

Phoenix

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MONTHLY / INTERNATIONAL

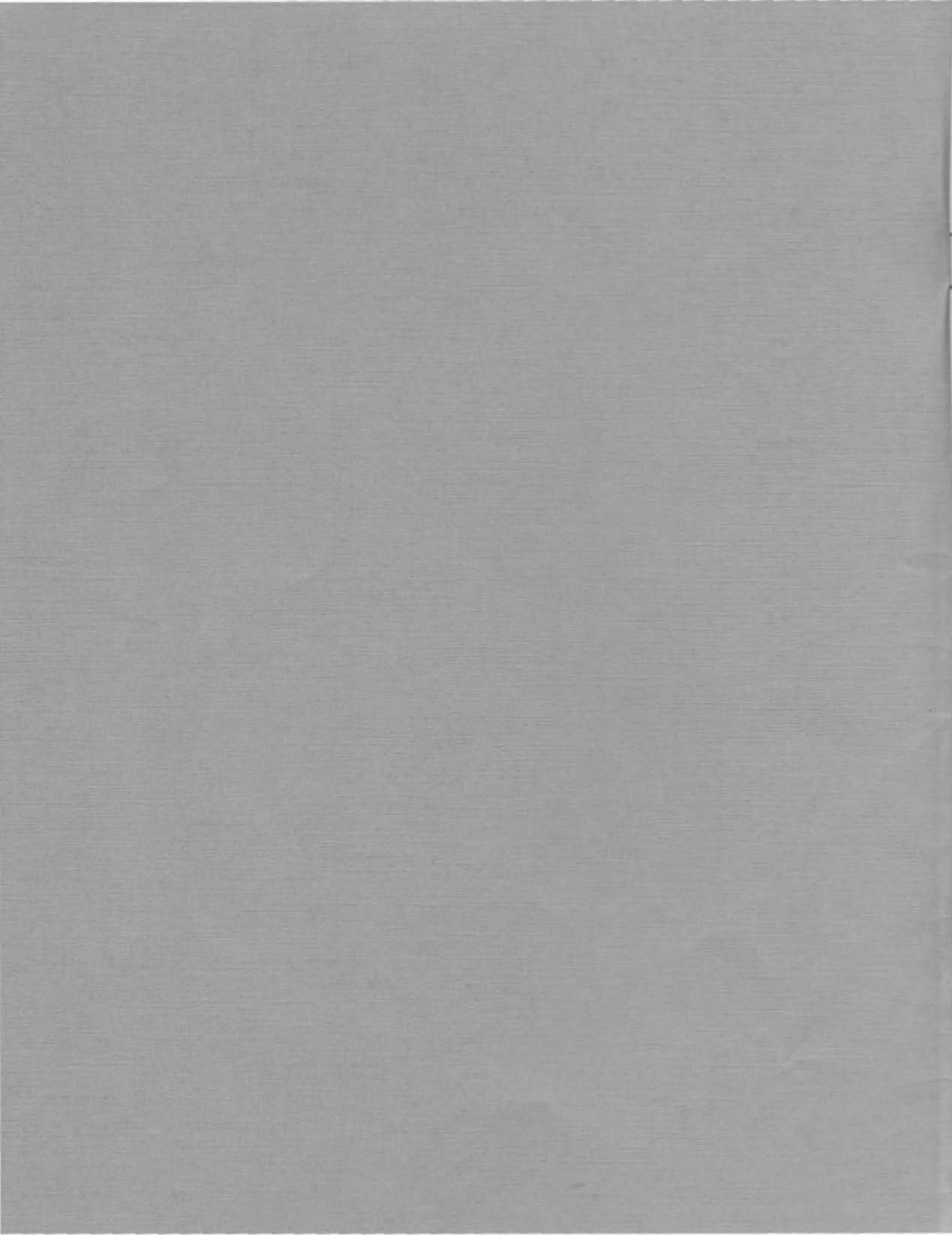
JANUARY 1981

GGA



VOL. 1, NO. 1

Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another,
"What! You, too? I thought I was the only one." --C.S. Lewis



A NEW MAGAZINE

Just as the "Dear Jane" newsletter gave way to The Gateway in July, 1979, it was inevitable that The Gateway would someday give way to more polished and attractive newsmagazine.

With its attractive cover and word processor type-set, The Phoenix is truly a quality magazine and one that can take its place in the waiting rooms of supporting professionals or on your coffee table at home.

The quality of The Phoenix will improve with each issue just as The Gateway improved with each issue.

Putting The Gateway to rest after all this time was heart wrenching for those who put gallons of blood, sweat and tears into it. But, we can look at those days as good learning times. Oh, indeed we learned many things about getting out a quality monthly magazine. We learned how to type, spell, write articles, rewrite articles and stories, edit, heartlessly cut words, sentences, paragraphs and whole articles. We learned how to slug headlines, paste up the magazine for the printer. How to hound the printer to get it out by our deadline. How to collate, fold and stuff it in envelopes. And how to carry 300 to 500 copies to the Post Office without getting a hernia.

All the things learned on The Gateway will be put to good use in getting The Phoenix to you each month.

Most importantly the staff learned, in doing The Gateway, the enormous amount of words to be gathered in one place and strung together to make each issue. Visualize a piece of adding machine tape 17 feet long and 3-1/2 inches wide covered with type. That is how much goes into each issue.

Obviously, reader participation is necessary to get all the print required for each issue. Each reader has at least one article or story just waiting to get out where others can see it. So you're not a writer! None of the staff plans to win a Pulitzer Prize for Journalism, but we give it our best shot each month--and then fall in a heap until it's time to start all over again for the next issue. Jot your article/story down and mail it to us. We will edit and polish it, if needed. If you have only the idea for an article, send that in and we'll work on it until we either come up with something or farm it out to someone who can come up with something. You don't have to be a professional writer to have things published by us. Look at the little fantasy story appearing in last month's Gateway as an "Adventure of Courtney Davis." Certainly it wasn't a gem of journalism, but it was entertaining and gave many of us a laugh. Life after all would be barren without a laugh or two.

