

Polare Edition 6

Published: February 1995 Last Update: June 2013 Last Reviewed: September 2015

Editorial

by Craig Skinner, Polare Editor

Welcome to this sixth edition of *Polare*. I think you'll find that we have had some great contributions for this edition. First off though, I will give you a run down on a few events that are coming up soon. Of course it's Mardi Gras time and for the first time we will see a "Tranny Pride" float in the parade. If you'd like to be involved in this special occasion you can find contact details on page 1.

On 13th April, it's Easter Barbecue time! Our barbecues have become somewhat of a tradition here at the Centre and are a great way to meet new people or chat to people you haven't seen in a while. See the ad on page 19 for details and make sure you come along. Okay?

So what's happening in this edition? A photographic preview of *Shattered Illusions*, Roberta takes us to Medieval Europe, Rachael endeavours to legally enlighten us, we discuss how to negotiate safe sex and we've also provided some information on action you can take if a condom breaks. We have some readers relating their experiences of various social/support groups and we go to William Street to hear of one of our sisters' personal experiences, and we go back there again to discuss violence. We even get political, with this edition marking the first contribution from the Transgender Liberation Coalition of what is hoped to be a regular feature.

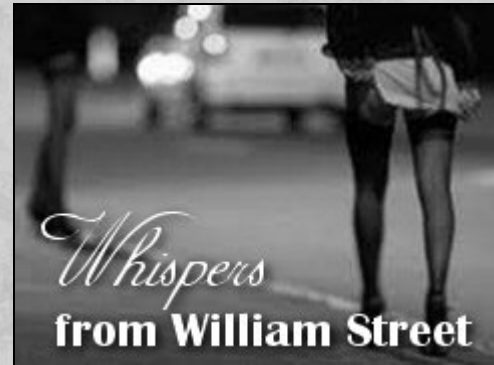
Manager's Report

by Bill Robertson, Gender Centre Manager

I think the most significant event that has taken place since the last edition of *Polare* as far as the community is concerned is the completion of the filming of the long awaited video production of *Shattered Illusions*. An educational video targeted at the community of people with gender issues (a "Tribes" funded project), reiterating the necessity of people to take personal and collegiate responsibility for safer sex and drug use. There may be people in the community who already have made personal resolutions regarding these issues, this video will reinforce any complacency issues that may be creeping in. The video also targets new girls coming onto the scene that may be exploring lifestyle options.

The community response and support to the video production was excellent. It was great to observe this process of community development and I personally feel that the community needs more of these types of projects. The video is currently in the final stages of post-production which means it should not be too long before it will be available. I'll leave it for you to be the judge upon release, I think you will be pleasantly surprised.

Feature Articles



I had started to ask questions about there being more to life than being out of it and cracking it in Premier Lane.

Whispers from William Street

My first experiences as a transsexual worker on the scene had been to witness the humiliation of people screaming obscenities and threats as they passed by the glamour and glitter of William St. Sex work became very confusing for Lamia as she writes about Premier Lane.

The Golden Age of Female Trannies in Medieval Europe

History has remained silent about females who lived as men. But during the Middle Ages many of them reached public prominence, and were even canonized by the Church, including the remarkable and tragic St. Joan of Arc, best known of all the women who adopted a male role.

What if the Condom Breaks or Slips Off

Condoms can be effective in minimizing your chances of coming into contact with S.T.D.s, including the H.I.V. virus. What happens if the condom breaks? There are some steps you can take to minimise the risk of S.T.D.s being transmitted after breakage.

Negotiating Safe Sex

Have you ever been in that situation when Mr. Universe was about to mount your bones and suddenly he starts all this drama about not wanting to use a condom? Dee Yates offers her insightful and witty thoughts on negotiating safe sex and guys who don't want to use a condom.

Observations

Although this article is called "Observations", Rachael admits it would have been more accurate to call it "Ramblings of a Scared Middle Aged Transsexual". A month before her reassignment operation, Rachael writes of her transition and how her family have disowned her.

Sophie Tarrant has been employed as the Social & Support person for the Gender Centre. She will be introducing herself in this issue. One of her projects will be the production of the new health information pamphlet titled "Personal and Social Aspects". The preliminary draft was focus tested on those who attended from the community on the 22nd December 1994, with some useful input.

On a sadder note, Jacques Monroe took his own life on the 6th December last year because he did not want to die of AIDS, his rationale being quite clear. He was a past member of the Gender Centre's Management Committee who helped the Centre adopt harm minimisation principles under the *Ottawa Charter* guidelines. Rachelle Alexander, the previous Projects Manager, liaised with Jacques to receive his valuable professional input and moral support in the new direction that the Gender Centre was heading in its broader philosophical outlook.

Some people would be aware that there are people whose work and contributions in the area of H.I.V./ AIDS largely go unrecognised, especially those who work with the more marginalised people who have the virus or who are at risk. Jacques was one!

President's Report

by Jean Noble, Management Committee President

Welcome to all again to my first executive perspective of 1995. I hope that you have all gotten over the hectic holiday season and are ready to get back in the harness so to speak! I am starting with a round of thanks, as many are due, firstly to the membership and friends for their outstanding show of support and participation in the "Tribes" video project, *Shattered Illusions*. The feedback I received was overwhelmingly positive, it seemed that everyone who made the effort to participate had a really good time. Sophie Tarrant has taken pictures of the filming and there are some really striking images there, so have a look and place some orders, as the pictures are available for sale. Call Sophie at the Gender Centre. If you are waiting anxiously for news of the video, the rough cut should be ready by the middle of February and hopefully the final version should be available by the end of February! Be assured we are doing our very best with this project to make it available to the relevant interested services and people.

My thanks to those who chose to attend the Christmas party with the staff and friends of the Gender Centre, my impressions were that everyone had an enjoyable time and of course as always it's nice to catch up with the social aspect of my role as President (any excuse for a chance to chat and have a cuppa punch). The attendance at the public forum to discuss the "Psycho-Social Pamphlet" was great, it seems there is a real need for the community to hold such discussions. The responses were mixed but positive overall, the discussion of hitherto taboo subjects is something I am in favour of, as in my view they are an indispensable way to end the old isolation and the perceived notion that "my opinion doesn't count" - negative mentality. Everyone's point of view is vital here at the Centre if we are to have a sense of a transgender community ... it has to be!

