

# PHOENIX

MONTHLY INTERNATIONAL<sup>®</sup>

Vol IV No. 1  
January 1984

**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

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# Phoenix Monthly-International

THE PHILOSOPHY and PSYCHOLOGY OF TRANSSEXUALISM

©1983, Alessandra Marie Atalanta

Edited by Georgia [REDACTED]

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This article is taken from the forthcoming book, Late Blooming Butterfly, an Biographical Study of Transsexualism.

(Second Installment)

## ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT TRANSSEXUALISM (and Perhaps More)

### Definition and Description of Transsexualism and Transvestism

It is of the utmost importance to establish the distinctions between the transsexualism and transvestism. Originally, a transsexual (TS) was thought to be a type of transvestite (TV). Outside of the fact that both dress in apparel normally reserved for opposite physically gendered individuals, although for different purposes and reasons, and, to a certain point in life, live in constant fear of discovery, they have very little in common.

The bi-gendered or cross-gendered person (both the TS and the TV) may start, as early in life as perhaps age 5 years wearing items of opposite sex apparel. Often the apparel worn/used, usually lingerie, are items of mother's or a sister taken either from the laundry or their fresh clothing supply. Occasionally, in early stages, lingerie will be purchased for personal use.

It is not unusual for items of feminine apparel to be used as sexual gratification aids. This converted usage may occur only in the early stages of sexual awakening or it may continue into late adulthood - especially for the TV. Occasionally an item or type of apparel, such a bra or panties, or garter-belt and hose, etc., may become a fetish item, again especially for the TV, and required to be worn at, at least close at hand, for completion of the sex act.

Cross-genderists are secretive, because their life-styles are not considered, by non-participants socially acceptable.

### Transsexuals

A transsexual is a genetic male whose brain has identified permanently as female, either for congenital and/or developmental reasons, and who desires to, or has taken

steps to, feminize her male body to conform with her gender self-identification.

A latent TS is one who does not yet have sufficient self-knowledge or be aware of her subconscious gender identification.

The discovery of gender-identity may come later in life, but such is a case of self-knowledge and informational development. Invariably gender-identity is accomplished before the age of 18 months, although some authorities hold it may remain open to influence up to age 5 years. An exception may be that of a bi-gendered person whose gender-identity somewhat later in life comes down on the female side.

There are transsexuals who are willing to continue living in their male guise and role. Often these individuals, while desiring surgical reassignment, are unwilling to terminate long-term marital relationships (all therapists require the TS divorce, if married) or would rather wait until the death of one or both parents or the death of their marital partner. These individuals, while continuing in the birth gender role, continue to suffer torment.

### Transvestites

A transvestite is a man who identifies primarily as a male; in the terminology established in the Section One (see PM-I, Vol III, No.11) and has and retains male gender-identity. Often the TV is married and the father of children. The TV seldom, voluntarily, confesses his need to crossdress to his spouse, usually because of the fear of non-acceptance and the resultant rejection, although some women not only accept crossdressing and the associated behavior but seek out males having those needs and traits and actively participate in the

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"game" — sometimes with each partner reversing roles, not only in social, but in sexual, situations.

Some TVs claim they profess to be alternately or intermittently bi-gendered, although most of the time they feel and behave like a normal male. A TV is satisfied with being a male and generally enjoys the role. It is possible for a TV to adopt the female gender-role while retaining his male gender-identity, but that is a rare combination.

Transvestites do not, by definition, want sex reassignment surgery, although a sizable proportion self-diagnose as transsexual when they initially burst forth from "the closet". Thankfully, saner heads prevail and irreversible reassignment surgery does not occur. (One of the logical reasons for the frustrating, to the true TS, waiting period and Real Life Test.)

