

Exposing our Vision

Photographer Loren Cameron Finds His Voice

by James Green

I first met Loren Cameron on March 27, 1988. The occasion was the 5th quarterly meeting of the FTM group that Lou Sullivan started in San Francisco. It was my first FTM meeting; it was the third or fourth for Loren. We liked each other right off, and have remained friends ever since. Loren's primary interests back then were bodybuilding and animals, and over the past two years I've watched him build a long-standing interest in visual expression into a serious career as a professional photographic artist.

Loren was born in Pasadena, California in 1959. He spent his adolescence in rural Arkansas. When he was 12, just at the start of that adolescence, he wrote to the Janus Information Facility (whose resources now reside with AEGIS in Atlanta, GA) to obtain information on how to change his sex from female to male. "The onset of puberty was excruciating to me," Loren says. "It was torture." The information he received from Janus, then in San Francisco, was enough to tell him that he had to wait until he was older. I asked him how he survived the intervening years, and Loren answered, "Baggy shirts, lesbianism." He added, "And a butch swagger, which I'm happy to say has diminished."

He was in his late 20's when he stopped using nicotine and marijuana and started bodybuilding. "That put me in my body and forced me to acknowledge the persistent body discomfort I'd been experiencing all my life," Loren says. He was 27 when he committed himself to transitioning. Through a friend of a friend he was able to contact Steve Dain, one of our community's pioneers who has counseled and helped so many of us, and Steve pointed Loren toward Lou, who was just getting the FTM group off the ground in 1987. Loren started hormones at age 28; he's now 36.

What motivated him to begin photographing transsexuals, including himself, was the frustration he felt at seeing us photographed by non-transsexuals who turned us into objects. His need to be understood and accepted as a fellow human being compelled him to use photography to educate people about what the transsexual experience means, about what we as individuals have to go through.

Loren's first exhibit, "Our Vision, Our

Voices: Transsexual Portraits and Nudes," opened a year ago in San Francisco to instant critical acclaim, and since then Loren's work has been reviewed in *Camerawork* and *Artweek* magazines, and his photos have appeared in numerous magazines and newspapers (and this newsletter!). Using images and text, Loren works to empower himself and his subjects by giving voice to affirm our experiences, both our unique experience as transsexuals and our common experience as human beings. "I desire to capture the essence of the strength and courage it takes for us, through an act of will, to reconstruct ourselves to become our real identities," Loren says.

Loren's newest solo exhibition, "Body Alchemy" opens Monday, May 1, 1995 at 848 Community Space, 848 Divisadero (near Fulton) in San Francisco. An opening reception will be held that evening from 7 to 10 p.m., admission \$5.00. Readings by David Harrison, Susan Stryker and James Green will be performed at 7:30 and 8:30 that evening. The gallery will be open Sundays in May from 1 to 5 p.m. Call (415) 765-7658 for further information.

Two other exhibits opening soon in the San Francisco area will feature Loren Cameron's work: "Our Lives: Negotiating Male Identity" opened April 14 at the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art and contains Loren's "New Man Series." Phone (408) 283-8155 for gallery



"Gods Will" a self-portrait by Loren Cameron, is part of his *Body Alchemy* photo exhibit.

hours, location, and further information. The "Our Vision, Our Voices" series will be part of a group exhibit entitled "Reframing Exposure: Photo Technology and Body Memory" opening May 10 at the Richmond Art Center. An opening reception will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Phone (510) 620-6772 for gallery hours, location, and further information. Loren will also show slides of his work at the FTM Conference on Friday evening, August 18, during the opening session. As one reviewer said, "Loren's work literally stakes out new territory." Loren's powerful visual statements present us with a dignity and strength the public has never seen before. Let's hope they see more of it.

A Classical FTM

by A. Matzner

Is there such a thing as a "history of FTM transsexuality? And if so, how far back does it go? Some people think that only with the development of surgical techniques did the "transsexual" come into being. But if one studies accounts of FTM transgendered people through the ages, it seems likely that some probably would have taken advantage of hormones and/or surgery, had these options existed.

I love reading about ancient Greece and Rome—they were incredibly cosmopolitan societies that remind me a lot of today's world. These complex cultures also had their fair share of sexual minorities: gays, lesbians, cross-dressers. I wondered if people who we'd consider FTMs were around back then—is the feeling that you were born into the wrong body something that can occur in any culture, at any time? To me the answer seems obvious—sure, why not? Yet there are scholars who insist that the "homosexual" is a nineteenth century invention and that only the "patriarchal medical establishment" could have created a transsexual. So I began reading classical literature to see if I could discover anyone 2000 years ago who felt some of the same things that some of us are feeling today.

And this is what I found: a male writer named Lucian who lived near Syria in the second century CE wrote in ancient Greek

a series of dialogs between female prostitutes. It is not known whether these mini-plays were completely made up by Lucian or if they were based on women he had known or heard stories about. At any rate, in Dialogue Five in the work "The Dialogues of the Courtesans" the following scenario unfolds: One courtesan (Clonarium) is asking her friend (Leaena) about the rumor that Leaena is living with another woman (Megilla) as her lover. Leaena replies that it is true and proceeds to describe how this came about. Megilla and another woman, Demonassa, had given a drinking party to which Leaena had been invited to provide musical entertainment. After the party was over Megilla asked Leaena to get into bed with her and Demonassa. Leaena did this, and soon found herself being kissed and caressed by her two hostesses. Although Leaena did not object, she did get a shock when a few moments later Megilla pulled off what turned out to be a wig to reveal the hyper-masculine crew-cut of a male athlete, stated that her name was "Megillus" (the male version of Megilla) and proclaimed that she was married to Demonassa, who was her "wife."

At this point Leaena is confused and thinks that Megilla is really a man. She asks Megilla if she has a penis, to which she replies that she does not need one, for she uses a better method. As Leaena continues to be bewildered,

Megilla further claims that she is "all man" and states "I was born a woman like the rest of you, but I have the mind and desires and everything else of a man." Leaena then asks if those "desires" are sufficient, since she does not have a penis. But Megilla is quick to reassure Leaena and argues, "You'll find me as good as any man—I have a substitute of my own. Just give me a chance and you will see."

Leaena ends up accepting Megilla as her lover and moving in with her, and the little vignette ends.

Some scholars have looked at this dialogue and viewed it as a condemnation of lesbianism and a caricature of masculine women. On the other hand, after carefully studying the dialogue's vocabulary and structure, I feel that, while we will never know whether these courtesans were completely made up or based on real people and events, the author, Lucian, has characterized a woman, Megilla, who is very aware of how her male energy dominates her psyche, and is brave enough to act on her feelings. Megilla is a strong and dangerous figure who has usurped male power prerogatives. After all, the resolution of the dialogue presents no negative outcome for this gender law-breaking woman—unlike the tales of the Amazons, in which those feminist heroines always end up being subdued and raped by men.

For me it was refreshing to meet so far in the distant past a woman who perceived her gender to be at odds with her biological sex, was articulate about expressing her feelings, and managed to cope successfully in the only way an FTM two thousand years ago knew how.

The TG Consumer: Rights and Expectations

by A. Barbara Anderson,
MSW, Ph.D.

You as a transgendered (TG) individual are a consumer like any other. You have money to spend and needs to be met. Do you approach such interactions with an expectation of respect and appreciation for your business? Or does the memory of past transactions contaminated by ridicule and frustration inhibit you with regard to examining products for quality, and holding service providers to standards of quality and courtesy?

A satisfactory consumer interaction begins with the expectation of quality products and service. To the extent that you are informed about the product or service you seek, you will be able to express your expectation in an unambiguous manner. However, if you are hobbled by anxiety, fear of others' judgment, or personal insecurity, all the product information in the world will do you little good. You will be treated with the respect you show for yourself and will be presented with the products that the salesperson has been instructed to "move."

And do not think that overcompensating for insecurity or developing an "attitude" to ward off insensitive treatment will be effective. By behaving arrogantly or being demanding you're more likely to elicit the very behavior you are trying to avoid. Efforts to intimidate others breed resentment rather than respect, and retaliation follows fast.

Given that you are able to present yourself confidently and are well-informed about your objective, you may still find the shopping experience an

unpleasant one. You may be identified as TG by the service provider and either treated disrespectfully or denied service. No one will come to your rescue. This is where Assertiveness 101 will pay for itself. Inquire of the provider if your request was understood and offer to repeat it. If appropriate, ask if it is the store's policy for personnel to whisper, giggle, point at or laugh at its customers. Offer to overlook the offense if the person will get on with serving you. If further disrespect occurs, request the person's name and that of the manager. [You can use this technique in many situations other than retail shopping.—ed.]

If you are denied service, insist on being given a reason. If you are insulted by a derogatory term referring to your TG status, such as "you people" (or worse), you have several options: identify yourself with pride as TG, entitled to and able to pay for the requested product or service. If reconsideration does not occur, state that you will file a complaint of discrimination with the Human Rights Organization of that county as well as with the professional association(s) monitoring the industry involved. It behooves any consumer to be prepared in such an event, but it is incumbent upon you as a TG individual or anyone belonging to vulnerable minority group, to be explicitly armed with solid information about how to exercise your rights as a consumer.

If you choose not to identify yourself as a TG

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First International Congress on Gender...

A Dialogue Between Professionals & the Community

by James Green

Gender Issues and Leadership Conferences
Stir the Pot by James Green

The first International Congress on Gender, Cross Dressing and Sex Issues, held February 23-26 at the Airtel Plaza Hotel in Van Nuys, California, and presented by the Center for Sex Research at California State University, Northridge, was advertised as "a dialogue between professionals and those in the community." And for the most part the event lived up to the promises. One hundred and twelve presenters gave workshops, reports, or opinion papers on topics ranging from "Origins of Gender Identity Disorder: A Child-Clinical Perspective," to "The Use of Dance/Movement in Adjustment of Gender Conflicted to a Preferred Role."

The most exciting aspect of this conference for me was its interdisciplinarity. Participants were anthropologists, sociologists, therapists, surgeons, artists, writers, lawyers, sex researchers, and others interested in or living with the phenomena of the trans community and trans experience.

