

# Phoenix

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## GGA



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



1-28-82

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE**  
Items must be recieved not later than the first Monday of the month  
preceeding the issue date in which they are to appear.

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SHE  
OR  
HOW I SURVIVED PUBERTY  
by Selena P.

"they were more than brother and sister, more than best friends and more than identical twins. They were ....."

One day she just appeared, maybe emerged is the word. She came veiled, dressed in white, she gave no clues as to who she was or why she was bringing me such pleasure and before I could ask her, she vanished, leaving me confused, angry and wondering whether she was blessing or a curse.

I loved her. I hated her. She was my mother. She was my sister. She was the cute little girl to whom I was afraid to say "Hi". She was my idealized feminine being, awakening my pubescent body to sensuality, sexuality and beyond. She helped me forget my boy problems; the fights over whether I was safe or out; the hiding of tears from my friends; the continual striving to be the best math student or fastest runner or class clown.

She'd arrive on slow days, summer days, she could be so flaky, coming and going many times in one day and sometimes leaving for weeks or months at a time, only to return again when I thought she was gone forever.

She was my secret whom I wished to reveal to my friends and family, yet I knew none of them could truly understand.

She'd caress me late at night and tell me tales of love and passion. She'd make me feel light, happy, playful. More often than not I loved her as male-to-female, but as time went on I had strong urges to become her. I yearned to feel soft, tender, loving and pretty; I desired to shed my masculine shell and delve into the feminine world.

That was just a wild dream until one lonely and wistful evening I was rummaging through my attic and discovered an antique chest I'd never seen before. Opening it just a crack, I felt as if she were drawing me inside her, yet she was nowhere to be found. It was the sight of her white satin dress, silk stocking and lace petticoat that beckoned me. My fingers reached out to stroke those lovely garments, and despite a voice in my head telling me I was exploring dangerous territory, I slipped into the dress and rolled the stockings up my legs and

closed my eyes to the feelings of joy and inner peace. I conjured up images of lying in her arms and feeling her perfect touch all over my body and then performing the dance of love. Life was finally wonderful without her but my feelings were short-lived; the all too real climax of this fantasy play left me frightened, sad and fearful of being caught in the wrong gender. I swore I would never again dress in her clothes. But, as the time between her visits grew longer and my need for the "feminine" became greater, I found myself adorning my pubescent boyish body again and again in the frills and fanciful clothing that society deemed "for females only". For each venture I made into the forbidden area, she left me something new to dress myself in; a black bra, panties and garter-belt set one day; a pink corset to hourglass my figure the next; a beautiful powder blue slip to fulfill my fantasies the following day. Though she had taken away the touch of her loving hands, the replacement was almost as fantastic, and at times, more exciting and delightfully unpredictable. As her physical presence manifested itself in Andi, who sprang forth from within me and slowly, awkwardly, but determinedly, established herself as a co-equal partner in my life. Andy and Andi haven't always loved each other; have often want to do different things and have individual philosophies and beliefs but they have survived and thrived together and will, hopefully, continue to do so in the coming years. We are, after all, the children of Androgyny.



LET US GET TOGETHER  
by Dana (FL-17)

On December fifth I had the opportunity to attend the Christmas Party of the Florida GGA Success Chapter. As a pre-operative transsexual who has had no difficulty in practicing tax law as a woman attorney, I was hesitant in attending the meeting. My hesitation was based on the discomfort I thought would be inevitable in socializing with transvestites and transsexuals who likely did not have as much success in passing as a woman as I have. I thought that if I attended a meeting of this group I would be painfully reminded of my own past struggles, disappointments, frustrations and unhappiness. I also felt a sense of guilt that I might not be as accepting of them as I had hoped others would accept me since my change in role last July.

Probably the major reason I decided to attend the meeting was my consultation, two weeks prior to the Christmas Party, with Dr. Collier Cole of Galveston, Texas. Dr. Cole arranged to have me meet, after our initial consultation, with a post-operative transsexual. Dr. Cole indicated that in the Galveston Program they encourage post-ops to meet with pre-ops. The theory of this prearranged encounter is to allow each person to learn and grow from the experience of another. It is commonly said that the best student is often the teacher and thus the post-op, in rendering help to the pre-op becomes more fulfilled and better educated. As a fortunate beneficiary of this sharing experience, I was strengthened to go forward and end my isolation from transvestites and transsexuals in my extended community of Florida.

With these reservations and conflicting thoughts occupying my mind, I drove the 250 miles to attend the Christmas Party. Even though I had spoken extensively to professional groups on tax matters in the past year, I felt a new anxiousness develop as I walked to the meeting room. It was almost like back in high school when I gave my first public speech, or more like the first time I crossdressed in public. Momentarily, as I opened the door, I wondered whether I had selected an attractive outfit for the evening, was my make-up appropriate and was I mistaken in joining the group.

Soon I learned how unfounded my reservations were. The attendees were not

(LET'S -- Continued)

only warm, friendly and open but also, more importantly, caring. They were effectively reaching out to each other and to the new guests. The anxiety I had experienced moments before suddenly dissolved. During that short evening of social discourse, I learned more about these special people that any article in any magazine or book could convey. I also discovered a new personal enrichment in being in the position, like the post-op I met in Galveston, of being a teacher and thus the student.

