

# metamorphosis

VOL.2, NO.4

METAMORPHOSIS MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

AUGUST 1983

## The Joy Of METAMORPHOSIS

By METAMORPHOSIS, I don't mean my own "metamorphosis to masculinity" but rather, the METAMORPHOSIS MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION—which I first established in Dec. 1981 as METAMORPHOSIS: Gender Counselling Educational Services.

People sometimes ask me, "Why do you peer-counsel transsexuals, why do you conduct research on transsexualism and why do you educate professionals and the lay public on gender dysphoria? What is your motivation, your reason for being a "professional transsexual" and what benefits do you reap from this particular career?" Well, I'll tell you.

I have been counselling, researching and educating re: transsexualism and gender dysphoria since 1971—the time which I began my own transsexual transition. I do it for the same reason(s) as any other scientist, philosopher, psychologist, journalist, artist, musician, or actor. That is, to seek, to find, and then, to proclaim the "truth" to the world. To raise consciousness. Or, in simpler terms, I do it because it is "in" my blood, "in" the air I breathe, it is my very life—it is, in fact, myself. "Le style c'est l'homme." The style (or the work) is the man himself.

I have been criticized, on occasion, for being a "professional transsexual", for going public--appearing on radio and TV and speaking and lecturing on the "transsexual phenomenon". To these critics, I say this--"Every one has his mission in life" and this is mine. If not transsexualism, gender dysphoria, sex and gender, and sexology, it would have been something else, eg:

(cont'd. on p.9)

## MMRF Notes

Correction: Please note that the 6 information pamphlets distributed by the Janus Information Facility sell for \$25--not \$10 (as originally reported in Vol.2, No.3, P.9).

We warmly welcome the following new members to join our Board of Professional Advisors: Dr. Conrado, M.D.--a Brazilian physician who is studying plastic surgery in Brussels, Belgium; Mr. Klaus Kohlmeyer, M.A.--Director of the Balaclava Residence of the Elizabeth Fry Society in Vancouver, British Columbia; Ms. Alise Martinez, B.A., R.N.--Director of TS Counseling in San Francisco, California; and finally, Mr. Jude F. Patton, M.A., PA-C--Director of the Gender Dysphoria Program of Orange County in San Juan Capistrano, California. We are also pleased to welcome Mr. Joe Ellman, from Springfield, Missouri, as a special Research Consultant of the MMRF.

On June 22nd, Rupert Raj met Ariadne Kane--Director of the Outreach Institute in Boston, Massachusetts--for the first time, while she was attending a conference here in Toronto. They dined out together with Susan C. Huxford--Executive Director of FACT and Director of GenderServe in Hamilton, Ontario. A good visit!

On July 23rd, Rupert Raj hosted a small rap-social for 6 members/subscribers at his residence. Mr. Raj showed the F-M guests several photographs of the phalloplasty--as performed by various plastic surgeons.

To date, we have received 16 Confidential Research Questionnaires. Grateful thanks are due to these 16 research participants. The rest of you--please support this research project and return your CRQs soon!

## BOOKREVIEW: **The Gender Trap**

by Chris Johnson & Cathy Brown with Wendy Nelson. Proteus, 1983 (\$21.50)

...THE GENDER TRAP describes itself as "the story of the world's most unusual couple--they met and together decided to have a child before pursuing the sex changes both desired so much." It is the story of Eugene and Anne.

Eugene is the son of itinerant Irish parents and is brought up...in a dogmatic Catholic tradition. Society sends him to a "training school" which is a 20th century disgrace.... Eugene's childhood is enough to make any growing boy a social misfit. The wonder of it is that he rises above this and becomes a master of Kung-Fu. This is the sort of compensation to which the M-F TS often resorts, but always without relief.... Eugene appears as a classic transsexual--at the age of 5 he knows that he doesn't feel like a boy.... What does it feel like to be a man? What does it feel like to be a woman? I have yet to meet the genetic male or female who can tell me. Certainly THE GENDER TRAP does not answer the question--it only serves to point up the traditional expectations of our society.

Anne's background is entirely different. She is brought up in a fairly stable, protective artisan's home in the heart of industrial England. She is a bright student who is successful in high school, winning a place in university where she meets a boyfriend whom she eventually marries. But she is a tomboy whose mother cannot keep her in dresses and who is never so happy as when she is tinkering under the hood of the family car. ...Anne's marriage produces no children because neither partner wishes that responsibility. Anne abhors the idea of giving birth and appears to be totally lacking in maternal instincts. When she eventually does have a baby, it is her partner who assumes the mother role....