So much was packed into the three solid days of sessions that it was impossible to participate in everything. Many people "session-hopped," trying to get as much as they could of as many presenters as possible. Participants came from across North America and from Europe. It was an incredibly stimulating weekend.

Highlights of the program included lectures by Roger Gorski, Ph.D., of UCLA ("Recent Breakthroughs in the Biology of Gender Behavior"), and Xia Zhao Ji, M.D. of Beijing ("Some New Surgical Developments"). Dr. Gorski is responsible for much of the current theory and research on sex differentiation of the brain, and Dr. Xia is the surgeon responsible for the widely reported, though unfortunately mistranslated, procedure exchanging the sex organs of a man and a woman. Western newspaper reports implied that an entire sex change had occurred simultaneously in one operating room in a swap procedure, and the word skin was mistranslated as leather in the procedural descriptions, leaving the impression in the reader's mind that something very strange was going on in China. But as Dr. Xia (pronounced "Shaw") explained, the actual procedure involved standard techniques for surgical sex reassignment (the MTF patient had received a penile inversion vulva and vagina construction, and the FTM had received a forearm flap phalloplasty and chest reconstruction). What Dr.

Xia did that was new and different was to transplant the ovaries and testes of two SRS patients in an effort to avoid the risks of exogenously administered hormones. The results were that the ovaries lived in their new host for 12 months, and the testes in their new host for 9 months. Neither gonadal organ produced the normal amount of hormone while living in its new host; the testes produced about 50% of normal testosterone, and the ovaries also produced less estrogen in the new host than they produced in their original environment. These procedures were definitely experimental, and though they did not ultimately succeed, they



James Green accepts the Lou Sullivan Award at the Conference

may lead to further research in the transplantation of gonadal tissue.

Honors were presented at the conference to Dr. Stanley Biber, noted sex reassignment surgeon of Trinidad, Colorado, Dr. Virginia Prince, noted transgenderist, Dr. Roger Peo, well-respected sex researcher, and our own Lou Sullivan, noted activist and historian. Biber and Prince were on hand to receive their awards. Dr. Sandra Cole accepted for Dr. Peo who passed away recently, and I was privileged to accept the award for Lou Sullivan on behalf of FTM International.

Vern and Bonnie Bullough, with James Elias, co-hosted the event. Mrs. Bullough announced at one point that she could not tell the "professionals" and the "community" apart,

and she thought this was very good. All the sessions were audio-taped (\$10.00/cassette): for a catalog listing/order form and list of abstracts, write to the Center for Sex Research, University of California, Northridge, Northridge, CA 91330-8256. Video tapes of the four plenary sessions are available (\$28.00 each) through Melrose Productions, 8033 Sunset Blvd., Suite 4053, Hollywood, CA 90046; phone (213) 851-1368. Write or call for an order form, specifying this conference by name.

The best part of this conference for many FTMs was the social gathering organized by some of the local guys, members of the "Under Construction Club." It seemed to me that about 35 guys were crammed into one little hotel room for several hours, just rapping and having a great time getting to know each other. It was sure good to see Jeff, Pat, and Lewis again, and to meet so many other fine men. I especially enjoyed meeting (finally!) Stephen Whittle of England. I hope he can convince his university to send him to our FTM conference in August! Jason Cromwell, Stephan Thorne, Loren Cameron, and I were very busy every minute with so much to do, and so many people to talk to. I, for one, was overstimulated, and it took a few days to come back to earth. A great experience, though not very FTM-positive over-all. Many of us felt there was not enough consciousness around FTM issues, and FTM invisibility, FTM second-class citizenship, was the norm outside the FTM-specific environments. We still have a lot of educating and speaking up to do.

The International Foundation for Gender Education's (IFGE) Coming Together-Working Together conference was this year sub-titled Atlanta Action, and was structured as a leadership development conference offering workshops such as "Becoming Proactive in States Gender Rights Issues and Legislation," "Consensus as a Group Goal," Educational Outreach to the Academic Classroom," "Traditions and Future Trends of Transgenderism," and "Bridging the Gap with other Gender and Sexual Minorities." The Congress of Transgendered Organizations held two very productive sessions in which representatives from groups all over the U.S. and Europe were able to share their local area's recent activities and plans for the future. Much discussion focussed on the internet as a communications tool for community building.

Jason Cromwell and I conducted two 3-hour

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An Experimental Procedure?

The Catch-22 of Transgender Health Care Insurance Coverage

by Lisa Middleton

One of the most critical dilemmas facing any transgendered person is, "How in heaven's name can I ever pay the medical costs?" For many of us, there is a lack of any health care insurance coverage. Others find we have paid thousands of dollars for health care coverage that denies us access to the care we need. In my own personal health care policy the words read quite clearly: "Exclusions from coverage: Services related to sexual reassignment."

Where do the exclusions come from?

The courts were asked in the late 1970s to decide a number of SRS reimbursement cases under federally funded state-operated Medicaid systems. States sought to bar SRS reimbursements as cosmetic, unsuitable, unavailable and experimental. In five separate appellate decisions between 1977 and 1980 the courts struck down regulations barring SRS reimbursements and ordered the states to pay. (*Doe v. Minnesota*, 257 NW 2d, 816.1977; *Rush v. Parham*, 440 Fed Sup, 383. 1977; *GB v. Lackner*, 145 Cal Rpt, 555.1978; *JD v. Lackner*, 145 Cal Rpt, 570. 1978; and *Pinneke v. Preisser*, 623 Fed 2d, 546.1980.)

The courts consistently found regulations that completely excluded any SRS payments were illegally arbitrary. Additionally, the states could not discriminate in medical care based on "diagnosis, type of illness and condition." In three of the cases the courts went into detail as to how SRS could not be considered a cosmetic procedure.

In 1979 and 1981 the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), which is responsible for setting reimbursement policy under federal health care aid programs, sponsored two studies on transsexuals and SRS. Both studies concluded SRS to be an experimental procedure. These studies argued that transsexualism "could not be objectively diagnosed, that the risk of complications from he surgery were greater than the risks

of not having it, and that it was unknown what the long-term impacts were for those who had the surgery."

In 1983, *Rush v. Parham* was reversed in *Rush v. Johnson* (565 Fed Sup, 856. 1983). The court held that (1) SRS could not be excluded because it was SRS; but (2) the state could exclude experimental procedures, and (3) the state had a reasonable foundation to conclude that SRS was experimental.

We have been stuck behind that same rock—it's experimental—for 11 years now. There is no other legal foundation for the exclusion of SRS and transgender health care from coverage.

However, under the proposed but failed Federal Health Care Bills our status would have worsened. Only one, HR 1200 (*McDermott/Conyers*) did not have a specific exclusion of SRS-related services. It is far easier to challenge in court an Administrative Guideline than an Act of Congress. It is critical that

"We need a base of information that demonstrates the procedures we seek are not now experimental"

we lobby Congress. What we need is for the reimbursement of medical care to be based solely on medical necessity.

What in fact is excluded?

No court has defined the terms "services related to," or "any procedure or treatment." Such contract language is comparatively very broad and sweeping—perhaps sufficiently broad and sweeping to be its undoing. Is it intended to exclude initial psychiatric care and evaluation as called for by the HBGDA Standards of care? Hormonal therapy? Or is it intended to relate only to SRS procedures?

Payers have expanded their

exclusions from SRS to multiple transgender health care procedures. Often such exclusions are incompatible with other language in their policy contract and impermissibly exclude on the basis of diagnosis. They have succeeded because (1) they have not, by and large, been challenged; and (2) by allowing selected exceptions without a change in the underlying policy.

How can we overcome these exclusions?

We need a base of information that demonstrates that the procedures we seek are not now experimental. In accomplishing full inclusion, what is needed is published scientific evidence. Thousands of SRS procedures have been completed in the past 11 years. Transgender health care is more than SRS alone. I am aware of no procedures that compare with SRS at remaining in the limbo status of "experimental" for decades. Insurance plans pay for procedures that have been demonstrated to be effective. It is our success stories, the skills of those who now provide both surgical and non-surgical care that is the basis for demonstrating the effectiveness of transgender health care.

The courts have given to the payers the responsibility for determining what is experimental and what is medically necessary. It is a responsibility that is subject to judicial review based on the reasonableness of the decision-making process. Payers may not act in an arbitrary or capricious manner. In making their determinations they must rely on medical evidence that conforms to recognized medical practice.

In arguing for your own individual claim, request each desired treatment separately—psych evaluations; psych treatments; hormonal therapy; SRS; follow-up surgical care, genital, breasts or other. Don't accept the answer, "it's excluded by the contract." This is likely, however, to be the initial answer. Contracts are subject to review. It's their language.

It is the company's responsibility to defend the language and the contract.

Don't accept the answer, "it's cosmetic." Facial surgery, implants and electrolysis are most times cosmetic. Other services are not. In health care the courts have not allowed us to be singled out for discriminatory treatment.

The most important thing we have to do is to take action to secure our right to equitable access to medical care. That right includes the economic ability to access that care.

Make your requests in writing. Insist on written answers to your requests. Keep your receipts. Don't take no for an answer. Use Payer Appeal Procedures and the courts to challenge each specific requested and denied treatment. Legally challenge contracts that exclude us and the process by which payers make their "experimental" decision. Encourage scientific research into the outcomes of transgender health care procedures. Be an active partner in the social and political progress of your community.

FTM Issues

In speaking recently to a few FTMs regarding insurance coverage issues, I have been chastened by how much my experiences have failed to prepare me for the unique coverage questions faced by new men. I am trying to change that. I would appreciate any information any of you may have on coverage issues—be they success stories of reimbursement approved or the cases of payment denied and/or delayed. Correspondence may be sent to me care of James Green at the FTM newsletter.

Please do respond to Lisa's request for information on how our claims have been handled by various insurance companies, or how we have handled our own situations with respect to insurance coverage for different procedures. Lisa is working with the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy, Inc. to improve the body of law and legal precedent so that those who come after us will not have to suffer as we have. Please help by letting your stories be heard. —James.

FTM Conference Shaping Up!

We are still in the formative stages, but we have a site reserved, and a schedule of events nearly firmed up. We haven't yet been able to calculate what the registration cost will be, though we want to keep it below \$100.00, maybe even as low as \$50.00. We're trying to get a listing of reasonable hotel/motel sites, and donated housing (in people's homes) so we can facilitate lodging.

