

## Three Great Quarterlies

Review by Dallas Denny

### Dragazine

What did I expect when I received a magazine called *Dragazine*, edited by someone called Lois Commondenominator? Not much, but if I had not read it, I would have missed a very interesting and quite funny publication.

*Dragazine* is a glossy mag with four-color covers and lots of photos, designed for "Halloweeners and Inbetweeners," or in other words, for those, straight, gay, or whatever, who dress for pleasure and profit. It features interviews with such notables as Frank Marino, RuPaul, and Virginia Prince, coverage of critically important events like Wigstock, reviews, and dish on drag divas. But it is Lois' irreverent sense of humor that makes me anticipate the next issue. I especially like The Name Game, a listing of outrageous names like Alma Children, Amanda Hugankiss, Beth Wethtern, and Wendy Fatladysings. Even the names of the issues are hilarious: The Vaginally Challenged Issue, The Sylph-Indulgent Issue, The Tucked, Plucked, & Duct Issue.

*Dragazine* is cheap and fun, and about what else can you say that in the '90s?

### Transsexual News Telegraph

*TNT*, published by Anne Ogborn and edited by Gail Sondegaard, is a transsexual-oriented, politically aware 'zine, exploring the gender frontiers from a San Francisco vantage-point. The magazine includes news coverage, reviews, opinion pieces, and essays on a variety of subjects. The most recent issue, #4, included articles entitled "Neutral Ground: Transgender Tuesday at the Tom Waddell Clinic," "The Art of

Passing (as a man)," "A Taste of Our Own Medicine: The Health Law Project," "T-Bird: Jerzy Kosinski's Peculiar Literary Fascination with Transsexual Women," "Dr. Strangelove (Or, How I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Love the Dong)," and "Inhabiting Ourselves: An Approach to Dance Therapy."

Articles are intelligently written, and absolutely shatter the transsexual mythos that is perpetuated by the "straight" press. "Dr. Strangelove," by Mustang Sally, describes the way in which a post-op woman comes to comfortably use a strap-on dildo in her love-making.

*TNT*, like *Dragazine*, is inexpensive. It is a magazine for those who are politically aware, and those who wish to become so.

### TransSisters:

*The Journal of Transsexualism Feminism*

Davina Anne Gabriel's *TransSisters* is more focused than *TNT*, being devoted exclusively to transsexual feminism. The latest issue celebrates transsexual history in much the same manner as did *Chrysalis Quarterly* #6. The previous issue included several articles which questioned (rather caustically) the work of medical profes-

sionals, and particularly surgeons who place more importance on the ability of a neovagina to receive a penis in intercourse than on orgasmic ability.

Some of the most hostile and damaging criticisms of transsexualism, as well as active exclusion, as in the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, have come from the feminist community, and *TransSisters* confronts these issues head-on. Because Davina positions the magazine in the breach of the cannon, it has potential to cause great change.

*TransSisters* and *TNT* are a dynamic duo, two magazines which are on the leading edge of the politics of transsexualism. ♀♀

### Dragazine

P.O. Box 691664

Dept. D

West Hollywood, CA 90069

\$4.95 sample issue, \$8.95/2 issues

### TNT

584 Castro Street

Ste.288

San Francisco, CA 94114-2588

\$4.00 sample issue, \$15/4 issues

### TransSisters

Davina Anne Gabriel

4004 Troost Avenue

Kansas City, MO 64110

\$3.00 for sample issue, \$18/4 issues

## Is a Transsexual a Crossdresser?

In their excellent book, *Cross Dressing, Sex, and Gender*, Drs. Vern and Bonnie Bullough have chosen to use the term cross dresser to refer to any person who wears for any reason the clothing of the other sex. While this was done for academic reasons, a number of transsexual people have told me they find this use objectionable. They do not consider themselves crossdressers in any sense of the term.

Other academic and clinical workers use terms transsexual people find offensive. The terms "male transsexual" and "female transsexual," which are widely used to refer to persons born respectively male and female, are a denial of the reality of the lives of post-transition people, and the use of pronouns which do not reflect the way the individual is living his or her life and especially the use of pronouns like "his" and "hers" in quotation marks are not only inappropriate, but insensitive.

Dr. Barbara Warren of the Gender Identity Project of New York has suggested that the terms transsexual woman and transsexual man be used in place of male and female transsexual. We like this usage, for it respects the identity of transgendered persons.

We firmly believe that future work should avoid terminology which transgendered people find offensive.