

New Men on the Horizon

by James Green and Riki Anne Wilchins

What is happening in the men's community? For years now, the cry among TS/TG activists has been: "where are all the transexual and transgendered men?" Now it seems the men are showing up at local support meetings, forming their own regional groups, taking active roles in organizing educational programs and conferences, and in political action. What has created this sudden visibility?

For years many transexual men accepted the dominant culture's definitions of masculinity and maleness: that both are defined by what is between one's legs—in short, how big one's penis is.

This is not a definition which served the men well, or in which they were given much say. In fact, it has been downright oppressive to the self-esteem of trans-identified men, since it incorporates a bodily-characteristic-as-litmus test most are bound to fail. Thus the transmen were little different from trans-identified women, many of whom had accepted SRS and the "but can you orgasm?" question as their qualification for "real-ness," along with passing successfully as a non-transexual. But passing has proven a deciding factor in the different ways the men's and women's communities have developed.

It has always been a distinctive characteristic of any colonized people that those who can pass as the colonizer do so, leaving the others behind to bear the brunt of the struggle and the worst of discrimination. This has been true for the majority of our community, as well. In fact, at most trans-conventions that cater to female-identified trans-people there is evidence of a distressing hierarchy of feminine "real-ness," in which those who are most non-transexual looking are awarded status and privilege, while those who look most obviously transgendered or transexual—for instance the six-foot tall transexual woman who still has

obvious facial-hair growth and a strong bone structure—are often the butt of private jokes. This in spite of the obvious fact that these are the people who are most often visible, who do most of the "heavy lifting" in this movement. And many of them have the emotional, financial, and even physical scars to show for it.

But the plain fact is that the majority of transexual women cannot and will not pass. They may stop drawing attention, they may even learn to be well turned-out (which is often all the non-transexual world requires of us), but they will not pass beyond the most casual inspection. The political implications of this fact is that transexual women were forced early on to confront, and to

Early on they began to organize, for it was increasingly apparent that isolated action or returning to the woodwork would not be the unqualified success they had once imagined.

But it was different for the men. Almost any transexual man can take testosterone, grow a beard and drop his voice, and pass anywhere, anytime, with great success. Many can even do so without chemical assistance. Historically, this increased the benefits of staying in the closet, while decreasing the apparent costs of not being out or organizing openly. After all, if it was humiliating to be a woman with a penis, how much worse could it be to be a man with a vagina? A penis was the sine-qua-non of masculinity, and

a "pussy," well, that was what everyone from football players to drill sergeants called you when they wanted to humiliate you in front of other men, leaving your manhood not just open to question but squashed like some disgusting cockroach on the locker-room floor.

The result of accepting a penis = manhood equation has greater costs than the forfeiture of political

activism. In operating rooms across the country, trans-identified men continue to happily sacrifice their bellies, forearms, thighs, and whatever tissue and tendons are left, in pursuit of the Magic Phallus, and there are more than a few of them on crutches for life as the result of such operations. Many more bear hideous scars on large sections of their bodies in exchange for a tube of skin that hangs ineffectually, forever dangling, a mocking reminder that they cannot "get it up."

This is not to say that any one of us doesn't have the right to follow his or her own star, to get

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begin to contest, contemporary definitions of femininity, femaleness and "real-ness."

We do not mean to imply that such standards have been categorically rejected by all transwomen. Obviously, this simply isn't true: many transwomen cling to passing and a working vagina as a test of femaleness with the strength and tenacity of a drowning person clutching a leaky lifeboat. But as the waves of defeat wash over them, they are forced to ask themselves if this is the only way, and if they could not use some help. Hence, trans-identified woman have begun to question definitions of femaleness which originate outside their own bodies and experience, even if they do not completely relinquish them.

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FTM international: Deciding Our Future

*...a report on structural options by
Jed (Bee) Rosenthal*

Of all the outcomes of FTM's hugely successful August conference, one of the most surprising was the conference income: enough income to suggest entirely new possibilities for the organization. Historically, FTM's resources have all gone into the newsletter and the voice mail, and into answering the questions of people who wrote or called in. FTM's "treasury" began with the roll of stamps Lou left James for the newsletter when he died, and we've never been exactly opulent since—until now. At the same time, substantial money in the bank means taxes. And taxes mean it's urgent that we start deciding what to do with our money, how to protect individual FTMs who assume responsibility for it, and what all this means for FTM as a whole.

What's happened so far, and why you should read this:

A group of us met December 13, 1995 to discuss these issues. Present were James, Yolanda, Stephan, Sean, Julian, Todd, Shadow, Chav, JordyJones, Stafford, and Jed. Also present was ETVC treasurer and tax preparer Jano Bogg, who gave us his expertise on founding and running a transgender nonprofit. The following week, James and I met with Jano and his business partner Sandy Kasten, a tax attorney, to clarify more of the issues involved in FTM's financial status. Our tax advisors have recommended an incorporated nonprofit 501(c)(3) educational association as our best course of action.

The twelve of us who met in December want to make sure every FTM member has a say in this decision. The next meeting will take place March 17 at 2 p.m. at the usual FTM meeting place, and you are urged to contact us before March 15 by phone, fax, letter, or e-mail (info below) to express your opinion on what direction FTM International will go. Or, best of all, come to the meeting if you can. Everyone's input will be taken into consideration at the meeting: the agenda will be to decide what structure FTM should take. This stuff is extremely confusing, but this article tries to explain all the jargon and the various possibilities for FTM International.

The possibilities:

The twelve of us looked at several structural options for FTM:

- [A] Incorporated or unincorporated association.
- [B] Membership or non-membership organization.
- [C] 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or non-501(c)(3).

These categories can be mixed and matched in a number of ways: you can have an incorporated non-profit, an incorporated association without non-profit status, an unincorporated association (FTM's current status), an incorporated nonprofit membership association, etc. We need to pick one choice from EACH category: A, B, and C.

There are further sub-classes within each of the above. For example, there are nonprofits with paid employees and nonprofits without them. But [A], [B] and [C] divide up the possibilities in a handy way. Here are the basic advantages and disadvantages of each.

[A] Corporation.

Definition: An organization that has (1) reserved a name with the California Secretary of State, (2) drafted and filed Articles of Incorporation stating name and purpose, and (3) drafted bylaws setting out basic rules for the group.

- Quick, easy, and costs only \$35–40 plus an annual fee of \$5.
- Separates the group's money from the bank accounts of individual FTMs, protecting them from lawsuits and audits. This is the most urgent need we came across in our December 13 meeting. Conversely, incorporating also protects the group from the debts of individuals.
- The State of California requires a \$800 refundable fee, which will be returned when and if the state determines we are in fact a nonprofit.
- Entails ongoing paperwork, e.g. minutes of meetings, bylaws, bylaw changes, etc.

[B] Membership organization.

Definition: Any organization that offers participants a membership. Public benefit corporations (see [A] above) are not required to be membership organizations. Some groups, like the opera, have "honorary members" who get some recognition for their donations or services but have no voting rights and no real say in the running of the organization. Other groups have "voting members." This means that the bylaws give members the right to vote for directors, for changes in the bylaws, and/or for a vision statement for the group. Voting members have rights that are strongly protected by

FTM international: Deciding Our Future

state law statutes, so they are also called "statutory members."

Voting membership organization:

- Gives power and responsibility to the general group, not just a few people at the top.
 - Many community organizers believe that membership organizations are the only ones who build a broad, lasting, powerful force for change.
 - May cost money—for ballot issues, special mailings, etc.
 - Moves slower, decision-making becomes more cumbersome.
 - Voting members must pay some dues to meet the IRS definition of a membership organization. Dues can be waived in case of financial hardship.
- Theoretically, anyone can request the membership list of such an organization, including the IRS. We are prepared to protect our membership's confidentiality, following the example of other nonprofits such as AAA who fiercely safeguard their members' anonymity. The FTM newsletter subscription mailing list would not be the same as the FTM International membership list, and would remain confidential.

[C] Nonprofit organization: 501(c)(3).