We're also trying to get food donated for lunches/snacks on the weekend days which are packed with conference sessions. We have a committee of volunteers, and our goal is to get a solid registration form together to be mailed out with this Newsletter, or at the end of April separately. We're still waiting for confirmation from some of the speakers we want, whose names on our program would be a big draw,

but I don't want to promise speakers we can't get... Anyway, at this writing, we can only ask your patience and indulgence. The dates are firm, August 18, 19, 20. It looks like we will open registration around 4 p.m. on Friday, start the opening session at 6 p.m., and end around 10 that night. We'll start at 9 a.m. Saturday and go until 5 p.m. with workshop and panel sessions. Then we'll start 9 or 10 a.m. Sunday in a long medical panel presentation until about 2 p.m., then close the conference. We plan to have some kind of outdoor social activity following the conference (a Bay cruise?) for those who can stay a little longer. A lot of energy is going into the planning process, and a great deal of support from organizations outside of FTM has been generated. We are very excited about this event, and hope that we'll have about 150 attendees who will make this a memorable and historic occasion. We hope YOU will be here with us!!

Dialogue, continued

sessions on FTM issues, attended by 5 FTMs, two partners, two therapists, and several MTFs. In general, the overall attendance was less than at typical IFGE events, but I think this conference was the most productive and progressive one that I have yet attended (this was my 4th year attending). Next year's event will be the 10th annual IFGE Coming Together-Working Together Convention, and it will be held in Minneapolis. The team of organizers from that city are very energetic and excited about making the conference a celebration of unity between the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities, among which there is a great deal of synergy in Minneapolis. This year's convention was by far the most FTM-conscious and FTM-inclusive event that I have been to, and the Minneapolis team promises even greater consciousness of transgendered and transsexual men. We cashed in already this year as the administrators of IFGE's Winslow Street Fund awarded FTM International a \$1000.00 grant to support our own conference scheduled for this August 18-20 in San

Francisco. Thanks, IFGE!!!

IFGE has become a membership organization now, and you can join for \$25.00/year. Basic membership includes voting privileges, a quarterly newsletter, and discounts on IFGE products. IFGE maintains an extensive library of TG/TS literature, much of which is available for sale, so it's a good source of books on gender issues (they carry Lou Sullivan's Information for the Female-to-Male Cross Dresser and Transsexual for \$10.00 plus \$1.50 postage and handling). IFGE also provides legal backup and referrals for victims of discrimination, outreach and referrals for individuals and organizations in the TG/TS community, and supports research, educational, and social projects for the transgender community. For more information about IFGE, its products, or membership, write to IFGE, P.O. Box 229, Wayland, MA 01778, phone 617-899-2212, email IFGE@world.std.com. You can also ask Jason Cromwell, Susan Stryker and myself about IFGE, as we are all on the Board of Directors. Start thinking about Minneapolis in March, 1996!

Consumer, continued

individual and the provider of services does not identify you as being of a minority status, you cannot raise the issue of discrimination. Then the best strategy is to behave as an aggrieved consumer who will relentlessly seek satisfaction at levels above the service person. Sources tell me that service providers would rather serve someone with two heads than have to explain to their boss why they allowed a scene to occur. Implementing this strategy implies a willingness on your part to state your dissatisfaction audibly and unequivocally and perhaps draw attention to yourself.

The pursuit of professional services such as medical, psychological or legal present a special challenge for the consumer. This challenge comes in the difficulty of evaluating the quality of services offered as well as in dealing with providers who are generally endowed with higher status than the consumers of their services. TG consumers often feel even more vulnerable than the average client because of the

myths about the transgendered that still pervade the thinking of professionals. The belief that transgenderism is a mental disorder and therefore one will be dealing with a deranged, delusional person puts many professionals off. There is also the belief that one's other clients will be discouraged if they observe transgendered individuals being serviced in the same setting. The best way to avoid approaching the uninformed professional, who is also incompetent to serve you, is to utilize a resource list compiled by your local TG community organizations or by national associations devoted to serving TG consumers and setting standards for competent professional care.

Being a consumer is a difficult business, but that's what it's all about—business! As a consumer you have something of value. Respect your power but don't flaunt it. Hold yourself in high regard and you maximize the chance that others will. Be prepared to go to bat for your right to be served; you may be paving the way for another consumer more vulnerable than you.

Brandon Teena Murder Trial Demonstration

The outpouring of support for a demonstration at the trial of Brandon Teena's accused murderers (see FTM #26, page 3, for background information on Brandon) has been far greater than we (in the U.S. transgender community) anticipated. People from all over the country have expressed their support and appreciation for our efforts, and a number of publishers have indicated their intent to follow the story. The trial of the first of the two men accused of killing Brandon Teena resulted in a murder conviction. The second trial is scheduled to start on Monday, May 15. We plan to be there then. Plans include: Saturday, May 13, Kate Bornstein in an evening performance of one of her works. Sunday, May 14, Leslie Feinberg, Minnie Bruce Pratt, and Kate Bornstein speaking at an evening event. Monday, May 15, demonstration at the courthouse. The action will probably consist mainly of peaceful leafletting intended to educate, not conflagrate. We will probably show some signage, but will attempt to be dignified at all times. We want to raise consciousness about the failure of the sheriff to protect Brandon, and the general and widespread devaluing of transgender, transsexual, and homosexual people and their rights. Our intent is not to cast blame, but rather to educate and promote commitment to improved understanding and mutual tolerance.

Davina Anne Gabriel (davinaanne@AOL.com) is primary coordinator of on-site activities. Please address casual questions to Nancy Nangeroni (nmk@world.std.com). She will answer them in periodic general email distributions (please do not expect individual replies—there is far too much traffic (this and other gender community actions) to permit this). Those who cannot attend but would like to show their support can help pay travel expenses for the demonstrators who are going, including members of the Lesbian Avengers and The Transsexual Menace. It will cost hundreds of dollars per person, and they have NO FUNDING from any organization. The money will come from the demonstrator's own pockets. Please help if you can. Send checks to

Nancy Nangeroni at the address below. Nancy thanks everyone for their support. She says, "It's thrilling to see our community rise in action." Send contributions to: Nancy Nangeroni, 276 Pearl Street, Unit L, Cambridge, MA 02139-4716.

FTMs Honored with Community Service Awards

by Blake

On March 15, 1995, James Green and Leslie Feinberg each received Trinity Awards for their efforts on behalf of the Transgender Community. The Trinity Award is given by the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) to acknowledge individuals or groups who have performed "extraordinary acts of love and courage," and is the Transgender Community's second highest award, second only to the Dr. Virginia Prince Lifetime Contribution Award. [This year's recipient of the Virginia Prince Award was Yvonne Cook-Riley. Congrats, Yvonne!—ed.] The Trinity Award itself is a 10-inch steel statuette of the Hands and Rose which symbolizes the "Trinity of Being: Of Being Masculine, Of Being Feminine, Of Being One with Yourself and Nature."

Leslie Feinberg, author of *Stone Butch Blues* and *Transgender Liberation: A Movement Whose Time Has Come* received the award for being an important and influential link between the transgender community and the lesbian/feminist community. Mr. Feinberg has worked with integrity and conviction throughout the years to challenge gender assumptions. His work continues to allow individuals to reach their human potential through freedom of gender expression.

James Green, known to most of us as the editor of the *FTM Newsletter* was honored for his tireless devotion in helping to insure that the transgender community in general, and the FTM community in particular, take their rightful place in history. Mr. Green has aided in the self-awareness of countless individuals and continues to teach and to provide outreach to the transgender community and to society at large.

In addition to the Trinity Award, Mr. Green has been selected by a

unanimous vote to receive the Transgender Pioneer Award of the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy, Inc. (ICTLEP). The criteria for this award are: (1) a transgendered person who has openly struggled to effect a positive change in the law as it affects transgendered people; (2) the person cannot be an ICTLEP director or staff member; (3) the focus of the award is on the pioneering effort to openly effect law. The ICTLEP award is being presented to Mr. Green for his role in working with the Human Rights Commission in San Francisco, California to draft the resolution that addresses discrimination against transgendered people. The City and County of San Francisco now extends protection against discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodation to transgendered people. This is a significant legislative achievement!

We thank Messrs. Feinberg and Green for their efforts on our behalf; we are fortunate to have them among us. We also wish them a hearty CONGRATULATIONS!

News from ETVC

by Francis Vavra

For the second consecutive year, San Francisco's ETVC, the largest transgender group in the country will be co-represented by an FTM. The precedent was set in 1994 by Francis Vavra, transgendered cross-dresser, and member of FTM International. Dillon King, who identifies as transsexual, earned the title "Mr. ETVC" at the group's recent annual Cotillion, a judged competition. Dillon was an audience favorite, as he played with his tool belt during active wear competition, had everyone in stitches with a witty monologue about being FTM for the talent competition, and cut a debonair figure in vintage tails waltzing with an invisible partner during the formal wear event. He co-reigns with Tammy Kingsley, the lovely new Miss ETVC, who is also TS. Tammy was a crowd pleaser, dazzling the audience with an exotic, authentic Tahitian hula for her talent demonstration. Dillon and Tammy will ride in San Francisco's Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgender Pride parade this summer (June 18th) and attend a number of gay court (drag fundraising) events, doing outreach

and consciousness raising about ETVC and the transgender community. Congratulations, Dillon and Tammy.

Also at the Cotillion, James Green, Director of FTM International, presented ETVC's Community Leadership Award to Kiki Whitlock, transgendered member of the Gay/Lesbian/Bi/Transgender Advisory Committee to the San Francisco Human Rights Commission (SFHRC), and chair of that committee's Transgender Task Force. Kiki was instrumental in helping obtain the recent transgendered rights legislation. Special awards were also given to SFHRC staff member Larry Brinkin, whose compassion paved the way for us all, and to San Francisco Supervisor Terence Hallinan, who sponsored and introduced the final legislation. James wrote the 82 page SFHRC Report on Discrimination Against Transgendered People which served as the impetus for the legislation and lays a foundation for further civil rights work on our behalf. Copies of this report may be obtained from the S.F. Human Rights Commission at (415) 252-2500.