Writer Wendy Nelson seems to have been more concerned with producing a readable "autobiography" than with..

researching the truths of gender dysphoria. She confuses sex and gender, and lacks knowledge of the medical and surgical procedures involved in sex reassignment. She tells how Anne and Eugene meet "Dr. S", who relates "the cold, clinical details of converting penis to vagina, clitoris to penis." This is arrant nonsense. In M-F sex reassignment, the penis is amputated and part of the stump used to form a clitoris. A neo-vagina has to be created by incision. In F-M reassignment, hormone therapy may lengthen the clitoris to about 7 cms., but it is inadequate for complete penetration and cannot be used for urination. Phalloplasty--the surgical art of creating a penis--is still in a very rudimentary stage of development.

As well, Ms. Nelson is misinformed in calling Dr. Robert Stoller "the one man who has attempted to make any lengthy study of transsexualism" ...The pioneer work of Dr. Harry Benjamin and the very solid research carried out by Dr. John Money at Johns Hopkins are completely overlooked. (Continued on p.10)



### GATEWAY GENDER ALLIANCE

Publishers of the Phoenix  
Monthly-International

International support organization  
for the  
female-to-male male-to-female  
transsexual and crossdresser

PO Box 62283  
Sunnyvale, CA 94088

(408) 734-3773  
(6 pm to 12 pm PST)

### WANTED!!!

Poems, limericks, free verse on themes related to: transsexualism, transvestism, and androgyny for inclusion in forthcoming book: AN ANTHOLOGY OF TS, TV, AND ANDROGYNOUS VERSE. Send submissions to: Rupert Raj, METAMORPHOSIS, P.O. Box 5963, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5W 1P4.

## DEAR RUPERT

I was very anxious to learn more about your organization. The newsletter is very enlightening. I was excited about reading your life story in the February and April issues. I am enclosing the Confidential Research Questionnaire. I hope it helps make some progress into dealing with people like us. And also enclosed is a check for \$25 to join as a member of METAMORPHOSIS.

I am currently trying to get my phalloplasty completed and am at present sitting in a hospital room recuperating from another stage of the penile construction. The cost of this surgery in the U.S.A. is outrageous. I understand that the Canadian insurance program will take care of most of the cost if a person is referred by the Gender Identity Clinic there.

It has taken me several years to finally come in contact with other people like myself. It is so good to know and hear from others that have experienced the same things. Thanks to organizations like METAMORPHOSIS and TS newsletters, I no longer feel totally alone in my fight as a person.

I will be awaiting the next issue of METAMORPHOSIS and any other correspondence you would like to send. I sincerely hope that we can develop a satisfactory friendly relationship in spite of the miles between us.

--Todd Blumenstock, 4005 E. Jackson, Elkhart, Indiana 46516.

I will be happy to help you in any way that I can. It sounds like you could use a few more extra hands. Have you considered advertising for volunteers in METAMORPHOSIS? It is amazing what you have been able to accomplish alone. If the majority of TSs would work half as hard and as dedicated as you have, together we could accomplish anything. You are a good example of how very important each and every person is...

(cont'd. on p.4)

## QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What is the a) best experience you have had re: your transsexualism and sex reassignment?

- "Getting male identification."
- "Going out in the world as a man and passing and being accepted as a man--full male privileges."
- "Discovering how happy daily life can be."
- "Helping someone else who thought they were a transsexual."
- "General comfort in self-expression."
- "Just being able to be me."
- "Feeling congruent and stopping the pretense."
- "Finding a gender identity clinic."
- "Having a woman accept me as a man."
- "When I visited a new church and joined in the singing and realized for the first time that I was singing the men's part and I fit in."
- "The total acceptance by my priest."
- "When a woman, observing me contemplate which restroom I should enter, said 'You can't go in there!' referring to the women's room."

b) the worst?

- "Being afraid in restrooms."
- "Getting sick from hormones."
- "Almost losing my job 'cause of it."
- "Possible familial rejection."
- "Family tension, conflict and infliction of guilt."
- "My psychiatrist before finding the gender identity clinic."
- "The first 3 weeks of cross-living."
- "I was taken advantage of by a doctor. He mutilated my breasts and caused problems for the plastic surgeon who finally performed the mastectomy. I almost lost a nipple graft because of his poor work."
- "Too many to mention."

