

# THE TRANSSEXUAL VOICE

FEBRUARY 1992

\$3.00

## CHANGES IN OUR WORLD

For one reason or another some of the names we most recognize are becoming less or completely uninvolved in transsexual issues. The reasons vary. One of the hardest workers for transsexual issues was Rupert Raj. Rupert is now happily married and no longer involved in transsexual issues.

Lou Sullivan, author of two books "Information for the Female-to-Male Crossdresser" and "From Female to Male: The Life of Jack Bee Garland" died March 2, 1991 from the complications of AIDS. He was 39.

I recently read in the FTM newsletter that J2CP was phased out on December 31, 1991. Sister Mary Elizabeth is a tireless worker for any cause she's involved with. Her lack of involvement will be sorely missed by us all.

Zelda Suplee, who worked with the Erickson Foundation in the late sixties and early seventies died a couple of years ago. She is the first one who reached out to me to "get involved".

There are countless others I could name (you would recognize the names of some of them, most of them you probably wouldn't) who were quite gung ho to be involved initially, but slowly disappeared from the scene. I still hear from some of them from time to time.

I don't think there are nearly as many transsexuals willing to "get involved" today as there was ten years ago. I'm sure the reason is that there is much more information available today than then. Most likely a large number of transsexuals today never attend a support group meeting.

I have been asked if I had any idea why transsexual organizations fail when transvestite organizations succeed. Why do you think?

I'm no expert, but my opinion is that when a person has sex-change surgery and becomes the person he or she chooses to be - their interest is elsewhere. I think the more involved with others a transvestite is - the happier. I may be completely out in left field, tell me what you think.

I'm not one to give advise, but if you asked me, I'd say - Give what you can, take what you need - then get on with your life (and don't look back.

Phoebe

Dear Phoebe:

At IFGE we get many inquiries from young men who are toying with the idea of a "sex change". We ask "How much electrolysis have you had?" If they tell us it's complete, or how many hurs, they get things like a coy of STANDARDS OF CARE and the list of surgeons. If the answer is "none so far", I send them a list of suggestions.

You mentioned you didn't have a list of surgeons. I am sure there are others, but the Biber girls are so positive and the Menard and Seghers products seem mostly not to have complaints, that I personally wouldn't recommend other than those three; each of them does many per month.

I understand Dr. Gilbert in Norfolk does male-to-female, but he is best known for female-to-male.

The funniest thing to me is the people who are looking for a local surgeon. The air fare two ways, even now when the price seems to have doubled, is still no more than what a local hospital charges for a one-day stay (e.g., \$580 just for room charges!).

If the date is set, typically several months away, it's possible to get there, even Bruxelles, for around \$400 round trip; and the State Department will issue a temporary passport with an F on it before the fact. (Dr. Seghers looks like Claire Chennault on the forty cents stamp.) Holly Cross, IFGE.

(PS - yes, we have UNINVITED DILEMMA - \$14.45 delivered for the paperback.)

#### SEX REASSIGNMENT SURGEONS

STANLEY BIBER, M.D.  
406 FIRST NATIONAL BANK BLDG.  
TRINIDAD, CO. 81082  
(719)846-3301

YVON MENARD, M.D.  
1003 EAST BOUL, ST. JOSEPH  
MONTREAL, QUEBEC  
CANADA H2J 1L2  
(514)288-2097

MICHEL SEGHERS, M.D.  
AVENUE DE BROQUEVILLE 60  
1200 BRUSELLES, BELGUIM  
(322)770-0108

Dear Phoebe:

I received the October '91 issue of TSV on November 12, 1991. It had been opened and resealed with scotch tape by the post office.

On the back of the envelope was printed in large red letters OPENED FOR POSTAL INSPECTION BY REVENUE PROTECTION.

This kind of disturbed me and I thought you would like to know. I talked with some postal employees but none of them know anything about this.

You may have had previous experience with this sort of thing; and of course, it may not be worth mentioning. The words "Revenue Protection" is what bothered me; could they have been looking for PORNO MATERIAL?

Please do not take this as a complaint; I just thought you would like to know.

Alane.

Dear Alane:

You are right, I have had experience with this sort of thing and I won't forget it.

BULK RATE mail is considerably cheaper than first class mail. When using BULK RATE, you have to have at least 200 pieces (or a certain number of pounds) separated by zip codes and bundled per BULK RATE instructions. The contents of each envelope must be identical in content and weight.