Francis Vavra gave a farewell speech as the first Mr. ETVC, thanking his FTM brothers (among others), for their support, and emphasizing that all the minority communities need to work together. Now that he is no longer Mr. ETVC, Francis has taken on the editorship of the ETVC Newsletter, following FTM Kevin Horwitz. Together with Dillon, he will continue to provide visible FTM presence for the mainly male-to-female group, which has always been supportive of the FTM community.

See the Announcements section for yet another example of how supportive ETVC is for us!

Japan's FTM Performers Achieve Cult Status

As promised last issue, here is a synopsis of an article from the *Baltimore Morning Sun*, Nov. 21, 1994, by Thomas Easton, about an all-female acting troupe in Japan.

Dateline Takarazuka, Japan —

"The crowds start forming at the Takarazuka Theater in the early morning hours before any ticket seller arrives. Hundreds of women, mostly young, mostly in modest dress, sip iced tea, wipe away perspiration with embroidered handkerchiefs, and within the confines of generations of etiquette training, they press toward the entryway.

"By 2:30 p.m., when the doors swing open for the afternoon show, thousands have gathered, packing the heart of this small, centrally located town. Many carry bouquets in one hand, cameras in the other.



Fabuki Takane appears in the role of Rhett Butler

"The object of their adulation: the "otoko-yaku," the stars of the Takarazuka theater, often said to be the most beautiful, elegant, and romantic men in Japan, famed for their ability to dance, sing, and act. All, in real life, are women." [One must pause to wonder, What is real life? —ed.]

"Playing soldiers, kings, or steamboat gamblers (with outfit complete down to a thin mustache), these beautiful androgynes form the core of the most successful performance troupe in Japan. The home stage in Takarazuka and a satellite in Tokyo collectively sell about 2 million tickets a year, approaching the attendance for sports teams that play in stadiums 20 times larger than any theater."

"Plots [for the productions] are loosely derived from Western stories, such as *Romeo and Juliet*, *For Whom The Bell Tolls*, and *The Sound Of Music*. The required elements are pathos, drama, and, of course, a role for a swashbuckling male in a good outfit, preferably one that can take sequins."

Explained away by observers, the popularity with women of

these productions "has been likened to a passing adolescent infatuation (which can last a lifetime), a rebellion, and a homosexual fantasy.

"Fans tend to be less analytical. [One says,] "It is the dream world and they are our angels." [Another says,] "The manhood they show is beautiful, not rough." [Another says,] "Once you like (an otoko-yaku), you want to see her all the time."

"The appeal of Takarazuka is as limited as it is intense. Though it is considered prestigious to marry a Takarazuka star, men almost never attend a show. Asked their opinion, they politely dismiss the phenomenon. Pushed, they become more emphatic. "I've never even thought of going. It makes me sick," says a 30-year-old male dentist."

Actually, Japanese men have been doing effectively the same thing for hundreds of years, watching men play the role of women in traditional Kabuki theater. The popularity of both Kabuki and Takarazuka has prompted some theater critics to suggest that only a member of one sex can ever really understand the appeal of the other, and therefore dramatize it.

[The theater troupe was founded] "eighty years ago [when] a railroad baron had seats to fill on a line to an ailing spa town, and he thought the answer was "Pure Righteous Beautiful" entertainment for women of upper-class families, provided by women of upper-class families.

"A small theater was established, and shortly thereafter, a school to train pure righteous beautiful performers. The school remains one of the most sought-after in the country. About 2000 teenagers applied for 40 spots in the most recent class." [The "implicit standards" for entrance are: tall, slender, attractive.]

"Takarazuka cast members are recognized throughout Japan and, to a significant degree, must remain in character. None of the 340 in the company has ever been married. Pressure is most severe on the women who play men. They are selected early on because of their height, voice, and perceptions of character traits. To be chosen is

a great honor and the otoko-yaku are expected to maintain an image. They may appear in advertisements but they mustn't expose any skin beyond their face and hands. It is said to be inappropriate for the otoko-yaku to do culturally feminine things, so none carries a bag near the theater, nor does any housework.

"One otoko-yaku, known as Fubuki Takane (a stage name—the star's personal lives and information are kept hidden), recently finished playing a dashing Rhett Butler in "Gone With The Wind." Her cast photo, complete with mustache, is sold out. Now, she is preparing to recross genders for one of the very few times in 12 years. "I find a female role more difficult," she says. "I might be more male in personal character. I associate more with male lines." As for men themselves, she says they have been a source of continual study rather than a focus for affection or a relationship. When asked about marriage, she said, "I don't want to. I can't compromise. I have such an ideal." The closest candidate, she says seriously, was the comic-book character Superman, as seen in a movie. Followers of Takarazuka would not be surprised.

[Another fan] "has attended 60 performances a year for the past two decades, arriving early to buy cheap, \$20.00 standing room seat, and staying late to bid the stars good-bye. Asked recently if after all this time living with the theater she had ever really gotten to know a star, she recoiled. "It's better," she said, "to see them from afar."

Hormone Therapy for Men

A reader submitted two clippings from publications about testosterone in the mainstream, but did not include the sources for these items. I report them here anyway; I'm sure we'll be seeing more on this topic. —ed.

Item 1: "As men age, many gradually produce less testosterone. But until now, doctors have not attempted to make up the deficit (though women are often

continued
page 11

Southern Comfort**Men,**

Many of you have attended the Southern Comfort Conference (SCC) in Atlanta, Georgia. The programs are designed to address issues which we all must face throughout our transitions. As people change, as time goes forward, so do the issues we must deal with.

It is time to move SCC forward. After four years, the problems are being updated and rejuvenated. "Out with the old and in with the new." I am the man who is going to redo the TS Track.

As the new TS Track Program Coordinator, I am promising new and improved programs. Many leaders in the FTM community are being asked to be presenters this year. I am designing programs that will help us gain the exposure in the gender community which many feel is lacking.

The gender community is not whole without us. We need to be an integrated and active presence. We must be seen and heard and dealt with. We need to be a visible part of the entire community.

I have spoken to many who have become disillusioned over the years regarding our treatment in the community. I am asking that these individuals, and others, give the community and Southern Comfort another chance. Voice your complaints. Share with me your concerns about what is and is not being addressed.

Work with me! FTMs are a formidable force in the community. We must be involved. Let's make 1995 our year. Everywhere the women at SCC look, let them see one of us! It is time that people knew we existed.

We are not invisible. Show up in 1995. Let them see that we are here!

Maxwell Anderson
P.O. Box 1692, Pompano Beach, FL 33061-1692

Thanks to All!**Dear FTM,**

To James Green and the men of FTM International, I want to thank you all for helping organize and participate in an incredibly informative and wonderful Gender Conference held 2/23 to 2/26 in Van Nuys. Closer to home, I want to thank Alex #1 for organizing the munchies for Saturdays' Room Party, L.R. for graciously offering and sharing his room for the party, Pat for bringing and sharing his "toy chest" and Kurt and Louis for bringing and sharing themselves. Once again, thank you all!

Jeff Shevlowitz, "Under Construction"

Laub is Wrong**Dear FTM,**

I'd like to thank James for correcting Ms. Bloom (FTM #29, page 6). Clearly she had the facts mixed up, but I gave her an "A" for her efforts.

I'm so pissed at what I read about the quote made by Dr. Laub. I had genitoplasty over ten years ago from Dr. Laub. I found his comments to be ignorant and out of line. Oh, yes, he will hear from me and my wife. I'm not a lesbian, nor is she. How does Dr. Laub know what lesbian sex is? Is he a closet voyeur, or what? Why do people have to label things as intimate as two people making love to each other—that's rude. I hope Dr. Laub will attend the conference in August—this will give me a chance to ask him face to face where and how the hell he came to believe that a man with a (smaller than

most) penis has lesbian sex. I can't wait to talk to him in person.

Don't you have to be a female to be a lesbian? I lost all faith and respect for Dr. Laub after reading all of this. I can't tell you how mad I am. He insulted all FTMs and their partners. That's a serious putdown by someone we wanted to look up to for a better future. Wrong! I guess people have a right to their opinions, but this is going too far. I just won't let this go on.

We are not lesbians. Some of us may have come from lesbian lifestyles because of one reason or another, but once we accept ourselves as transsexual and go through the change to become male, that's it. People do not have sex changes to become men or women. People have sex changes to become male or female. Being a man or woman is not physical—it's all the rest. It's in the heart, mind and soul. Some males I have seen are very poor examples of males wanting to be men who don't know the meaning of being a man. Some men take the genitals for granted.

Someone once told me that Dr. Laub felt this way about the patients who come in for genitoplasty over the phalloplasty, but I don't want to believe it. Now I do and I'm disgusted.

I could go on and on but I'll spare all of you. Thanks for hearing me out. My best to all of you.

Your NV. Brother, Brian

Brian, I appreciate your frustration over Dr. Laub's remarks. I know he has said some pretty insensitive things in the past. I also know he has learned more in the past few years, and he does not see us as less than men. I think you should discuss your concerns with him, because

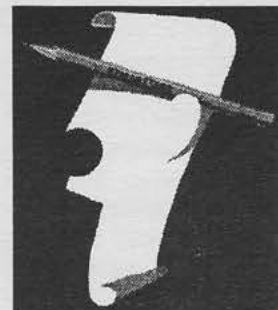
you are absolutely right that our masculinity does not reside in our genitals. But I hope you won't just attack and accuse, but rather seek a dialog so that he will be able to hear and respond to you, as opposed to merely defend himself. That is the only way you will be able to get your point across. I think you may find he is more sympathetic than you imagine. Please do not assume I am an apologist for any surgeon—it's just that communication is my business, and I have spent enough time communicating with Dr. Laub that I understand his style. He is a much better surgeon than he is a communicator. And I don't think he'll take offense at this. He's set his own priorities. It's incumbent upon us to make sure he understands our priorities, and I think your feelings go a long way toward that. Thanks, Brother! —James

Fab Newsletter**Dear FTM,**

I've been getting the FTM Newsletter for a few years and I'm consistently impressed with the quality, writing, content and overall professionalism of this production. You guys do a fantastic job and I hope you have some idea of what an incredibly valuable asset you are to the FTM transgendered community.