(cont'd. on p.4)

DEAR RUPERT (cont'd. from p.3)

and how we all have the ability to accomplish what we set our minds to do. If only people would realize their potential.

In addition to penile research, I have done much studying in the area of surgical options for masculinizing the genetically feminine thigh/hip area. In the near future I will compile this information into booklet form, but until then you might want to recommend anyone with that concern to contact me.

--Joe Ellman, Springfield, Missouri

I'm curious about your interest in the subject matter of JOURNAL OF A TRANSSEXUAL. I found it depressing and difficult to relate to. Since the author is obviously not a true TS, I don't understand your intentions in distributing it. Her apparent obsession with feeling persecuted didn't serve as much of an inspiration for me anyhow. After attending Jude Patton's seminar and seeing so many successful travelers across the gender line, and having experienced my own transition, I could only wonder at the author's inability to "make it" (as evidenced by her reference to so many different jobs and her many encounters with violence). She spoke of feeling good about her womanhood, yet I find little in the way of joy in her journal. Life seemed to represent a constant threat to her. Personally, I've found life a lot more pleasant and exciting in spite of my own personal tragedies. Anyway, I'd be interested in your feelings\*.

I'm looking forward to your next issue of METAMORPHOSIS. The last issue was great. The layout and the graphics were fine. I'm anxious for the CONFIDENTIAL CONTACTS DIRECTORY to be finished. I correspond with you and one other TS and I find the experience enjoyable and supportive.

--Scott Robison, Anaheim, California

(cont'd. on p.7)

QUESTION OF THE MONTH (cont'd.)

c) the saddest?

"Loss of friends."

"Being alienated from my family."

"Not being able to complete my transition due to ill health and family obligations."

"Not being able to take my clothes off with casual sex partners."

"Being laughed at by a medical doctor."

"Losing certain friends and relatives."

"Losing my lover."

"Realizing that I will never have a boyhood."

"Losing my first love--I wasn't man enough for the then social climate."

d) the funniest?

"Having people not recognize me and talk to me about my female self."

"Confusing people when I wasn't totally passable."

"I was looking at photos of a M-F TS friend as a boy child in a restaurant. The waitress asked me if the photos were mine!"

"Having an uninformed (re: my status) client say to me 'You can't imagine what it's like.'"

"Another person relating a story about seeing a transsexual, saying they have never been that close to 'one' before."

"Being thought of as a 'straight' man, a 'straight' woman, a 'gay' man, a lesbian--all in the passage of one day. This often happens."

"Nothing so far is funny!"

e) the most ironical?

"Other men talking down women to me."

"Changing a tampon in the men's room."

"Being thought of as a 'gay' man."

"The first time that I totally cross-

(cont'd. on p.7)

## JUDE F. PATTON

JUDE F. PATTON, M.A., PA-C (born July 1948) is a Marriage, Family And Child Counselor and a Certified Physician Assistant who currently practices in California (2006 North Broadway, Suite 102, Santa Ana, CA 92706, (714) 558-1012 or 836-1803). He specializes in medical psychology, sex education and therapy--and is also a Pet-Facilitated Therapy Consultant.

Jude is also a female-to-male transsexual who underwent surgical sex-reassignment in 1972.

Since that time, he has been a peer-counselor and a co-therapist working with transsexuals (and non-transsexuals) and has guest-lectured in the field of social services and mental health, frequently focussing on gender identity, gender dysphoria and transsexualism.