Until about four years ago I always included some "complimentary" copies in my mailings with the word COMPLIMENTARY written on the top of cover page. I don't do that anymore. I had to redo an entire mailing because of that handwritten word. I was cooly informed that writing the word complimentary on some of the copies constituted FIRST CLASS MAIL. It takes a long time to collate, fold and stuff the newsletters in addition to putting labels on the envelopes, stamping my return address and BULK MAIL PERMIT NUMBER, etc. (I'm not complaining, no one makes me do it; I just don't want to do another one twice.)

I think what Revenue Protection means is that they randomly check to be sure that no FIRST CLASS mail is slipped through at a BULK RATE. Thanks for writing.

Phoebe

DEAR DR. WOLLMAN:

IF A TRANSEXUALLY ORIENTED PERSON DECIDES, FOR SOME SILLY REASON OR ANOTHER NOT TO PURSUE SEX-REASSIGNMENT, BUT YET WANTS TO HAVE A SOMEWHAT FEMININE SOFT MALE LOOK (OR SEMI-ANDROGYNOUS), COULD THAT PERSON UNDERGO A CASTRATION TYPE PROCEDURE WHICH LOWERS THE MALE HORMONE SO THAT BODY HAIR (LEGS, CHEST, ETC.) WILL DIMINISH - IF NOT STOP ALL TOGETHER? I HAVE HEARD THAT SUCH MEN UNDERGO SIMILAR PROCEDURE IN INDIA. WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS, AND WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION? THANK YOU. INQUIRING.

DEAR INQUIRING:

CASTRATION, THE SURGICAL REMOVAL OF THE TESTES, WILL DECREASE THE OUTPUT OF THE TESTOSTERONE, THE MALE SEX HORMONE; THUS REVERSING OR DIMINISHING THE EFFECTS OF MALE SEX HORMONE ON THE BODY.

MORE DEFINITIVE INFORMATION ON THIS PROCEDURE MY BE OBTAINED FROM A UROLOGICAL SURGEON. LEO WOLLMAN, MD

DEAR DR. WOLLMAN:

IT APPEARS THAT I MAY HAVE TO HAVE MY PROSTRATE GLAND WORKED ON IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

MY QUESTION IS WHAT IS THE AVISABILITY OF HAVING THE TESTICLES REMOVED? WOULD THAT AFFECT ANY FUTURE SEX REASSIGNMENT SURGERY?

YOUR OPINION WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL. S. TAYLOR.

DEAR S. TAYLOR:

IF YOU HAVE YOUR TESTICLES REMOVED NOW IT WILL HAVE A TWOFOLD EFFECT:

1. THE REMAINDER OF THE SEX REASSIGNMENT SURGERY WILL BECOME EASIER FOR THE SURGEON TO DO, AND WILL MAKE THE OPERATION A LITTLE SHORTER.
2. THE LESS THE PRODUCTION OF TESTOSTERONE, THE MORE BENEFICIAL WILL BE THE EFFECT ON YOUR PROSTRATE GLAND.

HOPE THIS IS OF HELP TO YOU. LEO WOLLMAN, MD.

DEAR DR. WOLLMAN:

CAN A DOCTOR WHO DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MY SEX-CHANGE SURGERY DETECT ANY SIGNS FROM X-RAYS? A TSV SUBSCRIBER.

DEAR SUBSCRIBER:

THE ONLY POSSIBLE DIFFERENCE THAT CAN BE DETECTED BY AN X-RAY OF A MALE-TO-FEMALE TRANSEXUAL FROM A GENETIC OR GENDERIC FEMALE IS A WIDER PELVIS IN THE FEMALE.



AS YOU KNOW, ONLY OPAQUE SUBSTANCES (E.G. BONES) ARE SEEN IN X-RAY FILMS. UTERIC AND TESTES ARE SOFT TISSUES AND ARE NOT VISUALIZED ROETGENOLOGICALLY. LEO WOLLMAN, MD.

**MEDICAL QUESTIONS**

Don't forget to send your medical questions, related to transsexual issues, to Dr. Leo Wollman, in care of The Transsexual Voice.