Keep it up! Thanks! Patric M., Santa Ana Hts, CA

Hey, thank YOU, Patric! —James



A Response to the Questionnaire From Hell

by Jamie Walker

I want to go on record with my opinion on the nature of the relationship of the “transgender caregivers” to the TG community, and with my view of the “Gender Dysphoria Program Questionnaire” which I was required to fill out as part of my program with a therapist. This is not a criticism of any particular therapist or of the therapeutic relationship. It is my deeply held view of the structure of the whole transgender process in this country today. I respect those who are able to work within this dysfunctional process and still do good and meaningful service to transgendered people.

Some of us in the TG community refer to this survey as “The Questionnaire from Hell.” This does not refer to the size or extent of the questionnaire but rather to the sense that its writers have little or knowledge of the people to whom it is directed.

Webster’s dictionary defines:

vi-o-lence (as the) 3. unjust or callous use of force or power, as in violating another’s rights, sensibilities, etc.

One FTM described following through this questionnaire as similar to being raped and refused to answer it. I skirted this by reforming some questions and refusing others. Also I took it as an opportunity to make this statement in a format that may reach some of those “gender professionals” who might make a difference.

It bothers me that a therapist who is considered knowledgeable and supportive, someone who mainly lives up to the reputation, did not consider it necessary to revise this questionnaire.

Then I remember the disparate attitudes towards transgenderism I have found even among TGs, and realize that for some people this may be a very safe and comfortable format. For many of us, it is not. We are already going through issues of identity. To be hit with this unsympathetic probing, on what for many is their first attempt at grappling with these issues, is downright mean.

Issues of the “Caregivers”

The “caregiver” community seems very out of touch with the people they are supposedly taking care of. This sad thing is true of the medical profession in general, and seems to reflect a condition in our society as a whole. Society is made up of many different interlaced communities, with many different beliefs, values, and experiences, yet the ruling political and medical bodies operate as if everybody is the same and “really” share their own values and experiences. This is a difficult problem, but the biggest problem is that it is not even acknowledged.

Another situation that does not inspire faith is the hypocrisy of the medical establishment. It demands so much of transgendered through the Standards of Care with the codependent refrain of “We only want what is best for you. We don’t want you to be unhappy with an irreversible decision.” Yet it sees no inconsistency with its handling of similar, or even more drastic, changes in people’s lives: procreation,

childbirth, breast enlargement, sterilization, plastic surgery. If we complain, it says, “Well, just go somewhere else then,” while emphasizing that it is only through professionals who subscribe to the SOC that one can get the best care.

TG caregiver professionals rarely come to our meetings, participate in online forums, or write in TG journals. TG people notice this; and they believe that TG caregivers don’t really care about TG people, but are operating on their own agenda.

The problem with the working paradigm of the therapist as “approver” of one’s transgendered status, is that the therapist holds the opposing roles of gatekeeper and of facilitator. This doesn’t inspire the therapist to honesty and it doesn’t allow for the full growing and healing of the therapy process. They hold the key that can open the jail of my very self—don’t they think I will be mindful of what I say?

Issues of the Questionnaire Itself:

My alterations: I put quotes (“”) around the terms in the questions which I felt did not represent me, or much of the transgendered community. I chose to reformulate or ignore some questions which were so far from my reality that they could not be answered honestly.

Point of view: The questionnaire sets forth a vision of transgenderedness which is behind the times and representative of only one small part of American culture. Words like “problem”, “cross-live”, “cross-dress”, “heavy drinking”, the “addicted” category for marijuana, the emphasis on “spouse” of assumed “opposite” sex, the complete absence of any space to discuss one’s relationships with other transgendered, the emphasis on sexual activity — all speak an age and social class and attitude which is not Now.

Privacy issue: Part of this is the assault on identity outlined above. Part is the appropriateness of information such as family and associates’ names. Part is the relevance of many of the questions.

It is not that long ago that transgendered have been hounded and beaten and killed. It is still happening, even in our enlightened SF Bay Area. And it was not that long ago that transgendered were rounded up with all the other undesirables for the trip to the ovens. To paraphrase something I read recently, this was accomplished with only index cards in shoeboxes. Think how happy the budding fascists of today must be with the powerful capabilities of surveillance satellites and computer databases. While I feel privileged to be in a position where I can stand up for who and what I am, I see no reason to provide detailed information on people who through no fault of their own are associated with me.

Even without that paranoia, the simple issue of privacy prevents me from supplying names and addresses of my relations. I chose to be in this office. I cannot make that decision for others.

Relevance: The third issue, the relevance of the questions, bothers me the most. Many of them ask for intimate details of my life, with no sense of pri-

vacy, no sense of caring about the answers or the answerer, no sense that there could be another way of looking at these issues than that of the questioner.

“Social and Psychological History:” the emphasis in this section is twisted. The client’s relationships with co-workers and friends are given slight attention. But these have had the most relevance to my transgenderedness. It was through those very relationships that I finally figured out what I was.

The three “religion” questions: I have kept my answers here short. To me, the spiritual aspect of transgenderedness is an important one, but was not addressed in the questions, which were only concerned with the client’s social relationship to organized religion. Spirituality is not a factor in the medical paradigm. Also, I consider my spirituality to be in the “very private” category, along with sex, and I will be bringing it to the therapist’s office and the operating theatre on my own. So I have no problem with leaving it out in the questionnaire.

Sexual History: The Sexual and General History section is where this questionnaire gets really disturbing. As a cold, intrusive, and almost assaultive experience, this section works well. Sex is private and personal. It feels like a violation to be so summarily asked these questions. There is no defining point of view or context relevant to the needs of the transgendered person, or to this personal person, to put them in some kind of perspective that would make answering them a positive experience.

I see nothing in these questions about gender. They all ask for intimate details of one’s sexual history. Gender is about identity and social roles. It is not about sex, although it exists in complex association with it. Transgendered people know this. The people who are supposed to be helping us aren’t.

I’m not consulting a “gender professional” for sex therapy. I’m here to change my gender presentation from one that isn’t true to me to one that is.

To put a fine point on it, my enlarged mammary glands have never had anything to do-for me-with my sexual activities. But they do have a lot to do with my social relationships. To put it another way: they may have to do with how I get to bed, but minimal influence on what happens once I’m there.

Conclusion:

I realize that these are complex issues, and that there is a lot more to be said about them. I felt that my responsibility here was just to raise them. I don’t expect that they will be resolved easily or soon.

Recognizing that I am in a stronger position than many TGs at this stage of their process (being older, without dependents, a “natural scholar,” lots of social support), I felt I could use my position to make these statements on behalf of others who may have more pressing issues at this time.

Many of these ideas, although strongly held by me, were inspired or developed in conversations and correspondence with other TGs, and through reading. I would love to be able to take credit for all of it, but I can’t. I had a lot of help.

Poetry

Jonathan (to an FTM)

His eyes carry the sign
of one who knows—
somewhere beyond the glistening whites,
and sweet black crystal pupils—
he knows the misery
of living a lie,
first struck at birth
and silenced for two decades
by “God” and a society
of true liars—
but still,
he knows NOW too
the wistful, child like wonder
of having his own soul released—
at last—
to the body he has always known
from the INSIDE,
and I know he knows me,
too,
from the soul out.

—Ian Kilfoil 7/94

The Feminine Child

Transsexual Children Banned From Foster Care:

Go Directly to Psych Wards 1994

*she thought of irons and waxed paper
that seal the colors of cold music
as she walked through leaf blood calling
the children out of their buried caves
and climbing from their glowing cells
as the sky was full of souls flying
to escape over the naked trees.*

*once tender shamans came morning dancing
on dawn's feet, and the magic child
blew palms of changing light across all
waters, and time wept into its own raining.
the feminine child born not constructed
came singing fire to worlds on earth, and
variously named, accused by others tongues,
men raped them before they killed them
and afterwards occasionally asked for
blessings from the dead in secret.*

*girlchild is a good name to gather fury,
her survival as a ghost depends on it.
the faces of children floating through
mirrored images reveal the turnings back
of an old girlchild at the end of the world,
or until they are out and safely sleeping,
for the sky is full of wings without bodies*

—Camille Moran 5/94

FTM International Financial Report, 1994

Nineteen ninety-four started off as a lean year. Donations were down in the first two quarters, yet expenses kept rising due to increased postage costs and increased newsletter production costs, both of which were driven by increased interest in our services as reflected in requests for sample copies and requests to be added to our mailing list (now over 600 subscribers!). We also added voicemail in the second quarter, which is not a big expense, but was an additional one. Also, the group allocated \$500.00 in January so that I could attend my first IFGE Board meet-

ing, a successful trip that has netted us increased visibility and good will, as well as additional funding for the 1995 FTM conference. When the coffers were not replenished by July, we printed an appeal for funds and announced that the Newsletter would be available by subscription only. Over the next several months donations increased, and when we had to skip the October issue, both to conserve funds and to give Stafford, Jordy and myself a much needed break (we were inundated with other work at the time) donations increased even further. Subscriptions poured in, along with

messages of encouragement, thanks, and praise. We extend our deepest thanks for your acknowledgement and your continued support. The FTM Newsletter is in a very strong position now, and if we continue to have annual renewals from all our subscribers (as well as the extra donations that come in) we will be able to survive and very likely grow. We did receive several extra generous donations, even some with stipulations that the money be used to support subscriptions for low-income members. I am deeply gratified by your generosity, and relieved that we will not have to cut off the small handful of people who are genuinely unable to pay the full subscription price. Again, thank you so much. Here is the statement

of our 1994 income and expenses:

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| INCOME | |
| Subs. and donations | \$6,258.00 |
| Interest earned | 15.44 |
| TOTAL | \$6,273.44 |

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| EXPENSES | |
| Printing | \$1,382.00 |
| Postage | 1,640.70 |
| Xeroxing | 579.46 |
| Office supplies | 268.97 |
| Telephone | 235.77 |
| Airfare | 500.00 |
| Mailbox rental | 90.00 |
| TOTAL | \$4,696.90 |
| BALANCE | \$1,576.54 |

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Conf. fund on 12/31/94 | \$700.00 |
| Conf. fund on 3/31/95 | \$2,615.00 |