The next morning all of the attendants met for a late breakfast at Susan's (FL-1) house. I was told of a post-op who suddenly became, after surgery, less sociable with previously close friends of the Success Chapter. According to Dr. Paul Walker and Dr. Collier Cole this phenomenon of desertion of former friends is very common among post-ops.

I was asked if I would be as close to the transvestites and pre-ops after my surgery as I presently was. Realistically, it is impossible to make such a commitment of friendship after such a brief encounter. But, the question bothered me in that so many post-ops and others have isolated themselves from others who suffer similar disappointments, frustrations and unhappiness. Do we not have a duty to others to help them avoid needless suffering? Can we, in clear conscience, ask others to accept us as women when we reject them in their expression of their feminine selves? And, more importantly, do we not have a duty to teach and learn from others and thereby enrich both them and ourselves? I think the answers to these questions are certain if we speak from our hearts. I think it's time, as the song is titled, "Let's Get Together".





VIEWS FROM THE OTHER SIDE

In this irregularly appearing column we present the views/comments received from wives/lovers etc. of readers.

I am the former wife of a transvestite! My husband and I obtained a divorce after four years of marriage. I am 25 and he is 32. I agreed to write this letter for the possible benefit of readers of the Phoenix.

I cannot say that his dressing as a woman was the ONLY reason we separated, but it was a contributing factor. Before we married he explained to me about transvestism and about his life-long desire to wear women's clothing. He was surprised at my ready acceptance of the subject. I had known of transvestism because several years ago I worked with a woman who said she divorced her husband because he liked to dress up in her clothes. Either this is a strange coincidence or there are more TVs out there than people think. I always thought, "Why did she divorce him?", there are other things worse than a man wanting to dress as a woman. But, several years later I can see how Bob's crossdressing had a cumulative effect on weakening our marriage. Aside from my girlfriend's experience, the only thing I thought about males dressing as females was, that in my experience, most boys hated the thought of being a "sissy". So, why would a guy willingly dress up as a girl? My next door neighbor, when I was a child, used to dress her son as a girl for punishment, or polish his fingernails to keep him from playing outside with the other boys. But, he did not willingly accept this fate.

A few days after Bob told me he was a transvestite, he had me over to his apartment to see him already dressed as a woman. I was somewhat surprised, but not shocked, at his appearance. He was embarrassed at my seeing him, but after a short time, he was at ease. His make-up was terrible and reminded me of a young kid's artwork. He wore a two-piece dress that was years out of style, matronly high heels, a decent blonde wig, brightly polished fingernails and too much costume jewelry. We spent the evening together. It was fun watching him trying to act the part of a lady.

(VIEWS - continued)

In the weeks that followed we spent a few evenings together with him in dresses, and I tried to help him with his appearance. He was thrilled the first time I did his make-up and he especially liked me to do his nails. He wanted me to call him "Carol", but I could not bring myself to do that. During our entire relationship I never called him "Carol", it was hard for me to do that. I never did like him dressing as a woman, but I didn't mind it, at least at first.

In the first few months I helped Bob act out little fantasies he had dreamed of. He liked the idea of having a real woman dress him up, which I did. We tried tying him up when he was dressed, but neither of us really enjoyed that. He often wanted me to act as an older sister or instructor in femininity for him, but I never felt comfortable doing that. The closest thing to dominating him was doing the housework. I do not enjoy household chores, so I had Bob do most of the housework and I allowed him to do it while he was dressed as a woman. He did not have a maid's uniform, so wore whatever feminine outfit he wanted to.

He did most of the cooking, cleaning, laundry and ironing. We had a real role reversal. I would come home and read the paper while he would come home, put on a dress and clean the house. I prefer to wear pants, so it was common to see me in slacks and him in a skirt. I was thinking of letting him come over to do my new apartment and let "Carol" do my chores. I liked the service at first, but I got tired of having him dressed all the time. He often asked me if it was all right to dress, and I usually would let him, but after a while even once a week was too much. He sensed that, so he didn't usually dress if I was home. Carol's clothing in the laundry basket showed me that Bob was dressing while I was out, and he admitted he was.

In retrospect, we separated and divorced for other reasons, but I have told Bob that my weariness of his dressing as a woman was part of the reason I no longer wanted to live with him. I have met some of his TV friends and they are nice people. The thought of men dressing as women is acceptable to me, but when that person is close to me I feel awkward. I would not want my son to become a TV and I think Bob would be better off if he were not a TV. But, if that's what he



(VIEWS - continued)

wants to do, I guess he will continue doing it.

I have not seen Bob dressed as a woman for several months now. Still, I have agreed to buy certain feminine things for him, and I recently gave him some of my old earrings.

Alice



Follows is a letter from an individual to whom we provide a complimentary copy of the Phoenix each month.

Dear GGA,

I am writing to thank you for my monthly issue of the Phoenix. Also I am appealing for correspondence. I have written numerous letters to names in the Correspondence Directory, but have received a reply only from Linda, APONY-10.