On a far less heavy note, the "Social & Support Project" has at long last reached a state of cohesion as a new coordinator has been appointed. Her name is Sophie Tarrant and I'll take this opportunity to congratulate her on behalf of the executive and staff team and to welcome her to the Gender Centre. Sophie is fast becoming a team member, apart from acquainting herself with the community she is rapidly coming to terms with the Centre's roles and services. Sophie is holding an "Open Morning" every Wednesday between 10:00am and 12:00 noon at the Centre, so why don't you drop in on her for a friendly chat and a free cuppa. It might be that she can be of use to you. At present, no appointments are necessary and she's looking forward to seeing you. Also, by coming along you would be assisting Sophie in collecting a needs assessment for the "Social & Support Project", simply by explaining what you may require. We all have great hopes for the success of this project, so be a part of the group as it really is for your benefit to participate - okay?

Wow! I just thought this is *Polare's* sixth edition - thanks are certainly overdue to the editor/designer Craig Skinner for carrying on the magazine, for keeping it topical and highly professional. I think our thanks are due for a particularly excellent effort.

One of the executive's main commitments has been to establish a legal service, being available to all and providing free legal advice. This is available by phone or by coming along to the centre and contacting the legal officer Rachael Wallbank. It seems that the project is snowballing, so again we find ourselves looking for new aclubs to increase funding. So far our efforts have shown much promise and the project will most certainly continue.

Reasonably finally, a show of support and thanks are due to norrie mAy-welby for her conceptual and entrepreneurial skills in her efforts to have a "Tranny Pride" float in this years Mardi Gras. We at the Centre whole-heartedly support this endeavour. One such fund raiser was the Tranny Ball - it was a shame it wasn't better supported by the community on the night but it fulfilled its goals and raised a substantial amount. We at the Centre wish this undertaking every success and trust that the community feel the same way and lend their every support. Thanks norrie!

Just quickly, I'd like to mention that the Gender Centre's strategic planning day" was most rewarding with a completed plan for this year and long range plans for the next five years. Good one team! The plan will be tabled at the next executive meeting in mid-February.

In conclusion, (yes, I am almost done) I hope that I have given you some idea of what's been happening out here at the Centre and on the Committee. Believe me there's quite a lot more, but I am saving that until my next report - come on, I have to have something left to write about later!

I shall take my leave; as always on behalf of the Executive my thanks for your time, I bid you a happy and safe remaining new year.

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The Gender Centre is committed to developing and providing services and activities, which enhance the ability of people with gender issues to make informed choices. We offer a wide range of services to people with gender issues, their partners, family members and friends in New South Wales. We are an accommodation service and also act as an education, support, training and referral resource centre to other organisations and service providers. The Gender Centre is committed to educating the public and service providers about the needs of people with gender issues. We specifically aim to provide a high quality service, which acknowledges human rights and ensures respect and confidentiality.

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Whispers from William Street

Is there more to life than being out of it and cracking it in Premier Lane?

by Lamia

Article appeared in Polare magazine: February 1995 Last Update: October 2013 Last Reviewed: September 2015



I knew a friend who had once lived as a transsexual, I looked towards her for guidance to help me travel the path she had once taken in her prime. She proceeded to guide me on to William Street in 1985. Which would eventually take me to my next and final level, Premier Lane.

I will never forget my own buzz from Miss Prim and Proper to dirty low down drug-fucked queen. I'd become like so many other people I knew.

My first experiences as a transsexual worker on the working scene had been to witness the humiliation of people screaming obscenities and threats as they passed by the glamour and glitter of William Street. I was also about to receive an incredibly hostile response from the other girls because of being a new girl on the street. Sex work then became very confusing.

I then became acquainted with speed and Artane ® and used them as an excuse to crack it and fit into the scene. Working while smashed was the way to go but not always the answer to the cause. It wasn't very long before I became well and truly hooked on drugs.

My drug use had become a habit, and the priority was feeding it, sex with condoms was something I just didn't negotiate or insist on. Losing the plot is quite common among drug users like myself. I would often come back from a job unpaid.

This went on for eighteen months, in that time I had no sense of direction and did not find my true identity. My identity as a transsexual or even as a person had become lost in the lifestyle of drug use and sex working.

A feminist lesbian from New Zealand, found me one morning smashed in the gutter on Premier Lane, she took me home and made me realise a few things, that I could either continue here and eventually kill myself through the abusive lifestyle I led or get out. She offered me the opportunity to look after her Aunt's home up north to get away, on the agreement that I get my life together.

I had time to cleanse all the drugs out of my system and also to dabble in the department and catwalk modelling industry. Meanwhile life on the streets was still the same and what I didn't realise at the time was that a few of my friends I had made were angry and bitter because I'd up and left without reason and I had started to ask questions about there being more to life than being out of it and cracking it in Premier Lane.

Five years later when I came back to Sydney my friends that I had made on the street were a bit stand-offish, it was then that I realised that they were still angry with me for taking off. It took me some time to get back into the sex working scene. I went back for the company, it sounds strange but, the company of old working buddies, the people who knew me and understood.

Back in 1985 there was only a little bit of information around on H.I.V. and sex work and none for trannies, I only really knew about it through boys at the wall and the contact they were having with the bus (Kirketon Road). Also my state of drug using was the thing that stopped everything else being important or even relevant.

It was like before I had no will or strength to change anything, I was so drug lucked and that was that. Things just happened to me and I could only let them keep happening.

The difference this time was that I was no longer willing to be a follower of other people or influences. I had decided to be a leader, a leader of my own destiny. So coming back I was in control of it as opposed to the other way around and I'd learnt a lot of things about risk, in all of its forms including controlled drug use and H.I.V. risks with both clients and partners you love.

Slipping back into the scene the second time around was a little better than the first time. I was mentally ready, only because of my past experiences. Which believe me makes all the difference! Work wise there was no change, everything in this department was still the same. What had changed was that I found most of my friends were also travelling down a different road from the last time I'd seen them. Those who were anti-drugs were now right into it. That spun me out, but the shoe is on the other foot now. It was a shock to see those who used to warn me about drug use were now users themselves.

I had lots of questions. Not only about how my life was going but what was also happening for those people around me. I myself had

indulged in these same activities and could see only too well the changes in my friends and the bad buzz they were on. I will never forget my own buzz from Miss Prim and Proper to dirty low down drug-fucked queen. I'd become like so many other people I knew.