Definition: An organization that has applied for, and received, tax-exempt status under the part of the law known as Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. There are also 501c4,5,6 through 23. But 501(c)(3) is the only status applicable in our case: an educational organization. "Tax-exempt status" basically means freedom from income tax. We still would be subject to sales tax, any payroll tax (we should be so lucky), unrelated business income tax, etc.

- Less taxes.
- Reduced postage rates.
- Donors to FTM would get a tax deduction, which they cannot get now.
- Access to grant money from every relevant foundation out there. Financially, this could be the biggest consideration of all.
- Prestige and broader appeal to potential participants.
- Paperwork: about 28 person-hours of paperwork for the main IRS form alone. We would also have to file with the California Franchise Tax Board. We'd have to keep detailed records of all our finances and adhere to government "standards of duty" and "standards of care."
- A one-time non-refundable federal filing fee of \$465 and a state application fee of \$25.
- A limit on our political activities to 20% or less of our budget, but not a limit on education activities—our main focus, historically. Nonprofits are not allowed to engage in lobbying, or in campaigning for or against a candidate for political office, without risking their nonprofit status. This is because nonprofits are basically charities subsidized by the government (through a tax break), so nonprofits cannot use this government subsidy to take sides on a political matter.

While individuals from FTM—even directors—could still take a stand on political issues, the organization FTM International itself could do so only within the 20% limits.

That's the story. Just remember that we need to decide what to do soon. If you want to have any input into our course of action, we need to have received your comments on these issues by March 15:

- Should we incorporate?
- Should we be a nonprofit?
- Should we have a voting membership?

So contact the FTM voice mail, fax, P.O. Box, or e-mail (.....) and tell us what you think. And if you can, be at the FTM meeting place on March 17 at 2 p.m.

1995 Calendar Year Financial Report

In the previous issue (#32) we published the financial report for the FTM Conference. That event was an excellent fundraiser, netting FTM International a whopping \$9,484.44. You'd think the future looked brilliant, judging from the energy and drive generated by the conference (not to mention the bank balance). But a look at our regular operating income and expenses shows that if it were not for the Conference, we would be unable to publish the issue you are reading now. As you can see from the table below, expenses exceeded income by \$658.53, roughly the amount we spend in postage every quarter. Don't let the Conference balance lull you into thinking that we don't need your paid subscriptions and donations. If we are to continue to serve the needs of FTMs, we need your help.

Income (total): \$7052.85
Expenses (total): \$7711.38

Expense breakdown:

Xeroxing \$1212.11
Printing \$2027.00
Telephone \$ 407.37
Postage \$3038.62
Supplies \$ 936.28

Balance <deficit>: <\$658.53>

Thank you to everyone who donated funds or materials or paid subscriptions in 1995; and an extra thank you to everyone who donated time to help keep the FTM Newsletter alive, and keep FTM International growing and serving others.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jamison "James" Green, Director

F.T.M. Conference 1995 - Audio Tape Order Form

1. Opening Ceremonies _____
2. Living Long term in Transsexual bodies _____
3. Spirituality & Male Consciousness raising _____
4. Coming Out _____
5. Political/Legal Issues for FTMs _____
6. Therapists _____
7. Academic Perspectives _____
8. Relationships _____
9. MTF/FTM Issues _____
10. Endocrinology _____
11. Chest Reconstruction _____
12. Genital Reconstruction _____
13. Parenting _____
14. General Health Concerns & Final questions & Wrap-up _____
15. Complete Set of tapes _____

*Prices: 1-5 tapes-\$10/tape; 6 or more-\$9/tape. Complete set (14 tapes)-\$100.
All prices include tax & domestic airmail. International shipping, add \$2/tape or \$25/set.*

Total Enclosed _____
Name _____
Phone _____
Address _____
City _____ State/Province _____
Zip/Postal Code _____ Country _____

Make checks/money orders payable to:
FTM, 5337 College Ave. #142, Oakland, Ca 94618



REAL MEN DO NOT GOSSIP!

by Blake Powers

Over the last year, there has been a lot of gossip floating around the community, most of which is ill-conceived and destructive. While this behavior has been bad enough circulating by word of mouth, these messages are now being disseminated world-wide via computers on the internet. Among the complaints are allegations of power-mongering and egocentrism, directed toward those individuals in the community who have worked hard over the years to ensure that the FTM Newsletter and several support services continue.

The most visible leaders in the community are those who are currently under attack. Others have also been attacked, some of whom have taken their talent and energy elsewhere, and others of whom continue to make their contributions anonymously. Some persons, fearing the potential for being unfairly criticized or "outed" for not adhering to someone else's agenda, have either never participated, or have always made their contributions anonymously. The immature and deleterious nature of the current attacks on responsible leaders has the potential to further alienate those with contributions to make.

The late Lou Sullivan launched the first FTM gathering in December 1986. His first FTM Newsletter was a single 8-1/2 by 11-inch page produced in September 1987 for a handful of readers. Since that time the newsletter has grown to 16 pages with professional design and layout, and a circulation of approximately 750 worldwide. There are now informational and support meetings, attended on average by 50 people each month. In addition, FTM International either distributes or provides sources for publications of interest to FTMs, their providers and supporters. Some of these are: Lou Sullivan's, "Information for the Female to Male Cross Dresser and Transsexual" and "From Female to Male: The Life of Jack Bee Garland"; the FTM Resource

Guide; and back issues of the FTM newsletter. FTM serves as a channel for referrals to other publications, such as the all-FTM issue of *Chrysalis - The Journal of Transgressive Gender Identities* published by AEGIS. The newsletter also serves as an important source of information for the broader transgendered community. Articles from it have been reprinted by the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) for appearance in *TV/TS Tapestry Magazine* and a forthcoming collection of essays entitled "Transsexualism." Material has also been reprinted for publications in Japan, Australia, Great Britain, and The Netherlands.

A number of individuals have appeared on talk shows: *People Are Talking* (local to San Francisco, no longer on the air); Donahue, Geraldo, Sally Jessy Raphael, Jenny Jones, Rolonda, Charles Perez. Others have appeared in video documentaries: HBO's "What Sex Am I," Xiao-Yen Wang's "The Blank Point" and Monika Treut's "Female Misbehavior" are just examples. Still others are doing public speaking. FTMs are also being consulted by filmmakers seeking to present accurate portrayals of FTMs. All of these activities serve to raise the public's consciousness of FTMs and hopefully, to improve public opinion. FTM International has a page on the internet's World Wide Web (<http://www.ftm-intl.org>), and this past August, hosted the largest gathering by and for FTMs ever, which was an enormous success. The opportunity for FTMs to learn about and to communicate with each other has never been greater. Ironically, just as the FTM community stands positioned to reach the broadest numbers of people and launch into the next phase of productive work, some of our greatest accomplishments are now under attack from within.

There will always be improvements to make and disagreements to

resolve. Here are some guidelines for handing these in a positive way:

1. Set egos aside and consider the best interests of the community before speaking or acting.
2. Consider the impact of words, examining whether they will harm or improve the situation.
3. Bring complaints directly to the individual(s) responsible. If it is not possible to do this one-on-one, arrange to have witnesses present. Try to maintain a spirit of camaraderie, even in anger.
4. Do not listen to, or spread, rumors.
5. If you have wronged someone, especially publicly, have the courage to apologize and make amends for it.
6. If you have ideas for initiating or improving something, participate through direct action.

We are a small group of people whose best interests are served by working together to target the problems that we face as a community. Most of what we have already accomplished has happened with little or no funding, no office facilities, volunteer labor, and a spirit of cooperation. In-fighting and baseless accusations stand to destroy what we have already built, as well as the credibility we need to accomplish our future goals.

Due to the massive amount of energy required to make the August FTM International conference a success, some services were temporarily suspended or have lagged behind, such as updates to the Web site. Volunteers are needed to help with such projects.

FTM International is currently seeking nonprofit status and all officer positions are open. For the date and time of the next organizational meeting, leave a message on the voicemail number at 510-287-2646.