A transvestite is, usually, a heterosexual male having a periodic, sometimes fetishistic urge to dress in opposite sex clothing. The feminine apparel reinforces the male gender-identity and may intensify male sexual satisfaction. The subconscious mind, apparently, associates dressing in opposite sex apparel with women as sex objects and their own formative male sexual drive; it became imprinted with the same mechanisms which form other male fetishes such as the shoe fetish, the panty fetish, the leg fetish, the breast fetish or a fetish for other parts of the female body. A TV fetish is intensified by virtue of the fact that, by actually wearing the fetish items (of feminine apparel) the TV is in intimate proximity of and contact with the objects. He, often, derives sensual pleasure from the feminine quality of the fabrics; he is reminded of his **real** sex object (the female body) through the simulation of the outward presence of a woman, and he can take satisfaction in the dissemblance of knowing he is **really** a man under the feminine finery.

The childhood window for the development of a transvestite may extend to as much as 7 years of age. There is the theory that many, if not all, transvestites are "made" by parental, familial, elder or peer conditioning. The child may be introduced to crossdressing, sometimes as punishment by or for the pleasure of the mother, sister, grandmother, aunt, etc.

Transvestites often make good boy-

friends, or just friends, for the transsexual because they are somewhat understanding of the transsexual's problems, especially of social non-acceptance. Most have thought about the possibility of themselves being transsexual in an effort to analyze their own transvestism. They are often aware of the TS's problems because they sometimes meet in mutual support groups with the TS because they have in common, at least, the rejection of Society. Perhaps, in fact, transvestites are rejected ever more than the transsexual because the TS at least attempts to accommodate Society by changing full-time and as completely as possible to a woman while the transvestite switches dress, if not role, back and forth adding confusion to, at least, his visible gender-identity. Finally, being aware of the feminine aspects of their desires and personalities TVs are, almost invariably, kind and gentle men.

### The Causes of Transsexualism (Transsexism)

In the case of the birth defect of transsexuality itself, if that is what it is, what you see is **not** what you get. The original causal syndrome is, as yet, undetectable to modern left-brain science. Psychoanalysis (and other methods, such as dianetics) is the only "science" whose object is the mostly intangible aspects of the human psyche. But, psychoanalysis is **not** an exact science.

The **only** evidence we have that transsexualism exists is the testimony of those claiming to be actually afflicted with it and their therapists. Gender-identity is a very personal and introspective quality.

It is ironic that a fundamentalist Christian might deny the existence of TSism because they, as a born-again Christian, are in a similar position in that their personal salvation cannot be isolated by scientific means; that is exists at all is based **solely** on the personal testimony of the believer. The essence of faith is that it **cannot** be objectified; it is personal; its object cannot be proven by any number of biblical quotations from any number of translations.

It is paradoxical that the majority of Society will readily accept, or at least not discriminate against, a newly "out-of-the-closet" born-again Christian while denying the same acceptance to the transsexual

and transvestite.

We are neither saying nor implying that transsexualism is a religion.

The TS syndrome strikes people randomly; people isolated from each other and from any measurable source of transsexual "propaganda" or ideology; people from various socio-economic backgrounds. Like the common cold, it can strike anyone.

People do not, as postulated by some professionals, submit themselves for conversion to a transsexual; rather they try their best to shun it, to escape from it, to ignore it. If it catches anyone at all it is more like a disease or, as we have said, a birth defect.

There are two major theories concerning transsexualism. The one currently in ascendancy among TSs themselves, but not among professionals, is that transsexualism is a type of intersexual birth defect or hormonal developmental error. In this hypothesis the brain or brain center suffered a genetic or hormonal defect by which the individual brain center, containing gender-identity, remained female while more or less normal genetic/hormonal processes masculinized the body.

One suspected mechanism of this theory could be testosterone insensitivity of the brain caused by abnormal levels in the mother during pregnancy. The fetus, even though usually either an XX (female) or XY (male), starts out from the same gonadal morphology, more resembling a female than a male. In the normal male the XY combination triggers the master gland (pituitary) which in turn commands the asexual gonads to begin differentiating. The male gonads begin producing testosterone which, in turn, completes the process of producing male characteristics. If the brain, for some reason, fails to become androgenized during the initial, critical period and the time window closes, the brain becomes crystallized in the female state by default.