One of the biggest questions for me was the differences between indulging and binging with drugs. This was very interesting, I found there was no difference. I was definitely asking the wrong question. The question was about control. I found I could not control drugs and I was an idiot to try because drugs are uncontrollable and will always be here and they will always be available. I realised it's not the drug that needs controlling but yourself.

Now that is a task in itself! I have worked on my own self-control of drugs. I took risks just like the rest of my friends. Work wise it became apparent that being drug fucked meant not looking after myself around S.T.D.s and H.I.V.. Because nothing else matters, who cares when you're out of it? As long as you're getting what you want nothing else really matters. The problem being that what I wanted was focused on the immediate, here and now with no thought to the future, in terms of my health and sense of worth.

Speaking from my own point of view this is important information for all of us whether we're sex working, drug using or not, H.I.V. affects us all - the risks we take!

It's been around for some time now and we're all aware, but we don't all practise what we know and I often wonder why that is. At that time of my life I just didn't care. Now I do, I've become more aware of how real the risks are and this includes sharing a fit as well. Which I would quite commonly do with friends, I used to think what the hell, it's no big deal - but it is! It's the rest of my life.

We are only in this lifetime together once, in the next it takes so long to find each other if ever. I would like for my friends to read what I have to say and if any of them do they'll know who they are I hope through reading my brief message. They'll understand what I'm saying. See the light and what's in and around it before it goes out. Care for yourselves, you deserve it.

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The Golden Age of Female Trannies in Medieval Europe

Pope Joan, Bearded Women and Other Saints to The Tragedy of Jeanne d'Arc

by Roberta Perkins

Article appeared in Polare magazine: February 1995 Last Update: October 2013 Last Reviewed: September 2015



Poor Pope Joan hounded to her grave by genderphobes.

History has remained generally silent about females who lived as men. But during the Middle Ages many of them reached public prominence, and were even canonized by the Church, including the remarkable and tragic St. Joan of Arc, the best known of all the women who adopted a male role.

... men with effeminate inclinations were attracted to the holy orders and priesthoods as a means of avoiding such masculine pursuits as fatherhood, knighthood and mercenary soldiers ...

Carnival, Fiestas and Satanists

In Medieval Europe the Church was not only the centre of learning and knowledge and the foundation of Canon Law, it also shaped social attitudes.

Cross dressing or any form of crossing gender was unacceptable. It took the ancient Mosaic laws quite literally in this regard, notably Deuteronomy 22:5, by which a woman or a man dressing in the clothing of the opposite sex was considered "an abomination to the Lord your God." Yet, throughout Christian Europe in the fiestas and parades which took place in church yards cross-dressing was often a fundamental part of the ceremony, especially in the harvest rituals. All Hallows Eve (Halloween), the Mummings and Carnival, remnants of Pagan rites which had been incorporated into the Christian cycle of liturgical feast days. Thus, men were expected to don their wives clothing during the festivities, but were frowned upon if they did so at other times. For a man to want to act like a woman was considered socially inappropriate, since it meant lowering his status to that of a female. On the other hand, for a woman to want to act as a man was thought to be a natural desire of raising status, and people were less offended by this, unless she made a serious bid for the power that was strictly a male privilege.

Then there was the Christian concept of the Devil as a temptress, reaching its hysterical apogee in Jacob Sprenger's document, *Malleus Maleficarum* (Hammer of Witches), in 1486. In this belief Satan took the shape of a beautiful woman to tempt men to sin. It was thought to be a practice closely associated with Satanism, and so men who dressed as women were suspected of Devil worship, and many of them met their end on a funeral pyre along with the reported 300,000 women burnt to death as witches between the High Middle Ages and the late eighteenth century. It seems a terrible price to pay so that married men might have an excuse for their adultery: "the Devil made me do it" they cried as another innocent woman or cross-dressing man was led to the stake.

The Woman who became a Pope

The Middle Ages produced many legends, but none is more enduring than that of 'Pope Joan', perhaps the most enigmatic figure of Medieval history. The story begins in Germany in the early ninth century with a teenage girl known as Joan Anglicus (so named because she was born in England), who was taught to read the scriptures by her father. When he died she took up with a monk named Ulfilas, with whom she had fallen in love, but since they travelled together through dangerous territory Joan dressed as a man. As a pair of monks they journeyed to Athens and then onto the Holy Land, and Joan, now known as John, gained a reputation for his scholarship. Unfortunately, en route to Rome Ulfilas suddenly took ill and died. Heartbroken, Joan alias John entered Rome alone. His reputation preceded him and he soon got a job translating the scriptures in the papal court of Leo IV. In a short time John was elevated to a cardinal.

When Pope Leo died in 855 John was elected to the papacy as John VIII. In the two years of his reign John was apparently an outstanding pope, making Rome a great seat of learning and bringing peace between warring Italian lords. Unfortunately, he was smitten by a Benedictine Monk from Spain who was employed in the papal court and John fell pregnant. Everybody thought John's swollen belly was due to his overeating, but then, so the story goes, he gave birth in the midst of a pontifical procession. One account has it that John and his baby son were torn to shreds by an outraged mob. Yet another account claims that the baby grew up to become Pope Adrian III. The Catholic Church has hotly denied the story of Pope Joan for centuries, and in time the Medieval history of the female pope passed into legend. But a few scholars of Medieval history have produced evidence in support of the existence of Pope Joan, and to this day there is a persistent rumour that in the Vatican since John VIII in the inaugural chair on which the newly elected pope sits there is a hole in its seat through which the cardinals supposedly check to see if their new pontiff possesses the appropriate genitalia.