Do not gossip, get involved!



Body Parts

by Loree Cook Daniels

Marcelle keeps showing me pictures. "What do you think of this one?" she asks. "Or this one?"

"I don't care," I answer. "Whatever you want." She is disappointed; she wants me to get excited, to say, "THIS is the penis I want you to have!" It is important to her that I be as enthusiastic about her new body as she is. She wants me turned on, flushed with anticipation of what her new body will do for me. I can't fake it. It irks me, frankly, that some of this change is, for her, sexual. Men, I think, obsess about penises, not women. I've always liked the fact that Marcelle didn't have a penis, because penises tend to distract men. They start getting excited at what they're feeling, and quit paying attention to what I'm feeling. I much prefer dildos or the flexible fingers of an attentive butch. I'm not thrilled about the competition that a sensate penis will bring. I don't trust Marcelle to not get carried away.

And so it begins: the transformation of Marcelle from caring butch to uncaring male. Were we to have this conversation, she would be incensed. Why do you think I'd ignore you, she'd demand. Even my mousiest voice probably couldn't bring itself to whisper, "because that's what men do."

The power of our internal images, of the prejudices we hold in our mind's eye, is incredible. Marcelle is angry that some of the women in our couples' support group, to whom she was a fine member for over a year, now see her as alien, not to be trusted or even admitted into their presence. "What has changed about me", she demands, "except that they now know my gender identity?"

She's right, of course, but I am also beginning to understand the terrible potency

of our internal categories. They can, I'm learning, overrule everything we actually know. It matters not that I've lived with this person for twelve years, that we've shared more than 4,000 days together. If I let down my guard, but for a second, the Marcelle I know is replaced by a man who carries her name and nothing else. Instead of displaying all of Marcelle's characteristics with just a slightly altered appearance and new pronoun, this man bears no resemblance to Marcelle. Instead, he is a mosaic of 37 years' worth of prejudice. My prejudice.

It is painful living with a mirror. The two hardest things about this transition is facing the fact of my stubborn, decade-long refusal to accept my lover and facing the fact that I have way more prejudice than I can possibly own up to. I

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penises here...**

**We are talking about
people facing themselves.**

thought I wasn't prejudiced about men. I thought, having taught an early and controversial University class in bisexuality, having been the men's advocate in my Women's Studies program, having dated a man and taken the flack when I was "Lesbian Co-Chair" of a highly visible group, that I had bested all such bias. I thought I was "over" gender, that I had grown past the need to categorize people by their genitals and attribute psychological traits on that basis. I was wrong.

I am amazed at the beliefs this transition is bringing to light, laying out before me to own or disown. I am amazed that a behavior I breezed over one day is magically trans-

formed into something sinister the next, based simply on whether I am seeing Marcelle as Marcelle, or as the composite of my fears.

The intensity and number of assumptions and biases this transition keeps flushing out of my deep, dark interior frightens and weakens me. If I have all these prejudices, I think, I who have worked so hard at being unbiased, who understands that no one can be summed up by a single attribute, who preaches regularly that we must see people as individuals and not as representatives of some artificial category we've constructed—if I can think these fantastical images apply to the person I've loved for twelve years, then what am I asking of others? How can I possibly ask them to see Marcelle as Marcelle, and not as some mythical Man?

And so I know that although Marcelle is right—next to nothing has changed about her, so why are people so upset? I also know that the issue is nowhere near that simple. We are not talking penises here, or pronouns, or the rejection of

femaleness, or a desire for male or heterosexual privilege. We are talking about people facing themselves. We are not, it turns out, asking them to see Marcelle a certain way; we are asking them to take a good long look in the mirror of Marcelle to recognize and own their heretofore invisible assumptions about women and men.

That any of us, at all, rise to this challenge is a miracle.

As for those penises, dear, try me later. It seems I'm a little too caught up in head trips right now to deal with flesh and blood.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Under Construction is an FTM group located in Southern California. It is a "men's group" in that it is designed exclusively for the FTM. Under Construction provides networking, information exchange, and reconnection with men who are traveling the same path.

The group has regularly scheduled quarterly meetings that occur on the third Sunday of January, April, July, and October. Meetings are held in a private home. Flyers announcing the meetings are sent approximately 3 to 4 weeks prior to the quarterly meeting. These meetings are held from Noon to 5 pm and are open to the FTM and his partner.

We have begun holding a monthly "Men's Only" meeting. This is VERY new and so the turnout has so far been low enough to have the meeting in one member's office. As this is likely to change in the future (since the meeting has been getting a positive response even without prior publicity), the location will change accordingly.

Some of the discussion topics we've focused on at past meetings include "Being a man in society who has a unique past—How (or if) to 'come out'—Obtaining 'new' socialization and relating to others," and "How have you been treated by mental health professionals?" Here is the schedule for the next several months:

January 26 - Quarterly drop-in support meeting, 12-5 pm.

February 4 - Men's Discussion Group: Finding and maintaining intimate, long-term relationships, 1-3 pm.

March 3 - Men's Discussion Group: Our evolving and ever-changing sexuality, 1-3 pm.

April 21 - Quarterly drop-in support meeting, 12-5 pm.

May 5 - Friends and Family Discussion Group, 12-3 pm.

There is no cost to attend any meeting, and no cost to be placed on our mailing list. Donations are accepted (and highly encouraged!) at each meeting to offset the cost of flyers, envelopes, postage, etc.

Southern California covers a lot of geographic area, so our group has men traveling from Santa Barbara, San Bernardino, San Diego, Orange County, Ventura County, as well as throughout Los Angeles County. There are a LOT of FTM men out there, and only a relative few know of our meetings (yet!). More events and greater variety are in the planning

stages. Bring your ideas, and let us know if you can volunteer to organize and/or host an event. We are serious about including support for both female and male partners of FTMs, too.

For more information about Under Construction, or to obtain meeting locations, call or write: Under Construction, P.O. Box 922342, Sylmar, CA 91392; (818) 837-1904.

FTM Support in Southern California

SOME CONCEPTS TO CONSIDER from the Men of Under Construction

PARADIGM SHIFT IS HERE. We need to view ourselves in a different way than we have been taught to all our lives. We carry this perception of self along with us into our new lives and the baggage is ultimately detrimental to us. We have continually been told that we are bad, different, shameful things. **WE ARE NOT!** We have a medical condition. We have nothing to be ashamed of. Like the lepers of medieval Europe, the cancer patients of the early 20th century, or the HIV patients of today, we are shunned and denigrated merely for having a medical condition which was completely outside of our control. No individual would ever WANT to go through what we are essentially being forced to experience. And yet, we have accomplished more than many people you meet. We have taken control of our lives and our futures. We have a focused idea of exactly who we are and what we want to do with our lives. We know where we came from and where we want to go. This is positive and constructive. To continue viewing yourself as a victim, as something shameful, is only hurting yourself. To have made the decisions you have, and to have successfully carried them out demonstrates a strength of character and determination which few can duplicate. You realized yourself, mentally and physically, as the man you are. Do not be ashamed of your accomplishment, be proud of it!

WHY WE SEEK SUPPORT. During wartime, men are brought together from backgrounds more varied than any had ever imagined. All are then forced to experience something together that no one else who

has not lived through the same experience can ever hope to comprehend. Returning home, they are back with friends and family who can listen but never really understand them and how their experiences have altered them and their life views. We are in a similar situation. We are going through—or have been through—experiences which have been life-altering in a variety of ways. Friends, family, lovers, can all listen to us, support us, but have never walked the same path as we have. They can never understand our basic motivations and actions. At some point we have the need to talk with another person who has traveled the same path as we have. We can attempt to hide a part of ourselves, to deny a portion of who we are, to suppress the very thing that made us who we are. Sooner or later, we will have the need to communicate with someone with whom we can be open, honest, and not have to continually think about how to reword things. It is only when you don't think about those things that you realize how much energy and effort has gone into doing it. The stress becomes so ingrained, you no longer realize it's there. At some point, only its release reveals its presence. In some ways, this goes back to being ashamed of who you are. Support is there. Do not deny it to yourself.

