Pretty TGirls’
The Magazine For the Most Beautiful Girls

Cheryl Ann
Miss August 2015
**In This Issue**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Editorial by Barbara Jean</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ladies In the Street, Before Stonewall There Was Comptons</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Trans Community Needs to Understand it’s Difference</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Game Changing Mascara Techniques</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Most Common Makeup Mistakes That Can Make You Look Old</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Makeup Tips To Help You Look Younger</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Ways to Use Coffee as a Beauty Product</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Mascara Mistakes You are Making</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All About Wigs Part 5</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Outdated Beauty Rules to Break</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Review– Even More Tricks of the Trade</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Adventures of Judy Sometimes</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Módhnóirí</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humor</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angels In the Centerfold</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mellissa’s Tips</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What to Look for In Prints and Patterns</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasi’s Fashions—Fashion that Changed What Women Wear</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why Do Tall Women Wear High Heels</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Tips to Be a Better Crossdresser</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucille Sorella</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teri Lee Ryan</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stylish Shoes for Women with Big Feet</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>These Insurers Offer Transgender Health Coverage</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earring Hacks So You Never Lose An Earring</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From The Kitchen</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Microwave Hacks You Must Try</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Gossip Fence</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shop Till You Drop</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calendar</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Trans on Television
An editorial by: Barbara Jean

Suddenly television has taken quite an interest in the transgender. Now in the past the crossdressing has been seen in the movies, but always for some reason to try and fool someone. But suddenly things have changed.

Today there has been “New Girls on the Block” on Discovery Life, “ABC Family has “Becoming Us”, NBC’s Law & Order SVU is scheduled to have an episode involving a transgender teen in it’s upcoming season, and the show “Big Brother now has a transgender contestant.

What has brought about such change, such interest in the transgender? Lavern Cox of “Orange Is the New Black”, a transgender actress was nominated for a Primetime Emmy Award, then Jeffrey Tambor won the Golden Globe best actor award for his portrayal as Maura in the Amazon series “Transparent”. Wait a minute, Newcomer Amazon has a program where it’s star gets the Best Actor award, A transgender woman is nominated for a best actress award? Well of course the most important thing to any TV program is ratings for ratings transpose to advertising dollars, but what can boost the ratings even higher than to get or even be nominated for an award.

Then suddenly Bruce Jenner, a Olympic Gold Metal winner comes out as being transgender in an interview with Diane Sawyer and told his story of how he was transitioning to being Catliyn.

Now there have for some time been crossdressing in television and the movies, but always it was to try and fool someone into thinking the character was born a female. For the transsexual at one time it was necessary to make up a past as a little girl should they want to get the surgery. But now it is let people know you are transgender.

I think the new programs are different and they are also good in many ways. “Orange is the New Black” showed producers that there are transgender actresses that are of the quality they seek. “Transparent” and “New Girls on the Block” showed what it is like to be transgender and of the problems we face. The movie “Boy Meets Girl” also showed what it is like for a young transgender person. “Becoming Us” shows the problems that family members of the transgender face. In the program “Big Brother” the contestant does make it know not just to the producers but to the rest of the family that she is transgender, and “Law & Order SVU” I am certain will show much of the danger that we as members of the transgender community face.

Prior to the Bruce/Catliyn Jenner interview there was only like eight percent of the population who knew someone who was transgender, but now the last I seen it is like twenty-three percent and I think growing. More and more we are coming out of the closet, more and more employers are willing to hire someone who is openly transgender, and where the cost of medical transition was in the past consider cosmetic
and not covered by insurance, today more and more insurance companies will cover much of the cost.

Still we are not out of the woods yet. Danger, each year more and more of us are the victims of hate, the list for the day of remembrance grows higher and higher. Many of us must still keep our true selves hidden from family or friends. We must continually fight an uphill battle for our civil rights and acceptance.

Will television and movies bring a change to this? That is a question yet to be answered.

---

**Ladies In The Streets: Before Stonewall, Transgender Uprising Changed Lives**

Npr

It was after the bars had closed and well into the pre-dawn hours of an August morning in 1966 when San Francisco cops were in Gene Compton's cafeteria again. They were arresting drag queens, trans women and gay hustlers who had been sitting for hours, eating and gossiping and coming down from their highs with the help of 60-cent cups of coffee.

The 24-hour eatery was a local favorite. It was centrally located — adjacent to the hair salon, the corner bar and the bathhouse — and provided a well-lit and comfortable haven for trans women performing in clubs or walking the streets in San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood.

From Compton's "you could walk to Woolworth's to buy [fake] eyelashes, and it was two blocks from the airline bus terminal," where Tamara Ching says many drag queens and trans women would go to change from male to female clothes. Ching is an Asian-American transgender woman who grew up in San Francisco. She frequented the Tenderloin during the 1960s and has lived there since 1992. "Everybody that lived in the Tenderloin ate at Compton's," Amanda St. Jaymes, a transgender woman who ran a residential hotel nearby, said in a documentary, *Screaming Queens*, which chronicles a confrontation with police that marked the start of a movement toward LGBT rights.

Compton's management didn't want the cafeteria to be a popular late-night hangout for drag queens, trans women and hustlers. Workers would often call the police at night to clear the place out. The Tenderloin, where sex work, gambling, and drug use were commonplace, was one of only a few neighborhoods where trans women and drag queens could live openly. Yet they were still regularly subject to police harassment and arrested for the crime of "female impersonation."
And when a policeman in Compton's grabbed a drag queen, she threw a cup of coffee in his face. The cafeteria "erupted," according to Susan Stryker, a historian who directed Screaming Queens. People flipped tables and threw cutlery. Sugar shakers crashed through the restaurant's windows and doors. Drag queens swung their heavy purses at officers. Outside on the street, dozens of people fought back as police forced them into paddy wagons. The crowd trashed a cop car and set a newsstand on fire.
"We just got tired of it," St. Jaymes told Stryker. "We got tired of being harassed. We got tired of being made to go into the men's room when we were dressed like women. We wanted our rights."

If the famous Stonewall riots in New York City were the origin of this nation's gay rights movement, the Tenderloin upheaval three years before was "the transgender community's debut on the stage of American political history," according to Stryker. "It was the first known instance of collective militant queer resistance to police harassment in United States history."

Stonewall is often thought of as an uprising of gay men. In reality, "it was drag queens, Black drag queens, who fought the police at the famous Stonewall Inn rebellion in 1969," wrote lesbian novelist and playwright Sarah Schulman in a 1985 novel. "Years later, a group of nouveau-respectable gays tried to construct a memorial to Stonewall in the park across from the old bar. The piece consisted of two white clone-like thin gay men and two white, young lesbians with perfect noses. They were made of a plaster-like substance, pasty and white as the people who paid for it."

While the legacy of Stonewall was whitewashed, the rage and resistance of the San Francisco group went largely unremarked — even among each other.

"We didn't think this was a big deal," Ching told me. "It was a natural thing for people to do back then, to protest."

Besides memories of police and patrons who were there that night, the only record of the riot that survived into the present is a short article by gay activist Raymond Broshears. He wrote it for the program of the first San Francisco gay pride parade, in 1972. Decades later, Stryker found his account and began to seek out the whole story. Her search for people who had been in the Tenderloin back then who spent time at Compton's or took part in the riot led her to Ching, St. Jaymes and another trans woman named Felicia Elizondo.

Ching grew up in San Francisco. She recalls hanging out with beatniks on Grant Avenue and began doing sex work as a teenager, in 1965. "My mom was an alcoholic and she let me run the streets and do my own thing."

Ching wasn't at the riot that night, but she knew
Compton’s well. "It was good to go and be seen and talk to people about what happened during the night. To make sure everybody’s OK, everyone made their coins, everybody's coming down off drugs and didn't overdose, and that you didn't go to jail that night," she said.

"Compton's nourished people. People would sit there for days drinking a cup of coffee. I would buy a full meal. I don't cook and I loved eating at Compton's — it was like downtown."

The Tenderloin in the 1960s was a red light district and a residential ghetto. Stryker told me that the neighborhood was a particular destination and home to 'young people who maybe had been kicked out by their families and were living on the street. And trans people who could lose a job at any moment or not be hired, who wouldn't be rented to, who had to live in crappy residential hotels in a bad part of town, and who had to do survival sex work to support themselves.'

"We sold ourselves because we need to make a living but we sold ourselves because we wanted to be loved," Elizondo says in Stryker's film. Ching told me sex work in the Tenderloin empowered her. She had a job with the government but still worked the streets at night.

Whether for survival, pleasure or some combination of both, sex work left women vulnerable to violence and put them in closer contact with police. But even those who weren’t hustling had frequent encounters with law enforcement. St. Jaymes, who ran the residential hotel, told Stryker she was arrested frequently, even though she wasn’t a sex worker. "If we had lipstick on, if we had mascara on, if our hair was too long, we had to put it under a cap. If the buttons was on the wrong side, like a blouse, they would take you to jail because they felt it was female impersonation."

"The police could harass you at any time," Ching told me. "They would ask you for pieces of ID. You had to have your male ID if you were born male and didn't go through a sex change. They would pat you down, and while they're patting you down, of course they're feeling you up," she continued. "They would arrest you and put you in the big van, Big Bertha, and drive you around town. When they turned a corner they turned sharply, so people would fall. They'd go over a bump, fast down the hill and make you look a mess by the time you got to the booking station."

Police relations with the trans, drag and gay communities in the Tenderloin reached a boiling point in 1966. Across San Francisco resistance was in the air. Local anti-war protests were gaining momentum. Civil rights activists and religious leaders at a Tenderloin church organized to bring government anti-poverty resources to the neighborhood. A group of radical young queers calling themselves Vanguard started pushing back against discrimination by police and business owners. After Compton's management started kicking them out of the restaurant, they picketed outside on July 18, 1966. Viewed in the context of 1960s activism, identity politics and anti-poverty efforts, the riots that occurred a few weeks later seem inevitable.

Though it can take decades to understand motivations for a particular riot or movement of militant resistance in the streets, there are plenty of instances when a group's anger and frustration over injustice is later celebrated as a civil rights victory. We have a parade every year to commemorate the Stonewall riots — three nights when rioters burned down a bar and tried to overturn a paddy wagon. Now that Bruce Jenner has told Diane Sawyer, "I'm a woman," and Oprah interviewed Janet Mock, we can look at a charge like "female impersonation" and see the
Compton’s riot as another act of resistance against injustice. One day, history books, pundits and academics could very well talk about the recent unrest in Baltimore or Ferguson the same way.

Right after the Compton’s episode, Ching heard about what had happened. "To me, nothing was out of the ordinary," she told me. "We lived to survive day to day. We didn’t realize we’d made history."

Nicole Pasulka has contributed to Mother Jones, The Believer, BuzzFeed and Vice.

The trans community needs to understand its differences

BY JEN RICHARDS

“Hurt people hurt people.”
Laverne Cox quoted the line in her keynote address at the 2014 Trans 100 Live Event as she spoke to the need for healing in the community.

For groups defined, at least in part, by shared experiences of oppression, there is an unspoken, perhaps even unconscious, belief in freedom from such oppression in spaces created or dominated by the community itself. When hurt occurs there it has an extra layer of betrayal and violation.

Likewise, when someone is accused of such hurt it is a shock to their very identity. How can I, as an oppressed person, oppress another? Disbelief is often followed by emboldened conviction. The only way out is through education, empathy, and forgiveness, none of which are easy or typically afforded those focusing on survival, or whose identity is built upon marginalization.

These common dynamics have been playing out publicly in a corner of the transgender community right now. As trans issues increasingly become a focus of media attention and social justice efforts, internal tensions are intensified. Populations that either would have had no interaction previously, or whose differences would have been superseded by their relative similarity in the eyes of a hating public, now jockey for rhetorical power online. Complex identities are reduced to singular factors as younger and older, earlier and later transitioners, showgirls and activists, straight and queer, compete for control of discourse. It feels like the small gay clubs I used to frequent accommodated more difference than the limitless space of online media does today.

It began with a series of escalating op-eds in the Huffington Post and the Advocate. Calpernia Addams, a well known trans advocate and performer who has advised on several films featuring trans character, was critiqued by other trans women for her defense of Jared Leto, whom she worked with for Dallas Buyers Club. She dismissed these critiques in an essay, to which Parker Molloy, a widely published writer on trans issues, responded. Addams then published a response to this essay, accusing Molloy of homophobia and transphobia, unleashing a firestorm on social media. This then led to a gleefully inflammatory piece by Addams’s friend, Andrea James, which dismisses “newly minted queers” like Molloy as “oversensitive precious snowflakes raised on smugfuckery.” This was polite compared to the Twitter feed of James and her allies.

An open letter condemning both Addams and James for their treatment of Molloy and accusing the two of elitism, ageism, traditionalism, etc., has now been signed by nearly 400 trans women. In the latest
volley, a parody video posted by Alaska Thunderfuck, a contestant on season 5 of RuPaul’s Drag Race, depicts the murder of someone widely believed to serve as a stand in for Molloy was later shared by the Huffington Post, with editor James Nichols calling it “hilarious.”

How has the original issue of on-screen depictions of trans characters grown to include questions about drag culture, RuPaul’s use of words that many consider slurs, language policing, ageism, and “hashtag activism”? Why did a spat that should have been worthy of little more than gossip grow to such proportions?

Before looking at these issues closely, it should first be noted that this is possibly the whitest “controversy” to achieve such a scale of attention. The three main players, Addams, James and Molloy, and nearly every other trans woman involved, are white, and the debates have had virtually no input from trans people of color. It is an internal fight for power among people with both privilege and myopia.

Perhaps the first step in de-escalating the fight is to acknowledge just how irrelevant it is to much of the community, particularly those most likely to face overt prejudice and danger in public daily. And while engagement in this issue does not preclude sincere engagement in others, it’s troubling that a war of words between white trans women with substantial media access elicited far more attention and consensus within the community than any other issue in recent memory. As only one example during this same time period, Monica Jones, a trans woman and sex worker rights activist in Phoenix, was found guilty of “manifesting prostitution” for accepting a ride home; her battle garnered comparatively little attention.

So why do so many people care? Such public participation can only be reflective of a larger underlying tension between the respective positions symbolized by Addams and Molloy, a tension that every person involved is personally invested in.

Molloy’s original point, lost in the exchange, is that there is real damage done by portrayals of trans people that traffic in stereotype and cliche. For an uninformed wider public, drag queens (who are typically gay men) often serve as a misleading stand in for trans women.

Unfortunately, Molloy had consistently expressed, at best, ambivalence towards drag culture and trans women who came up through it, and outright antipathy to RuPaul. She wrote in a tweet, since deleted: “I fucking hate RuPaul. Like… there are really very few people I truly hate. He is one of them.” While her ire was supported by many other trans women, her attitude revealed a disconnection from and misunderstanding of both a large segment of the community and shared history.

Addams’s essential point is that discussions of trans issues, particularly online, are often dominated by people with little to no sense of the wider context of the movement or direct involvement with the community, and that such disconnect is often evinced by hyper-sensitivity and lack of humor. Whether unfortunate or revealing, this argument is drowned out by personal vitriol and exhibits Addams’s own disconnect from the way culture, media, attitudes, and even transition trajectories have shifted.

For Molloy and some of her supporters, Addams’s defense of Jared Leto, along with her own participation in gay culture and history as a showgirl, is emblematic of a view of trans women that excludes them. Some lesbian or queer identified individuals have had little to no involvement in LGBT culture prior to transition, at least not in ways familiar to those who came before, and many are of a generation whose social networks and advocacy exist largely online. Just as some trans men remain involved with lesbian communities, some straight trans women retain a strong sense of belonging to gay community, a natural result of existing relationships, shared attractions, and the bonds of experienced otherness, none of which is afforded to some people like Molloy. It can be an isolating experience to go from being seen as occupying a default norm to being regarded as an outsider in both straight and gay
communities.

Further, Addams's world is seen as the dominant one, so it can stand in as the role of an oppressor. She is regarded as famous and powerful, someone with access in Hollywood, and part of the establishment, one that embraces RuPaul and a made-for-TV view of drag. I suspect Addams would find such a perception inconceivable. And it's here that context is useful.

Addams, like many other trans women, found her first opportunity for authentic expression through what most think of as drag. The world had told her she was a gay man, and she struggled with self-hatred and anxiety. It was only upon seeing a nightclub show and subsequently performing as a woman that she found herself.

Her show caught the eye of a soldier who would become her boyfriend, and because of his relationship to Addams, he was brutally murdered. Though she was living as a woman, Addams was pressured into describing herself as a man and a cross-dresser so that her boyfriend could be seen as a victim of gay bashing and an example for the failure of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. Despite all this, Addams has continued to write and speak on trans issues for nearly two decades, has been a major factor in the informed and sensitive portrayals of trans women in movies, and still performs in the one milieu which originally embraced her.

Her story is not an unusual one for trans women, particularly those of us who came of age before the dominance of social media. The clubs I first went to were gay ones, and the lines between fag, queen, tranny and crossdresser were not always apparent, certainly not to anyone on the outside. In those contexts, differences within the group mattered less than the shared safe space.

For Addams and her followers, Molloy's criticisms of Jared Leto and RuPaul, her fixation on language and general focus on victimhood, is emblematic of a view of trans women that is, if not inaccessible, at least not understandable. Many of these trans women have carved out unique paths through transition, often outside of a community context, and some young straight trans women may not have ever identified as gay men. Others bend gender and sexuality in ways that exist comfortably outside of the binary and heteronormative view that Addams represents.

This generation finds its community online, and each social media platform becomes a culture with its own idiom and social rules, often hard to penetrate, but also increasingly influential in determining who has power in discourse. One generation dismisses Facebook, while a slightly younger one ignores Twitter, or uses it begrudgingly, while a yet younger group sneers at Tumblr. Yet it is those who master the idiom of any one these platforms that finds an audience, which is ultimately what conventional monological media sources recognize and seek to co-opt. She isn’t trans, but a good example is Suey Park, who launched the #CancelColbert campaign on Twitter. She can only be dismissed by those ignorant of both the media and the message she’s deftly working with a facility that threatens the structure of conventional access points.

These online spaces are dismissed as “academic” or “politically correct” from the outside but are structured from the inside to be politically nuanced and intentionally inclusive of marginalized identities. The effort to achieve such inclusivity does rely heavily on language. If you don’t follow the rules, you’re at best irrelevant—and at worst a pariah and subject to the kind of hate only possible online. I’ve seen well-meaning friends post well-intended support only to be eviscerated because a particular word choice was deemed as erasing of an experience or regarded as “triggering.” Such policing is sometimes dominated by queer white voices, many of whom aren’t engaged with community offline.

For those of us on the inside, participation requires an ongoing effort to discern between genuinely constructive approaches to intersectional issues and perspectives that subtly push privileged perspectives in the name of doing the opposite. For those who either can’t or don’t wish to access such conversations,
it’s far too easy to simply dismiss the entire discourse.

RuPaul serves as an apt example of how this also collides with a generational gap.

For Molloy’s generation of millennials, RuPaul is an icon with more power and media presence than any trans person has ever achieved. Functionally, he is no different than any other oppressor, which makes his refusal to abandon usage of "shemale" and "tranny" particularly egregious.

To Addams' and those of her generation, RuPaul is a tough, hard-working underdog who has finally achieved success, someone who came out of a time when gender and sexual minorities were lumped together and often worked side by side, equally misunderstood, hated, and subject to violence. To survive such a time and then be told you can't use a word that was in common usage because it's "triggering" to someone online must seem especially absurd, especially if that person appears to have previously enjoyed the privileges of being seen as straight, white, and male.

Make no mistake, all the trans women involved agree that RuPaul's usage of those words is inappropriate. Addams, however, gives RuPaul the benefit of the doubt because of shared history. Molloy's experience can't accommodate such difference, and for legitimate reasons. As a gay black man often in drag, RuPaul has undoubtedly encountered a great deal of hatred, and so perhaps has difficulty accepting the reality that he is now capable of inflicting exactly such hurt. But he can and does. And if he fails to recognize the criticism from someone like Molloy because of her seeming difference, he should be open to it from women like Carmen Carrera and Monica Beverly Hillz.

Molloy and Addams also, no matter how much they see themselves as marginalized, isolated, or having earned their place, are also capable of hurting others.

A reader here hoping for an answer as to whom is right will have to be disappointed.