Bearded Women and Other Saints

In Medieval times it was not so much gender behaviours which determined the social differences between men and women, but the biological factors of menstruation and pregnancy in females. So long as women had periods and the potential for childbirth they could not assume a male role. On the other hand, men with effeminate inclinations were attracted to the holy orders and priesthoods as a means of avoiding such masculine pursuits as fatherhood, knighthood and mercenary soldiers. Conversely, women who wished to avoid traditional feminine roles often entered convents as nuns. But, in the more extreme cases of feminine aversion, women cross-dressed as monks and priests. Thus, the male holy orders became something of a common ground for gender-crossers of both sexes. Examples of women who crossed gender by disguising themselves as holy men abound in Medieval history and legends. What is extraordinary in these stories is the fact that these women usually crossed gender following some crisis or upheaval in their lives. Take the example of the so-called bearded saints like Sts. Galla and Paula, women who suddenly grew masculine facial hair in response to a shock of being forced into some form of ultra-feminine behaviour. The best known of the bearded saints is the Christian daughter of a Pagan Portuguese king, Uncumber, who grew a moustache and long curly beard to avoid having to marry the king of Sicily under her father's orders. Uncumber's enraged father had her crucified, and so she entered the kingdom of God as a Christian martyr. This is obviously a Medieval legend attempting to explain Uncumber's very unfeminine behaviour in biological terms, but turning her crossed gender behaviour into the chaste actions of a saint.

But there was some historical basis in the stories of other famous saints of the Middle Ages. Pelagia was one of these historic saints. She was a dancing girl and prostitute in Antioch, and an apparently beautiful woman converted to Christianity by the saintly Bishop Nonus. Pelagia found a way of disowning her wicked past by leaving Antioch dressed as a man. After many years of travelling in the Holy Land, Pelagia returned to Europe and entered a monastery, where he was given the task of looking after a nunnery as its prior. But, after being accused of raping a nun he chose to flee rather than admit to his biological sex. After that Pelagia returned to the Holy Land to become a desert hermit noted for his asceticism. Upon his death in old age still living a solitary existence in the wilderness, mourners who discovered that he was a female declared: "Glory be to thee O Lord Jesus, for thou hast many hidden treasures on Earth, as well female as male."

Another historical figure is Saint Hildegund, apparently the daughter of a knight of Neuss on the Rhine. The knight took his twelve-year-old daughter on a journey to the Holy Land dressed as a boy known as Joseph. But the knight died suddenly in Jerusalem and Joseph was forced to fend for himself. He was robbed of what money his father carried with him and in an effort to make his way back to Europe joined an old priest on his way to Rome. Joseph fell in with a band of robbers but was captured by Italian soldiers who were determined to hang him. But he proved his innocence by undergoing an ordeal of hot irons. Later he entered a monastery in Germany where he lived as a monk until his death in old age, when his fellow monks were genuinely shocked to discover that their famous old monk was actually a female. There were many other female saints throughout the Middle Ages who became monks. Truly was this the golden age of female gender-crossers.

The Tragedy of Jeanne d'Arc

It is hard to imagine a more tragic figure in Medieval history than Jeanne d'Arc, better known as St. Joan of Arc. Born in the little French village of Domremy on the Meuse River to a peasant couple in 1412, Joan became a devout Christian who would rather kneel in church than enjoy festivities in her community. At thirteen she began hearing voices which she ascribed to angels. Over the next three years these voices became more and more political in their demands upon her. In 1428 they told her to lead a French army against the invading English and crown the Dauphin Charles king of France. After a period of ridicule she was eventually granted commandship over the French forces at the siege of Orleans. What convinced the Dauphin to appoint her military commander remains a secret, but some say Charles saw divinity in her eyes. However she achieved the appointment, Joan successfully led a French victory over the English at Orleans in 1429, despite receiving an arrow wound whilst scaling the city's walls. Joan followed this victory up with other victories at Reims, Compeigne and Beauvais, and received another wound during the siege of Paris.

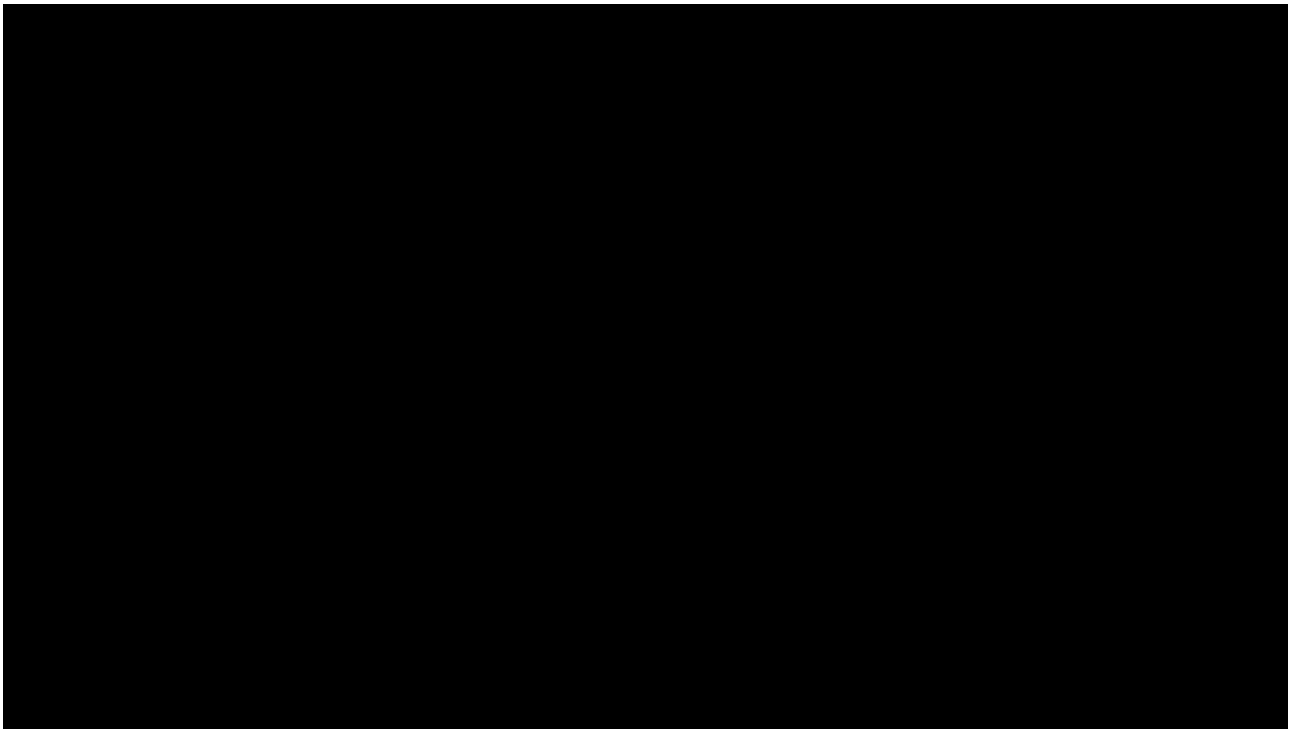
These were remarkable victories achieved by a flagging French army in a short time over triumphant English forces, and all the more remarkable for being led by a seventeen-year-old girl. Throughout this warring period Joan dressed entirely in masculine clothing, including cropping her hair short in the style of a French knight, and wearing chain mail, plate armour and helmet, spurs, sword and dagger. Even during moments of peace she continued to dress in men's hose, tunic and cap, including attending the coronation of Charles VII (formerly the Dauphin) at the king's side. Eventually the 'Maid of Orleans' was captured by the treacherous Burgundians and after failing to get a ransom from Charles they turned her over to the English, who were anxious to burn her immediately. However, the Church stepped in and demanded a trial. She was charged with treason against God.