SELF-IMAGE. A common description is to say we are men trapped within a woman's body. To a certain extent, this is a basic way to explain the feelings to someone who has never experienced them. Especially once we have begun on the path to becoming the man we know ourselves to be, it is valuable to think of ourselves differently. We are men in every way. We do not have breast reduction: We have gynecomastia. The sexual organ is not merely an enlarged clitoris: It is a penis. Yeah, it is small. And like every other man in the world, you want it to be larger. That in itself makes you a normal man! (Beware of this one. Once you accept your penis, however small, as your PENIS, you may not want to go to a surgeon who plans to amputate it. These men, who would never consider amputating their own penises, don't give a second thought to amputating YOURS!)

You may agree, or you may disagree with the concepts presented here. The important thing is to think about them.

[I don't want to leave readers with the idea that genital reconstruction routinely involves amputation of the clitpenoid head or shaft. It does NOT.]

Only some surgeons employ certain techniques that produce extreme risk to this organ. Please be sure to thoroughly investigate any procedure or technique you think you may want performed on your body before making any decision, pro or con. —James.

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whatever surgical operations we want and can afford—and certainly not all surgically constructed penises (or vaginas) fail to satisfy their bearers. But the standards we accept in pursuit of such surgeries need careful evaluation: for gender standards are always highly political in nature, reflecting, as they do, one dominant group's needs at the inevitably deflecting and delegitimizing expense of another's. In fact, the very idea that we ought to have gender "standards" in any way whatsoever, that some individuals can be judged "more male" or "more female" than others, is political at its core, instantly creating a hierarchy of legitimacy and status between the judged and the judges, those who meet (and therefore can set) definitional criteria, those who they determine suitably meet the standard (i.e., who pass), and those who are inevitably left behind.

What is happening now with the various men's groups across the country, on the Internet, and with the first men's convention (in San Francisco, August 18-20, 1995) etc., is that the transsexual men's movement is starting to reach critical mass: there are simply enough of them out now, that they are looking around and beginning to set their own criteria for manhood, or, better yet, to refuse to create, adjudicate and enforce any such criteria to begin with. They are discovering, and saying aloud, that masculinity and maleness do not occur solely on or within non-transsexual bodies, are not defined by the characteristics of non-transsexuals bodies, and are not the province of non-transsexuals to adjudicate and police. This is powerful stuff.

America is a nation obsessed with manhood, its displays and its continuous enforcement, refinement, evaluation and examination. From the violence of football, to the

western gunslinger subduing the range (the women, the buffalo and any Native Americans who crossed his path), to wife-beating and date rape, to international military "exercises" staged to prove that the president of the USA is not a "wimp," a particular kind of masculinity is constantly asserted. Only in America is gender considered a matter of "realness," i.e., it is not enough simply to be a man or woman, one must be a "real man" or a "real woman."

To lose one's gender status as "real" is to simultaneously experience a profound drop in cultural hierarchy, status, and privilege: in fact, it is downright dangerous. In Washington, D.C., an Emergency Medical Technician withdrew medical treatment from Tyra Hunter when he discovered she was "not a bitch." In Falls City, Nebraska, Brandon Teena was refused protection by the police and ultimately killed when two men decided it was intolerable for him to keep telling people he was "a man." In Colorado Springs, Colorado, Sean O'Neill was charged with 32 years worth of sexual assault and criminal impersonation because he neglected to tell two girls he was sleeping with that he had a vagina and was therefore "really" a lesbian, not a man. We are obsessed with gender, and with litmus tests of its "realness," in spite of the fact that anything which must be so repeatedly tested for contamination or slippage is obviously a construction.

The men's community, by continuing to come out, to organize, to speak en masse, creates the most direct challenge possible to this cult of manhood which so entralls us. These men can help re-define what it means to "be a man." They have found ways to be men without engaging in the fear and loathing of femininity, or the fear of being a "fag" or a "pussy," which seems

necessary to shore up America's common cultural definitions of masculinity. While other non-transsexual men are trying to figure out how to get along with today's women, or how to combine feminist understanding with a male style, or simply trying to discover what it means to "be a man" in the first place, transmen have the gift of finding the answers to those questions within themselves, even in the face of a profoundly hostile culture. Transmen are increasingly displaying the courage to speak and act openly out of their own self-knowledge. As their voices grow, they have the potential to lead the way to a profound change in our cultural definition of maleness.

But it is not going to be easy to obliterate heavy centuries of belief in the infallibility of the visible body. The feminists said long ago that "Biology is not Destiny," but even many feminists believe "Biology is not Destiny, except for transsexuals." And the old boy's network will not open its doors for new men, only for young men born of rich old men. A true dialog between us as transpeople and the rest of the world has not even really begun. It is time for transmen to step forward and take their place on the front lines in the battle for our dignity, alongside the transwomen who have been fighting since Christine Jorgensen stepped off that plane in 1952. The community of transmen can no longer afford to shrink away from their responsibility to contend with conventional definitions of masculinity and gender. The stabbing shame we feel when we think about being "outed," the very notion that we have to conform to specific gender criteria in order to be accepted as real, is a visceral reminder that we have work to do, both for self-acceptance and for our human rights. Here's to the men who are willing to do that work, whether locally or

globally.

[Editor's note: Speaking of work, I want to acknowledge some of the men who have been helping me in the past few months as I've been working to catch up on the backlog of letters, articles, and projects demanded by the activism I have undertaken. My most sincere appreciation and gratitude goes to Marcus Arana, Brynn Craffey, Max F., Geoffrey G., Cliff Hunter, and Shadow Morton. I really couldn't have done it without you guys. This is my last issue as editor; Marcus will be taking it over with the April issue (#34). It's been a great run: I've learned a lot, and met and corresponded with so many incredible people (mostly men, but some great women, too—Riki Ann Wilchins comes to mind, as an example... So does Dallas Denny, Merissa Sherill Lynn, Yvonne Cook-Riley, Sheila Kirk, Susan Stryker, Kate Bornstein, Phyllis Randolph Frye, Melinda Whiteway, Vicky Kolakowski, Kiki Whitlock, the list goes on and on). I think the appropriate thing to do is to thank each and every one of you who is reading this now. I really couldn't have done it without ANY of you! I look forward to meeting more of you in my travels, and I hope you will continue to see my work in this Newsletter and other publications, as well as in other educational forums. I am proud of the way the FTM Newsletter has grown and served our community, and I know it will continue to do so. So keep writing, keep reading, keep subscribing. The things we do to help ourselves really can help others if we reach out from our hearts and souls. In gratitude for your support, I remain faithfully yours, —James Green.]

The Good, The Bad and the Newsworthy

by Gary Bowen

First the "Good" news...

TRANSEXUAL WINS EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION DECISION AT THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

Press For Change (The UK's Lobbying group for Transsexual Rights) and its activists have achieved a FIRST. In an employment discrimination case at the European Court of Justice they have won a decision which means that throughout the European Community it will be illegal to discriminate against a transsexual in employment.

This is the first case law decision in the WORLD to achieve employment protection for transsexuals. The decision, if confirmed by the European Court of Justice as recommended by the case's UK Attorney General (and it is rare for such recommendations to not be ratified) means that throughout Europe it

will be unlawful to discriminate against a transsexual, whether female to male or male to female, on the grounds that they are going to have or have had gender reassignment. This only affects those of us in Europe - but hopefully its influence will be felt worldwide.

This recommendation comes as Alex Carlile Q.C, M.P, has just announced his intention to promote a Private Member's Bill on behalf of Press For Change, to allow legal gender status change for transsexuals in the United Kingdom, and the European Commission of Human Rights have once again recommended a case concerning a transsexual to be forwarded to the Court. The tide of public opinion has probably long since turned as can be seen through the welter of articles, television programmes etc. which now portray transsexuals in a very positive light. Perhaps now we are seeing the turning of

the legal stream which for an interminable period has refused to acknowledge what medicine has long since known; that the only effective treatment for the transsexual is reassignment and such treatment helps an individual form a productive life.