Respectfully Submitted,
Jamison "James" Green, Director

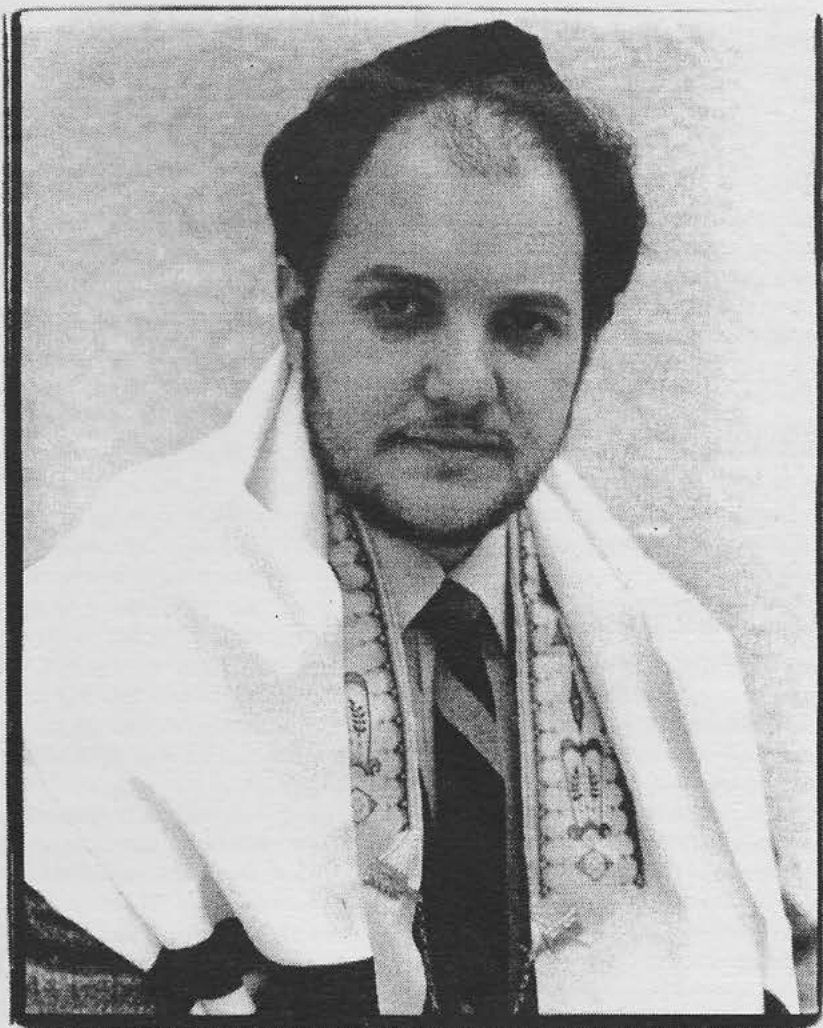
In The News Continued from page 7

given replacement doses of estrogen, the female hormone they lose during menopause). A recent study indicates, however, that hormone therapy may be beneficial for both sexes. John E. Morley, professor of geriatrics at the St. Louis University School of Medicine, gave replacement testosterone to eight men with an average age of seventy-seven. Almost all of the men increased their grip strength, showed more evidence of bone growth, lowered their blood cholesterol and produced more red blood cells — in other words, felt younger and stronger. Currently, testosterone injections are only used for men with certain rare conditions. But Morley believes that injections of replacement testosterone may one day save older men from broken hips and other afflictions of age in the same way estrogen helps many women."

Item 2: "In clinical tests by UC San Diego endocrinologist Samuel S.C. Yen, the compound dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) postponed effects of aging such as fatigue and aches in joints and muscles. Thirty patients, who took DHEA over six months, said they slept better, had more energy and were better able to handle stress. DHEA is a component of the sex hormones testosterone and estrogen. At least two years of clinical tests are needed before the compound may be available to the public."

As usual, the FTM Newsletter staff will try to keep you informed about hormone news. We recently were told by one of our medical sources that 30% of men over 50 are currently taking supplemental testosterone to prevent osteoporosis and improve sexual performance. This is in direct conflict with item 1 above. It is very curious how little solid information is available about male sexual health and hormonal treatment.

Readers: Keep sending in news items, and please tell us where and when the items were published. Thanks!



Jeffrey Shevlowitz as photographed by Loren Cameron. This photo is part of Loren's New Man Series opening May 1st at 848 Community Space, a gallery located at 848 Divisadero in San Francisco. Loren's last show sold out, so get there early!

networking

WANTS SURGERY INFO

I am a 25-year-old FTM TS from Australia. I have been receiving testosterone injections for nearly eight months now. I am meeting my surgeons soon and would be very grateful to hear from anyone anywhere about the phalloplasty surgery, as I am still confused about this operation. I seem to hear all different information about how it is done and how it works. You can write to me directly or to the FTM Newsletter. My Address is **Troy Smith, [redacted] Burwood Hwy, East Burwood 3151, Vic. Australia.** I was wondering if any photos of the phalloplasty surgery could be included in any of your upcoming issues. Also hello to Dale M from Melbourne.

Thanks. From a Homeboy Down Under

*Troy, we've been trying to get good phalloplasty photos for a long time. We'll run any that we can, but so far all we can find are published in medical journals. If you can, go to a university library where they have medical journals and look up articles in plastic surgery journals and urology journals. Many of the articles will have photos. Also, the next issue of *Chrysalis Quarterly* is an all-FTM issue which includes a good overview of all FTM standard surgical procedures. Write to **AEGIS, P.O. Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033 USA** for information about *Chrysalis Quarterly* and the all-FTM issue. By the way, everyone who attends the FTM conference this August in San Francisco will receive a free copy of the all-FTM issue of *CQ!* —James.*

A FRIEND IN SACTO

If there are any other FTMs within 50 miles of Sacramento who are interested in support, friendship, use my voicemail: [redacted].

Thanks, Jami G.

NEEDS MEDI-CAL INFO

I am disabled, so am unable to make a certain amount of money on SSI. There seems no way of me getting the rest of my surgery without the money. I have Medi-Cal. Is there someone out there who knows of a program?

I am a gay male and I have never been attracted to women. But I'm a male. I have the need to penetrate and not be penetrated. I've been penetrated all my life and I don't enjoy it. I only did it to get the money for the surgery I had done—a phallus that is impotent, and chest surgery. I still have female organs up inside of me. I have no testicles. I'd appreciate a letter or information on surgeons. I had a very good surgeon, Dr. Ronald Brown. He did his best for the amount of money I had; I didn't have enough for the rest of the surgery. Any help is appreciated. **Mr. Eugene Gilson, [redacted] E. Lewis Avenue, [redacted] Merit Hall, CA 90813.**

I wonder if anyone can advise Eugene about approaching social service agencies or Medi-Cal providers? If so, please write to him or to the FTM Newsletter.

BI-GENDERED

I wrote to you a couple of years ago (1993) asking for feedback from guys about how they knew they were really men. At the time I felt sure that I was a transsexual and not a cross-dresser. Over the last one-and-a-half years, I have done a great deal of personal research and soul searching. I joined a support group for transsexuals called **EON (Expressing Our Nature)** here in Syracuse, New York. The group is mostly MTF women, but they gave me a lot of really great general information about transsexualism. Thanks to those women, several therapists and my own willingness to look at myself honestly, I have come to the realization that I am not an FTM but am "bi-gendered." What this means for me is that I feel like I possess equal parts of the male and female genders in my body and my brain. This does not mean that I want to live exclusively as a woman or that I do not want to change my body surgically, because I do. I am still interested in having some chest reconstruction, and now that I am clear about who I am, I will be able to present my case more effectively to my doctor. Being "bi-gendered," for me, means that I can really be myself because I see who I really am. For a long time I tried to be a "man" and was not happy, but I always knew that I was not happy as a woman. Now I feel like I'm finally beginning to be happy with my life and my interpersonal relationships. This revelation has changed my life tremendously for the better and I want to share that with some of the people who have helped me. I would also like very much to correspond with any other people who may share my feelings. Any FTMs who are interested in corresponding can write me at: **Leslie Marion Young, [redacted] James St. [redacted], Syracuse, NY 13203.**

Leslie, I'm very glad for you that you are coming to understand and accept yourself, especially when your path is not in one of the traditional "gender boxes." There are many others like you out there, and I hope they will write to you, too. Stay in touch, and let us know how things are going. All the best to you—James.

YOUR INPUT WANTED

Transsexuals, MtF or FtM, but especially FtM, are requested to phone collect to provide information regarding the structure of your close and extended family. Information desired covers such matters as number of persons of each

inborn genetic sex in at least two generations, including cousins and their children. Who was gay, lesbian, transvestite? Who never married? who attempted or committed suicide? Whose marriage was infertile or led to miscarriages, stillbirths, early infantile death? Who in the extended family had a known inherited condition, such as color blindness, fragile X mental retardation, or whatnot? Ask questions of me. If you need financial reimbursement, I will see what I can afford. I am not funded by any agency. **Phone 1-800-505-444-1291; email wjtmd@AOL.com; fax 505-343-0027.** Thank you. **William J. Turner, M.D., Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry, Dept. of Psychiatry, State University of New York at Stony Brook,** now residing in New Mexico.

HELP WANTED...

Help! I'm a 26-year-old FTM who is just at the very beginning of my journey toward transformation, and my nerves are already shot. I'm still living as a female, a very, very androgynous one. Stupidly, I thought I might be able to pass without medical intervention. at least while I was waiting to get hormones, etc. Wrong! Regardless of how flat-chested I am, and regardless of clothes, hair, bindings, etc., I can't seem to pass without hormones. I have a low voice, but it must have the female upper register ringing in somewhere. My therapist is certain I can pass with intervention, however. It's just that I'll look like a boyish man. So what? Most of my role models are that way. In fact, the only way I get attention from others as a man is from gay men. This doesn't work for me since I consider myself a heterosexual man. Big problem. At any rate, I really could use some practical, brotherly advice from any of you, whether you're pre- or post-operative. My therapist only has experience with MTFs. She's never dealt with the likes of me. Secondly, there are no support groups in this town (i.e., if there's a bright center to the universe, I'm in the town it's farthest from). Therefore, I've had to research, call, and write on my own, and I seem to be lacking some crucial info. My therapist tells me I need to contact the doctors/clinics on my own. Who do I contact? Where are they? Also, I'm getting out of college and starting my job search. What that means is, I'll have to do my transformation on the job. Scary thought. I'm looking at Minneapolis, Minnesota, Boise or (especially) Ketchum, Idaho, Chicago, Los Angeles, and San Francisco/Oakland for work in marketing/advertising/research/publications/public relations so I can put my creativity and research skills to work. In other words, I'm a liberal arts major (biology/fine arts/theater).

