, shopping trips, etc

Is she more fun than the 'other' person?

Yes, I love it when she calls round, so do my kids, they only know her as Aunty Wendy.

How far to you think she will go with it?

She has always said that she would not have the full Op. but if she could afford it she would have her own real boobs.

How do you feel about that?

I back her all the way; she has been there for me many times.

Where do you go out together?

Shopping, Bars, we even had a weeks holiday together as girls years ago.

Has it made you more involved in the TG scene?

Yes, because I have found that TGirls, or girls as I prefer, are loving and more understanding than most GG's , let alone men.

Would you like to become more involved?

I'll be at Sparkles and so will my kids.

How would you feel if your partner was a TG?

Well I don't have a partner at present, but I feel happy with it as I am with Wendy because I have clothes on tap! Wendy is always buying; she goes shopping for clothes more than I do. When we go shopping together I usually say "that's nice" but don't buy, with Wendy I don't have to, I can just borrow it!

And your reaction if she decided to have a full sex-change?

If she decided that, then I would back her all the way, because, at the end of the day, she is still the same person inside, whether she is a man, woman or alien.

What do you forsee in the future for you and Wendy?

A long sisterly friendship.

Thanks hon, as you can imagine it's hard to just write a set of questions cold, so if you think of anything else you would like to add, please feel free xxxxx

No probs hon. I hope it makes interesting reading. I know she recently had to fill in a survey, and where it said MALE/FEMALE she wrote above TRANSGENDER MtoF

Hugs  
Mandy xxxxxxxx

Andrea xxxxxxxxx



WENDY-SUEXX



# T ammi's T ime of the M onth



Not at my Desk Right Now!!!

Hi ya peep's. Sorry I have been a busy girl this month and its my birthday and I am very drunk lol. So instead of my usual rants, ravings and moaning about the length of Mandy's skirts here's the funny's making the rounds this month.

*Gs ya, Love Tammi xxx*

Proof white men can't dance either-

<http://www.albinoblacksheep.com/flash/numa.php>

Needs sound ;o)

(Editor – EXTREMELY funny!)



Can any one explain the Smurf's to me? All blue, only one girl that wring to anyone else???

<http://www.albinoblacksheep.com/flash/papasmurf.php>

Needs sound ;o)

(Editor - NOT for the easily offended!)



Blame Rachel!!!!

<http://www.albinoblacksheep.com/flash/llama.php>

Needs sound ;o)

(Editor – NOT if you value your sanity!)



A group of kindergarteners were trying very hard to become accustomed to the first grade. The biggest hurdle they faced was that the teacher insisted on NO baby talk! You need to use 'Big People' words," she was always reminding them.

She asked John what he had done over the weekend.

"I went to visit my Nana."

No, you went to visit your GRANDMOTHER. Use 'Big People' words!"

She then asked Mitchell what he had done

"I took a ride on a choo-choo."

She said "No, you took a ride on a TRAIN. You must remember to use 'Big People' words."

She then asked little Alex what he had done. "I read a book," he replied.

That's WONDERFUL!" the teacher said. "What book did you read?"

Alex thought real hard about it, then puffed out his chest with great Pride, and said, "Winnie the SHIT"

Sure that was my Daughter!!!!!!



Well last one. Kids are so sweet

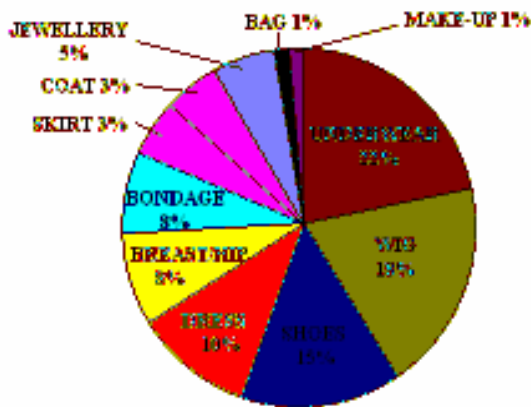
<http://viral.lycos.co.uk/vroot/3516/index.html>

Hope you enjoyed. Please pass any complaints to Mandy, she is the editor. ;o) Love Tam's xxx

# POLLS APART''



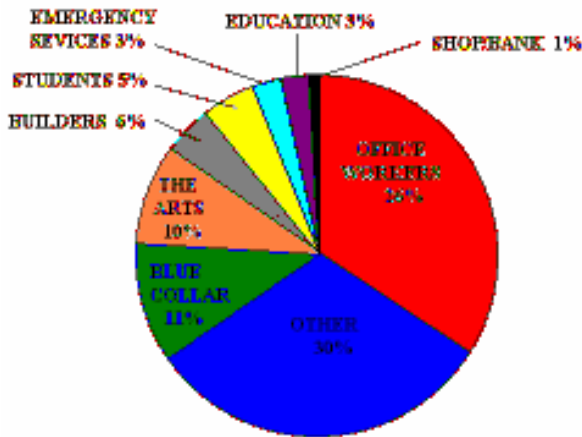
**If you had to leave the house never to go back, what ONE thing would you take?**



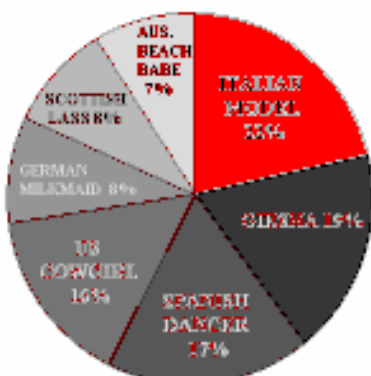
TOP 6%

A surprise this one, with underwear leading the way, aren't we a demure lot!!! The surprise to me was that I would have expected the dearest to be nearest should it all go up in smoke, but no, it seems that my girls can get away with a full head of hair, a decent pair of stiletto's, skimpy knickers and a winning smile! GO GIRLS!!!!

**What profession do you work in and does it reflect your transgenderism**



Well, blown away are my theories that most TG's go for 'macho' jobs to alleviate any suspicion of your true feelings, it appears that you're either an office worker or ..... OTHER! Come on girls, let me in on the secret, what jobs have I missed out, and are the wages any good. After all, you can't ALL be hookers!!!! Hehehehehe



**And finally, the results of what I will be wearing in the next monthly photo-shoot...it's.....ITALIAN GEISHA!!** What? NO, no, no...giggle Italian model it is then.

Now where's my headscarf and sunglasses?

**PS. How do you like the new pie-chart format? Better or worse? Please let me know xxxxxxx**

LORI'S

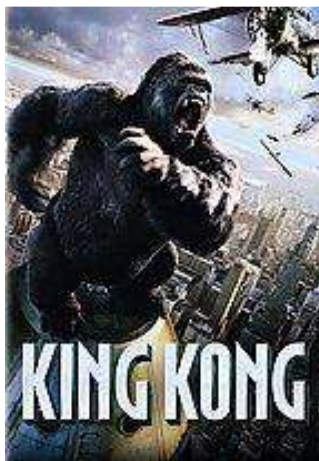
# FILM

REVIEW

## Hi All

First off, I want to thank Mandy for letting do movie reviews for Narcisse. This is fun stuff! I now have an excuse to sit on my fat rear and watch movies. Like I needed one..... I'm thinking of having a popcorn machine and coke fountain installed in my living room to give it all an authentic touch.

I'm a bit behind this month, and I certainly don't want to get fired this early in my budding film career, so lets get started shall we?



The first movie up for grabs this month, new out on video is the movie

## "King Kong"

(Universal studios, PG-13)

Starring

Naomi Watts, Jack Black, Adrian Brody

I'm thinking the news paper personal add, placed by our heroine Ann Darrow (Naomi Watts) would read something like this: Single white female, actress, 24 (?), in search of large hairy monkey for extreme short term relationship. Must like sunsets, fighting off dinosaurs, and climbing tall buildings. Personal hygiene is not of primary concern. Must be good at smashing cars and terrorizing poor, unwary New Yorkers. Current documented rabies vaccinations a must.....

OK, all kidding aside, it still amazes me that King Kong was ever put together as a love story. This is "Beauty and the Beast" on steroids (and bananas). I have nothing against an unconventional love story, but I think this is kind of at the outer limits of unconventional....Sure; every one involved is a primate, but.....

I remember watching the original King Kong (1933 version) on TV as a kid. I liked the original in spite of the fact that the special effects were primitive. Being a kid at the time helped. Fast forward to the 2005 remake, the one thing that can be said for this movie is that the effects are anything but primitive. In fact if your wondering, I'm confident in saying they are nothing short of spectacular! If eye candy is the reason you watch a film, this one is for you.

Director Peter Jackson of "Lord of the Rings" fame once again gives us a visually stunning film. As I understand it, he managed to recreate New York City circa 1930's in a film studio in New Zealand somewhere. I don't have a clue as to how accurate his recreation is, but it sure is fun to watch.

King Kong's story line goes something like this:

Movie Producer Carl Denham (Jack Black) is down on his luck. The actress set to play the lead role in his next film has just bowed out, and the good folks who are supposed to finance the venture aren't quite sure if they want to back him. At the last minute he discovers the poor unwitting Ann Darrow, also down on her luck, and talks her into reluctantly joining him as he sets off to, ah.... Singapore, yeah that's it, to film his movie.

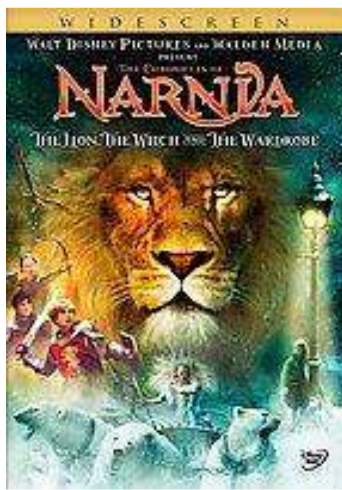
Their (hijacked) ship pulls out of port, next stop Skull Island (I'm guessing it not in Singapore).