I was a tender 21 when incarcerated and am now 26, having been in an Ohio confinement facility for 5 years. During that time I have lost both of my parents and all my contacts with your world of transvestism have ceased to communicate with me. So I have lost all contact with other people like myself and now I am extending my hands to you asking you to help me to find a friend or friends. Loneliness is a bitter element, and no one should have to experience the taste of it ALL the time.

Please help me establish correspondence so I can, in return, help someone else and share my experiences along with theirs. I must know that some TV cares or this existence of mine is useless and inane.

I need affection from your world to survive.

Thank you for reading this and I hope you will see your way clear to publishing it in the Phoenix where someone will read it and hopefully contact me.

A lonely TV prisoner,

Michael

Box 1691

London OH 43140-0069

#### MORE PEN PALS

Remember how alone you were when you had no one to contact? Why not sit down and drop a few lines to one or more of the Pen Pals listed below some evening, when you're all dressed up with no where to go?

Reynaldo

Angola, LA 70712

T. L.

Anamosa IA 52205

Michael

Box 1691

London CH 43140-0069

#### JANUS INFORMATION FACILITY

operating under the direction of Dr. Paul A. Walker, Ph.D., provides referrals, pamphlets, re-print material and conducts research.

Since the Facility is dependent on donations and private funding an advance contribution of \$20.00 is requested.

The Facility welcomes the names of professionals will to be on our referral list. Letters from post-operative gender reassignment individuals concerning their adjustment in their new life are also welcomed. Address all correspondence to:

Paul A. Walker, Ph.D.  
1952 Union Street  
San Francisco, CA 94123

#### An Invitation to Shangra-la '82

April 21-25 (Wednesday-Sunday)  
Biloxi, Mississippi (On the beach)  
-For Advanced Crossdressers-  
(Who Pass In Public)  
Low Cost

First Class Accommodations  
Posh Restaurants and Clubs  
(special rates for Shangri-la Members)

Contact Nancy PO Box 18202, Irvine, CA 92713 for information.



FROM THE MAIL BAG

Ladies,

I am writing in regard to the illustration on page 10 of the September issue of the Phoenix. First, I found this illustration offensive. Second, I do not think this sort of material should appear in a publication of the heretofore high quality of the Phoenix. To be blunt, the drawing of a woman baring her bottom has no class at all. Though I realize some members of the GGA may have certain tastes and preferences in published material let them find it in and get their jollies in an adult bookstore. This sort of drawing makes the Phoenix into something that I would not like to have displayed on my livingroom table.

Please do take this letter out of the context in which it is meant to be --- constructive criticism. The Phoenix is, in every other way, a superior publication that I have enjoyed reading. I applaud it and the people who take so much upon themselves to get it out every month. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Tiffanie (TX-10)

p.s. One more item. When I received my copy of the membership directory, which was well done, because it was not even stapled together, the individual pages fell all over the floor upon opening the envelope.

Dear Tiffanie,

Certainly we don't intentionally run material which we consider offensive to the general readership. The little cartoon drawing to which you allude certainly cannot be put in the same category as the many porno drawings or pictures one encounters openly displayed in adult bookstores. We once ran it over the caption "I knew I shouldn't have worn a wrap-around skirt in Chicago."

Concerning the Directory pages spilling all over the floor. We debated whether or not to have the printer staple the Directory after collating it. The cost deterred us. We attempted to staple it before enveloping them, but the desk stapler just didn't do the job so we left them unstapled. We formatted it so it can be punched and put in a small binder, feeling most would prefer that method of binding.

(MAIL BAG - continued)

We appreciate the kind words for the Phoenix and its Staff.

Editor

Dear Editors,

Hey! You're always asking for articles from readers. Well, I submitted a poem several months ago and it still hasn't seen the light of day in the Phoenix. If you don't intend to publish what we send why do you keep asking for things??

Frustrated Poet

Dear Frustrated,

Of course we want input from all of you out there. But, dated material and items deemed timely are given priority over items which are general in nature or contain information which is not dependent on a date or time. For example, your poem, though applicable to our community, is something which can be published anytime without compromising its effect. That is not to say your poem is unimportant, far from it, but rather that it can be "bumped" for something more timely. I don't know how it happens but after each issue is put to bed it seems as though there is hardly enough material left in the data bank to fill 2 or 3 pages, let alone 12 or 14 pages. But, comes the time to lay the issue up and we have items left over for the next issue.

Don't give up. Your poem will certainly be published, although we can't promise when.

Hey People,

How come each issue is mostly stuff about or for TSs? When are you going to have some things for the TVs?

Beverley

Dear Beverley,

We try to salt and pepper each issue with articles, stories, etc. of interest to both the TV and the TS. If it seems more "stuff about or for TSs" appears possibly it is because we reply heavily on reader contributions and the TS readers seem to be more prolific of pen. It seems to me that the January '82 issue, was filled mostly with "TV stuff".

Sorry if you don't agree, but if you want to read more "TV stuff" ya gotta send it in and get your friends to send things in for publication.



(MAIL BAG - continued)

Dear Phoenix,

I have been following the Dear Doctor Michelle series with great interest. I note however the only questions the Doctor seems to answer are those relating to transsexual. Does or will she answer questions pertaining to crossdressers?