# DANGEROUS CURVES AHEAD.

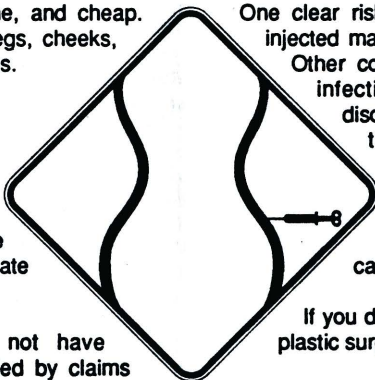
Curves! Beautiful, sexy, feminine, and cheap. Breasts, hips, thighs, buttocks, legs, cheeks, chins, and even full, voluptuous lips.

Sounds too good to be true?

Yes, it is.

By now, you may have realized that we are talking about silicone injections (the kind that no legitimate physician would ever administer).

Freely injected silicone does not have USFDA approval. Don't be fooled by claims such as "Just as good as surgical implants, but without the price." The truth of the matter is that non-medical, non-sterile grade silicone is often used, and is frequently adulterated with other non-medical grade substances. It is injected by people not trained in medical techniques or human anatomy, who frequently reuse needles.



One clear risk is migration or slippage of the injected material into other parts of the body. Other complications include inflammation, infection, and connective tissue disorders, as well as extrusion from the body. AIDS (from contaminated syringes) and other dangers may not become apparent for some years.

Sometimes the price of beauty can be too high.

If you desire surgical augmentation, see a plastic surgeon.

Send for our free pamphlet, "Dangerous Curves Ahead: Why Silicone Injections Can Be Hazardous to Your Health."

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**AEGIS**  
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Write us at:

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P.O. Box 33724

Decatur, GA 30033-0724

MY SON  
Phyllis Randolph Frye

My son is named Randy, and I love him very much. We were separated in 1976 before his sixth birthday. He is approaching twenty-two. Up until last month, we'd only seen each other once during that span of nearly sixteen years. It was worth the wait.

Our families are very important to all of us in the gender community. There is so much pain that we experience merely to be true to who we are. Recently, a friend of mine had a heart by-pass where the doctors took a large vein from his leg and planted it in his chest. I did some self-talk ("They tell us that if God wanted us to be women, God would have done so. Yet, did GOD want this man to die only to have the death interfered with by special surgery? And speaking of surgery, what makes mine sinful and his not?") while he told his story to me, all the while he was surrounded by his loving spouse and kids. But since he and his family are friends, I kept my self-talk to myself that night because I didn't want to dampen our joy over his being alive.

Being alive and being whole. That is all we transgendered folk seek. Yet the love of our families is always placed in jeopardy. Divorce, estrangement, ostracism, embarrassment, you name it: it simply is not consistent. In addition, it's just not fair. But it happens to us all to some degree. It happened to me and it took almost sixteen years to work it out with my son. (It's still not completely worked out with my parents and siblings.) What I offer in this writing is NOT THE solution, but simply A solution to how to handle the kids.

My first spouse divorced me in 1972 when my son was two because of my crossdressing. During the next several years I visited Randy and spent those days with him. I still had a beard then and was trying to make it as a man. In 1975, I began to crossdress in public on occasion. My hair and nails became longer, my eyebrows thinner. He became puzzled by my appearance and his mother was becoming very nervous when I visited. I MADE A DELIBERATE DECISION: I WOULD GIVE MY SON AND HIS MOTHER THE SPACE THEY NEEDED TO COME TO TERMS (AT THEIR OWN SPEED) WITH WHO I WAS.

I made that decision after much thought and prayer. You see, I knew that even though I'd spent most of my life surrounded by my parents and siblings, we were growing apart over who I was becoming; therefore, physical nearness was no guarantee. I also hoped that by sacrificing some time now, we might have the rest of our lives as good friends. What bothered me also was how did I ensure that he didn't grow up hating me for feeling abandoned.

So I wrote to him every single month for those sixteen years. Much happened. His mother and I almost squared off twice in the legal arena, she remarried, my son decided for himself that he wanted to meet Phyllis once when he was about eleven, his mother asked me and I complied with an inflationary raise in the child support, I pledged to him continuing the monthly payment for four more years after he turned eighteen. In short, I walked a fine line between being too close and staying too far away.

Yes, I cried a lot over it. Every month when I wrote my son the wound would open again. I was always honest to him and simply reported what was going on in my life. Father's Day was an annual hell because I couldn't be close to either my father nor my son.

Three days before Christmas 1991, he called. He was visiting his grandmother in San Antonio and wanted to know if I could make a special trip to visit. Well, I said YES (while I cried). I told my spouse the wonderful news. I called my mother to tell her. I drove to the courthouse the next morning and told several friends and cried while telling them. I drove to the airport and cried during the flight. When we first met and hugged, I cried.