Joan's trial was a sham. It was an obvious attempt at humiliating her and proving that she had demonic aid in defeating the English, because no mere girl alone could achieve such a feat. Faced with being burnt alive Joan recanted, agreeing she lied about her heavenly voices, and agreeing to wear female clothing thereafter. Remember, this was a time when a common belief about the Devil was that he disguised himself as a woman to cause men to sin. But, in her cell Joan chose to don her more familiar male garb and her inquisitors took this to mean she had relapsed and fallen back into the hands of the Devil. She was burnt alive as a witch on 30th May 1431. There is no doubt that Joan's cross-dressing was merely a political excuse to execute her. Joan threatened men much more than Pope Joan, Pelagia or the bearded saints, for as Medieval historian Vern Bullough remarked: "Quite obviously for a woman to assume a male guise to become more holy was permitted, but to compete with men on masculine grounds such as warfare was simply not permitted. Such competition represented not a gain in the status of women but a loss of status for men." Thus, Jeanne d'Arc was a true victim of genderisation; she died a sexual martyr for defying the boundaries of the prescribed social sex roles. In 1456, just twenty-five-years after her death, the papal court finally declared her innocent. In 1920 she was canonized, and today, rightly so, she is France's patron saint.

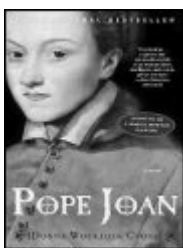
Joan Anglicus (Pope Joan)

From Wikipedia:  Pope Joan was a legendary female Pope who allegedly reigned for a few years some time during the Middle Ages. According to the Catholic Encyclopaedia, the story first appeared in thirteenth century chronicles, and was subsequently spread and embellished throughout Europe. It was widely believed for centuries, though modern religious scholars consider it fictitious, perhaps deriving from historical folklore regarding Roman monuments or from anti-papal satire.


The first mention of the female pope was written early in the 13th century and appears in the chronicle of Jean de Mailly. In his telling, the female pope is not named, and the events are set in 1099. However the most popular and influential version, and the first to attach a name to the figure, was that interpolated into Martin of Troppau's Chronicon Pontificum et Imperatorum, later in the 13th century. He indicates that she was known as "John Anglicus" or "John of Mainz". He also changes the date from the 11th to the 9th century, indicating that Joan reigned between Leo IV and Benedict III in the 850s. Most versions of her story describe her as a talented and learned woman who disguises herself as a man, often at the behest of a lover. In the most common accounts, due to her abilities, she rises through the church hierarchy, eventually being elected pope. However, while riding on horseback, she gives birth, thus exposing her sex. In most versions, she dies shortly after, either being killed by an angry mob or from natural causes. Her memory is then shunned by her successors.

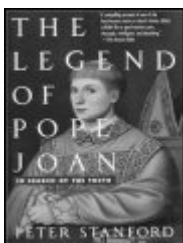


In 2009, the story of Pope Joan based on Donna Woolfolk Cross' novel was adapted into a Dutch movie directed by Sönke Wortmann, writers: Donna Woolfolk Cross (novel) and Heinrich Hadding (screenplay)




Pope Joan: A Novel
Author: Donna Woolfolk-Cross
Published by Broadway (2009)
I.S.B.N.-13 978-0307452368

From Amazon Books:  For a thousand years her existence has been denied. She is the legend that will not die – Pope Joan, the ninth-century woman who disguised herself as a man and rose to become the only female ever to sit on the throne of St. Peter. Now in this riveting novel, Donna Woolfolk Cross paints a sweeping portrait of an unforgettable heroine who struggles against restrictions her soul cannot accept. Brilliant and talented, young Joan rebels against medieval social strictures forbidding women to learn. When her brother is brutally killed during a Viking attack, Joan takes up his cloak – and his identity – and enters the monastery of Fulda. As Brother John Anglicus, Joan distinguishes herself as a great scholar and healer. Eventually, she is drawn to Rome, where she becomes enmeshed in a dangerous web of love, passion, and politics. Triumphant over appalling odds, she finally attains the highest office in Christendom – wielding a power greater than any woman before or since. But such power always comes at a price ... In this international bestseller, Cross brings the Dark Ages to life in all their brutal splendour and shares the dramatic story of a woman whose strength of vision led her to defy the social restrictions of her day.




The Legend of Pope Joan: In Search of the Truth
Author: Peter Stanford
Published by Berkley Trade (2000)
I.S.B.N.-13 978-0425173473

From Amazon Books:  The legend of Pope Joan - an Englishwoman who disguised herself as a man and became pope in the ninth century - has been a source of controversy for a thousand years. Fascinated by her story, but sceptical of its authenticity, British journalist Peter Stanford decided to investigate the facts. His search for the truth has produced the definitive account of one of the most

intriguing mysteries of the Catholic Church. With all the riveting drama of an historical detective novel, this exciting study utilizes a variety of sources and methods, from ancient papal tomes to present-day psychological profiling. And in an age when many women identify with Joan's struggle for recognition in a male-dominated institution, Stanford speculates on what her legend's longevity means for the church - and asks why she still has such a powerful grip on our imaginations.

Jeanne d'Arc (Joan of Arc)


From Wikipedia:  Joan of Arc, nicknamed "The Maid of Orléans", is a folk heroine of France and a Roman Catholic saint. She was born a peasant girl in what is now eastern France. Claiming divine guidance, she led the French army to several important victories during the Hundred Years' War, which paved the way for the coronation of Charles VII of France. She was captured by the Burgundians, transferred to the English in exchange for money, put on trial by the pro-English Bishop of Beauvais Pierre Cauchon for charges of "insubordination and heterodoxy", and was burned at the stake for heresy when she was 19 years old.