Betsy (Maine Subscriber)

Dear Betsy,

Doctor Michelle assures us, and thus the readership, she will answer all medical questions pertaining to either the TV or the TS. In fact in a recent comment to us she mentioned that so far all the questions seem to apply to the TS.

We looked in our "back issue" file and find that the first Dear Doctor Column contained 2 questions and responses. The first question concerned the fit of shoes and certainly could apply to either or both the TV or TS.

We might point out that for a question to be answered, it must first be asked.

Editor



#### NEW TV FASHION CATALOGS

Lydia's Tv Fashions and Fantasies in Lace (two of our advertisers) have been gracious enough to send their new catalogs to the Main Office for use by members at meetings. If you want to look at and/or order from these catalogs please contact Georgia at meetings.

We quote the following from Lydia's cover letter

"I am still shopping for merchandise I want to carry. Until I find the things I want, I will hold off on making a full color catalog. I want to carry good quality merchandise that fits.

"Even if you don't buy anything I have to offer now, please drop me a line and let me know what you are interested in. Also give me your measurements. That way I can build my stock to serve you better. You can be assured your name, address and anything you write is strictly CONFIDENTIAL. I will soon have MASTER CHARGE and VISA. If you have any questions you can call me at [REDACTED] from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday thru Saturday."

Lydia's 18 page Sensual Lingerie catalog IS in color while the remainder of the items offered are in a black and white attachment. The items shown are delightful and not excessively priced.

The Fantasies in Lace 44 page catalog is in muted half-tones and again the items are quite lovely and not priced excessively. Terri, the owner/operator of Fantasies, in a phone conversation with Georgia on November 28, stated "All GGA members who order \$50.00 or more will receive a 10% discount. I am sending 15 more catalogs which may be purchased from Georgia. I am also sending flyers for items we now handle which were not on our inventory when the catalog went to press. If you want items not listed in the catalog please contact me at POB 100279, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33310, and I will do my best to get them for you. I have a fashion designer available and will soon be putting out fashions under the Fastasies label. If anyone needs sizes larger than listed in the catalog all they need do is contact me and I'll get them. We hope to soon be adding a line of cosmetics, under the Fantasies label, designed for the MTF TV/TS.

Muriel Olive, owner of Olive Branch Originals, a mail order house in NYC handling many of the items desired by the



(CATALOGS - continued)

FTM will soon have a catalog available. Muriel, President of the NYC GGA Chapter is holding meetings in her place of business -- which must be a dream come true for those attending the meetings.

We should add here that Lydia, Fantasies and Muriel are including a "flyer" concerning GGA in their mailings and we have already had several responses from the flyers.



CHAPTER CHATTER

WINDY CITY CHAPTER  
by Sharon (IL-1)

The first meeting of the Windy City Chapter (Chicago) was held in December at the Lite Factory (a nite spot featuring female impersonator entertainment) with fourteen new people attending even though the only publicity about the meeting was spread by word-of-mouth. The first hour was spent explaining the function of both the Local and the National organizations. Then we adjourned to spend for an evening of socializing. We'll continue to hold our meetings at the Lite Factory, at least temporarily, where members may attend the meetings crossdressed if they wish.

We are planning a Mardi Gras for our February meeting so come, in an appropriate costume if you wish and, prepared for a real fun night out.

We plan for all our meetings to be fun nights -- after we get a little Chapter business out of the way.

NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER

by Muriel (NY-1)

Our meetings are held the second Saturday of each month in my TV Boutique. Although the meetings start officially at 7:30 members are welcome to arrive any-time after 4:30 to change.

The number attending has been growing each month and last month saw 18 in attendance.

SAN JOSE

The meeting on December 4th saw many of the "old" ladies in attendance having a good gossip session. Mary Boyce, a therapist from San Jose attended as the guest of Ruth Anne and was not only well received by the local ladies but was quite impressed by the meeting, the ladies and the Group. Marilyn B. will be leaving for a week in Alabama but will be back in time for the Christmas Party scheduled for the 18th. Tina attended her second meeting and the first one as Tina. We are happy to welcome Tina to our ever growing group.

SAN FRANCISCO

December 9th was our annual Christmas Bash with chicken and chips provided by the Chapter and other goodies, such as cookies, brownies, dip and wine furnished by attending ladies. Kathy (CA-4) brought one of her carrot cakes. Faces we haven't seen in several weeks were seen tonight.

To mention but a few of those attending, Elfredia (CA-114) and Nancy (CA-23) met again for the first time in 25 years and had many of us in stitches recalling some the "daring things", such as sneaking out for a quick stroll around the block after dark, they did all those years ago. Aren't you glad these days aren't the "good old days"? Regina (CA-174) out for the first time looked lovely in her pink crocheted pantsuit. Lisa (CA-22), all 5'3" and 120lbs, in her tight leather look pants and 4" heeled boots looked smashing as usual and brought out a few whispered comments such as "don't you just want to throttle someone that small?" Linda (CA-74) and super spouse made it all the way in from S. Lake Tahoe, Kay (CA-58) made in from Sacramento and Carolyn (WA-12) was visiting the area on business so attended the party. Carolyn plans to stay over an extra day to attend the San Jose Party on the 18th. Guess you gotta make the most of your opportunities. Next year plan to

(CHATTER - continued)

wear dark glasses to protect your eyes from the constant flash of light as people take pictures. Polaroid cashflow must have increased at least 10%.