All of this been as a result of Press For Change and the work of a very few activists. We need donations NOW. Please send cheques (in British Pounds) or cash to:

Press For Change, BM Network, London

[For a detailed article by Stephen Whittle describing this case, please send a stamped (32 cents), self-addressed #10 envelope to FTM International, and we'll forward it to you. — James]

Right To Privacy Representatives meet with NorthWest Transsexual

Transitions

PO Box 3547, Conroe, TX 77035-3547

We at **Transitions** have recognized the need for affordable and comfortable prosthesis and undergarments for the man in transition and are pleased to introduce a line of products created to help you



"Family Jewels" enjoy life to its fullest. Worn under your clothing, this patent-pending, innovative design looks and feels like the real thing. It is easy to wear, comfortable, and stays put with a clever velcro tab. 100% cotton shell with polypropylene fill. Available in black, brown or white. Each *Family Jewels* comes with its own pouch, along with six pairs of 100% cotton briefs. White, with velcro tabs attached.

.....Only \$45



Soft and comfortable to wear, yet gets the job done. Our made-to-order, patent-pending *Chest Binder* looks like an ordinary tank top, but is made with three layers. The secret underside is a strong 50% cotton, 50% lycra that holds you in firmly, while the 100% lycra outer shell covers it all. White only.
Measurements:
 A-Across shoulder B-Chest
 C-Just under breasts D-Waist
Only \$85



His Name was Alan!

Activists on Recognition of Alan Hart...and more

On January 2, representatives of Oregon Right to Privacy (RTP) met with transsexual activists from Seattle and Portland to discuss transsexual community concerns with RTP's misrepresentation of Dr. Alan L. Hart, a historic transsexual who transitioned in 1917, at the age of 27, and lived the rest of his life in his gender of self-identity. Since 1982, RTP has given out awards with Hart's birth name (Lucille Hart) and hosted an annual fund-raising dinner using this name. Literature handed out at the dinner describes Hart as a "lesbian" who lived as a man—and even had surgery—to love whom "she" chose.

According to a report published by his psychiatrist, Dr. Joshua Gilbert, in 1920, Hart approached Gilbert in 1917 asking for help to be able to live as a man "in accordance with [his] true nature." Gilbert assisted Hart with legal paperwork and helped him obtain a hysterectomy to end menstruation (male hormones, which would have achieved the same purpose, were not available until decades later). Gilbert concluded, referring to Hart's lifelong male identification, that "sociologically and psychologically [Hart] is a man" and that living as one would be his best chance for a happy existence, "the best that can be done." Hart went on to marry twice (his second lasting 37 years, until his death in 1962), establish a successful medical practice, and publish five books, including four novels and a text on his medical specialty, roentgenology.

The Ad Hoc Committee of Transsexuals to Recognize Alan Hart had organized last spring after years of individual efforts to change gay and lesbian community perceptions of historical TS people. Local Committee members had tried to communicate for months with little response. In October a joint action of members of the Lesbian Avengers and the Committee was conducted in the lobby where the annual Hart Dinner was held. Over 400 flyers were distributed to arriving attendees. Reaction was generally favorable. A

guest editorial soon after in Portland's queer community paper, JustOut, by transsexual activist, Candice Brown, further highlighted the need for a dialog between RTP and the Transsexual/Transgender community.

The meeting on January second was the first face-to-face meeting of RTP board members and representatives of the TS/TG community. Representing Seattle were five FTMs, including Jason Cromwell and Kaz Suzat among others. Portland was represented by Ken Morris and Candice Brown. [And in support of their efforts, James faxed a statement on behalf of FTM International urging RTP to recognize Alan Hart.] Both the RTP representatives and Committee members emphasized the need to work together to fight social inequities and OCA (Oregon Citizen's Alliance, a local anti-queer group) attacks. RTP expressed their commitment to understanding the needs of the TS/TG community and to continue the dialog.

On January 6, the Committee's concerns were brought before the RTP board meeting. The full board agreed to meet with the Portland representatives of the Committee in February. To date no firm commitments have been reached on the issue of recognition of Alan Hart, but substantial dialog has been started.

For further information contact:
Ken Morris or Candice Brown
Ad Hoc Committee of
Transsexuals to Recognize Alan Hart
ravenm2m@aol.com or can-
dice_hellen_brown@atpls.net

Now, the "WEIRD" news...

In the November 21, 1995 issue of the supermarket tabloid Sun, page 10 carries the story of a TS man, Raymond Thompson, who lives in Wales. Raymond is a handsome lad, and the story overall is positive, referring to "her" prior to surgery and "him" afterward. It even shows Raymond with his girlfriend Loretta. The article reports that female-to-

male surgery was still in its infancy in the mid-1980s, and implies that the procedures that Raymond eventually went through are miracles of modern medicine. From the very scant description of the genital reconstruction, it sounds like the standard procedure for a free tissue flap transfer, which WAS made possible by modern microsurgery techniques, but is hardly miraculous (to me, anyway, but maybe I'm jaded —James). The story is titled: "Woman's 30-year anguish ends...AT LAST I'M A MAN. Raymond is quoted [post-operatively]: "For the first time in my life I could relax in the bath and look at my malehood bobbing about in the water. It was bliss." There's something about letting it all hang out that is appealing...

The following short item appeared in the November 16th issue of USA Today newspaper:

"Gender Bender. Denver sheriff's officials plan no policy changes after they unwittingly placed a female prisoner in the men's jail, where she had consensual sex with two inmates. 'There was absolutely no indication that the staff behaved improperly,' said Capt. Carlos Jackson. Officers who arrested Jimmie Jo McGee, 38, on a prostitution charge Friday thought she was a man. 'We've had very effeminate-looking males come into the jail,' Jackson said." I wonder if Jimmie Jo is a transgenderist or FTM, or simply a masculine woman who enjoys a good opportunity?

And, of course, the straight-ahead crossdresser news:

From OUT magazine, July-August, 1995, comes two interesting bits: first the story of 22-year-old actress Adria Tennor who has built her career so far on playing 12-year-old boys in films and in two New York stage plays. Recently though, she let her hair grow and returned, professionally, "to her own gender—much to her boyfriend's relief." She is quoted: "I really like dressing up as a boy. It gives you a sort of freedom. I got totally harassed on the way to the audition. And the next day, after my haircut, I went the same route in a T-shirt and jeans and felt invincible because no one would fuck with me.

Thanks!

Dear Fellow FTM Brothers:

I just want to thank all of you for everything that you have brought to the table of Life. So far, in the first year of my journey, I have met men who have given damn good advice to me in times of mental confusion and emotional hardships. I want to thank this Organization for being here for me, and many other men for sharing their lives with each and every one of us. I can honestly say I have benefited an awful lot from you. I want to continue to enjoy the fruits that each and every one brings to the table of life, because we must continue to enjoy what each person has to offer, whether it be a 2 minute speech, a donation of space to sit and share our thoughts, or advice on dating, or a new idea that could change society's view point of us. I feel we need continued growth and progress in order to have a healthy organization in the long run.

We must never turn anyone away because of one hang-up or problem. We should always make our fellow FTM brothers feel welcome and happy to be "just one of the guys" in a supportive atmosphere, full of care, full of concern, dignity and respect for each other.

To all the staff and faculty at the FTM Newsletter, thank you for keeping me informed on articles and health concerns. You deserve a pat on the back for all the hard work and efforts you have put into this Newsletter.

Sincerely Yours,
Anthony M. Jesús

[Anthony, Thank YOU for taking the time to write to us. It is always good to hear that we are making a positive contribution. You've certainly made one here, too! —James]

Re-Orientation

(In response to a question on the internet: "What causes sexual orientation to change during transition?" , James offered the following reply, which we thought would be of interest to a wider audience.)