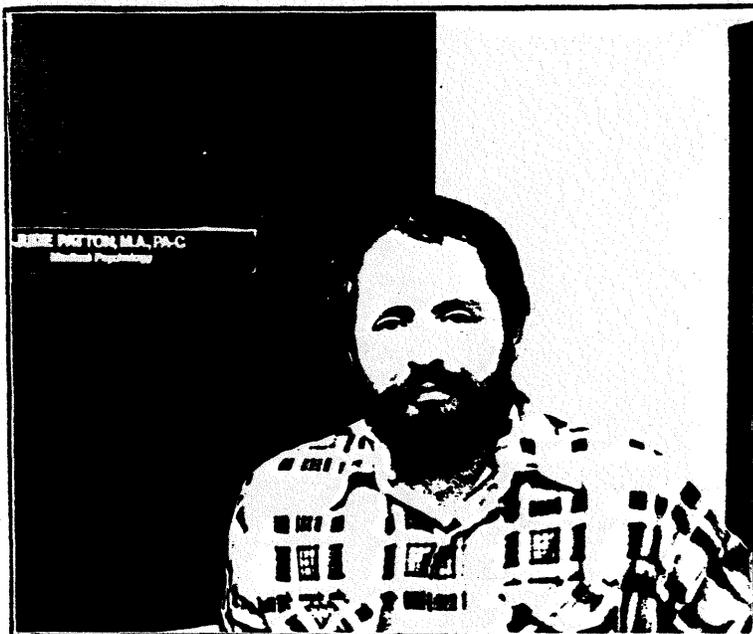
And, since 1975, Mr. Patton has been the Co-Director of RENAISSANCE: Gender Identity Services (P.O. Box 11341, Santa Ana, CA 92711; annual membership: \$20) and, even today, still edits its quarterly newsletter the "RENAISSANCE UPDATE" (\$10/year).

In 1979, Jude Patton was voted the seventh member of the Founding Committee of the HARRY BENJAMIN INTERNATIONAL GENDER DYSPHORIA ASSOCIATION (900 Welch Road, Suite 402, Stanford, CA 94304).

In 1981, Mr. Patton assumed the post of Director of the GENDER DYSPHORIA PROGRAM OF ORANGE COUNTY, a non-profit corporation (31815 Camino Capistrano, Suite L, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675, (714) 661-7612; informational brochure: \$2).

In July 1983, Jude Patton joined the Board of Professional Advisors of the METAMORPHOSIS MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION--a most welcome addition!

Jude's major interests and commitments are toward a universal harmony/



peace/happiness for all living creatures and even 'non-living' matter. He is a generalist, not a specialist. Towards that end, he has studied many disciplines and hopes to continue to grow.

Jude is "not subversive or militant" he says, but "believes in human rights--but also, prefers to fight ignorance and fear by setting an example of human worth (which he does)--not by becoming a big-mouthed bigot who is just as guilty of causing pain and destruction as the current establishment bigots."

Mr. Patton and his common-law wife of nearly 12 years have just recently 'split up' because each of them "had grown in different directions". Currently, he is not in any relationship nor does he have any immediate plans of getting into another since he is "not a person who needs or craves validation from others".

Jude's lifestyle is relatively ordinary but his outlook is certainly unusual even in the most liberal areas of California. He counts among his friends people from all lifestyles and persuasions. He values the idea of 'social androgyny'. He thinks of himself as "a benevolent but impatient person" and welcomes correspondence from others.

## FEMALE

*female. feel male. Ever since I felt the need to choose I'd choose male. I felt boy rythums when I was in knee pants. So I stayed in knee pants. I sobbed when I had to use the public ladies' room. My undergarments made me blush. Every feminine gesture I affected from my mother humiliated me.*

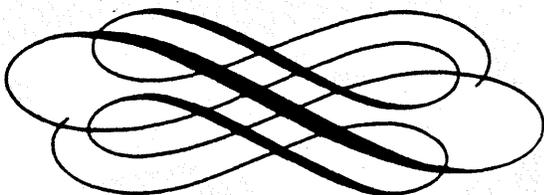
*I ran around with a pack of wolves. I puked on every pinafore. Growing breasts was a nightmare. In anger I cut off all my hair and knelt glassy-eyed before god. I begged him to place me in my own barbaric race. The male race. The race of my choice.*

*In answer he injected me with all the characteristics of my gender. sultry. languid. wanton. dip into summer skirts, go down with a narrow-hipped boy behind a bowling alley. bleed. come. fill my womb.*

*the misfit massacres the mustang pony just to feel the soft rise of marilyn monroe against his chest.*

*bloated. pregnant. I crawl thru the sand. like a lame dog. like a crab. pull my fat baby belly to the sea. pure edge. pull my hair out by the roots. roll and drag and claw like a bitch. like a bitch. like a bitch.*

*--Patti Smith. April 1967*



## COMPARATIVE DEFINITIONS

**HOMOSEXUALITY:** behaviorally, the act of sexual stimulation between any two people of the same sex; psychically, the condition of being romantically and sexually aroused by and attracted toward a member of one's own sex, consistently, in imagination or action.