ABOUT OUR NEW NAME

Because of the regional restrictions implied by the words "Golden Gate" in our name, and because we are, after all, an international organization with members in 36 states, Canada, and overseas, the Board of Directors voted to change the organization's name to Gateway Gender Alliance.

The "Gateway" portion of the name was selected based on the meaning of the word as applied to our organization. The word was originally selected for the monthly newsmagazine of the GGG/G as representing the "gateway" through which each of us passes on our way through the male-female continuum. We like to think of the "gateway" as the mid-point on that continuum -- the ideal combination of both the masculine and feminine.

The word "gender" was selected because that's "the business" the organization is in. Certainly there can be no question of what we do and whom we support with that word in our name.

"Alliance" was selected because we are allied with other organizations; we are allied with all individuals needing our help; and there were those who felt we should continue some identity, however vague, of the old International Alliance of Male Feminism. So, there you have an explanation of the organization's name.

The selection of a new organization name led to the need for a new logo, which can be seen on the cover.

As you can see, the basic outline and background is that of the Phoenix. Myth has it that the Phoenix consumes itself by fire every 500 years and is then reborn from its ashes. The center portion, which will be displayed in red on all our forms and publications, represents fire. The two figures in the center of the fire represent the male and female being reborn (and are obvious carry-overs from our old logos, since some of us couldn't bear to part with our "little people"). The art work, specifically the logo and member-ship cards and magazine cover are the work of Diane (CA-3). We appreciate all the time and effort she expended in working up the designs and, of course, the other work on illustrations for the magazine.

LATE BULLETIN

The possibility exists we may be able to lease one or more condos near the HBGDA, Lake Tahoe Symposium Site for the period 4-8 March 1981. The condo sleeps 8 and rents for \$55.00 per day-meals not included. If a deposit is required, a share will be assessed each individual sharing the condo. We are also investigating the possibility of chartering a Greyhound Bus. Users will be assessed a "per rider" round-trip share. If interested in participating in either the condo or bus plan, or both, contact P.O. Box 62283, Sunnyvale, CA 94088, or (408) 734-3773 prior to February 2, 1981.

CHANGING ON THE JOB

by MICHELLE (CA-29)

To change one's sex on the job is not for everyone, but it can be and is done, more often and more successfully than is often considered by both the "consumer" and "provider" gender factions. Before a person gives up a valuable economic resource, changing on the job should be considered. At one time I was convinced I could never do it, until I realized that not only did I have the strength to do it, but that I had little choice if my change was not to be seriously delayed. That would have been far more detrimental than anything I have experienced on the job.

I am a male-to-female in my early 30's, and have worked in my profession since graduation from college; that last few years with the same company. It is a professional job as an assistant to the person in charge of my department, involving supervision of the department during evening hours, keeping track of the work of a dozen or so people. I formerly worked in a more public position; but, when I reached the breaking point and began to take hormones and started to effect the change, I asked for reassignment to an "inside" job at my office. Fortunately, this was granted with few questions asked, since I had acquired the technical knowledge needed and because the need for good inside people was great.

After 6 months on hormones, along with considerable weight loss and electrolysis, I began to look so different that people started asking me questions. Many assumed I was very ill. Up to that point, only my direct superior knew of my plans, who had been very encouraging and understanding, if a bit dumbfounded. Then he moved up, and another man--a very kind, very capable man, whom I had known for several years--became head of my department.

I decided at this point, with the encouragement of my therapist, to stay on the job. I told my new boss over dinner and drinks that week, and was ecstatic that he wanted me to stay, both for personal and professional reasons. He then informed his superiors, one of whom also had dinner with me and proved to be very kind in his understanding. The company's personnel director also met with me and seemed satisfied that things would be all right.

At this point I'd like to interject, from the perspective of nearly a year later, one extremely important point for every transsexual and the rapist to remember. Quite simply, that most people, be they hostile or receptive, still will not have the least inner comprehension of why the change is necessary. This, of course, is the key stumbling block for a transsexual. A non-transsexual simply does not really understand the total feeling of gender agony and frustration. But

reverse that and remember that you, the transsexual, have never known the acceptance of your anatomic gender of birth in the same way. So, it's pretty difficult to condemn others, since the transsexual doesn't know the inner basis for their contentment. I still absolutely marvel over how anyone could be happy being a man, yet, obviously, the vast majority of men are!

The closest I have come to gaining true understanding has been in my conversations with other women. While some of them have candidly admitted that I began by seeming somewhat like a teen-ager going through puberty, they have not only acknowledged a consistently developing maturity, but have shared some beautiful conversations. As most have said, "You really are a woman." While some have more trouble than others, they do for the most part identify with me now primarily as a woman. Of course this is much easier for those who never knew my male image.

We simply cannot expect very much real understanding from most people, but we cannot judge them harshly because of it, unless they actively oppose our change.

I had an individual conversation with every person in my department and many in the office, at least 40 or 50 in all. Almost all of them were surprisingly (to me) open and receptive, but only a few were either very supportive or very negative.

Needless to say, I was tremendously relieved that so many of my co-workers seemed at least neutral. I suspect that most of the men thought I was crazy, if harmless, and that most of the women wondered if it were really possible (especially since my male body had been anything but a candidate for beauty or even passibility).

As the months passed, though, more and more people began to see that I really was changing and that it was anything but a joke. More than anything else, the physical changes help convince the men (they marvel at the breast growth and other physical changes). To women, however, the inner insights, the conversations, the sharing and the obvious "rightness" with myself meant far, far more than physical changes. Had these not been "right" in a way I find hard to explain--other than to say I really am a woman--physical changes alone could not come close to gaining acceptance as a woman. As one woman told me, "You really do have the feelings of a woman." Another said, "Men just can't talk like you do." This was, naturally, totally gratifying.

Of course many, and maybe even most, of one's co-workers in such a situation never really will consider you a woman. It wasn't hard for them to adjust to my name, which is the female version of my male name. I heard "he" instead of "she" for a long time and occasionally still do, though less and less, since I do not look like a "he"! Whenever that has happened I have always politely interjected "It's she, please." Those who will not understand

this are not your friends anyway, so it's nothing to worry about. You can't hold it against someone if they inadvertently pop out a "he," yet they shouldn't hold a polite correction against you. It is emotionally devastating for me to hear "he," but this is the price one pays for changing on the job. Many times I've had to go upstairs to the women's lounge and cry in private, before returning to work.