It was a wonderful day. We spent most of it together. When I hugged him, he hugged me back. His mother and grandmother were very gracious and loving and hugged me as well. He was not at all shy about me. IT WAS VERY WARM AND VERY HEALING! He told me this (paraphrasing what I remember) during one of our many talks:

"YOU DID A GOOD JOB. YOU STAYED FAR ENOUGH AWAY FOR ME TO COME TO TERMS WITH WHO YOU WERE. YET, YOU WROTE TO ME EVERY SINGLE MONTH FOR SIXTEEN YEARS. I NEVER DOUBTED YOUR LOVE. I ALWAYS KNEW THAT YOU WERE CLOSE BY AND WOULD COME AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE. I ALWAYS KNEW THAT YOU WANTED ME."

As we parted, he indicated that we would get together again. He is in college, and he works part time. It probably won't be until this summer, but it will be. I know in my heart that it will be another visit with much warmth again, and I feel sure that I will cry once more. So much healing was done; so much more to be.

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Phyllis Randolph Frye is an attorney in Houston Texas

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WILLIAM A. HENKIN

PSYCHOTHERAPY

14 February 1992

Phoebe Smith: The Transsexual Voice  
P.O. Box 16314  
Atlanta, GA 30321

Dear Phoebe Smith,

I am a licensed marriage and family therapist in the State of California, a board certified sex therapist, a member of HBIGDA and IFGE nationally and of ETVG in San Francisco; I am a Fellow of the American Academy of Clinical Sexologists, and part of the Bay Area Gender Associates, a loosely organized therapists' group working specifically with people who have gender concerns.

I am also a doctoral candidate at The Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality in San Francisco, where my dissertation concerns male gender identification among biological females. I would like to enlist your assistance in this project by asking you to publicize the following information among your members:

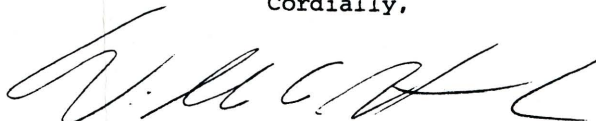
For the first phase of this study I am seeking male-identified, biologically female subjects who have never undergone any form of hormonal or surgical sex reassignment to answer two questionnaires apiece (total time, about 30 minutes). Participants in this study will be mailed results at their request, so that they will not only contribute to a greater understanding of gender concerns, but may derive personal benefit as well.

Any contact with me concerning this study, whether in person, by mail, by telephone, or on my answering machine, will be strictly confidential. Although I will request names and addresses for confirmation and mailing purposes in my preliminary telephone screening, I'll assign code numbers for all activities thereafter so that no one will ever be labelled by name or other identifying data outside my own files, before, during, or after the study.

I would welcome a call at (415) 923-1150 from anyone who is or might be interested in participating in this study. People who reach my answering machine should leave a message saying that the call concerns this project, and a phone number with a few times I can return the call Monday - Friday between 10:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time; I'll call back as soon as my schedule permits. If callers from out of town reach me directly I will also return their calls at their request, so that participants need not absorb long-distance expenses.

Thank you for your assistance.

Cordially,



1801 Bush Street, Suite 111 • San Francisco, CA 94109 • (415) 923-1150



**SAN ANTONIO TRANSSEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP**  
**P. O. Box 12913**  
**San Antonio, Tex. 78212**

Dear Prospective Member:

Thank you for your interest in the San Antonio Transsexual Support Group. Ours is a non-profit networking organization founded with the goal of making our journeys to our desired gender easier through peer support and the sharing of information, time, and any skills or services our members may possess, as well as educating the general public. Our membership consists of serious candidates for sex reassignment surgery in the process of transition, or about to start. We are by no means a therapy group. We are affiliated with professionals who are available for consultation on matters relating to our group. We are interested in helping ourselves and each other. Some of the areas where we can help are referrals for electrolysis, hormonal therapy, psychotherapy, speech therapy, legal services, cosmetics, and other information services.

However, we are not in existence to provide assistance in exiting the prurient interests of fetishists, or providing a transsexual dating service. Therefore, prospective associates will be submitted to a screening process consisting chiefly of an interview. Any member not obviously under treatment, or starting treatment within a reasonable time period may be asked to leave after a review of the circumstances involved. Again this is to alleviate those persons claiming to be gender dysphoric for the purpose of contacting prospective dates and sexual partners.