Molloy’s initial description of Addams as “a showgirl, a drag queen...a ‘transsexual’” was wrong, and her later apologies and retractions don't negate the negative attitude towards people she has little experience with. Some trans women appear so anxious not to be seen as men that they distance themselves from any depiction of gender nonconformity that could be read as such, a move that often has unavoidable racial, homophobic, and classist aspects.

More broadly, online activists’ insistence on policing of language is much more difficult when navigating complicated offline spaces filled with wildly varying people clumsily working together for a greater purpose. The fights of some white queer trans women on social media come off as toxic and their inability to acknowledge the other side of issues reveals insufficient engagement with identities other than their own. Many white queer trans women appear to focus intensely or exclusively on their own individual victimhood, which in the eyes of many others betrays the newness of their experience with marginalization and a lack of resilience. The women I know who have survived the most horrors consistently have the greatest senses of humor.

While Molloy certainly doesn’t deserve the hatred and death threats aimed at her, she has become a lightning rod for divisions and confrontation in the community in part because she has herself been so divisive and confrontational. We shouldn’t neglect the complicated middle ground between the more common extremes of victim blaming and absolving people of any responsibility for their actions.

Nonetheless, Addams's treatment of Molloy in her op-ed was ugly, petty, and a disservice to all of us. Addams has the capacity to use her experience, wisdom, and platform to educate and contextualize. She has a legitimate point about the perspective of specifically white, queer activists, but we won't have the hard and desperately needed conversations about privilege if we simply dismiss each other out of hand and ignore the complex identities of those participating. Addams has little to lose and much to gain by listening to and working with the next generation.
Addams's BFF Andrea James’s doubling down, though perhaps motivated by care for a friend she saw as under attack, was so dismissive that it nearly reads as parody. Her conflation of social justice efforts with heckling is remarkably tone deaf. James is a very smart woman, of that there is no doubt, and some of her broader points are ones I’m eager to see discussed. Hopefully she’s wise enough to recognize how readily she is courting obsolescence if she stays in the echo chamber of her own circle and writes off current activist efforts with such arrogance. If efforts like #girlslikeus are among the hashtags inducing her eye rolls, then she may be surprised to find herself on the wrong side of history. I’d love to see her intelligence and wit in service of actual dialogue rather than cruelty masquerading as irreverence.

It’s particularly ironic that Addams and James are defending the gender subverting role of drag given they themselves have historically represented the assimilationist school of trans womanhood. That two women who spent years teaching others how to live "deep stealth" are allied with “subversive” drag queens lays bare the essential point underlying all of this: what’s truly being policed here is womanhood. Gay men celebrate men who mess with gender and women who occupy comfortably feminine and heterosexual roles. Based on the frenzied reactions of the gay male defenders or RuPaul, Addams and James, it appears that what’s truly most subversive to the status quo is a non-passing, queer trans woman.

I’m just shy of 40, dated both men and women both before and after transition, and have had the privilege of spending time and working in a variety of off- and online communities. My close friends include showgirls and former drag queens, queer trans women, people who have transitioned early and late, and those who subvert the whole idea of transition. There is no wrong way to be trans, and with so much of the world still against us, some basic mutual respect and dignity seems as important as broadening the conversation.

I hope that rather than ignoring people because they are young, queer, or recent transitioners, Addams uses her maturity to bring nuance to the issues a new generation is raising. I hope that rather than defending her own privilege or social media reach, she fights even harder for greater access to roles and platforms for trans people. I hope that she sees that the solution to engaging people who may also feel isolated isn’t to isolate them further, but to bring them in, even if they’re lashing out in their own hurt. That’s what survivors can do best.

I hope that rather than ever again writing the word “hate” or focusing on what others are doing wrong, Molloy brings her passion to lifting others up. I hope that rather than seeing herself as a victim, she seeks to understand why others are sometimes on the other side of issues. I hope that, as she has done with the promising shift of tone in her recent posts, she feels less isolated and experiences the humility that comes with being part of a much larger community. That’s what the young can do best.

Molloy is right that we need more depictions of trans women, of all types, and that RuPaul and his defenders should be challenged. Addams is right that activists, particularly younger, white, queer trans women, need to better understand the lived context and history of their wider community.

What drives so much of this is hurt. Molloy’s hurt over seeing Addams defend what she saw as a hurtful portrayal of a trans woman and siding against trans women fighting for change. Addams is hurt over being made a target by trans women, her own attempts to help being vilified, and feeling misgendered. Supporters on all sides reacted to the hurt of their own isolation, having their legitimacy as trans women being questioned, of being confronted with their own capacity to hurt others.

All those who have jumped into the debate since, from the nearly 400 women who signed the open letter, to the editors at Huffington Post, are echoing the same essential points. While the two sides can be reduced to "Words hurt" and "Lighten up," the intensity is largely rooted in the blindness of hurt people not realizing that they, too, are hurting people. One side probably should take themselves a little less
seriously, particularly given that they are not the trans women most at risk, and the other side should probably take themselves a little more seriously, particularly given that their arguments they’re making would be used against them in other contexts.

To be transgender is to experience trauma. I don’t like seeing myself as a victim, and I believe my friends are I are better defined by what we do rather than what’s been done to us, but this fact can’t be ignored. We are first betrayed by our bodies and then remain vulnerable in a society that fears and often hates gender variance. The trauma manifests very differently depending on race, class, age, profession, sexual orientation, gender expression, etc., but the differences in our trauma shouldn’t separate us as much as the near universal fact of it should unite us.

Any further discussion of these issues should, at the least, include earnest attempts to understand each other. More importantly, differences should be addressed not in a context of who is right, but rather how to make things better for all those who come after us. Anything less is nothing more than self-aggrandizing. We can do better.

Yes, it’s unrealistic to assume that any community of human beings will avoid gossip and infighting, but trans people are unique. We are a small community and are coming into our own as a social movement in a time when we have unprecedented access to each other. We could become a new model for how people can work together, support each other, and lift each other up. If we are so often the victims of hate and ignorance, how much more powerful if we chose to love and understand each other in the face of it?

If hurt people hurt people, maybe healed people can help heal each other. And show the world how it’s done.

---

7 Game Changing Mascara Techniques You've Probably Never Considered Before

Marie Claire
By Chelsea Peng
Although I maintain everyone should witness the face-transforming power of bare lashes for herself, there’s nothing like having those bat-worthy, feathery fans of lashes created by your favorite mascara. But picking the right lengthening/separating/thickening formula is only half the battle—unless you’re already using this—so here, we walk you through outside-the-tube application methods that are sure to make you a lash pro.

1. **You don’t have to use the brush it comes with.**
   To coat every single hair—even those stubby ones in the corners—follow Wayne Goss’s lead and brush a minimal amount of mascara onto an eyelash comb, then sweep through (carefully, because those are needle-like metal teeth going near your eyeball).

2. **Tightline without using another product.**
   By tapping/pressing the brush against the eyelid right at the roots, you create the illusion of a thicker lash line without having to pull out your eyeliner. Plus, concentrating the product in that area helps maintain the curl. (You could even use the tip of the wand to deposit even more pigment, but make sure to even it out after, holding the brush horizontally.)

3. **Mix your mascaras.**
   It’s really up to you/your ambition, but a standard mascara cocktail might involve a defining formula to separate, something lengthening on the tips, then a volumizing one for really fat, juicy lashes. Or it could be as simple as painting on a coat with a curved brush for extra curl, then sealing it in with a thicker-textured mascara.

4. **Make sure to get the underside.**
   You might not already do this because you heard it weighs the lashes down, but that’s the stuff of makeup urban legend. For extra length and stiffness, after wiping off the excess mascara on a paper towel (tissue fibers can transfer), sweep the wand on the back of the lashes, then go around to the other side to re-lift them.

5. **Create spider lashes, but in a fashion-y way.**
   Two tips here rolled into one theatrical, runway-y look. (They’re not *technically* clumpy or spidery—they’re ultra-thick lashes pinched together into points, like stars—so not that scary.) To try this out, apply a generous coat of mascara, then dust on some translucent powder. (Tap the handle of the brush on your wrist first to remove the excess.) Apply a second coat, then use tweezers to squeeze a few lashes together.
6. Go diagonal with your application.

Most of us do the “up and out,” but the diagonal method is where it’s at: 1) It’s a bit less cartoonish, and 2) the wide-eyed (versus bug-eyed) look is universally flattering. To achieve, pull the brush through at an angle instead of straight out, and spend some extra time defining the outer corners.

7. Change directions, change your eye shape.

But…there’s a strategy for that saucer-like, Dior animé effect too. Holding the wand upside-down vertically, run the bristles upward through the middle lashes. Next, flip the brush right-side up and, focusing on the center again, move the tip upward. Paint the middle bottom lashes too.
7 Most Common Makeup Mistakes That Can Make You Look Old

You might have just given up on the chase for undying youth, but your search for looking perpetually young is an entirely different story. Makeup helps you in fulfilling your desire of looking more stunning and attractive. Unfortunately, over usage or if used in a wrong way it can make you look old.

All of us make such beauty blunders at some point, but are unaware of it. Well do not worry, we are here for you, keep scrolling and take a look at some very common makeup mistakes that end up making you look older.

#1. Applying a thick layer of foundation

If you put on foundation, layer after layer to hide those fine lines believing that it will make you look prettier, then wait, you are making a mistake here. Excessive foundation unfortunately makes you appear older. The extra foundation nicely settles into the lines and attracts more attention and gives you an aged appearance.

Another most important point to remember is to never get your foundation base too light. If you go in for a shade lighter than your natural skin tone, then there is a possibility that the foundation would settle around the fine lines, in turn exaggerating them. Try to go for a shade or two darker than your natural skin tone if you do not want people to quiz about your age.

#2. Skipping primer

Primer, as the name says, should never be skipped as it gives your face a smooth and silky texture by filling all those lines and helps your makeup stay o. Always opt for a cream or liquid primer as the powder can give your skin a saggy look.
#3. Wearing dark mascara and eyeliner on the lower lashes and lids
Using a dark pencil on the lower lids or wearing dark mascara on the lower lashes will bring out crow feet and dark under-eye circles; making your eye look smaller. You should always opt for a light, soft pencil rather than liquid liners, which can be quite heavy on your skin and waterline.

#4. Coating the lips in dark shades

Applying a very dark or harsh shade of lip colour may make your lips appear thinner than they are, but in return this numbers to your face’s age. Even a dark lip liner (which is out of fashion by the way) can destroy your appearance.

#5. Applying blush the wrong way

Are you applying rouge to the apples of your cheeks? Yes! Then you are just adding 10 years of age to your face. This way of applying blush makes the lines on your skin more prominent and make them appear droopy. Also the powder blush is a strict no-no as they again settle down into the thin lines; so it is always better to go for the liquid one.
#6. Overloading shimmer
If you wear too much shimmer, then it will make the lines very noticeable and your eye will look crumpled. Rather a matte shadow will give a very striking look to your eyes.

#7. Hiding dark circle behind heavy concealer
Dark circles are every woman’s nightmare, but that does not mean that you will go out scaring other people with that terrifying concealer trick. Often, a few women commit the cardinal sin of covering up their dark circles with a heavy layer of concealer, which ends up with ghostly results. In order to do away with those thick lines, apply light concealer base with the help of a brush.

Are you guilt-ridden by committing these beauty blunders? You always have time to improve your makeup skills and look prettier everyday. A natural makeup (not too much over do) and a confident you, can rock any place they go!
5 Makeup Tips to Help You Look Younger

For the younger generation there’s no shortage of information on how best to apply makeup. Indeed, how to use concealer to blot out a blemish or a tutorial on how contouring can craft wonders for tired, sallow skin are subjects that are but a mouse click or page turn away. When you’re a little older however, the resources begin to peter out, making it increasingly difficult for older women to know what tips and tricks to turn to when fine lines, wrinkles and age spots start to creep into our complexions.

So, looking to right this wrong we delved into our experts directory to see what brilliant advice the best in the business could recommend when it comes to applying mature makeup.

“There’s no real beauty tips to make women look younger - you are what you are,” says makeup artist Mary Greenwell. “The best thing to do is just accept yourself but make yourself look the best you can. And, once you’ve found your look - stick to it.”

We couldn’t agree more - here are 5 top tips for looking fabulous and fresh at an older age.

1. BRIGHTEN AND CONCEAL

“The main questions are usually how to make skin look even and glowy without emphasising lines,” says Tricia Cusden, founder of pro-age beauty brand Look Fabulous Forever.

Indeed, as the skin ages, common concerns often shift from blemishes and spots to problems such as broken veins, age spots and uneven skin tone - so a good level of coverage is necessary, so long as it’s not too heavy.

“The older you are, the more necessary it is for you to have to wear foundation,” says Mary Greenwell. “However, opt for something like a BB cream or a light tinted moisturiser because you don’t want to look too cakey - anything with a heavy, dense formula will simply sit on top of
the skin and in the wrinkles making you look older.”

To help give you some glow along with a fresh face of natural and light-looking makeup we recommend opting for the Eve Lom Radiance Perfected Tinted Moisturiser SPF15, Vitamins C and E help to nourish and restore radiance, while the silky formula expertly disguises pigmentation and uneven skin tones.

“You also need a very good concealer,” says Tricia. “As you get older you start to develop noticeable dark bluey pits in the corner of eyes and nose, which can often have a very hollowing effect on the face and eye socket, making the skin appear thin.”

To plump up the volume and re-invigorate a crepey complexion a touch of NARS Radiant Creamy Concealer, £22, is sure to do the trick. Working to camouflage darkness and blemishes, while also brightening and illuminating, there’s not much this long-lasting concealer can’t cover up.

2. BEWARE OF BLUSH

Nothing quite signifies healthy, more youthful skin than a flush of colour on the cheeks - which is why blush is an absolute beauty must-have with older skin. Be careful though, as placement is everything. Judge it wrongly and you can quickly go from pretty to pantomime.

“When you’re older don’t wear blush on the apple of your cheeks - it’s too clown-like,” says Mary. “It needs to be subtle and high up. However, be wary not to sculpt your face too much as this can also draw your face in, which is ageing.”

“It’s also better to opt for a blush with a cream formulation,” says Tricia. “Pick a product that has the depth of a powder but goes on as a cream as they stay put better. And, stick to softer, pinker tones, as opposed to orange and brown tints, which have the potential to make you look a little haggard.”

For the perfect pop of gentle colour the Look Fabulous Forever Blush, is just the ticket. Silky, creamy and beautifully blendable, it’s the ideal solution for achieving a pert and peachy glow.

3. GO BIG ON BROWNS

“The key with eye makeup is to keep it soft and defined, but without a harsh end result,” advises Tricia.

“Steer away from bright colours as they’re part of the youth culture and just not appropriate,” says Mary. “Also steer away from black eyeshadows and move into dark browns and taupes, which are much more becoming.”
For a soft-focus glow the Bobbi Brown Long-Wear Cream Shadow Sticks, come in a range of flattering caramels, cream and coffees to suit every skin tone. Created using a unique blend of oils, waxes and film formers, these shadows glide on like a dream, while their water-resistant properties mean they won’t budge for up to eight hours. To finish, give lashes a light coating of Clinique Lash Power Feathering Mascara, in Dark Chocolate - it lifts and separates lashes like magic while seemingly not weighing them down to deliver a natural yet feminine flutter.

4. LOUD, LIGHT LIPS

When it comes to lip colours keep it light and bright - with dark, vampy colour becoming an absolute no-no.

“Always avoid dark reds and purple colours on the lips as they can make the mouth look smaller - when in fact what you want is to keep your lips looking full and plump,” says Mary.

“Ideally try and opt for bright reds, coral and pinks - or anything that complements the complexion in a healthy way.”

For achieving an elegant, lustrous finish there’s nothing better than Laura Mercier Creme Smooth Lip, which comes in up to 40 different shades. Nourishing and ever-so-slightly sheer, a quick swipe of these lippies is your one-stop shop to a perfectly pretty pout.

5. KEEP BROWS BRIGHT

“Don’t make eyebrows too dark,” says Mary. “This will make the face look too heavy, hooded and tired.”

To keep them light, natural and understated we love the Blink Brow Pen, £18. Designed with a precise applicator, use this pen to gradually build up an even brow shape to help frame and finish off your look.
8 Ways to Use Coffee as a Beauty Product

Here's some good reasons to save those coffee grounds from the trash.

By Colleen Williams

Over the years, coffee has had tons of good publicity whether for its antioxidant assets or brain-boosting ability and now we know it's as good for your insides as your outside. Coffee makes an excellent scrub, mask and cellulite reducer, can add shine to hair and even perk up hair color. Here are eight very good reasons to save those coffee grounds from the trash bin:

**Coffee For Your Face:**

*Coffee Facial Scrub:* As a scrub, coffee grounds can really perk up your complexion. Take 3 Tbsp coffee grounds (new or used, no seriously!) and 1 Tbsp brown sugar (you can add more or less, depending on how gritty you want to go) before adding 1 Tbsp of a natural oil (either coconut, olive or almond). Massage onto clean skin and then rinse thoroughly with warm water for an instant glow.

*Coffee Mask:* To tighten skin, use 2 Tbsp ground coffee, 2 Tbsp cocoa powder, 3 Tbsp yogurt, and 1 Tbsp honey. Mix together and apply a thin layer over the face. Allow to sit for 15 to 20 minutes, then rinse.

**Coffee For Your Body:**

*Cellulite Fighter:* Coffee grounds can reduce the appearance of cellulite. Create a mixture of two parts coffee grounds with one part water, and add 3 to 4 drops of tea tree oil. Dip a loofah or washcloth into the mix and massage on skin for boosted circulation, smoother skin and finer texture while in the shower.

*Body Skin Scrub:* Use 1/2 cup coffee grinds mixed with 1/4 cup brown sugar. Add olive or coconut oil and 1 tsp of ground cinnamon, then get to scrubbing. The caffeine in coffee helps to eliminate unwanted oils and will slough away dead skin.

**Coffee For Your Hair:**

Be warned, lighter shades of hair should refrain from coffee treatments because it does have the capability to stain. So brunettes and ravenettes only!

*Rinse Mask:* You can add cool black coffee (or espresso) to a spritz bottle, apply to hair and leave in for 30 minutes, then rinse thoroughly to give dark hair as silky shine. The caffeine can help increase circulation to the scalp and may help you shed hairs less (however, true hair loss cannot be cured with a shot of coffee). Spritzes of coffee also add dimension to your hair color. You may need to use a shower cap while the coffee does its magic on your locks to avoid staining the furniture or your clothes.

*Scalp Scrub:* In addition to shiny, smooth hair, coffee grounds can exfoliate and stimulate the scalp as well. It's super simple – just take a quarter-sized amount of coffee grounds and mix into your conditioner. Gently scrub the scalp for a few minutes, then rinse thoroughly. (Tub stopper required!)
Boost Darker Hair Colors: You can soak your hair in leftover coffee for deep, glossy brown tones. Start small – soaking for only 15 minutes or so – and rinse thoroughly.

Coffee For Your Hands:
Hand Deodorizer: Do your hands smell like onions? Coffee can help get rid of it! Simply rub used coffee grounds on your hands, the same way you’d rub in soap. Then rinse thoroughly.

8 Mascara Mistakes You Are Making And What You Should Actually Be Doing

Mascara is a must-have for every woman. It can effortlessly make you look bright-eyed and awake. Even though it is the quickest beauty routine to follow, sometimes it can be a little tricky to use and apply, even for the smartest ones among us. If you struggle to put on your mascara properly, then give our article a good read. We are here to tell you all about the mistakes you might be making while using a mascara and give you quick fixes to sport a diva look every time.

#1. Piling on multiple coats
While you do need to layer on some mascaras, this however, does not mean you should go on applying as many coats as you like, thinking it will increase the eyelash length or volume. Allow the first coat to dry out completely before you layer it up with another coat. It will give you an idea as to whether you really need any more coats or not. Usually two to three coats of mascara are enough for it to work its magic.

#2. Not applying it right
When you apply mascara, you need to start at the roots and draw it out towards the tips for a complete coverage. Pull out the mascara wand in little wiggling motions to get proper volume and length. Make sure you wipe the excess mascara off the wand when you pull it out of the tube to avoid clumpy lashes.
#3. Ignoring your lower lashes

Most of you never bother about applying mascara on your lower lashes, because you think it is not important. However, applying it on the lower lashes makes your eyes pop even more. Always remember to apply mascara on your lower lashes first to avoid smudges on the top.

