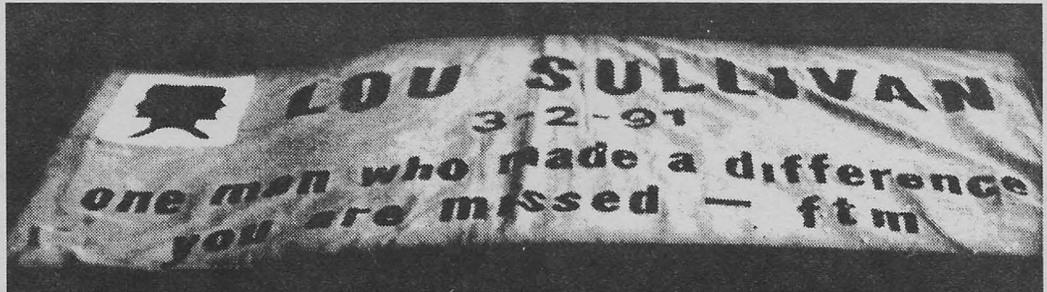


FTM

is ten years old this spring. What began as a single-page, photocopied information sheet has grown to a 16-page, professionally-designed and produced newsletter with a domestic and international readership of nearly 800. Happy Birthday to us. And, thank you Lou! We couldn't have done it without you! Carpe Diem.

— Marcus de Maria Arana



The Hero's Journey

An Open Letter to the FTM Community

Gentlemen,

Recently, there has been a stir among some FTMs over the Internet and e-mail, concerning the upcoming annual FTM conference in Boston. Several people have asked that I write about these goings-on from where I stand.

As co-chairman of the 1997 FTM conference of the Americas I first of all want to assure everyone that the conference will be held in Boston on August 8, 9, and 10th.

My apologies for getting off to what many feel is a late start. With all due respect to John Wayne (who admonished men to never explain nor complain) I'd like to explain the events that have led up to the present moment as I see them.

It wasn't until a week or two before Thanksgiving that I was first made aware that the other Boston-based FTM group, the Officer's Club, was seriously considering laying down the responsibility for hosting next summer's annual conference.

At that time my friend Andy, who happens to be a member of both the Officer's Club and Enterprise (the support group I founded in 1993 for FTM Transsexuals and Intersexes), came to me with a deep concern that the dream of hosting the annual conference, was about to slip out of Boston's hands. He mentioned something about a deadline of November 30, and he pleaded with me to call Jason Cromwell, one of the 1996 organizers in Seattle, to see if there was anything we at Enterprise could do.

I was feeling pretty much in the dark at this time, for I had not been present at any of the planning meetings at the Officer's Club, nor did I have

access to a computer, so I therefore was not 'on-line,' nor had I access to e-mail correspondence, and so forth.

On the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend I reached Jason on the phone and asked him to fill me in on the details.

For example:

1. Had the Officer's Club, in fact, laid down responsibility for the conference?

2. If so, and if I had enough support from the Enterprise group, was the Nov. 30 deadline hard and fast? (This conversation was taking place on the first of December, so there was no way—obviously—that we could meet a Nov. 30 cutoff date).

I indicated that, though I personally was interested in Boston being the host city, I could not make the decision, let alone manage the task, unilaterally; I was going to have to put it to the group as a whole. And, if the Enterprise guys were even going to think about this, there was *no way* that anything could come about until after the New Year, for the following reasons:

A. I was preparing for 2 surgical operations just 6 days away.

B. I was anticipating at least 4 weeks recovery time post-op before I could take on anything of this magnitude.

C. The holiday season was upon us.

I hung up, essentially putting the whole thing out of my mind. I had, very literally, more urgent things to think about, with my surgeries imminent. It would turn out that I was to be even more seriously ill than I'd anticipated.

On December 6, I underwent 2 operations, both FTM-related. Fully expected to be 'routine' and 'uneventful', one of them nonetheless turned out to be life-threatening and quite serious. Instead of the usual routine post-operative progress, I was returned to the operating room next day for an emergency third surgery; spent 11 hours in the recovery room; received 4 blood transfusions; was transferred to ICU, and then a subsequent

step-down critical care unit before finally being placed on a regular floor.

The hospital stay itself lasted twice as long as planned, and similarly, my recovery took much longer than anticipated. I am happy to say, however, that the body has an amazing power to heal, that my recovery is now progressing remarkably well, and that today I am feeling terrific.

About a week and a half post-op I was able to attend an Enterprise meeting due to the wonderful support.

That night I got permission from the other members, put aside 15 minutes from our normal Enterprise format to discuss what had been going on with the conference to date. Well, we're not called Enterprise for nothing! We tackled the first essential items with the speed of light! (or is that Warp Speed?) What ensued in the next 16 minutes (we went one minute overtime!) was:

1. We unanimously agreed that we wanted to host the conference in Boston in '97.
2. We agreed that our first order of business was a written statement of purpose, and set aside a date to meet to write this mission statement.
3. We found a venue.
4. We came up with a date.
5. We named the conference "The Hero's Journey."

So it came to be that it wasn't until mid-December that we had these things, but there was still one more thing I needed to do before I called Seattle back—I needed to talk with a spokesman from the Officer's Club to verify that they HAD in fact, laid down stewardship. Until this point all I had was word-of-mouth, which adds up, until verified, to mere hearsay.

It was important to get this information from the source, so although I felt some pressure to get back in touch with Seattle, I knew it was imperative that I do first things first. I didn't want the

Cont'd
pg. 3

What Killed Logan Smith?

Life & Death in Hoffman Estates, Illinois by Mike Spitz

The life of Logan Smith seems almost as extraordinary as the circumstances surrounding his death. Whether or not the result of police abuse and negligence, the courts will soon decide how and why Logan died just hours after his emergency release from the custody of Hoffman Estates police in January of 1996.

Born a genetic male though with under-developed genitalia, Logan Smith was raised as a female, but decided, at age 15 and after surgical alterations, to be treated as a man. His medical condition was such that Hoffman Estates Village Attorney Richard Williams initially, and erroneously, reported that "Smith died not from trauma, but from complications arising from a sex-change operation."

Young and Black, Logan lived with his mother and brother within an encircling suburban community older and whiter. Located 29 miles northwest of Chicago's Loop and just off the Northwest Tollway, Hoffman Estates is one of the more prosperous area suburbs. Encompassing roughly 19 square miles and mostly residential, with more than three-quarters of its units owner-occupied, the village boasts a poverty level below 1% and per capita income well above the metropolitan Chicago and national average.

With flight and freedom the goal of most inner-city youth, obtaining residence in such a community might seem like the American dream incarnate. However, with a Black population less than 4% of the roughly 50,000 total, and with a lengthy history of documented racial discrimination, the pretense for Logan and his brother Brian being pulled over for a minor traffic violation is perhaps open to more rigorous speculation.

According to a lawsuit filed in Hoffman Estates civil court by attorney Monica McFadden on behalf of Logan's mother, Bettjean Smith, Hoffman Estates police officer Gregory A. Polous made the initial contact. On Jan. 22, 1996, at approximately 7 a.m., officer Polous approached the Smith's vehicle, already parked in front of their residence on the 1900 block of Chelmsford, and alleged that the driver, Brian, committed two offenses: Failure to signal a right turn while turning from a secluded residential street into a dead end, and failure to display a license plate, in lieu of a temporary license plate clearly displayed in complete compliance with Illinois law.

With Logan, age 23, already in the townhome by this time, officer Polous reportedly maced Brian as he removed groceries from the back seat of the automobile. Logan then returned to assist his now-blinded brother, in turn taking him inside to wash his eyes with water. The complaint further states that officer Polous, still having yet to issue any traffic citations or make any arrests, followed the two into the Smith residence without justification or

permission, and without having obtained a search warrant. Logan, reminding officer Polous of the unconstitutionality of this act, was placed under arrest for interfering with an officer's exercise of duties.

At this point, responding to a call from Polous, officers Paul S. Hansen and Harry J. Moore also violated the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and entered the Smith home without authorization, the family's lawsuit alleges. Physically seizing Logan with allegedly "great and unreasonable force," kicking him in his abdomen and spraying him with pepper gas, the three police officers arrested and successfully

...the rumor was generated by the police as a kind of smoke-screen to detract from the significance of the case.

brought into custody Logan Smith, who, according to Bettjean, did not understand the charges. She also said he offered no physical resistance.

Although the Hoffman Estates Police Department vehemently denies the use of excessive force, immediately following this alleged altercation Logan began to complain about severe pain he was experiencing in his abdomen, specifically and repeatedly requesting medical assistance. Finally transported by ambulance from temporary detention at the Hoffman Estates Fire Department to the Hoffman Estates Medical Center Emergency Room, Logan was diagnosed with a urinary tract infection and released, without the peculiarities of Logan's medical status, or the circumstances of his arrest, being communicated to the presiding medical technicians.

Abdominal pains, maybe, but a urinary tract infection? Following an alleged physical confrontation? Here the unfortunate becomes the extraordinary, an extraordinary life becomes, perhaps through abuse or negligence or both, an unfortunate death.

As attorney McFadden relates, emergency room professionals chose to ignore, arresting officers knew yet remained silent about, and the Cook County Medical Examiner later discovered, Logan Smith was the lifelong sufferer of a congenital anatomical anomaly: Born with an external bladder and vestigial genitalia, subjected throughout his childhood and young adult life to a series of corrective surgical procedures, Logan had what professionals call a "cecal reservoir," an alternate bladder made from a lower portion of his intestinal tract. The complaint asserts that the

conflagration with police ruptured this surrogate receptacle, spilling urine directly into Logan's abdominal cavity, precipitating the septic infection that culminated in his untimely death.

Around 10 a.m. that same morning, Logan was put into the custody of officer Mark A. Laughlin, discharged from the Medical Center and, still complaining of acute discomfort, and having difficulty in walking and even standing upright, Logan was taken for processing and incarceration to the Hoffman Estates Police Station lockup. His verbal complaints continued, his physical status visibly deteriorated. Officer Polous, back on the scene, dismissed these attempts at communication as whining and troublemaking; other officers and even other prisoners within the lockup were aware of Logan's emphatic complaints and steadily deteriorating condition, which eventually included fever, vomiting, inability to move freely, rapid pulse, rapid and shallow breathing and extreme pain in all portions of his abdomen.

Logan remained in his cell. General police policy is reportedly to never re-admit any suspect for additional medical attention, rather, police wait for release of the suspect and thereby allay all further responsibility.

Bettjean Smith, Logan's mother, arrived to post bond for her son at approximately 1 p.m. She was informed by officer Polous and others of Logan's then-critical condition. Upon seeing her son, she insisted that 911 be called. Mrs. Smith was reassured by a police officer that they are 911.

An ambulance finally arrived on the scene, rushing Logan back to the Hoffman Estates Medical Center, this time to their Intensive Care Unit. Diagnosed with septic shock, Logan repeatedly informed the medical professionals that he was kicked in the abdomen by his arresting officers. Logan remained in critical condition until his death at approximately 11 p.m.

Suspicious of his treatment by the Hoffman Estates Police Department, Bettjean Smith sought and eventually obtained legal counsel with Monica McFadden of McFadden Law Offices. Meanwhile, an initial autopsy and toxicology analysis were conducted by Dr. Bryan R. Mitchell, M.D., from the Office of the Cook County Medical Examiner.

Particularly sensitive to the dynamics of this complex case, the official report was not released until May of 1996: In a CHICAGO TRIBUNE article of May 17, Hoffman Estates Assistant Police Chief Robert Boynton was quoted as

Cont'd
pg. 3

What Killed Logan (cont'd from pg. 2)

saying "as far as officers using excessive force, we feel the post-mortem indicates that never happened." According to Dr. Mitchell, however, his report neither affirms nor denies that possibility. In terms of any overt external evidence of injury, Logan sustained a visible injury to his left knee. When seeking evidence of internal injuries, standard procedure involves linear incisions placed over the back, buttocks, thighs, calves and wrists—not the abdomen. Although able to substantiate the septic infection through urine leakage into that cavity, the official manner of death remains "indeterminate."

From a legal standpoint, McFadden covers the case "from both sides; we feel that both parties, the police and the doctors, were at fault." Wrongful death, medical negligence, violation of constitutional rights and racism make for a complex, intense case. The complaint has been filed, and is pending in the Hoffman Estates civil court.

The Hoffman Estates Police Department, after repeated attempts, has not responded to OUTLINES' requests for an interview.

Relying on Dr. Mitchell's investigation, Hoffman Estates Village Attorney Richard Williams states in a recent United Press International report that, "Smith died not from trauma, but from complications arising from a sex-change operation." Based on the Medical Examiner's post-mortem, this statement is false. In view of that, a retraction of a similar report was made by WMAQ Radio reporter Mike Kruger. According to McFadden, as far as she knows, the rumor was generated by the police as a kind of smoke-screen to detract from the significance of the case.

If true, such a rumor is perhaps demonstrative of an underlying homophobia—if the allegations of excessive force can be substantiated, perhaps the Village of Hoffman Estates assumes that less sympathy would be generated by a transgendered individual than by an otherwise "normal" person "merely" suffering from overt birth-defects. As far as Logan Smith's sexuality goes, McFadden emphasized its irrelevance to her case, although she has described elements of Logan's extraordinary medical and personal history.

Born a genetic male though with under-developed and subsequently surgically altered genitalia, Logan was compelled to urinate using a catheter. Prompted by his admittedly unique anatomy and the need for privacy, doctors and psychologists suggested that the Smiths raise him as a girl. As Logan matured and medical technologies advanced (presumably those utilized by men suffering from impotence and female-to-male transsexuals), plastic surgeons were gradually able to reconstruct his genitalia, hoping to eventually make them not only aesthetically realistic, but functional. As such, the foundation of the "sex-change woes" rumor, however homophobic, opportunistic and factually incorrect, is conceivable. At age 15, however, given the chance, Logan chose to look, act, and be treated as a man.

What remains most vexing is that such a unique person, after enduring so much, has been denied the opportunity for self-realization. Perhaps the upcoming litigation will shed both light and justice.