The other theory of transsexual causality is that of maternal/social conditioning, or socially programmable self-gender. We are not implying that self-gender is in any way a type of software that can be re-programmed at will. We mean the type of programming that is unalterably fixed in the "firmware" of the "human bio-computer" (as it is referred to by Dr. John C.

Lily). The mother and/or other persons imprint the child with the wrong gender-identification. A classic "proof" is the case cited by Money and Green in which a baby boy's penis was burned off during circumcision. Consulting doctors suggested the parents raise the now mutilated, sexually non-functional child as a girl. Complying with the suggestion the parents returned home with the child and raised "her" as girl. Just before the onset of puberty the parents authorized hormone therapy, to feminize the body, and reassignment surgery to remove all exterior traces of male genitalia and to construct female genitalia. They were so successful in imprinting a female gender-identity and gender-role that no one, except the parents and a few medical professionals, knew the child not a genetic female.

#### The Case of the "Manufactured" Transsexual

The recent candid autobiography of a well known medical practitioner reveals prima facie circumstantial evidence that she was "manufactured" into a TS by her mother and elder sister. The mother, a headstrong, domineering feminist retained, and practiced psychotherapy under, her maiden name even after marriage. The mother, wanting her first-born to be a boy named the girl who arrived after the child's maternal grandfather. She also almost turned the sister into a boy in her gender-role if not her gender-self. The daughter continued to dress in male outer clothing and shoes until her late teens.

The sister crossdressed her younger brother before the age of 2 years, going so far as tucking his genitals in play. Mother and sister crossdressed him for a Halloween Party. They continued to aide and abate in Richard's crossdressing and with praise, or lack of disciplining for crossdressing, reinforced his behavior and all but destroyed the son's self-image of himself. A female personality began emerging as a distinct personality. As a result, the apparent male child grew up with a bi-gendered self-gender and both gender-roles. One can only speculate what might have happened had not the U. S. Navy required the individual to shave off his beard since, subsequent to this action, his female identity and role proved to be the stronger and/or deeper. As we shall see, the female role has a

built-in head start.

The two theories, the biological and the psychological are not mutually exclusive. It is probable that both theories are correct, and/or a combination of the two, is correct. Genetic and/or hormonal deviations may predispose a child toward gender imprinting by elders.

Transsexuality may have more than one cause or it may be the result of multiple causes.

## The Evolution of the Unimpaired Male

In fact, the morphological male is produced by **added** steps of sexual evolution, whereas the female characteristics are produced by the **absence** of the male additions. In other words, if a series of "shocks" are **not** administered to the genetically male fetus as is normally expected, the fetus fails to develop into a male. A striking example of this is body hair development. A male, dependent on hereditary factors, develops body hair where the female does not. After puberty this fact becomes a key factor in the TS's passing potential. It is extremely difficult, if not impossible, after having been treated with testosterone for sometime (either by nature or through medical intervention) to change or remove characteristics added in such a natural way. By contrast, the female-to-male TS, having been treated with testosterone has little trouble in passing because hormone treatment results in simply continuing the natural progression (originally arrested by default) from female to male states.

Hence the saying, "Human nature defaults to female." In other words, Eve was **prior** to Adam, rather than Eve being developed from Adam. Therefore a transsexual is, in a very real sense, an aborted male who remains female by default. The obvious remedy is to reconstruct the defaulted female state that was so shattered in Nature's flawed attempt to develop a normal male. The alternative, to reconstruct the aborted male state is, currently impossible given the absolute primacy and adamantine state of the underlying female gender-identity as it lies hidden in the workings of the human mind.