No one really knows why orientation changes, if it does, in any individual. My experience in talking

with many transsexual men (and women) indicates that there are a few common threads. For many of us, orientation does NOT change, so bear that in mind, too. But in those whose orientation changes, I've noticed that FTMs are often highly interested in penises, even if they've been lesbian previously. This could be just a fascination with the organ we covet, it could be physiological because our own organs are growing and demanding attention (if we are taking testosterone), or it could be that (for some of us) the fact that we are now men makes it easier for us to be psychologically/emotionally vulnerable in sex with other men. Some people who have homosexual orientations retain that tie to the homosexual culture and consciousness even if their sexual object changes from female to male as well. And I've known transsexual men who were heterosexual before transition and expected to be gay men who find themselves attracted to women for the first time in their lives once they've become men themselves. I don't know whether it's the erotic importance to them of the heterosexual pattern, just as their own may be for those who retain a homosexual pattern. In other words, for some people it could be the pattern of attraction that changes or remains the same, while for others it could be the sexual object that changes or remains the same. Some men find themselves newly open to bisexual expression, as they find themselves more open to other people since they have become more open to themselves. Sexual expression and attraction is a highly personal matter, and there is no wrong or right way to experience it other than what your own desire and limits prescribe for you.

Hope that helps... —James

Emptor Redux

Dear FTM Newsletter:

I would like to make the community aware of what happened to me in my business dealings with Mr. Rhonnie Reed. I would have preferred not to make this public, but after writing Mr. Reed with my concerns and receiving no response, I feel a responsibility to try to prevent this from happening to anyone else.

On November 8, 1995, I sent Rhon Reed a paid-in-full order for the herb (\$300 plus \$12.25 shipping.) His brochure had stated, "orders received by November 15th would be filled by December 1." To confirm he received my order and ask about a completion time, I telephoned him on November 22 during his advertised business hours and reached his answering machine. Between November 22 and December 2, I attempted to contact Rhon on five separate occasions - all during his business hours - and each time listened to a message that stated, "I am feeling much better," but gave no indication as to why he was unavailable.

I do not know Rhon Reed, and I began to get worried about my order and the money I had sent. After two weeks, I asked a friend in SF if he had heard anything regarding Rhon's whereabouts; he hadn't, but offered to ask around. Meanwhile, when I again tried to call Rhon on December 5, his answering machine message stated his mother had died the previous day and he would not be available until the 8th.

I waited until the 12th; at that time, I reached him. He seemed upset by two messages posted on-line by my friend inquiring if anyone had seen him, and accused me of being cold and unsympathetic to his family matters. I tried to explain my difficulties in reaching him; he told me he had been on vacation and forgot to mention so on his answering machine message. For several minutes, he talked (actually, shouted at me) about the pressure he's been under and the harassment he feels from the community. When the subject returned to my order, he said it would be done in one week, and I agreed to send him an additional \$14.50 to upgrade to express mail and insure delivery before the holidays.

When I telephoned him on December 22, he told me he had sent my order the previous day and provided me with the tracking number. What I received, on December 26, was an express letter cancelling my order because of my "attitude and the aggravation caused by your friend..." Also enclosed was a refund minus \$10 for the cost of sending the letter.

continued page 12

I respect Rhon Reed's right to choose who he does business with, but leading me until the end to believe he was shipping my completed order, then sending me in its place a letter cancelling it (and charging me \$10 for its delivery) was sadistic. I've been jerked around more by him than anyone in my life who's had to deal with my transition. Someone who has been where I am now in this process - and dealing as a professional with other guys at the same place - should know better.

Matt Felgus

James responds: Matt, thank you for your letter. As you can imagine, I, as the person behind the newsletter in which Mr. Reed has advertised and in which numerous letters praising him and his products have appeared, have been caught in the middle between disgruntled customers and Mr. Reed for quite some time. It is a most uncomfortable position. At first I tried to defend Mr. Reed, as I believed he was really trying to do some good for people. As things grew progressively worse, I began tempering my defense of him and tried to present readers with realistic consumer advice without trashing Mr. Reed or his products because I know there are people who have been helped by him, and I don't want to deprive people of products that may be useful. As I have often written before, what works for one man may be a disaster for another, and we must each judge for ourselves. By printing your letter I am offering myself for yet another barrage of attacks from Mr. Reed and his friends. Should I prevent you from telling your story, and save myself the aggravation of further verbal assaults? Or should I withhold your letter and attempt to mollify you by putting yet another short notice in the newsletter stating that "we've received a few complaints...but we know Rhonnie has had a hard time, and he means well, so cut him some slack, and grin and bear it." Or should I print your letter, educate some, alienate others, and risk losing subscribers who want information about themselves and connection with others like themselves, and are not interested in having their newsletter devoted to posturing and infighting. Long ago, in issue #20 (July, 1992), on page 5, I wrote: "The FTM Newsletter does not necessarily endorse any products or services advertised or reported or within 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." In accordance with that policy, I am printing your letter, though I loathe the thought

of endless recriminations and campaigns of letters in support of Mr. Reed, countered by endless letters documenting complaints. Most of our readers are simply unconcerned with this matter. The facts stand for themselves: Rhonnie Reed makes prostheses; sometimes he delivers, sometimes he doesn't, and for various reasons, some legitimate, some questionable. Some people like his products, some don't. Some people like him, some don't. He likes some people, and he doesn't like others. Right now, Matt, he probably doesn't like you and me. Life is harsh. Doing business within the FTM community shouldn't be.

Marriage Horror

(70-year-old "Kelly"'s 9+year marriage hit the wall just over a year ago. He wanted to make others aware that this dreaded nightmare can become a reality. Here's hoping he's surviving... —James]

"Kelly" writes:

"...After nine and one half years of marriage, [my] wife decides I'm too old and am getting aging illnesses—so she is PRE-TENDING she didn't know I was a TS! This is so she can keep all the assets by invalidating our marriage. The [newspaper] article (reproduced in part below) has everything wrong—and backwards, but I thought you could use it to warn other FTMs to make sure they GET IT IN WRITING BEFORE MARRIAGE that the spouse-to-be KNOWS ALL!

"My wife and I lived together 6 years before we married, and she HELPED me get my final surgery, the phalloplasty. She was with me in every doctor's office, and at my bedside after surgery for days! I married her April 16, 1985, just before my final surgery—so she's claiming I was a woman then, and even now am still a woman! Some deal!

"...If you want to publish any part of this letter and/or the newspaper article, it will be ok with me. I plan to do all I can to help other FTMs keep clear of this kind of mistake. I am 72 years old [at time of this printing], and she is 51. She's an R.N. The really funny part is she asked me to marry her and help her care for her mother, etc. (her mon's now 87), which I did as well as work part time from age 61 to age 70. Not enough—she's \$-happy. Also, after our marriage, I found out she had a drug problem, and I've tried to help her with that. Some of us are real suckers! Live and learn.

"We had just moved to the newer, bigger home and I was remodeling our third house to rent when she "served me." I'm

living at our old 2 bedroom that I remodeled—she's at the newer house (5 bedrooms) with her mom, 3 cats and 2 birds. I am hoping to come out with the right to live her until I die and then have it revert to her—or sell and split the money and I'll move back to Portland where I lived for 20 years before we married. Keep your fingers crossed for me—AND WARN OTHERS!"

All my best,

"Kelly"

The following is part of the article published Nov. 8, 1994 in The Columbian, Clark County and Southwest Washington State, written by Bruce Westfall: "Officially it's called case number 94-3-1486-0 in Clark County Superior Court. Most people would just call it strange. A 50-year-old-woman...claims the man she married was legally a woman. The odd case has two themes: a fight over how the assets should be divided and an allegation that a sex change procedure for the husband, now 70, didn't go all the way. The woman seeks to invalidate the marriage because in Washington two people of the same sex can't legally be married. In 1986, she said, she paid more than \$10,000.00 for various sex change surgeries. Though the husband allegedly promised to pay the money back, the woman said she continues to pay off loans for the surgery. They moved into a larger house, and she signed a community property agreement putting her husband's name on the home and her investment accounts. Since then, their relationship "deteriorated completely," she wrote. She claims her husband is a deadbeat who was fired from his job and refuses to seek other work. "He lied to me about being a man before we were married in order to gain partial control of my assets," she wrote. "He had no retirement plan in mind—until he met me." Meanwhile, the husband's gender remains in dispute. The wife alleges that while he had some of the surgeries to consummate the change, other procedures have not taken place. She writes through her attorney...that her husband has his vaginal opening surgically closed and had a pair of testicles attached, but they were removed because of complications. He also has never had a penis surgically constructed and attached. The husband denies through [his] attorney ... that he failed to become a male. "The medical community will not consider (him) a man until all the surgeries are completed," the court documents say.