...more networking

Any suggestions about corporations, etc., that are tolerant of this, or how should I handle this situation? Look, any advice any of you could give me would be great, even if it's just a "hang on, kid." I really need to talk/write to others like myself. So, if you've got the time, please write me at: Jakki Malis, 8449 St. Joe Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46835. For financial reasons, I'm still at home with Mom, and she isn't too keen on any of this, so please be discreet and address letters to Jakki, not Erik. Thanks, Erik.

James responds: Erik, you should have received the FTM Resource Guide by now. That contains all the doctors and clinics we know of. If your therapist has MTF clients, they must be getting their hormones somewhere locally; can't she refer you to one of those doctors to get you started? But I also gather that perhaps you don't want to start as long as you're living with Mom. I would advise you to look toward the more metropolitan areas on your list. Boise and Ketchikan are not transgender strongholds. In fact, the few TS-identified people I've spoken to who live there can't wait to get away. My understanding is that there is no support there. Not that there really isn't, it's just that we haven't been informed of it's existence. Minneapolis has one of the last remaining university-based gender clinics. I'm not sure what the job market there is like, but it's not very good here in the San Francisco/Oakland area for the fields you mentioned. The competition for those types of jobs here is very intense; entry level positions are few and far between. I don't know about LA or Chicago, either. Perhaps someone will write to you from these other areas. I hope so. On-the-job transition is possible, but since you are planning a move anyway, I would suggest you try to get yourself started on hormones and present yourself as male in your job search. Check your university records to see whether there is a sex designation on your transcript. You should be able to change your name to Jak or something on those official records (if you need them to get a job...I never did...), then start using Erik as your nickname, or just introduce yourself as Erik as you meet new people. Getting into a program or therapy relationship in the new city as soon as possible (perhaps even before actually moving) could prove beneficial, as you would have official support for your actions and give you the extra confidence you need. By the way, everyone starts out in transition looking like a boyish man. Don't worry: eventually you'll look like an adult, though you may not feel like one! Above all, don't panic. Everything doesn't have to happen at once, or even according to your plan. Life has a way of working out, even when things seem to happen in unexpected ways. Hang in there, kid! —James

CAVEAT EMPTOR

Several years ago, when we began publishing information about the new proliferation of products specifically for FTMs, we published the following notice: The FTM Newsletter does not necessarily endorse any products or services advertised or reported on with its pages, though in principle we support entrepreneurial FTMs. Consumers are solely responsible for their purchases; any disputes should be resolved directly with the merchant(s), though, again in principle, we at the FTM Newsletter will report on problems experienced by our readership if those problems are widespread and unresolved. Well, it has come to our attention that a small number of men have experienced difficulty dealing with Rhon Reed in obtaining the very expensive model of Mr. Reed's "Herb" product. There is presently a notice posted to the internet by one very disgruntled customer. This notice is visible to many people, far beyond the boundaries of our community. We also continue to receive highly favorable comments about Mr. Reed and his products, which have been of immeasurable benefit to many customers. Stafford has suggested to one online complainant that men desiring to purchase products through the mail attempt to negotiate a COD arrangement with the supplier, with a deposit placed at the time of the order, and the remainder to be paid to the UPS agent at time of delivery. This will give the consumer a bit more leverage in the exchange, and perhaps motivate the supplier to ensure a timely delivery. Earlier this year, another unhappy customer threatened to file a Federal complaint against Mr. Reed and the FTM Newsletter for mail fraud. This action, had it been filed, would have permanently ended the FTM Newsletter. Fortunately, Mr. Reed did deliver the product, and the customer withdrew his threat. I want to caution readers who are angry with vendors that The FTM Newsletter will not be complicit in any fraud, nor liable for any damages incurred due to breach of contract between any parties which appears to have arisen due to information gleaned from these pages. While it is true that any product will not work for everyone, and any business arrangement will not make all parties happy every time, taking out your frustration on this Newsletter, which makes every attempt to be fair and impartial and to distribute the most reliable information available to us in an effort to assist the community, and which does not profit from publishing information on any products or services, would only serve to damage the community at large by effectively destroying its only regular source of information. Please use good judgment when purchasing any product, and in lodging complaints: complain to the party who can solve the problem; enlist help if necessary; but please don't

try to destroy the individuals or organizations that are working to build this community. That includes Rhon Reed. We are all only human. We need to work together, to help each other, not tear each other down. Thanks. —James

FTM NEEDS SF LODGING

FTM coming to SF Bay Area for top surgery this summer seeks lodging for two weeks during recovery period. If you can help, contact **Beth Eliot** [redacted] for more information.

RUSSIAN CONNECTION

I have been corresponding with a friend (American) in Russia who is interested in establishing contact with the gender community there. As I would imagine, their situation, and ability to "come out" in that culture is difficult and quite dangerous. Only recently, after overcoming many problems, she has managed to establish contact with an MTF through whom she hopes to provide some assistance to local transgenderists. She sent the following to me, for my opinion:

• FTM's are ten times as common as MTF's here. I think that says something about the size of the biological and psychological components of transsexualism, don't you? Or perhaps it says something about differences in cultural values and in screening procedures.

Maggie, our local contact, told a wonderful story of going to the Central Psychological Institute and meeting a man in the parking lot who introduced himself as a psychologist and asked her why she was there. She told him she was transsexual and he lectured her for ten minutes on why being a man was no easier and no better than being a woman and told her to reconsider. When she told him she was MTF, he turned white and fled.

What does that tell you about the culture? Do you think there are fewer MTF's in reality or are they more frightened about coming out or do they get shut off real fast when they begin looking for help? Hard to say... Do you think there'd be any interest in this kind of thing in the U.S.? (Has it all been done before?)

I really don't feel qualified to make a statement, though in my opinion there are just as many true transsexuals anywhere, whether they "come out" or not is dependent on the local culture. I told her I would pass this on to you for an educated opinion, and I would appreciate any comments you would care to make. If you feel there is any value in using this in whole or part in the FTM newsletter, you are welcome to do so. I am curious to know if you have received any communication from Russian FTM's. Sincerely, Lorraine Hall [redacted]@aol.com)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FTM on Stage in Minneapolis

David Harrison will be performing his solo show: **FTM** at the Minnesota Fringe Festival, in Minneapolis, June 22 thru July 3. **FTM** was named Performance Pick of the Week in the LA Weekly. For information call: (612)770-9746

Transgen'95: Law Conference in June

The International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy, Inc. (ICTLEP) will meet in Houston, Texas, June 14-18, 1995. Focusing on "Your Jobs, Your Rights, Your Health and Your Documents," organizers of this year's conference hope to score Sgt. Stephan Thorne as a keynote speaker. Last year's conference featured another local FTM, attorney Michael Hernandez. ICTLEP has some very high powered members, and they have accomplished a great deal to educate other attorneys, lawmakers and professionals since the organization's inception in 1992. FTM Aaron Davis is active in this group. Don't be afraid to attend if you're interested but you're not a lawyer: 70% of past conference attendees have been non-attorneys. Attorneys can get CLE credits for attending. This conference is a real hot-bed of movers and shakers. For more information, contact: Phyllis Frye [redacted] Firenza Houston, TX 77035 [redacted]

Milwaukee Groups

There is a Social support Transgender group called the **Gemini Gender Group**. PO Box 44211 Milwaukee, WI 53214. Voice mail # 414-297-9328. My SO and I are the only FTMs who attend, but it's a really nice group of people and FTMS are definitely welcome (and people go out of their way to make FTMs comfortable). 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. Currently the FTM group has about 8-9 guys. Gretchen is always welcoming more FTMs! The phone # for Pathways is 414-774-4111. I'm thinking about starting a "social" support group for FTMs in the Chicago/Milwaukee areas. There seems to be a growing # of FTMs within these two cities and we have special needs and concerns that aren't getting addressed for a lot of guys. Feel free to contact me for potential group— Michael [redacted].

Massachusetts Groups

(IFGE (International Foundation for Gender Education) P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778, (617) 899-2212 – A good place to look for publications. **BiMonthly FTM Group**, c/o IFGE, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778, (617) 899-2212 – An FTM support group which meets at 7pm on the first and third Monday or every month in the offices of IFGE. East Coast FTM Group, P.O. Box 60585, Florence Station,

Northampton, MA 01060, (413) 584-7616. **AXA**– Informal, social, all-inclusive gender community support group which meets every Wednesday starting at 6:30 in the basement of the Pizzeria Uno's on JFK St. in Harvard Square.

Polarity Anonymous Support Mtgs:

I have heard many people at the SF FTM meetings, including myself, express a wish for more support meetings. Finally got to thinking that i could host one at my house, which is in Menlo Park, 30 miles south of SF, and right off 101. Would like to use a roughly 12-step format. It could be FTMs only, all interested.. or both? Jamie Walker, P O Box 51505, Palo Alto CA 94303, [redacted]@yak.net)

FTM Website is Up and Running!

Thanks to a generous friend, FTM International has our own free web pages on the Internet. Although we do not have a lot of content yet, we are already getting lots of accesses, and are being linked from other TG web pages. Point your Web browser to <http://www.ftm-intl.org/>, or ftp to <ftp://ftp.yak.net/pub/ftm> for text files of the pages. Printouts of the pages are available at SF FTM meetings, or mail Jamie Walker, P O Box 51505, Palo Alto CA 94303.

ETVC To Raise Funds for FTM Conference

ETVC will be hosting a fundraiser for FTM to raise money for our August conference at their APRIL 27th Social. It will be held at Eichelberger's Restaurant, 17th and Florida Streets, San Francisco, starting at 8:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome; especially needed are auctionable items and baked goods (desserts). Help ETVC support our conference!