Diahanna (CA-63), reminded by all the picture taking that her children have an official picture taking day at school, suggested the February meeting be "A Picture Taking Party", so come all decked out in either your best bib and tucker or most outlandish one and be sure and bring your camera so you can take shots of and be shot by others. By the way, we will be meeting in the Lounge of the MCC next month. It's 'way in the back of the building on the main floor so don't get lost looking for us.

Please don't forget your \$2.00 attendance fee to help pay the meeting space rent.

FACING

Contributor unknown

You and I

Are working on a foolish,  
funny,  
painful,  
happy,  
and essential task:

Learning to be human.

So I think  
How open we are in sharing  
Each other's feelings  
Is the measure of friendship and growth.  
But why am I so touched  
Even to tears  
When I find out  
That someone really cares?  
Is it that I've cared so little  
For myself so long I've lost hope?  
It had taken so long,  
But now I do it.  
I plunge in  
this fear,  
this anxiety,  
the thought I don't want to think  
the feeling I don't want to feel,  
I just won't be blackmailed  
By my feelings anymore.  
I refuse to be frightened  
By anything I ever thought  
I was supposed to be  
Afraid of.



PAEAN TO WOMAN

by Valerie (AZ Subscriber)

"A woman is more than femininity" you said. "She is courage and understanding ...."

Yes, she is. And much else. In some, she is more; in others less, for all are not equal in expression, nor are they equal in development toward fulfillment, nor equal in understanding of purpose.

Yes, she is more. So much more. I know.

I know her heart. I know her mind. I know her exquisitely intricate labyrinth of emotions interlocking the two.

I know her awareness, the so many beyond enumeration ....

Her awareness of sound and sensitivity to it; for she listens to sound, hearing in all forms its timbre and responding to it in voices, hearing therein some part of the world lost to men.

Her enormous awareness of detail and her response to form and color.

I know her awareness of the soundless voice of intuition and her reliance thereon. I know her strong penchant for stillness, her repose, her deep reservoirs called upon in periods of quiet.

I know her at-one-ness with forces of Life within her; I know her rapport with them and her ensuing rapture when with these forces of Life she creates anew and becomes consciously a link in the Infinite.

I know her quiet patiences, her unyielding endurance, her tireless capacity for vigil through long nights when illness strikes within her circle.

I know her artistry in delicate guidance; I know her grasp of when to pronounce and when not, of when to gently force and when to yield, of when to pursue caution and when to call upon her tigeress strength and fearlessness.

I know her ability to understand and her eager desire to fill another's need with ready compassion. I know her sometimes loneliness in being herself not fully understood.

I know the ensuing zone of magic happiness when she lives well her role leaving dominance where dominance was intended, working quietly with forces within her gentle direction of those operations directly in her sphere.

I know her awareness of personal-self and her conscious application of it myriad phases. I know her awareness of her relationship to and of her immediate effect upon her immediate environment. I know her consciousness for gifts, her



(PAEAN - continued)

attributes, her deficiencies and her faults.

I know her delicious propensity for indirection, her sprinkling of capriciousness, her occasional impromptu spontaneity.

I know her confusions, her paradoxes, her seeming perversities which in truth are manifestations of the incredible complexities of which she is embodiment.

I know her secret fears and dreads, her small uncertainties and apprehensions, and I know the manner in which she faces them -- or does not.

I know her sensitivity to touch, upon herself and of her own upon another.

I know her responses to mood, as well as her unfailing ability to create it.

I know her search deep into eyes seeking answers; her total comprehension of facial contours and of each fleeting expression. I know that secret compartment in her heart that when away from lover or child advises whether all is well or not well, for they are her.

Yes, and I know her weaknesses, most of which are fashioned in her misconceptions of what she has been taught to consider inadequacies.

Perhaps best, I know her magnificent qualities for giving. From simple statement of presence to her greatest effort of will and mind, from softly spoken word to acceptance of drudgery, from bestowal of smile to complete relinquishment of total self, she gives, endlessly, until in her utmost fulfillment she is a giver of Life not soley in womb, but in her constant radiation of Life in her each and continuous contact.

I know well these qualities, these attributes, these distillations of wisdom drawn in protracted climb of numberless steps in time.

I know them, for I have climbed them, and within my consciousness resides in synthesis their teachings.



## Carol Freidenberg, M.S.

Licensed Speech Pathologist  
3643 California Street  
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Phone (415) 221-4830

Speech/Language/Voice Disorders

## COMPLETE GUIDE TO HAIR REMOVAL

"American women", says one respected endocrinologist, "are almost obsessed with body hair; anything less than flawlessly smooth skin isn't aesthetically acceptable to them!" So it is not surprising that the male-to-female worries about body hair.

In reality, it is perfectly natural and healthy to have a fair amount of body hair. It's a question of where it's visible to the point of bothering you.

The following article discusses 6 common hair removal methods. We hope it helps you decide which method is most suitable for your needs. If you decide you need outside help, don't fret ... there's no need for embarrassment. Any of the electrologists advertising in the Phoenix understand your special problems.