Whatever the actual causes of the transsexual phenomenon, it is clear that it results from failure of the male to develop

a viable gender-identity. Furthermore, a viable male gender-identity evolves in a complicated and fragile development schedule which, for the most part, must be successfully negotiated in toto by the fetus. In the event this development is impaired, the gender-identity of the child falls back upon that of the female state, with or without the influence of the early life imparting female identity. It is almost as though a male child is a female child with a lot of things added (please forgive the double meaning). While it is sufficient to be created a female one must become a male.

## The Role of Low Testosterone

Most studied transsexuals have normal or even above normal testosterone counts. Low testosterone does not appear to be a cause of transsexuality, It may, however, be a factor in more complicated cases.

## The Semantics of Transsexualism

In the purist philosophical sense, transsexual is probably a misnomer because it implies being able to **willfully** crossover ones original, natural and social sexual assignment, either by choice or some other psychological phenomenon. The term "transsexual" implies that the individual was first a normally gendered male; if he were, by definition he would **not** want to change. Semantically, a true TS would be one who first fully identified as a male and **then** for whatever reason(s) **freely** changes his gender as well as his sex. In Gore Vidal's novel, Myra Breckenridge we find a sexually confused Myron who changes to Myra and, after "finding" himself, changes back to a fully sexually functioning Myron -- possibly good fiction, but hardly reality since neither reassigned individual is "fully sexually functioning". While the reassigned MTF may easily achieve orgasm she cannot conceive; just as while the FTM can attain an erection by using a baculum; he cannot ejaculate and has no sperm with which to impregnate a female.

If you take "transsexual" simply to mean an individual who, for whatever reason(s) has crossed over the boundaries of her original sexual assignment, the term is tolerable in that it allows for the distinction between sex and gender, which is the **real** basis of understanding transsexualism -- gender being dominant over sex. In other

words, the sex of an individual must be subordinated to the gender in the event they are different (in conflict).

to be continued



## MOVIES

Recently I had the good fortune to see, on cable, The World According to Garp.

Not being a Robin Williams fan I almost passed the movie by, thinking it would be another Popeye. I was not only surprised to find Williams a good serious actor but was wonderfully pleased and surprised by the treatment of transsexualism as represented by the character Roberta — "I used to be a tight-end with the Eagles" — Muldoon. Roberta's transsexualism was played "for real" rather than the usual sensationalism. Her lines, and part, were not only believable but very real with reference to her transsexualism occurring only three times, and then only casually. Her part was real evoking empathy at times, love at others and believability at all times.

Good on the writers, directors and all involved with the making and editing of this movie. If you have the chance to see it, be sure and avail yourself of the opportunity.

### IT'S UNLIKELY, BUT JUST SUPPOSE

by Dee Dee (CT-13)

"My God, she's dead!"

An announcement of that kind would cause panic at any meeting but coming at the first meeting of S.N.O.O.T (the Southern New England Order of Transvestites) it had the impact of being at ground zero in the explosion of a 100 megaton bomb. The body on the floor brought festivities to a screeching halt.

A near riot ensued as the "girls" fought to get into the bathroom to remove their make-up, change and "get the hell out before the cops get here." Within minutes only Marybelle, the hostess, Diddle, the guitarist and Doodle the accordian player — the latter two being members of an all girl topless orchestra — remained.

Marybelle would have split too, but it was her house and Diddle was riding with Doodle.

As the three of them sat looking at the corpse it was Diddle who broke the silence with "We have two options as I see it. One: we can notify the police and take whatever publicity comes or two: we can cover it up."

"How," asked Marybelle, "can we cover this up?"

"Well, we have to protect the integrity of the Club and the identification of the body for the sake of its family. To say nothing of covering our backsides. There are three cars in the drive. Your's Marybelle, mine and a Caddy. We have to assume the Caddy belongs to our friend here on the floor. See if there's any ID in her bag." The bag contained nothing but a lipstick, car keys and a baggage tag with the address 125 Hunkerdown Avenue.

"I know where Hunkerdown Avenue is," Marybelle said, "it's in the center of Up-pendown City. The next town down the Interstate."