Hero's Journey (cont'd from pg. 1)

only other FTM group in Boston (at that time—now we also have an American Boyz chapter) pointing their fingers at us, saying that we had pulled the rug out from under them.

It wasn't until nearly a week later that I did reach an Officer's Club representative, one of the problems having been that no one was initially able to give me a name of a point man to call. I was persistent, however, and eventually I reached their chairman, and learned that what I'd heard was true.

It was only at this time, that I felt we had the true go-ahead. This was when I called Seattle back and informed them of the progress we had made, and that we were indeed ready to take on the responsibility for the '97 conference.

Because we stepped in 'late', there was tremendous pressure on us throughout these weeks to act quickly. The deadlines, especially amidst the constant barrage of complaints and criticisms on the internet, were themselves barriers to our accomplishing things swiftly.

In spite of all the setbacks, however, I feel that we have met the challenge, and done so admirably. At the time of this writing we are waiting for the arrival of the requisite insurance policy from the agent. Once that arrives we will be able to sign the final contract with Massachusetts College of Art—the site of the conference.

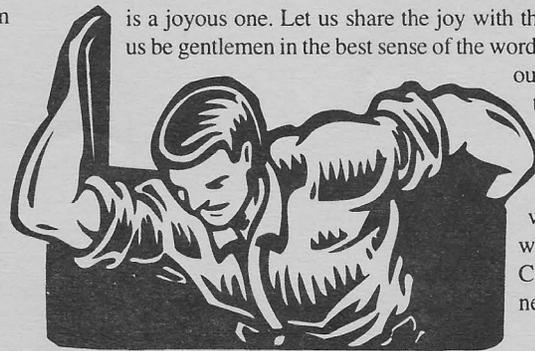
I want to express my deep thanks to my FTM brothers across the country, and to all the wonderful crew members of Enterprises, as well as to Mykael Hawley, my co-chair from IFGE, for all the strength and support you have given me.

I am proud to be a part of such a wonderful, eager, and exuberant group of guys, who continue to steadily and surely put together the foundations for the '97 conference in Boston.

It is my profound hope that all FTMs attending our Boston Conference may gain a sense of the miraculous in the Hero's Journey that we all undertake as we step out onto the path of manhood, into the world of men.

It is also my deepest hope that each man in the FTM nation may begin his Hero's Journey by discarding the old ways of doing things that are motivated by forms of negativity, whether that be fear, anger, or ridicule.

I have discovered that manhood is sublime, and that this journey is a joyous one. Let us share the joy with the rest of the world. Let us be gentlemen in the best sense of the word, always striving to give



our brothers the benefit of the doubt. In this time we get the opportunity and privilege to build our new nation, a new world. Let us proceed with integrity and honor. Can't wait to meet you all next summer!

—Mike Kirk

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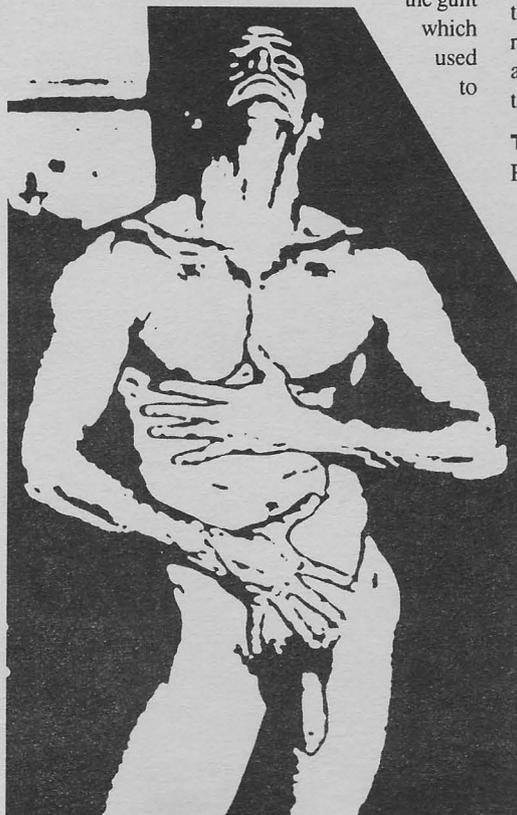
This column provides information of a sexually explicit nature. If the discussion of sexual topics disturbs or offends you, now is the time to stop reading and move on to the wide diversity of other information offered in this newsletter. It is my hope to provide information which is topical and not specific or particular to any sexual orientation. That's just what it is—information. It's not a mandate or an edict. Just some friendly advice that you can choose to listen to or not as the case may be. If you have a better way of doing something, write in so we can call benefit from it. If you have a topic which you'd like addressed, please let us know.

The last article provided pointers about minimizing the stresses of purchasing your first dick. This one provides information of a more personal nature. Some of you may feel that the last thing that you need is someone who looks like a grizzled mountain guy/biker dude (and balding at that) discussing the finer points of wanking off, but it's the topic for the quarter and it's what I intend to discuss. When Marcus first suggested masturbation, as a topic of course, I thought to myself "great! Something that I know a lot about." However, in writing the article I realized that I knew a lot less than I thought I did.

GUILT RIDDEN OR RID OF GUILT

If sex is a topic that we so desperately seek to keep secret, masturbation is steeped in even greater concealment. Perhaps this is due to centuries of stigmatization. Even our parents attempted to shame us out of this practice. Unbelievable as it is,

the guilt
which
used
to



be associated with this practice continues through the present time. The 1989 Kinsey Report revealed that 48% of the population disapproves of masturbation. It's no wonder that we don't talk about it. Of the people polled, only 18.8% felt that there was nothing wrong with masturbation. The remaining individuals had the following opinions: 3.4 % reported no opinion, 27% felt that it was always wrong, 21% felt that it was almost always wrong, and 29.8% felt that it was wrong some of the time[1]. Yet 94% of all men and 70% of all women masturbate[2].

If masturbation is so widely practiced, then why is it so steeped in guilt? Masturbation was declared to be the cause of blindness, homosexuality, insanity and if that wasn't bad enough, interfering with a person's ability to work[3]. Despite these views being debunked by Henry Havelock Ellis and others, guilt continues to plague us to the point that we conceal the fact that we masturbate from our partners[4]. Whether a matter of embarrassment or simple privacy, an overwhelming majority of us hide this activity. There's not too much that can be done to assuage those who are ashamed other than to make clear that you are not alone in that practice or desire.

Even with a healthy attitude towards masturbation, most people consider it sloppy seconds. Something to be done only when you are single or when you are so desperate that nothing else matters. On the flip side of that coin, partners may feel insecure about their lovemaking skills if they know you are masturbating. It really doesn't have to be this way. Communication can work miracles and well, masturbation is basically what you make of it. It can be a rote series of maneuvers or an exploration in sensuality. Whether you have a partner or not, masturbation is a healthy means of sexual expression.

TESTOSTERONE TRANSMUTATIONS

Before we get started there are some things you should know. Both the clitoris (androgenized or not) and the penis contain two corpora cavernosa composed of erectile tissue[5]. Just as with a penis, the corpora cavernosa engorges with blood when sexually stimulated. One of the earliest effects noted as a result of testosterone usage is the enlargement of the clitoris[6] (in this case also commonly referred to as a microphallus, neophallus, androgenized clitoris, etc.). Since I'm not going to be able to please everyone, I'm just going to use "ac" for androgenized clitoris. As length and/or girth increases, the size of the corpus cavernosa concomitantly increases. The most notable changes occur during the first year. Lengths have been reported between 1 to 3 inches[7].

The introduction of testosterone not only alters physiobiology, but it can affect sexual appetite as well. Some individuals have reported an increase in libido shortly after a

shot and a significant decrease within a few days (2-3) days before their next shot. Decreased libido can be accompanied by less intense orgasms or requiring more manipulation to achieve one. However, for the purposes of this article the goal of masturbation is pleasure, not orgasm. Orgasm is the cream cheese icing on the carrot cake.

Everyone who masturbates does so rather differently although the same basic techniques apply. For those of you who were masturbating prior to taking testosterone (and I hope that you were/are), the physiological changes will require you to make a series of adjustments which will continue until the AC growth reaches a plateau. For those of you not intending to use testosterone, the information set forth within this article is applicable.

METHODS

Keep in mind that performance anxiety is one of the most detrimental barriers to physical pleasure. Insistence that orgasm be achieved on each and every occasion or within a certain period of time will inevitably lead to frustration. The whole goal of this exercise is to learn what feels good to you.

Just as there are four earthly elements there are four basic modes of masturbating: manual (earth), electricity (fire), water, and suction (air). Manual manipulation is the most common. Some people enjoy a circular pattern while others squeeze their genitals, or use a pulling stroke. Some spend more time stimulating the shaft and others spend more on the glans (head). A large number of people masturbate while lying on their backs. Some masturbate on their side or their stomach. Masturbation does not have to, but may include nipple stimulation, anal and/or vaginal penetration. Whatever it happens to be, rest assured, it's been done before. If you are bored, try a dab of Icy Hot or Tiger Balm on the glans, but first make sure that you're not allergic by trying a small spot on your arm. That's guaranteed to wake you right up!

Vibrators provide more intensity because they can move faster than your hand ever could. The pros are that orgasms tend to be relatively quick and intense. The cons are vibrator dependence or frustration when it's not accessible. Also, overusage tends to result in desensitization. Electricity works much better than batteries. There's nothing worse than being on the edge and having the batteries die.

Water is a nice change of pace, but does require a little practice. Sometimes the actual bathtub faucet can be used, but more often than not it won't work too well and wastes an incredible amount of water. You can buy shower head converters or shower massagers that will allow you to direct a stream of water on the area that you wish to stimulate. Varying water temperature can result in different sensations. Again you want to be careful not

Cont'd
pg. 5

Sex . . . (cont'd from pg. 4)

to over stimulate. You may want to leave this for special occasions.

Suction is an entire topic unto itself. The penis pumps provide suction that with a bit of manipulation can result in increased sensitivity and/or orgasm. Most often it is used in conjunction with digital manipulation. The pump will be covered in the next article.

If your partner feels threatened by the fact that you are taking time to pleasure yourself, you have a number of options: let them watch, include them in the session, have the masturbation be the prelude to sex, or come up with better approach or resolution. Whatever you do, talk to your partner to find out what the real issue is. Perhaps it is something simple such as not spending enough time together or maybe they just feel left out. Take the time to figure out what works for you and determining what your partner's

needs are as well. You don't necessarily have to sacrifice one set of needs over the other. Who knows, you might find something new to try between the sheets.

[This is Part 1 of a 2-part article. Next time: Masturbation as Ritual, Products, and Resources.]

ENDNOTES

[1]. Paul, Alexandra "Horn O' Plenty - Women and masturbation: The Road to Ruin?" Euphony, August 11, 1995.

[2]. Reinisch, Ph.D., June M. The Kinsey Institute New Report on Sex. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1990, p. 95.

[3]. Allgeier, Elizabeth R. and Albert R. Sexual Interactions, (Massachusetts and Toronto: D.C. Health and Company, 1984). Tisot. "Onania, or a Treatise upon the Disorders Produced by

Masturbation."

[4]. 98% of all married partners masturbate, 72% of the husbands and 62% of the wives hide the fact that they masturbate from their partner. [Reinisch, supra, p. 95] I don't have statistics for partners who cohabitate.

[5]. Gray's Anatomy by Henry Gray, FRS (Philadelphia: Running Press, 1974) pp. 1012, 1027.

[6]. I see myself between a rock and hard place with respect to terminology. If I use the term "clitoris" it is assumed that I am being disrespectful a male or masculine identity. If I use the terms "microphallus" or "neophallus," then it is assumed that all transgendered or transsexual men want a penis. If I avoid using any terminology, the article will foster repression when its purpose is open-mindedness.

[7]. Hormones, First Edition, Sheila Kirk (1991, IFGE), p. 50.

NGLTF SPEECH

Writer's note: the following is a speech delivered during a plenary session at the 1996 National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's "Creating Change" conference. This speech was written by James Green, Shadow Morton, Cianna Stewart and Jennifer Haejin Kim. It came as a result of a call for a speak out by Lani Ka'ahumanu, a noted Bisexual activist and Transgender ally, regarding the bi- and trans-phobia blatantly exhibited during the conference. The speech was delivered by Dominique Leslie a San Francisco trans-activist, and by Gerard, reading alternating paragraphs, and Jennifer Haejin Kim read the paragraph about her own experience.]

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has proactively and powerfully emphasized that the issues of the bisexual and transgender communities are the issues of the gay and lesbian communities. We would like to acknowledge the NGLTF staff for their inclusionary efforts. And we would like to let you see who we are. Would all the bisexual, transgendered and intersexed people in the room please come forward so that we can all see you?

[About 50 people came to the front of the room below the stage and faced the audience. As we came forward we were welcomed with applause. Those of us who organized the event were surprised at how many people came forward—people we hadn't known before—and we were very moved.]

In spite of NGLTF's efforts, we have been marginalized, scapegoated and felt prejudice against us during this conference. During many of the workshop sessions and institutes, bisexual, transgendered and intersexed people have been silenced or ignored. This weekend, by other activists, bisexual men have been accused of spreading AIDS. This weekend, by other activists, transsexual people have been accused of being heterosexual assimilationists. This weekend, by other activists, bisexual women have been asked to identify themselves as lesbians or not include themselves in the group. Our queer identities have been denied, overlooked and dismissed.

In one session, a bisexually-identified transsexual man asked why the presenter did not include bisexual and transgendered people in his presentation. Rather than respond, the present thanked the transman for his question, then said, "but I just noticed some of my friends have arrived, and I think it is important for me to say hello to them." When he was challenged further, the presenter said that it was not his issue.

During a workshop on custody issues, a bisexual woman identified herself during introductions and was told that the session would not address custody issues of bisexual or transgendered people. She felt that she was

being asked to leave, so she did.