Yet, when I realize it would have taken me so much longer the other way, it's been so worth it. I am reasonably passable now, but extremely demanding electrolysis made my problem even more complex. I still have problems passing on the day of and the day after my electrolysis, and this after nearly 250 hours of it! I was cursed with an extremely heavy beard, not to mention a 200-plus pound ex-football player's body, and true passability was a joke for a long time. Even now, it is far from total. Last month a person who had not learned about me, later told me, "I thought you might be a transsexual. I wouldn't have bet much money on it, but I'm not shocked either. But I do relate to you as a woman." Progress! But after nearly two years of changing, also a reflection of how much longer my surgery would have been delayed, had I decided to hide, or go on welfare, or wait until I was totally passable. And I was so desperate, so miserable, even working as a known transsexual was preferable to waiting an extra two or three years.

The news about my change broke totally at the office on a Friday, and I was pretty nervous when I came in on Monday. I can't describe the feeling. I knew I had to face up to everything; and I felt definitely right, just nervous. It's easy to say "If they don't like you, it's their problem," but nobody likes to be put down. So, wonder of wonders, after I hung up my coat, the first person I saw came over to me, put his arm around me, and said, "Good luck, I can't understand this, but I only wish you the best. If you ever need someone to talk to, my number is in the book." What a wonderful man!! With that one man's help, I felt everything would be fine.

I waited about six weeks before I began to dress totally as a woman, and a similar thing happened that Monday night, too. One of the women, who had been so very supportive and friendly, was the first to see me. "Wow! You look really nice," she said. "I'll bet you're a bit nervous." "Not really," I said. "I really feel right." "Good," she replied. "Good luck, and God bless." I was sure lucky to have had friends like that to help me through the early change.

Of course, my situation will always be known by the employees, since some of the older ones will mention it. But they do have an easier time relating to the woman that I am, and I have not felt a need or obligation to discuss it with people who never knew the man; though in a couple of cases I have, with people who were curious. It's

very, very important never to force yourself on anyone, as I learned from one or two negative conversations early on in the change. People have such a wide variety of reactions, and you truly are aware of their insecurities. Then, there are those beautiful types like the woman who told me, "In all due respect, it's really kind of fun watching you change. It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

I replied, appreciatively, "For me, too!" And we both shared a laugh I feel only two women could share!

The bathrooms have not been a major problem. I usually use the upstairs one, which is less frequently used, and am careful not to linger. Early on, if anyone was in there, I waited until she finished, but now I just do whatever I must and so be it. As one woman said, "It would bother the men a lot more, even if you wanted to use the men's room!"

As for the future, it's difficult to say. Obviously, it would be preferable to build a career somewhere as a woman instead of a transsexual and I feel a strong inner push to do this. But I face at least \$8,000 more in various bills, including my surgery, which I plan to have within five to ten months. So I will need this job for at least a year or two more. And if the acceptance level gets better, I might stay longer. It is too uncertain at this point to tell.

I realize I have only touched briefly on the ramifications of this topic. If I can help anyone contemplating such a step, I can be contacted through the GGA and Bill.

God bless and keep your faith and strength. Remember, first and foremost you are, and hope to be, a good person, and that shouldn't change.

SHOPPING

Many of the "older" members have shopped at Second Hand Rose's, either in the City or in Albany. Some of you may have attended the open house held for GGG/G last summer. While Rose is more than willing to help any and all customers, she can be especially helpful to the MTF. She asks only that you please come in and let her know what you are looking for and that you want help. When you go into her shop, have your GGG/G or GGA card with you and show it to her. She will then know you are shopping for yourself and will be better able to serve and help you. There is no reason to be shy or beat around the bush with Rose. She is, after all, "with it."

READ YOUR LABEL!

Recently, there have been questions such as, "When is my membership up?" "When do I renew my subscription?" and so on.

Each label contains an expiration date, month and year on the second line. Normally, we scan

the computer file each month and select out the potential expirations for the next month and mail out a letter advising of the impending expiration. So the letter doesn't come as a complete shock, please look at your label every once in a while. If you send the fee to us before the expiration month, it will save us the trouble and expense of sending out the reminder.

Here is what a typical label looks like:

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| SALLY SEXIE | |
| CA-500* | 0182 |
| P.O. BOX 99099 | |
| SOMEWHERE, CA | 98999 |

Line one is the name. Line two contains the membership number and expiration, month/year, of the word "Subscriber," "Advertiser," etc. An * after the membership number indicates that a copy of the Membership Directory was sent to you. Line three contains the street address, and line four contains the city, state and ZIP Code information.

ABOUT YOUR LETTERS

Recently, we have been contacted by members receiving letters from people not in the Membership Directory. If the letters have been forwarded by us, they will bear a label similar to the one used to send The Phoenix to you. If they have been forwarded by us, be assured they are from other members. Because of the number of new members joining since the Membership Directory was published in October and being supplemented each month, there will always be a slight lag between when you may receive letters from someone and when their number appears in either the Directory or a Supplement. Since we make the Directory available only to members, it logically follows that the letters you receive will be from other members. There is, of course, the possibility that a member will loan a Directory to a friend, or for that matter, lose their copy. We would hope that "loaning" does not occur, but we have no control over the Directory once it is sent to a member.

Because of the number of new people joining every month, we shall be publishing a Membership Directory Supplement each month. The Supplement will be inserted in the envelope in which The Phoenix is sent to you. Only members will receive a Supplement. We have established the fifteenth of each month as the cut-off date for inclusion of listings and/or changes in that month's Supplement. Please bear the cut-off date in mind when deciding to make a change in your listing. We intend to maintain the Directory as current as possible, but there will always be some lag in reflecting the new listings.

POTENTIAL PITTSBURG CHAPTER

In the last month or so we have been contacted by several people in the Pittsburgh/Philadelphia/DC area concerning the availability of meetings. Ratchel (PA-12) has kindly consented to scout the Pittsburgh area for a meeting place and will let us know what she finds and when meetings will start.