"Good," said Doodle, "we'll strip her, wash her make-up off and I'll drive her to that address in her car. Marybelle you and Diddle lead the way in your car and I'll follow in the Caddy. When we get near the address turn of your lights and stop. I'll park the Caddy, get into your car and we'll drive like hell back here. Then Diddle and I'll leave in my car. If we're lucky we'll make it."

Well, the deed was done!

There was, however, a joker in the deck. Because of their lack of medical expertise no one knew the difference between coma and death and the address on the tag was the City Hall of Uppendown.

The following article appeared the next afternoon in the Uppendown Daily Bugle:

"The Dawn Patrol this morning found the naked body of the Mayor in his car parked in front of City Hall. The paramedics recognized he was in a coma and revived the Mayor who professed to remember nothing since 7:30 the previous evening. Since it appears to be a personal matter no investigation ensued."

\*\*\*\*\*

Friends of the mayor, knowing his propensity as a swinger, and being a single man, attributed the incident to his getting bombed, going skinny-dipping somewhere, forgetting to put his clothes on before starting home and passing out in front of City Hall.

#### COVER DESIGN CHANGE AND COLOR PLAN FOR '84

The Editorial Staff felt it was time to change the Phoenix cover slightly. Please note the two "little people" from our logo are back in the flame on the cover. They will remain there until a new cover (none planned) is designed.

Also, we have decided to try "white" covers this year rather than the variety of colors used in '83. We feel the variations of white will be better present our Cover-person each month. If you'll compare the white covers used in '83 you'll find they are **slightly** different in color. Also we shall be using cover-stock each month rather than the heavy text stock used most of the months of the past issue year.

The center-fold will continue unless we hear sufficient screams of pain to the contrary.

We hope you enjoy the Phoenix as much in '84 as you did in '83. And remember, if you have anything you feel should appear between the covers of the Phoenix we can only print it if you send it in, however please **don't** send any copyrighted material unless you have obtained written permission from the copyright holder for us to print it.

DEAR GEORGIA

Dear Georgia,

I have an abundant supply of arm hair. I love to wear sleeveless dresses and blouses, but I despair to with all that hair. I have shaved my arms in the past, but that looks odd and causes eyebrows to raise when I'm in male clothing and role.

Any ideas?

Dear Hairy,

The solution to your problem is really quite simple.

Go to the cosmetics section of your local drugstore and find one of the several Facial Hair bleaches. Be sure and use a bleach designed and intended for **facial** hair. Scalp hair bleach may be a little harsh.

**Don't** use the bleach immediately after a hot bath or shower rather, rinse your arms in **cool** water to close the pores before using the bleach. Follow the manufacturer's directions carefully and faithfully.

To insure you aren't allergic to the chemicals in the bleach be sure and do the recommended Patch Test (put a couple of drops on the soft, inside flesh of your elbow; wait 24 hours. If the spot is quite red, **don't** use the bleach). Most people aren't allergic to the chemicals.

Obviously bleaching the hair **won't** make it go away, but it **will** make the quantity **appear** to lessen simply because the hair is now lighter in color and closer to your skin color. In four to six weeks you'll have to repeat the treatment since arm hair grows at about the same rate as scalp hair and the darker, unbleached portion of the hair growing above the skin will become noticeable. You can also use the bleaching treatment on the hair on the back of your hands and knuckles as well, although you may wish the shave the hair from your knuckles.

By the way, if you're reluctant to shave your legs in the summer that hair will also react positively to the bleaching process as will body hair (chest, back, etc.) but I do suggest you **not** bleach the hair of your pubic area.



## COMPUTER BULLETIN BOARDS

For the uninitiated a Computer Bulletin Board is a way to leave messages/advertising on a computer system. Generally they are set-up on "home computers". There are literally dozens of these BBs around and we have been leaving notices of GGA's availability on as many as we have been able to contact. So far, as of press time, we've had a dozen or so contacts from people who've read the notice on a BB.