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Boyfruit: Queer Men Re-Negotiating Cultural Politics, Sexuality and Gender. A new queer cultural politics of difference has been born. At its best, it embraces feminism, racial and ethnic differences, coalition-forming, the unassimilable differences among queers of many genders, outlaw sexuality, bisexuality, and gender ambiguity. It is time for an anthology that joins both the engineers of this shift and the inheritors fo this passage of queer culture — the twentysomething men who are living within the domains of definition and identity.... This project's goals are two-fold — Boyfruit will trace the ongoing shift from a unitary white gay male subject toward the emergence of less fixed, plural, multicultural queer male subjectivities and — Boyfruit will broaden, re-arrange and trouble accepted notions of masculinity and queerness.... Possible essay topics may look at the following questions. How can we construct a queer politics that resists assimilation and isolation? How does the gay community marginalize many of its members? How do queer men of color map out inclusive identities? How have FTMs constructed their own queer masculinities? How have other transgendered men constructed or rejected maleness? (Many more sug-

gestions are offered.)... While the focus of anthology is theoretically-rooted writing, this project needs submissions that explore what it means to be queer for younger men today from a range of perspectives. If you have an idea, a story, a paper or just a paragraph, please send it in. Please submit work on your particular interests, themes, or fetishes whether or not they seem to fit in with the suggested topics listed above. Send submissions with self-addressed & stamped envelope to: BOYFRUIT c/o 1087-C Valencia St., San Francisco, CA 94110. Preliminary deadline for submissions = June 30, 1995. (Phone 415-824-6373 to request the full "Call for Submissions" information sheet.)

Meeting Notes

Our April informational meeting was attended by over 60 people! It was great to see a larger-than-usual turnout by people of color, too. Thirty-two people went out to dinner together afterwards, and later twenty of those went out on the town, practically taking over a local club. Thanks to Stephan and Chris for coordinating the meeting and helping to build our community. Thanks to Stafford and Jordy for sharing their loft with us (for nearly 2 years, now!) as our meeting space! And special thanks to Matt and Johnny for holding a beer-bust fundraiser for the FTM conference a few months back. It's great to feel the connections spreading and deepening.

Because of some changes at Stafford's and Jordy's loft, we will be looking for a new meeting location in the next few months. Our May support meeting will be held at Stafford's (the usual) place. The June and July meeting may be held on the third floor of the same building. If you are unclear about the meeting location, call the FTM Voicemail number (510-287-2646) and ask for a call-back about it, but we will try to announce any further changes at the preceding meeting, or in the July Newsletter, and the new location will be posted on Stafford's door on meeting days. You'll be able to find us!

JamisonG@aol.com—FTM Online

Rushing headfirst into the oncoming traffic of the Infobahn, FTMs are modeming in to the hottest phenomena of the '90's: online communication. On America Online, we have a message board, monthly chat line and an e-mail address for this Newsletter. A Web-site has been added to the menu and FTM's can hook up no matter which server is used. To access the message board on America Online, type > keyword TCF >message boards >list categories >info. and discussion>female to male. The chat is usually the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 6pm PST, in a **private chat room called BROTHERS F2M**. For detailed information about accessing these services, e-mail ButchJKM@aol.com and he'll provide more detailed instructions. Our e-mail address is **JamisonG@aol.com**. To reach James, and **FTM News@aol.com** for Stafford and Jordy.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with sadness that we note the passing of one of our long-time members, ANTONIO MARTINEZ, born October 25, 1949, died March 2, 1995 at 10:20 a.m. from complications of AIDS. Many FTM members who have been in the San Francisco area since the group started will remember Tony and his beloved daughter Sandra. Tony's last years were tormented by the loss of custody of his daughter as she was placed in foster care because he was transsexual. Fortunately he was able to retain regular contact with her, and this was a source

of joy for him. Another joy in his life was his relationship with his fiancée, Jane Burns, who cared for him in his illness and was with him when he passed away. Jane recalled Tony as "kind and loving and brave. The best man I ever had. He was a gift from God to me. He was a sweet, gentle person, filled with courage and compassion for others, but he did not have enough compassion for himself. He was a tormented soul who had difficulty accepting himself." Tony started transition when he was 19 years old. He spent many years taking care of his elderly mother. He fought for civil rights for all people, and he would give his last dollar

to help someone in need. His friends in the FTM community who reached out to help him shared his sadness and frustration, and admired his courage. We will miss him. Jane wrote this poem for him:

The Sunset of Your Eyes

A golden white mist rises above your face I watch its ascension

A heartbeat or two and it's gone

I watched your eyes as I dried your tears recognition and wonderment were there

A golden light shone forth your eyes radiant through its setting

—Jane Burns

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by David Harrison

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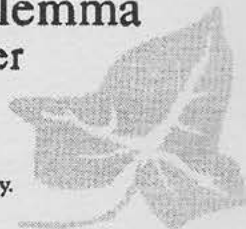
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More ANNOUNCEMENTS

Your Uncle Samantha Wants You!

Yes, it's true. Your uncle Sam wants you up on the Hill, deep in the bowels of our nation's capital, Washington D.C. (smile when you say that), for the first National Transgender Lobbying Day, Monday and Tuesday October 2 and 3, 1995. A recent 2-day trip to DC was amazingly successful: Four of us met with the staffs of House and Senate leaders. Most had never even met a transperson, never thought of us as constituents, never considered our rights and concerns. We've been invisible as citizens. Now YOU have the chance to change that! Instead of 4 of us, National Transgender Lobbying Day is going to put 54 of us on the Hill. That's right, nearly 5 dozen transpeople and friends will lobby for inclusion on critical issues like job discrimination, veteran's affairs, child custody rights, national health care and insurance. But we can't do it without YOU! For more info, contact Riki Anne Wilchins (212)645-1753 or RIKI@PIPELINE.COM, Karen Kerin (802) 223-4756, Phyllis Frye (713) 723-8368. Shared overnight rooms are about \$15.00/night/person, right off the beautiful University of Maryland campus. Subway is about \$5.00/person/day. Some limited scholarships are available. Also, for those short of cash, but planning to attend Southern Comfort (September 28 - October 1 in Atlanta), there will be a 14 passenger van (2 if need be) chartered to go round trip from Atlanta to DC and back (10 - 12 hours travel time each way). Come for one or both days: Just be there!

New York Area FTM Support Groups

Two new professionally facilitated, free, confidential support groups, sponsored by the Gender Identity Project of the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center in New York City are now in session. Support for Family and Significant Others of people who are transgendered or considering gender transition, and support for Couples (at least one of whom is transgendered, considering gender transition, or experiencing gender confusion) are in progress now, meeting on alternate Wednesdays at The Center at 208 West 13th St., NYC. These groups are meeting for 10 weeks each, ending in May. If these groups are well received, new sessions may start later this year. Call Kit Rachlin, Ph.D. (212) 570-2360 for more information.

The FTM Fraternity meeting schedule for 1995 (for FTMs and SOs in NYC) is as follows: April 29, June 10, July 22, October 7, and November 11. All meetings will be held on Saturday evening from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. Please call (212) 570-2360 for the location and to confirm that the meeting is taking place.

New Therapist Listing

A new therapist listing to be added to the next edition of the FTM Resource Guide is Lee Padula, Ph.D., psychologist and sex therapist, member of HBGDA, located at 37677 Professional Center Drive, Suite 110, Livonia, MI 48154; phone (313) 953-3333.

Support for Kids of Transgendered Parents

Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE) now runs three free groups for daughters and sons of lesbian and gay parents in the San Francisco and East Bay areas. COLAGE has a stated commitment to provide support for children of transgendered (TG or TS) parents, too, although I don't think many TG/TS parents have yet become involved. COLAGE is looking for TG/TS parents to help them understand our issues as parents and to help build programs. The last family brunch in San Francisco drew 500 people! Get involved in building community for yourself and your children. Call Stefan Lynch, COLAGE Executive Director (a real nice guy who really cares and wants to help!), at (415) 861-KIDS or email him at KidsOfGays@AOL.com.

MOVING? Let FTM Know!

Remember to let FTM know about your new address. Every time we mail out an issue of the FTM Newsletter, about 20 come back with forwarding notices. We have to pay another \$0.75 to re-send those copies. And another 10 or so come back marked "Forwarding Order Expired" and no new address, or "Attempted, Not Known." The people who need to be reading this probably aren't because they didn't receive this issue. But for those

FTM Meeting Schedule 1995

FTM meetings are on the 2nd Sunday of each month, from 2 to 5 p.m., in San Francisco. Call James (510-658-0474) for Details. Mark your calendars in advance!

Support

May 14, 1995
July 9, 1995
September 10, 1995

Informational

April 9, 1995
June 11, 1995
August 13, 1995
October 8, 1995
December 10, 1995

FTM International Conference- Aug 18-20, 1995 in SF
November 12, 1995

FTM INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

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of you planning a move, don't forget to let us know as soon as possible: you'll save us postage, and you'll be sure we don't lose track of you! After you've paid for a subscription, we want you to receive it!

New National Holiday To Be Inaugurated In SF

The Transgender Community is invited to a backyard barbecue in celebration of LOU SULLIVAN DAY, June 4. All FTMs and MTFs are welcome, including transsexuals, cross-dressers, gender benders, and friends. For more information, call Sage at (415) 252-9255 or Kathy at (415) 552-3577; or email Kathy at kathyj@global.california.com.

Sullivan Book Available

Sixteen copies of Lou Sullivan's book "From Female to Male, The Life of Jack Bee Garland" are still available from FTM. This was Lou's last book, documenting what we know of the life of an FTM transgendered person who lived in the late 19th and early 20th century as a known cross-dresser. Jack Bee Garland, also known as Babe Bean led an amazing life and may have been an early gay-identified FTM. Get a piece of our history in your library for \$10.00 (includes postage). Make checks payable to FTM, and ask for Lou Sullivan's Jack Bee Garland book. Please note, we no longer have copies of Lou's "Information for the Female-to-Male Cross-Dresser and Transsexual." You can obtain copies of that book from the publisher, Ingersoll Gender Center, 1812 E. Madison, Suite 106, Seattle, WA 98122-2843 (206) 329-6651. Write or phone for pricing information. An alternate source is IFGE, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778, \$10.00 + \$1.50 shipping and handling, order #43 from IFGE's publications catalog.

"MALE'IN" IT TO YA, BOY!

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