I'll stop here because Skull Island is where the real action begins and I don't want to wreck it for you, except a few really stupid parts did stand out and I do want to mention them. At one point on the island a bunch of very large bugs (very well done computer graphics by the way) attack the adventurers as they search the island for Kong. At another point the lovely Miss Darrow entertains Kong by dancing for him, winning his heart, and I'm guessing convincing the big lug to not crush her to a pulp (everyone knows Monkeys love a good dancer.....)

The bad acting, lousy script, and fantastic effects combine to create mixed emotions (at least they did with me).

I'm sure you have all seen the original King Kong. Don't bother with the 1976 remake, it's not worth the time but this one is. Most of this stuff was lifted from the original. Its corny, its dumb, and its fun. I though for a long time as to how to rate this one on my 1 to 4 scale. I think I would give it a score of **"0" for plot** and for acting (bet you didn't know 0 was a number on a 1-4 scale huh?) and a score of **"4" for the special effects**. I did the math (everyone knows that  $4-0=2$ ), so **2** it is.

My kids will tell you that's what's known as "higher math". Is it any wonder I barely made it through high school?



Lets move on to the next movie. I decided to sit down with my nine year old daughter and watch

Walt Disney's

## **Narnia**

**the Lion, the witch, and the wardrobe**  
out on video this week

**Rated PG**

starring Georgia Henley (Lucy), Skandar Keynes (Edmund), Anna Popplewell (Susan), William Mosely (Peter), And Tilda Swinton as "Jadie the white witch".

Ill bet your wondering why I'm reviewing a children's film for Nacisse? Well, it's simple really, I have kids. I think many of you probably do as well. Having kids, it's inevitable that at some point you're going to want to sit down with them and watch a movie or two.

The movies starts a bit abruptly during world war II and the battle of Britain with what appears to be German Heinkel he-111's dropping bombs on the civilian population. Lucy, Edmund, Susan, and Peter barely escape the bombing with their lives, and as a result are whisked away to live with an eccentric professor and his less than pleasant housekeeper in the English countryside.

Its here that Lucy (cute kid by the way) discovers the magical world of Narnia hidden away in the back of an old wardrobe in one of the many rooms in the professor's home. As good a place as any to discover a hidden world I guess.... Lucy introduces her siblings to this new world, and they soon embark on a mission to save it from its self imposed ruler, the evil White Witch.

I'm cutting this review short and not giving you much else in the way of detail because this was a good movie, and I don't want to spoil anything. Its not a complex film, you don't need to be Stephen Hawking's niece to get the plot or understand the story line. Its simply good verses evil. In a world as complex as ours, sometimes simplicity is a wonderful thing.

Many of the Narnia characters seem to be taken from Greco/Roman mythology. As well there seems to be some rather heavy ties to traditional Christianity in this film. The computer graphics are very well done, the scenery stunning, and the acting was pretty good as well. My daughter had a lot of fun watching this movie. I will offer a warning here, I wouldn't show it to small kids. There is a fair amount of violence in this film. The battle scenes are epic. Bloodless for the most part, but still, if your kids are small I would save it for when they are a bit bigger. I'm going to let my daughter's reactions rate this one. I'm guessing she would give it a solid **3 out of 4**.



Ok, on to movie number three. This time I decided to tackle a comedy. At least I thought it was a comedy..... The movie

### **"The weather man"**

( Paramount pictures, rated R ) stars Nicolas Cage as TV weatherman David Spritz, Michael Caine as his award winning novelist/perfectionist father Robert Spritzel, Hope Davis as David Spritz's neurotic ex wife Noreen, and Gemmenne de la Pena and Nicholas Hoult as the weatherman's children Shelly and Mike.

Let's just start with a simple fact here. This movie wasn't much of a comedy. It had some very funny stuff, but a few funny scenes don't make a movie a comedy. The dark and twisted parts of this film pretty much overshadowed anything that was funny in it. Nicolas Cage played the same part he plays in every movie, the dead pan humourless down on his luck guy he does so well. I kinda don't think it had enough redeeming virtues to make Cages acting enough of a justification to watch it. Weatherman David Spritz is a down on his luck kind of guy. In spite of the fact that he makes \$250,000 a year and only works two hours a day, his life still sucks.

His daughter Shelly is an overweight chain smoking twelve year old girl who always seems down and uses language a sailor would take offence too, and his ex wife doesn't really want anything to do with him in spite of that fact that he is still very much in love with her.

At one point daughter Shelly decides she wants to take up archery, so he buys her a bow and takes her target shooting. Turns out she doesn't care much for it (she only wanted to do it so she could kill something.....), so David adopts it as his own personal hobby and is seen walking the streets of Chicago and New York with his bow and quiver full of arrows on a number of occasions throughout this film.

This movie isn't for those who are easily offended by mature subject matter and bad behaviour. It earned its R rating quite easily. Once again, if you have kids you care about; don't let them watch this one! The language is rough, there is a sex scene you wouldn't want your Mom to walk in on, and most of the people in this movie are just plain messed up. Michael Caines acting is good, Nicolas cage does his one role quite well, but all in all I didn't care much for this movie. If it qualifies as a comedy then I would have to call it a dark comedy. I'm going to rate it **2 out of 4**, but only because an occasional dark comedy is OK.

# Victoria Day



## **VICTORIA DAY** - HOW AND WHEN IN CANADA

**Monday May 22 2006**

In Canada the celebration of Victoria Day occurs Every year on a Monday, prior to May 25 it is the official Celebration in Canada of the birthdays of Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II

Victoria Day was established as a holiday in Canada West (now Ontario) in 1845, And became a national holiday in 1901. Before Victoria Day became a national Holiday, people had celebrated Empire Day, beginning in the 1890s as Victoria approached her Diamond jubilee in 1897

Victoria, queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and Empress of India was born on May 24 1818. She ascended the throne after the death of her uncle George IV in 1837 when she was only 18. She ruled until her death in 1901 when her son Edward the VII became king of England



**THE SOUTH GALLERY**

Who Lived In Royal Pavilion Brighton



## **SOVEREIGNS BIRTHDAY**

The Sovereign's birthday has been celebrated in Canada since the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901) May 24 Queen Victoria's birthday, was declared a holiday By the Legislation the Province of Ontario in 1845

After Confederation, the Queen's Birthday was celebrated every year on May 24 (unless fell on a Sunday) in which case a proclamation was issued to Hold on May 25

After the death oh Queen Victoria in 1901, a Act was Passed by the Parliament Of Canada Establishing a Legal Holiday Holding it on May 24 Unless on Sunday then first closest Monday, (This Year May 22) Under The name (Victoria Day) Meanwhile Canada Continued to observe Victoria Day. An Amendment to the Stature of Canada in 1952 Established the Victoria Day on the Monday Proceeding May 25

From 1953 to 1956 The Queens Birthday was Celebrated on Victoria Day, By proclamation of the Governor General. With Her Majesty approval. In 1957 Victoria Day was permanently appointed as the Queens Birthday in Canada. In the United Kingdom the Queens birthday is celebrated in June

## **CANADA HOW WE CELEBRATE**

We usually get the day off and on Monday we have a firecrackers display and a big cake. Some of us go camping as these are the first holidays of the year. We celebrate with a wild party!! HE HE Hope you all like this info.

# How many candles!!!!



**Mandy Taylor**  
(6<sup>th</sup> May - 1968)



**Kylie**  
(25<sup>th</sup> May - 1950)



**Alison**  
(22<sup>nd</sup> May - 1945)



**Andrea**  
(11<sup>th</sup> May - 19\*\*)



**Julie**  
(May)



**BillySue**  
(18<sup>th</sup> May - 1946)



**Tommy**  
(May)



**Marc**  
(May)



**Pious**  
(May)



**Cierra**  
(May 22<sup>nd</sup> - 19)



**Ray**  
(12<sup>th</sup> May - 1958)



**Lori**  
(23<sup>rd</sup> May - 1964)



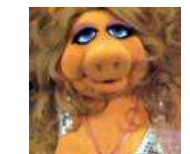
**Melissa**  
(May)



**Yvonne**  
(22<sup>nd</sup> May - 1962)



**Davia**  
(May)



**Trina**  
(May)



**Chantal**  
(May)



**Barmaman**  
(May)

*TO ALL MY FRIENDS.....*

***HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY!!  
XXXXXXXXXX***



# Let's **PAAAAARTY!!!**

*Well then boys and girls. It's birthday time, and here's a selection of some of your Best..... and Worst Birthdays*

" My Church youth group is planning a surprise party for me on my 15<sup>th</sup> Birthday. The girl I was dating at the time, along with 3 of her girlfriends had decided that for a gag gift they would give me a pretty good sized box full of their under things. Bras, panties and pantyhose. Then they made the mistake of deciding to make me wear some of them. Yes I did start off by saying this was a Church youth group. At this time I had already found the excitement of a pair of underwear left by my girlfriend when we all but got caught in shall we say a delicate situation. No time to do anything except get on the top clothes and hope that nothing was noticed.

Well I had to do the obligatory 'you won't put girls underwear on me'. After a merry little chase I let my girlfriend catch me first and whispered in her ear that this really would not be such a good idea to go through with and exactly why. After a quick 'HUH??' she caught my meaning. (She was a rather bright girl wish she were still around.) Any way she decided that she would let it happen and the chips fall where they may as it were. As I said it was a Church group and there were a few of the fellows there so the girls peeled off my shirt and 'Bra'd' me, as they put it, then my girlfriend decided that the panties should go on over my jeans. Thank Gawd! One of her girl friends was a very pretty little Indian Princess that I had had the hots for for a long time, and she felt a disturbed LUMP as she and my girlfriend struggled to get me into a pair of very nice Bikini cut panties. After more such foolishness and ice cream and cake and the normal birthday bash stuff kids get into, my girlfriend asked me to give her and her friend a ride home. In the early 70's in South Dakota you could get what was called a Farmers assistance license and drive at the age of 14 from one hour before sun up till one hour after sundown. (ah the good ol' days) I had a 1964 Ford Falcon four door that Dad had helped me rebuild into a pretty nice set of wheels.