Those interested in getting together to form a Chapter in that area, please contact us and we will forward your letters to Ratchel. Once she gets a P.O. Box, you will be able to contact her directly.

Ratchel is also going to place some small ads in local papers and other places to let people know there is an organization operating in that area. Please give her all the help you can and let's see this Chapter get off the ground and into full operation.

As the Chapter becomes more well known in the area, more people will join it and through the Chapter, the GGA.

If **you** are interested in forming a local GGA Chapter, either as a member or a mover, let us know who you are, where you are, and what your degree of interest is. The more Chapters in operation, the more participation by the local members and the more members will be recruited. If we are to continue to grow, we must offer more than "pen-pal" contact for the membership. No matter how much the National would like to be able to establish a chapter and a local program for you, nothing can be done without the help and cooperation of the local members. Obviously, a few prime movers are needed in each of the many areas where the membership is located to establish and maintain a chapter operation.

As an aid to those willing to establish a Chapter, information concerning the forming and operation of a chapter is being put into a small pamphlet entitled, appropriately enough, "How to Start a Chapter."

MORE WAIST FAT

Both the San Francisco and San Jose Chapters are having Potluck Buffets at the January meetings to start the year off right. The San Jose Potluck in November had an over abundance of delicious desserts and some of us had to skip a few meals to work off the delicious but disastrous calories ingested. Since we are beginning to have more "in house" feedings, let's establish some easily followed and general ground rules.

If you bring drinkables, please bring some extra cups.

If you bring eatables, bring some extra plates. The flatware (knives, forks and spoons) and napkins will be supplied by the Group. Generally, there will be a short meeting before, breaking for the chow tables, so come a little early, deposit your dish, and sit with the rest of us.

All members, regardless of Chapter affiliation are invited to attend the San Francisco Potluck on January 14th and/or the San Jose Potluck on January 16th. PC attendees are also invited to attend not only the Potluck meetings but any other meeting of the GGA Chapters.

Come out and have a nice social evening getting to know others like yourself. Make some new friends and reacquaint yourself with some you haven't seen for a while. If you are unsure of the meeting locations, give us a call at (408) 734-3773 for information.

DIRECTORY OF INFORMATION AND SERVICES

It is coming up to that time of year again. In February, 1980, we published the first Directory of Information and Services. Because of its size, the number of listings the Directory was really a first. We expect the Directory to grow each year; and only you can help it grow. Each of you has information that should be included and keeping it to yourself makes the information meaningless. Information only has value when shared with others. Look at the notice in this issue to see some of the categories of information available in the Directory. Oh, yes, please don't request a copy of the Directory. The 500 published in 1980 were all gone by November, and we are in the process of assembling the 1981 edition.

If you have tried shopping or visiting any of the places listed in the Directory and have been poorly served, please let us know so we can take some action to ensure others are better treated. We would like to suggest that when going to any of the places listed, please use good judgment in the way you act. If you act like a fishwife or harlot, that is the way people will treat you. If you act like a lady or gentleman, that is the way people will treat you.

FEED BACK

December 8, 1980

Re: Name Change article in Gateway
(December 1980)

I am concerned about some of the points made in the above-mentioned article. Those concerns and my reasons therefor follow:

1. The brief paragraph about the Common-Law right is misleading. This right is unshakably grounded in California law (citations follow) and may not be denied by public or private agencies. A letter from any attorney should be all that is necessary to demand its recognition. An offer of formal acknowledgment is also a helpful gesture, as it assures the agency of positive identification, which is the issue anyway. Consistency is not the

"trick" you suppose it to be, although inconsistency can and does suggest the possibility of fraud, the only limitation on the right.

Cases: In re Ross (1973) 8 Cal2d 608, 610
Marriage of Banks (1974) 42 CalApp3d 631, 637; 117 CalRptr 37
Weathers v. Superior Court (1976) 54 CalApp3d 288; 126 CalRpte 547

Ross specifically held that the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure (SS 1275-1279) relating to name changes were not intended to abrogate the Common-Law right, while Weathers allowed a married woman to force the Superior Court to accept her Petition for Dissolution in her maiden name.

2. In my opinion, the purchase of a book has several drawbacks. First, it costs money for a one-time procedure. Second, it may well be out of date by the time you get it (check copyright dates), in which case you might attempt an obsolete procedure which will make no friends for you with the court. Third, and perhaps most importantly, if it does not address the considerations specific to the gender issue, you may find that you have gone to considerable trouble at the wrong time. I am referring to the new provisions for change of name and issuance of a new birth certificate postsurgically. This procedure (Code of Civil Procedure S 1279) requires a doctor's affidavit confirming the sex change. Obviously, if a misinformed individual goes in for a court-order name change presurgically, the result will either be a redundant procedure which must at some later time be repeated or a good chewing-out by a busy judge who will suggest that a lawyer be consulted for further proceedings. Neither of those results is desirable or necessary. I would advise transsexuals to exercise their Common-Law rights through the life-test and come into court fully (physically) in the new identity. This avoids making any more public records of the circumstances than are absolutely necessary and narrows the discretionary choices of the judge.

3. In that vein, I would comment on your appraisal of the limits of judicial discretion. The exercise of legal discretion is not boundless, but must be based upon facts proven by competent evidence and comport with the law of the particular area in question. In the name-change area, this means some legitimately interested party must respond to the Order to Show Cause by appearing in court and testifying as to the facts he or she feels should prevent the change of name. Those facts, in turn, must establish some legal cause (usually some variation of false personation on similar fraudulent motive) as to why a right given by the Legislature might not be exercised.

In the real world, no Superior Court Judge will waste the valuable time a hostile inquiry would consume to elicit or bolster such an attempted showing unless its validity were obvious (such as a change to Farrah Fawcett or the like). If no one appears in opposition, OSC's of any type are typically granted forthwith. The sort of attacks which a paranoid TS might foresee would be a plain abuse of discretion which would not require much of a lawsuit to counter.