### SHAVING

**PROS:** Shaving hair is fast, convenient and inexpensive. It takes less skill than any other method listed here. Shaving can usually be repeated ad infinitum without worry of scarring or skin irritation -- not true of other methods.

**CONS:** Shaving breaks the hair at the skin surface only, so hair returns more quickly than it does when using the other methods listed here. The new hair is stiff and stubbly, but given the opportunity to grow to its original length, a shaved hair will become more tapered and lighter-tipped.

**WHERE TO:** Shaving is ideal for larger surfaces and for most areas where stubble would not be unexpected or unsightly --- face, legs and underarms.

**HOW TO:** Shave the area immediately after a hot bath or shower, as warm water slightly dilates pores and swells the hair shaft so it sits up nice and tall, ready to be felled. Use a buffer between the blade and the skin, such as shaving cream. Work the blade in the direction opposite that of the hair growth. Follow up with a cold water rinse and an astringent, like witch hazel or any after shave lotion.

### WAXING

In waxing, a wax/oil compound is heated until melted and then painted in strips on the skin. The wax hardens as it dries, hairs become embedded in the wax. When

the wax is ripped off (like yanking off an adhesive bandage), the hairs beneath come with it.

**PROS:** Waxing nabs hair deeper in the follicle than shaving, chemical depilatories or tweezing. Waxed skin is exceptionally smooth and it takes weeks for regrowth to come through. It is said that first-time waxing lasts about 2 to 3 weeks in the summer and 6 to 7 weeks in the winter. Waxing shocks hair and weakens the roots, so regrowth is generally slower and finer than before.

**CONS:** Waxing is expensive, unless you do it yourself. It is also time consuming. A full leg will run about \$20 and takes about 40 minutes. For best results, hair should be grown as long as possible so the wax has more to cling to. Professional waxers prefer 3 to 4 weeks growth on legs and underarms, and recommend bleaching in the meantime. Waxing can irritate the skin, cause redness and acne-like eruptions. It can also be painful, though not unbearably so. It pulls out the baby-fine peach fuzz along with course hair, so waxed areas appear bald and shiny.

**WHERE TO:** If waxing doesn't irritate your skin, it is a very effective hair removal method for anywhere on the body except of course the beard. Even after one treatment, hair will grow back slightly finer. It is the most logical method for hairline, chest, back, arms, legs, underarms, eyebrows, anywhere you want to avoid stubble.

**HOW TO:** Waxing is tricky business. To get a firm grip on hairs, wax must be heated to a temperature very warm to the touch. The inexperienced waxer could burn herself. And, as with adhesive bandages, most of us are hesitant to rip it off. It's best to wax at a salon, at least the first time or two until you get the feel for it. (So, apparently this type of getting ripped-off is a good deal.)

### CHEMICAL DEPILATORIES

**PROS:** Chemical depilatories work via chemicals that soften protein in hair (which is 95% protein). They reach down to hair below the surface of the skin, so the skin is slightly smoother after treatment. You remain hair free slightly longer than after shaving.

**CONS:** Chemical depilatories can be quite irritating to the skin. Manufacturers discourage the use of depilatories on FACIAL HAIR. Whenever you use a



(HAIR REMOVAL - continued)

chemical product, patch test it first as the label instructs. As with shaving, hair returns stiff and stubbly. As with waxing, it takes all hair, coarse and peach fuzz. Cost is higher than shaving, but lower than any salon method. A 4 oz. container of creme or lotion costs about \$1.50. Aerosol spray is twice the price of non-aerosols.

**WHERE TO:** Studies show chemical depilatories are used about 60% on legs, 30% on underarms and 10% elsewhere. There are special facial depilatories, but in general you should AVOID using chemicals on the face.

**HOW TO:** Apply these foams, cremes and lotions for 5 to 10 minutes and then just wipe the hair off. Follow package instructions. Do not apply these chemicals immediately after a hot bath or shower when the pores are open their fullest.

TWEEZING

**PROS:** Tweezing is easy to do and, if done properly, can keep hair underground longer than shaving or depilatories. And is free, once you own a pair of tweezers.

**CONS:** Hair generally grows back just as they were before. It is impractical to tweeze large areas, and it hurts.

**WHERE TO:** Ideal for eyebrows and a few stray hairs on the face, neck, arms, legs and chest.

**HOW TO:** Apply a hot washcloth to the area to open the pores. Grip the hair firmly at the base with the tweezers and GENTLY move it back and forth to open the follicle even more. Pull the hair out in the direction it seems to be growing -- if lucky you'll get more than the surface hair and weaken the root. The little white sac on the hair's end is not the root, but part of the follicle itself and shows you are on the right track. If very painful, anesthetize the area first with infant's teething pain reliever, like Numzit or Orajel.

BLEACHING

First try a bleach formulated especially for facial and body hair. They're fairly mild. If that doesn't do the job, use a color-stripper bleach, such as Clairol's Ultra Blue. But first, patch test. Bleaching is especially helpful on arm and leg hair when removal is not desired.