As we are making our way towards the friends house, my girlfriend makes a comment about how she kind of liked seeing me in her bra and her friends panties. Then her friend blurts out that it seemed to her that I had seemed to be enjoying wearing them too. My girlfriend asked her what she meant by that. She tried to put it off to a smile on my face of some such but my girlfriend would not let it go at that and she demanded to know what she meant. With a bright red

face she told my girlfriend what she had thought she felt. Well I had made it a point to put my girlfriends hand in direct contact and made sure that she knew the effect that the bra was having on me and the panties to a somewhat lesser effect but I have always had a very fine imagination. The girls decided that we needed to stop at Sonic for sodas then cruise for a bit.

When my girlfriend and I had discovered that we both liked sex there was little to no stopping us when ever we had a spare half a minute when we thought we would not get caught. After driving for a bit my girlfriend decided that we needed to stop at a out of the way little park and smoke one. During the smoke she got to talking about the underwear again and told her friend what I had told her when she had first caught me during the chase, and then told me that she wanted to see me in her bra and panties without the jeans hiding the facts. Well since I wanted to get with her friend and figured that any 'unmasculine' act would stop that from ever happening, I started to shine it off trying to change the subject. Then the friend says she thinks it would be neat to see me in them too.

The rest is hot and steamy and tongues of fun for the entire next school year. “

Luv and Lust

Rhea

“ Nothing for me really stands out as a "best" birthday, but when I was five, my mother had a birthday party for me and invited my "friends" over. When the gifts were opened, my friends proceeded to take them all from me and play with them with me sitting there completely alone. I ended up under the table crying. Everybody thought it was really funny, except me. “

Barbra

**AWWW POOR LOVE XXX(ED)**

**Two Scotsmen were talking. One says: " Now Archie - if I should die first, will you pour a bottle of the finest malt whiskey over my grave?" Archie replies: " That I will, Tam, but do you mind if it goes through my kidneys first?"**

A *First step* to

# CONFIDENCE

*As my little contribution to the magazine has been tagged steps to confidence I think it's important that I write a little bit about confidence.*

*This has to be my main problem everything a person is and does and to a certain point will become is down to confidence and self belief. On the surface I would appear to have lot's going for me I'm fairly intelligent (though spell checker helped me with the spelling of intelligent) I can hold a conversation on most subjects traveled around the and world seen some amazing sites .I even appear to be very luck as a would be transsexual woman my friends say I am very passable which I don't believe, my friends say I vibe in a female manner which I also don't believe, they even say I can talk in a passable way which again I find hard to believe. So as you can see I suppose I got a good starting point for a possible transition so why even though I wrote all this down don't I believe it. I suppose it could be that I'm suffering from some form of madness though I put it down to lack of confidence.*

*SO how does someone gain confidence well as a TS friend said to me you feel the fear and do it anyway which is so true but I cant even do that I been shopping in central London as a female first time the scariest thing I ever done and yet it was not a problem really though I felt I was melting with embarrassment at times and only one woman looked at me but she could have just been looking I suppose, a big issue seller who we passed shouted out to me smile me darling which did make me smile, but it proved that I can walk down a street and know one either cares or notices. So I suppose this is a huge boost that nothing horrid will happen to you.*

*I have recently moved In with another Tgirl and she is much more confident and out going in her approach to life she has that I*

*don't give a fuck attitude I think I need, before we moved in she promised me that she would have me shopping in Tesco's before the year was out. All though I appreciate her support in this, I want to pass so much I don't want to be stared at or people to laugh at me I know this is an unrealistic expectation because although I do look okay I suppose I am in know way 100% passable and there will always be times when I am read this the test that I would think all TS woman need to accept that with out spending vast amounts of cash you will always be an object of curiosity. I know this is a very pessimistic view of life as a TS woman but from people I know this it unfortunately the reality of life even my mum tells me of a transsexual woman who shops in the supermarket where she works and she was the subject of much laughter all be it behind her back life is cruel but more cruel to us because of the way our brain works.*

*I know I have it in me to overcome my confidence issues I was told by a clinical physiologist confidence is a self feeding thing more positive experiences I have the more likely I will be able to shrug of the negatives to this I will have to learn to lean on my friends for support during the bad times and realize that life is about growth and experience maybe being tg is a gift that you should embrace with your heart and soul maybe we are special people who can cross the genders boundaries and walk in both sex's shoes.*

**NURSEY**



**NURSEY**



**VOTE 1 - Rachel**



**VOTE 2 - Natalee**



**VOTE 3 - Niki**



**VOTE 4 - Karyn**



## THE LEINSTER GIRLS

**ADVERT**



**Invite you to a New Warm & Welcoming "TRANS" Venue**  
**A Chance to enjoy a unique & intimate environment**

**At "The Leinster" PH, Ossington Street W2.**

Directions from nearest Tube station (Notting Hill Gate). Take Exit "C" walk straight down road until you get to the "Champion" PH, turn Left into Ossington Street and the Leinster is approximately 200 metres on the left hand side.

**All evenings are FREE entry** and changing facilities may be available (subject to the Manager's Discretion).

**MONDAY EVENINGS 7:30pm - Midnight**

Monday evenings is an ALTERNATIVE venue to the Philbeach and is aimed at those who wish to enjoy a more relaxing & refined environment. A Venue where you can socialise and be treated with the respect you deserve, and most importantly a place to meet genuine, nice, like minded people.

We (subject to numbers) will be located in the upstairs Lounge and there will be a Waitress, Service (with a small charge) for anyone who wants to take advantage of it. No queuing or jostling at the Bar. The thought of being able to sit back order your drinks and unwind & relax whilst they are personally brought to you, How Wonderful!

**Thursday Evenings 7:30pm - Midnight**

*Why not Pop in for a few relaxing drinks before visiting TED'S PLACE to bop the night away. You can get a Bus (NUMBER 28) straight there from the top of the road.*

**FRIDAY EVENINGS 7:30pm - Midnight**

We are making this our Main Night of the week, again in the Upstairs Lounge, and Waitress Service. Come & Chill out at the end of a stressful week at work and enjoy the company of Lovely people

**This will become the "IN PLACE" to be seen on a Friday Night!!**

**Saturday Evenings**

*Why not drop in for a few relaxing drinks before Going on To either the WAY OUT CLUB or STUNNERS. There are plenty of Black Cabs available in the Main Road, or you can get a Central Line Tube from Notting Hill Gate, Change at the Bank and catch the Docklands Light Railway to Limehouse station, just a 3 min walk from Stunners.*

**The Leinster Girls welcome you to a Friendly New Venue.**

**We look forward to seeing you here very soon.**

**ADVERT**



# ‘uston, we have a problem!

Now then, It was T minus 10 seconds, the date – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April as I headed off to the Leinster, bag packed ready to sample the delights of this new venue. The plan being to get there early, suss the place out , then get changed , ready to meet Joanne ( Strake) at 8.

Finding the place was easy, the area, nice, so looked good. I walked into the pub nice and early. Straight away the staff were extremely polite, all male, all from overseas, but with impeccable manners. Trouble began, though, when I enquired about the Leinster Girls. Firstly I was told that the upstairs was already booked, but not to worry , the girls who run it will be there at 7, so after a quick coke ( very cheap for the City) I was led to the cellar of the pub to change.

Er..... problem #2. I was to change into my finery in a dusty cellar, surrounded by beer barrels! Not to be deterred, I promptly got changed. Had to take my tights off twice to extract bits of gravel, but Hey Ho!!

Problem #3 – The only mirror was in the gents, so war-paint had to be applied whilst amidst the usual comings and goings of a busy City pub via a scratched mirror and a 40 Watt light-bulb!! After this Braille will be a doddle!

After handing my bag in, behind the bar (bags, something they obviously hadn’t taken into account!) I proceeded to stand at the bar – no seats left – standing out like a sore thumb covered in luminous paint, not only the only TG there , but also the only one dressed for an evening out! By now 7.30pm.

The Staff and Wayne (Manager) were very apologetic and reassuring, but by 8.30pm, and no show from our hosts, I was ready to call it a night. At this point, luckily, my saviour in the guise of Joanne arrived. After a brief fill-in of events (hers are just as eventful!!) We decided to move on. Oh!! And did I mention the metal spiral staircase that is the only access to the upstairs Lounge? NO? Ah! But then again, I was mightily impressed at the Gazelle like grace that Joanne traversed it when first arriving at the venue!

OK Enough of the bad side. I really want the Leinster to work, It’s in a nice area, and we could do with more venues like this. The staff, Manager & clientele were absolutely lovely, couldn’t ask for better, and the place is nice too, unfortunately, on the night we went...it just didn’t happen! Let’s hope this was a one off. We are going to mail the hosts and find an explanation for what happened, so I will leave the advert in place until we get a clearer picture, so don’t give up on it before its even started! And as for Joanne – she’s a real doll, thanks hon, I had a blast xxx

# Joanne's Story

Am I jinxed? After a long time threatening I finally made arrangements to meet our gorgeous leader, Mandy, at a new venue in Bayswater "Leinster-girls" As it's getting more and more difficult to dress and leave home dressed I decided to book a room for the night at a Travel lodge in east London the opposite side of our capital to the venue, quite reasonable if you get a saver or super saver room, this particular hotel uses the public multi storey car park next door and that's where my problems began, after validating my ticket at reception, for a cheaper rate, I went to my room to get ready for the evening.

So now I'm ready, feeling good and looking good, I think! Maybe not! Not sure about the dress, anyway all set open room door, to the lift, through reception out of the hotel and to the car park, find the pay station **OH NO!** where's the ticket, check coat pockets look though handbag check coat pockets again drop keys and now there's a queue behind me and this dress is really annoying me now! Back to the hotel room to search for the ticket after ten minutes looking through everything and I mean everything I decide to get changed out of this dress which I now hate into a skirt and top, "sit down Joanne and take some deep breaths".