4. The reason for publication is not to see if anyone else is using the name, but to give opportunity for any interested party to show cause why the applicant should not be allowed to assume the proposed name. If every John Smith could protest another's use of that name, parents would soon run out of given names for little Smiths. Publication is an alternative to personal service of process which is used to give fair notice to unknown persons who may have an interest in a controversy.

5. I would strongly advise against the use of the fictitious business name procedure for several reasons. First, it is a public record that John Smith is also known by the name Joan Smith. While that information may be needed by some of those with whom you deal, most TS's will prefer a minimum of available records documenting the circumstances. If you file a DBA, any person may call the County Clerk's Office and obtain your true name and address from the public records, without fee or reason. The harassment potential is obvious. Second, the overt use of two names without some sort of business enterprise carried out under the chosen name will present exactly the appearance of fraudulent activity that limits the Common-Law right. This is especially true of establishing credit in a fictitious name. Suppose you miss a payment and a nosy collector comes looking for you. His eyes will light up all the way to the District Attorney's Office if he comes up with your DBA. Again, the potential for needless trouble is clear and the advantages doubtful.

6. As to the P.O. Box, if one simply directs the Post Office to place all mail addressed to the box in the box, it will be done. Again, you want to avoid unnecessary public records and disclosures. For your part, you will want to perform the courtesy of returning all mail addressed to former boxholders or other unknown persons to the P.O.

Finally, there is no great mystery to the law of this area if one is possessed of reasonable intelligence. There are public law libraries in every county. If you will look in California Forms of Pleading and Practice (Matthew Bender Company), Volume II, under the topic NAME, CHANGE OF, you will find Xeroxable forms and notes for their use. Be sure to check the Supplement in the back cover of the book for the latest law. Any further questions should be answerable by your local court clerks (be as patient and helpful as you can!).

I would be happy to consult with you on these matters in the future.

Best,
DAN CASAMAJOR

Editor's Comments: Mr. Casamajor is a practicing attorney empathetic to the challenges of the gender community. Mr. Casamajor practices in the general area near Sacramento.

Many of the points brought out by Mr. Casamajor are well taken. He obviously is concerned with the number of papers and forms available as part of the public record concerning the transsexual and certainly that must be considered. In California it is possible to obtain the necessary Court Orders for birth certificate and name change at the same time and, thus, reduce by at least one the number of forms on file. Obviously that is a good method to employ if at all possible. The rules of the road may vary from state to state and should be checked out prior to starting the paper processing.

As will be noted elsewhere in this issue, California has more or less standardized the procedures for obtaining a motor vehicle operator's permit. Please note that nowhere in the qualifications for a new license reflecting a change of sex is a requirement for the name change Court Order.

We appreciate Mr. C. for the specific points and personal opinions rendered. Certainly responses like this are needed to keep the record straight.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Girls and Guys:

I've only been in Golden Gate a week now, but already I'm completely satisfied. I especially appreciate the speed with which you handle your correspondence. It gives me the feeling you all really care. I'm an attending member who hasn't attended yet; mostly due to the distance I have to travel. I noticed you don't have any Fresno members, other than myself. It's a very large city and there must be some more around here somewhere. Which brings up a question, since you meet at the Metropolitan Church, do you think the one in Fresno would be open to having meetings there? That is, when we get more than one Fresno member. Hopefully, my neighbors will start joining up, and we can get some involvement and support going. If I get any information on services or help in the area, I'll write again. Meanwhile, keep up the good work!

Michelle K (CA-66)

Dear Michelle,

We always like to hear from satisfied members. Obviously, you are not the only crossdresser in Fresno--only the only one we know about. Please check the Membership Supplement carefully as you may find some members closer to you than you realize.

Yes, the MCC would be a good place to approach concerning holding meetings. Someone there may even know other crossdressers with whom you can be put in contact.

If there are any "underground papers" in which we can advertise, please contact them and see what the ad rates are, and we will run a few ads in the hope of attracting more members. You might also call the local newspaper and see if they will take a discreetly worded ad for crossdressers and transsexuals. Let us know what the advertising possibilities are.

DRIVER'S LICENSE!

The below letter from the Office of the Director of the California Department of Motor Vehicles is quoted for your information and certainly use. Please follow the procedures as set forth to prevent delays or non-issuance of a changed permit. As you can readily see from the last two paragraphs of the quoted letter, many of the bureaucrats are not the heartless, faceless monsters so often described. Certainly the State of California can be commended for the efforts made in the behalf of the transsexual.

Joanna M. Clark, Chairperson
Transsexual Rights Committee
American Civil Liberties Union
of Southern California
P.O. Box 2476
Mission Viejo, CA 92690

Dear Ms. Clark:

Your letter of November 13, 1980, regarding this Department's issuance of new driver's licenses to pre-operative transsexuals, has been received. We have in response reviewed our present procedures for processing drivers license applications to record changes of sex.

As one of the purposes of the drivers license is to identify the license holder, it is important that the sex shown on the license be reasonably consistent with the physical appearance of the licensee. The Department currently requires an individual requesting a change in the sex designation on a drivers license or identification card to present a corrected birth certificate or a passport showing the change of sex, or alternatively to submit a letter signed by a physician indicating which sex characteristics predominate. If predominant

characteristics cannot be determined from a physician's letter, a personal interview with a driver improvement analyst may be necessary to establish which characteristics are most present in the appearance and demeanor of the person.

Our present procedures permit pre-operative transsexuals to obtain drivers licenses or identification cards if they have met the requirements described. You have requested that clinical psychologists be permitted to submit letters of verification on behalf of pre-operative patients. This Department is willing to accept such letters subject to the following conditions:

1. The letter must identify the writer as a licensed clinical psychologist.
2. The patient must be named and identified by current drivers license or identification card number.
3. A diagnosis of transsexualism must be given.
4.
 - A. When the patient has been accepted into the gender dysphoria or related program, this fact and the name of the program shall be indicated.
 - B. If the patient is not participating in a program, the clinical psychologist must indicate the course of treatment anticipated.
5. The letter must state that:
 - A. The psychologist gives his professional approval for the patient to "cross-live" in the chosen sex and,
 - B. The appearance of the individual conforms to the new gender.