During the youth sessions, I identified myself as a Korean-American bi-dyke queer, and was told that the people of color institute had happened the day before, and we were to leave those issues at the door. When I attended the queer youth of color institute, the facilitators included only lesbian and gay when they were speaking. I felt as if I had been denied the right to be present.

In another workshop, a transsexual man of color was attempting to illustrate his experience of racism by tying it to his gender issues. He was cut off in mid-sentence and told that by bringing up his gender, he was diverting the discussion away from racism.

**This weekend, by other
activists, transsexual people
have been accused of being
heterosexual assimilationists.**

The NGLTF has been incredibly supportive throughout this conference and were generous in giving us this time to speak out. Those of you who have supported us in the past, those of you who have spoken up for us when we were not present or were unable to speak for ourselves, and those of you who have said the words "bisexual and transgendered" during this conference, we now invite you to stand up and be visible to us, as we have been visible to you.

[Nearly all the 1200 conference participants stood, cheering and applauding loudly. Only a handful of people remained seated.]

We would like all of you who are still seated to consider this challenge: The people standing around you have had the courage to acknowledge our presence in our queer community. They have come to understand that we have been named by our common enemies. We ask all of you who are seated to remember to say the words "transgendered and bisexual," to learn to understand our issues as your own, to speak our for us as we have all spoken out for you. Please show your solidarity with bisexual, transgendered and intersexed people who are fighting for the rights of all queer people, and stand with us now.

There is a meeting directly after this plenary to discuss strategies to address these issues, catalyzed by a meeting with Richard Socarides [President Clinton's liaison to the Gay and Lesbian community in his first administration]. Please join us in the Maple Room at 2pm. Thank you.

[A delegation of six Bi and Trans activists, including Yosenio Lewis, Marcus Arana and James Green, met with a very timid Richard Socarides and his associate. He had originally intended to give us one hour, but he was so intrigued by the scope and level of our discussion, and the depth of the education he was receiving from us, that he wanted to continue for another hour. We eventually had to end the meeting because the FTM workshop sessions in which we were to present were scheduled to begin. We asked for a future meeting with President Clinton. We'll see what happens!]

Genderpac & NOW Meet on Trans-Inclusion

by TGS-PFLAG

[San Francisco, CA - January 25, 1997] PURSUING RATIFICATION of a 2 year-old trans-inclusion resolution which has languished at NOW's National Board, representatives of GenderPAC and other groups made an impassioned presentation to NOW's prestigious President Conference this afternoon.

The Conference is an annual roundtable event, attended by the heads of NOW state chapters from around the country. The hour-long effort was attended by 25-30 of state presidents as well as Ms. Patricia Ireland, NOW's National President. The event was coordinated by NOW-NJ's Bear Atwood, and Terri McCorcal, GenderPAC's NOW Coordinator.

The trans-inclusion resolution was originally passed by NOW-NJ at their State Conference in 1995. It was submitted to NOW National only months later, after Menace activists succeeded in rounded up hundreds of signatures at NOW's '95 National Conference in Columbus, OH. Included among them was Ellie Smeal, NOW's first president and current head of the Feminist Majority. But the resolution bogged down and has never come to a vote.

The presentation, which opened with an overview by GenderPAC Executive Director Riki Anne Wilchins, continued with a discussion of the theory and politics of transinclusion. Strong presentations were made by Cheryl Chase, Executive Director of the Intersexed Society of North America, author/activist Susan Stryker, trans-academic and activist Jacob Hale, and local activists Katie Collins and Nicole Sharkey, among others. Hale and Stryker are also co-chairs of the National Coalition for GID Reform (NCGIDR).

Said Wilchins, "It's interesting that my own NYC chapter — the oldest and founding chapter — told me that I was a man, transexual men were also men, and as for herms, well, I don't even want to guess what they would have made of Cheryl and ISNA. I wanted to underscore that [in] policing who is a 'woman,' feminism actually hardens the barriers between the sexes instead of breaking them down. It limits what women can be or become. Transpeople are a doorway out, not just barbarians at the gender gates."

Individual presentations were followed by a spirited Q & A on the politics of inclusion. At the sessions' end, Ms. Ireland and several State Presidents encouraged activists to submit workshop proposals on transinclusion to NOW's 1997 National Conference (July 4th weekend, Memphis TN). GenderPAC's Terri McCorcal has already begun working with NOW staffers on developing appropriate topics and presenters.

Trans-inclusion continues to draw local support, as activists in Seattle NOW report the city has just become the newest chapter to (unanimously) endorse trans-inclusion. (c) 1997 InYourFace — An on-line, news-only service for gender activism.



CAMBRIDGE PASSES HISTORIC LEGISLATION

by Nancy Nangeroni

On Monday, February 24, by unanimous vote of the City Council, the City of Cambridge enacted legislation protecting freedom of gender expression and identity which is the most inclusive, comprehensive, and straight-forward of any such legislation passed anywhere. The ground breaking amendment to the city's human rights ordinance protects the right of all people to express and identify with whatever combination of masculinity and femininity suits them. It also provides for determination of sex, when required for application to same sex housing, to be made on "social and identity roles" rather than anatomy. As such, it is the first legislation to recognize that for some people, gender and social role do not follow anatomy.

The amendment was sponsored by the

Cont'd
pg. 7

IFGE Awards GIVEN AT IFGE MASCULINITIES PROGRAM by James Green

This year at the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) annual conference, Jacob Hale, Spencer Bergstedt, and I coordinated a 2+ day track on "Masculinities." We negotiated lower conference rates for this track, and instituted a more structured style of conference than Jason Cromwell and I have been doing in the past several years, offering panel sessions with a variety of speakers on the standard topics (FTM basics, body modification, tricks of the trade, relationships), and also new topics like "Dark Sides of Masculinity" and "Our History: Community Formation" and "Our Political Future: Gender Identity Disorder Reform." In addition, we brought two new awards into the Saturday night banquet program, long dominated by the IFGE preponderance of femininity. For years Jason has tried to get IFGE to institute a Lou Sullivan Award, but the IFGE powers that be (were?) never seemed interested, so Jason and the FTMCEP (FTM Conference and Educational Programs) organization took matters into their own hands, awarding to Jude Patton the first Lou Sullivan Award at last year's FTM Conference of the Americas in Seattle. This year, on the IFGE banquet stage, masculinity asserted itself with The FTM International Pride Award, given in recognition of outstanding achievement in increasing and reinforcing FTM transsexual and transgender pride, and the FTM Community Service/Outreach Award., given in recognition of outstanding contributions in education for and about FTM transsexual and transgendered people.

I had the honor of presenting the inaugural FTM

International Pride award to Mr. Loren Cameron. Mr. Cameron's classically inspired, pioneering photographs of transsexual men and women, first exhibited in 1994, led to his instant recognition as a noteworthy artist. In particular, we wish to recognize Mr. Cameron's first book, *Body Alchemy: Transsexual Portraits*, published in November, 1996, by Cleis Press, which beautifully portrays transsexual men in photographs and text with strength, grace, honesty, and—above all—FTM Pride.

I was also privileged to make the inaugural presentation of the FTM Community Service/Outreach Award. Award to Dr. Jason Cromwell. Dr. Cromwell has long been an advocate for transsexual men in Seattle, where he was one of the founding directors of the Ingersoll Gender Center, and also with IFGE, at whose conventions he has been conducting educational programs for and about FTMs since the early 1990's, providing many transsexual men across the United States with their first contact with others like themselves. Dr. Cromwell has led workshops on all aspects of FTM life and issues, and as an anthropologist, has raised the visibility of FTM people in academe, as well as educated those of us outside the academy about the historical context of our lives.

Thanks go to Alison Laing, executive director of IFGE, and to Joan Goodnight, of California Dreamin', for giving us the opportunity to make these award presentations in this venue, increasing our visibility even further within the "gender community."

Historic Legislation (cont'd from pg. 6)

Cambridge Lavender Alliance, a GLBT political action organization, and introduced by city councilor Katherine Triantafillou. To the amazement and delight of the measure's proponents, there was no opposition to the amendment at any time during the process of bringing it before the city council, to a public hearing, and then back to the city council again for the final vote. In passing the amendment, one councilor remarked "It makes you wonder why we haven't done this before now."

According to Nancy Nangeroni, author of the amendment, "This isn't about protecting some special interest group. This is about expanding the scope of everyone's personal freedom. It's no infringement on anyone else if I'm more masculine or more feminine, so there's no reason why I shouldn't have that freedom. Any woman who's been harassed because she looks too butch, and any guy who's ever been harassed because he looks too effeminate, is affected and protected by this."

The new law prohibits discrimination against any people on the basis of gender. It is the first gender-protective legislation passed in Massachusetts. It adds "gender" to the list of protected classes, including sex, race, religion, etc. It also adds the following definition of gender:

"Gender" means the actual or perceived appearance, expression, or identity of a person with respect to masculinity and femininity.

Since the Cambridge Human Rights Ordinance provides for the establishment of same sex facilities such as dormitories, the amendment also adds the following definition of "same sex":

"Same sex" means occupying the same social and identity roles as another with respect to being male or female.

The amendment is accompanied by extensive notes which provide detailed explanation of the intent and guidelines for its interpretation and implementation.

NOTES ON THE AMENDMENT TO THE CAMBRIDGE HUMAN RIGHTS ORDINANCE

1) There is no significance to the proposed location of "gender" between "sexual orientation" and "marital status". Any other position within the same list of protected classes would work as well.

2) The definition of gender is intended to provide protection from and recourse against harassment of any individual because they are perceived by others as not sufficiently masculine or feminine, or too much of that which is expected to be opposite to their nature. It is intended to establish and protect the right of all individuals to behave as "masculine" or "feminine" without predisposition or censure because of their particular physiology.

3) The definition of "same sex" is provided as guidance for situations where a person's gender

appears in conflict with their physiology, calling into question their actual "sex". Culturally, we tend to determine a person's "sex" by inspection of their gender. However, we are learning that there are significant numbers of persons whose gender is at apparent odds with their physiology. Since we have until now defined sex by physiology, but determined sex by gender, a conflict exists which demands redress. Furthermore, as some persons exercise greater variation of gender expression, there arises greater difficulty in applying conventional standards as a guide to determine if a person is man or woman. Yet there remain those desirous of segregation by sex for the purposes of housing and education, who need a sound basis for determination of a person's inclusion or exclusion.

Thus a means for determining "same sex" is needed. It should provide for the winnowing out of pretenders or others who would take hurtful advantage, while providing for the inclusion of those whose admission brings no harm to others, and who would be themselves harmed by exclusion.

There are significant numbers of persons whose physiology is opposite to what one would expect for their gender. We need to provide reasonable conditions for their inclusion in "same sex" categorizing in order to avoid their hurtful and inappropriate exclusion. Such persons include the transsexual who has not obtained (and may not intend to obtain) genital surgery. Also included is the intersexual, a person born of mixed male/female physiology, whose identity is often at odds with their apparent sexual polarity or that imposed on them by well-meaning doctors and parents.

The offered definition of "same sex" provides two tests of a person's "sex" for use as an admission test for housing, schools and programs.

The first test is social role. If a person generally and with reasonably consistency relates to others as a member of the "same sex" to which they desire admission, they should be regarded as such. However, it should be noted that relating "as a man" or "as a woman" is subject to a wide range of interpretations, and there is at this time a growing social movement to eschew or confuse such categorization. It is not the intent of this writing to in any way contribute to the exclusion of persons who blur their apparent male/femaleness. However, this writing does intend to protect the right to exclude from same sex categorization for the purposes expressed in the commission document a person who currently appears sometimes as a man and sometimes as a woman. At the same time, a person's past appearance should not be used as a basis for exclusion.

The second test, identity role, allows for the buttressing of a person's claim to be "same sex" by virtue of their professed identity. A woman may appear as manlike as she wish, however, if in

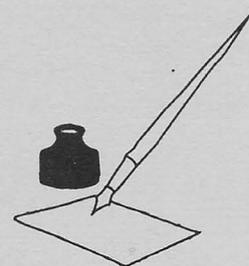
her mind she is clearly a woman, she should be allowed admission to women's "same sex" facilities. Thus the test of identity allows for changing expression of gender, including transgression of an established norm.

Should this same person feel herself—himself, in this case—to be, in fact, a man, then admission to men's "same sex" facilities would be more appropriate. Likewise, a man may appear as feminine as he wishes, without giving up his claim on manhood, but one who identifies as a woman and interacts as such, may not be categorized as a man despite physical characteristics which would appear to contradict.

The intent of this definition of "same sex" is to protect those transsexuals, intersexuals, and others who do not "pass", that is, they are regularly perceived as opposite to their self-image and identity. For example, a person born with a penis but identifying as a woman may be possessed of an appearance which is "unmistakably male", such as coarse facial features, facial and body hair, broad shoulders, deep voice, narrow hips, etc. When such a person identifies as a woman, and makes obvious attempts to be perceived as such, however ineffective, it is generally hurtful to categorize such a person as other than a woman, whereas categorizing this person as a woman does not in and of itself hurt others. Rather than traumatize the individual by exclusion, it is intended that we honor their obvious visible attempts to be womanly, and their self-identity as a woman, despite our expectations of how a woman should appear. The same is true for the similar but opposite case of a person born with female genitals but identifying as and making an obvious effort to be perceived as a man. We should regard such people for all intents and purposes as men. This approach is recognized and supported by leading medical and psychological experts in the gender field.

4) It is implied by this proposal that the gender appearance, identity, or expression of any individual should by itself warrant no presumption of unhealthy deviance, guilt or malfeasance whatsoever.

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A New Man's Meanderings

THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES MAKE THE MAN

by Marcus de María Arana

It's fascinating to me how people treat me differently as Marcus than they did as Mary. I'm amazed, although not surprised, at the existence of Male Privilege. I had thought that, as a transsexual man, I wouldn't receive that kind of privilege. I believed that somehow folks would see through the new veneer and be able to capture the true me—the one with 25 years in the queer community as a lesbian. Actually, dyke is a better label. I never was a lesbian because I wasn't born on the isle of Lesbos. However, former presidential candidate Michael Dukakis' family is from that island, so he has more claim to the title lesbian than I do.