**PROS:** You can bleach facial and body hair (especially good for hair on arms) and forget it for 4 to 6 weeks. Although

(HAIR REMOVAL - continued)

heavy growth can remain fairly conspicuous even when bleached, this is a matter of personal preference. Bleaching is also inexpensive.

**CONS:** Bleaching camouflages hair; it doesn't remove it. It can irritate the skin. Patch test in the crook of the elbow or behind the ear, as you would for hair color.

**WHERE TO:** Anywhere but eyelashes (it can injure the eyes) and pubic area (can dry up mucous membranes, irritate the skin). Do not bleach eyebrows yourself -- have it done professionally. Whatever you bleach, test first after 5 to 7 minutes for "doneness" -- about 15 minutes on the face and 30 minutes on the legs should be considered the maximum.

**HOW TO:** Usually just smooth the creme or lotion on and wait. Follow package instructions.

ELECTROLYSIS

This is the use of a needle supplied with an electrical current on an individual hair. The needle itself is inserted into the hair follicle and a slight electrical charge destroys the hair root. The operator then removes the destroyed hair with tweezers. If you feel the hair being removed with any force at all, the root wasn't killed and the hair will most likely grow back - obviously the operator isn't doing her/his work well in this case.

**PROS:** Electrolysis is the ONLY permanent method of hair removal. The hairs that do grow back are often lighter and thinner than before and slower to return than hair removed by any other method. It can remove coarse, dark hairs on the face, neck and arms without disturbing the natural peach-fuzz covering.

**CONS:** Electrolysis is often hit-and-miss, even in the hands of the most skilled operator. It is very difficult to know where the root is within the follicle, and if the slant of the needle doesn't reach the root and connect perfectly, it won't be destroyed and hair will return. Over a period of time electrolysis can scar the skin, especially if many hairs within one area are needled during the same visit. Scarring is a problem for black skin which generally responds better to waxing. While not too painful, it could hurt your pocketbook.

**WHERE TO:** Used primarily for facial hair. It is best to alternate electrolysis treatments with waxing, bleaching or

(HAIR REMOVAL - continued)  
tweezing.

The majority of electrologists are skilled in hair removal from the female where generally peach-fuzz type hair is removed, except for the tougher hair of the eyebrows when "arching" is the aim. If, however, you intend to have your beard removed through electrolysis check the operator out before spending time on her/his table. The best way to assure your money is being spent with someone who can do the job you expect ask if the operator has ever worked on male beard removal; talk to others having similar work done.

Another tip, once you decide to have the job done and have selected an operator, try and strike a "deal" on the per hour price. You will, after all, be a long-term client, since removal of the average beard will take somewhere in the area of 150 hours and if body hair removal is added the hours can easily increase by 50%, so with an assured income from you the operator should be happy to strike a deal on price. However, don't expect more than a 10% to 15% discount.

The electrologists advertising in the Phoenix and those listed in the Directory of Information and Services all have experience in male beard removal.

Remember, there must be a rapport between the operator and the client and if it isn't there you won't be happy with the work regardless of the skill of the operator.

When you have an appointment, be sure and keep it, or call well in advance and cancel. Be relaxed before and during the session.



If your group wishes a FREE announcement in the PM-I, send it to: The GGA, Post Office Box 62283, Sunnyvale, CA, 94088. Copy deadline is the 1st Monday of the month preceeding the issue of the PM-I in which the announcement is to appear.

\*\*\*\* NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA \*\*\*\*

GATEWAY GENDER ALLIANCE

Meeting time at each location: 8 PM.

SAN FRANCISCO: 2nd Wednesday.

SAN JOSE: 1st & 3rd Friday.

Write PO Box 62283, Sunnyvale, 94088 or call (408) 734-3773 for information on specific meeting locations.

OTHER GROUPS

PACIFIC CENTER, 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley. 1st & 3rd Wednesday rap sessions. Last Friday, special topic or guest speaker. Meeting time: 7:30 'til 10:00pm

BI-SEXUAL CENTER. Rap sessions from 7:30 each Tuesday and Wednesday (\$3.00 donation is requested). For specific information write PO Box 26227, San Francisco, 94126 or call (415) 929-9299.

SOCIETY of JANUS. For those "into" or seeking adventure in S&M. For information concerning meetings and events write PO Box 6794, San Francisco, 94101.

\*\*\*\* SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA \*\*\*\*

SALVACIS: Unstructured social get-together on the second Saturday of each month. 7:30 pm. Contact Lynn or Ann [REDACTED]

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

SHANGRI-LA: Main Office. Nancy Watson, PO Box 18202, Irvine, CA 92713.

MISSION VIEJO AREA: Gender Dysphoria Program for Orange County. Informational brochure "For the Record" - \$2.00. Contact Joanna M. Clark, PO Box 2476, Mission Viejo, 92690. Group counseling: Dana Point facility on the 2nd & 4th Mondays; San Juan Capistrano facility 1st and 3rd Mondays.

SAN DIEGO AREA. Contact W Thomas, Post Office Box 99732, San Diego, CA 92109 for information on meeting times, dates and place.