Twenty-five years after her execution, an inquisitorial court authorized by Pope Callixtus III examined the trial, pronounced her innocent, and declared her a martyr. Joan of Arc was beatified in 1909 and canonized in 1920. She is (along with St. Denis, St. Martin of Tours, St. Louis IX, and St. Theresa of Lisieux), one of the patron saints of France. Joan said she had received visions from God instructing her to support Charles VII and recover France from English domination late in the Hundred Years' War. The uncrowned King Charles VII sent her to the siege of Orléans as part of a relief mission. She gained prominence when she overcame the dismissive attitude of veteran commanders and lifted the siege in only nine days. Several additional swift victories led to Charles VII's coronation at Reims.

To the present day, Joan of Arc has remained a significant figure in Western civilization. From Napoleon I onward, French politicians of all leanings have invoked her memory and many famous writers and composers have created works about her. Cultural depictions of Joan of Arc have continued in film, theatre, television, video games, music, and performances.




Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc: The Complete Version
Author: Mark Twain
Publisher: Empire Books (2012)
I.S.B.N.-13 978-1619492790

From Amazon Books:  Twain said, "I like Joan of Arc best of all my books; and it is the best; I know it perfectly well. And besides, it furnished me seven times the pleasure afforded me by any of the others; twelve years of preparation, and two years of writing. The others need no preparation and got none". Mark Twain's work on Joan of Arc is titled in full *Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc*, by the Sieur Louis de Conte who is identified further as Joan's page and secretary. The work is

fictionally presented as a translation from the manuscript by Jean Francois Alden, or, in the words of the published book, "Freely Translated out of the Ancient French into Modern English from the Original Unpublished Manuscript in the National Archives of France". De Conte is a fictionalized version of Joan of Arc's page Louis de Contes, and provides narrative unity to the story. He is presented as an individual who was with Joan during the three major phases of her life - as a youth in Domremy, as the commander of Charles' army on military campaign, and as a defendant at the trial in Rouen. The book is presented as a translation by Alden of de Conte's memoirs, written in his later years for the benefit of his descendants.



The Maid and the Queen: The Secret History of Joan of Arc
Author: Nancy Goldstone
Publisher: Viking Adult (2012)
I.S.B.N.-13 978-0670023337

From Amazon Books:  Politically astute, ambitious, and beautiful, Yolande of Aragon, queen of Sicily, was one of the most powerful women of the Middle Ages. Caught in the complex dynastic battle of the Hundred Years War, Yolande championed the dauphin's cause against the forces of England and Burgundy, drawing on her savvy, her statecraft, and her intimate network of spies. But the enemy seemed invincible. Just as French hopes dimmed, an astonishingly courageous young

woman named Joan of Arc arrived from the farthest recesses of the kingdom, claiming she carried a divine message - a message that would change the course of history and ultimately lead to the coronation of Charles VII and the triumph of France. Now, on the six hundredth anniversary of the birth of Joan of Arc, this fascinating book explores the relationship between these two remarkable women, and deepens our understanding of this dramatic period in history. How did an illiterate peasant girl gain access to the future king of France, earn his trust, and ultimately lead his forces into battle? Was it only the hand of God that moved Joan of Arc - or was it also Yolande of Aragon?

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What if the Condom Breaks or Slips Off?

Minimising the Risk of S.T.D.s Being Transmitted after Breakage

by Unknown Author

Article appeared in Polare magazine: February 1995 Last Update: October 2013 Last Reviewed: September 2015



If the condom has broken or slipped off, you should stop sexual activity immediately and have your partner withdraw

Condoms can be effective in minimizing your chances of coming into contact with S.T.D.s, including the H.I.V. virus. What happens if the condom breaks? There are some steps you can take to minimise the risk of S.T.D.s being transmitted after breakage.

Gently wash the area with a mild antiseptic like chlorhexidine based preparations or a solution such as Betadine

Neo-Vaginal Sex

Although a neo-vagina may produce some lubrication during intercourse it may not be enough for comfortable sexual activity. If you have sex without extra lubrication (wet stuff; KY Jelly) small undetectable breaks or tears in the vaginal lining can occur. The virus can pass from your partner's body fluid through these breaks and tears. This could also happen if you have a vagina that isn't wide enough to comfortably accommodate your client's or partner's penis.

If you or your partner or client discovers that the condom has broken or slipped off, you should:

- » Stop sexual activity immediately, and have your partner or client withdraw;
- » While the timing is not critical, you should deal with the situation as soon as possible. There is time to allay any fear expressed by your partner or client, and explain that you need to use the bathroom for a few minutes;
- » You should urinate to clear the urethra;
- » Douching is recommended with a product such as aci-gel. Use about one third to a quarter of an applicator or use a mixture of warm water and vinegar (one part vinegar to twenty parts water). Do not use soap or soap solutions as these will cause irritation and discomfort, as well as having a detrimental effect on the walls of the vagina;
- » Using an applicator, insert half to a full applicator of spermicide (there is a suggestion that this may weaken the H.I.V. virus). It is a matter of personal choice about the quantity - some people may find a full application too messy when they resume the booking. You may also choose to apply a small amount of spermicide to the vulva and urethral opening as well; and
- » You may resume sexual activity straight away. In fact, resumed peno-vaginal intercourse will assist in spreading the spermicide throughout the vagina.

Trick Sex

If you shave or wax your body or pubic hair, be careful of cuts or scraping. Cover any cuts and abrasions before sex and never allow anyone's body fluids (blood, semen or vaginal fluids) on damaged skin. Be particularly careful if you shave your pubic hair, legs, chest or armpits and then engage in "trick sex" (having intercourse between closed thighs, under armpits or a hand cupped in the genital area).

If you are taping, strapping or tucking you could create a warm moist area leading to skin disorders, chaffing and dermatitis. Removing tape roughly could result in damaged or broken skin. Any of these increase the risk of the virus penetrating your skin during sex, particularly if you get someone else's body fluids onto that region, as might happen from unprotected "trick" sex.