#4. Using waterproof mascara EVERYDAY

Waterproof mascara, as you may have experienced, sits stubbornly on your eye. It takes double the time to take it off. Moreover, if you are in the habit of applying it daily, you run the risk of hurting the sensitive skin around your eyes. It can cause irritation and subsequent eyelash fall out. To avoid such a situation, wear waterproof mascara only when you must, and opt for a regular one for daily use.

#5. Pumping the wand in and out

Do you wonder why your mascara tube becomes dry so fast? It is thanks to your habit of pumping the wand in and out too many times. When you do this, air quickly makes way into the container and dries up the mascara. This results in clumps and flakes, which then stick to your lashes and create a complete mess. Hence, it is best if you swirl the wand around inside the tube.
#6. Not using an eyelash comb

If you think a mascara wand is enough to apply it properly, then think again. You can use a lash comb to separate your lashes for a clump-free look. Use it if there is any excess product on your lashes after you have applied the mascara. You can even clean an old mascara brush and use it to remove excess mascara from your lashes.

#7. Using eyelash curler after applying mascara

If you use a lash curler once the mascara dries off, it can result in unnaturally bent eyelashes. More so, it can actually cause your eyelashes to break and fall off. So, to avoid looking weird and to also save your eyelashes from sacrificing themselves at the altar of your makeup kit, curl your lashes before applying mascara!

#8. Not getting rid of an expired mascara

Girls and their makeup are inseparable, but some forget that beauty products come with an expiry date. If not dumped on time, they can be a health risk. Using expired mascara, for instance can cause eye infections, redness and sties. Besides, it can dry your lashes and result in eyelash loss. We recommend that you scan your make up kit and toss expired mascaras in the bin. That is where they should be sitting, instead of your eyelashes. Ideally, you should be binning them every three to six months.

We sign off with this hope that you will rock the mascara look effortlessly, so much so that others will come up to you to learn a trick or two!
All About Wigs
Part 5: High Priced Wigs; Do you really need to spend that kind of money? What’s the difference?

About the Author: Karen is a genetic female who began Femme Fever fourteen years ago. After exploring the community and seeing the need for a noncommercial, very caring and helpful resource, she ventured into the transformation and support end of the spectrum. Her background is in social work and cosmetology -- a perfect blend for the community. She also has runway/ modeling experience from "back in the day" also helps her to share deportment information and guidance for picture posing as well as enhanced knowledge of the camera.
Her goal is to help all who reach out to realize they can accept and have FUN with their femme self.
FemmeFever is based out of Long Island, New York. The gals are welcome here to meet, chat, obtain my services in private and BE THEMSELVES.

More and more, consumers are learning that inexpensive doesn’t have to equate to poor quality.. Marketers can put the word “premium” or “ultra premium” on anything—and it doesn’t necessarily mean anything. Generally speaking, the phrase is used pretty much to justify a higher markup.

My advice to you is: Comparison shop. You will find that wigs sold in lower income areas sell for much less than those sold in expensive areas. Same wig; different pricing. Also, establishments like FemmeFever with little overhead can also sell you the same $250 wig for $150. So, comparison shop once you know what type of wig you want.

When is a higher price better? The answer is when the quality is high enough to justify the price markup.

Your More Expensive Wigs Tend To Be:
- Lace Front Wigs (preferable when wearing a bangles style)
- Variety of Realistic and vibrant wig shades (rooted, highlighted, etc)
- Cap construction (monofilament top: A weightless feel and natural appearance are only a few of the many advantages when wearing monofilament wigs. The range of color and style that monofilament wigs offer is endless)
- Fibers (qualities and limitations of the fibers used in the manufacture of wigs. Read about human hair, Remy human hair, heat friendly, and synthetic fibers to better understand what suits your needs and what you prefer)
- Human Hair tends to be higher priced although today many Synthetic wigs are blended or just as yet easier to care for. One of the reasons human hair is more expensive is that they take
longer to make, and there is less of a supply of human hair.
- European Hair & Synthetics vs. Wigs catering to a Black and Hispanic populace. European hair is more expensive because it's a different texture and actually from Europeans meaning there is less supply so the price goes up. When you view wigs mostly on black models the quality is no less but the prices often are.
- Wigs that contain more hair are often more expensive. Sparse fibers when moved show a wig cap – and you do not want that to happen! Be sure the wig you choose isn’t “dirt-cheap” or it will scream WIG.

Costume wigs are best for costumes or one time uses. They are, naturally the least expensive wigs you can buy. They tend to break, split, fuzz up and most often do not look natural.

FemmeFever offers you the PRIVATE service of trying on many styles and colors. Can’t come in? Also offer free phone consult or consult with a picture...on style and color to choose. I make ordering online easier! Give a look on www.femmefever.com. See Boutique, Wigs and be sure to check the Wigs Clearance section as well. Discounts offered to all readers of this issue.

A Special Thank You To Karen

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a special Thank You to Karen for providing us with this series of articles on Wigs. While some of us are lucky enough to have our own hair, many of us must depend on the wig to provide us with that feminine hairdo.

Girls won’t you take a moment and send Karen a note of Thank you also. Her address is Karen@femmefever.com I am sure she will appreciate it.

Also check out her website at www.femmefever.com You will note that she has get togethers and parties for us along with an extensive boutique located on Long Island New York. If you are in the area why not check her out.

Once again THANK YOU Karen for the service you provide to our community.

Barbara Jean
Special Offer From FemmeFever
For Readers of Pretty T Girls magazine

In addition to the usual 5% off on all items on the website; if you use the code PRETTY you will receive an EXTRA 5% off any wig, wig accessory (revitalizer, wig cap, stand, brushes, combs).

Wig Kit $30.00  Kit includes everything you need for the upkeep of your wig! Wig Stand, Wig Brush, Breathable Wig Cap, EXCELLENT Wig Detangler/Revitalizer. Get all 4 and SAVE $7! Order Wig Shampoo with the wig kit and receive the Wig Shampoo for $14.

Wig Shampoo $16.00

Henry MarguWig Mist $12.00

Wig Brush $

Large Selection of reasonably priced synthetic, synthetic blend, Human Hair and Front Lace wigs.

To Order go to http://femmefever.com and Click on Boutique
Remember to use the code PRETTY when ordering to receive your special discount.
10 outdated beauty rules to break

By Hannah Morrill

No matter what Instagram tells you, scrunchies are still a bit of a stretch. (Sorry.) The other tried-and-true commandments you think are beauty gospel? Allow yourself to reconsider after viewing these ten looks below.

THE OLD RULE
Don't be too matchy-matchy.

HOW TO BREAK IT
The reason Diane Kruger's Donna Karan Atelier pantsuit worked with a bright matte lip was because the two tomato reds matched exactly. Not close, not almost—exactly. Crimson doesn't go with berry, nor does fuchsia go with mauve. When you're matching makeup to your outfit, feel free to go full-on OCD.

THE OLD RULE
Unless you're in the Ice Capades, avoid frosty eye shadow.

HOW TO BREAK IT
Ask any little girl in your life: All things Frozen are suddenly cool, and icy eye shadow is no exception. Before laying on any shimmer, anchor the eye with a thick stripe of dark, opaque liner. Then add a beige, ivory, or taupe shadow that's more glimmer, less glitter, focusing on the inner corners and the bottom lash line—not the brow bone or beyond.

THE OLD RULE
Head scarves are for hippies.

HOW TO BREAK IT
At the Missoni show, hairstylist Paul Hanlon gathered models' hair into low, tight loops that he tucked into hairnets. Then he wrapped a folded scarf over the top of the bun and tied a knot undemeath.

"Scarves are always so bohemian. This feels a little more elevated," he said. To keep the top of the hair wet-slick, he added a ton of shine spray. "It's a very clean, compact look," he said.
THE OLD RULE
Red hair? No red lips.

HOW TO BREAK IT
First, you have to get the temperature right. Makeup artist Kristofer Buckle, who works with Jessica Chastain, recommends warm-toned reds (like Revlon ColorBurst Lipstick in True Red and Dolce & Gabbana Voluptuous Lipstick in Italian Monica) over cool blue-based reds. "Purply red looks wrong on true redheads," he says. Next, keep the focus on the lips and leave the rest of your makeup neutral. "Minimal cheeks and eyes give the right balance," Buckle says.

THE OLD RULE
Keep frizz tamed.

HOW TO BREAK IT
"I was inspired by Carolyn Bessette-Kennedy," hairstylist Orlando Pita says of the fuzzy, bendy strands he created at Michael Kors. "She was so put-together, but she never put a brush to her head."

Rather than faking a low-key attitude with hair spray and tools, Pita asked models to sleep on damp hair. "We wanted that strange wave, lift, and wrinkle in the hair," he said. On the day of, he left the hair alone. "You want to look like a pillow did you hair, not a hairdresser," he says.

THE OLD RULE
Don't leave the house with wet hair.

HOW TO BREAK IT
When your hair is wet, it has an incredible amount of control, polish, and, um, moisture. To get the former without the latter, we recommend working palmfuls of Oribe Grandiose Hair Plumping Mousse upward from the nape, smoothing it into the roots. Next, rake strands back from the hairline with a mixed-bristle brush and set the mousse with a blast of hot air.

"You're not giving yourself a blowout," celebrity hairstylist Jennifer Yepez says. "You're shaping the hair to the head." By focusing on the roots, the length will dry by proxy—meaning no wet marks on your shirt, but plenty of style.
THE OLD RULE
Pink hair is for kids.

HOW TO BREAK IT
The reason Nicole Richie's cotton-candy pixie looks straight-up sophisticated? It has a faded pastel finish. Daniel Moon, the star's colorist, mixes a semipermanent dye like Manic Panic with the brand's Pastel-izer to tone it down a few notches.

"You're going for robin's-egg blue, not cerulean, or lilac instead of ultraviolet," he says. Otherwise, you risk looking like an angry tween.

THE OLD RULE
Go big with nail art.

HOW TO BREAK IT
There's a happy place between safe, sheer-nude nails and those decked out with tiny paintings of hamburgers. At Charlotte Ronson, manicurist Miss Pop created negative-space manis, randomly painting either models' half-moons or nail beds with mint-green polish (try OPI Nail Lacquer in That's Hula-rious).

Tip: If you're doing the look on yourself, French manicure stencils help create crisp shapes.

THE OLD RULE
Dark lipstick is aging.

HOW TO BREAK IT
Brick-red lipstick looks dated when paired with vintage hair and makeup like, say, '40s waves and powdery skin. Here, Hailee Steinfeld pairs the shade with a glowing complexion, fluttery lashes, and a low, loose ponytail. Look for shades with a golden base, not a brown one, which can appear muddy.
THE OLD RULE
Nails should be short and squoval.

HOW TO BREAK IT
Maybe you're not exactly a J.Crew prepster. Neither is J.Lo. And that's why her manicurist Tom Bachik gives her long, tapered tips rather than short, rounded ones. This shape also makes the fingers appear more slender and longer.

For this shape, we like simple solid colors -nudes, black, navy, and soft pinks.

---

**Book Review: Even More Tricks of the Trade,**

By: Carolyn Olson.

Well it seems that our dear Carolyn Olson has been a rather “tricky” girl as she has just released her third Tricks of the Trade book titled “Even More Tricks of the Trade” (Amazon Kindle # B00YSVJMUG $5.99)

The book is divided into six parts. Part one deals with being a crossdresser and has articles concerning things like feelings, first time in public, things a crossdresser needs to know on up to things like electrolysis. Part 2 will deal with hair and makeup, part 3 will talk about legs and shoes, while part 4 deals with fashion. In part 5 her articles deal with how to be more feminine.

Part 6 is perhaps the most interesting for all of us as it will deal with things like breast forms, gaffs, tucking, photography, religion and more.

While some of the items in the book are written by Carolyn herself, others come from girls like Heidi Phox, Kathy Hamilton and others. There are also articles that were previously found in the Pretty T Girls magazine.

In part 6 there is an article on making a breast form for the hotter weather by Carolyn and another by Kathy Hamilton on wearing a gaff. Heidi Phox gives another tucking method, along with some information on keeping a balance between your femside and family and concerning religion. Miss Chryss and Gina Marie Brown provide a little humor in Things I have Learned about all those little things that seem to go wrong.

Whether you are a beginner, or seasoned crossdresser or transsexual There is something definitely of interest for you in this book.
Back when I was still socializing as a man we met a couple who we hit it of with quite well, Jerry was retired military and a part time karaoke DJ and his wife Paula was a nurse. As I slowing blossomed into a butterfly Jerry took it in stride and accepted me right away. Paula on the other hand turned into a cold fish and avoided me like the plague.

Over the years we would occasionally run into them by chance or while attending one of Jerry's Jerryoke events. As usually, Jerry was his jolly old self and always came by and greeted as with a big smile and a hand on the shoulder. His wife on the other hand just sat and gave me/us the evil eye.

Once I began presenting as a women the majority of the time and began socializing with a rather large circle of women friends, Paula must have started seeing that I wasn't just some kind of freak, but actually just a normal guy who just happen to like wearing a dress. Little by little we started to talk a bit, nothing much, just a hi, how ya doing kind of thing.

About a year ago she retired and they decided to build a year round home on the site that they had had a seasonal cabin for the last 20 years and we pretty much lost contact with them. Well, yesterday after the chili contest we decided to stop by our local Amvets Club and check out their Sausage Tasting Contest and low and behold, who did we run into, Jerry and his karaoke set up and Paula.

I'm not sure what happened over the last year, but a switch had definitely turned on at some point and her attitude towards me certainly seems to have changed. I actually got a hug out of her and we chatted for about 15 minutes. We even have plans to meet them at the Sunlight Bar thats near their place sometime this summer...how cool is that. Apparently she has gotten over whatever had bugged her previously. Perhaps I should ask her when we meet again.

Judy Lynn
A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

BY

BARBARA MARIE DAVIDSON

Many of you know from reading the papers or watching T.V. that this year is the 50th anniversary of The “War in Vietnam”. On March 8th 1965, 3500 marines came ashore on a beach near DaNang to protect an airbase there during sorties to the north (Rolling Thunder). By the end of the year, there were 135,000 American military there. 10 years later over 2.7 million military had served in Vietnam with 58,00 killed (KIA) or missing (MIA). In 1968, I made my first trip to the “far East” as an “aeromedic” in the GA Air National Guard as I flew to Tokyo and then flew Medivac (with wounded military personnel) from there back to Alaska. I then made another trip back to Tokyo with a second Medivac flight back to Andrews Air force base. Then I went back to Savannah and home.

In 1967 I graduated from Nursing school and in 1969, I joined the U S Navy going from an E5 (staff Sgt)(USAF) to an 01 (ensign) (USN). In 1972, I was attached to a surgical team from Camp Pendleton and sent to Vietnam. I flew from Dulles to San Francisco International. From Travis field California, I flew to Clark Air force Base in the Philippines. There I met my ship, a Helicopter Assault Carrier, as well as the members of the surgical team I was assigned to go with. The ship looked like a small air craft carrier but handled a squadron of Helio’s. We were attached to a battalion of marines on the ship and were to be their medical support if they were deployed ashore. (Which did not happen.) We also augmented the ships medical staff for daily sick call, etc. A week before we left the Gulf of Tonkin, the USS New Port News had a gun turret explosion as a round went off in the turret Killing a number of sailors and putting at least 35 sailors in to sick bay aboard our ship. Five were placed in “ICU” for smoke inhalation. Since there were only two nurses on the ship (my self and a Nurse Anesthesia) we had to work port and starboard for six days (12 on and 12 off. Two of the five were on the respirators). We were able to off load all of the patients on arrival to Okinawa. We, as well as the Marines, were also off loaded and I returned to the states and home to Patuxent River, MD. Thus, Yes I am a Vietnam Veteran.

Fast forward to Novenber/December 2010 time frame I went back to Vietnam with the lady who manages Luxury Nails and Spa (a nail salon here in Statesboro, GA). We stayed with her family that still lives in a small village about 4 hours from Saigon. During the first several months of 2011, I wrote several articles about my trip. They were published in the PTG Magazine over a several month span. However when I went to Vietnam in 2010, my passport had all my male information but an ambiguous photo as I flew in my femme mode and took no male cloths with me.

Now it is five years later and I will be going back to Vietnam for the third time with Diane (the same lady I went with before). We will be leaving the middle of June and will be back about 2 ½ weeks later in July.. We are going to a wedding and will be staying with her family again while we are there. This time I have an up dated passport with my femme name and photo. The only thing this time it says – sex
male. We are planning to have dresses made while we are there for the wedding. I am hoping to have 2 or 3 made to bring home.

As it stands now, we will drive to Atlanta on the 15th of June and then Fly out on the morning of the 16th on Delta heading for Tokyo instead of Seoul, S.K. In Tokyo, we will switch to Vietnamese air lines for the final trip to Saigon. As before it will be about midnight when we arrive there. As far as dates they are a day ahead of us. Also if it is 1800 (6 pm) here, it is 6 am there. Also the temperatures there at this time of year fluctuate between low mid 80’s at night and mid 90’s in the day with you token rain storm in the afternoons.

After we have rested up for a day, we will be going to a seamstress to have dresses made for a wedding as she has a cousin getting married while we are there. I am hoping to have 2 or 3 made as it is about $35 to $40 including the material to have them made. They are a two-piece outfit with a long dress slit to the waist on both sides and matching solid slacks to be worn with heels. These dresses are form fitted thus they can not be let out but the can be slightly taken in if the case warrant it. There are some summer styles where the dress comes to the knee instead of the ankle but the design is the same. The rest of the time we will be doing some “Traveling” as we are planning to go to DaNang for a day as well as to a beach. Visit her only living grand parent left and who know what else.

Now that I have laid the ground work for several more articles, which will consist of what happened during week one and week two. I wish want to wish everyone a very happy fourth on July for the birth of this great nation of ours and don’t celebrate too hard with the fifth. Also don’t eat too much as you celebrate the Fourth and or the Fifth. With that I wish you a Bon Voyage (English); Turas Math dhut/dhuibh! (galian) ¡Buen viaje! (Spanish) or Len durong binh an (Vietnamese).

Yours

BARBARA M DAVIDSON, RN
LCDR/USN/RETIRED NAVY NURSE
VIETNAM VETERAN
Humor

A man suffered a serious heart attack while shopping in a store. The store clerks called 911 when they saw him collapse to the floor. The paramedics rushed the man to the nearest hospital where he had emergency open heart bypass surgery.

He awakened from the surgery to find himself in the care of nuns at a private Catholic hospital. A nun was seated next to his bed holding a clipboard loaded with several forms, and a pen. She asked him how he was going to pay for his treatment.

"Do you have health insurance?" she asked.
He replied in a raspy voice, "No health insurance."
The nun asked, "Do you have money in the bank?"
He replied, "No money in the bank."
Do you have a relative who could help you with the payments?" asked the irritated nun.
He said, "I only have a spinster sister, and she is a nun."
The nun became agitated and announced loudly,"Nuns are not spinsters! Nuns are married to God."
The patient replied, "Perfect. Send the bill to my brother-in-law."

It's scary when you start making the same noises as your coffee maker.
~ ~ ~
These days about half the stuff in my shopping cart says, 'For fast relief.'
~ ~ ~
Know how to prevent sagging? Just eat till the wrinkles fill out.
Angels In The Centerfold

Melissa

Gerry

Diane
Tammy Trueheart

Joanne
The dog days of summer are upon us, girls! It’s going to be a hot, sticky August. Time for those swimsuits (or bikinis, if applicable) and plenty of sunscreen!

Last month I told you about the kitten we had taken in. Well, unfortunately, he (it turned out to be a he) passed away. He had a parasite in his neck that was slowly killing him; the vet gave him less than a 10% chance of survival. We kept him alive for about a week; my daughter and my son’s girlfriend were feeding him every three hours through a feeding tube to get him to eat. In the end, though; the parasite was too much. He’s now laid to rest under our pear tree. My daughter is still upset and grieving, but she’s getting over it gradually.

One thing that really has helped her come back was the Japanese animation convention we attended in Davenport, Iowa. We go to this every year, as my loyal readers already know. This year was really great for me; I spent five full days en femme! We left for Davenport on Thursday afternoon and came back Monday evening. Not only was I a woman for that entire time, but I was apparently a fairly attractive one! I also did some makeup work there and cleared about a hundred dollars.

School and the salon continue to be my life otherwise. I’m teaching myself how to do shellac nail polishes; they look really good on the fingers and are SO durable! I’m also starting to learn how to do acrylic nails; teaching yourself is a tricky task!