Feeling a little calmer now its time to go and face the man in the car park office to report my lost ticket, gulp, I am quite used to driving or walking dressed but I have never actually had to deal with a one to one situation in public before, so this is going to be a real test, gulp,

Having parked the car at the barrier I get out and approach the office window with mounting fear and in my softest most feminine voice (not very convincing) I explain I've lost my ticket and hand the man £6.50 (Daily rate) which he promptly hands back with a clipboard, form and pen. Name, Address, Car Registration number Telephone number, Drivers License Number Barclaycard inside leg, ethnic grouping and the list goes on, I managed a few basic details before handing him back the clipboard and pen and give him the most pitiful helpless woman look I can manage . I think it worked he took the money and went back to the pay machine to get me my ticket so I can get the hell out of there.

Now I'm late so of I go at top speed to Bayswater and feeling more relaxed after my encounter with authority I look forward to the evening ahead, **OH NO!** A traffic jam Just what I need, now anyone who goes out dressed in the car will probably use the same technique as me of not stopping directly level with the car in the other lane so as to avoid eye contact at traffic lights etc (I know I've just had to go face to face with the man in the fluorescent jacket in a smoky office, but it matters) so guess what I have approaching from the rear in the outside lane getting ever closer, a stretched limo with dozens of teenagers oozing out of the windows screaming and shouting at other drivers and passers by, **Oh My God!** Please help me, get this traffic moving, and luckily for me I just manage to avoid the rear half of the limo and the consequences of being spotted by the marauding hordes of chavs on a night out.

Finally I arrive at the Leinster arms and spend ten or so minutes circumnavigating the pub in ever increasing circles trying to find a parking space. however the only one I can find is now a good five minute walk away but all is not lost I spot the yellow light of a taxi approaching me and flag it down, "Leinster arms please driver" Good heavens he didn't moan about the short journey "Ok Guv" Guv? And I thought I was looking good?

At long last I'm at the pub door and the flyer for the venue said the meeting was upstairs, just inside the door is a spiral staircase, a wrought iron spiral staircase with tables underneath with drinkers sat at those tables, at the top of the stairs I'm greeted by a notice "Private Party" ah that must be us **WRONG** no girls it really is a private party, back down the wrought iron spiral staircase with tables underneath with drinkers sat at those tables, as I descend I scan across the crowded bar room not noticing any girls at all, **Oh My God!** What have

I walked into, then out of the crowd she appeared, like an oasis in a desert of men, my saviour, Mandy beaming radiantly.

So there you have it, a tale full of woes, but I have to be the first to admit, so many laughs, it will be a long while before I can top that!

So what of our Hosts? Here are their replies to Joanne and me

(Joanne)" Went to the leinster last night (Friday) and there was no one there! Went upstairs and inadvertently gate crashed a private party, have the TG nights been cancelled?? "

"Don't know what time you got there, but when I turned up there was a few of the trans community there. More guys than girls as well!  
Unfortunately due to work & transport probs I didn't get there until 9:45 pm.

There was a private party going on upstairs so we were all in the main bar (except for about 15 mins).

We are few in numbers at the moment, mainly due to the type of people we are trying to attract, and whilst this can be a bit frustrating at times we just don't want to become another "philbeach clone". We are prepared to be patient to achieve our aims."

"My apologies if you seemed a bit "put out" by being the first one there last night buy my 2 fellow co-host are both away at the moment and it can be a bit difficult for me to get there much before 9pm at the earliest.  
Had you stayed I'm sure you would have enjoyed the atmosphere, and we hope last nights experience hasn't deterred you from joining us again.

The Pub will be closed this Monday (24th) for a "paint job" but I will be there again this coming Friday,

I'm sorry i didn't have the opportunity to meet you  
Rest assured the Trans evenings have not been cancelled.

Hugs

Kim "

So, there you go, obviously just one of those nights, so please go along and give Leinster Girls your support, we will definitely be going again, probably on the 13<sup>th</sup>, so see you there!!

# THE STYLE COUNCIL



## GG (Tammi) Versus TV (Rachel G) in a fashion battle to the death!

It seems increasingly popular to pit two unlikely components together in popular television and see who wins, bicycle versus car etc, etc, etc. This month's mega challenge sees gender girl pitted against transvestite in a vague attempt to see if transvestites actually do possess any fashion sense whatsoever? (Editors note: Still not asked Mandy if she has. Explains why she is in a hump!!!)

That's the scene set, now for the contest ...



Well Mandy chose one of her own top's. Very interesting manga top. Let the bitch fight begin. Hang on what you mean Rachel knows the Martial Arts oh cripes .....

<u>Tammi's Outfit</u>	<u>Rachel's Outfit</u>
<p>I actually like this top (please can I borrow it Mandy?). Little bit unique but you do need to have a good body shape to pull it off. After much thought and hours of research here is my look....</p>	<p>Spring has sprung time to get your bits out. I love cropped t-shirts you get to see my flat tummy and random body jewellery. In fact I am just going to cheat this month and select items I already own for my look ...</p>



Bubble skirts are in this summer. Choose white to keep it airy and summery. Going to cheat I think the bubble works well but I would probably go for this skirt ...



Surely the denim mini is a design classic. I certainly love all of mine, the bad news is they look better with tanned toned legs so its time for the stepmaster and a large bottle of fake tan!



Nice detailing a lil more flirty and fun!!!!



With a hipster miniskirt VPL can be a very good thing, just leave the Bridget Jones's at home and wear a thong that would make Peter Stringfellow swoon.

Not quite warm enough to go out with out a jacket. So I went for

I simply can't resist the Olivia Newton John – Grease inspired leather jacket look, "summer loving had me some funnnn ...."



Nice looking practical and shows of my boobs he he he



Leather biker rock chick look, and when you are outside at least you'll be warm.



Nice shoes to finish. Simple and comfy to wear.



Yummy and individualistic Faith boots next. They match the denim of the mini and bring some of the fun detailing from the t-shirt down to the feet. Plus they have a fabulous 4" metal heel, guaranteed to make you at least feel like a girl.

Then just add the bling!!! Simple and elegant



And simply accessorise with the appropriate jewellery, rings, necklaces, earrings, bracelets and things to put in any other holes you might have.



 <p>Nice and simple. Also keep it understated,</p>	 <p>Is it possible to wear too much jewellery these days?</p>
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### Tammi's final thoughts

Made the T-shirt the statement and every think else quite simple. The top has a lot going on so rest rather plain. This outfit is a very casual look and can be worn going to the shops or down to the beach. It's got a hint of flirtiness about it too. Let me know what you think and if you have an article of clothing or an event you want us to give our clothing views on let us know!!!!

### Rachel's final thoughts

Fortunately the slightly glimpse of the sun in the sky made me think about summer clubbing outfits before Mandy even showed us the t-shirt, so it was just a case of looking through my cupboard and thinking what I would wear out tonight. Sadly for me when you do see me out next I will probably be wearing all this stuff so I will be easily spottable. Just to add to Tammi's note if anyone is brave enough to send us a picture of a outfit they don't mind us laying into we can do a "What not to wear" style article, but you'll have to be very brave, Tammi and I can be just slightly catty about such things.

### So who won?

Second place is the first loser. Therefore Tammi and Rachel declare they are both in joint first place.

# BRAIN OF NARCISSE



As you may be aware, it has been with heavy heart that, we, at Narcisse, have called time on the monthly quiz as a competition. This is because –

**YOU LOT ARE TOO BLOOMIN' LAZY!!!!**

There will still be a “Tammi’s Torment’s”, but for fun only.

It is now my great honour to announce the winners to those few who did **BOTHER!!**

**Highest Overall Score**

**Nicola James**

**Highest Score for April**

**Rachel Greene**

**Special Award for the Girl most persistently Bad**

**P J James**

**Final Standings**

1. Nicola James	117	6. P J James	30
2. Rachel Greene	114	7. Abigail McChristie	26
3. Kirsty Darling	111	8. Katherine Sloan	10
4. Kirsty Scott	104	9. LisaGayle	9
5. Karen James	71		

To All the girls who took part in the quiz, my heartfelt thanks, with special thanks to the quiz-mistress Tammi

XXXXXXXXXX



**THE** **LOWDOWN** **WITH** **LOWLA**

## Clutter

A couple of years ago our local town government started an “adopt the highway” program in which volunteers go out twice a year and clean up the litter along a designated piece of road. My wife and I adopted a couple of miles of town road immediately adjacent to our house. On our walks lately we’ve taken garbage bags along and filled them up with roadside debris. Beer and pop cans, liquor bottles, empty packs of cigarettes, fast food containers; it was disgusting that people had chosen to throw their trash out along the road. Poor decisions made by individuals that lack understanding of their relationship to nature and to the other people that share their planet. Then I came across a little green stuffed toy, a frog beanie baby, encrusted with salt and sand with one arm torn off. Perhaps at one time a child’s favourite, perhaps cherished, loved, important, and perhaps still missed; it had somehow ended up on the road, pushed into the ditch by the snow ploughs and ravaged by the harsh northern Wisconsin winter. It seemed wrong that it should have been there amongst the other trash. It didn’t belong, a seemingly small but tragic mistake.

I would not recommend chemotherapy as a recreational activity. The 10 days since my first treatment have been challenging. My oncologist tells me I’m doing well, I like the way he thinks. One day last week I was lying on the bed in the middle of the day dealing with the bone pain, headache, upset stomach and fatigue. My wife came in and decided that to keep me company she would clean out her dresser. While I licked my wounds, she proceeded to fill up a large box of clothes to take to Goodwill and another to take to the dump. It got me thinking that so many of the things we hold onto in our lives are unnecessary. I have some pack rat tendencies myself. In my workshop I have many cans with old screws and nails and parts of broken machinery. Under my stairs I still have bundles of hardwood flooring despite the fact that our house was completed 8 years ago, you never know when you might suffer an attack on your living room floor by a crazed person with a crowbar. I could easily stand to part with this junk and much more. It clutters up my shelves, my closets, my space and my life. Getting rid of it would impart a sense of simplification and economy and would be consistent with the spring themes of renewal, recycling and rebirth. While it is possible to throw things away for the right reasons, it is also possible to throw things away for the wrong reasons - doing exactly that turns out to be an occupational hazard of being a crossdresser.