This change in procedure will be implemented in January, 1981, to allow for necessary revisions and notification of our personnel. It remains the intent of this Department that any license issued to reflect a change of sex be based on adequate evidence and serve to sufficiently identify the individual.

The Department of Motor Vehicles appreciates the problems confronting transsexuals, particularly during the "cross-living" or "real life" testing period prior to reassignment surgery. It is hoped this change in our processing will respond

adequately to your request and better serve the individuals requesting license changes due to gender change.

Sincerely,

DORIS V. ALEXIS
Director

CC: Senator Paul Carpenter

Editor's Note: The above letter resulted from the continued efforts of Joanna Clark working in conjunction with the ACLU. Although immediate results didn't occur the final result is what counts. Now there are specific, on paper, guidelines for the various office to follow. Normally there has been no problem in the larger cities in obtaining a license with a different sex indicated but there have been problems in smaller towns and that is why Ms. Clark initiated the communication with the DMV people. If one can obtain the license with the correct information in San Francisco or L.A. there is no logical reason why one should have difficulty in Redding or Walnut Creek. One more rock removed from the path. Thanks, Joanna.

ORGANIZATION OBJECTIVES

The following objectives have been formulated as applicable to the Gateway Gender Alliance. They being published here to provide all members the opportunity to suggest additions, deletions and/or changes.

OBJECTIVES

TO PROMOTE A SOCIETY WHEREIN THE GENDER DYSPHORIC INDIVIDUAL MAY MEET TOGETHER AND LIVE IN AN OPEN ATMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL RESPECT AND SUPPORT FREE FROM ALL GUILT AND FEAR.

GATHER FROM ALL RESOURCES AVAILABLE AND DISSEMINATE ALL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO AND OF INTEREST TO THE GENDER DYSPHORIC INDIVIDUAL.

PROVIDE REFERRAL SERVICES FOR THE VARIOUS GENDER INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS WITH WHOM/WHICH THIS ORGANIZATION IS IN CONTACT.

ENCOURAGE COOPERATION AMONG THE LEADERS AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE VARIOUS EXISTING OR FUTURE GENDER DYSPHORIC GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS OR ASSOCIATIONS.

DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL TO ASSIST IN THE EDUCATION OF THE GENDER DYSPHORIC IN DEALING WITH HIS/HER LIFESTYLE CHALLENGES **AND** ASSIST THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN ACCEPTING THE GENDER DYSPHORIC INDIVIDUAL AS A PERSON.

PROVIDE A PUBLICATION CONTAINING ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE GENDER DYSPHORIC INDIVIDUAL AND COUNSELORS.

PROVIDE THOSE MEMBERS DESIRING IT A LIST OF PSYCHOTHERAPISTS COUNSELING IN THE GENDER DYSPHORIC FIELD.

PROVIDE A LISTING OR REGISTER OF ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST IN LOCAL OR ACCESSIBLE AREAS TO THE INDIVIDUALS AFFILIATED WITH THIS ORGANIZATION.

ADVERTISE TO ATTRACT UNDECLARED GENDER DYSPHORIC INDIVIDUALS WITHIN OUR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE.

ENCOURAGE THE FULL AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THIS ORGANIZATION OF ALL GENDER DYSPHORIC INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS.

The Northern California Association of Sexologists is presenting a panel discussion on gender identity issues at a wine and cheese party on Sunday, Jan. 18, from 2:30 - 5:30 pm. It will be held at The Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality.* To attend, R.S.V.P. to Mildred Brown at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] by Jan. 14.

* 1523 Franklin St., San Francisco.

CALENDAR

In this regular feature we list the meetings of various gender support groups and special functions known to be scheduled. If your group wishes to have a FREE announcement in The PM-I, send the details to: The GGA, P.O. Box 62283, Sunnyvale, CA 94088. Copy deadline: 15th of the month preceding the issue of The PM-I.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA

Meeting time at each location -- 8 PM.

SAN FRANCISCO: 2nd Wednesday.

OAKLAND: 4th Wednesday.

SAN JOSE: 1st & 3rd Friday.

BERKELEY: 2712 Telegraph. 1st & 3rd Wednesday, rap session. Last Friday, special topic or guest speaker.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA

TS Rap Group: Thursdays, 6 PM. contact Carol Katz, [REDACTED]

SALMACIS: Unstructured social get-together. Second Saturday each month, 7:30 PM. Contact Lynda or Ann [REDACTED]

SHANGRI-LA: (Scyros Chapter). First Saturday each month, 5-11 PM. Contact Nancy [REDACTED] for information.

OXNARD/VENTURA AREA: TS Rap Group. Contact Jean [REDACTED] P. O. Box 532, Port Hueneme, CA 93041, or [REDACTED] for information.

MISSION VIEJO AREA: Gender Program. Contact Joanna Clark, P.O. Box 2476 Mission Viejo, CA 92690. Meetings 2nd & 4th Monday. Open only to people in the program.

BOSTON AREA

TIFFANY CLUB: Tuesdays and Saturdays, 7-11 PM. Usually a \$5.00 attendance fee for non-members. Call (617) 891-8022 for information.

KAY MAYFLOWER SOCIETY: Every Wednesday, 7-11 PM. Call (617) 254-7389 for information.

CAPE CODE, MA

TS SUPPORT GROUP: Contact Rachia Heyelman, PO Box 25, S. Orleans, MA 02662 for information.

FANTASIA FAIR: Scheduled for Spring, 1981. Contact Fantasia Fair Ltd, Kenmore Station, Box 368, Boston, MA 02215 for details.

HARTFORD, CT

HARTFORD TVIC: Every second Saturday. Contact Patsie [REDACTED] P. O. Box 180, Hartford, CT, 06107 for information.

XX-CLUB: Primarily a TS Support Group. Contact Rev. Clinton Jones, 45 Church St., Hartford, CT 06103 for specific meeting information. Scheduled meetings: November 8, Workshop; December 13, Dr. David Wesser is the scheduled guest speaker; January 1981 meetings, 10th & 24th; February meetings, 14th & 28th.