I first became aware of Male Privilege right after my chest surgery. I was out in public for the first time, and was still in a little shock from sensory deprivation. I had been recovering at a friend's house and hadn't left my room for over a week. I was even surprised by how good fresh air can taste, not to mention the sights and sounds of the Bay Area. I was like some feral child raised by wolves in the wild, taking his first ride in an automobile at age thirty-eight. So, there I was, sitting in a brew pub in Berkeley about to savor my first taste of life as a man.

I had walked downstairs to get a fresh mug-of-beer and was heading back up when that Male Privilege became almost tangible to me. I realized that none of the men in the pub even gave me a second glance. I was essentially invisible, or at least unnoticed. I did not stand out. I appeared to be like most of the other men in the room—jeans, T-shirt, no big deal.

At that point, I felt a rush of power pass through my body in a visible shudder. So, this was Male Privilege—the ability to walk through the world unnoticed, not a spectacle, just another regular guy. I had been a relatively buxom person, having worn a "D" cup since age ten. Yes, I was one of those fortunate(?) early bloomers, also having started my period that same year. I was accustomed to attracting attention by virtue of my large breasts. Men talked to my breast wherever I went. They were supposed to be addressing me by looking me in the eyes, but they were maintaining contact via eyes-to-nipples. I explained to one man many years ago that my nipples were blind and deaf so he was better off talking to my face.

So, there I was, no longer a "42-D." Now I was a "42 regular." No guys staring at my chests, no jokes about the cold "nippley" weather outside. Now I was a regular guy. So, this was male privilege. I was almost giddy with the joy of invisibility. Now I wouldn't have to worry about being raped, a terror I had endured upon three separate occasions. However, sometimes invisibility has its own price. Sure, I was no longer a "fuck-object" in the minds of these regular guys. I was certainly invisible in that regard. But, I began to notice a different scrutiny coming my way from these "manly men." I was being "fag-scanned." I was being observed for any telltale effeminate behaviors.

Great, I've traded the fear of being raped for the fear of being gay-bashed. I don't really care if any body reads me as gay. I am bisexual and have spent most of my life in the queer community, so I'm sure that I have queer-vibes pouring out from every pore of my body. Big deal. Yet, in all my years as a dyke, after even being gang-raped in 1974 for being a dyke, I had never felt such a real threat to my personal safety as I did in that bar after realizing how my invisibility as a transman put me at risk. I coughed, cleared my throat in my most masculine fashion, and walked away with my best John Wayne swagger (although, what could be more gay-appearing than that?). Walk like you got a pair as big as cantaloupes, I always say.

This past week gave me further insight into the paradox of Male Privilege and Invisibility—I bought my first suit. I had several tuxedos in my closet, but they were leftovers from a theater wardrobe sale, and had been made in 1929 and 1950. Not new, and definitely not tailored to fit my form. Now that my body has changed, now that my hips are slimmer, and my belly-by-Budweiser is BIGGER, I felt time was right for buying the suit I had always wanted. I was

Trans Fag Rag

by Julian Leonard

Issue One of TransFagRag is OUT!

The premiere issue of TransFagRag, the first international newsletter for gay and bi transmen is available now! The theme of Issue One is 'TransFagSex' and, in addition to articles, there are reviews, resources, a calendar, personals, and even a cartoon—22 pages of information, resources, and ways to network with fellow transfags! TFR currently has over 115 subscribers on three continents! To subscribe, send \$5/issue or \$15 a year to: C. Julian Leonard, Elessar Press, 1259 El Camino Real Suite 151, Menlo Park CA 94025. (International subscribers add \$3 per issue for postage.)

Issue Two, due in May, will be on 'Mainstreaming Into The Gay Male Community' but submissions in any genre on any topic of interest to the readership are welcome. Send submissions/requests for information to the address above, or electronically to: julian7@hooked.net.

nervous because putting on a second-hand tux had given me a boner. I was afraid that I would fall over in a swoon putting on my first suit.

At Men's Warehouse in San Rafael, the sales staff couldn't be nicer. They treated me with respect, even though I had confessed that this was my first suit purchase ever, despite being age 40ish. They picked out a great charcoal-grey pinstriped, full-cut, 2-piece suit. (full-cut is for us guys who went from being Reuben's Beauties to looking like Homer Simpson). They selected shirts and ties for me as well, and I walked out feeling like a king, or even an Emperor.

Later that week, out on Market Street waiting for the bus to take me to my job interview, I saw how people responded to my suit. It was amazing. People treated me with deference—they literally moved out of my way as I strolled down the street. Middle-aged women smiled that special "I wanna know you, Handsome Man" look as I passed by. Even the men whom I perceived to be gay suddenly took notice and smiled a more-than-friendly smile at me, a come-hither look I had never received as Mary. Wow, this is cool, I thought to myself, somewhat intoxicated with a feeling of acceptability I had never known before. I could get used to fitting in as a part of "normal" society.

As I passed by the Taco Bell, the street kids tried to solicit money from me. Now, normally they call out to me, "Hey Man, got any spare change?" If I have any, I will usually share because the truth is that over 45% of youth living on the streets are queer and questioning youth who are kicked out of home by their parents. They come to San Francisco, the "Gay Mecca" from all over the country in hopes of finding tolerance. Unfortunately, the people in the Castro, the "gay" neighborhood, can be as petty with their "not-in-my-backyard" attitudes as the rest of the world, so these young people end up at Sixth and Market, an area known for muggings, sex-work, and crack-cocaine sales. Not the nicest place to live if you're 15-years-old and on the streets. I give what I can spare.

This time I'm greeted with, "Excuse me Sir, could you please spare some money." When I heard "Sir" I looked around, expecting to find my father standing behind me. No, it was me they were addressing. It didn't matter that these youths knew me by sight; the suit had them fooled. I gave them my pocket-change and walked away somewhat dazed.

I was the same person they knew who usually wore sweats to work. I was the same working-class man, with permanent callouses from decades of carpentry and heavy labor. I was the same old hippie-leftover-from-the-sixties-freak. I was the same guy who lives paycheck-to-paycheck, barely feeding my dog and never fixing my car, which was years older than any of those panhandlers. I wasn't rich, I only looked that way in my suit.

Suddenly, I had become "other" to those youths. I had transformed from someone they felt comfortable enough to call "man" into the image they usually reserved for their parents—"Sir." Suddenly, being

Cont'd
pg. 11

What Public Opinion Can Do

by Stephen Whittle, England

[Stephen gave us permission to publish this true story.—Ed.]

Dear All,

Just so we know why we continue to fight the battles, I have included below a verbatim copy of a piece of hate mail that has been sent to at least 100 people in our neighbourhood. It refers to my house, and though much of what is said is factually incorrect, I tell you it is still incredibly frightening when it happens. The letter was not sent to us, but was brought to us by a very shocked neighbour—shocked that anyone should consider writing such a letter!

We are OK, but as I'm sure you realise we are very disturbed by this, not least because we have 4 kids to care for and protect. Do I give up work, do we move house or do we fight back, or do we just do nothing? It's Sarah who is stuck at home with the kids and an 18 year old Czech au pair, and they feel very vulnerable. Please keep us in your thoughts. All the best, Stephen

The Stockport Family Values Society
Mauldeth Rd
10th March 1997

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

It has come to my attention that we have a group of transsexuals with children, living in our community, on this very road at number twenty four. I wish to state that I have absolutely no prejudice against the gay community but it is a well documented medical fact that transsexuals are suffering from a form of schizophrenia so where is the wisdom in allowing these children to be brought up in a household boasting three transsexual women and two lesbians? One's mind can only boggle at what dubious activities that are going on, polluting these children's minds.

I certainly do not relish the thought of my children attending the same school as the offspring of this commune.

It is time to stop this moral degradation and return to decent family values where a child is brought up with one mother and one father. How many couples would raise a family in these conditions, and what effect will it have on these innocent children in later life irrespective of how much love the "parents" give?

What on earth are social services thinking of?

I know many gay couples who lead a normal decent hard-working life but transsexuals do not or cannot integrate into normal society because of the nature of their mental disease, I understand that they are obsessed with sex with men, women and even each other.

I genuinely feel sorry for these people and I know that they have to live somewhere but I know that I and many other neighbours do not want them to reside in Mauldeth Road, if you have any opinion, either for or against then please attend our meeting at: The Crown Inn, Didsbury Rd, Wednesday March 19th 7.30pm

The letter was not signed, nor an address given. We have reported it to the police - but what now?

[Many people then expressed empathy and support, urging Stephen and his family to gather their supportive neighbors and go the meeting to confront their accusers, or to send a delegate, or to go with a camera and take photos of as many people as possible and threaten them with a lawsuit. Two days after the meeting, Stephen reported on what actually happened.—Ed.]

Just to keep you all informed: The meeting that had been proposed by Stockport Family Values to condemn our household was to take place in a local pub on Wednesday night.

The publican knew nothing of the meeting and was horrified to hear of it. He proposed that it was allowed to go ahead, in order that the perpetrator be identified, and then he would sue them for using the name of the pub.

A member of the local judiciary, he also contacted the police. Sarah and I were met by 2 neighbours, who walked down to the pub with us. When we got there, there were already about 10 people who greeted us—as supporters—including the local community police officer and his wife. There were 2 other people there—who left after about 5 minutes—having muttered and pointed at us: we think it was them who sent out the letter!

Gradually over the next 20 minutes the pub filled up, and up, and up, with people in support of us. It was a wonderful feeling to see so many people turn out: colleagues from our workplaces, the publican and his friends, and many neighbours and their friends.

The local newspaper sent a reporter and photographer—we didn't ask for them, they had been sent the anonymous letter by its writer, suggesting they turn up. The police officer: Adrian Palmer, and the publi-

can: Peter Hitchin, spoke to the reporters and suggested they do a story about how many people had turned out in support, which is what they did. So we had our photos taken with all the "supporters," and the story is going in this weekend's evening paper.

Then we got everybody to introduce themselves to each other—and we had a party in the pub. A great night out was had by all, a real neighbourhood feeling was generated, and we all must thank the writer of the letter for enabling so many people to make so many friends and to have such a great time. Incidentally, about an hour into the event, a colleague of mine turned up with her whole evening class of students, whom she had rallied.

Sarah and I, along with our housemates: Jon and Alex, really would like to thank everybody for the support we have received, and I want to say that all the email was great in that it helped us a great deal in keeping our sanity during this week.

Obviously, the people who write letters like this or worse, don't go away. We will continue to fight, and if I ever find who they are I will prosecute, for at the very least attempting to incite a breach of the peace. But I was horrified to realise how few offences the perpetrator had committed.

We recognise that we live amongst friends who are supportive. It is important that we all remember not to be complacent, and that bigotry still needs fighting. There are many isolated people without that support and with no protection, it is imperative that we fight for anti-discrimination laws so that trans people can be afforded at least some sort of minimal protection.



UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Dear FTM...Please include the following information for the listing for UNDER CONSTRUCTION: We are in Southern California (LA County). We hold meetings on the third Sunday of January, April, July, and October. Other events may be arranged and will be announced in a flyer sent to those on our mailing list approximately 3 weeks in advance. Thank you very much for your continuing efforts to maintain the quality of the newsletter. I always look forward to receiving it. Best always, Jeff Shevlowitz.

Thanks for your letter and the information about UNDER CONSTRUCTION. Your article on Religion will appear in # 38, due out in August. Also many thanks for sending us the picture of Lou's panel - lest we forget...!—Marcus

**Gay, Lesbian, and Transgendered
Community Center**

**Gender Identity
Project**

208 W. 13th St., New York, NY 10011

Roz Blumenstein 212-620-7310

Video Review

BI- AND BEYOND, PART 6: AUTHENTIC by Marcy Sheiner

Starring Chance Ryder, with Jeanna Fine, Rip Stone, Candy Vegas, Paige Powers, Dave Hardman. Written and directed by Paul Norman.

"Bi- and Beyond: Part Six" definitely goes beyond the gender permutations usually presented in pornographic videos. Featuring Chance Ryder, billed as "The World's Only True Hermaphrodite," this is almost docuporn, a genre first conceived by Annie Sprinkle in her video "Linda, Les and Annie," because it alternates various sex scenes with portions of an interview with Ryder. The sex scenes—Ryder with a woman, with a man, and with two women, as well as a couple of straight male/female scenes—are extremely well done and very hot, especially when Jeanna Fine talks a literal blue streak during the action. The interview sections are another matter. While these seem to be well-intentioned and non-exploitative, Chance Ryder puts out a lot of misinformation that could be damaging to transgendered people.

Ryder presents himself as a hermaphrodite, someone born with both male and female genitalia. His explanation for this is that his mother tried to abort him but only succeeded in aborting his penis. Words fail me; I trust that Spectator readers *[sic]* are savvy enough to know this is totally ludicrous. Additionally, anyone with the briefest experience with female-to-male transsexuals will recognize the faint scars on Ryder's chest as evidence of bilateral mastectomy and reconstruction, and his genitals as the enlarged clitoris induced by testosterone. In my opinion, as well as that of several other knowledgeable viewers, Ryder appears to be a female-to-male transsexual, and not a hermaphrodite at all. Ryder has had no surgical reconstruction on his genitals, and still retains a functioning vagina. Because of this, he says he is "versatile" in that he can have sex with a man or a woman.

Oddly enough, Ryder's outrageous untruths about his condition and that of other transgendered people are completely counterbalanced by the video's sex scenes. To my knowledge this is the first time that female-to-male transsexualism has been eroticized by the porn industry.

For the first time, a small penis is presented as an object of desire and a source of erotic power. For the first time, a person with gender ambiguity is treated as sexually desirable and, in bed, as entirely normal. It's true that chicks with dicks have been seen as exotic erotic objects for some time now—but men with cunts? The porn industry has just discovered what a few adventurous women—and men—already know: that the small dicks on FTMs have great erotic potential.

Jeanna Fine, an adventurous woman if ever there was one, surely learns this in the first steamy sex scene. Ryder fingers her, she fingers him, she sucks him, and she straddles him in a fucking posi-

tion. Closeups of their genitals show his cock pretty much inside her pussy—this is a virtual lesson in how to make love to an FTM.