Purging is the term we use - usually an indiscriminate and global jettisoning of our clothes, shoes, makeup and even friends and female identity. It's usually precipitated by periods of stress and done in a fit of anger, frustration, confusion and internal conflict. On one hand we ask who we are; on the other, who are we kidding? At the time it feels like the right decision; it feels like you should emerge cleansed and 'normal'; it feels therapeutic, much in the way that yelling at a loved one or kicking your dog does, for a very short period of time and with much associated guilt and regret. Ultimately we end up feeling sorry, sad and depressed. It is a crime of passion, in which we deny our true selves and our true passions.

Being threatened with a potentially lethal disease is not something that is easy or pleasant to deal with. It forces you to reprioritize things in your life and brings with it the clarity necessary for difficult decisions. I feel the need to simplify my life and get rid of the unnecessary clutter. The time for spring cleaning is here and nothing has been spared from consideration. There are many things that could and should go. I've been working on making healthy and wise choices. Yes I want to get rid of the clutter, but I also want to save the things worth saving, work on the things worth working on, and live a life worth living.

The question arises; should Lowla be on the list of things to go? In the past she would have been an easy target of opportunity, the part of me that is her could be considered unnecessary, complicating and expendable. In the past I might have treated my feminine persona like the cans and bottles tossed by immature motorists, trash not even meriting the honour of proper disposal. Presently, I realize that decision is not an option. In the harsh light illuminating my life lately I find that Lowla is no longer a liability. Does it truly take being faced with death before you can learn to love yourself? Perhaps so, for in the midst of my personal health crisis Lowla, and those that know her, have served as a source of comfort, strength and joy. I realize is that she is not just worth preserving; she is worth my love, attention and nurture. She has come of age. It will not be necessary for Lowla to end up in the ditch along side the poor little beanie baby frog.

Take care

Lowla

# CENTRE-FOLD

C  
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***Cierra Kelley***

***Age:35***

***Height:5'11***

***Weight: not tellin you***

***Favorite food: Italian***

***Hated Food: seafood***

***Favorite beverage: Chocolate milk***

Hello kind people!

First of all it's an honor to be featured here at the boutique!

Well, I wasn't really chosen;

I just happened to be the

fastest to respond to our

gracious hosts email request.

So I won the right!



“ To tell you about me, I have been into girly clothing since I can remember. I have had a life long struggle in understanding and accepting myself. I've recently come to terms with it all and am moving forward toward being my true self full time. I am currently married. Bless my wife for trying to understand. In the end we will be probably wind up divorcing. I love getting to know all of the different people both here and u r not alone. ”



C

K

I was a two sport athlete as a teenager, playing baseball and American football. Afterwards I enlisted in the Navy where I spent eight years as a fire control technician. And no, that's not being a fire fighter. Today I go property to property seeking out insects and diseases in Florida Palm trees and shrubberies. So in my photos, if I look a little crispy, that would be why!





Sexually, I am Bi sexual. I do definitely prefer the ladies over the guys. That doesn't mean that I don't like the guys, it simply means that I do not trust their motives nearly as readily. I have never been with anyone of my sexuality, or another man. So I am a virgin thru and thru.

If any of you would like to chit chat; I often can be found in the URNA chat room. Or email me from my URNA profile. It does work.

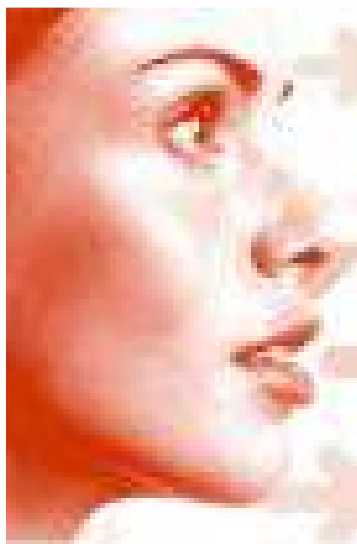
The photos that I have presented for this are probably the best I have ever done on a complete set basis. I hope that you all enjoy them as much as I had taking them.

With that, everyone be well, be safe and have fun! **STAY TRUE TO YOURSELVES!**

Love and Hugs,

Cierra xxxxxx





Easy to get wrong, so powerful and feminine if done right! What a Cheek!!

**1. Cream Blush** Cream blush is especially good for mature women with dryer skin. This makeup blush adds another layer of protection, nourishment and beauty to your face. To apply blush colour, dot the **cream blush** on your cheek bone. Use a sponge or makeup brush to blend up and out in circular motion into the apple and cheekbone area. Blend the cream blush into your hairline.

**2. Makeup Blush** Cosmetic blush doesn't always have to go on last. Applying blush after your moisturizer but before your foundation will give you a natural, subtle glow. Makeup blush comes in different forms. **Cream blush** works well on mature women with dryer skin. Teens who want a sheer touch of colour like gel blush. The popular powder blush has long staying power.

**3. A fresh and natural look in makeup** would be wearing a tinted moisturizing cream, a light blush or **bronzer** for your cheeks, a light coating of mascara and lip-gloss. Let your natural beauty show through!

**4. Natural Blush** Wondering what colour of makeup blush to use? You want natural colour from cosmetic blush. Check out your face when you come in from the cold. You will see your natural colour and where you blush naturally as well.

**5. Blush Application** Many women are uncertain about where to apply cosmetic blush. Blush should be applied to the fullest part of your cheek. Take your **blush brush** and sweep the colour back toward the temple. Once your blush is in place, take a cotton ball and blend until you have just a hint of natural looking blush colour. Subtle is the key word with makeup blush. No strips of colour please.

**6. Blush and Lipstick** Always match your lipstick to your **blush**. Red lipstick and apricot blush don't work. Stick to these matches: Red lipstick: reddish or pink blush. Rose lipstick: rose blush. Pink lipstick: pink blush. Coral or apricot lipstick: peachy toned blush. Brown toned lipstick: bronze shades of blush with the same undertones as the lipstick.

**7. Your Blush Stroke** When you apply your blush, use sweeping upward strokes for flawless application.

**8. Finding Your Cheek** If you are unsure of where to place your blush, smile big and you will find your natural cheek. Then simply brush on your blush while you are smiling. You will have perfect application each time!



## BLUSH TIPS

Since people's eyes will go to where colour shows, you want to avoid the apples of your cheeks. Highlight your cheekbones with blush instead, since that is where you naturally blush. Follow this simple tip: Place two fingers on the side of your nose and remember that blush should never be closer to your nose than that! Start at the apples of your cheeks and sweep upward toward your hairline.

To give yourself a healthy glow, apply blush to the "apple" of your cheek. If you use a cream formula, apply with your fingers. If it's powder, use a brush that is not too big, or you'll sweep on too much colour. The apple of the cheek is the part that protrudes so nicely when you smile.

Chubby cheeks got you down? Once your makeup is applied, finish it off by dipping a slim blush brush in a deep terra-cotta powder, and apply it right under the cheekbone, following its shape. For more depth, blend the powder with a taupe eyeshadow.

### Blusher Colour Tips:

1. Fair skin - beige, tawny and pink tones.
2. Olive/Yellow-toned skin - warm brown, almond and copper shades.
3. Dark-skin - plum, auburn and deep bronze shades.
4. Tanned skin - orange, apricot, peach and coral shades.

# A few reasons why it's Gr8 to be a

## woman!



They got off the Titanic first.

They can scare male bosses with mysterious gynaecological disorder excuses.

They get to flirt with systems support men who always return their calls, and are nice to them when they blow up their computers.

Their boyfriend's clothes make them look elfin & gorgeous. Guys look like complete idiots in theirs.

They can be groupies. Male groupies are stalkers.

They can cry and get off speeding fines.

They've never lusted after a cartoon character or the central figure in a computer game.

Taxis stop for them.

Men die earlier, so women get to cash in on the life insurance.

They don't look like a frog in a blender when dancing.

Free drinks, Free dinners, Free movies (you get the point).

They can kiss their friends without wondering if she thinks we're ay.

They can hug their friends without wondering if THEY'RE gay.

New lipstick gives them a whole new lease on life.

If they're not making enough money they can blame the glass ceiling.

It's possible to live their whole lives without ever taking a group shower.

No fashion faux pas they make could ever rival The Speedo.

They don't have to fart to amuse ourselves.

If they forget to shave, no one has to know.

They can congratulate their team-mate without ever touching her ass.

If They have a zit, they know how to conceal it.

They never have to reach down every so often to make sure their privates are still there.

If they're dumb, some people will find it cute.

They don't have to memorize Caddyshack or Fletch to fit in.

They have the ability to dress themselves.

They can talk to people of the opposite sex without having to picture them naked.

If they marry someone 20 years younger, they're aware that they look like an idiot.

Their friends won't think women are weird if they ask whether there's spinach in the latter's teeth.

There are times when chocolate really can solve all their problems.

Gay waiters don't make them uncomfortable.

They'll never regret piercing the ears.

They can fully assess a person just by looking at one's shoes.

They'll never discover they've been duped by a Wonderbra.

They know which glass was theirs by the lipstick mark

With thanks Kristina xxx



leigh



Smythe



IT'S AGONY!!!!

### **Thoughts on a TG - 12 steps**

**[a dear TG writes]** "That's the thing I keep asking myself time & time again here it is Easter again & I am still ?????? This is a note to my friends to let them know I won't be around much more. I am not pissed at anyone but myself & feel I have to find my place in life. If I see you or u see me say hi & hope all the best to you all.

**[My reply was]** My experience has been that you must have peace in your heart. Your place awaits you. Please do not be pissed with yourself. Forgive yourself. I'm in my 59th year and I still seek many things. They will find me when I am ready. I'm not your friend, yet, but I am your sister, and I say stay with us. Eventual-leigh you will find your home. Have faith, dear sister. Have faith, and be well..

faithful-leigh,

Leigh Smythe

This brings to the fore the tremendous angst so many feel. I know it's ambitious for one with so many burdens of my own, but I want to address this issue.