So tell me all about your month, ladies! Write me at mlatinadhmelly@gmail.com. I answer any and all mail I get, so feel free to tell me about anything you want to chat about, be it a salon visit or transgender news, or whatever you like. I love hearing from you all!

Once again, my first tip of the month is about the big ball of fire in the sky! Don’t try to camouflage sunburned skin with foundation. You’ll make the skin look even worse. Instead, try a tinted moisturizer.
that will help to even out blotches but won’t adhere to flaky skin. A moisturizer with a yellow base will cancel out the pinkness of the burn, and you can keep it as your own little secret.

Well, the makeup class has rolled around again at the school. This, as you might guess, is my favorite lesson to teach! It also frustrates me no end…

We were on the subject of eyelashes. One of the girls asked me how to use a lash curler. Before I could answer, one of the other ladies piped up and gave an answer to the question. She said that you put on mascara and then use the lash curler! I was horrified and quickly corrected her.

Never, ever, EVER curl your eyelashes while wearing mascara! Make sure your lashes are clean before you start. Heat the curler with a blow dryer for five seconds. After checking to make sure it’s not too hot, clamp it at the very base of the roots and hold for 10-30 seconds. Repeat on the other side -- you don’t need to curl your bottom lashes.

So here is your situation. You saw a killer-looking color of lipstick at the store and just HAD to buy it! Of course, you were en homme at the time and couldn’t just use a sampler… and so, when you got home, you found that you’d ended up with a shade of lipstick you don’t like.

Don’t throw that lipstick out, or give it away! Instead, let me tell you a nifty way to transform a bad purchase into a unique experience. Find another color of lipstick that you like, and we’re going to blend the two. Blending several shades of lipstick is very trendy right now! It’s also a great way to find a custom shade that suits you. Experiment with trying different colors in your arsenal until you find that perfect, individual look that you just go gaga over!

I recently, for all my best efforts to not let this happen, found myself recently with a monster blemish on the side of my face. This was a couple of days before we were to eave for the convention I mentioned earlier, and I knew I had to do something quick to treat it. This is what I did: I put a piece of tape on it overnight. I know, that sounds dumb, right? Well, here’s the secret. The tape will help draw out the fluid and bacteria, making it easier to treat the next day. The blemish was much smaller the next day, and I was able to run into the school after that and give myself a few minutes of high-frequency treatment to zap the thing.

High frequency treatments, you ask. What are those? Well, let me enlighten you!

At my school, as in many other spas, we have machines that we can use to do many and varied skin treatments. One of the most popular is the application of high-frequency electricity. This will help to bring bacteria and debris that’s under the surface of the skin out into the light. It also is magnificent for increasing circulation!
What happens is, the esthetician will use a small glass probe, of varying shapes and sizes, and lightly glide this over your skin. The glass will pass on a small electrical charge, not generally painful, to the skin. Again, the results are (among others) raising bacteria to the surface more rapidly, and increases the circulation.

One of my favorite services is to use the high frequency on the scalp. This is of especial interest to any of you girls who are dealing with having less of a mane on the head. The high frequency will stimulate the scalp hair follicles and can actually help with hair production! I’ve seen it happen, for all you disbelievers out there…

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

Here’s a fast summertime tip for all of you in the heat! To make makeup last all day, spray mineral water on your face once you’re finished with it. Don’t try to dry the mineral water off; it will dry on its own, and keep your makeup from fading. And it feels quite refreshing!

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

Using a fluffy eye shadow brush to apply your lip color gives it that diffused effect around the edges, treating your lips to an almost ombre effect. To get that I-just-ate-a-popsicle finish, take a flat brush and swipe it over the lipstick. Push the color onto the middle of your mouth only.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

Let’s talk about some nail art for a moment. I’m not going to discuss applying any particular style, but I am going to talk about a brush and some things of this nature.

A striper brush is a long, skinny brush you can pick up at any art supply store. (Alternatively, you can try a clean liquid eyeliner brush.) Anytime you’re drawing horizontal stripes on your nails, turn your finger on its side and then with your other hand, hold a thin striper brush straight out and parallel to the nail you’re painting. Then, you’ll keep the brush still and, keeping your finger in place, roll the nail you’re painting away from the striper brush. Doing this will automatically help you draw a straight, not shaky, line.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

Do you know how to apply blush to your cheeks? I mean, there’s more to it than just randomly picking a shade and smearing it on! There is the concept of blending, and also, for the advanced makeup user, contouring and highlighting.

Many women, both transgender and genetic, struggle with this age-old issue! For example, I have one lady who comes into the salon I work in (not my client) with two slashes of color on her cheeks. No blending, nothing! I want to take her by the shoulders and shake her as I say, “The 1980s are OVER!!!”
My trick, which seems to work nicely, is to use two shades. I give myself a big cheesing grin in the mirror and apply the darker of the two UNDERNEATH my cheekbone. I then take a lighter color and apply it to the top of the cheekbone. I blend my blush downward! Why, you ask? The color that’s darker will sit in the hollow of the cheek and visually lift your cheekbones, while the lighter will be absorbed by the darker and not give you the appearance of having put on a bit too much makeup.

Bushy brows are back, girls! However, that doesn’t mean you should let them grow out until you look like Gandalf in Lord of the Rings. A well-defined brow is a mark of youth at the moment, but part of the definition is shaping. Shaping your brows, unless you know what you’re doing, should be left to professionals like myself.

Here’s a good little trick for getting this look (after having your brows shaped). Take a teeny-tiny fan brush and apply a brown mascara to your brows. The mascara will tint any fine hairs in there and instantly give you more brows. It’s a very flattering look!

Here’s a quick professional tip for you all. Make the damaged ends of your hair look thicker and healthier! Apply a light layer of styling wax to the ends of your hair, followed by hair powder. The wax helps hold the powder onto the hair, and the powder expands on the ends creating the look of thicker hair.

I recently read a magazine article that included some makeup tips from drag performers. Many of the tips were ones that I’ve shared with you all before, but this one I hadn’t heard of. According to the article, if you need some heavy-duty setting of your makeup, give yourself a light dusting of hairspray to the face! I’ve never tried this myself, but upon thinking about it, the idea makes sense. If any of you try this, please write me and let me know your opinion!

When my daughter and I went to Davenport for the convention, we stayed with my sister-in-law and her family. They are all familiar with Mellissa, so being en femme the whole time was nothing new. The only problem I have with staying with them is… the house is a freaking tomb! There is no good light for doing makeup anywhere.
When you’re doing makeup, you should pay attention to the light in your house (as I’m sure most of you already know!). Your restroom, or the room where you do your makeup should have strong, natural light. This may not seem to be the most flattering light (and it isn’t), but you’re more likely to catch stray hairs or makeup mistakes before leaving the house under it. Use bright but soft-white bulbs in common areas, and make sure your reading lamp is bright but without glare, to prevent eyestrain.

For my last tip of the month, I want to talk about a skin condition you can get at this time of the year. It will make you miserable! Please read this tip thoroughly; it may be your own skin you save by doing so!

It’s the recipe for a prickly situation; too much time out in the sun, running around playing, sweating and sweating some more. You’re trying to avoid getting sunburned and incurring the wrath of Mellissa, so you stay fully clothed and insist that your kids do so, too. Well, later that week, you find yourself afflicted with tiny, stinging, itchy, red, pimply, blistery bumps. They’re under your arms, behind your knees, under your breasts and between your legs. It’s heat rash, also known as prickly heat. The medical name for this condition is miliaria, and though it is most common among children, particularly infants, active adults can experience it just as well. People sick with fever who must remain in bed are also vulnerable to heat rash.

Heat rash usually occurs in hot, humid weather, conditions with which many Americans are intimately familiar. Heat rash typically appears a few days after exposure to an especially hot, humid environment. But it may not appear until weeks later. The rash is caused by excessive perspiration, which damages cells on the surface of the skin. The damaged cells form a barrier that traps sweat beneath the skin. This moisture then builds up, causing the red, itchy bumps. When these pimple-like bumps burst and the sweat is released, it causes the stinging, prickly feeling from whence the name comes.

Heat rash usually goes away on its own in a few days. In severe cases, however, the condition may interfere with the body’s ability to regulate heat. This can cause fever, heat exhaustion and, believe it or not, even death. If symptoms do not go away in a few days, or if an infection develops where bumps have burst, call a doctor. Stronger medication may be required.

The only way to prevent heat rash is to avoid situations that lead to excessive sweating. In many cities, that’s easier said than done. In hot weather, take advantage of air conditioning, fans and frequent cool showers and baths. Wear lightweight, loose-fitting clothes, and stay well hydrated by drinking plenty of water.

And that will do it for August! Sadly, I’m now the bearer of bad news: the summer is almost over. We’ve almost made it to Labor Day already! Can you believe it, girls? This year, 2015, has just been a blur as it passes us by.

Next month I’ll share my adventures at the Decatur Celebration with you all. I have many concerts to attend, and I will keep you all updated on how things go. This year I think I’m going to stick with the regular foods and not try anything too exotic. Last year I tried Thai food and quickly realized the error of my ways. Hot and spicy are mild terms!
I’m still looking for some more good tips on brushes, so if any of you have one to share, please, please, please send it in! You know your name will be featured prominently here if you do…!

Sending me stuff is the easiest thing in the world to do. You can send it to my e-mail at mlatjnadhmelly@gmail.com; as you know, my inbox is always open! You can also hit me up on Facebook; my name there is Mellissa Lynn. I’ve been getting better about checking my account, so post with confidence!

All right girls, have (safe) fun in the sun, and I’ll talk to you all in September!
What to Look for In Prints and Patterns

Diane Pemberton Sikes

Prints and warm weather go together and can liven up your favorite go-to pieces. But there are a couple of questions you need to ask before grabbing any oh-so-fabulous print and spiriting it back to your closet like some new-found treasure. Namely:

Is it right for you?
Does it work with your existing wardrobe?

Because if you don’t stop to ask these questions, you may find yourself with pieces that don’t flatter or that will require additional purchases to wear. You don’t want that. So take the time before you buy or you may regret it later.

Here’s what you need to consider:

Your Size Dictates Your Best Print Size

If you’re small, opt for small prints. Large prints will make you look smaller and may overwhelm you.

If you’re large, opt for large prints. Small prints will make you look bigger.

If you’re average size, opt for average size prints. Otherwise, small prints will make you look bigger and large prints will make you look smaller and may overwhelm you.

Like Goldilocks, you’re looking for that just right size to make you look your best.

Buy Stuff That Works With Your Wardrobe

A high functioning wardrobe consists of solids and prints in a handful of your best colors and styles. You want to be able to mix and match everything you own so you can get the maximum wear out of everything you buy.
So if your wardrobe looks like this:

Add prints and patterns from these color families. That way you know you already have stuff with which to wear them.

If you get a wild hair and buy something that’s totally out of character or out of your regular color palette, know going it that it’s going to cost you. Either you’re going to have to spend money to buy matching pieces or accessories, or you’re not going to wear it because you have nothing to wear it with. Bad plan. Again, only buy stuff that works with your existing wardrobe.

Make Sure The Print is Sewn Properly
Clothing prints are just like wallpaper: you should never see the seam.

So inspect seams carefully before you buy to make sure they align properly. If they don’t, put it back on the rack and look for a properly sewn garment instead.

Accessorying
One of the many reasons I’m a big fan of a limited color palette is because it reduces the number of accessories you need…which then allows you to spend more on them. Clean and simple goes with everything. Fussy and outfit-specific does not.
If you’re not sure which shoe color to wear with prints, remember that typically, your shoe color should be equal to or darker than your hem color. Which means, depending on the print, you can use one of the colors from the print to add a pop of color.

Alternately – and especially for summer – you can also go with a flesh-colored shoe. Not only will this make your legs look longer, it will focus attention on the print.

So what’s the bottom line with prints and patterns? While they’re a great way to reinvigorate your favorite solid colored pieces, be careful when adding prints to your wardrobe. They should flatter your figure, work with your existing pieces, and be properly sewn before you give them serious consideration. If they don’t meet all three criteria, pass. Only buy clothes that make you look and feel your best.

Diana Pemberton Sikes is an image consultant and author of Wardrobe Magic. Want to find the best clothes for your body, budget, and lifestyle? Wardrobe Magic can help.
Fashion Pieces That Changed What Women Wear

Tasi Zuriack

“What we wear is a statement of who we are. There is much more to the shoes on your feet and the coat on your back. What you call trendy today, may have been something more to your ancestors. Fashion Items That Changed The World is a video list created by The Richest. It briefly details eight significant items from fashion history that made the fashion world what it is today.

We have updated the list to include a few more iconic items so what you see below are the most influential and revolutionary fashion trends and statements of all time...the history of clothing and accessories that we wear today.

The Bikini

On the 5th of July, 1946, Louis Reard unveiled a daring 2 piece swimsuit, known as the bikini today at a popular swimming pool in Paris. Western countries banned the daring swim piece from public beaches and pools and the Vatican declared it sinful. The ever controversial Marilyn Monroe took the new fashion head on and posed in photos wearing it. By the end of the century the Bikini had become the most popular swim wear worldwide with many different styles, shapes and cuts. Go here for the complete story on the bikini.

High Heels

High Heeled shoes were originally created for wealthy men to show off their social status. They were the ideal shoe for horseback riding as they kept the foot locked in the stirrups. Catherine De Medci was the first woman to wear heels to make up for her short height. In 1950's the stiletto was born by Roger-Henri Vivier and grew quickly in popularity and is still a firm favorite today. The complete story on high heels is here, but also check out All About Shoes here in the Library and How To Walk in High Heels.
The Leather Jacket

The leather jacket was worn by aviators and the military in the early 1900’s. The late half of 20th century saw the leather jacket appear in Hollywood movies. All characters who wore this piece of clothing was regarded as cool. In most popular culture examples, the jackets are worn by people cultivating a rebellious image. The Punk culture “rocks” the leather jacket with accessories such as chains, studs, and cuts. So celebrities from movie stars to punk rockers to the Queen of Jordan have helped make the leather jacket an iconic item. You can read the fascinating history here.

The LBD (Little Black Dress)

Fashion icon Coco Channel introduced the world to the LBD in a 1926 Vogue issue. Before this black dresses were reserved for only those who were mourning and it was considered to be indecent when worn otherwise. With the rise in color TV we saw a rise in popularity of the LBD because colored clothing looked distorted on black and white screens before Technicolor was invented. It was intended to be long-lasting, versatile, affordable, accessible to the widest market possible and in a neutral color. Its ubiquity is such that it is often simply referred to as the “LBD.” The “little black dress” is considered essential to a complete wardrobe by many women and fashion observers, who believe it a “rule of fashion” that every woman should own a simple, elegant black dress that can be dressed up or down depending on the occasion. The black Givenchy dress of Audrey Hepburn as Holly Golightly in Breakfast at Tiffany’s, epitomized the standard for wearing little black dresses accessorized with pearls (together called “basic black”), as was frequently seen throughout the early 1960s. A complete history of this wonderful garment is here.

Sunglasses

Centuries ago, the Inuit wore flattened walrus ivory “glasses” to block harmful UV rays from the sun. In early 1920s, sunglasses became widespread among movie stars to avoid recognition by fans and to hide redeye from powerful lights on sets. In 1938, LIFE Magazine claimed that sunglasses were simply a fad in America. During WWII Ray-Ban created anti-glare lenses for American fighter pilots which has become one of today’s most iconic styles, the Aviator. Fashion trends also draw on the “cool” image of sunglasses and association with a particular lifestyle, especially the close connection
between sunglasses and beach life. In some cases, this connection serves as the core concept behind an entire brand. Read the extensive history of sunglasses here.

The Brassiere

The Brassiere derives from the French word “upper arm” and was first used in 1893. The Brassier was popularized by Vogue in 1907. However, garments designed to support a woman’s breasts date back to ancient Greece. By the 1920s most women had adopted a bandeau-style bra that flattened the breasts for the desired flapper dresses of the day. But it was the Hollywood starlets of the 1950s — think Marilyn Monroe and Jayne Mansfield — who embraced the increased support in bra design, inspiring a generation of women to adopt the “sweater girl” look.

The 1960s was a time of protest and fashions allowed women to go braless — some even burned their bras. But by the 1990s full support was back and the Wonderbra — thanks to supermodel Eva Herzigova — became a bestseller.

Today lingerie is big business. The bust supporter has come a long way. In 1955, a Canadian brand developed the “Wonderbra” which was the first push up bra on the market. Victoria’s Secret revolutionized the bra by showcasing intricate patterns and designs at fashion shows. It is estimated that $16 Billion per year is spent on bras worldwide.

The Mini Skirt

Mary Quant created the mini skirt in 1965 and named her design after her favorite car the Mini Cooper. Quant wanted to create something practical and liberating allowing women to “run for the bus”. Owing to Quant’s position in the heart of fashionable “Swinging London“, the miniskirt was able to spread beyond a simple street fashion into a major international trend. The style came into prominence when Jean Shrimpton wore a short white shift dress on 30 October 1965 at Derby Day, first day of the annual Melbourne Cup Carnival in Australia, where it caused a sensation. With the rise in hemlines, the wearing of tights or pantyhose, in place of stockings, became more common. Mary Quant cited this development in defence of the miniskirt:

Many European countries banned the Mini Skirt because they believed it was an invitation to rape. The Mini Skirt however became a symbol of woman’s freedom and expression in the late 60s. It is now a staple in woman’s fashion of all ages.
Hosiery

THE world’s first knitting machine was invented in 1589. Queen Elizabeth I believed that the knitting machine was a national treasure and imposed the death penalty for anyone who attempted to take one out of England. In the 1930s the circular knitting machine was invented. It produced the first seamless stockings by knitting tubes of fabrics to which separate foot and toe pieces were later attached.

One of the most significant advancements in hosiery was the advent of nylon in 1938. The first nylon stockings appeared in New York stores on May 15, 1940. More than 72,000 pairs of nylons were sold on that first day. Before this, the majority of stockings were made of silk. As a consequence of the popularity of nylon stockings the Japanese silk market collapsed almost overnight. In the first year on the market, 64 million pairs of nylon stockings were sold and manufacturers could not keep up with demand.

But the shorter hemlines of the 1960s made stockings with their necessary suspenders, garters and garter belts difficult to conceal. As a result, fashion designers attached the stockings directly to panties and created the pantyhose. Nylon still remains the most widely used fibre in the production of hosiery. However, today, most hosiery is also made with Lycra, which gives the garment elasticity, durability and a better fit.

Blue Jeans

Blue jeans are, without a doubt, one of America’s biggest contributions to fashion, if not to the world in general. They’re a universally worn and loved garment that today are an important section of most people’s wardrobes—not to mention a $60 billion dollar global industry in their own right. It’s their versatility and staying power that led none other than Yves Saint Laurent to tell New York Magazine in 1983, “I have often said that I wish I had invented blue jeans: the most spectacular, the most practical, the most relaxed and nonchalant. They have expression, modesty, sex appeal, simplicity—all I hope for in my clothes.”
Why Do Tall Women Wear High Heels

Hadley Freeman

Why does any woman wear high heels? As regular readers of this column will know, I find the enduring existence of high heels both a frustrating mystery and a testament to the triumph of women’s neuroses over their mobility. I have been told that some women find wearing high heels easy. And that’s great! GOOD FOR THEM. But I bet they’d find walking in flat shoes a heck of a lot easier. I once interviewed a celebrity who told me she “couldn’t think in flats”, leading me to wonder if maybe the problem was she couldn’t think at all. See? Not only can I think in flats, I can be a right bitch in them, too.

But your question is interesting, PM, because it reveals a common male misunderstanding about high heels (and rest assured, nerdy Guardian readers, I am not making any assumptions about gender – I know PM is male because he asked me this question in person, at Lord’s, while I was watching a cricket match, something else I can do in flats.) You, understandably, think women wear high heels to be taller, but you are sorely underestimating the mental minefield that it is to be a woman.

Oh, I know, men, I know: things are ever so complicated for the modern male these days. Should you hold a door for a woman or not? (Yes.) Should you offer your seat on the train to a pregnant woman or not? (Yes.) Should you wear aftershave or not? (No.) Is it OK to chat up women or does that now count as sexual harassment? (Depends how harass-y your chat is.) Honestly, it’s a marvel that you cope with this veritable minefield of dilemmas!
But occasionally a question will pop through my postbox – or, in this case, be posed to me on the stands at a cricket ground – that will remind me how simple the world is when viewed through the average man’s eyes, not because the men themselves are simple, but because they are not weighed down with the amount of bullshit women are.