Finally, in the most innovative position I've seen in some time, Fine sits sideways on top of Ryder's dick, one ankle resting on her other knee, and vigorously rubs her cunt against him until she comes.

Cut back to Ryder's interview, where he's saying that his condition is the opposite of most hermaphrodites, who, he says, have functional penises rather than functional vaginas. Aside from the fact that this is totally untrue, Ryder has just contradicted the movie's premise that he is "the world's only true hermaphrodite." But you knew that was false advertising, didn't you? I mean, everyone knows that men with cunts and chicks with dicks walk unrecognized among us everywhere. Oh, you didn't know? Well, for the record, one of every 2000 babies is born intersexed, according to Cheryl Chase, Executive Director of the Intersex Society of North America. Most commonly, the delivering doctor decides, based on the size of the infant's penis, whether such a child shall be male or female.

Standard medical practice is that if the penis is less than two inches long, it is surgically removed and the child is raised female. Sometimes parents are not even told what has occurred, and frequently the children themselves are never informed.

Given these facts, the scene in *Bi and Beyond* where a porn producer (Rip Stone) tells his girlfriend he has to go out and "make a hermaphrodite" for a film because "there's no such thing as a real one," is as ridiculous as Ryder's aborted penis. On the plus side, his girlfriend (Candy Vegas) says the thought of a hermaphrodite makes her horny, something she goes on to prove in a later scene with Ryder. Meanwhile, she and her guy go at it in a terrific bathroom scene; he fucks her while she hangs over the bathtub and then on the toilet.

In the next sex scene, Ryder gets it on with a gorgeous bodybuilder type of guy whose muscles ripple as he thrusts his cock with great vigor and enthusiasm into Ryder's pussy *[sic]*. This scene is something of a historical first, making this a video for everyone—gay, straight, trans or bi. Again, there are lots of genital closeups, this time of the two cocks, one large and one small, rubbing together. At one point Ryder straddles the guy's cock, facing the camera, and we see his cock hitting the guy's balls with each downward thrust.

(By the way, this gay male sex scene—if that's what it is!—is the only time that anyone in *Bi and Beyond* wears a condom. One can't help but wonder if this is due to homophobia or transphobia—was Ryder reluctant to be fucked by a gay man without one? Or did the actor think a transgendered person was more likely to carry disease?) *[Condom use, far from signifying homophobia or trans-*

phobia, indicates a respect of self and partner. The question should be: why don't all porn actors use protection when potentially exchanging bodily fluids?—Eds.]

In the next sex scene Jeanna Fine, Rip Stone and Paige Powers do a threesome in the kitchen. While Stone fucks Powers, Fine holds her and whispers "Tell him. Go ahead, tell him you want it. Tell him you want it deep," almost as if she's instructing the younger woman in the art of talking dirty. Unfortunately, Powers is too shy to do much more than mumble and moan, but Fine picks up the slack with her gloriously filthy mouth, and her attitude toward Powers is sisterly if not downright maternal. Fine's facial expressions are so gritty and her talk so raunchy, whether she's in the center or on the periphery of a scene, that she carries everyone over the brink.

In a final threesome, Ryder, Powers and Candy Vegas get it on. The women are thrilled by Ryder's genitals, and do a great job of licking and sucking his cock. Repeated freeze-frame shots of Paige Powers' pierced tongue flicking the head of Ryder's cock further emphasizes this erotic image.

Cut back to a final interview scene with Ryder, in which he is asked if there are others like him out there. He says he's never met anyone like him.

Well, perhaps he ought to contact the Intersex Society to break through his isolation. Or maybe he'd be understandably reluctant to do so, since he is not a person who was born intersexed, but one born in a female body who later took testosterone and had a bilateral mastectomy. At a time when transfolk of all kinds, including intersexed people as well as transsexuals, are coming out of the closet and trying to educate people about their condition, Ryder's deception—and that of the filmmakers, if they're in on it—is deeply disturbing. On the other hand, sexual representation of a transgendered person is a welcome development—particularly the eroticization of small penises, something heretofore unheard of in the porn industry.

In a culture where sex education is woefully inadequate, pornography has always served, albeit as a secondary function, as an instructional tool. True, in the past its primary focus has been on male pleasure, so the subtext was always aimed at accomplishing that goal.

Women's pleasure has, of course, become more central in recent years. But just as porn provides inadvertent "lessons" in cocksucking or ideas for new positions, *Bi and Beyond* provides sex education for those interested in FTMs. While these lessons should not be taken literally—unlike Chance Ryder, most FTMs do not welcome vaginal penetration—the video does offer a pretty good idea of how to handle the genitals of an FTM. *[Hmmm....A great many FTMs we know find vaginal penetration very pleasurable and no threat to their manhood.—Eds.]*

In that respect, *Bi and Beyond* provides a great service. Unfortunately, it

Cont'd
pg. 11

Dick Rises in Print and Video

by James Green

Two new titles that might interest FTM-identified people are bringing "dick consciousness" to the general public. In video, "You Don't Know Dick: Courageous Hearts of Transsexual Men," in which six FTM men—Michael and Ted from Boston, and Stephan, Max, Loren, and me (from San Francisco) give voice to a bit of our stories, had its world premiere at the Santa Barbara Film Festival on March 13th and will be making the film and video festival rounds. And "Dick For A Day: What Would You Do If You Had One?" by Fiona Giles (Villard, 1997, \$12.95), in which 50 women imagine in print what it would be like to have a penis for just one day, has hit the bookstores.

"You Don't Know Dick" was produced by Candace Schermerhorn, now an independent producer, and Bestor Cram of Northern Light Productions in Boston. It is a 75 minute glimpse into the lives and transitional observations of six men, intercut with music, still photos, old home movies (of James around age 10), with friends, lovers, and family members also discussing their reactions to us and their fears about our transitions. One of the most amazing sequences involves Michael's kids, all adults, talking about what they lost and gained as Mom became Michael, including the heartwrenching statement from one of them who simply will not accept or forgive Michael for taking her mother away. Another sequence that I think is terrific is one juxtaposing Michael's attraction to men with Max's to women. Well-edited, with a pace that keeps the audience interested, "You Don't Know Dick" treats gender and sexuality in an open and frank manner, and is clearly respectful of FTM lives. Watch for it at your local film festival, especially any Gay and Lesbian festivals—often still the only venues that take trans content seriously.

And next time you're at the bookstore, take a look at "Dick For A Day." While there are some unique and challenging interpretations of gender as played out through the possession of a penis—even temporary possession, many of the contributors simply reinforce the notion of penis=man=privilege=oppressor. Pat Califia's contribution is a revealing and educational meditation on male sociology and gay S/M. There is some other good writing in the book, but mostly it's a paean to the presumed moral superiority of women—not too helpful for ending the "battle of the sexes." Worth a look, though, to see what we must overcome if we are to eventually reach even an uneasy peace.

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Video Review (cont'd from pg. 10)

is somewhat compromised by Chance Ryder's deception and the misinformation he spouts in his interview. Still, this is a real breakthrough in porn, one that will hopefully encourage others to see there's an audience for this genre, and to make more honest and informative videos.

A New Man (cont'd from pg. 8)

regular didn't feel so good. Suddenly, I felt stodgy and middle-aged, privileged and status quo. I was the image of the very people I had fought against all my life: White, privileged America. I was aghast at that self-image. I had never known what it was to be acceptable, and now that I'd found it I wanted to run away from it as quickly as I could. I couldn't stand the thought of being "normal."

Then, one of the older street people looked at me and said in Spanish, "Hey, aren't you that dude who usually wears sweats to work? What happened to you, Man? Did somebody die and leave you his suit? Did you win the lotto or something? Hey, you got any spare change? "Thank God," I thought to myself as I handed him a dollar, "at least somebody recognizes me." He had seen through the Emperor's New Clothes to see the truly naked man inside...And I liked what he saw.

CORRECTION We received a copy of FTM and it's very impressive. I appreciate very much having a "say" in it. I note an important statistic was left out of the article. Two lines above the page #5 it should read "1 in 4 FTM individuals have PCOS." If possible a correction should be made as this is an important medical circumstance for many FTMs to be made aware of. — Sheila Kirk, M.D.

It's the PACKY! & the NEW Pack-n-Play

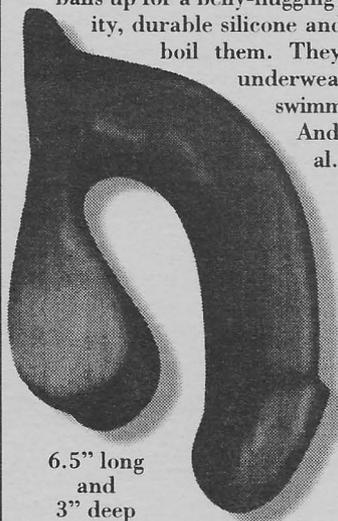
The Packy and the Pack-n-Play are high-quality pants stuffers developed by and for FTMs in association with Vixen Creations, manufacturers of premium adult sex toys. The Packy is a small one-piece "flaccid" penis, and the Pack-n-play is a larger "working" model which hangs down, but can be held straight out or turned

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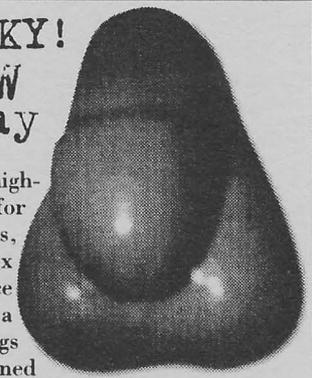
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Intersex Issues DO Relate to Trans Issues by James Green

Dr. Joycelyn Elders, who has ignored letters and telephone messages from ISNA, was questioned at a recent public appearance by Angela Moreno of ISNA. (See http://www.rftstl.com/features/fifth_sex.html for an interview with her.) Here is Moreno's account of their exchange, courtesy of AEGIS NEWS.

"At the end of January, I went to see Joycelyn Elders give a lecture at nearby Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville. I decided to attend when I saw the announcement in a local newspaper and noticed that she is a pediatric endocrinologist—just like those doctors who diagnosed me with PAIS [partial androgen insensitivity, which caused her clitoris to grow at puberty] at age 12, lied to me, and referred me to a Chicago children's hospital for clitoral recession [surgery which removes most of the clitoris, and severely damaged Angela's sexual function].

"Dr. Elders had caught my attention in the past because of her frank discussion of controversial issues, especially those surrounding sexuality and reproductive rights. When I became aware of her subspecialty, I was simultaneously nauseous and hopeful. Nauseous because I can't shake the association I have with those words—"pediatric endocrinologist." Hopeful because I thought surely Elders must be different. That was why I wrote to ISNA members asking what, if anything, Elders had said publicly or written about intersex. I was disappointed to learn that she has made some really cavalier statements in the press about her ability to make "pretty good" girls out of intersexed children. That helped prepare me...

"In the q&a session following her lecture, I asked: "Doctor Elders, in light of your well-noted concern for healthy sexual development, I'm hoping you can address some of my concerns regarding the prevailing paradigm for treatment of intersexed infants and children (insert serious murmur from the audience here). As you well know, the current medical literature insists that intersexed children be assigned either male or female and then have their bodies brought into line with that assignment with genital surgery and/or hormone therapy. It is my experience and the experience of other intersexual adults I'm in contact with through the Intersex Society of North America which informs my recommendation that such treatments are, in fact, detrimental to healthy development and are often profoundly damaging to sexual function. Can you speak to these concerns?"

"I wish I'd remembered to take my little tape recorder because I can't remember exactly how she answered me. But I remember feeling as though I'd been slapped in the face. She acknowledged that she has been involved in "treating" intersexed children for as long as she's been in practice—35 years. She admitted that "they" might have made some mistakes in the past, but that now "we" are very good at determining the true sex of the child. She started some discourse about how there are very few true hermaphrodites in the world. The rest are pseudohermaphrodites whose sex can be easily determined.

"At that point, I tried to follow up, saying "I believe the distinction between true and pseudo hermaphrodites to be academic at best. That is, those diagnosed with true and pseudo hermaphroditism generally experience treatment from the medical world in strikingly similar ways. (What I was trying to say was "Look, having your genitals cut off is having your genitals cut off!"—imagine the audience murmur if I had.) Second, I really want to hear what you have to say about the charge that many of us experience early genital surgery as mutilating?"

"Her answer to my true/pseudo observation was simply "No, it's not just academic." And then she proceeded to repeat herself from before, as if perhaps I hadn't understood her the first time. She said nothing about the possibility that non-consensual genital surgery might be harmful. Essentially, the whole experience made me feel 12 years old all over again. She just didn't care what I had to say. My existence was incidental, secondary to my "condition." She just quoted textbooks and journal articles to me—and didn't hear a word I had to say. —Angela Moreno"

In other news, the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Time Magazine*, and *Newsweek*, all have carried the story (during March, 1997) of the boy who was raised as a girl. Apparently during a routine circumcision, his penis was damaged, so doctors determined that the boy would not be able to live a satisfactory life as a man and decided to finish the job. They removed his penis and scrotum, and created a vagina, and instructed his parents to give him girl's toys and raise "her" as a girl, thinking this would be sufficient to change "her" gender identity.

Apparently they didn't ask any transsexual people about gender identity or they might have surmised that simply telling someone what they are supposed to be is not going to work if that is not who they are! When the "girl" reached puberty, estrogen therapy was initiated to stimulate breast growth. Nevertheless, the boy always knew he was male and at 14 declared that he would rather die than live as a girl. Then his parents confessed that he had been born a boy and he was allowed to live the rest of his life as a boy who has now grown in to a man, though he has had to be treated as an FTM transsexual. Though this is an extreme case, and surely the initial surgical accident was unfortunate, the social parallels between this man's childhood experience and that of many other FTMs is very strong. It is too bad that our own "intersex" condition is not so visible, and we have to fight so hard to be recognized as who we know ourselves to be.