**TRANSSEXUALISM:** behaviorally, the act of living and passing in the role of the opposite sex, before or after having attained hormonal, surgical, and legal sex reassignment; psychically, the condition of people who have a conviction that they belong to the opposite sex and are driven by a compulsion to have the body, appearance, and social status of the opposite sex.

**TRANSVESTITISM:** behaviorally, the act of dressing in the clothes of the opposite sex; psychically, the condition of feeling compelled to cross dress, often in relation to sexual arousal and attainment of orgasm.

--Richard Green, M.D. & John Money, Ph.D., **TRANSSEXUALISM AND SEX REASSIGNMENT**, Johns Hopkins Press, 1969 (copyright).

\* \* \*

**HOMOSEXUALITY** is a sex problem, affecting two persons, a sex partner (of the same sex) being a primary and generally indispensable prerequisite.

**TRANSSEXUALISM** is a sex and gender problem, the transsexual being primarily concerned with his (or her) self only, a sex partner being of secondary although occasionally vital importance.

**TRANSVESTISM** is a social problem with a sex and gender implication, the transvestite requiring no sex partner (for his cross-dressing).

--Harry Benjamin, M.D., **THE TRANSSEXUAL PHENOMENON**, Julian Press, 1966 (copyright).

DEAR RUPERT (cont'd. from p.4)

(\*My feelings/intentions in distributing the JOURNAL OF A TRANSSEXUAL are: firstly, to serve as a warning precaution to supposed pre-op F-Ms in case they are not true transsexuals (as the authoress, Diane Feinberg, is not--see my comments on this in Vol.1, No.5, Oct. 1982, P.2) and secondly, to serve as "Devil's Advocate" in the hope of stimulating discussion on the whole issue of "pseudo transsexuals" who revert to their original gender roles after surgical sex reassignment--including the attendant problems of: incorrect diagnosis, poor evaluation/assessment, inadequate or no counselling/therapy, and also, media mis-representation of these "pseudo transsexuals" ("change-backs") as being "true transsexuals".)

Thanks for the TS Journal. I have it already. It's intense and incredibly depressing. I wrote to the author, Diane Leslie Feinberg because I wanted to find out why she changed her mind. She wrote back 1½ years later. I guess she prefers being a lesbian and said she likes the way women relate to her as a woman. It's unfortunate she didn't realize that before having surgery and taking hormones. Her existence must be a painful one.

Your life story is interesting and I could relate to much of it. I'm glad your family is so supportive. How did your father accept it when you first explained it to him?\* I'm sorry for your tragic loss of losing them both so suddenly.

In your autobiography you mention that you wrote to plastic surgeons all over the world who do phalloplasty. I would be very grateful if you would share your research findings with me.\*\*That's terrible that you wanted the surgery but couldn't get it because you were too thin. I am the opposite--too fat! In October I will have had my Prudential policy for 1 year and can use it for hysterectomy and phalloplasty. I'm still..

(cont'd. on p.8)

QUESTION OF THE MONTH (cont'd.)

dressed (including the sock!), a week before I started hormones, I won second place in a Hallowe'en Party costume contest for the 'best dressed male'. I was dressed as a magician--moustache and all."

August's Question: WHAT IS YOUR MESSAGE RE: TRANSSEXUALISM AND SEX-REASSIGNMENT FOR a) OTHER TRANSSEXUALS, b) TREATING/RESEARCHING PROFESSIONALS, c) THE LAY PUBLIC, d) YOUR FAMILY, e) YOUR FRIENDS?

### An Admirable Man

If a man is honest with others and with himself...  
If he receives gratefully and gives quietly...  
If he is gentle enough to feel and strong enough to show his feelings.  
If he is slow to see the faults of others but quick to discover their goodness...  
If he is cheerful in difficult times and modest in success...  
If he does his best to be true to his beliefs...  
Then he is truly an admirable man.

--Hallmark Cards, Inc. (copyright)  
Submitted by Scott Robison

THE TRANSSEXUAL VOICE--A NEWSLETTER WRITTEN BY AND ABOUT TRANSSEXUALS (CONTAINS ADS) \$2 PER COPY; \$12 PER YEAR. PAYABLE TO: PHOEBE SMITH, 764 NORTH AVENUE, HAPEVILLE, GEORGIA, UNITED STATES 30354.