So, how are we to make the measure of a "man"(speaking of humankind, of course)? What is in your heart is your true being.

These are ***The twelve steps of Alcoholics Anonymous***. Do they set an example of our path?

***1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol; that our lives had become unmanageable.***

Are we powerless over our affliction? Is our affliction something evil that we want to disavow? I say, NO. Our affliction is our being. We are some portions, male, and some portions, female. I believe, we make our lives unmanageable only when we struggle against the recognition of what we truly are. We are what we are. It's acceptable. It's beautiful. It's a wondrous thing! It's no affliction.

***2. Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.***

I believe that power "greater than ourselves" is in ourselves. The insanity is outside of us. It is the lack of recognition of us as what we each are. Sometimes, we even doubt each other and ourselves. Our task is to understand our own very nature and then to translate that into a blessing of the nature of others.

***3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.***

God cannot be a God who does not care for us. The very nature of God is to care. How can we care less. Our fight is with our doubts. Our fight is to believe in ourselves. When we can do that, we touch the face of God.

***4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.***

What is our history. Each varies slightly, but it is the same, isn't it? We struggle with the confusion taught to us by others. Our parents, in their greatest hopes for us, defined us without knowing the full story. We, likewise, were too young to know our own story. Every day, we get glimpses of truth to compare with all those memories. Many memories we have to cast off. Many memories, we have to

translate into our new awareness. Our morality is our dual nature. Our morality is in the patience to find the right.

*5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.*

Isn't that what we all do in these groups? And, when we tell our families that we reject the label of misguided, insane, or, otherwise incapacitated in any way? And, when we appear in society begging for the recognition that we are a normal being with a more diverse nature, and we deserve to be able to present as we are?

*6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.*

*7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.*

Aren't 6 & 7 the same? Only our shortcomings are that we have failed ourselves. We have failed our loved ones by deceit that eventually proves unnecessary, or, at least, unmanageable. We have feared too much. That fear has cost our character dearly, but not completely. We can recover from it.

*8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.*

*9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.*

Again, these are aspects of the same. Who has been harmed? Number one on that list is us. Our very soul. Our families have not had the opportunity to know the wonderful beings that we truly are. Our friends have not known the truth of our lives. We have to very selectively make this truth known, because of the closed mindedness of some, but someday we have to have faith that we may share with all, who we really are. Amends may not take the route of disclosure. You may find ways to share your gentle nature and the strength of your character with those who you need to call friend.

*10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.*

*11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.*

We have been wrong to ourselves. Generally, we have gotten carried away with the changes we wished so for so long and so hard. Have we condemned other TGs in their ways. I hope all have or will learn from this. Just as God is complete, of neither sex or gender, but both, can it help for us to ask His help to understand ourselves? Can that meagre understanding, that we have, be directly from Him? If He is both, aren't we both, and, therefore closer to Him as a result?

*12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.*

In this Magazine, I hope that the message to each TG and related Gender Identity questioning person can reach out to others of "our kind" to extend the hand of advice and help and friendship. We are unique, but not alone. The diversity of the world needs us, deserves us, and, eventually, will have us.

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The thoughts contained in this article are mine and mine alone. It is presented only to act as a help, a kindness from my heart, upon which are the engravings of these thoughts. If you have taken something from this, I rejoice that it may have contained something of value. If not, I only wish for your comfort and ease in your life. And that it may evolve as you ultimately wish.

**Sincere-leigh,**

**Leigh Smythe**

**WINNER**

OF

*Best Costume Drama*



*Rachel Greene*

# "TAMMI'S



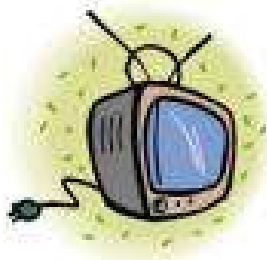
# TORMENT'S

## QUIZ

**Think you're smart enough? Don't sweat, it's just for fun!**



- 1) Which actor links the film orange county and sharks tale (1 point)
- 2) Which actress links the movies jumanji and interview with a vampire (5 points)
- 3) Name the director who directed both x men and superman movies (1 point)
- 4) In what movie did Gwyneth Poutrow play an air hostess (2 points)
- 5) Name the movie the follow taglines come from (point for each)  
She walked off the street, into his life and stole his heart.  
Paul Edgecomb didn't believe in miracles... until the day he met one  
Don't get him wet, keep him out of bright light, and never feed him after midnight  
A family comedy without the family  
Before the internet, before cell phones, before roller-blades, there was a time... 1985. Don't pretend you don't remember.



- 1) In which series does "lilly rush" solve old murder cases (2 points)
- 2) Big brother was first shown in which country (4 points)
- 3) Which show stared a nose twitching witch (3 points)
- 4) What was the profession of the father of the Brady bunch (4 points)
- 5) Who hosts the pimp my ride uk and us versions (2 point for each)



- 1) What were the nicknames of the Spice Girls 5 point for each one
- 2) Mark Walburg was in which 90's Band 2
- 3) Which Dinner table condiments had a hit with Push IT 4
- 4) Marlyin Manson had a hit with a cover of Tainted Love. Who sang it originally 4
- 5) Who sang build me up Buttercup? 2



- 6. How many points you get for scoring a basket from your own half in netball 3
- 7. What is the centre target called in darts 1
- 8. Why in 1908 was the Marathon made longer 5
- 9. In what sport might you find the wasps facing the sharks or shoguns 4
- 10. How many players start a game of basketball 2

## *Guess the accessory*

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.





## Wicca

By Heather Willis

What is Wicca? First of all let's define Wicca. Wicca comes from the Old English *Wicce* (meaning wise or wisdom).

Wicca/witchcraft is a nature base religion consisting of a HPS (High Priestess) and HP (High Priest) of a Coven. There are a lot of wiccans who are solitary practitioners, while there are those who belong to covens.

Wiccans hold their rituals on the 8 holidays known as Sabbats and Esbats (New and full moons). The Sabbats follow the Celtic Year. There are as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> of February is Imbolc (aka Candle Mass in the Christian world). It is also known as The Festival of St. Brigit. Brigit is the only Celtic Goddess to be canonized by the Roman Catholic Church. She is still worshipped as a Goddess in Ireland. On the Spring equinox (Ostara) 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> of March; 1<sup>st</sup> of May is Beltane sometimes referred to as the Great Rite with the May Pole; Midsummer's Eve 21<sup>st</sup> of June; 1<sup>st</sup> of August is Lúghnasadh (Harvest); Autumn Equinox – Mabon (The Thanksgiving); Samhain – Summer's End. Samhain is also known as Halloween; and Yule 21<sup>st</sup> of December – Winter Solstice.

Wicca has many paths that people follow.

We do have one main rule and that is our Rede. Harm none and do as you will.

**Next months** issues I will talk about the history of Wiccan and more about the Sabbats, etc..



# Reiki



In the last 2-3 years I have been trying to find answers as to why my life has turned out the way it has. During this time I became aware of Reiki. A friend had had a session of Reiki and she said it made an immediate difference to her for the first day or two after the session. The most immediate benefit was feeling of relaxation and that night she had one of the best night's sleeps she had ever had. This sense of relaxation and feeling of improved well being made a difference to my friend and she went on to have a few more sessions and received an even greater sense of well being. Last February I had one such sessions and it did make me feel relaxed for a time and may well have had a good night's sleep of it. However the practitioner I went to had a hand's off technique whereas I believe I would have had better benefits from the hands on one. My curiosity had been stirred and I joined a class in June 2006 to learn Stage 1 of this technique and have practices on myself and others since. Sensations, smells and feelings have occurred which I can't fully explain but they all part of the process of self healing and improved well being.

So what is Reiki? Reiki is Japanese for Universal Life Force Energy. **Rei** is universal, transcendental spirit, mysterious power, essence. Whilst **Ki** is vital life force energy. It is pronounced ray-key. Everyone of us has Reiki energy in us and flowing through us as it flows through the Universe. However the flows can be interrupted by the stresses and strains of modern living and medical problems. This leads to feeling out of sorts, run down and depressed. When you see a Reiki practitioner all they do is offer themselves as a channel to try and help re-establish the flow of this energy to bring us back to a sense of well being. We have several what is known as Chakra points through out our bodies. These points all affect different parts of our bodies. *If interested in the Chakra's, I suggest you look up the internet to find out the areas of our bodies that they affect.* The charka's can get out of synchronisation with each other hence the loss of well being. A session or session with a Reiki practitioner help you try and realign these points. The Reiki practitioner doesn't do anything to the client except gentle place their hands on various parts of your body. A practitioner is someone who has gone through attunement sessions to allow them to act as a channel to re-establish you with the Universal Life force.

A typical Reiki session lasts about an hour in a quiet room with subdued lighting. Sometimes soft Reiki music will be played to help people relax and encourage an atmosphere of peace, tranquillity, love and relaxation. The client will lie down on a massage type table with their head on a pillow if required and one under the knees. A blanket will be available as sometimes people do get chilly. You will be asked to lie with your eyes shut and to try and empty your minds and relax for the hour. During

the session, as previously mentioned, the practitioner will gently lay their hands on your body. When I am doing this the areas I cover are the eyes, temples, ears, back of the head, throat, between the breasts, under the breast, the belly button, the one hands width below that, one hand at the top of each leg pointing down towards the genital, knees, ankles one at a time, and the feet one at a time. Altogether this covers 15 hand positions and by slowly moving between each area it does take approx 1 hour to do them all.