[Kelly, you promised to keep me posted, and I haven't heard anything from you for some time. What happened? Please stay in touch, —James]

networking

FTMS IN SACRAMENTO

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

FTMS IN JAPAN

FTM International is just that - International! We send New Years Greetings to FTM Nippon, and encourage our brothers in Asia, as well as those elsewhere who speak Japanese, to get in touch with Yoshiho and the rest of the brothers in Japan. Write to: Yoshiho Kumagai, [REDACTED], Tokyo 123 Japan.

MORE FTMS IN SACTO

Attention: any stage of FTMs and those interested in meeting them (S.O.). We have a group in Sacramento, California. We'd like to see you on the last Saturday of each month. For information, call Jami at [REDACTED]. (This is a pager number, so key in your own number after you hear the beep, and he will call you back. — Marcus)

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Call for TransGender Anthology

Accepting submissions for a new anthology. Subjects include growing up in gender dysphoria, coming to terms in gender, coming to terms with sexuality, before and after clinic stories, life post-op, soul realizations, social; justice and political activism. Deadline: June 1, 1996. For more information, send SASE to Shelley V. Smith, Editor, RR#2 Box 358, Plainfield, VT 05667 or compuserve:72610,714.

PARTNERS NEWSLETTER

If you are interested in submitting anything to the newsletter published by the Partners, Family, and Friends of FTMs (PF3TM), feel free to contact them by e-mail or snail mail:

Kathy Bobula - PF3TM Newsletter
4623 N. Mississippi Avenue
Portland, OR 97217-3138
E-mail: crowbob@aol.com

(The e-mail address for this newsletter listed in the last issue of FTM Newsletter contained a typographical error. We apologize for any inconvenience that this may have caused anyone. —Eds.)

NORTHEAST SURGEON?

Does anyone have a beloved endocrinologist in the Long Island/New York City area? I am seeking recommendations for a top (chest) surgeon in the northeast. Can anyone comment on the continued usefulness of prosthesis for sex after the clitoris has grown?

Nick Grimshaw, P.O.Box 1197, Water Mill, NY 11976

(After conferring with several souls, we decided one aspect that is useful is length-and-width. The use of a prosthesis does not diminish one's masculinity, and it can heighten a partner's pleasure. —Marcus)

MICHIGAN FTMS?

I would like to ask if you could possibly print my name and phone number [Jack Bowne, [REDACTED]] in your newsletter so that any FTMs that may be near me in East Lansing, Michigan could contact me. This is my second year at Michigan State and I haven't met anyone yet, not an FTM, not an MTF, not even a cross-dresser. When I was in Boston and New York City, I was a part of an FTM group in each place, so here is pretty isolated for me. (I know an FTM from E.Lansing, but he lives on the west coast now. I encourage you guys from the midwest to at least make contact by phone and mail, if you can't share physical company. There is strength in numbers. —Marcus)

TNT SURGERY ISSUE

The next issue of the Transsexual News Telegraph will focus on surgery. One article will consist of letters from MTFs to each other about tips and advice about surgical after-care - for example, what to expect while dilating, realistic recovery time, etc.

I'd like to have a similar article from FTMs re: tips and advice about surgical after-care from breast and/or bottom surgery, and am hoping that you all can ask other FTMs you know and on the Internet, to e-mail tips, advice, and suggestions about surgery to me. I will not publish anyone's name unless they specifically tell me it's OK. My e-mail address is: GailTNT@aol.com. I would appreciate any assistance and help you can give me

on this. Please e-mail me if you have any questions, or write to TNT, 41 Sutter St., #1124, San Francisco, CA 94104-4903. Deadline for submissions is April 15, 1996.

SOUTHERN FTMS?

My dear brothers at FTM:

I just received my first issue of the FTM International Newsletter and already read it three times. I look forward to receiving many more. I've never met anyone like myself "yct," but look forward to talking to someone on the same wave as myself. I'm enclosing a money order for \$30 for a complete set of back order issues, and request addresses of any FTMs in Arkansas, Texas, Tennessee, or Missouri. And, please keep me on the mailing list.

Jack McCain
P.O.Box 380673
Duncanville, TX 75138

(Dear Jack - We are happy to keep you on our mailing list. I cannot send you any addresses of other FTMs because we are absolutely committed to maintaining everyone's anonymity. However, if there are any guys out there from the aforementioned states, drop a line to Jack and begin to network. A Pen Pal can be a lifeline to a brother living in a less-transfriendly place. —Marcus)

TRANS-LIB COALITION

Transgender Liberation Coalition, Inc. is an incorporated, community-based advocacy group formed to promote the human rights of people with transgender issues. TLC defines "transgender" as a lived gender status whereby a person assumes the characteristics of, or identifies with, the other sex whether by means of medical intervention or otherwise. It does in no way, exclude people who prefer to be called "transsexual", "transvestite", "cross-dresser", "drag queen", etc.

TLC is actively involved in pushing for anti-discrimination legislation, the legal recognition of tranny issues, action in relation to HIV+/AIDS especially tranny-specific education services, awareness programs and treatment services. We are also pushing for improvements in the supply of services to transnys particularly in the areas of employment, welfare, education, and public housing.

TLC has set up a Transgender Anti-

CONTINUED PAGE 14

MORE NETWORKING

Violence Project (TAVP) which is the only one of its type in Australia. We collect all incidents of violence, harassment, abuse and discrimination against all transnys. The data will be compiled and eventually published to help government and non-government services in providing proper services and legal protection.

We hope to encourage a sense of pride and self-esteem among transnys, a sense of community among transnys, a focus on tranny achievements and objectives, and continuing improvements in the quality of life and lifestyles of transnys.

TLC would like FTM to include TLC in its data bases and lists of international groups/orgs. If you would like to know more about TLC and the TAVP, we would be more than happy to discuss this with you. Yours sincerely, Leanne Archer, Secretary/Public Officer TLC. E-mail: leanne@lingua.cit.uz.av

TRANSMALE TASK FORCE

A new national networking, information, and activist group for FTMs/MtMs/Transgendered Men was formed on America Online in November 1995.

The TransMale Task Force is a national network for people who identify as male, but were born with female anatomy, who are committed to creating action on major issues affecting our community. Members may self-identify as Female-To-Male (FTM) transsexual and transgendered, Male-To-Male, and more. Some are living full-time as male; others are considering or in the process of transition. Many, but not all, have obtained, or are seeking, medical treatment to change their bodies to male.

The membership of the TransMale Task Force is diverse, with many ages, races, ethnicities,

backgrounds, lifestyles, and professions represented. We are proud of this diversity, which lends richness and depth to our community.

Major issues which the TMTF will address include educating the public about who we are, ensuring the media portray us accurately and fairly, securing legal and civil rights, and increasing access to medical care for our specific needs. We seek alliances with other groups of Trans people, and with gay/lesbian/bisexual groups, to work toward common goals. Supporters who do not identify as male-born-female are invited to join TMTF as associate members.

We are looking for general members, organizers in specific geographical regions, and participants on our six committees: legal issues, medical issues, media, information and education, membership/outreach, and fundraising. We have members from all over the country and in all fields. Our members include Black, Native American, and Hispanic individuals and we want to do outreach to all minority groups. No matter what your talents - organizing, writing, fundraising, public relations, computers - we can use your help!

For more information, e-mail MtMInFo@aol.com, the official mailing list for the TMTF, or write us c/o Elessar Press, 1529 El Camino Real, Suite 151, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Thank you.