NEW YORK AREA

TV Parties in NYC Area. Contact Joyce Dewhurst, [REDACTED] Jackson Heights, NY 11372 or call [REDACTED]

TV Parties in the Long Island Area. Contact Casey, P. O. Box 708, N. Bellmore, NY, 11710, or call [REDACTED]

ALBANY-TVIC: Meeting every third Saturday. Contact Wm. Thordsen, [REDACTED] Albany, NY 12200, for specific information.

MISSING PERSON

Will anyone knowing the whereabouts of BARBARA [REDACTED] formerly of La Crosse, WI ask her to contact Kay [REDACTED] now Kay [REDACTED] in Sacramento at [REDACTED]

PHOEBE, by Phoebe Smith. The poignant story of a transsexual's trials and tribulation on the road to change. Mail this coupon and \$3.50 to Phoebe Smith, P.O. Box 3119, Atlanta, GA 30302. Please send a copy of Phoebe to:

SOME THOUGHTS ON DREAM, FANTASIA FAIR, AND OTHER EVENTS

By Betty Ann Lind (VA-01)

What a glorious Fall this has been. Michelle Williams, my wonderful roommate and sister, and I have had the pleasure of attending both Dream and Fantasia Fair. We had so hoped to attend the Tri-Sigma Conference in New Orleans, but there was a conflict in schedule between Dream and the Conference. I did so want to go back to visit New Orleans. My o' my did I used to have fun in that ole town.

When asked to do an article on the Fair, I was also responding to a request from Merissa Sherrill Lynn to do a critique of the Fair for the steering committee. So I have written the critique and herein I submit this article to you in the form of an open letter. And, I shall ramble onto a few other thoughts to bear witness to the fact that the critique has raised many insights which you may wish to share with our readers.

Think about this, dear heart. In the fifties when Virginia became a voice in the wilderness, we had nothing to do but bop around the drag bars or take those daring walks about town and now we can go to week-long fairs as well as going to local crossdressing chapter meetings. My how things have changed in thirty short years.

If we were rich enough. . . We might spin down to Gulfport, Mississippi, in April to start the Spring by spending a week at Shangri-La. In the Summer, we can go up to Chicago for the Midwest Summer Gala. Then to Dream in Oregon to look at the Pacific in mid-September before we go off to Fantasia Fair at Cape Cod in October before the storms toss the Atlantic.

My thought is that it would be nice to be able to select from five or six fairs a year--especially if each event is as distinctly different in settings and purposes as Dream is to Fantasia Fair.

Perhaps we should think about what these new events should be like, and I shall offer a few ideas in the hope that our readership might also have a few novel ideas for a new fair. But, it might help to describe the basic differences between these two current major events, and their one most singular similarity.

Dream is a pink fantasy trip. Its ultra-feminine style begins with pink stationary correspondence surrounded by the delightful mystery, "Will there be the joy of a Dream this year?" And then about Valentine's Day you receive the wonderful news, "Yes, dear heart, there will be a Dream! Soon,

like a school girl, you pack all your dainties and arrive at Portland to be driven to a secluded convent-like condominium apartment complex which overlooks the beautiful Pacific Ocean. It is very much like a very posh girl's finishing school, although at times it is not at all unlike that wildly improbable progressive school in English comedy

called St. Trinian's. As a school its real charm rests in the hands of its teachers from Gloria La Vonne's, who truly love their overgrown school girls. (In fact, poor Gloria loses an instructor each year there is a Dream to one of these saucy pupils). Dream's fashion and talent shows are ever so much like their counterparts in a fashionable private girl's school. And thereby lies the joy of Dream in that it focuses upon the emerging young lady we sometimes wish we could be. It is a dream school, complete with a school bus, which takes us from our convent school environment to a lovely pink formal banquet where we each accept a diploma which announces our graduation from a Finishing and Modeling School course. Dream is beautiful, and certainly is the ideal first major event for the blossoming TV. I am looking forward with girlish delight to my next Dream.

Fantasia Fair held in Provincetown, Mass., is like moving from that sheltered charm school to a crowded seashore resort town's college. Here you are thrust from a pink fantasy of childhood's end into an open classroom where everyone will see and judge you. (Not unlike being thrown into the ocean as a means to learning firsthand how to swim.) There is a certain thrill to be had in going out onto the street dressed in a sensible suit dress to discover that you stand out like a sore thumb among all the women who are dressed in resort grubbies. (A duchess among the peasant women, perhaps. Certainly a lesson on the differences between dressing up as a TV might, and dressing down as women do.) You master your fears of the resort street crowd in a hurry by discovering that they are either mildly curious or ignore you, and soon you discover that your activities at the Fair itself push aside the outside world of Provincetown. Fantasia Fair focuses very lightly on finishing school because its primary purpose appears to be upon helping its students to deal with the outside world. Thus, its fashion and beauty course, taught by a mistress in the arts of passing as a TV/TS in the real world, sets the stage for advance seminars designed to explore the sociological, medical, and legal aspects of crossdressing. The Fair's fashion show is a public event delighted in by the women of P-Town, and paying customers from all over the Cape come to see you (for better or for worse) as you appear on a professional stage in the every popular Fan/Fair Follies. Therefore, the setting and variety of its program certainly entitles this event to be called Fantasy Fair. And although it may be true that the Fair is still just a larger closet than Dream's (as I have often heard), it is a wonderful experience. Thereby it is a trip worth taking.

How beautifully different these two events are. Yet, at both Dream and Fantasia Fair, you may pause to discover your inner self and, therefore, when that final banquet comes at the

end of Dream or Fantasia Fair, you discover a strange transformation, those rough TVs you saw when the event began are now a week later lovely ladies dressed in evening gowns who could grace any social activity with their charm and womanly presence. It is as if you were in the midst of a magic spell. A most singular similarity.