If you have recently undergone any surgery that has involved any areas of your body that may be exposed to body fluids during sex, then be sure to cover the area until your skin has completely healed.

If you or your partner or client discovers that the condom has broken or slipped off, you should:

- » Stop sexual activity immediately, and have your partner or client withdraw or move away;

- » Gently wash the area with a mild antiseptic like chlorhexidine based preparations or a solution such as Betadine; and
- » Cover areas of skin that may be broken or abraded.

Receptive peno-anal sex

If you or your partner or client discovers that the condom has broken or slipped off, you should:

- » Stop sexual activity immediately, and have your partner or client withdraw;
- » While timing is not critical, you should deal with the situation as soon as possible. There is time to allay any fear expressed by your partner or client, and explain that you need to use the bathroom for a few minutes;
- » Douching is not advised as it can cause tears in the sensitive membranous walls of the anus, possibly enabling the transmission of S.T.D.s including H.I.V.;
- » Spermicide can be used as a one off, but it's quite possible it will cause some irritation. Apply at least a full applicator measure internally. Rub some spermicide around the outside of the anus as well; and
- » If you have used a spermicide, you may choose to not engage in any receptive anal services for the rest of the shift, as there could be some discomfort and irritation. Again it is up to the discretion of the worker.

If semen is present:

- » Douching is not advised;
- » Sit on the toilet, bear down and remove as much semen as possible;
- » Insert at least one full applicator of spermicide; and
- » Gently wash outside the anus with a Chlorhexidine based preparation, or a solution such as Betadine.

Insertive peno-anal sex

- » Wash the genital area thoroughly, particularly under the foreskin;
- » Urinate; and
- » Place a small amount of spermicide in the eye of the penis (Note: If you are continuing sexual activity with your partner or client, you may choose to put a small amount of spermicide in the teat of the condom instead of directly on to the eye of the penis).

Oral Sex (with and without semen present)

- » Spit out any semen;
- » Rinse mouth out with a Chlorhexidine based mouthwash, a diluted tea tree oil mixture or Betadine;
- » Do not brush, floss the teeth, or eat for at least one hour; and
- » If you have been insertive, you may choose to urinate immediately, wash your penis thoroughly, particularly under the foreskin, and rub a small amount of spermicide into the eye of your penis.

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Negotiating Safe Sex

Because if it's not on, it's not on!

by Dee Yates

Article appeared in Polare magazine: February 1995 Last Update: October 2013 Last Reviewed: September 2015

I'm sure many of our readers will fondly remember Dee Yates who passed away in 1993. We found this article that she had written and felt it was perfect for this particular edition of *Polare*.



If it's not on, it's not on!

Have you ever been in that situation when Mr. Universe was about to mount your bones and suddenly he starts all this drama about you wanting to use a condom. Or perhaps there was that time when you were offered mega bucks for the delights of your body so long as you didn't produce one of those rubber things.

But darling, I'm too young to become a pregnant trannie!

Decisions, decisions!

How to deal with different sorts of situations will of course depend on the circumstance at the time but here are some tips that might be helpful when you are trying to get the bastard to use a condom and still earn a few dollars or even capture the man of your dreams. Of course this also applies if you are just after a good poke.

My personal, favourite reply to "no condom please" is "What planet have you just arrived from?" I'm not always known for my tactfulness.

What about the old line when he says; "If you really loved me, you wouldn't make me use a condom." You might try humour like, "But darling, I'm too young to be a pregnant trannie." Or you might say, "It's because of our love that I don't want to take any risks. I think we are too precious to each other for that"

If you don't really mean it, try very hard not to choke on the words as they flow forth from your mouth. Remember you can always revert to the direct approach: "Listen baby, if it's not on, it's not on." Of course there is always the problem: "If I insist on him using a condom, he might think I've got AIDS or he might think that I think he's got AIDS."

Not a great start to a new romance, I hear you thinking. First of all never take it for granted that he doesn't want to use a condom. There are a growing number of beasts out there who will be willing to use one and respect you for it. For those others I would be tempted to spell it out like this: "For all you know I might have been spreading myself around a bit" (Try fluttering the eyelashes), or try; "Darling, a spunky guy like you probably gets heaps. Darling let's face it there is no way of really knowing who's got what except of course that I'm sure you've got a whopper." How could the poor dear argue with that! Also your left breast might just happen to brush against his hand as you lean forward towards him with a slight sigh - if you are feeling really keen.

There are certain times when alarm bells ring loudly for me; when he says "I've never been with a tranny before" and you met him at the Taxi Club. Or when he says you're the only tranny he would ever bonk and the only one he thinks of as a real woman. When he wants to move in with you and you've only just met. Or when he comes around bearing gifts - flowers and hopefully diamonds.

Now, I can live with all of the above (especially the diamonds) and even the bullshit if it suits my purposes but I absolutely lose it when "Gentleman Jim" thinks that fabulous flattery and rings will get him into my ring or any other orifice without a condom.

If you really don't want him to take a walk then you may need to negotiate very carefully with this type of smoothie. You can play the game if you must and appear to be suitably impressed by his attentions making sure that you let him know that you are so impressed that there is no way you will introduce any element of risk into the passionate encounter you are planning for him.

With the possible exception of the diamond rings, I would be inclined to get to the point however and tell him to save the crap and just let him know that despite all of his bullshit I wanted his body anyway, with complimentary condoms included in the deal.

In this way you are getting what you want but on your terms. As for the diamond rings, I'd do my best but remember diamonds are not

always a girls best friend. Oh my god, I've confessed and it's in print for all to see!

There will always be those times when you are feeling like shit and a little attention from a stud or two will seem to prop up your shattered self-image. Go for it sister! But bear in mind that if he doesn't even respect your wishes to use a condom you may not feel all that much better about yourself after the event.

So think about it. Sometimes it can feel even more fulfilling to say no than yes. Believe me, I've had some fulfilling experiences in my day! And there is always that football team over the rainbow who are willing to do it your way. I speak from experience.

Oops!

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Observations

Ramblings of a Scared Middle-Aged Transsexual

by Rachael

Article appeared in Polare magazine: February 1995 Last Update: October 2013 Last Reviewed: September 2015



... it turned out that me changing wasn't causing problems but her grandmother had disowned me and my family and Tracy especially (she was supporting my choice).