We have a monthly newslette and plan on publishing a resource directory. Our meeting dates are the third Saturday of each month. We will also meet as necessary at other times as well.

Your interview will be conducted at a public place prior to your acceptance as a member and your first meeting. It is felt that this will not jeopardize your privacy or ours. Thank you for your interest.

## CONNECTIONS

THE CONNECTION SECTION WILL BE USED TO LOCATE PEOPLE (OTHER THAN FOR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS) SUCH AS ROOMMATES, BIG SISTER/BIG BROTHER, JOBS WANTED; ETC. ALSO, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A BIG SISTER OR BROTHER(I'M GOING TO FIND A BETTER WORD FOR THIS ONE), THIS IS THE PLACE TO OFFER YOUR FRIENDSHIP. IF YOU ARE IN A POSITION TO HIRE A TRANSSEXUAL POST-OP OR PRE-OP, PLEASE, PLEASE LET IT BE KNOWN.

THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THIS COMMUNICATION, BUT PLEASE DO INCLUDE S.A.S.E. FOR MAIL THAT IS TO BE FORWARDED.

ROOMMATE WANTED - ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT, CAN CONVERT LIVING ROOM INTO BEDROOM. WALL-TO-WALL CARPET, AIR CONDITIONED, FULLY EQUIPPED KITCHEN AND POOL. CALL SHELBY (513) 293-7926.

NEED ROOMMATE IN ORDER TO RELOCATE AND GO FULLTIME. CONTACT: KIM, P. O. BOX 564, LAKE CITY, S.C. 29560.

SOUTHERN TRANSSEXUAL PRE-OP SEEKING FINANCIAL HELP AND SUPPORT. HELP RELEASE THIS WOMAN WITHIN ME. CONTACT LINDSEY SAPP, ROUTE 1, BOX 50, MIDVILLE, GA. 30441.

I AM LOOKING FOR A FRIEND OF MINE NAMED SARAH LUIZ. I LAST HEARD FROM HER IN NOVEMBER 1990, AND THE LAST KNOWN ADDRESS I HAVE IN MY FILE IS A NORTHWOOD, NH ADDRESS. ANY INFORMATION IS WELCOME. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. WRITE TO: ERIC BUENEMAN, 4866 OLDE MILL DRIVE, MARIETTA, GA. 30066-1159.

Child and Adolescent Section  
Department of Mental Health Sciences  
St. George's Hospital Medical School

Gender Identity Development Clinic  
Department of Child Psychiatry  
St. George's Hospital

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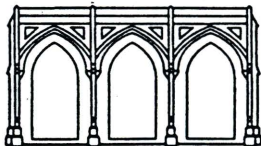
The Conference is open to carers and professionals who are likely to come in contact with children and adolescents with problems of gender identity.

*If you have a case or a short paper that you would like to present there will be an opportunity within a parallel seminar. For further details contact the Conference Unit.*

**Contributors include:**

John Money - John Hopkins University; Richard Green - University of California; Renzo Canestrari - University of Bologna; Domenico Di Ceglie - Gender Identity Development Clinic, St. George's Hospital; Margot Waddell - The Tavistock Clinic; Anton Obholzer - The Tavistock Clinic; Peter Hill - St George's Hospital Medical School.

The Conference Unit  
is underwritten by



The Priory Hospitals Group

*13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> March 1992  
Price: £160*

*Programmes and application forms available from:*  
Philippa Weitz, The Conference Unit, Department of Mental Health Sciences,  
St. George's Hospital Medical School, Cranmer Terrace, London SW17 0RE.  
Tel: 081-672 9944 ext. 55534, Fax: 081-767 4696

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P.O. Box 1105, Alief, TX 77411-1105

Boulton & Park Society  
P.O. Box 169652, San Antonio, TX 78280-3252

Delta Omega Chapter - Tri Ess  
P.O. Box 1021, Arlington, TX 76004-1021

Woman Associated With Crossdressers (WACS)  
c/o C. Philips, P.O. Box 17, Bulverde, TX 78163

Heart of Texas Gender Alliance (HTGA)  
P.O. Box 17, Bulverde, TX 78163

# The Transsexual Voice

Mail Address:  
Phoebe Smith  
P.O. Box 16314  
Atlanta, GA 30321

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