Gender Blending

A new book called GENDER BLENDING (not a reprint of my 1989 book of the same name) has just been published by Prometheus. It's a series of articles based on the 1st International Congress on Cross-Dressing, Gender, and Sex Issues. It is edited by Bonnie Bullough, Vern Bullough, & James Elias who organized the conference. There are articles by a lot of very good people in this volume. Watch for it.

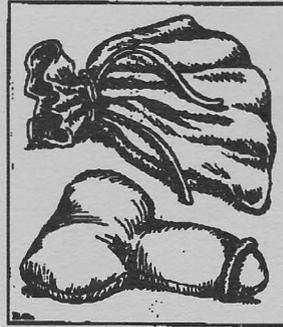
However, please be aware that the chapter by Holly Devor starting on page 87 in section 2 was incorrectly titled by the publishers. The correct title should read: "More Than Manly Women: How Female-to-Male Transsexuals Reject Lesbian Identities." I apologize on behalf of the publisher and editors for the error. I didn't have the opportunity to check the material before it went to the printer. Please pass this correction notice to anyone who might have reason to read the article. The incorrect title is a serious error and needs to be corrected. Please correct any copies in your possession. Thank you.

Holly Devor, Ph.D. Associate Professor Sociology Department
University of Victoria Box 3050 Victoria, BC Canada V8W 3P5

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Dear F to M:

Dear James,

Firstly may I congratulate you on your very professional newsletter, which I read on visits to my FTM brothers.

However, I found your article "New Men on the Horizon," issue # 33, very offensive. There are many women in the UK and USA who, like me, have given support to quite a number of FTMs over the years. There are enough nasty people in the world. We MTFs don't need to be kicked in the teeth by you.

Your statement "the majority of transsexual women cannot and will not pass" is an indictment of where we've come to as a community! In reality it's 50/50. Some MTFs will never pass (I assume you mean pass off as women), also some FTMs will never "pass," but I don't set myself up as judge, jury, and executioner. Who are we to knock each other?

I was a patient at Charing Cross in London many years ago. My psychiatrist [was] the very famous John Randall. Most of his patients hated him, but he was there to evaluate people and save them from themselves. Unfortunately, since his death, Private Medicine has taken over. I know many people who have lied [and] cheated to obtain surgery. Here, if you pay, you can obtain surgery within weeks.

I assume these are the women [to] whom you refer. Most of us who were thrown out by our parents in our teens had no other option but to play by the rules. We changed over, and didn't just pass, but made successes of our lives. But we haven't forgotten how hard it was, and still support FTMs and MTFs regardless.

Quite honestly, James, if you think back to when you thought you were the only one, I'm sure it was the stories of our predecessors in tabloid papers that gave you hope, most being MTF. And I'm sure for most, their first contact with any TSs were MTFs. I am not defending the undefendable, as I know not everyone who has a vaginoplasty [has made] the right choice. I wouldn't knock them. When SHAFT was first set up, it mostly was MTF; we held each other's hands and supported each other.

I know how you feel: a lot of FTMs (not all) dislike MTFs. If that is the case, and you guys feel like Miss Raymond and her "empire," that's sad. Our differences broke up SHAFT and later G.D.T.I. [Gender Dysphoria Trust?] It's because a lot of MTFs go to ground after surgery and lose contact. Most organizations who support TSs in this country couldn't tell you how many post-ops there are, and can only guess at 10,000.

As you know we can't change our birth certificates in this country, but one piece of paper won't change anything. If MTFs and FTMs can't get on and accept each other, then how can we expect others to. We have to accept some are straight, some gay, and some bi-sexual, and fight together against oppression and hatred. From what I've read about Brandon Teena, Christian Paige and Channel Pickett, some of our own who have been murdered, it's an uphill struggle.

We don't know how many, if any, TSs have been murdered in this country as it appears government [restricts?] reports mentioning if there were an element of gender identity involved in any murders.

Most so-called "normal" people will never accept us even if you look like Richard Gere and I like Julia Roberts. (I actually look like Darryl Hannah!). If I'm wrong and any of you guys would like to drop me a line, I would be pleased to write to you, but I doubt if you will even print this letter.

Best wishes anyway,
Lynne
Manchester, England

[If anyone wishes to write to Lynne, contact FTM Int'l for her address, which we will keep on file—Ed.]

For most minorities, trying to "pass" is a one-way path to self-hate and shame.

James responds: Lynne, I'm sorry you were offended by the piece Riki Anne Wilchins and I wrote. We did intend to raise some painful issues, but for the most part the feedback we've received on the piece has been positive, from both MTFs and FTMs. The article was originally developed by Ms. Wilchins, an MTF herself, and the sentence that raised your ire was actually hers. I count many MTF sisters among my dearest friends, and have long advocated unity among us all, especially when it comes to issues of civil rights. What we were talking about in the piece you object to is the lesson that (some) transmen have to teach (some) transwomen: the standard "normal" body ideal does not define us, and our failure to "live up" to that standard does not diminish us as men (or as women—if that's who we are). In this piece, Riki (as an MTF) is owning the complaint that transwomen have been more con-

cerned about how they look—about looking "normal" and feminine—than about issues of self-acceptance and civil rights. Riki notes that transmen are saying that "non-transsexual men are not the sole owners and regulators of maleness and masculinity." By extension, the implication for transwomen is that femaleness and femininity "do not occur solely on or within non-transsexual bodies, are not defined by the characteristics of non-transsexual bodies, and are not the province of non-transsexuals to adjudicate and police." Riki finds important implications for MTFs in these statements. While we collaborated on this entire piece, the last paragraph of the article is mine: I call for a true dialog between transpeople (MTFs and FTMs), and I call for transmen to step up to the table and take their place alongside the courageous MTFs who have taken so much of the social abuse as our civil rights issues have been raised in public. I believe this is a far cry from the "kick in the teeth" you felt when you read the admittedly difficult statement about passing. But if we don't raise these issues and get them out in the open, we will never get beyond them. Thanks for writing, and thanks for your compliments for the FTM Newsletter, and for your continued support for all transpeople. We ARE on the same side here.

Riki responds: Actually, I think the fact that anyone still *cares* if we pass or not is the true indictment of our community. For most minorities, trying to "pass" is a one-way path to self-hate and shame. In any case, I was just stating a fact: anyone who's around most transsexual women for a length of time — say, at work — is going to know, or at least suspect. I don't consider this is a "knock" on *anyone*. Being recognized (*not* "read") as a transperson is just fine! I remember someone said to me at work: "You sound like a man," and I replied: "No I don't, I sound just *exactly* and precisely like a transsexual woman. I know that I do because that's what I am and this is what I sound like."

Sam, in Germany, responds to James's comments on the term "transgender" (from issue #36):

I'd prefer transgendered to become an all-including term.

For me, everybody who is exhibiting attitudes, physiological features (chromosomes, anatomical peculiarities, hormone levels) or communication preferences which are not in alignment with his gender as assigned by the birth sex is transgendered. Most likely he will have to face a certain degree of harassment, prejudice and discrimination in our society - regardless of his self-identification.

The important goal of us all should be to work for a society where these social preferences and of course the anatomy of all these individuals is respected and protected.

However I know about the use as sub-category (transgenderist). In my experience ftm's put this term often on those they don't understand, indicating that they were less male, less transsexual than themselves.

This may be due to emphasizing human rights over personal unhappiness with the body, a gay or straight sexual orientation or even the choice of non-traditional male profession.

I think this habit is destructive and doesn't serve the community. While presenting liberal as extending and broadening the categories towards a continuum, it in fact buys into the binary system some shrinks and parts of the medical community favour and which has done already too much harm.

This is because the conclusion will be that they will separate the true transsexuals, who do need treatment from the merrily transgendered (who have to be content with their assigned birth gender) who don't. Who belongs to which category won't be decided by those affected by this standard. We will end up with lots of differently privileged subcategories.

Over here in Germany medical insurances have started to argue that even to be transsexual is not a full justification for free treatment: One has to prove to some specialist that one is actually really suffering due to this condition. —Sam

Dear FTM:

I'm a transgendered individual, pre-op, under hormone (androgen patch) treatment, and at the present time believe that Gender Dysphoria diagnosis should not be changed. I believe that it does, at present, avail to people in our "predicament" an avenue of protection and/or of care to the ultimate goal, in my case physical as well as continued mental establishment of the male persona [sic]. To date, no other diagnosis, formal or informal, is in place as an alternative. Additionally, until such time when a workable alternative can be used and is effective, should we actively pursue to get rid of that which at least works somewhat? Removing the Gender Dysphoria Disorder criteria and terminology from the DSM-IV may be likened to cutting off one's nose to remove a pimple.

I would also like to enquire as to the date that ECT (electro-convulsive therapy) was used on transgendered individuals. If it was prior to the 1970s, ECT was used to "cure" (experimentally) almost all illnesses alleged to be mental. Today, ECT is much less, specifically, it is used for individuals who are deeply depressed and have not responded to medication - as a last resort. It is also used in some cases of persons who have schizophrenia; again as a last resort, when medication isn't working. In both illnesses, patients are aware and must personally approve of the treatment (to my knowledge). As to chemical or drug therapy, I have not heard of any therapies done recently. If you know of such treatments, please be specific, as I would genuinely like to know. I'm also interested in the "incarceration" of individuals, child or adult, into mental institutions. Since the de-institutionalization act of the 1970s (?), I would also like to know specifically the dates of these institutionalizations. To date, even persons who are schizophrenic, unless found to be criminally psychotic, are able to walk the street in complete freedom.

In reference to the placement of the subheading of Gender Identity Disorder (GID) prior to the Paraphillias subheading, I have a response to this. I have written to the American Psychiatric Association (APA) as to the reasoning behind the placement to get the official word. Please do note however that GID is not included within the same subheading as Paraphillias as your article suggests, but is in fact its own subheading under the main heading of Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders, just as Sexual Dysfunctions is also the is also a subheading under the main heading. People, under Sexual Dysfunctions, I'm sure would not like to be identified with people who are necrophiliacs (severe side of paraphilia; the sexual infatuation of dead persons, including intercourse with a corpse) or perhaps would like to be associated with those in the Macintosh Society (persons who have a literal love {sexual} for rubber things {usually more involved than dildo usage} which is relatively harmless albeit a bit kinky - again, consenting, informed adults engage in these activities. Please also note that necrophilia is illegal, whereas the active participation in the Macintosh Society is not).

As far as the diagnosis criteria (page 537 of the DSM-IV) for GID, I believe that the APA should specify that the first criteria should be categorical with all cases of GID; this would separate the gays (sic) and lesbian persons from persons who are GID. It reads as follows: "...repeatedly stated desire to be, or insistence that he or she is the other sex." All individuals who I've met, so far, who are or claim to be gay or lesbian say that they are happy and/or proud to be the sex they are assigned and would not want to change and never had the inclination to change.

On a new note, I would like to request any individuals who have gone through the FTM journey and have kept a journal of their thoughts and experiences, and/or you are going through that journey now and keep a diary of such information to please write to me at:

Lyn Kinder, [REDACTED] Summerfield, FL 34491-6635

I'm keeping a journal as well and am interested in other FTM experiences. I would like to eventually do a summation of "all our FTM's works" for general publication, of course with people's permission. Currently, there is a myriad of works by MTFs, and although informative, it ain't quite the same thing, getting to know the feminine side of me isn't my goal. I've tried that for 40 years and discovered I'm not a woman. Also I'm pursuing a Master's degree in psychology and social work, eventually to become a licensed social worker who will work to

a better treatment journey and outcome of FTMs and/or MTFs, and very possibly help to create an alternative to the DSM-IV's GID. Sincerely yours, Lynn Kinder

(Marcus responds) Thank you for your response to my short piece on GID. If you are truly interested in the facts, I urge you to contact the National Center For Lesbian Rights, in San Francisco. They are keeping watch around the ABUSE of GID, not its intended usage. Daphne Smolinski testified to the United Nations about her incarceration and "treatment" for more than four years as a youth. I never said that GID was under the same subheading as Paraphillias. I said it was wedged in the same heading as paraphillias - just as the Library of Congress still shelves the books on homosexuality between prostitution and incest. Does homosexuality have any connection to those subjects? No. Does Gender Identity Disorder have anything in common with bestiality or necrophilia? I think not. My gender identity is not a disorder. It is not a psychological pathology. I believe it is a MEDICAL condition, and not a "predicament." I want GID removed and a medical diagnosis put in its place. The truth is that minors are being incarcerated regularly for GID because they are gender transgressors, whether they are gay, lesbian, transgendered, or heterosexually-identified. If ten people receive hormones and surgery at the expense of one youth's incarceration, then it is a cruel diagnosis that is mostly utilized by homophobic parents who are supported by unethical therapists. What do other people think?

Dear FTM:

In reply to 'Thaniel's request for information - Try K-Y Jelly® for shaving (if you have sensitive skin). K-Y washes off easily, is water based and non-irritating. Generic brands are sold in major drug store chain and are good quality. It is also non-comedogenic and won't block pores or cause acne. Another item to try is baby oil. Even though this is non-irritating, the oil doesn't wash off easily. An all natural version is to mash the flesh of a ripe avocado. The drawback is that it can't be pre-mashed in quantity, but prepared just prior to use. A warm shower before a shave will reduce the skin irritation. Put a mirror in the shower and shave at the

end of your shower. This allows easy wash-off of any messy or oily substance. To keep the mirror from fogging, apply a good car paste wax and buff to a shine.