Which brings us to the crux of this letter, what other kinds of fairs ought there to be? Can we think of new and different kinds of events rather than just trying to reproduce more exact copies of Dream or Fantasia Fair with more or less content? Here are a few ideas in the rough:

Sorority Fair. Setting is a women's college campus during the summer or semester break usually used for continuing education courses for women. The fair theme is therefore based upon the idea that the fair participant is going as a woman to take a week-long course training in continuing education for a woman making the transition between homemaker and career in the open job market. The fair participants live in 'co-ed' housing with women students, who also participate in the classroom. Thus, they are paired as big and little sisters as in a sorority pledging and the women as their big sisters share their insights into the sorority called womanhood. Since both the women and the fair participants will have course to 'brush up' on appearance, public presentation skills and the like, there can be much individualized interpersonal guidance between the sisters. And the career skills course work might create a networking dynamic for the big sister unlike any she could obtain in any ordinary course. In this one-on-one exchange of conscious raising there would certainly be a lifestyle fair unlike either Dream or Fantasia Fair, but I am sure that the participants would both come out of an incredibly rich and rewarding experience. A delightful way to approach the 'mid-life crises' for both. I would love to go to such a fair.

Transition Fair. Each transsexual on a solid pre-op program is required to live as a woman for one to two years. I can envisage a kind of 'boot camp' set in a somewhat small girl's school with residential facilities located in an isolated area most likely during summer vacation time. Each trainee would arrive with a three-week beard growth and during a three-day conditioning period a concentrated cosmetological effort (face and body waxing, and so forth) is made to remove all traces of the masculine image. Much as a basic trainee is quickly put through the culture shock of being shorn on his civilian self-image. In this case the recruit stereo-type model is that of a female pink collar worker. The trainee is expected to be dressed neatly in her pink nurse-styled shirtwaist at all times in the classroom, and her instructors will expect her to be respectfully tractable and complacent to the fact that she is here to learn how to survive as a woman, and therefore nobody

gives a damn about what her TS macho image thinks. In the morning she would don her leotards and tights to join the other girls in a daily physical and beauty exercise routine. Then she would put on her uniform and clean her living area and help prepare and serve breakfast before going to class. At all times she will be treated in accordance with the expectation that she is not just trying to 'pass,' but that she is in fact female so that no one will need to demand that she prove it. The coursework would cover:

- * 70 hours of a complete fashion modeling course,
- * Basic home economics skills training,
- * Basic self-medical post-operative and feminine hygiene care (most surgeons agree that post-operative failure is due to willful patient disregard to self-care),
- * Intensive voice training similar to the Temple University program taught by voice therapists,
- * Career change planning directed towards a definitive job objective (either with her current employer or a new one) with the expectation that once the trainee leaves this event she will start in this career as a woman,
- * 60 hours of basic clerical skills combined with a diploma she can show a future employer of last resort that she is qualified for a pink collar job. (Waitress, bank clerk, food store cashier, etc.), and,
- * Community real life tests such as social mixers with men, buying her own wardrobe,

visiting a beauty salon, and serving as a volunteer worker...

This would be a very useful fair and I personally would like to see the medical community band together and make it a requirement for all pre-op TSs. (That ought to get a flurry of letters, and I promise to answer them. It should be very educational all around, for as you know, I am very pro-TS, if she is realistic.)

Beauty Fair. Our setting is a major city like San Francisco, perhaps in a motel in the center of things. The participants start the fair undergoing an intensive cosmetological session in a full-service beauty salon with head-to-toe transformation (much like that at Transition Fair). This beauty spa theme is combined with intensive training in the skills of passing (like at Fantasia Fair) during the day. Then mid-week the participant begins a nightly social whirl with a different escort (male/female depending upon the event) taking her out into the city to enjoy the social scene. As one who had done this on my own, I must say that I would find this kind of fair to be a ball.

Retreat Fair. The setting would be a secluded religious convent setting where each participant could, under the auspices of a religious order, participate in a women oriented religious retreat. This is an experience I would approach reluctantly, but I do sense that this type of fair event would do wonders for our para-culture in helping to merge our satin doll self-image with the deep spiritual values of womanhood.

Now, have I really drifted from Dream and Fantasia Fair by suggesting these other events? Or have I, in fact, picked up the mind crystals found in each and looked well into them to see what one might discover quite suddenly one night while looking calmly alone out over the two great seas that each fair reveals. One sea is the disturbingly great ocean of the outer world where we timidly venture in our skirts, and the other is that deep swift running tidal flood within ourselves which seeks to be free. All at once, in that moment between the seas, we reach out into a vast sorority, sense the complexity of the transition one must make between that satin doll, we see in the mirror and the woman beyond female that rests in our soul, and for that all too brief moment, we began to realize our own nurturing self-image, our soul. Perhaps that is the magic moment which transforms us on the night of the banquet into ladies who could grace any social activity with their charm and womanly presence.

Yes, I have been to these other fairs and I shall never be the same again.

Editor's Note: Betty Ann has had a singular year in respect to her attendance to Dream and Fantasia Fair. At Dream she was selected by the participants as La Grande Dame ("Her character and warmth of personality makes her a woman, a real beauty, a joy forever, loved by all"). And at Fantasia Fair, she was recognized as Ms. Fantasia Fair. (I'm told she was stunned, appreciative, but not speechless.)

For more info on the current fairs:

- * Fantasia Fair, P.O. Box 368, Kenmore Station, Boston, MA 02215.
- * Midwest Summer Gala, R. Hess, 431 Barry, Chicago, IL 60657.
- * Shangri-La, Nancy [REDACTED] Box 18202, Irvine, CA 92664.
- * Dream, Dream, Box 58, 507b 3rd Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104.

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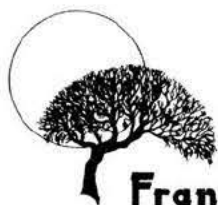
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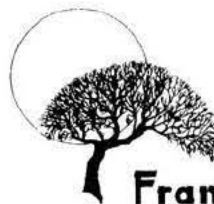
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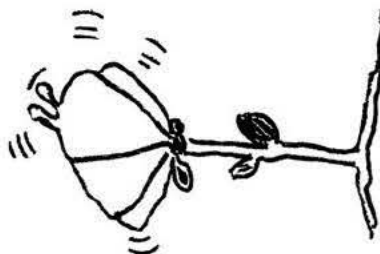


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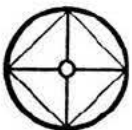
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