Now, at the risk of stooping to bad-chicklit level of gender stereotyping, when I imagine a man’s perspective of the world, I picture a sunny, two-dimensional landscape, sort of like level one of Super Mario Bros (and yes, I am referencing Super Mario Bros for the second week in a row in this column). A land, you see, where clothing choices are made by what fits and what doesn’t, where food decisions are made by whether you’re hungry or not. A woman’s perspective of the world, however, is like when your TV aerial has been knocked out by the wind and the picture is an angry, staticky mess, where everything you choose – what to wear, what to eat, whether to eat – is freighted with a million twinges of self-loathing and soundtracked by the furious voices of rage that live in almost every woman’s head: “You’re too fat to eat that doughnut!” “You’re so ugly you may as well eat that doughnut because only that doughnut will ever love you!” “Fat!” “Ugly!” “Infertile!” “Gah!” Ahhh, sing it, Tammy Wynette.

I remember the first time I listened to the Streets’ A Grand Don’t Come For Free, and I got to the moment at the end of the majestic last song on the album, Empy Cans, when Mike Skinner muses, “My jeans felt a bit tight, I think I washed them too high, I was gonna be late so I picked up my pace to run”, and this difference between the sexes struck me anew. Again, I appreciate this is probably the worst kind of gender stereotyping, but I think I’m safe in saying that this is the kind of line only a male singer would write. A female singer, on the other hand, would say, “My jeans felt a bit tight, oh God, have I put on weight? It was probably because of that doughnut, wasn’t it? Oh sure, try to blame it on the washing machine, but we all know it’s because you’re a heffalump. THERE IS NO HOPE.”

Which brings us, eventually, back to the high heels issue. You, PM, as we established, see high heels and think, “Aha! Women wear them to look taller.” Women see them and know there is much more going on here, such as, just off the top of my head, looking thinner; looking more feminine; being able to wear clothes that only look good with high heels (which to me is like making a car that only works in sunny weather, but whatever); looking thinner; making your legs look longer; having a more seductive walk; looking more defiant; feeling more confident (if immobile); looking thinner; looking thinner; looking thinner.

So, as you can see, PM, there are many reasons a tall woman might wear high heels. The femininity issue is, I suspect, quite a common one, as height – bafflingly – is too often seen as
an unfeminine quality in a woman and so, rather than being seen as yet more unfeminine by clunking around in a pair of flats, lots of tall women reach for the high heels. And yes, this makes them taller. Like I said, PM, being a woman is complicated. There might also be a bit of “Yeah, I’m tall – I’m tall and in high heels. What of it, shrimp?” going on, which I salute completely.

I think the real thing to take away here, PM, is that a tall woman wears high heels for many, many reasons, most of which will seem completely bewildering to you in your sunny, two-dimensional landscape. Don’t ask her to explain (she might beat you round the head with a stiletto) – just enjoy your sunny, angry static-free view.

---

### 5 Tips To Become A Better Crossdresser

1. **Get Healthy**
   Health is probably the most important thing to anyone. But eating right and exercising is never a bad thing. You will feel better, have more energy, and most importantly in our world confidence.

2. **Make Friends**
   You are not alone out there. Make some friends locally or long distance. If you are in the closet this can be your support group. If you are out it is great to hit the town with like minded people.

3. **Set Goals**
   This month I am going to lose 5 pounds to fit into that dress. Next week I am finally going to step out the house dressed. A girl’s got to have goals.

4. **Study Women**
   Study women’s movements, their fashion sense & style, and also their makeup techniques and colors.

5. **Practice & Improve Your Makeup Skills**
   Practice makes perfect. Experiment with new products, change up your routine. We all never stop learning and improving.
Top 5 Transgender Hair Removal Mistakes

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Lucille Sorella is a GG (genetic girl) who teaches crossdressers, transsexuals, and transgender females how to look, act, and feel like real women. Her goal is to help T-women express their inner and outer femininity and increase their confidence as women. She has a professional background in fashion, beauty, dance, and natural healing and has been working with the transgender community for the past 12 years. Her website is loaded with useful information and is located at http://www.flat2fem.com/index1.html.

Don’t you just LOVE the feeling of being freshly shaved, waxed, plucked, etc.? There’s nothing like silky, smooth skin to make a gal feel extra girly!

Hair removal is essential to your feminine image, but it’s an area where a lot of transgender women go wrong …

Are you making any of these hair removal mistakes?

1. Not exfoliating
2. Not moisturizing

All forms of hair removal can cause ingrown hairs (particularly in the beard, chest, and pubic areas), but you can avoid them by exfoliating your skin 2-3 times per week. Exfoliation gets rid of dead skin cells that trap the hair under your skin.

Exfoliating too soon can irritate your skin, so wait a couple days and then scrub gently with a washcloth or loofah. (I love The Body Shop exfoliating skin towel.)

2. Not moisturizing

Dry skin is another cause of ingrown hairs, so it’s important to keep your skin moisturized. (Besides, you want soft, feminine skin, don’t you?)

The best moisturizer to use immediately after hair removal is pure aloe vera gel. Aloe vera is a natural moisturizer and skin soother. Perfumed lotions can irritate freshly shaved, waxed, or lasered skin, so avoid them for the first 24 hours.
3. Not treating ingrown hairs correctly

Exfoliating and moisturizing help prevent future ingrown hairs, but what about existing bumps? Avoid the temptation to shave over ingrown hairs or dig for them with a needle – this can lead to infections and scarring. Instead, try an ingrown hair treatment such as Tend Skin, PFB Vanish, or Kalo Ingrown Hair Treatment.

4. Do-it-yourself hair removal (if you don’t know what you’re doing)

Professional waxing, electrolysis, and laser hair removal treatments are expensive, so it’s tempting to try them on your own. But be careful …

Newbie waxing mistakes – like waxing over the same area twice, pulling the hairs in different directions, or pulling too hard – can lead to rashes, bruises, and torn skin. Not a sexy look! If you insist on doing-it-yourself, get a couple professional waxing treatments first so you can observe proper technique.

Home laser and electrolysis kits aren’t as effective as professional systems, though girls have been reporting success with the No!No! Hair Removal System. The risk with these products is that they’re expensive and don’t always deliver results.

5. Bargain basement treatments

I’m all for beauty bargains, but don’t let price be your sole criteria when choosing a place for transgender hair removal treatments.

A cheap price tag often means a wax job with a bunch of stray hairs left behind or a patchy laser treatment. At worst, you could end up with burns or scars.

Check the qualifications of the person treating you and read the reviews on any place you are considering. Yelp is your friend!

Also, keep in mind that upscale places tend to put more emphasis on comfortable treatments. If you’re a waxing or laser wimp like me, it’s worth spending a bit more for a less painful experience.
Finding Balance in Your Marriage as a Cross-dresser

By Terri Lee Ryan.

A lack of identity for the wives of cross-dressers is a major reason they have such a difficult time being married to a cross-dresser. It should seem obvious, but most cross-dressers totally ignore this issue, as they are more concerned about being accepted for their cross-dressing than paying attention to their wives feelings.

Most of you cross-dressers come out to your wives after you have been married for some time. Your kids are older or away at college and with the house all to yourselves and your femme side wanting for more me time, you finally tell your wife about your cross-dressing. Yet, redefining the new roles you both play in your marriage is essential for your relationship with your wife to thrive and/or survive.

Think about when you first met your wife, how beautiful she was and how you admired her style. You were sexually attracted to her and like most couples when they meet, had an active sex life. Your wife has been the feminine one in the family unit; a peacock, as she is a woman.

One day, she is expected to share her role as the primary woman in the relationship with your femme self. If you are just coming out that femme self if very powerful; like a teen-ager who is full of life and wanting to openly experiment with female clothing. You finally have a “girlfriend” in your wife and for a moment everything appears as it is going to be okay. Your wife has accepted “all of you” and you are hopeful that she’ll love your femme self more, with every passing day, as she gets to know her.

This is very rare, as most wives are not comfortable sharing their femme identity with a cross-dressers femme self. Take away her role as the lead female and she is devastated! She is frightened and confused and doesn’t know what to expect from you and what is expected from her.

Actually, since this is all new in your relationship, either do you. You just know you need to release your femme self and integrate her into your marriage. It is like having your girlfriend join the marriage, except that girlfriend is YOU! Three is a crowd in a marriage; it rarely works. Here are some tips for finding a balance in your relationship that may save your marriage:

Never forget your wife is the primary female in your relationship. It’s key to having a relationship with her. She needs to know from youth that you are still attracted to her as a woman, she still is beautiful and she is the woman in your relationship, not you.

Respect your wives stance on having sex in your femme mode. Your wife has been having sex with you as a man from your first moment together. To expect her to embrace your femme self in bed is not only confusing for her, but a turn-off. Unless you mutually agree to experiment with you in your femme role, leave your femme self out of the bedroom. If you do attempt to get dressed, keep the experience light and fun and include your wife in every aspect.
Be honest with her as to the extent of your femme self and how you see incorporating this part of you into your marriage. You need to be transparent about how important letting your femme self out is to you. Obviously, it is optimal to integrate this part of you into your life or you wouldn’t have told her. Yet, your wife needs to know where your dressing is going and what to expect. Being aware of this should put her at ease, if she knows you don’t want to transition. If you do feel you are headed that direction, she needs to know that, too, so she can make her own decision whether she can stay in the marriage. Give her the power to make her own decision.

Be the guy she married. This means having “date nights” and vacations as your male self with all the attention on her. What your wife is most afraid of is that she has lost her husband when he comes out in his femme role. You need to continually reassure her that you are still the man she married.

Always be aware of the effect your dressing has on your marriage. Because you didn’t tell her beforehand about your femme self, you really need to pay extra attention in acknowledging your wives limits on cross-dressing and your femme self. You may have to hold back a bit, but at least you have released that dreaded secret and have an honest relationship with your wife. It’s half the battle.

One last word of advice is to remember that you changed the dynamics of your marriage by coming out. You need to be respectful of your wife being the primary woman in the relationship, not your femme self. Your wife always comes first if you want your marriage to work.

About Terri Lee Ryan
Author, Documentary Producer, Speaker

Terri Lee Ryan’s journey with cross-dressing began with her ex-husband who was a frequent dresser. Needing to understand and know more about what cross-dressing is and the profound effect it has in a relationship led her on the path to her own self-discovery.

She is the Executive Producer of the documentary, I Married a Cross-dresser, which aired on Sky Living Channel in the U.K. November, 2014. She writes a popular blog for the Chicago Tribune Chicago Now site. Shades of Gender offers insight on the current state of the cross-dressing and transgender community and the many faces of this group.

She has been featured and/or written articles for the Chicago Sun-Times, Desert Woman magazine, Entrepreneur magazine, Frock magazine, Repartee magazine, and the Transgender Group (TG) Forum. She has made appearances on ABC-TV, WLS-AM-890, WGN-AM-720 radio and numerous radio stations across the country.
Stylish Shoes For Women With Big Feet Do Exist. Here's Where To Buy Them.

The struggles for women who happen to have bigger feet (size 10 and up) seem to be endless. And beyond barely squeezing your feet through the ankle opening of skinny jeans, the most annoying problem is simply finding a pair of shoes -- or better yet, a pair of cute shoes -- in your size.

So what’s a big-footed girl to do?

Nordstrom and Zappos.com are a few of the mega stores that carry shoes north of size 12. However, there are also a number of companies that pride themselves on catering to women with extended-size feet almost exclusively -- which also means they take great care in offering a stylish selection.

"Finding affordable, trendy styles is a huge struggle for women who wear extended sizes," Ashlie Davis, founder and creator of Smash Shoes, told The Huffington Post. Davis, who launched the Los Angeles-based brand last November, wants to provide shoes for women who don't want their large shoe size to limit their style.

"Sure, if a woman wears a size 12 she can find any shoe that fits, but will that shoe make her outfit stand out? Will that shoe help restore her confidence in her sense of style?" Davis added. "Our mission is to be a reliable shoe line that offers young, vibrant and contemporary styles for women wearing extended sizes."

Fortunately, Smash Shoes isn’t the only company with the same aim. Here’s a list of companies that are letting gals with big feet step out in style.

- Long Tall Sally x Barefoot Tess
  (Up to size 15)

- FullBeauty
  (Up to size 14)

- Torrid
  (Up to size 13)
More employers than ever are embracing health coverage for transgender employees, as well as non-discrimination protections. This is largely a result of the proven low cost of providing transgender-inclusive care, since transgender adults represent just 0.3% of the U.S. adult population.

Despite the growing number of inclusive employer-sponsored plans, the American health care system remains a challenge for people seeking transgender health care, as transgender individuals continue to face discrimination, harassment, and barriers to access. Even finding a covered therapist or psychologist who deals with gender dysphoria can be a challenge, particularly for patients with certain insurance plans, such as HMOs and EPOs, that limit coverage to a specific network of providers. On top of that, local providers may already be at full capacity.
The Affordable Care Act (ACA) did provide some long-overdue changes that have helped more transgender people get equal coverage. Previously, transgender patients were often denied coverage on the basis of a pre-existing condition, but the ACA has prohibited the denial of coverage on that basis. The health care law also prohibits sex discrimination, and in 2012, the Department of Health and Human Services clarified in a letter that this provision does indeed apply to transgender people.

**Reports on transgender inclusivity**

Nevertheless, there are loopholes with the ACA that have allowed discrimination against transgender people to continue. For example, in order to obtain subsidized health insurance through the marketplace, the gender marker on the insurance policy must match the gender marker on the patient's social security card. An increasing number of state laws have provided some relief. By the end of 2014, eight states had banned insurance companies from explicitly excluding surgeries for transgender people, and a few states even began offering coverage through Medicaid.

The frustrating shortcomings of the American health care system haven’t made it easy for transgender patients. The good news is several groups provide useful resources for the American transgender population. The Transgender Law Center published a 2012 paper addressing questions about gender identity discrimination in health care settings. In a report updated in March 2014, the National Center for Transgender Equality explains the health care rights of transgender individuals and provides instructions to file discrimination complaints.

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) consistently releases reports on transgender issues, such as its annual Corporate Equality Index, assessing corporate policies and practices pertinent to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender employees. It was this 2015 study that found one-third of Fortune 500 companies provide transgender-inclusive coverage to employees.

To help patients navigate the confusing health insurance landscape, HRC recently published a list of 24 private health insurance plans that offer transgender health care benefits. **Health plans providing transgender care**

The following list was compiled by HRC in December 2014. These insurers offer plans without blanket exclusions for transgender-related health care. Click through to see each carrier’s guidelines for transgender-related treatments.
HRC’s disclaimer reads, “Please note that these plans are not endorsed by the HRC Foundation, but are presented to help navigate inclusive care offerings to the extent that plan documentation is publicly available.”

Aetna:
Coverage for “Gender Reassignment Surgery”

Amerigroup:
Coverage for “Gender Reassignment Surgery”

Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield:
Coverage for “Gender Reassignment Surgery”

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts:
Coverage for “Transgender Services”

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan:
Coverage for “Gender Reassignment Surgery”

Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina:
Coverage for “Gender Reassignment Surgery”

Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota:
Coverage for “Medical and Surgical Treatment of Gender Identity Disorder”

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island:
Coverage for “Gender Reassignment Surgery”

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee:
Coverage for “Gender Reassignment Surgery”

Care First:
Coverage for “Transgender Services”

Cigna:
Coverage for “Gender Reassignment Surgery”

Emblem Health:
Coverage for “Gender Reassignment Surgery”

Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield (Central New York, Rochester, Utica/Watertown):
Coverage for “Sex Reassignment Surgery”

Group Health Cooperative:
“Transgender Services Program”

Harvard Pilgrim Health Care:
“Transgender Services for Fully-Insured Subscribers and Dependents”
Health Net:
Coverage for “Gender Reassignment Surgery”

HealthPartners:
Coverage for “Gender Reassignment Surgery”

Highmark:
Coverage for “Gender Reassignment Surgery”

Independence Blue Cross:
Coverage for “Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS) for Gender Identity Disorder”

UnitedHealthcare:
Coverage for “Gender Identity Disorder/Gender Dysphoria Treatment”

Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield:
Coverage for “Gender Reassignment Surgery”

WellPoint – UniCare:
Coverage for “Gender Reassignment Surgery”

Additional resources for transgender health care information

HRC Foundation
Transgender Law Center
National Center for Transgender Equality
GLAAD

Local LGBT centers (such as the SF LGBT Center)
Local social and support groups (such as Transgender SF)
Trans Bodies Trans Selves edited by Laura Erickson-Schroth (check out the book, or listen to the NPR interview)

Read more: http://www.cheatsheet.com/personal-finance/these-insurers-offer-transgender-health-care-coverage.html/?a=viewall#ixzz3bU9TyOV8
Earring Hacks So You Never Lose an Earring Again!

Tess Panzer

There’s nothing more frustrating than looking in the mirror and realizing you’ve lost an earring or going to grab a pair from your dresser and finding only one! Much like socks, these tiny, sparkly adornments have a way of separating and never finding each other again. Here are three tips to keep you from ever losing an earring again.

1. Invest in Locking Earring Backs

Keep your earrings on your ears with earring backs that lock into place. Generally, the backs that come with your earrings are designed to keep them in place, but do not, however, offer any real security mechanisms beyond that.

Chrysmela is a brand of earring back that keeps earrings where they should be, namely on your ears. It is equipped with high precision technology, including micro ball bearings that are spring activated within it.

The Chrysmela has technology found in smart phones and fine watches. Photo: Chrysmela

“Chrysmela is so strong that it can suspend an object over 17 pounds! But we haven’t seen anyone wearing an earring that big, have you?” boasts the company behind these little wonders.

They are easy to pop on, immediately lock in place and pinch off effortlessly once you get the hang of it. A set will cost you $50, which may seem a bit steep but they are hypoallergenic and the good news is you only need one pair for all your earrings.

Another brand of earring back is Lox, which operates similarly to the Chrysmela back in that you push it on and squeeze it off. It locks into place, which means your earring won’t come lose when you pull off your sweater or tie back your hair.

This brand is also hypoallergenic and works with 99% of all stud earrings and at around $12 with shipping for two pair, Lox is an inexpensive solution to a pesky problem.
2. Pin Your Earrings in Place

Pinning your earrings to a larger object that holds them together is a great way to take tiny, individual pieces that are easy to lose and securing them to a bigger one that isn’t.

You could, for example, have a cork on your nightstand and pin your pairs to it when you take them off to go to bed.

*Repurposing an old cork into an earring holder makes for a great way to keep all your earrings in one place*

Or, you could use the holes on your watch strap! While taking off jewelry during your nighttime routine, attach the earrings to your watch - this way everything stays in one place and watch is a lot harder to lose than an earring or two.

*When you keep your earrings attached to your watch strap, you’ll have everything at the ready when you go to get ready in the morning.*

3. Hook Earrings to Each Other

A simple tip, but a smart one! When you take off your earrings, attach them to each other by poking one stud through the backing of the other and securing it with the second backing. This way, your earrings will never be apart and if you lose one, you lose both. After all, what’s one without the other.

*Keeping your earrings attached to each other means you’ll never have just one of two.*

If you’re going to spend money on expensive earrings or you’re holding on to sentimental ones, you want to do all you can to keep them safe. These products and simple tips will aid you in the fight to *keep earrings together* and where they should be.
Gingered Cranberry Margarita

Gingered Cranberry Margarita: Add a holiday twist to the margarita by using cranberry and orange juices instead of lime juice. Make it even more festive by rimming the beverage glass with a ground ginger and sugar mixture.

Ingredients

(serve s 2)

1/2 cup sugar
1 1/4 teaspoons McCormick Gourmet™ Ginger, Ground, divided
1 cup cranberry juice
1/4 cup orange juice
2 ounces tequila
1 ounce orange-flavored liqueur, such as Triple Sec

Directions

Mix sugar and 1/4 teaspoon of the ginger on a small plate. Wet rims martini glasses with water. Dip rims of glasses into sugar mixture to lightly coat.

Fill cocktail shaker half full with ice. Add juices, tequila, orange-flavored liqueur and remaining 1 teaspoon ginger; shake until well mixed and chilled.

Strain into 2 beverage glasses. Garnish as desired. Serve immediately.

Strawberry-Mango Margarita

Strawberry-Mango Margarita: This fruity margarita gets its kick from chamoy sauce, a sweet and spicy Mexican condiment of apricot, lime juice and chilies.