ACLU TRANSSEXUAL RIGHTS COMMITTEE  
ACLU of Southern California  
633 South Shatto Place  
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Membership: \$20 per year. Limited  
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DEAR RUPERT (cont'd. from p.7)

scouting around because I'm not too wild about Dr. Laub. Anything you can tell me will be greatly appreciated. I wish I could get into some kind of mind control or hypnosis because I'm really terrified of all the physical pain involved. I have a very low pain tolerance level.\*\*\*

After your hysterectomy, did you lose interest in sex, the ability to climax or have bad mood swings?\*\*\*Did you change your hormone dosage after surgery? If so, from what to what?\*\*\*\*\*All information and advice--badly needed!

--J.L.

*(\*When I first explained my TSism to my father, I used the term "bi-sexual": female on the outside but male on the inside as I had not yet heard the term "transsexual". He just said that he would try to get a psychiatrist for me to show me that the life of a girl can be rewarding. \*\*Those research findings on phalloplasty are now 11 years out of date. I plan to soon begin compiling current information and referrals re: phalloplasty, etc. in my MANUAL FOR FEMALES-TO-MALES.*

*\*\*\*Dr. Leo Wollman, now semi-retired, is a hypnotherapist who has, in the past, hypnotized TS patients prior to undergoing sex reassignment surgery. Why don't you contact a hypnotherapist in your own area? \*\*\*\*No, after my hysterectomy, I did not lose my sex urge, orgasmic ability or have (had) mood swings. \*\*\*\*\*Yes, I did change my hormone dosage after the hysterectomy, from 1 cc. Delatestryl (I.M.) every two weeks to 1 cc. every three weeks. You should consult an endocrinologist after your hysterectomy re: your decreased hormonal dosage.)*

Thanks for the Feinberg booklet. I am suspicious of publications like this. They usually have an axe to grind and, while they may make some people think twice, they are more likely to bring discredit to trans-

sexuals. The so-called "diary" is very poorly written and does not even make it clear as to the gender role that Diane was in when a particular episode occurred. The reader is left to guess.

--Susan C. Huxford, Executive Director, FACT/GenderServe, Hamilton, Ontario

I have been enjoying receiving and reading METAMORPHOSIS. I think it is a wonderfully informative newsletter on female-to-male transsexuals.

--Dan Herzog, M.S.W., Prof. Advisor

I'm so glad you have been able to take up the slack in Canada, publishing a new newsletter and carrying the banner for those who suffer from our unusual little medical problem. I am honored to have been invited to be among your original subscribers.

--Paula Grossman, Plainfield, N.J.

## Men And Boys

"THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MEN AND BOYS, IS THE PRICE OF THEIR TOYS".



ALISE MARTINEZ, R.N., B.A.

Director

License No. V352772

TS COUNSELING

1550 California, #6201, San Francisco, 94109, (415) 387-6767

Susan C. Huxford

B. A., B. ED.

(EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, FACT)

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comparative religions (eastern and western), mysticism (Zen Buddhism, Taoism, Sufism, Cabalism), metaphysics, existentialism and phenomenology, ethics, logic, humanism, multi-culturalism, anti-sexism, anti-racism, anti-sectarianism, or perhaps, social and clinical psychology, anthropology, etiology, language and linguistics, journalism, creative writing, etc. It just so happened that I chose to focus my interest and energy on something which was a part of me--something I could relate to from direct, personal experience: my transsexualism.

People sometimes write to ask me if I could prescribe and procure sex hormones for them, or, if I could perform sex reassignment surgery on them. Obviously, the answer is emphatically "No!" I am not an endocrinologist or a plastic surgeon, or, for that matter, a psychiatrist or a psychologist. I am a peer-counsellor as well as a researcher and an educator.

Editing and publishing a bimonthly newsletter for transsexuals takes a great deal of time, effort and energy--physical, mental and emotional, not to mention a bit of money, as well. To me, I take it very seriously and put everything I have got into it--including myself. There have been many hours of sleep that I have lost--thinking about the content or layout and design of a forthcoming issue--and often, I even jump out of bed to write down something before I forget it. In fact, I think about an issue which I am currently working on most of the time: at work, on the bus, at home, at night, during sex even--like a scientist, an artist or a mystic, it consumes me body and soul.