To help the skin from the inside, take a daily vitamin supplement. Beta carotene, E, C, and B-complex are good. Zinc is very, very good for acne. Zinc also promotes healing, which helps speed up the healing of acne or rashes resulting from shaving. Don't use harsh soaps

for face-washing. Dove is non-drying. Zit (pimple) lotions are too harsh for your skin if you're not a teenager. Even though you may be going through a second puberty, your skin is that of a thirty-year-old, or whatever your age is. Regular shaving will irritate a bit if you're prone to acne. Try to skip a day in between shaves. Signed, A Friendly Med Student

Dear FTM:

My name is Ian and I'm a 31-year-old pre-op FTM. I've been on hormones a little over 2 years. A few weeks ago, when my endocrinologist received my routine blood work results, he told me there was a problem with my red blood cell count, which was so high that I was in danger of having a stroke or heart attack. He stated this was a condition called Polycythemia, a rare side-effect of testosterone, and told me that I couldn't do my hormone shot until this condition was under control, and the way to control it was to give a pint of blood once/twice-a-week monitoring my blood level each time. Although my red blood cell count goes down after giving blood, it does rise again, even though I haven't taken my hormones for several weeks now. I've talked to my FTM friends, but none have experienced this problem. In my own research I have found that Polycythemia is genetically-linked to those of African-American descent, which I do have in my family history. My doctor didn't mention this to me, perhaps because he didn't know, or because I don't "appear" black, as my heritage is very mixed. Because I've not been able to take hormones for several weeks, I've experienced the beginning of a menstrual cycle again, which has been extremely emotionally upsetting to me. I've also noticed a change in my muscle tone as well as a loss of weight, probably due to lose of muscle. I'm very afraid that I won't be able to continue with hormone therapy because of this problem. If anyone has any info for me, or experience with this problem, please contact me: Ian Kilfoil, [REDACTED] Oak Street, [REDACTED], Syracuse, NY 13203, [REDACTED]

MORE MALEBOX

Dear Marcus, Jed, Brynn, Stafford, Shadow, et al.,

Congratulations on the streamlined new look of the newsletter. I've really enjoyed some of the recent articles, especially Brynn's in the Fall 1996 issue, the article on polycystic ovarian syndrome and Marcus's musings on cocks in the last one. My take on dicks is a bit different. For me, it IS about a cock, and what I want a cock for is what most men want it for, to give and receive sexual pleasure—in my case, being bi, with both male and female partners. I respect the entire range of views on the subject, from 'doesn't matter if I ever have one' to 'my life is living hell without it.' I just get tired of seeing FTMs who do want dicks put down for being 'phallocentric,' or told that 'the cock is not a measure of a man.' I wouldn't be considered 'aurocentric' if I'd been born without ears and wanted them; a penis is part of the usual male equipment, even on barnyard animals, so why shouldn't I feel bad without one? And, while I'm one of those who would happily tell a surgeon 'SuperSize it,' I'd settle for one big enough and hard enough for penetration. Furthermore, I don't equate a man's cock size with his masculinity, or feel a man with a tiny cock isn't a man. What he is is a man with a tiny cock, and if he's unhappy about that, platitudes aren't going to help.

I also was very happy to see Shadow's column (though I wasn't sure at first if Queer actually meant gay/bi FTMs, since many transfolk consider us all Queer as a generic term.) I would like to add some insights of my own, however. First, as part of the San Francisco group, I never felt ANY homophobia from anyone at the meetings. Maybe I was missing something, but I was always open about being a transfag and always treated very well by all the guys. I know that other gay FTMs did not feel that way—as long ago as summer '95 I heard rumblings of discontent, and even suggested a spinoff group for transfags only—not to be separatist, since as I say I never felt personally slighted, but since the alternative seemed to be that many of the transfags I viewed as mentors were skipping coming to meetings and I missed their presence. I understand Russ Hilken is interested in starting the gay/bi small group James mentioned in his article, and think it's a great idea.

Second, while I also heard of some folks who experienced homophobia at the '95 SF Conference, I personally did not. I spent most of my time in the company of transfags I knew already and met a bunch more, and had a fabulous time. The SM play party was practically old home week of transfags. While I heard some lack of knowledge that there were gay FTMs at some of the workshops, I never heard anything I interpreted to mean that we didn't belong. I would have liked to see a workshop just for us (and have suggested it both to Gary Bowen re: the next True Spirit, and to Mykael Hawley of the Boston committee. Gary has sent out a request for a gay liaison to increase gay/bi FTM-related programming for the next TS, and Mykael says there are already transfag-related workshops scheduled.) I

even showed up as a transfag drag queen on the last day of the SF Conference, and while some guys were initially surprised (OK, some were amazed!) I got nothing but positive reactions (including being felt up by one straight FTM—you remember who you are!) My understanding is Seattle was a very gay/bi friendly affair, with Jake Hale aka Miss Angelika continuing the tradition of transfagdrags. There will be transfags including myself at the "Masculinities" program of IFGE's California Unity Conference in LA next month and I encourage West Coast guys to be there (and see some more fab drag from Angie and me and other FTM DQs!)

Yes, we gay/bi guys have often been invisible in the past, including in the newsletter founded by Lou, a gay FTM. However, that has been steadily changing. In the fall of '95 I ran a Transfags mailing list with around 90 subscribers. I had to discontinue it due to my health, but Matt Rice Blakk has been running a list now since last December—thank you Matt, lists are a lot of work!—and I encourage guys to join Trannyfags@aol.com (you do not have to be on AOL to join the list.) Jerry Kellen McCracken and I are hoping soon to start a leather/SM list for trans people, possibly to be called TransCuir, which should be of interest to the many gay/bi FTMs who are into BDSM. There are quite a few web pages of interest to gay/bi FTMs, including the transfags page put up by Adrian Dee, Mike Hernandez' page, and Kel will be helping me put up a TransFagRag page to be linked to the FTM International site.

I also got a lot of support, emotional and financial, from guys, FTM and genetic, and supportive MTFs as well, all over the country and in the UK over the long time it took me to get the first issue of TransFagRag out the door, and as of last week we were approaching 120 subscribers, nearly all gay/bi FTMs. The first issue had great articles by transfags, a genetic gay guy, and an MTF transfaghag. Issue 2 is going to be on 'Mainstreaming Into The Gay Community' and promises to be even bigger and better, thanks to guys who have submitted articles or ideas already, including offering to write continuing columns. There is a personal ad section, and a free

Directory of all subscribers who want to be listed will be sent with Issue Two to facilitate networking. I'm also writing an article about transfags for TNT, and will be editing a Transfags/Transdykes issue of Chrysalis in 1998. My book project on transfags is on hold but definitely is still a go and submissions are welcome to it, to the Chrysalis issue, and to the Rag.

So the days of silence and invisibility for gay/bi FTMs are over. We already have many, many allies among straight FTMs and among MTFs. We're here, there are a lot of us, and if any FTM has a problem with that they're just going to have to get over themselves. I don't believe in pleading for 'tolerance.' I believe in taking our space, without hostility but without apology. I hope to see more and more gay and bi guys getting involved with the projects already in existence, starting up more, speaking up in their home support groups, participating in studies, challenging researchers, treatment providers, and media folks who marginalize or ignore us, and making the genetic gay boys realize we're here and are going to take our space among them too. Thanks again for your efforts on the FTM Newsletter and keep up the good work! —Julian

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FTM RESOURCES

UNITED STATES

California- *FTM International*, 1360 Mission St., Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94103 phone: 415-553-5987 email: info@ftm-intl.org
Under Construction, P.O. Box 922342, Sylmar, CA 91392-2342. Contact: Jeff Shevlowitz

Genderqueer Boyzzz, Los Angeles area. Contact: Jacob Hale 213-665-1130. email: zeroboycjh@aol.com

Florida- *Eden Society*, P.O. Box 203, Deerfield Beach, FL 33443-0203 Contact: Lee (305) 247-6254 Nature/Services: Open transgender support group. Newsletter: EdeNews.

Massachusetts- *East Coast Female-to-Male Group*, P.O. Box 60585, Florence Station, Northampton, MA 01060. Phone 413-584-7616, Bet Power. Nature/Services: support group for female-to-male persons and their significant others. *Boston Enterprise*, P.O. Box 193, Bellingham, MA 02019. Phone 617-639-7968, Mike. Nature/Services: weekly support group for FTMs; monthly social events open to all. *The Officer's Club*, c/o IFGE, P.O. Box 229, Waltham, MA 02254-0229. Phone 617-899-2212. Nature/Services: an FTM support group which meets at 7 pm on the first and third Monday of every month in the offices of IFGE.

Wisconsin- *Gemini Gender Group*. PO Box 44211 Milwaukee, WI 53214. Voice mail #414-297-9328. Notes: The local "professional" TG program in town is PATHWAYS, directed by Gretchen Fincke (and Roger Northway). The program offers a connection to endocrinologists, surgeons, etc. The program has separate FTM and MTF groups. The phone # for Pathways is 414-774-4111. I may start a "social" support group for FTMs in the Chicago/Milwaukee areas. There seems to be a growing # of FTMs within these 2 cities and we have special needs and concerns that aren't getting addressed.- #414-276-8877. Michael.

INTERNATIONAL

Australia- Boys Will Be Boys, BWBB, P.O. Box 5393, West End, Brisbane, Australia 4101. Nature/Services: Newsletter and network for FTM persons. Notes: Boys Will Be Boys newsletter

Belgium- Kortrijk, Genderstichting (Belgian Gender Foundation), Pluimstraat 48, Belgium B-8500

France- C.A.R.I.T.I.G, B.P. 17.22, 75810 Paris Cedex 17, France

Germany- TS-gruppe d., *Sontagsclub* e. U., Rhinower Str. 8, Berlin 10437

Japan- *FTM Nippon*. Contact: Masae Torai, Adachi-ku, Adachi-Nishi-post office-dome, Tokyo 123

United Kingdom- London-FTM Network, BM Network, London WC1N 3XX, England. tel: 0161 432 1915 (Wednesdays 8 pm-10:30 pm GMT or BST) Nature/Services: Support group for female-to-male persons

NOTE: Send in your meeting times! Please keep us informed about organizations, support groups, newsletters and other services which specifically cater to and/or include FTMs. There are many more resources out there than are listed here, and we'd like to know about them so we can tell you!

"MALE"IN" IT TO YA, BOY!

Use this response form to update our mailing list, let us know if you want to continue receiving FTM, or to send in a donation.

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Thanks for your continued support! 6-97

FTM MEETING SCHEDULE 1997

FTM meetings are on the 2nd Sunday of each month, from 2 to 5 p.m., in San Francisco. Call FTM Voicemail (510-287-2646) for details. Mark your calendars in advance!

Support

June 8, 1997

August 10, 1997

October 12, 1997

December 14, 1997

Informational

July 13, 1997

September 14, 1997

November 9, 1997

January 11, 1998

FTM INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

The world's most widely-circulated Newsletter for the Female-to-Male crossdresser and transsexual. Published quarterly since 1987. Send correspondence, address corrections and contributions to:

FTM, 1360 Mission St., Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94103
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Editor: Marcus de Maria Arana

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1997 FTM International, Inc. Board of Directors Election Ballot

INSTRUCTIONS: This is a special election. All subscribers to the FTM Newsletter are entitled to vote. In all subsequent elections, only dues-paying members will be eligible to vote.

VOTE for NO MORE THAN 15 (fifteen) Directors by placing a check mark (✓) over the box by the name of each candidate you select. The top 15 vote-getters will be seated on the Board of Directors. You may vote for fewer than 15, but ballots with more than 15 marks will be invalidated. The officers of the corporation (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) will be elected by the newly seated Board of Directors in July from among that group.

Fold your ballot so the unprinted side is facing out, insert it in an envelope, **write your name and return address on the envelope** (so we can verify your eligibility). **DO NOT WRITE ANY IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ON THE BALLOT.** Volunteers will verify eligibility before they open the envelope, then separate the ballot from the envelope to maintain ballot secrecy. No one will know how you voted.

RETURN YOUR BALLOT BY JUNE 30, 1997. Ballots postmarked after that date will not be counted.

Maxwell Anderson. I am an active board member of two organizations at this time: the Southeastern Regional Conference, which puts on the Southern Comfort Conference each year in Atlanta, GA., and the FTMCEP (FTM Conference and Education Project). I am also the founder of a local support group in South Florida, The Eden Society, as well as being a presenter at various conferences throughout the years. I am quite vocal in my outreach and educational efforts. I would like to serve on the FTM Int'l. board because I care deeply about the quality of our lives as FTMs. (Atlanta, GA)

Jeff Dickemann. I envision our organization as providing support to FTM transsexuals at all stages of our process, from exploration to completed new man, on local, national and eventually international levels. Through our newsletter, conferences and local chapter meetings, we can provide accurate, up-to-date medical, legal and psychological information, and shared personal experiences. Reviews of relevant publications and controversies in history, social science, fiction, and the arts, and contributions from our readers will constitute an attractive well-rounded international journal. Our local and national lobbying and educational efforts can be expanded through alliance with other transsexual and queer organizations, to improve our social and legal status, on local, national and international levels. Last but not least, we can offer social events of all kinds at which FTMs and their significant others and families can feel at home and enjoy each other's company. I believe my years of experience in bureaucratic and organizational work (academic, gay/lesbian, civil rights, etc.) qualify me to make some contribution to this goal. (Richmond, CA)

Aaron Davis. I am always interested in helping in the FtM community wherever my particular talents can be used. My personal vision has always been to educate and help other FtMs realize their potential and make informed decisions on what directions to take for the rest of their lives. I enjoy putting guys in touch with each other: networking, sharing feelings, thoughts, celebrating differences, educating each other on medical care and legal changes. I am also interested in educating the general public so that other FtMs can have a much easier time accepting themselves. I envision FTM Int'l. as a diverse organization helping those feeling lost to know that they are not alone, and actually reaching out to put them in touch with hope. (Seattle, WA)

Victor Dull. Born in Oregon and raised in a small village in Alaska, I have an MA in Cross-cultural education. I've been teaching for six years: 3 years of that in mental health dealing with the chronically ill. I am the only FTM in my area that I know of (Dillingham, AK). I would like to help people focus on more positive aspects of FTM experience. Too much focus on the negative perpetuates a self-fulfilling prophecy. I plan to share more of my experiences to demonstrate the positive.