Ingredients

1/3 cup apricot jam
1 tablespoon fresh lime juice
1/2 teaspoon Red Pepper Crushed
1/4 teaspoon Chile Pepper, Ancho
1 cup crushed ice
1 cup strawberry halves
1/2 cup tequila
1/4 cup mango puree
1/4 cup orange-flavored liqueur such as Cointreau

Directions:

For the chamoy sauce place apricot jam, Lime Juice, Red Pepper And Ancho Chile pepper in blender. Cover. Add crushed ice, strawberries, tequila, mango puree and liqueur. Cover blend on high speed till smooth. Pour into beverage glasses. Serves 3
Aussie Grilled Chicken

Here is my favorite chicken recipe, the amount of ingredients you use is up to you. This is only a marinade.
Lime Juice (fresh is best)
Garlic (Lots)
Ginger (not too much)
Black pepper (try to get it under the skin)
Onion powder
Paprika
Sugar (to taste)
You can always add basil and sage or other herbs.
Marinate for 24 to 48 hrs (the longer the better)
Just put on a real grill for best results. I don't have the ability so I bake in an oven.
Jerri

Jan Birnbaum's New Orleans-Style Babyback Beer Ribs

Ingredients
Spice Rub Mix:
4 tablespoons kosher salt
2 tablespoons paprika
2 tablespoons chili powder
1 tablespoon toasted and ground cumin
1 tablespoon toasted and ground coriander
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon grated lime zest
1 tablespoon crumbled achiote

Ribs:
3 racks baby back pork ribs (about 5 pounds)
1 quart chicken stock
64 ounces beer
3 bay leaves

Sauce:
1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
4 poblano chiles, seeded and chopped
3 medium onions, roughly cut
2 tablespoons minced garlic
3 carrots, roughly chopped
2 sliced and seeded jalapeno chile peppers
2 (20-ounce) cans Roma tomatoes
3/4 cups molasses
1 cup honey
1 (2-ounce) can chipotle chiles in adobo sauce
1 orange, peeled with pith removed
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
3/4 cup red wine vinegar
3/4 cup lime juice

Directions
Spice Rub Mix: Mix together all ingredients.

Ribs: Preheat gas grill on low for 1/2 hour. If using charcoal, let the coals burn to embers, also about 1/2 hour after lighting.

Cut the rib racks in half horizontally along the bone. Season the ribs with a 1/2 of the spice rub mix. In a large roasting pan, add chicken stock, beer, and the bay leaves. Lower the ribs into the liquid. Bring up to a simmer and poach the ribs for 15 minutes.

Take the ribs out of the liquid and season them with the other 1/2 of the spice rub on both sides. While re-spicing the ribs, bring the liquid up to a boil over low heat to reduce.

Take the ribs outside to the grill. The coals should be at the ember stage. Gas grills stay on low. Place ribs
on the grill and cover to smoke for 2 hours. While ribs are cooking, the sauce can be finished.

Add the olive oil to a large, preheated sauté pan. Add the poblano and onions, and sauté for 5 or 6 minutes, until carmelized. Add the garlic, carrots, and jalapenos and sauté another 3 minutes. Add the Roma tomatoes and let it simmer 20 minutes. Add the molasses, honey, and chipotle with adobo sauce. Add the orange, then salt and pepper. When the initial braising liquid has reduced by half, add this to the sauce mixture. Let everything simmer for 20 minutes, or pop in a preheated 350 degrees F oven for 20 minutes.

Blend sauce mixture in a blender or food processor until smooth. Stir in red wine vinegar and lime juice.

Bring sauce to grill and brush on ribs for the last half hour of grilling.

Recipe courtesy of Jan Birnbaum

---

THE DINNER PARTY: An August Farmstand Menu

By Saveur | Shine Food

Markets overflowing with ripe August produce turn dinnertime into a celebration of summer's bounty. Simply-prepared, seasonal vegetables are the focus of this meal-start with refreshing watermelon cocktails and a squash tart that can be made with whatever looks good at the market. Cups of sweet corn chowder make a fantastic first course, and simple, honey and balsamic glazed pork chops paired with ripe roasted tomatoes, fingerling potatoes, and summer succotash is a satisfying main. To end the evening, there's little to rival the pleasure of a warm blueberry tart, with no frills except perhaps a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

**The Menu**

- Watermelon Spritz Cocktail
- Seasonal Squash Tart
- Sweet Corn Chowder
- Roasted Tomatoes
- Fingerling Potatoes with Bacon
- Honey-Balsamic Glazed Pork Chops
- Summer Succotash Salad
- Wild Blueberry Tart

This menu can easily be fit around what's available at your local market or what you have on hand from your own garden. See our meat-free grilling guide for more vegetable-focused summer meal ideas.

Blueberries at their peak don't need much fussing with—we love the open-topped tart above, but there are plenty of other options for rustic, simple desserts featuring this summery fruit, from slumps to cobblers to crisps.

If you still have watermelon left over after the cocktails and salad are made, you'll appreciate all the ideas for using it in Wonders of Watermelon.
Though we love the summery corn chowder in this menu, sometimes it’s just plain too hot out for traditional soup—fortunately, we’ve got a collection of cold soup recipes to cool you off, from gazpacho to chilled cucumber.

**RECIPE: Seasonal Squash Tart**

We love to serve this light and tasty tart as finger food alongside an aperitif. By using seasonal squash, the tart can be made year round. MAKES 1 TART

**INGREDIENTS**

1 sheet puff pastry, thawed and rolled out slightly to loosen the dough
1 yellow squash, sliced into \( \frac{1}{4} \)" rounds
1 zucchini, sliced into \( \frac{1}{4} \)" rounds
\( \frac{1}{2} \) butternut squash, cut into large cubes
3 cloves garlic
2 tbsp. olive oil plus extra
\( \frac{1}{4} \) cup heavy cream
\( \frac{1}{2} \) tsp. lemon zest
3 tbsp. goat cheese
salt and pepper, to taste

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Preheat an oven to 350°. Place the rolled out puff pastry sheet on a sheet tray lined with parchment. Using a fork, create a border around the edges, poking holes throughout the middle of the dough to prevent it from rising. Place another sheet of parchment over top and place beans or a pie weight over the surface. Place in the oven and bake; allowing the edges to rise slightly, about 20 minutes. Remove and let cool.

2. On a separate foil-lined tray, arrange the butternut squash and garlic cloves in a single layer. Toss with olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Roast in a 400° oven for 30 minutes. When cool, place into a food processor with the heavy cream, lemon zest, and half of the goat cheese; process until smooth.

3. On the cooled pastry, spread a coating of the squash mixture in the center. Arrange the squash and zucchini slices overtop, allowing each one to slightly overlap. Drizzle a small amount of olive oil and the remaining goat cheese, crumbled, over top. Place in a 375° oven for 30 minutes and bake until the squash starts to slightly brown, about 30 minutes. Serve warm or at room temperature.

**RECIPE: Glazed Pork Chops**

Honey and balsamic vinegar create a sweet and sour effect in this recipe simple, Roman-style recipe. SERVES 4

**INGREDIENTS**

4 (10-oz.) bone-in pork chops, frenched
3 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
\( \frac{1}{2} \) cup balsamic vinegar
2 tbsp. honey
4 tbsp. unsalted butter
1 sprig fresh rosemary, torn into 1" pieces

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Put pork chops on a plate; drizzle with oil; season generously with salt and pepper; let sit for 30 minutes.

2. Meanwhile, build a medium-hot fire in a charcoal grill or heat a gas grill to medium-high heat. Combine vinegar and honey in a 1-qt. saucepan and cook over medium heat until reduced to \( \frac{1}{4} \) cup. Stir in butter and rosemary and set aside.
3. Put pork chops on grill and cook, occasionally turning and basting with balsamic mixture, until browned and cooked through, 12 to 14 minutes. Transfer to a platter and let sit for 5 minutes before serving.

**RECIPE: Wild Blueberry Tart**

This elegant open-topped pie is summer at its best. Tiny, sweet wild blueberries are also available from Canada and possibly from Michigan; at your grocery store, you can find Wyman’s frozen berries. SERVES ABOUT 8

**INGREDIENTS**

- 1 cup old-fashioned rolled oats
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup finely chopped blanched almonds or walnuts
- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ sticks of butter
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup plus 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- Pinch of salt
- Pinch of ground cinnamon
- 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cups flour
- 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 cups Maine wild blueberries
- Grated zest of 1 small lemon
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- Optional: $\frac{1}{4}$ cup red currant jelly or strained strawberry or raspberry jam

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Buzz the rolled oats in a food processor, adding in the chopped nuts, a little at a time, until the mixture is coarse.

2. Blend together the butter and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of sugar and beat with a hand mixer until it is very fluffy. Beat in the vanilla, salt and cinnamon. Add the flour and the oat-nut mixture and mix together well, using your hands. Shape into a flat disk, then press the disk into the bottom and sides of a 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch fluted tart pan, making a layer all around about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch thick. Trim the top level with the top of the tart pan and use the extra bits to patch any holes in the dough. Wrap in plastic wrap and set in the refrigerator or freezer for at least 30 minutes, until very cold. (If you must leave it for more than an hour or so, make sure the plastic wrap is sealed around it to prevent the dough from drying out.)

3. When ready to cook, set the oven on 400° F. Once the oven is hot, set the pan in it and bake 12 to 15 minutes or until the crust is lightly golden, weighing it down with pie beans if necessary.

4. While the crust is browning, combine in a bowl the blueberries, lemon zest, cornstarch and 2 tablespoons of the remaining sugar. Toss the berries vigorously with a fork, just enough to bruise some of them lightly.

5. When the crust is done, remove the pan from the oven and, using a dish towel to protect your knuckles, gently press the dough crust, which will have risen a bit, back into shape. Turn the contents of the bowl of berries into the pie crust. If the top edge of the crust is already brown, set a protective ring on it (or cover the edge with aluminum foil) to keep it from getting too dark. Transfer the tart pan to the oven and bake for about 25 minutes.
10 Microwave Hacks You Must Try

Food Network

The microwave is a fantastic timesaver for plenty of straightforward tasks — reheating leftovers, melting butter and thawing ice cream, to say the least — but there are a few unexpected places where it really excels. Here are our favorite mind-blowing microwave tricks.

1. **Toasting Coconut and Nuts**
Toasting coconut and nuts brings out their flavor in a huge way, but their high fat content makes them easy to scorch on the stovetop or in the oven. Pop them in the microwave for 30-second increments, until they reach the desired color (for coconut) or are toasty and fragrant (for nuts).

2. **Foaming Milk**
Want to make a cappuccino but don’t have the frothing equipment? Fill a lidded jar halfway with milk, then shake vigorously. Remove the lid, microwave for 30 seconds, then pour the milk into your coffee. Scoop the milk foam onto your coffee as desired.

3. **Drying Herbs**
Is your garden overflowing? Lay fresh herbs out on a paper towel, with another paper towel on top, and microwave in 30-second increments until herbs are adequately dry. Transfer to a sealed container and store at room temperature. This also works well with citrus peel.
4. Peeling Garlic
Microwave a whole head of garlic for 20 seconds and the peels will slip off the cloves in seconds.

5. Softening Collards
We’re obsessed with using collard green leaves in place of wraps for sandwiches. Wash them well, layer them in a circle shape, then zap for 10 seconds, just to soften them enough to roll.

6. Dulce de Leche
If you’re terrified at the thought of cooking a sealed can but still want dulce de leche, open a can of sweetened condensed milk into a microwave-safe bowl, cover, then microwave in 2-minute increments, stirring between each one, until it’s as caramel-y as you want it.

7. Peeling Corn on the Cob
While it’s less practical than actually husking the corn by hand, this is handy if you just want a couple of cobs cooked and husked quickly: Cut off the root end of the cob with a serrated knife, just above the “shoulder,” then microwave the entire cob for 2 to 4 minutes, depending on your microwave. Once it’s done, shake the cob gently from the silk end until it shakes loose from the husk.
8. Poaching Eggs
For almost-instant poached eggs, crack an egg into a bowl or mug with ½ cup water and cover. Microwave for about 1 minute for just-set eggs, and follow with 10-second intervals if you like yours better done.

9. Homemade Fresh Cheeses
Combine 1 cup milk and 1 cup lemon juice (and a pinch of salt) in a microwave-safe container, then microwave for 2 minutes. Stir to separate curds from whey, then strain and drain in cheesecloth until as firm as desired.

10. Potato Chips
Yes, really. Slice thinly on a mandoline, rinse well, dry thoroughly, brush with olive oil, then spread out on a plate. Microwave for 3 minutes, then flip and microwave for another 3.
Cisgender added to Oxford English Dictionary

Cisgender has officially been added into the Oxford English Dictionary.

Dating back to 1999, the adjective is defined as 'designating someone whose sense of personal identity corresponds to the sex and gender assigned to him or her at birth. This word exists to serve as an equal and complement to transgender.'

Researchers at the OED were able to include the word after it was noted that it had been used in parliament.

Other words added include 'twerk', 'half-ass', 'webisode', 'sext' and 'stanky'.

The historical dictionary also found that twerk, popularised by gender-fluid bisexual singer Miley Cyrus, dates back to 1820.

Fiona McPherson, senior editor of Oxford English Dictionary, has said the new entries have 'earned their place' in the history of the English language.

Connecticut Makes Changing Birth Certificates Easier for Trans Folks

Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy last week signed a new law making it easier for transgender people to obtain updated birth certificates that reflect their authentic gender.

Under the new law, according to a newly released GLAD "Know Your Rights" birth certificate toolkit, trans people can now submit a notarized affidavit declaring that, "I have undergone appropriate treatment for the purpose of gender transition based on contemporary clinical standards, and that I am no longer the gender recorded on my current birth certificate." This statement must be accompanied by an affidavit from a doctor declaring that the petitioner has undergone "surgical, hormonal or other treatment."

As trans advocates cheered this "modernization," they also note that similar conclusions have been reached by legislators in at least seven other U.S. states — most recently, Hawaii — which have also eased surgical prerequisites for updating gender markers on birth certificates. Removing surgical barriers to obtaining accurate legal documentation has also become a worldwide issue, with parts of Canada as well as the nations of Turkey, Israel, and Taiwan recently relaxing surgery requirements for certain legal documents.

East Texas County Clerk Resigns Rather Than Issue Marriage Licenses to Same-Sex Couples

A county clerk in East Texas has resigned to avoid having to issue marriage licenses to gay couples, the AP reports:

Rusk County Clerk Joyce Lewis-Kugle submitted her resignation letter Thursday. County Judge Joel Hale, Rusk County’s top administrator, said Lewis-Kugle wrote that she could not in good conscience issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

County commissioners are scheduled to vote on her resignation Monday. Hale said he expected it would be accepted.

Earlier this week, we reported that a Texas clerk in Irion County had teamed with the anti-LGBT Liberty Counsel and pledged to turn away same-sex couples seeking marriage licenses.
Transgender issues may be the next focus for LGBT movement

Organizers of the serendipitously timed Yellow Springs Pride day on Saturday said they believe the focus of the LGBT movement will shift to securing greater understanding and full recognition of transgender issues.

I didn’t think I’d ever see it in my lifetime,” said Ann Simonson, referring to the U.S. Supreme Court’s 5-4 decision to make same-sex marriage legal in all 50 states, including Ohio, where residents had voted to ban gay marriage in 2004. “But there’s still a lot of work to be done,” she said. “There’s still a lot of hate and prejudice out there.”

Seated at a booth outside John Bryan Community Center early Saturday afternoon, Simonson said as soon as the dust settles from the celebrations of the court’s ruling, attention likely will shift to transgender issues. Fellow event organizer Alexandra Scott, 21, agreed, pointing to the harassment and bullying many transgender youths endure, and the high suicide rates of transgender youths and adults.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youths are four times more likely to attempt suicide than their straight peers, according to officials with the TREVOR Project, a national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to LGBT youths. Late last year, the suicide of a 17-year-old Warren County youth struck by a semitrailer on southbound I-71 near South Lebanon generated national headlines. The victim, whose birth name was Joshua Alcorn, left a suicide note on an online blog in which she wrote about her struggle growing up transgender and said she considered herself female and called herself by the first name Leelah.

Chasilee Crawford of Yellow Springs said she helped to organize the Yellow Springs Pride events in part because of the Alcorn case, and also because her 12-year-old daughter is transgender.

“We’re all very happy this (court ruling) happened, because it’s huge, it’s monumental for those who care about LGBT issues,” Crawford said. “But now we need to turn our attention to issues such as equality in the workplace and bullying, particularly for those who are transgender … We need to let families know these children need to be accepted.”

Girl Scouts Return Anti-Transgender Money

(CN) - A Girl Scouts chapter in Washington has raised more than a quarter million dollars after returning a $100,000 donation that was conditioned on not allowing transgender scouts.

Earlier this year, the national Girl Scouts organization wrote that it serves anyone who “lives culturally a girl,” signaling a policy that would include transgender youth as scouts.

In May, the Girl Scouts of Western Washington said they received a $100,000 donation, along with a note asking the organization to return the donation if it would be used to support transgender girls.

The scouts did just that.

"Girl Scouts is for every girl," the council’s CEO Megan Ferland said. "And every girl should have the opportunity to be a Girl Scout if she wants to."

The chapter started an Indiegogo campaign to raise the $100,000 that it returned. The campaign has raised more than $270,000 in two days.

Ferland wouldn’t say the name of the $100,000 donor, but called their relationship "complex" and that the letter made her "very sad," according to Seattlemet.com.

Ferland was the head of the Girl Scout council in Colorado in 2012, where she made a public statement about inclusiveness after a 7-year-old transgender girl was not allowed in a Denver troop.

Coalition Prepared to Fight Ballot Initiative Targeting Transgender Californians

Oakland, CA — A coalition of leading lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) and allied organizations has formed to battle a proposed ballot initiative targeting California’s transgender community.
The coalition consists of the American Civil Liberties Union of California, Equality California, the Human Rights Campaign, Los Angeles LGBT Center, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), and Transgender Law Center, as well as a steering committee of organizations representing diverse communities throughout California. Attorney General Kamala Harris today issued a title and ballot summary for the bathroom policing initiative, named “Limits on Use of Facilities in Government Buildings and Businesses,” which would prohibit transgender people from using facilities in government buildings and require the government to monitor bathroom use. The law would also allow anyone offended by the presence of an individual in a restroom to sue that person for a $4,000 in damages, as well as attorney’s fees.

“All Californians should have the same freedom to go about their lives and access government buildings without having their privacy invaded or being forced to undergo invasive examination simply to use a public restroom,” said Kris Hayashi, Executive Director of Transgender Law Center. “The bathroom policing initiative would unfairly single out transgender people and people who don’t meet stereotypes of what it looks like to be male or female for interrogation and exclusion.”

“Privacy for All” is the same group that previously unsuccessfully attempted to overturn AB 1266. The group is backed by the Sacramento-based Pacific Justice Institute, a right-wing legal organization.

Right-wing activists have increasingly targeted the transgender community for discrimination, proposing a spate of bills and initiatives across the country that would prohibit transgender people from using public bathrooms and otherwise participating in public life.

The bathroom policing initiative goes even farther than efforts in other states or previous California ballot proposals, potentially allowing anyone to sue an individual whose gender expression they found offensive in a restroom. Government analysts say the measure could cost California millions of dollars every year in legal expenses and lost federal funding.

The initiative also includes language authorizing businesses to exclude individuals from facilities for not looking masculine or feminine enough, and preventing individuals from bringing legal action to enforce discrimination laws. The provision in effect could lead to exclusion based on gender altogether from facilities in those establishments with no legal recourse.

Backers of the initiative now may begin collecting the 365,880 signatures needed to place the proposal on the 2016 ballot.

Public workers can’t refuse to issue marriage licenses

SIOUX FALLS, South Dakota — County officials have a duty to impartially administer the law and cannot refuse issuing licenses to same-sex couples if they have religious objections, the American Civil Liberties Union said Wednesday in a letter to the state attorney general.

In the letter sent to Attorney General Marty Jackley, the ACLU of South Dakota takes issue with comments he made in a July 2 interview with The Associated Press. The attorney general said it would be a “commonsense solution” for a county employee with religious objections to have someone else issue a license.

“We recognize that religious liberty is a fundamental American value protected by the First Amendment,” the ACLU wrote, “but that liberty has never meant that government officials can rely on their personal religious beliefs to discriminate against citizens seeking vital government services.”