If you know of a computer BB please send us the phone number so we can contact it and post a message for all TV/TSs who may be reading the BB.

We will be using one of our computers as a BB and plan to have the system operational by January 1, 1984. Initially it will be open between 6pm and midnight PST week-days and noon and 2am week-ends and holidays. This will allow anyone with a computer (home or large scale), a modem and a phone line to contact us direct.

Our plans are to make meaningful information concerning transvestism and transsexualism available to all readers of the board. Two well known therapists have been contacted and have heartily agreed to participate in this venture. One section of the BB will be devoted to questions and answers concerning the psychological aspects of transvestism and transsexualism while another will be devoted to physical aspects, such as how to better pass.

We have included a survey for the users to complete with an eye toward compiling statistics and demographics of both TV and TSism. We hope, by the end of the first year of operation, to have enough information from the surveys to be able to publish a knowledgeable and provable "paper" on these two phenomena, certainly sufficient to refute many of the awful theories and "facts" rampant in Society today concerning both the TV and the TS.

One Section has been set aside for the wife of the TV and/or TS where she may read the questions left by other wives and the responses to those questions. Of course, she may also leave questions which will be answered and the answers posted on the Board.

There is also a portion of the Board available to paid advertising. We hope the income from advertising will off-set at

least the day-to-day operating cost of this much needed information source.

Unlike the majority of BBs this one will not have a private mail section. That feature may be implemented later, but now we plan to exclude it feeling we don't want to operate an electronic dating service.

We'll be advertising the availability of the BB in all the magazines catering to the microcomputer owner/operator. With all the gender people "into" computers we suspect there will be a goodly number of readers of the BB and hopefully a large number of inquiries for information concerning the GGA.

## HOUSE TO SHARE

Member in the Santa Cruz Area has a large 3 bdr, 2 bath house with attached garage located about 1 hour SW of San Jose and is looking for another FTM TV to share expenses. House is secluded and privacy insures you can crossdress to your heart's content.

Write GGA, POB 62283, Sunnyvale, CA 94088, Attn: HOUSE for additional information. Be sure and include your phone number in your letter so you can talk to one another on this great offer.

Employment possibilities are also available.

## PEN PALS

We suspect each of you knows, from firsthand experience how lonely the life of a TV/TS is. Think of how difficult and lonely life is for the incarcerated TV/TS. Please drop a line or two to the following:

Keith [REDACTED]  
PO Box 69  
London, OH 43140-0069

Tracy [REDACTED]  
PO Box 686  
Soledad, CA 93690

Roy [REDACTED]  
PO Box 2-38721  
Lansing, KS 66043

## Phoenix Monthly-International



### THE MAIL MAN COMETH (Letters from readers)

Dear Friends,

Thought a note was in order to accompany the Illustration Survey. Congrats on an A+ organization and publication. I know the credit goes to many, yet the work is done by a few. Thank you!

One word of suggestion if I may: encourage participation in the way of articles, photos, drawings, whatever by all the membership. Perhaps an appeal similar to the Illustration Survey is in order.

Also, have you been able to catch the movie "Lady Oscar" on cable now? It is a Japan/Canada release and is truly marvelous. Subject matter?? A FTM in Marie Antoinette's court. It's one to watch for.

Stacy (CA-77)

[Ed's Note: We have always encouraged Phoenix readers to submit stories, poems, drawing, articles, etc. for publication. However, to assure each reader understands our willingness to publish things they have done a request to this end is on the inside back cover and will continue there for the foreseeable future.]

Dear Friends at GGA,

Hello, from 'way out here in "suburban" Charlotte, NC. I had my reassignment surgery yesterday [9/26/83] and I feel **great!**

Though I'm from Chicago, I've gone through the entire (female-to-male) transition here in Charlotte. I had a team of doctors that can't be beat -- I think. From the beginning they have treated me with respect and dignity, and seemed most eager to help me out.