\*\*\*\* COLORADO \*\*\*\*

TV/TS GROUP: Meeting every Monday, 8 pm. Members begin assembling about 7:30 so often no seats are left, so early arrival is suggested. Programs of primary interest to crossdressers are presented on even dated Mondays; programs of primary interest to persons in transition are presented on alternate Mondays. Location: corner of [REDACTED] Cherry



CROSSROADS: Feb 6 - Flint; March 20 - Ann Arbor; April 17, location not set. For additional information send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Grace Bacon, PO Box 3013, Flint, 48502.

\*\*\*\* NEW JERSEY \*\*\*\*

NU CHAPTER (GGA) (Northern NJ):

J. [REDACTED] Morristown, NJ 07960. No meeting schedule set, but watch these pages for future announcements.

\*\*\*\* NEW YORK AREA \*\*\*\*

GGA CHAPTER, NEW YORK CITY

Muriel Olive, 157 W. 57th St., Suite 601, NYC, 10019. Meetings: 2nd Saturday of each month. A facility for changing is available for those members needing it. Members may arrive anytime after 4:30 but the meetings start at 7:00 and run 'til 11:30ish. The building is locked at midnight (so like Cinderella you must be out by then).

TV PARTIES: Contact Joyce [REDACTED] Jackson Heights, 11372 or call [REDACTED]

ALBANY-TVIC. Meeting every 3rd Saturday. Contact Wm. Thordsen, 1104 Broadway, Albany 12200 for specific information.

\*\*\*\* OHIO \*\*\*\*

PARADISE CLUB. (Akron Area) Contact: Patricia [REDACTED] PO Box 576, Export, PA, 15632. Since reservations are required because meetings are held in rented facilities and often a motel room is required for an overnight stay please contact the above address for reservation forms.

\*\*\*\* PENNSYLVANIA \*\*\*\*

PI CHAPTER (GGA) (Pittsburgh Area)

Contact Patricia [REDACTED] PO Box 576, Export, 15632.

PHI CHAPTER (GGA) (Philadelphia Area.)

Contact Michelle Williams, PO Box 322, Collingswood, 08108.

\*\*\*\* TEXAS \*\*\*\*

SOUTHWEST CHAPTER, GGA. Galveston. Contact Alice [REDACTED] for information.

\*\*\*\* VIRGINIA \*\*\*\*

NU RHO CHAPTER (Tri-S) (Norfolk-Virginia Beach Area) N. Cooper, S-180, P.O. Box 2400, Virginia Beach, 23452

\*\*\*\* WISCONSIN \*\*\*\*

WISCONSIN TV NETWORK. Contact Post Office Box 813, Madison, 53701. (TV Only).

\*\*\*\* CANADA \*\*\*\*

WINNIPEG CHAPTER of GGA. Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Friday each month. Contact Linda T. O'Connell, 712-714 504 Main Street, Winnipeg R3B 1B8 or call (204) 957-0327 for time and place.

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Creek Area of southwest Denver. Call [REDACTED] for specific information.

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\*\*\*\* CONNECTICUT \*\*\*\*

XX-CLUB. Primarily a TS Support Group. Contact Rev. Clinton Jones, 45 Church St, Hartford, 09103 for information.

HARRIET LANE'S "The TV Set". (Parties). Contact Harriet [REDACTED] Post Office Box 2, Yalesville Station, Wallingford 06402 or call [REDACTED] for party information.

Parties:

Valentine Party Feb 13, 1982

\*\*\*\* DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA \*\*\*\*

DELTA CHI CHAPTER (GGA): Sandy [REDACTED] Post Office Box 11254, Lincolnia Station, Alexandria, VA 22312.

CAPITOL CHAPTER (GGA) (Balt-DC Area): Lisa Rouse, Post Office Box 218, Burtonsville, MD 20703.

ACADEMY AWARDS (Drag-gay): Carl [REDACTED] 1015 S. Quebec St (#9), Arlington, VA 22204.

\*\*\*\* FLORIDA \*\*\*\*

SUCCESS CHAPTER (GGA) Meetings on the 2nd Saturday of each odd numbered month. Contact Susan [REDACTED] PO Box 1601, Pinellas Park, 33565.

PARTIES: Contact: Fantasies in Lace, PO Box 100279, Ft. Lauderdale 33310.

\*\*\*\* ILLINOIS \*\*\*\*

WINDY CITY CHAPTER of GGA.

Meeting schedule:

January 13. February 22 (Mardi Gras)

April 14th May 26th June 30th

Meeting time 7:30. Contact (312) 472-4518 for the location.

CHI CHAPTER (Tri-S).

Donna [REDACTED] Post Office Box 218, Markham, IL 60446

\*\*\*\* MASSACHUSETTS \*\*\*\*

BOSTON AREA

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

KAY-MAYFLOWER SOCIETY: Every Wednesday, 7-11 pm. For information call (617) 254-7389.

CAPE COD AREA

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

See your ad on these pages.  
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Hi I'm moving. Please send my PM-I to the following new address:

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## 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.



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--- Next Month ---

\*\*\*\*\*

### MARCH ISSUE SPECIAL!!

Report and Photo Section on the  
Daytona Event -- SUCCESS '81

Information on SUCCESS '82.

Watch for it.

\*\*\*\*\*

Also

Dr. Michelle, Chapter Chatter, and much more.