“Under that scenario, in the event that another employee would be willing and able to issue that license, it would make a commonsense solution; it wouldn’t violate either the same-sex couple’s rights or an employee’s right to freedom of religion,” he said.

If another employee wasn’t available, Jackley said the state or another county could issue a license. He said it’s not unusual for other government offices to step in when there’s a conflict elsewhere.

The ACLU said Jackley’s suggestion that the state’s duty to issue marriage license to same-sex couples is met if couple’s must go elsewhere for a license “misses the mark.”

Equality Md. facing financial crisis, may close

Equality Maryland’s board of directors and its foundation announced today that, as a result of declining donations, it is taking action to either reduce — or possibly cease — operations next month.
“Despite continued policy advocacy and educational programming, funding sources for the organization have dwindled in recent years following victories on such major issues as marriage equality and a transgender-inclusive anti-discrimination law,” the statement reads.

The statement indicated that “funding from individuals and major donor sources dropped significantly after securing marriage equality but remained committed to securing anti-discrimination protections for transgender people.”

During the 2015 General Assembly, Equality Maryland worked successfully to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in insurance coverage for infertility. In addition, a bill was passed that allows transgender Marylanders to request a new birth certificate with an updated gender marker.

“The board believes passionately that Equality Maryland ought to continue to play a critical, central role in the coming years for our community, but is facing one of two possibilities for the future: drastically scaling down operations, with a reduced capacity to serve its many constituencies across the state, or suspending operations entirely,” the statement says. “Unless and until we secure adequate revenue to sustain the organization, the important services, oversight and advocacy it has consistently provided to the Maryland LGBT community will cease to be.”

**LGBT activists call for new focus on violence against transgender community**

Advocates for transgender rights are hoping that the historic US supreme court ruling on gay marriage will pave the way to renewed public focus on what they see as a national crisis of violence, sexual assault and custodial abuse against trans individuals.

So far this year alone, at least nine trans women have been murdered, putting 2015 on track to be one of the most violent periods for transgender individuals in recent times. In the most recent incident, the body of a 17-year-old trans woman called Mercedes Williamson was found last month hidden under the brush in a desolate area of southern Mississippi, reportedly displaying stab wounds.

Advocacy groups hope that the same public focus and enthusiasm for change that produced such an irresistible surge in support for gay marriage will now coalesce behind their decades-old struggle for trans equality. They are loth to describe the fight as a new frontline – fearing that would belittle the hard work that has been waged over many years largely out of the limelight.

But they think the time has now come for a push to reverse extreme discrimination that continues to put lives at risk. “Clearly gay marriage has been a cause of great celebration,” said Kris Hayashi, executive director of the Transgender Law Center. “But it’s critical to remember that many members of our community cannot celebrate when they are struggling to survive on a daily basis.”

Top of the list of priorities articulated by transgender groups is the ongoing epidemic of violence faced particularly by black trans women. Shannon Minter, legal director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said that hate violence was running at levels that rendered it a national crisis. “The issue is so urgent as the harm is so severe. We have to deal with it better than we have,” he said.

In its report into hate violence in 2014, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs warned of an ongoing “crisis of deadly violence against transgender women of color”. It was the fourth year in a row that the monitoring group had highlighted disproportionate levels of severe violence. Associated with the physical threats against trans women is their treatment by police, as well as detention in prisons, jails and immigration facilities. A recent study by the Fenway Institute found that one in five trans women has experienced life behind bars, a proportion that shockingly rises to almost half of all black trans women.

In recent months activists have also become alarmed by conditions inside immigration detention facilities. An investigation by the Fusion website estimated that while about one in 500 immigration detainees are transgender, they make up about one in five victims of sexual assault in US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facilities.

In December, a coalition of more than 100 LGBT groups wrote to the White House calling for all transgender immigrant detainees to be released immediately. “It’s become very clear that ICE cannot house trans immigrants safely,” Hayashi said.
On Monday the Obama administration responded to the rising tide of criticism by producing new guidelines that could see transgender immigrants detained in facilities consistent with their identity – trans women in female detention centers, trans men in male. The move was welcomed by campaigners, but it is unlikely to silence their protests, which saw Obama heckled by a trans woman immigrant last week.

Minter said that the Obama administration deserved credit for the new regulations. “But we still hold them – and us, the advocacy community as well – responsible for not doing enough. We cannot continue to accept this level of mistreatment.”

**Chris Christie vetoes pro-LGBT gestational carrier bill**

Transgender advocates in New Jersey may be biting their nails after Gov. Chris Christie (R) issued a veto of a pro-LGBT surrogacy bill on Monday, June 30th.

Christie, who announced his candidacy for president on Tuesday, vetoed a bill known as the *New Jersey Gestational Carrier Agreement Act*. The bill would have spelled out the legal parental rights of the biological parents of a child brought to term by a gestational surrogate, in which a pregnant woman carries a child to term but has no genetic relation to that child. Although gestational surrogacy is not exclusively practiced by LGBT couples, many have opted for it because it allows same-sex couples to have their own biological children.

“This veto is a terrible outcome for families across New Jersey who need gestational surrogacy agreements to strengthen their families,” said Andrea Bowen, executive director for Garden State Equality. “We deplore what Governor Christie has done.”

For members of the transgender community, the veto could indicate an unwillingness by Christie to embrace another bill they view as important. That bill eliminates the surgical requirement for people seeking to change their gender marker on their birth certificate. Like the surrogacy bill, the birth certificate bill passed the New Jersey Legislature with significant bipartisan support. But New Jersey Republican lawmakers have been unwilling to buck a governor of their own party to help override a potential veto on other bipartisan-backed bills.

“We’ve talked with people in his office about how the law makes sense, how it actually strengthens the consistency of the law, bringing it in line with state and federal standards, and bringing it in line with New Jersey driver’s license standards,” Bowen said. “I’m hoping he finds that a compelling argument.”

**How a new app could revolutionize transgender healthcare**

Thanks to a startup app being developed by a new crowdsourced nonprofit called MyTransHealth, the difficult and intimidating barriers to healthcare that transgender people face will hopefully be erased.

The idea is being launched by four trans-identified business partners from New York City, New Hampshire, and Boston, and the goal is to connect trans people with doctors and providers who actually understand health care issues specific to the trans community.

“Trans people often have to jump significant hurdles in accessing healthcare, according to the Transgender Law Center.

Insurance companies sometimes deny coverage, healthcare staff often lacks the appropriate knowledge and training for providing trans healthcare, and trans individuals can face discrimination at the hands of medical and mental health professionals.”

“We built four different categories into MyTransHealth: medical, legal, mental health, and crisis,” Clark continued in the Daily Dot piece. “Once you delve into those categories you can still filter down through different needs, like wheelchair accessibility, insurance coverage, or language. In Miami, for example, there’s a huge need for Spanish-speaking providers that are also skilled to serve transgender people.

We want the site to remain free for the community and for it to be self-sustaining. We want to be here to stay. We have no intention of becoming millionaires ourselves.”
Gay marriage ruling a win for LGB, but transgender woes persist

For marriage-equality activists, the U.S. Supreme Court decision guaranteeing marriage rights for LGBT couples was an occasion for good cheer. But even as the pink-label sparkling wine flowed and the sounds of a long-sought victory throbbed inside New York's historic Stonewall Inn, their transgender brothers and sisters marched on, chanting in the sun just blocks away.

Marriage equality is all well and good, Elliott Fukui said, but it was no time to party for dozens of trans activists. Not even close, he said. "The battle for trans rights has been neglected by the mainstream LGB movement," said Fukui, program co-ordinator for the advocacy group TransJustice.

He noted that transgender people still face disproportionate amounts of violence, incarceration, discrimination and lack of access to affordable housing and good health care, compared to the rest of the LGB community.

Happy as he is for people in a position to have legally recognized same-sex unions, he said it's time to focus on the next rights battle — transgender equality and transphobia.

"Now that marriage equality is out of the way, we need to start looking at how we can better utilize our resources to lift up the work being done on the ground by trans leaders over the years," Fukui said shortly before a Trans Day of Action rally through Greenwich Village. He said it is crucial for everyone in the gay and lesbian community "to work with us to make sure we all have better access. There's more to do."

The majority of the U.S. victims of hate-violence homicides in 2013 were transgender women, accounting for 72 per cent of victims, according to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs. Treatment of transgender women in correctional facilities is also worrying, as they are often detained along with men and are vulnerable to physical, mental and sexual abuse.

New 5-year transgender study underway

ATHENS, Ga. — Researchers at the University of Georgia will partner with other universities as part of a national study on identity development in transgender populations, the largest study of its kind to date, Health Canal reports.

The five-year, $2.9 million grant from the National Institutes of Health supports three study sites and partner institutions: New York City's Columbia University, San Francisco State University and the University of Georgia in Atlanta. The study will look at how people who identify as transgender developed their identity as well as gauge how they overcome adversity at different times in their lives.

Through surveys and interviews, the national partnership will help lay the groundwork for putting social services and support networks in place for the transgender population. The first year of the project will look at critical incidents, starting from birth, that help shape a person’s gender identity.

“It's about creating better health outcomes for transgender people across the lifespan and ultimately reducing the massive amounts of discrimination they face,” said Anneliese Singh, who is leading the Atlanta team and is an associate professor in the department of counseling and human development services in the University of Georgia College of Education. “There are a lot of things we already know that need to be changed,” said Singh, citing issues such as discrimination at home or in the workplace.

New DMV policy extends transgender equality

Transgender West Virginians may now be photographed for their driver’s license without being required to remove a wig, jewelry or makeup, a now-banned policy LGBT advocacy groups considered humiliating and unconstitutional.

The rule change was made official Tuesday when the West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles rewrote its policy to allow transgender residents to be photographed as they regularly appear. Another policy change also will allow transgender residents to switch the gender marker on their license if they submit a form signed by a doctor.

The shift in policy comes after several transgender women and the New York-based Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund threatened to sue the state of West Virginia following incidents last year in Martinsburg and Charles Town where DMV officials refused to photograph the women until they removed their jewelry and makeup. Under the new policy
DMV officials cannot ask transgender residents to remove or modify their makeup, clothing, hair style or accessories as long as they do not obscure their face.

“By allowing transgender people to update gender marks on their license, we’ve eliminated a major source of harassment and discrimination they experience on a daily basis. Because driver’s licenses are a form of identification used for employment, travel and other daily interactions, not being able to reflect one’s identity can be burdensome and problematic, Schneider said.

North Dakota unlikely to expand anti-discrimination protection to include LGBT citizens

BISMARCK, N.D. — David Hamilton and his husband, Bernie Erickson, say they’re “thrilled” the U.S. Supreme Court has allowed same-sex marriage nationally, but the Fargo couple believes anti-discrimination protections for LGBT people are still lacking in North Dakota.

“You can get married on Saturday, have the wedding announcement printed in the paper on Sunday and Monday morning get fired or have an eviction notice on you door,” Hamilton said.

North Dakota lawmakers have defeated legislation three times in the past six years to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, government, public services and the workplace.

After the Legislature killed the measure this year, GOP Gov. Jack Dalrymple issued a statement chiding lawmakers for missing an opportunity. “Discrimination based on an individual’s sexual orientation is not acceptable,” the governor said, causing some intraparty friction within the Legislature.

Boschee, the Democratic lawmaker from Fargo, said the measure will reappear in future legislative sessions until it passes.

Trans Woman Who Expanded Facebook's Gender Options Banned For Not Using 'Real Name'

As marriage equality celebrations echoed throughout the country Friday, a trans woman who at one time helped Facebook reflect users’ gender diversity said she was still a target of discrimination: her profile was removed because the social media site deemed her name not "real" enough.

The woman, who goes by the name “Zip” online, posted her experiences to her Medium blog, saying:

"I always knew this day would come. The day that Facebook decided my name was not real enough and summarily cut me off from my friends, family and peers and left me with the stark choice between using my legal name or using a name people would know me by. With spectacular timing, it happened while I was at trans pride and on the day the Supreme Court made same sex marriage legal in the US.” And then she pointed out her situation's most ironic "twist," saying, "I used to work there. In fact, I’m the trans woman who initiated the custom gender feature. And the name I go by on Facebook? That’s the name that was on my work badge."

Facebook's continued policy requiring users to register with their "authentic" name and to provide identification if asked — lest they risk being locked out of their accounts — has come down especially hard on members of LGBT communities who may go by nicknames or pseudonyms for safety, as well as trans people who use names different from the one assigned them at birth to reflect their authentic selves.

Pentagon Has No Idea How Many Transgender Troops It Kicked Out

Marriage equality is the law of the land. And now, the push is on for the next frontier of civil rights—transgender rights, including the right to serve openly in the military. And yet, no one in the military even knows how many have been forced to leave the service for being transgender. In contrast, the U.S. military kept detailed records of how many where discharged for being gay or lesbian.

The U.S. military has never kept such statistics on transgender dismissals, in part, because the system used to document discharge reasons has never had a category for being transgender. At first, it was because there were so few transgender service members, officials assumed there was no need for the category. But in more recent years, as there has been increased visibility of transgender individuals, commanders have masked their discomfort about having transgender troops by providing other reasons for discharge, like medical issues.
Now, as the U.S. military faces increased pressure to eliminate its ban on open transgender service, the absence of such statistics makes it impossible to know not only what effect the current ban has had but also how much lifting of the ban could affect the military. What is the relationship between the number of those discharged for being transgender and those who choose to enlist?

Throughout, the U.S. military kept detailed records of how many were discharged for being gay or lesbian. But just the opposite happened with those discharged for being transgender; service members will be discharged for others reasons to mask a prejudice. A transgender service member would be discharged for being unfit to service, for example, with no mention of their gender identity.

In other words: Being gay or lesbian was used as a weapon with the military judicial system; being transgender in the military is a subject nearly everyone in the chain of command is trying to avoid.

For example, shortly before the repeal of “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell,” Army National Guard Staff Sergeant Rebecca Grant said she was forced to leave when another soldier found out that she identified as a woman. Grant joined the Guard as a man. The military discharged her for medical reasons, saying she suffered from gender identity disorder.

There is no expectation the U.S. military will begin counting such discharges anytime soon. To create such a category in the current system could signal to some that the military’s ban on transgender service members will continue.

Advocates said the change is inevitable, no matter what the statistic.

And yet, the military could be one of the world’s largest employers of those who identify as transgender, according to the findings in one study. The most credible measure of transgender service members in the military was a May 2014 Williams Institute study that found there are roughly 15,000 service members who identify as transgender, out of approximately 1.36 million total (PDF). Among that figure, 6,000 are in the Army.

For all the reluctance to change, that the Navy, Army and Air Force are considering or making changes speaks to a system adjusting its thinking. “None of the armed services wants to be the last of the services to discharge someone for being transgender,” Robinson said.

**Feds Order Federal Employee Health Plans To Cover Transgender Health Services**

WASHINGTON — The federal government on Tuesday ordered federal employee health insurers to include transition-related health coverage for transgender employees in their plans.

The change was made through the Office of Personnel Management’s issuance of a new “carrier letter” — instructions to federal health plan participating insurers — with no accompanying news release.

“The effective January 1, 2016, no carrier participating in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program may have a general exclusion of services, drugs or supplies related to gender transition or ‘sex transformations,’” the letter stated. “This letter clarifies OPM’s earlier guidance recognizing the evolving professional consensus that treatment may be medically necessary to address a diagnosis of gender dysphoria” — the medical diagnosis that corresponds with seeking treatment for being transgender.

**Oregon allowing 15-year-olds to get state-subsidized sex-change operations**

Under a first-in-the-nation policy quietly enacted in January that many parents are only now finding out about, 15-year-olds are now allowed to get a sex-change operation. Many residents are stunned to learn they can do it without parental notification — and the state will even pay for it through its Medicaid program, the Oregon Health Plan.

In a statement, Oregon Health Authority spokeswoman Susan Wickstrom explained it this way: “Age of medical consent varies by state. Oregon law — which applies to both Medicaid and non-Medicaid Oregonians — states that the age of medical consent is 15.” While 15 is the medical age of consent in the state, the decision to cover sex-change operations specifically
was made by the Health Evidence Review Commission (HERC).

Members are appointed by the governor and paid by the state of Oregon. With no public debate, HERC changed its policy to include cross-sex hormone therapy, puberty-suppressing drugs and gender-reassignment surgery as covered treatments for people with gender dysphoria, formally known as gender identity disorder.

Gender dysphoria is classified by the American Psychiatric Association as a mental disorder in which a person identifies as the sex opposite of his or her birth. It is rare, affecting one out of every 20,000 males and one out of every 50,000 females.

Kentucky clerk says governor told him to issue licenses or resign

FRANKFORT, Ky. — A Kentucky clerk of court said the state’s Democratic governor told him he should either issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples or resign from office.

But Casey Davis said he would go to jail before he resigned and vowed he would not issue any marriage licenses in Casey County after the U.S. Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriages in all 50 states.

Davis is one of several local officials across the country who have refused to comply with the court’s decision, citing religious objections. The American Civil Liberties Union has already sued Rowan County Clerk of Court Kim Davis for refusing to issue marriage licenses. A federal judge is scheduled to hear arguments in that case on Monday.

Gov. Steve Beshear said most clerks are following the law and the courts and the voters will deal with the rest.

LGBT activists say the fight doesn't end at marriage

Last month, the Los Angeles LGBT Center put out an email blast with the subject line "Our Next Steps." The Oakland-based Transgender Law Center has been tweeting the hashtag #morethanmarriage. And the president of GLAAD stressed that "marriage is a benchmark, not a finish line."

As the advocacy group Freedom to Marry announced that its "campaign is now accomplished," and that it was closing its doors, it noted that "there is much to do still in the realm of LGBT rights."

So, what’s the next mainstream cause for the movement? There are plenty to choose from, advocates say.

Some say the next frontier is fighting for expanded federal civil rights laws to protect gays in the workplace and elsewhere. California is one of only 22 states and the District of Columbia with laws barring employment discrimination based on sexual orientation. Others say the movement should pivot the publicity and support gained in the marriage fight to combating LGBT homelessness, conversion therapy and youth suicide.

For others, it's time to give more attention to the other letters in the LGBT acronym, especially the B (bisexual) and T (transgender).

Faith Cheltenham, president of the national bisexual organization BiNet USA, said she has been fighting for marriage equality for more than a decade. But Cheltenham, a black bisexual woman, had mixed feelings after the Supreme Court ruling. She was happy with the outcome, but she was disheartened by seeing news stories focusing disproportionately on white gay men and using the term "gay marriage" instead of same-sex marriage.

In the days following the Supreme Court decision, there has been widespread public discussion over the urgency of highlighting issues facing transgender people, such as violence against transgender women and high rates of suicide.

The transgender rights movement, activists say, is years behind the advances and visibility of the gay and lesbian movement. Kris Hayashi, executive director of the Transgender Law Center, said that while the freedom to marry is important, transgender advocates have been working hard outside the mainstream marriage fight.
The question now is, with the marriage fight over, will transgender rights get more attention?

"The issues facing transgender people are so urgent and critical — for many, literally a daily struggle for survival — that we don’t have the room or luxury for fatigue," Hayashi said.

Hawaii eases process to switch gender on birth certificates

HONOLULU — Gov. David Ige signed a bill Monday that will allow transgender men and women in Hawaii to more easily change the gender on their birth certificate. The new law eliminates the requirement that someone must undergo gender reassignment surgery before officially making the switch.

Many in the transgender community can’t afford or don’t want to undergo costly surgeries. But having a birth certificate that reflects their gender expression is critical for school transcripts, job applications, health insurance and many other aspects of life, advocates said.

But a birth certificate is a historical record, and allowing people to change it could affect couples contemplating a marriage or officiants performing the ceremony, opponents said. More than a dozen lawmakers voted against the bill, and some feared the state could end up issuing false documents that could help criminals skirt the law.

At least six other states have made similar changes to their birth certificate laws. Hawaii’s law went into effect immediately.

“This is going to open doors to a lot of transgender rights,” Thompson said. “We still have a long way to go, it’s not over. This is one step.”

Pentagon Confirms Plans To Lift Ban On Transgender Military Service

After initial reports were leaked to the press on Monday, the Pentagon confirmed its plans to lift the ban on transgender military service over the next six months

Carter issued two directives toward lifting the ban. The first was to create a working group that will study and develop policy and readiness implications that allow transgender people to serve openly. Though the ban on enlisting will remain during that time, Carter’s other directive will elevate the decision authority for discharges under the policy to Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Brad Carson, allowing the military to handle them on a case-by-case basis and perhaps avoid or at least delay the discharge of currently serving transgender troops.