By placing my hands on you all I am doing is making contact with you. As a practitioner the Universal Life Force enters my body through the top of my head and leaves through my hands. I am not forcing anything just acting as a connection. If your body needs the Life Force it will accept it through me. I am really just a channel between the two. Some parts of your body won't need any energy whilst others may need significant amounts. More than can be accepted at one time, that's why you may need several sessions. Throughout the process all I feel is my hands and lower arms tingling, I can feel the flow of the energy. If I feel nothing then I move onto the next area. I always finish at the feet. This moves any toxins and bad energy down your body and it leaves via the soles of your feet. Once I was treating a smoker. I didn't smell any tobacco in her hair, which is unusual however when finishing off at her feet the smell of tobacco was strong. That particular toxin was leaving her body via her feet.

It is not unusual for clients to lose all track of time and to even fall asleep. The body reacts in different ways. Most often the stomach gurgles and other bodily noises can be heard which can embarrass clients. There is no need to be, it's just the body accepting the Life Energy and letting it sort out what problems you may have. I was once receiving Reiki from a friend when on the area above around the top of the left leg and groin and intense pain was felt. I commented later to my friend and she said that particular area accepted a significant amount of energy. To be honest it is still not right and still needs working on until it is balanced out.

This may all sound like mumbo jumbo to some of you. If I was cynical I may feel the same way. However life has tired me out when I tired it and learnt how to be a practitioner and I was open to learn about it without any preconceived ideas. Many things I have felt whilst both giving and receiving Reiki that I can't understand. It does work and has helped many people become well balanced with their lives. Once you have opened yourself up to Reiki, received it and maybe become a practitioner your mindset does change too. I know in the time I have done it I have become more careful in what I take into my body.

Go along for a session or two. Try it for yourself. It may well make a difference to your life too



*BECKY'S  
BEAUTY  
SPOT*

Hi All!!

You would be amazed at what things we have in the cupboard that can be used for skin care on my never ending search for useful items I have come across many wonders things. Which I was going to share with you but as I moved and to boot a right lazy cow I am going to have to postpone it till next month but under pain of death and removal of my false nails Mandy has cyber beaten me (only joking Mandy) into making an effort.

So here's 5 recipes for you beautification

Oats and brown sugar scrub,

This must be used the same day as making as it won't keep

2 Tbsp. ground oats

2 tsp. brown sugar

2 Tbsp. aloe vera

1 tsp. lemon juice

Mix all ingredients until you have a smooth paste. Gently massage onto damp skin, and rinse off with warm water.

If you are having problems with spots you could try this.

A mixture of crushed fresh mint mixed with oats apply to the skin rub in gently leave for 5 minutes and wash off with warm water.

Cucumber is a natural cleanser,

Mix the juice of ½ a cucumber and a little milk

And use as you would your normal cleanser mix should be around 70% cucumber 30% milk.

Another interesting use for cucumber is as an anti wrinkle cream.

Blend ½ a cucumber chopped into cubes with an egg white 2 tablespoons of mayonnaise with half a cup of olive oil or wheat germ oil.

Apply mornings and evenings a wipe off with a tissue.

Suffering from bags under the eyes try this.

Brew a cup of strong rose-hip tea Soak two cotton pads in it, and lie down with the pads over your eyes. This reduces swelling, refreshes and tightens the skin.

Now then gang, I know what your thinking, 'Why should I pour all this gunk all over my visage?' - 'Who's to say it's any good?' and other disparaging remarks. Well, never let it be said that I will not suffer for my art, so as of this month, my wife Joanne and I will be putting Becky's recipes to the test, so if you don't see any new pictures from me for a while you know one has gone horribly wrong and I'm filing for divorce!!!

So, bring it on .....what was that? Eye of Newt????!!!!!!



In the

# PAPER'S



Just to prove that Tranny's are not **ALWAYS** right!!

## THE SKIRTING BOARD

A **CROSS-DRESSING** male hospital porter was hauled before a disciplinary board yesterday for wearing a skirt.

Gary Starns, 39, faces the sack after bosses claimed his attire posed a health and safety risk.

They said all porters at Southend General Hospital, Essex — including

women — had to wear trousers. But Gary, who is backed by cross-dressers' support group Transliving International, says if nurses can wear dresses so should he.

He added: "The managers shouldn't be so small-minded and petty." The hospital refused to comment.

## SWITCH THAT STOPS FASHION FROM CLASHIN'

■ The days of turning up to a party in the same outfit as another guest could be numbered.

And drab office clothes may soon be transformed into sassy evening wear without the need for a changing cubicle. It's all thanks to clothing that changes colour at the flick of a switch.

■ The intelligent textiles, nicknamed "chameleon clothing", change colour when tiny electrical currents are sent coursing through the fibres.

Different voltages mean different colours, according to the US scientists behind the fabrics. The team from the University of Connecticut made the threads from a mix of chemicals which react to an electric field.

■ Thin metal wires running through the fabric lead to a battery pack and control switch which varies the electrical current that change the colour.

So far the team has invented orange and red threads which turn blue and green threads which can turn white.

■ Eventually the team hopes to have a variety of colours in each thread so that a plain shirt could even develop a pattern in the fabric.

The threads are washable and could even be woven into blankets, allowing bed linen to co-ordinate with every bedroom in the house.



Amy Nuttall and Kacey Ainsworth at last year's British Soap Awards



ACROSS  
**GOLDEN**  
POND



This month, I'm not going to open with any political barbs or pithy remarks. Frankly, I'm fed up with the current administration and their cronyism. It seems the policy is let the big oil companies gouge the public at the pumps and get as much as you can before the voters boot the Republicans out next election. All the other reasons for the outrageous price increases sound hollow. The only one that makes sense is "Let's get all we can while we can." (I'm a little frosted. Can you tell?)

So what's going on here in the colonies that I won't be able to afford to drive to soon?

Rhea's Café Is back at the Albany Lifeworks Center next Tuesday 4/25 from 730-930. This is a trans discussion group open to trans people and their supporters with light refreshments and a modest admission fee of \$5. This is an opportunity for all of us to meet socialize and have and have intelligent conversation too.

Equality & Justice Day on May 8th at the Empire State Plaza convention center here in Albany. This is where LGBT from across the state come to discuss laws pending in the state legislature pertaining to the LGBT community. The cost is \$15. and is sponsored by the Empire State PRIDE Agenda & Foundation (ESPA). Hope to see a good turnout of the TG community there.

The Capital District Gay and Lesbian Community Council is presenting a special benefit performance of La Cage aux Folles Thursday, May 11, 2006 The CDGLCC promises a night of laughs, high drama, family, dancing and show "girls" with this outstanding performance of La Cage aux Folles at the historic Cohoes Music Hall (58 Remsen Street, Cohoes, NY). The Cohoes Music Hall is a beautiful theatre and is listed on the National Historic Register.

And lastly, from Diane Lachtrupp, a real friend to our community:

Tango Fusion

At the Saratoga Arts Theater (In the Arts Centre) - April 22nd, 23rd, 29th and 30th  
This Full-length Show Features Tango, Salsa, Ballet, jazz, Flamenco and Live Music. There Will Be Dancing and Refreshments after the Evening Performances.

I had an interesting experience recently in trying to help a new girl get out of the closet. Imagine this.

I had been approached online by a local girl who has a profile on Yahoo but little else. She said that she was getting to the point of needing to get out and meet other girls. Her problem is that she is married and her wife does not know. Probably would not be happy about it if she found out. So... This young TG contacted me, for some unknown reason to ask advice. As if I know anything. We talked a while

and I asked the usual questions. Finally determining that she was sincere, in so far as that's possible on this media, I broached the subject of meeting.

I offered to let her set the time and place, no rush, no pressure. Just one girl meeting another. Coffee and girl talk. Get to feel a little more comfortable and all that stuff. Well, she tells me that she works at a store in a local mall and said that it would be OK if someone came to the store and pretended to be a customer, or maybe showed up right at closing. So we set it up for Tuesday night. 9:30. I told her that I would be no later than 9:40 and that was that. She would of course be in boy mode, I would be Lisa.

I arrived at the appointed time and went into the mall. I thought I looked pretty good. Like any girl at the mall. Jeans, flats (nice brand new black ones) and a LOW cut red top. I did my nails and wore tasteful jewelry. My one flash was that I taped up so I created some cleavage. Worked darned well too. My necklace fell just right pointing the eye right down that nice crease. I thought it would enhance anyone's impression of whether or not they were looking at a female. But I'm digressing.

When I got there. Two things were immediately apparent.

- 1.) That I had to walk right past the Sheriff's Office in the mall to get to our meeting place, and
- 2.) Everything was closed. Including her store. There was not a soul around.

Well damn! She stood me up. And after all that effort and getting out (no mean feat in itself). There was nothing for it. I turned to head back to the car and reached into my purse for my keys. Gone. No car keys.

I looked around on the floor, nothing. Emptied my purse again. Nothing. I went back outside by the car, Nothing. I remembered putting them in my purse so they had to have fallen out, but where? I retraced my steps again looking all over the ground and floor. Nothing. On the way back in to the mall doesn't the cop come out of the office and he calls to me, "The mall's closed, ma'am." Hey! He called me ma'am! Cool. But then he came over to me and what was I to do? I told him I lost my keys. I couldn't do anything else. He was very nice and helped me look with his flashlight. I was getting distraught. I was twenty miles north of where I was supposed to be. Completely dressed, locked out of the car which had my boy clothes in the trunk, and my cell phone in the passenger seat. I couldn't call anyone. And I couldn't get into the car or get home. Even if I could call someone, I was still dressed. And I would have to get into the house and changed before wife noticed. Not possible. Plus I would have to arrange to go get the car the next day in a place where I wasn't supposed to be. The longer this went on, the more frantic I became.

Now while I was looking with the cop, some guy walked by and I asked him if he had seen any car keys on the ground. "No" was all he said and kept walking. I had to force myself to think and be calm. I retraced my steps one more time and don't you know, I saw them. They had fallen into a planter. Popped out of the top of my purse while I was walking. Whew! All I could think about at that point was getting out of there and home. I was a nervous wreck. On the way out the cop called to me "Have a good evening ma'am and drive safely" So I drove home, stopped at a place I know where I could change in the car and not be seen, and all the while I was thinking about what

happened. I started to get really torques at being stood up. I went through all that for nothing. She's going to hear about this, I said to myself. I mean, I can understand getting cold feet, but jeez! I was the one dressed. She didn't even have to put herself out for anything. She could pretend she had no idea who I was or something but she should have at least acknowledged me. She might have called and told me she was having second thoughts.