Aaron Davis (TX), Ken Morris (OR), and C. Julian Leonard (CA) Co-Chairs.

PHALLOPLASTY INFO?

Dear FTM:

I have found your publication informative, encouraging, supportive, and entertaining. Thanks for all the hard work you put forth. Especially for those of us who are isolated in small communities. You become the link that binds us to other brothers around the country, and you give us a sense of belonging and community.

I am writing to find out if you have any

successful phalloplasty stories. After reading the article [in issue #31] called "A Guided Tour Through Phalloplasty," I am beginning to wonder. This article gave the reader the idea that phalloplasty has a long way to go to be considered a surgery that is desired as well as successful.

My surgeon, Dr. Neil Wilson, has suggested this procedure for me, but at present I am unsure if this is something I want to undergo. Are there other brothers who have had work done by this surgeon that they are either happy or unhappy with??

Any information I receive will be useful. I live in Michigan, and I am far removed from the city of Detroit where this surgeon is located, but since he is the only one in the state that seems to have experience with TS people and surgical experience, it seems my choices are limited. THANKS !!!! Your brother,

Christian Stone

Flint Rd.

Brighton, MI 48116

[James responds: I only wish we would hear about some success stories. So many men who have had phalloplasty do not want to be photographed or tell their stories. Again, I must express my deepest gratitude to Martin for sharing his story with us. I encourage any readers who have been patients of Dr. Wilson to either contact Christian directly, or to write to us so we can share the info with a larger audience. Requested anonymity will be respected. It is true that I have seen only one really excellent looking phalloplasty result, and this was performed by Dr. Laub. I do not remember whether its owner had feeling in it, or was able to urinate through it, as this was years ago. Since then, I have seen several specimens that I would call interesting, but I'm not sure I would want to have them myself. For me, the worst

CONTINUED BACK PAGE

!!! URGENT !!! SEAN O'NEILL !!! URGENT !!!

SEAN O'NEILL TO BE SENTENCED: PLEA BARGAIN STRUCK

Colorado Springs, CO.

Fighting to avoid 32 years of possible imprisonment, Sean O'Neill has reportedly agreed to a plea bargain offered by the Colorado Springs District Attorney (DA). His lawyer, Public Defender Bill Martinez, had previously sought to fight all charges head on in court. However the DA, currently engaged in a statewide election campaign as a conservation candidate, responded by simply adding more charges and more jail-time.

A conservative judge assigned to hear the case allowed this punitive "charge stacking." Faced with this, Mr. Martinez apparently felt Sean had no choice but to accept the plea bargain.

Sean is scheduled to be sentenced at 10 am on Friday, February 16th, at the Colorado Springs Courthouse. Mr. Martinez has invited the Menace and all concerned people to demonstrate in support of Sean outside the sentencing at 9 am, preceded by a press conference at 8:30 am. It is hoped a strong showing which demonstrates that the case has national attention

will prevent the judge from "throwing the book" at Sean and seeking to make an example of him.

Interested parties should contact: Tony Barreto-Neto of TOPS (Transgendered Officers Protect & Serve) and Transsexual Menace - Men (TBHawk@aol.com), Jamison Green of FTM International and Transsexual Menace-Men (JamisonG@aol.com), or Riki Anne Wilchins of the Transsexual Menace (Riki@pipeline.com or 212-645-1753)

(Here is more information about the Sean O'Neill case from

an earlier Press Release)

G E N D E R Q U E E R CHARGED WITH RAPE for CONSENSUAL SEX

Sean O'Neill, a 20 year-old transgender person, has been charged with the sexual assault of 4 girls who claim they engaged in consensual sex on numerous occasions but were unaware that O'Neill, born Sharon Clark, was actually "a lesbian." O'Neill, who does not use the words "transsexual" or "transgendered," reportedly has a fluid approach to

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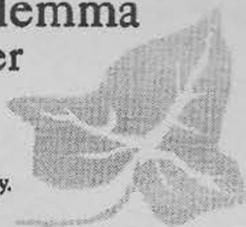
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FTM RESOURCES

UNITED STATES

California-FTM International, 5337 College Avenue #142, Oakland, CA 94618 VOICEMAIL: 510-287-2646 E-Mail: FTM News@aol.com
Under Construction, P.O. Box 922342, Sylmar, CA 91392. Contact: Jeff Shevlowitz

Florida-Eden Society P.O. Box 1692, Pompano Beach, FL 33061-9316. Contact: Maxwell Anderson & Jake Taylor. Phone: (305) 784-9316.

Nature/Services: Open transgender support group. Newsletter is EdeNews
Massachusetts-East Coast Female-to-Male Group P.O. Box 60585, Florence Station, Northampton, MA 01060. Phone: (413) 584-7616 (Bet Power), (617) 926-7691 (Lonnie). Nature/Services: Support group for female-to-male persons and their significant others. **Enterprise**, P.O. Box 629, Jamaica Plain, Mass 02130-0006 (617) 3264. Contact: Harris Brown
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.

Wisconsin-Gemini Gender Group. PO Box 44211 Milwaukee, WI 53214. Voice mail #414-297-9328. Notes: 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 may start a "social" support group for FTMs in the Chicago/Milwaukee areas. There seems to be a growing # of FTMs within these 2 cities and we have special needs and concerns that aren't getting addressed. - #414-276-8877. Michael.

INTERNATIONAL

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

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

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

United Kingdom

London-F to M Network, Box 7624, London WC1N 3XX, England. Contact: Stephen Whittle, Phone: 061 225 1915. Nature/Services: Support group for female-to-male persons

Manchester-Female to Male Network, 367 Upper Brook St., Victoria Park, M13-0EP

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

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

- please put me on the mailing list
- please keep me on the mailing list
- This is an address change
- I'm enclosing a donation of \$ _____

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Thanks for your continued support! 11-95

FTM Meeting Schedule 1996

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

Support

March 10, 1996

May 12, 1996

July 14, 1996

August 11, 1996

Informational

February 11, 1996

April 14, 1996

June 9, 1996

September 8, 1996

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MORE NETWORKING

aspect of these procedures is the scarring and other risks to other parts of the body, but I have also heard from other guys who say they can live with those scars. Genital reconstruction surgery is truly a deeply personal choice. I don't know how far Brighton is from Ann Arbor, but you might want to contact Sandra Cole, Ph.D., Director of the new Comprehensive Gender Services Program at U. Michigan Medical Center, phone 313-936-7048. Maybe Dr. Cole's program can offer you some support or alternatives. Try not feel like you have to make up your mind about surgery quickly—take your time, and make sure you choose your surgery for the right reasons that. I hope this helps... —James.

URGENT! SEAN O'NEILL CASE :Cont from p 14

gender and lives primarily as a man, preferring male pronouns. Although the events in question occurred years ago when both O'Neill and the women were teenagers, O'Neill is being charged with 11 felony counts, including sexual assault, criminal impersonation and sexual assault on a child. Total penalty is 32 years imprisonment, and O'Neill would be 52 upon release. Charges were originally brought by two policewomen in the ultra-conservation Colorado Springs area, when O'Neill was picked up on a minor charge and admitted to having vaginal sex organs. His previous girlfriends refused cooperate in the prosecution until intensely pressured by the Public Defender, parents, and the DA's office. If successful, the case would effectively equate failure to disclose one's genitals/genital status as a "criminal deception" and any resulting sex, consensual or not, as "sexual assault" or rape. This poses grave consequences for transpeople who are pre-operative or non-operative, and for transmen who lack the \$60,000 (or the desire) for a complete phalloplasty. Under Colorado's interpretation, the murder of transpeople (like the bloody May 16 slaying of Deborah Forte following her date's discovery of her penis) could be defended on grounds of "justifiable homicide" since they would be engaged in the de facto "rape" of their assailants. This is strongly reminiscent of the odious "homosexual panic" defense, long used in conservative jurisdictions to justify the murders of gay men by offended straights. O'Neill's case is covered in detail in the October, 1995 issue of OUT Magazine by Donna Minkowitz.