I called this article observations, but maybe it would be more accurate to call it Ramblings of a Scared Middle Aged Transsexual.

I have a transsexual friend (she calls me a prude), she's probably right. I've met a couple of other transgenders and probably a few more I thought were ordinary men or women. I'm no expert on changing gender and the following isn't advice, just my feelings. I've read articles by female-to-Male transgenders and I find myself completely at sea. I write this article as a male-to-female so if you are the other way around just transpose a few words.

I know how a "normal" person feels when I think about a female-to-male intellectually but emotionally I don't. I have spent a lifetime wishing and praying that I would go to sleep and wake up as a woman. How in heavens name can you want to change "into a man? It's costing me a fortune to get rid of my facial hair and you want to grow them. All the rest has been an emotional and

financial hell and you want to be and have what I hate. As I said I know how a "normal" person feels about me. As far as the bigot goes I never will understand.

I said I was scared, I have a month to go for my reassignment operation and my psychiatrist (who took three weeks to get off his rear end and send my last referral) who has only my wellbeing on his mind, kept me waiting and wondering if he was going to send it. It knocked my psychic reserves to hell. One month to go for an operation that's costing us \$14,300 including legal fees and my spouse's accommodation and food.

I'm full of fearful questions, the main ones being; will it look right? And, will it work? There are about a hundred more. My local psychiatrist is pragmatic about it, saying; "It's the only game in town". He's right! To get any better you would have to go back to the moment of conception and change which spermatozoa got to the egg. But then I wouldn't be me. An imperfect man, an imperfect woman. Psychiatrists! Aahhh!

Barbara Rose wrote in edition four of *Polare*, "is it close enough?" (do we all feel like this or is it only me) I have a feeling we forget just how miserable we were before. I have someone who keeps reminding me.

I read with interest the article written by Max, in edition four of *Polare*, about his teenage child. It is a very difficult problem for all concerned. I have three children aged six, eleven and fourteen. The two eldest are girls. I was lucky in that when I decided to change, I discussed it with Tracy (my eldest) when she was twelve. I had and have the total support of my wife Denise (being in love and having it returned is my greatest strength). This may have helped Tracy to be more accepting. I had to have her support first before going ahead. That is one of the responsibilities you take on when you have children so they must be given consideration. After all, there is just as much effect on them and their future.

Although I agree to some extent with Max, I don't agree with the idea of death of the parent at all. Ask my children and you will find that I look different, I'm not as cranky and I'm a little softer in my attitudes.

That's about it "I" am still me! No one died.

Total honesty is of the utmost importance. If you lie, be evasive or show the slightest amount of shame in the change, you are in real trouble as the child will feel it. One big advantage we have with our children is trust and love. Betray it and you're done for. If you have split up or divorced, talk with your ex and ask them to tell only the truth. That is the one thing you both owe your children.

We live in the country. There is no counselling service, no help, nowhere you can get advice, you're on your own. When I went on hormones, I went to the schools of my children. First off I saw the girls' adviser at the high school. I told her what I was doing and asked her to keep an eye on Tracy and give her a shoulder to cry on. Two months later I again visited the girls' adviser as Tracy seemed to be having trouble. Was it me? No, it turned out that me changing wasn't causing problems but her grandmother (my mother) had disowned

I am gradually gaining an inner peace that I never had. The internal pain has stopped.

me and my family and Tracy especially (she was supporting my choice).

When she went over to visit her grandmother she was treated very badly. At that time she was only twelve. I have found some so called adults who haven't got the intestinal fortitude to express their prejudice to me or my spouse, but say cruel things to my children.

I again visited the girls' adviser just prior to my coming-out and gave her as much information about what was happening and about transsexualism: as I could. I also went to see the school counsellor for our primary school and gave the same information and I also answered any of their questions as openly as possible. I requested that Jonathon and Christina's teachers keep an eye on them and my children were also given the time to talk with their friends and tell them about me. I feel that the trouble I went to and the embarrassment I went through paid off. All my children have adjusted well and have no problems at school. Their friends just have a lot of questions.

As I type this article I can hear seventeen young teenagers, it's Tracy's fourteenth birthday. Five of her friends weren't allowed to come but the rest were, I know! Before the kids were allowed in our yard their parents had to phone and give their permission. It proves I've done something right.

On the home front I tried to continue to be a father and be called "Dad", but Jonathon (my youngest) was getting very confused with having a Dad that looked like a Mum. So a family meeting took place and it was decided to call me Mum. Now there's Mum and Mummy or two mums, Mum one and Mum two, or "Not you the other one". A problem solved, their friends at school are the confused ones now.

A few months after I went full-time I placed advertisements in the local and area papers telling people that I had changed my name and intended to live as a woman. Running a business for fifteen years in the same town does get you known. It was very hard on Denise. Someone would ring up and ask for Robert; "Sorry ... umm ... he, she's Rachel now" It was very confusing! Again things haven't been exactly perfect but coming-out and telling everyone has reduced some of the confusion and prejudice. Time will tell.

I look back at my decision to live as a woman and ask was it worth it. I am gradually gaining an inner peace that I never had. The internal pain has stopped. I am not miserable and cranky anymore. I'm not joyous but closer than I've ever been to happy. Financially I am worse off. I risked losing my wife and children but didn't. My closer acquaintances and friends have stuck by to varying degrees. My mother and father told me not to contact them again, that was after I wouldn't kill myself. My eldest nephew who I helped raise from birth, now twenty-two years old, won't have anything to do with me. He is the one doing psychology at university. The younger nephew of nineteen years who was working for me, up and left on being told. My elder sister (the one who told everybody I was a little sissy when in primary school and had to be looked after all the time because I acted like a girl) disowned me and used the foulest language to my spouse and claimed she was a witch and had turned my mind. My brother who tried to get me exorcised and cause trouble for my children with the Department of Social Services disowned me, a "Born Again" Christian.

Yes it was worth it, I've gained more than I've lost, especially the new friendships. I think and hope that the problems we all face can be solved or made less painful, but it's up to each one of us individually and as a group. I've spent a lot of time crying on Susan's shoulder. "Thanks Susan".

We are the different ones, not the people around us. Making the decision to live in the other gender role I doubt was easy for any of us. So don't expect too much from the people around us including family and friends. Given room and time they come to be accepting. Don't expect anyone except another transsexual to understand. "They can't".

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