So I looked for her on IM Wednesday. She was on. So I told her what I thought. She said she was there and saw me. She was the guy I asked about my keys. Well of course, I had no way of recognizing her like that. My own stupid fault. I should have arranged things better. So why didn't she introduce herself? She said I looked very upset and she didn't want to add to that. Baloney! I think it was because the cop was around and she knows him and didn't want to seem to be meeting me. Well I guess I should expect that. She did apologize so old softy that I am. I agreed to try again. I mean if she is sincere, I do want to help her get out of the house and into the world.

Here's the part where I make lemonade. What good came of it? Well, from now on I will carry a spare key in my wallet. THAT will never happen again. But on another level, we both learned something. She learned that it is possible for a TG to be out in public. I learned that I can go out in the general public and I didn't die, get arrested (couldn't actually. Cross-dressing isn't illegal) or harassed. In fact I got called Ma'am. How bad was THAT? The girl I was to meet told me that the cop had said to her on the way in "I think that's a transvestite over there" "THINK", he said. He wasn't 100% sure. OK. Maybe he was 90% but that 10% is significant. It means that I'm not horrible at this and that I'm on the right track. The girl said she couldn't tell at all from a distance. Only when she got up close and then she recognized my face. I guess I should be happy about that part.

I haven't set a definite time or place to meet her for a second try, but I will. Only this time I will be a lot more specific and a lot more careful. I do hope it's all worth it and that she becomes an active member of the local T-girls group.

That was my adventure. I was buzzing all day Wednesday. Still can't believe it all happened. Oh well.

Well it's past time that I got back to getting ready for the warm weather. Yard work to do, planting and cleaning, painting and getting the boat ready to launch for the season. More about that next month. For now, I wish you all a happy spring and beautiful summer. It's shorts and bare legs weather girls. Be sure your legs are ready for it!

Cheers  
Lisa



# *“To Be or Not to Be”*

**This writers desire to go all of the way**

**By Cierra Kelley**

Not a day goes by that I do not think of what I want my life to be. Not a day goes by that I do not think of those that I will hurt. Not a day goes by that I am not consumed by Cierra; the piece and rest she brings to my mind, my heart, and my very soul. I am complete with her; torn without her. Yet, with all of this happiness just waiting for me to realize, to grab a hold of, there is something that holds me back. That is the reality of life itself. To Be or Not to Be is a question so many of us are confronted with. Yet, sadly, very few of us ever have the chance to live the life we have always preferred to have.

About me. I have been married for eight years. My wife and I do not have any children. We will never have any. She does not have any medical issue preventing a pregnancy. The simple issue is that I will not allow it. In my opinion, the first and foremost important factor is to be honest with yourself about who it is you really are. Where you desire to take yourself. If you cannot do this simple reasoning; then you are living one big lie. You are lying to yourself and everyone that surrounds you. Because I have accepted the fact that I am a Transsexual; I believe that bringing a child into this world blocks me from my ultimate goal. Selfish? You bet it is. I have come to learn that transitioning also requires a great deal of selfishness in order to just survive; let alone thrive. So in essence, I have given up my right to immortality by not bringing a child into this world. In order that I can live my life in happiness.

My wife learned of me shortly after we married. Then, I was a mere fetish cross dresser. That is all I honestly knew of myself as at the time. I had always been suppressed due to my eight years of military service. Or just plain and simple fear during my adolescence and teenage years. Once my military tenure ended. Things started to slowly change. My desire to dress became more frequent. My wife is very emotional. She has a hard time accepting my desire. So, out of respect, I began suppressing myself again. My moods became shifty, but then again, they always were since I can remember. I began withdrawing from my wife sexually and emotionally. Meanwhile I dressed every time she left the house. It did not take long for me to start looking for answers about who I really was. I read many articles, signed up for transgendered pornography sites, read hundreds of individual biographies of cross dresser's, transvestites, and transsexuals. I then came across U R Not Alone and Cierra was born. I originally designated myself as a cross dresser. I found myself immensely attracted to others like me. I then added bi-sexual to my profile. I met a very key woman a few months after I originally signed up at URNA. It is

then that I began getting the answers to my questions. As the answers came, so did the confusion about what my place in life really was. I became constantly depressed for several months. Something had to be done. My answer at the time was to turn my back on Cierra. Tuck my tail and go the other way. The funny part is, “the other way” now seemed equally as foreign as Cierra was. My mood swings were a lot more frequent. I simply did not like who I was. I liked Cierra a lot more. Again, something had to be done. So in late February I sat my wife down and we talked about who I really was. It was the first time I have ever been totally honest with myself, let alone someone else. That alone was a huge weight off from my shoulders. My wife is trying to understand me. Bless her for her effort. In that sit down talk I stressed the things that needed to be done for myself. I no longer committed myself to our marriage. I went so far and suggested a divorce. I stressed that I will do whatever it is that I have to do to find my happiness. I made it clear that taking hormones was a distinct possibility for me. We found a middle ground and gave us one year’s time to decide whether or not our marriage can survive. The most important thing here for me and others in a similar situation is to maintain your ground! Stay true to yourself! My wife has written many guilt laden cards and notes to me in hopes that I will give in and reverse my thinking.

Right now, today and the tomorrows, I am in the planning phase. I have the luxury of some time to do so. The first, obviously, is to obtain a qualified therapist in the area of gender issues. The second is employment. Whether it is a everyday job, or starting your own business. Most everyone here understands that general society is against us. I must be prepared to lose everything before I gain anything. The third is to let everyone who is close to me know exactly who I am and what I plan to do. A lot of people are going to be hurt. I must be prepared to be alone. Do you want to know something people? Everything on this list I am prepared to do. I have the selfishness and drive to do it. Do you?

In closing, the purpose of this article was to help others who feel like myself; gain the courage to do what they have to do to obtain their happiness. Or, to give a moment of pause to others who maybe did not think of what was entirely involved in going down this road in our lives. Many have heard or read stories about those who did not think of these consequences. Moved forward in their transition; only to commit suicide when they realized what they had done. This is very serious business, not the fun you see in the URNA chat room or the URNA ratings game. Always remember to be true to yourself. I was dealt a losing hand of cards. I am going to win with them. **TO BE is ME!**



# QUIZ

## ANSWERS

For Issue 5 April 2006

### Round One - Cut up

1. Elisha Cuthbert
2. Catherine Zeta Jones



### Round Two – Not Quite in the movies

1. Ghostbusters
2. Punisher
3. ET



### Round Three – Musically Challenged

1. Moscow
2. Tokyo
3. Rome
4. Philadelphia
5. Berlin
6. Earth Air Fire Water
7. All of the Above( trick question)



### Round Four – General Knowledge

1. Velma Dinkley, Fred Jones, Daphne Blake, Scoobert(Scooby-Doo), and Noorville Rogers(Shaggy).
2. E & Q
3. Left



### Round Five – Graffiti'ed

1. Roger Federer
2. David Beckham



# 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.**



This is my own personal recommendation. The girls the Notting Hill branch were superb. They couldn't be friendlier, more welcoming, and professional too. They have a fantastic range of wigs of all lengths , colours and prices , and I can not recommend this branch of stores enough

Open till 6, by appointment – latest 5 o'clock

<http://www.trendco.co.uk/default.aspx>

1) The Casket store: [http://www.casketfurniture.com/caskets\\_coffins.php](http://www.casketfurniture.com/caskets_coffins.php)  
A unique store offering casket shaped furniture for the gothic's

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/00000001/ec715%20lg.jpg>

# Born to **SHOP**

“ 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](http://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](http://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



Contact us on: Tel: +44 1376 322209 or Mobile: +44 7887 723239  
Email your general enquiries to: [custsupport@EpilationServices.com](mailto:custsupport@EpilationServices.com)  
Email your website enquiries to: [webmistress@EpilationServices.com](mailto:webmistress@EpilationServices.com)

**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](http://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](mailto: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**

# *“ And now, The end is near .....”*



Well, there you go then. It's April Jane, but not as we know it! Hope yours went a lil smoother than mine. Lots happened, not all good, a few bouts of depression, but that just seems to be a TG curse I'm afraid. LOADS of good stuff though. The site passed 5500 members and 60,000 visitors when it celebrated its 6 month birthday on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Yup, that's all it is 6 MONTHS!!! Seems much longer when you think what we have achieved. Still lots to do though!!



*“ And now,  
The end is near .....*

For one, let's make this the best magazine ever! Not for me, for you, all your hard work deserves the plaudits it deserves. You're a fantastic bunch ( a lil strange, but .... Gíggle) I hope you like the few lil changes I've made to the layouts etc, if not , tell me , I'm just making it up as I go along , so any help is much appreciated.

Also, I have a few ideas that I'd like to run by you too, if I may. Firstly, last year I asked if anyone was interested in a calendar of me, the response was great , but I had left it too late , so this year I'm going to start taking orders early, so watch out for that in next month issue.

Secondly, Joanne and I reckon we have found a good base to meet up in the Leinster Girls, so let us know when you fancy going and I'll try and be there.

Lastly, there are still a few features on the site that remain unused, namely the chat room facility and the calendar. If any of you are interested in me launching either then please let me know your ideas and concerns.

Hope you all have a fantastic May, I wont

mention that **IT'S MY  
BIRTHDAY ON TH 6<sup>th</sup>!!!!**

Never, not once, don't know what your talking about.

All I want is for you all to be safe, have fun, and remember your old M8 Mandy, give her a call now and again.

Take care all  
Hugs

**MANDYXXXX**



**COMING NEXT MONTH!!**

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*Tartan Terror*  
*Lord of the Bling*  
*News*  
*Articles*  
*Jokes*  
*You name it*  
*We've got it!!!*



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