As for money, I have already sunk a lot of my own personal funds into METAMORPHOSIS, eg: photocopying, postage, stationary, and office supplies and equipment. Indeed, the Foundation treasury is perennially

(cont'd. on p.10)

## Dr. Money's Message

In the past two years, Dr. John Money (Medical Psychologist and Director of the Psychohormonal Research Unit at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland) has heard of two male transsexuals who discovered soon after undergoing sex reassignment that they had made a tragic mistake. In both cases the patients made too sudden a decision that sex reassignment would be the answer to their dilemma. They planned from the point of view that surgery had to be done as rapidly as possible and both left the country to obtain it.

In the future, candidates for transsexual surgery can safeguard themselves against regret by considering surgery not the first but the last step in their rehabilitation as a member of the other sex. However strong one's subjective feelings and convictions, Dr. Money emphasized, there is no substitute for the actual experience of living as a member of the other sex and experiencing the feedback of being treated as a member of that sex by all other people. Dr. Money, a leading authority in the field of psychosexuality, strongly recommends "All transsexuals, whether male or female, should require themselves to become totally rehabilitated socially and psychologically, vocationally and economically, in their new sex before embarking on the irreversible step of surgery. During this rehabilitation period they can be on hormonal treatment. Surgery then takes its place as a confirmation of what has, in fact, already been achieved. The patient is able to leave the hospital and resume a life that has already been prepared, without the stress and strain of recovering from surgery while making a very taxing and sometimes difficult series of new adjustments."

ERICKSON EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION  
Newsletter, Vol.3, No.2, Fall 1970.

*(This sound advice of surgery as the "frosting on the cake" still holds today.)*

## THE JOY OF METAMORPHOSIS (cont'd.)

low--"scraping the bottom of the barrel".

There are some "trials and tribulations" --besides the "joys"--other than the money, time, effort, and energy invested, such as, cases of non-constructive negative criticism (needless to say, constructive criticism is always welcome feedback) as well as people writing in to demand information on various aspects of transsexualism, which requires extensive research (and consequently, money, time, effort and energy) and then, if I do oblige such requests, not even a "thank you" or any other (verbal or monetary) display of gratitude whatsoever. You can't get something for nothing!

This would not be a problem perhaps if there was more than just one person (me) doing all the work. I'm the founding director as well as the newsletter editor. And, I am also: the secretary, the treasurer (banker and bookkeeper), correspondent, researcher, educator (public speaker and lecturer), counsellor, and, public relations officer--not to mention the author of several booklets (currently in progress).

I am not grumbling or complaining, but rather, explaining the reasons why, occasionally, your letters may not receive immediate attention or a speedy reply--and also, the unfortunately regrettable reason why I cannot respond to personal correspondence. (In lieu of this, I have been sending out a xeroxed "personal letter" together with the newsletter). You see, I work 5 days per week, 9 hours per day (42½ hours per week) at my regular job.

But, all in all, the joys do offset the trials, for example, the commendations and compliments by readers on the newsletter, as well as the moral and financial support from both transsexuals and professionals--and occasionally, also from relatives of transsexuals and lay persons.

In a very practical sense, I am METAMORPHOSIS--but, by the same token, it is not merely me. METAMORPHOSIS is also you--or rather, all of us, "brothers", working together.

## BOOKREVIEW: THE GENDER-TRAP (cont'd)

Does this book say anything new? To those who have read very little on this subject, the answer is "yes". It illuminates the problems of acceptance by society of transsexualism. To those who have read considerably, it poses but one question--how will the child of such an unusual union adjust as she grows up?

--Susan Huxford, *THE BODY POLITIC*, Number 94, June 1983; Reprinted (with minor editing) by permission.

## Problems/Questions

Do you have any sage advice for me at this point in my transition? I hope to pursue both employment and hormone therapy as soon as school is out. Do you know of any F-Ms who have made the change and are willing to guide a brother through his just tentative steps--like job leads with understanding employers?

*Yes, contact Stephen Parent, Director of Transcend, in the ad below.*

Transcend Vocational And Educational  
Counseling Service  
500 Newbury St., Springfield, Mass.  
413-737-5032  
Sliding Scale Fees No Collect Calls  
Help with record, name, vocation,  
employment changes and resumes.  
Testing and Psychological Workups.  
Stephen E. Parent, Director.

This is my new approach to correspondence with you. It's named the NOCTURNAL PRESS. If you'd like to find out more details of its contents, then write to: Joe Dillon, P.O. Box 41, Dennison, Ohio 44621.

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