Calling the adjustments “necessary,” the LGBT military group SPART*A published an 11-page FAQ addressing multiple concerns the military might face implementing transgender service.

Unlike “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” which was a law passed by Congress, the trans military ban is a military policy, which the Defense Department can change on its own. Carter had previously expressed support for lifting the ban, and his predecessor Chuck Hagel had similarly called for its review. The American Medical Association adopted a resolution last month calling for the end to the ban.

Survey finds LGBTQ people are less happy than the general public

A comprehensive new analysis into issues facing the US LGBTQ community has found only 18% of LGBTQ adults say they are ‘very happy’, compared to 30% of the general public. The data is part of a project called Our Tomorrow. Researchers analyzed more than 100 studies and academic journals, as well as feedback from thousands of people across the US.

The study’s authors hope that it will be used in partnership with non-profits like GLAAD and the National LGBTQ Task Force, providing data to better engage lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and other gender-nonconforming and questioning individuals across the country.

Part of the study, analyzing ‘Hopes and Fears’, found 92% of LGBTQ adults believe US society is more accepting of LGBTQ people than it was 10 years ago. A similar 92% also believe that in ten years society will be even more accepting. However, the data also shows 58% of LGBTQ adults say they have been subject to bigoted slurs or jokes at some point in their lives. Meanwhile, 30% said they have been physically attacked or threatened. An analysis of LGBTQ diversity has also found that...
more than half – 55% – of those who identify as LGBTQ live in the South or Midwest, where most states have no legal protections from discrimination against those who identify as LGBTQ.

Meanwhile, 51% of LGBTQ adults reported a religious affiliation – most of them Christian. Seventeen per cent said religion is very important in their lives.

‘My fear is that I may be physically abused just because I’m trans. The new so-called “bathroom bills” could force me, a transgender woman, to use the men’s room in a public place like a restaurant or bar, where I would clearly be out of place. This opens me to physical and verbal abuse and could result in my being arrested if I am found using the women’s room based on my gender identity. ‘I fear that when I move to another location that I may not find preferred housing because I’m trans. There are no protections in NC against discrimination.’

FreeState Legal to update birth certificate gender markers

FreeState Legal, a legal advocacy organization serving the low-income LGBTQ community in Maryland, launched an effort to provide free legal advice to transgender and intersex people who seek to update the gender marker on their birth certificates. This initiative arises out of a new law set to take effect on Oct. 1 that makes it easier for transgender and intersex people to update the gender designations on their birth certificates.

“FreeState Legal is excited to announce that we are offering free legal advice to transgender and intersex people who want to update the gender marker on their birth certificate,” said Patrick Paschall, FreeState Legal’s Executive Director, in a statement.

States Easing Some Transgender Rules

HONOLULU (CN) - Transgender Hawaiians may apply for a gender change in their birth certificates without the sex-change operation, as Gov. David Ige signed a bill eliminating the reassignment surgery requirement before making it official. Ige signed HB 631 into law as Act 226, simplifying the physician affidavit requirement into a doctor's note that attests treatment and physician-patient relationship. The law took effect immediately.

Under the old law, applicants needed an affidavit from a physician stating: "The birth registrant has had a sex change operation and the sex designation on the birth registrant’s birth certificate is no longer correct."

Now applicants need only a doctor's note stating that "the physician has a bona fide physician-patient relationship with the birth registrant" and "has treated and evaluated the birth registrant and has reviewed and evaluated the birth registrant's medical history."

The physician's note must confirm that "the birth registrant has appropriate clinical treatment for gender transition to the new gender and has completed the transition to the new gender and the new gender does not align with the sex designation on the birth registrant's birth certificate."

The new birth certificate will be considered a substitute for the original certificate, not an amendment to the language of the old birth certificate. "The original certificate and the evidence supporting the preparation of the new certificate shall be sealed and filed," under the new law. The sealed documents can be opened only through a court order or by request of the birth registrant.

Hawaii joined a few other states to make similar changes to their birth certificate laws, including Connecticut, California, Iowa, New York and Vermont. Washington, D.C. passed a similar measure.
Transgender service members to require host of new policies, congressional report says

Opening the U.S. military to transgender service members will require a number of new policies on berthing, sex-designated uniforms, I.D. card processing and physical fitness testing, which include different standards for men and women, says a new report to Congress.

The Congressional Research Service circulated to lawmakers on Wednesday the report, which lists the complications involved in integrating open transsexuals, cross-dressers and service members who want to change their sexual identity but not by surgery or by hormone therapy. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter announced the creation of a Department of Defense working group to pave the way for opening the ranks to transgender persons after a six-month study.

The CRS report said military commanders will deal with three types of cases: those wishing to undergo hormone therapy without surgery, those who elect to have gender reassignment surgery and those who wish to have neither but still want to be identified as the opposite sex.

“In all cases the DOD might need to consider administrative questions such as, the type of uniform worn, the gender listed on the individual’s military I.D., and duty and berthing assignments,” the CRS analysis says. “If the individual is undergoing hormone therapy, another consideration might be the physical fitness testing and standards that apply as currently these vary by gender.” Under a process called “gender norming,” women do not have to meet the same physical fitness marks as men in tests such as pull-ups and running.

The report also says that while the Pentagon may unilaterally change the transgender ban, it would have to go to Congress to gain approval for reassignment surgeries under the military health insurance program, Tricare.

Current Pentagon policy bans transgender persons on the grounds they are not medically fit.

In announcing the working group, Mr. Carter said: “The Defense Department’s current regulations regarding transgender service members are outdated and are causing uncertainty that distracts commanders from our core missions. At a time when our troops have learned from experience that the most important qualification for service members should be whether they’re able and willing to do their job, our officers and enlisted personnel are faced with certain rules that tell them the opposite.”

Trans people could face wait of 12 YEARS for gender treatment

Trans people in England could soon be facing waits of up to 12 years for NHS gender treatment, unless action is taken to tackle backlogs, a group has warned. Despite NHS England claiming that the all patients should be seen within 18 weeks, gender services across the country have been under increasing strain due to an influx of patients and limited capacity in recent years.

Statistics released to trans group UK Trans Info through Freedom of Information requests show that there were 284 new referrals for gender identity services in the past month, while just 167 patients had their first appointment in the same period.

The group warns: “If nothing changes, all of the GICs (Gender Identity Clinics) will have waiting lists in excess of a year by March 2017, and those referred to [the Northern Region Gender Dysphoria Service] Newcastle will have a wait of twelve and a half years.”

To bring waiting lists under control, a 202% increase in capacity would be required across the UK – with a 400% increase in Northamptonshire, and a 625% increase in Newcastle.
Shop Till You Drop!

Advertisements & Opportunities

Want to Advertise your TG Friendly Store, service, club, group, or your own personal items here? There is no charge for this just e-mail the editor. Barbara.jasen@gmail.com

Shoe Clips
Bridal ~ Vintage ~ Formal ~ Casual

"Fashion For Your Feet"

Take a New Look at the Colorful Past
Shoe Clips are an economical way to transform and revive your favorite footwear, embellish for a Special Occasion or bring a little fun to Everyday Wear. Simply clip on Rhinestones, Flowers, Feathers, or Bows for a lasting, fashionable look that's all your own!
"Shoe Clips Dot Biz" features over 300 Styles including a huge Vintage selection and many Bridal clips.

http://www.shoeclips.biz

Endless.com women's Shoes, Men's Shoes, Kid's shoes, Athletic & Outdoor Bags & Accessories
http://www.endless.com

Crazy 4 Clipons is a terrific online place to discreetly buy clip on earrings at a very reasonable price. They have a large variety to choose from and love to have TG customers.

http://crazy4clipons.com
We’ve Moved!  Enfemme Boutique is now Nancy Garbati’s Yard Sale

EnFemme Boutique is a VERY CD and GLBT friendly store. Nan is the wife of a Transgendered person, and understands how difficult it can be for some to purchase items. She started this store for CD, TV, TS and TG’s that do not go shopping in public, need help with sizing, or finding certain items. It is a place where you can find items at reasonable prices and ask questions without worry. All listing are PRIVATE listings, so no one will see what you have purchased. Most are NEW With Tags and are 70–90% OFF Retail Prices. This is Nan’s way of supporting her spouse Amy and the T-Community.

http://yardsellr.com/yardsale/Nancy-Garbati-960550

Get Glam with AlexaArt Photography and Ashley Nicole Morgin

Specialty Packages that include: Hair, Makeup, Clothing and YOU on a professional photoshoot!

Email for details: ashley@ashleynicolemorgin.com or at www.alexaart.net

Cleveland East Location [Solon]  Cleveland West Location [Rocky River]
The Glamour Boutique is a terrific TG store. You can also order online. Can’t say enough about this lovely store! A discount is available to Pretty TGirls members and to visitors of my personal website!

WWW.FemmeFever.Com
Unleash Your FemmeSide

Transformations
Wigs,Clothing: Everything for less
for the Crossdressing Community
Before & After Pics, Support
Parties & More

Makeup Made Easy
Step-by-Step
From Preparation to Pretty
The only all-inclusive Start-to-Finish makeup DVD
for the M-to-F Community
Makeup
Made Easy
Steller Discreet Reputation
for Over 13 Years

FemmeFever is a presentation of KL Enterprises Inc.

Classic Curves International

Hello - Welcome to Classic Curves International, the world’s leading custom made body-enhancer company for crossdressing. All of our garments are custom fitted for the end user. We are tgirl specialists, and help each client one at a time.

Tgirl or GG (genetic female), we are here to provide, with total confidentiality, for your visual requirements

Http://www.clcrv.com
Countessa's motto is "Femininity is an art, it is a gentle form of power"
Let "Countessa's Closet" fully pamper your every wish & desire!

Countessa has pulled out all the stops and gone to great lengths to bring you very exclusive designs, a beautiful collection of rare enchanting high fashion, upscale trendy styles. As trends change Countessa knows how hard it is for the "Special" woman of today to find clothing that fits perfectly, looks great and offers quality with elegance. We welcome you to browse through our newly redesigned web site. Countessa and her highly knowledgeable staff knows once you have enjoyed a day of shopping at Countessa's Closet, you will always be dreaming of coming back for more. Countessa knows with just one purchase, you will find out why every lady that enters our luxurious boutique and web site dreams of becoming a "Gorgeous "COUNTESSA'S GIRL"

http://www.countessascloset.com

---

**Just You**
*(formerly Glamor Boutique 2)*

Welcome to Just You, We're a transgender (GLBT, TG) friendly, male to female transformation and crossdressing service. Our boutique is located in Las Vegas, NV, USA where Amy and her staff provide products and personalized services to help you become "The Person You Always Wanted To Be". The Just You Family have years of experience transforming men into beautiful women.

Visit our crossdressing service for your very own Transformation Makeover, one of our special Fantasy Transformations, or perhaps even a Tour of Las Vegas En Femme! Inside our boutique you'll find something for all your crossdressing needs; breast forms, shapewear, corsets, lingerie, shoes, dresses, wigs, makeup and so much more.

http://crossdresslasvegas.com
Do you want a more feminine voice?
I am excited to share that *voice feminization expert* Kathe Perez's LATEST program is now available.

http://30daycrashcourse.com/?hop=lucille12

Preen Publishing LLC
548 Market Street #6440
San Francisco CA 94104
USA
The industry trends! Spell was launched in 2007 after 2 years of pre production. We strive to bring you high quality shopping experiences and are well known for our attention to customer service. We offer a full line of products and focus on Paraben and Phthalate free creations. Our Products are Bismuth and Talc Free and All of our Skin care line (Natural). Visit us online at

www.spellcosmetics.com

Pals Breast Forms by Super Gel Products

Girls, these are some really great breast forms. I have had a set for 7 years and wore them everyday for the past 2 years. They are still like new. While these are NOT silicon forms, by the look and feel you would not know it. Cost is about half of silicon forms, and come with a 5 year warranty. They come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Why not give these a try.

Barbara Jean

Founded in 1995, we at Super Gel Products have built our company and reputation on our customer relations, great quality products and our constant strive to create newer, better products for the whole family. We are ever continuing research and development of the soft polymer products as we feel our gel is the "Innovation of the Future" in terms of softness and comfort and realistic prosthetic forms as well as comfortable cushioning.

http://www.supergelproducts.com

Stress or Desire? $10.00 - by Terri Lynn Richards.

It has been several years since Teri transitioned at work. Her transition was initiated by her spouse, Jill, because she recognized that "Terry" would never be completely happy until he became Teri. Jill was aware of the constant stress in Terry's life and remembered that when they were dating, Terry had mentioned that at one point in his life, while he was single, he had attended a Halloween dress-up party, going as the office secretary.

Stress or Desire is available from Mag Books
http://www.magsinc.com
We’re a Different Kind of Company...
Why? Because we understand non-traditional families share the same traditional bonds of love and respect. We also appreciate the desire of all people to convey their feelings to those they hold dear. Greeting cards are a vital means of communication that touch lives, as they distinctly identify thoughts, words and actions; they comfort, inspire, celebrate, and stir a vast range of emotions. For years we, too, have felt the void when looking for a greeting card to express our feelings during life’s special occasions only to have to edit the available selection. It is this vacancy that inspired us to create our Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender friendly greeting card company.

Why Teazled?... because it’s new. Teazled is a company whose motivation is to pioneer traditional greeting cards for the non-traditional family so that they might also be able to celebrate those meaningful moments, express their innermost thoughts and communicate with those they cherish.

We are two nurses, Dina and Dina (Dom), who have seen all sides of life and the wonderment it holds. We know the most powerful gift is that of communication as we have seen the hardships caused when we don’t have the words to express our deepest emotions. Don’t let another moment go by. Tell them... with cards by Teazled.

Sister House
A gathering place for the cross dressing community

Subscribe to Sister House and download the Free Book
The Top 10 Fashion Mistakes by Crossdressers and how to fix them.

Fashion for the TG Woman

The Fashionable TG Woman

http://www.teazled.com

http://www.sisterhouse.net/

http://www.fashionabletgwoman.com/
TG Books on Kindle

Note: One does NOT need a Kindle to read Kindle books. Free Apps are available from Kindle that will allow you to read Kindle books on your PC, MAC, IPOD, IPHONE, and many other devices. http://www.amazon.com/gp/feature.html/ref=sa_menu_karl?ie=UTF8&docId=1000493771

Kindle Books by Carolyn Olson

Tricks of the trade asin # B00AO13Z82 $ 4.99
More Tricks of the Trade asin# B00HR99G9A $4.99
Even More Tricks of the Trade Asin# B00Y5VJMJG $ 5.99
More Short Stories asin # B00AYOZVEC $ 4.99
Look Through Any Window asin # B00A61XG1E $ 5.99
Crowning Glory asin # B00A0XQG21 $ 4.99
Breaking Point asin # B00CKZGRJQ $ 5.99
Deception asin # B00BT3RZGE $ 3.99

Kindle Books by Barbara Jean Jasen

The Birth of Fenville asin # B009DW0VQY $ 4.99
Growing Up Tammy asin # B009Z06DFW $ 4.99
Revenge asin # B00E257R0K $ 4.99
Rescued 911 asin # B00F7U8NKW $ 4.99
The Affair asin# B00H1R32JM $4.99

Kindle Books by Karen Adler

Something to Confess B008BI8GQS $4.95
Something About Her: A compilation of true stories from the trans scene B00PPJHU0E $5.00
A Special Girly Night for our T-Girls!
Live act. Disco. Licensed Bar, Restaurant and Free Wi-Fi.

*Held on the second Thursday of each month.*

The ethos of the event is to have fun in a friendly, relaxed and comfortable environment. We want to try and cater for everyone’s tastes and Blackpool certainly has lots to offer. The New Osborne offers a nice friendly, relaxed atmosphere. Come along for a great night out.

**Why not spend the night at the New Osborne? There is a tram stop close by.**

New Osborne Hotel, 12-14 Osborne Rd, Blackpool, FY4 1HJ
Tel: 01253 345110 / 0800 999 3233

---

*Third Sex Life*

*List Price: $7.99*

**Authored by Vennessa St. John**

Observations about transgender life and how gender does not necessarily dictate human behavior or sexual orientation based on the personal experiences of Vennessa St. John. Whether you are a transsexual, crossdresser, drag queen or any other member of the TG community or any member of the GLBT community, or just someone who is interested in gaining more insight into this world, then this book could be a tremendous resource for you. Examining a wide range of subjects from discrimination to stereotypes and stigma, Vennessa relates through a lifetime of personal experiences what life is like for her and many other members of the transgender community and discusses the differences between gender, personality, and human nature.

https://www.createspace.com/4859228
Transgender Vacations

Welcome

Transgender Vacations offers groups that want to be themselves on Vacation. I am organizing trips for us to travel together, meet others, and have a fabulous time. My clientele are Transsexuals, Transmen, Cross Dressers, Inter-sexed, and any other alternative, as well as Drag Queens. Anyone interested in being with transgender can come join us.

If you are looking for high quality and personal service, you have come to the right place.

At Transgender Vacations we will give you the attention and personal Service you deserve.

Transgender Vacations is affiliated with Dynamic Travel & Cruises; Dynamic Travel & Cruises has been around for 30 plus years and I as a travel agent have over 10 years experience in the travel industry. If you are a transgender that loves to travel and go to Exotic places, I would be happy to help you. I am a Transgender and work with the Transgender Community to help them feel safe and have enjoyable time. If you know anyone else that likes to travel, please have them call me.

2nd Annual Transgender Cruise
Royal Caribbean - Brilliance of the Seas
November 7-12, 2016
Come Sail with us! Leaving out of Tampa, FL, going to Key West, FL & Cozumel Mexico.

*Be Yourself *Open Minded *Party *Relax

I will be your Host!
Our Own Private Party with DJ the last night on the cruise.

Deadline is August 17th.

Few Cabins Left!
Inside Cabin @ $570.21 / Ocean View Cabin @ $650.21 / Ocean View Balcony @ $698.21
Call Stephanie Toll Free 877-846-1208

www.transvacations.net

http://www.transgendervacations.net/
Diana Pemberton-Sikes
FashionForRealWomen.com

Which Clothing Styles Are Right For YOU?"
Discover The Proven Wardrobe Strategies That Will Help You
Look Better, Feel Better, and Save a Ton of Money on Clothes
Find the best ways to whip your wardrobe into shape by signing up for our FREE ezine. Join over 15,000+ readers world-wide who have learned image tips and tricks that have made a huge impact in how they look and feel - and get our FREE Report How to Find Clothes That Fit

Fashion Books: Upgrade Your Style and Increase Your Effectiveness
Want to learn how to dress and build a wardrobe that will take you anywhere you want to go? Our ebooks and seminars can help! The best part? You can download to your computer instantly so you can start learning today and dressing better tomorrow!

Wardrobe Magic
Turn your closet full of "nothing to wear" into a mean, lean, get-dressed-in-a-flash wardrobe. Determine your best colors, your body shape, your clothing personality and lifestyle to put together clothing capsules that take you anywhere you need to go. Our best seller!
Format: Ebook (downloadable book)

Accessory Magic
Have lots of belts, shoes, scarves and such that you don’t know what to do with? This ebook shows you how to discover how you can use accessories to expand your wardrobe and define your style.
Format: Ebook (downloadable book)

Business Wear Magic
Want to make more money? Get more respect? Have people bend to your will? Then learn to dress appropriately and laugh all the way to the bank! Learn the four levels of business attire that will take you from the stock room to the board room and leave your competition "in the dust."
Format: Ebook (downloadable book)
Welcome to Derma-Lase LLC where you can be assured that you will receive the safest and most effective laser hair removal and laser aesthetic treatments in a friendly, comfortable and serene environment.

I am Joy Vanderberg, owner, and I am certified in the use of medical aesthetic lasers. I am also a registered electrologist in the state of New York and a licensed cosmetologist in the state of New Jersey. Joy Vanderberg uses the new, advanced LightPod Neo Laser. This FDA approved technology virtually eliminates treatment pain and can safely treat any skin tone or complexion without the need for messy gels, topical analgesics or skin cooling.

This incredible laser offers many applications including laser hair removal, skin tightening, fine line reduction, age spot removal, FPB (ingrown hair) clearance as well as active acne clearance.

I invite you to browse my website for in-depth information. Client service is extremely important to me. If you have any questions or would like to set up a free consultation please feel free to contact me.
# August 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>