None of my doctors had ever met a FTM, much less treated one and though it may seem hard to believe I'm convinced it's been **my** adventure.

It's not easy being "the only one" here in Charlotte, so I enjoy receiving correspondence from GGA. Today, I got October's copy of the Phoenix and lovely Audra Somers on page 1 would be just what the doctor ordered.

Sincerely,  
Blane (NC-12)

p.s. I just noticed Barbie on the back cover, aha, **now** I'm going to be just fine.

Enclosed is a check for my annual renewal.

I consider it a privilege to be an Associate of GGA and I'm grateful that the organization exists. It's nice to know you're not alone in this world and there are many others like you who have a strong need to express their feminine personality.

The Resource Directory was a great help to me as it listed a great lady who is presently performing a very professional job removing my facial hairs. The major part of the hair removal is now complete and I am able to express my femme-self with no need to resort to any beard cover. My face now appears quite feminine and I'm able to go out freely as a woman with complete self-confidence.

The monthly copy of the Phoenix is anxiously looked forward to every month and is read from cover to cover.

Thanks for rendering a much needed service.

Amanda (CT-20)

Dear Editor,

I just wanted you to know what a wonderful and fantastic surprise it was for me to open the envelope of my October Phoenix Monthly and find my picture on the cover. I am truly delighted to have been picked as a PM-I Cover Girl, a dream of every GGA girl.

Over the twenty months I have been reading the Phoenix I have never been disappointed in a single issue. This magazine has only gotten better and better. The credit **must** go to the Editorial Staff and all involved in making the Phoenix the most informative, enjoyable and professionally formulated magazine available to the crossdressing and transsexual society; job well done and appreciated by **this** member.

Your's Truly,  
Barbie (CA-180)



The following Associates have a birthday in the months listed. We hope you'll send each Birthday Person a nice card. We have.

### JANUARY

Paula	AL-17	Helen	CA-19
Janet	CA-111	Virginia	CA-128
Michelle	CA-131	Denise	CA-148
Cissy	CA-166	Marcie	CA-211
Phillip	CN-27	Linda	CN-29
Regina	CO-11	Joan	FL-46
Beth	FL-51	Jennifer	IL-51
Rika	IL-55	Terri	MA-15
Diane	MA-17	Geri	MI-19
Diana	ND-10	Christine	NJ-24
Loretta	OH-25	April	OK-11
Mary	VT-11		

### FEBRUARY

Justine	CA-15	Denise	CA-46
Vanessa	CA-61	Steven	CA-73
Alan	CA-83	Jayne	CA-118
Becky	CA-121	Jennifer	CA-143
Bonnie	CA-155	Shirley	CA-207
Monica	CA-217	Edwina	CN-25
Nancy	CT-24	Gwen	FL-23
Kim	IL-60	Karen	IN-10
Josephine	LA-14	Janice	LA-15
Nancy	LA-17	Arlene	NM-16
Marilyn	NY-12	Jackie	NY-52

### MARCH

Stephanie	CA-26	Kaye	CA-97
Ashley	CA-219	Marilyn	CA-226
Mike	CA-407	Elizabeth	CN-15
Myrna	CN-18	Melaine	CN-21
Cindy	CT-23	Pat	FL-50
Diana	HI-10	Carol	IL-50
Anna	IL-57	Teri	IL-61
Bea	MD-33	Marcia	MN-16
Linda	NJ-21	Joseph	NJ-26
Jamie	OH-26	Denise	OH-31
Janice	OR-16	Tiffanie	TX-40
May	UT-11		

CLOUDS!  
A VIEW OF LIFE  
FROM BOTH SIDES  
by Sandra [REDACTED]  
(Phoenix Subscriber)

Perhaps there are clouds standing in my search for truth as a woman. It's difficult to say but, I have looked at life from both sides now. There are few women able to say that but, as a thinking transsexual I can.