Arthur Freeheart. I'm 39 and live in Minneapolis. I've been an activist in the bisexual, transsexual/transgender, and glbt communities for five years. My present work focus is on co-parenting 4 1/2 year old twins. Other passions include writing, philosophy, spirituality, and creating/supporting strong, alternative families. I am a post-transition/post-op transman with a lifetime commitment to FTM/MTM community. I would like to see FTM International become a truly nationwide and worldwide organization; an organization in which members nationwide and worldwide can share their unique experiences, perspectives, and skills with each other. Two things seem key to that vision becoming reality. The first is helping FTM/MTM individuals empower and advocate for themselves. People cannot feel self-confident in helping define, build, and sustain community if they're isolated in struggle. The second is channeling some of that rugged individualism we all have developed to survive into acceptance and embrace of FTM/MTM diversity. Our individualism and diversity are both invaluable strengths.

James Green. Director of FTM since 1991, former FTM Newsletter editor, currently serving as President of FTM Int'l., Inc., I am a writer with 10 years experience in corporate management (high tech industries), a gender diversity consultant to corporations, agencies and institutions, and an advocate for the rights and freedoms of transgendered people everywhere, especially men with female histories. Active in Bay Area Transgender Law Association, and a member of the San Francisco and East Bay Transgender Community Task Forces, I have served on the board of the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) and performed extensive outreach on behalf of trans people throughout the US and internationally (particularly Canada, Europe, and Japan). I see FTM Int'l. as a service organization with a mission to educate. I believe we must eradicate the shame that often accompanies being transgendered and/or transsexual and work to ensure access to quality medical care and full employment opportunities for all trans people. (Emeryville, CA)

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Jacob Hale. I am an openly ftm, queer philosophy professor at California State University, Northridge, whose academic writing is in feminist, queer, and transgender studies. So far, my community work has been in Southern California, where I founded Genderqueer Boyzzz, co-founded Transgender Menace Southern California, co-organized The Masculinities Program at IFGE/CalUnity '97, and have given talks about ftm issues and about Gender Identity Disorder reform. I hope to serve on FTM Int'l's Board to learn from others with more experience and to participate in FTM Int'l's efforts to continue becoming more international: not only in membership but also in programming, newsletter content, networking, and organizational support for ftm transsexuals, ftm crossdressers, and other transpeople and genderqueers assigned female at birth or in childhood. I envision FTM International as a broadly inclusive organization that can facilitate world-wide communication and alliances between independent groups and individuals with different focuses, such as support, social activities, health care, political and legal change, cultural criticism, and innovative culture-building.

Blaine Paxton Hall. I am a 45 year old married man; a Physician Assistant in an Internal Medicine subspecialty, in leadership positions professionally both at state and national levels, am a member of MENSA (the superior IQ society), am also an ordained minister. I am quite stable in all aspects and am supremely happy with my life, now. I've been on FTM's mailing list for approximately 14 years, am now a "Professional" member and have otherwise supported FTM with financial donations. I look forward to FTM continuing to mature as an organization, especially now in our non-profit status. I should like to see us increase our financial reserves and in particular, I've envisioned a Foundation to provide scholarship and/or mentoring to FTM's for further education, or to completely re-tool educationally. Thank you very much for your consideration. (North Carolina)

Russell Hilken. I feel incredible gratitude for the blessings of living and transitioning now in San Francisco. My desire and motivation to serve on the Board of FTM Int'l. flow from this gratitude. It is my wish to give back to the FTM community that which has been freely given to me, and to contribute toward making the world a better and freer place in which FTMs can thrive. Two areas of primary focus for my work are access to appropriate health care and making a dent in the monumental need for accurate information for, by, and about FTMs.

Cliff Hunter. I believe FTM Int'l, Inc. should continue to promote understanding and acceptance of transgendered individuals throughout the world. The goal to strive for, and WIN is safety, health, and opportunities for growth and happiness in every facet of our lives wherever transgendered people live and hope for a good life. I would be honored to serve on the board if elected.

Mr. Lynn Kinder. I am a 41-year-old FTM. I work for a small Florida municipality as a technical (clerical) assistant in the police department. I have a B.A. in psychology (recently graduated) and will be seeking a master's in clinical social work in 1999. I spent 4 yrs (total) in the US Air Force, Vermont National Guard, and US Air Force Reserves. I've been actively living as a male 85% of the time for about 2-1/2 years. I haven't announced my gender status at work. I don't want to burn my money bridge to my SRS, so I haven't officially "come-out." I dress and behave 100% male (if there is such a thing) all the time and let people draw their own conclusions. I am interested in equal rights for all. Through the FTM Int'l board, I wish to become actively involved, as much as I am able to. I believe I can be of service to the transsexual community at large.

Yoseñio V. Lewis. Currently serving as Vice President of FTM Int'l., I am a Black Latino non-hormonal, non-operative Female to Male Transsexual (FTM). I'm a consultant on ethnic, sexual and gender diversity issues. I'm also an HIV/AIDS activist, serving as Co-Chair of the Board of Directors of the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center in San Francisco as well as the Secretary of the San Francisco HIV Contractors Association. Additionally, I'm a member of the Transgender Advisory Committee to the San Francisco AIDS Office, a member of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Advisory Committee to the San Francisco Human Rights Commission and a founding member of the All Our Families Coalition (an organization dedicated to the support of and advocacy for non-traditional families). I'm also a frequent presenter at local and national conferences that address health, political activism, ethnicity and overcoming oppression issues. I'm hoping to bring all of these interests to bear on my work in FTM Int'l. for the benefit of the membership. In my spare time, I like to sleep.

Marc Andrew Mario. I am a pharmacist by profession and also a spokesperson for gender diversity issues. I am hoping to help strengthen FTM Int'l. via uniting the east and west coasts. I have only met a few FTM's in the Syracuse area, but I feel if there was notice given through the FTM Newsletter about establishing a branch in this geographical area, we may very well reach others. I am also a university lecturer, speaking about our issues at several upstate NY schools. I am hoping to speak at my alma mater, the Albany College of Pharmacy (Union University) so that members of my profession will know of us and treat us with the dignity we deserve when we purchase our medications. Education is the key to knocking down the barriers of fear. My future includes getting my PhD from the Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality to further assist those seeking gender counselling. I wish to "give back" what the Lord has graciously given to me.

Angel Mettoyer. I am a career-oriented (real estate), team-oriented, community-oriented leader who has been very active in FTM, Leather, Gay/Lesbian, Civil Rights, HIV and other health-related organizations. I'm currently serving as Vice President of Leather United in Chicago.

Shadow Morton. Currently serving as Secretary of FTM Int'l., I'm a gender, HIV, safer-sex activist who would like to see a little more chaos introduced into everyone's perfect, orderly world. I've been actively involved in the chaos movement for over twenty years. Most recently I've been involved in teaching FtM's more about their own bodies than most doctors would like them to know. I am deeply concerned that transpeople get the support and information that we all need. My hope is that through my work with FTM Int'l. that we can educate all FTMs as much about their bodies as possible, and encourage them to approach the medical system with as full knowledge of themselves as they can gain.

Helan Page. I work with progressive heterosexual, lesbian and feminist communities, and in alliance with people of color who are as unwilling as I am to erase racial difference as a convenient way of achieving social justice. Will our community keep broadening its mind to embrace all FTMs as equal partners, no matter their class, stage of transition, ethnicity, race, nationality or sexual orientation? Will we strengthen our voices and analyses of our situation so as to never again be divided or undermined? Will we demonstrate what it means to give full credence and complete support to the issues and needs of the people of color who are far too silent and invisible members of our growing community? I can help to resolve these questions; promoting FTM self-care and reconceptualizing FTM wellness are my current priorities. I am 46 years old, in good health, and 5 months into transition. I am living in Davis, CA until January 1998, when I will return to Amherst, MA.

Jude Patton. I have 25 years of experience in serving the FTM communities. I have multiple skills to offer. I feel I can make the necessary commitment in time and energy to help the organization grow and meet the needs of its diverse membership. (Seattle, WA)

Bet Power. I would like to serve on the board of FTM International to help build all-inclusive community throughout the US, and especially on the East Coast where more, and better organized, support resources are needed. Inspired by my friendship with Lou Sullivan, I founded, in early 1992, and continue to direct, the East Coast Female to Male Group (ECFTMG), which meets monthly in North Hampton, MA. I support "my own version of happiness" for each one of us FTM's -- post-ops, non-ops, pre-ops, crossdressers, questioning, of all sexual orientations, ages, races, ethnicities, and classes. I believe we ALL need to unite as brothers to find our own paths and to fight for our rights, respect, and freedom. I am: a writer, a political organizer (since 1969, in these movements: civil rights, anti-war, women's, lesbian, S/M, LGBT, and transgender), an archivist (curator/director of the Sexual Minorities Archives, since 1979), a public speaker (audiences large and small, on S/M and transgender subjects), a lecturer/teacher (workshops/seminars on FTMs and on S/M at many eastern colleges and universities), an accomplished networker, and committed community builder, a non-op FTM transsexual/heterosexual man who lives, works, and is closely networked into the transgender community and various FTM and MTF organizations on the East Coast.

Sean Romeo. I have served as FTM's treasurer for a year and a half. Serving on FTM's board is a way for me to give back to the organization and community that has helped me, and others, so much. Many of us are only here for a while as active members of the organization, and then it's time for "new" guys to step in. I would really like to serve one more term and to mentor others in the organization.

Ben Singer. I identify as a transman. I've been involved in trans politics for over three years (as well as having 13+ years of queer and feminist political work under my belt). In Philadelphia, I co-founded the Transgender Health Action Coalition (THAC), a non-profit funded by community-based grants whose mission is to provide education, networking and services (including a full-service transhealth clinic) to the entire Delaware Valley Region. My experience with THAC, which includes organizational operation, grant writing and program implementation; has given me invaluable skills which I would bring to FTM Int'l, along with networking contacts gained through grassroots political organizing. I am seeking a position on this Board to enhance the effectiveness of the work I do locally. I'd like to serve as a conduit for networking and education between the coasts. I'm also interested in FTM Int'l because of my focus on FTM (and masculine female) specific issues and visibility. I want to begin building bridges of diversity--race/ethnicity, class, sexuality, (dis)ability, etc.--within FTM networks. I advocate that the more marginalized amongst us avoid reproducing the dominant status quo.

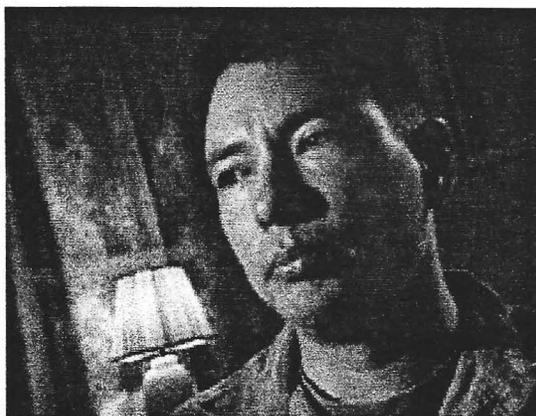
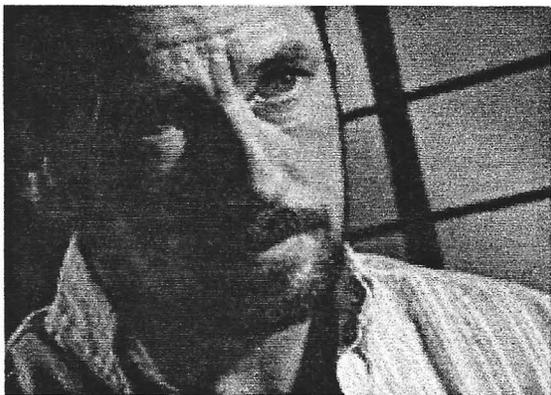
Moonhawk River Stone. Professionally, I am a psychotherapist in private practice serving the transgender and gay community in the Albany, NY area. Personally, I am an FTM guy who considers him/her self kerplunk in the middle, happily both male and female and feeling that the FTM community is home. Envisioning the future for FTM Int'l, I would hope that this would be an organization where we can continue to grow, evolve and dialogue with each other as we move into that future; I would hope that FTM Int'l. would be a place which celebrates transmen in all of our diversity and a place in which we can find hope, connection, support, and knowledge, and most of all loving kindness. I believe it is important for FTM Int'l to be a worldwide resource to others in the TG/Queer communities and to build bridges through education to other "more mainstream" communities. I've previously served on a board of a 501 3(c) AIDS organization for over three years both as board treasurer and overseeing the delivery of client services. I am grateful to stand in consideration.

Stephan Thorne. I feel a strong commitment to the FTM community, and view serving on the board as a way to express that commitment. I've been attending FTM meetings since April of 1993 and spent some time facilitating them. I found that to be a rewarding experience, and would now like to help move our organization forward into the future. Now that we have incorporated into a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, there are new directions to take. While we remain primarily a social organization, I would like to expand our role in the realm of transgender civil rights. There is much to do, and I look forward to being one of the people who gets it done.

Francis Vavra. Seven years ago, I hesitated to become active in FTM because I did not identify as transsexual. FTM's founder, Lou Sullivan, became a personal friend and mentor, telling me to "just be who you are and have fun with it." He welcomed me into a group which has vastly grown, and now includes a large diversity of male identification. Because of living a "bi-gendered" life where I am constantly in flux between being perceived as male and female, I feel I can serve FTM in a positive way as a result of those experiences and insights. Although my personal male identity has strengthened since taking male hormones, I still consider myself a serious crossdresser. However, labels are limiting and make little difference in the larger picture, which includes all my transgendered brothers and sisters. In that regard, I wish to utilize my communication skills in writing, speaking, and performance art, to assist in the consciousness raising effort in a society which has only recently discovered that FTMs exist.

Alice Webb, LCSW, Ph.D.c. I know how important your organization has been to the emergence of a hidden population of transgendered persons who were not accurately acknowledged in the professional literature, and to all FTM transsexual men and their significant others. This left so many people in limbo when they sought information about themselves, until Lou Sullivan and then James Green began to actually print and send out information in the form of first Lou's book, and then with the FTM Newsletter. As a member of HBIGDA and a pro-trans therapist and researcher, I would be honored to serve on your board. Thank you for considering my candidacy. (Houston, Texas as of summer, 1997)

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