I realize an attitude exists that generally the transsexual is a mentally unstable freak and, perhaps even committing a sin against God. Certainly, a few are weird. We are, in fact, as individually different as Society in general. Transsexuals have but a single common denominator, a life-long feeling of having been born the wrong sex.

For more than thirty years I lived the life of a "normal" macho-male which included a couple of wives, three normal children and a nice home in Darien, Connecticut. I've lunched at the posh all-male Union Club in New York laughing at sexist jokes without realizing they were sexist.

Now, as a reasonably attractive female I've tried to finish a rough day's work just as I once did as a male by stopping at a quiet, neighborhood bar for a couple of drinks. I never realized until recently that an unaccompanied women can't go into a bar just to relax. I am always the target of seemingly sex-starved men who refuse to accept my desire for solitude.

The purpose of this piece is not to impart an autobiographical sketch, enough of that has been supplied by Renée Richards, Canary Conn, Jan Morris and others. Rather, my objective is to express a viewpoint by one individual who has been basically both a normal male and a typical straight female — a vantage few can share.

While in one sense it has been a shocking awakening to certain aspects of female life it has also offered a better understanding of the forced machoism of the American male — where I came from. It has also allowed me a subjective viewpoint of both worlds and an objective conviction that neither men nor women can really understand the other sex for the basic and immovable reason that they've never been there.

The thrust of this piece must be sub-

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jective. We are all prisoners of conditioning from early childhood. My own background was that of a normal male upbringing. Thus I obviously missed the trauma of a first menstrual period; as a teenager I was never in a pretty party dress ready for the Prom, only to end up crying because no one asked me to attend. I've missed the fear and reality of pregnancy, and thus childbirth itself. But maybe, just maybe, my conditioning as a male has given me a perspective of the woman's world that will be equally valuable. Certainly, this duality has given me strong convictions about the woman's world and how the so-called liberation movement is both right and wrong in certain aspects.

From a personal viewpoint, upon becoming physically a woman, the most traumatic shock was to abruptly become a sex object instead of a human being. Women's literature is replete with this concept but I never **really** understood it until it started happening to me.

While I openly admit to now being sexually interested in men for the first time in my life I never comprehended the disgust and even humiliation I would feel sitting at a bar trying to hold an intelligent conversation with an interesting man while constantly removing his hand from my knee.

What has made these situation so dramatic is, as a male, I used the same tactics on women because I **thought** they wanted an aggressive man who would overwhelm them while they **pretended** not to want my hand on their knee. Another horrid introduction into the female world has been coping with the fact that I'm reasonably intelligent and the threat **this** represents to the male ego. I've met many interesting and intelligent men who say "I really enjoy the company of bright women." I needed a while to learn they didn't **really** mean that and my brain was, perhaps, my worst enemy in a male-female relationship. When men say that, what they **really** mean is: "I like bright women, but only to a point. I **don't** like a woman who is my intellectual equal and I **detest** women with a higher IQ than mine." Thus while an educated man will appreciate the fact I know Xerex II was a king in the Persian Empire the best way to totally turn the same man off is the best him in a personal debate over the fact that Lincoln's Emancipation

Proclamation did nothing to free slaves anywhere in American.

I've required an extended period of time to realize a woman should never, absolutely never, gore any man's sacred cow. This one concept has been extremely difficult for me because, as a male, I appreciated (and married) women with whom I could debate heavy issues.

Nevertheless I've learned to cope. Whenever I sense I'm starting to win an intellectual debate with a man I just shut up, flutter my false eyelashes and agree he's right -- that is if I ever want to see him again! Many females in the Woman's Movement would accuse me of coping out, but the fact is I truly enjoy being with men at times, and letting one appear to best me in a debate is a small price to pay.

In line with this concept is the true story of a young male-to-female transsexual I met a few years ago who is now a complete female and a public school teacher. Her given name was one which could have been either male or female so I'll call her Francis. Francis entered college as a male and completed her freshman year in that role. However, during this period "he" decided to change sex and for the next two years attended a different university while living full-time as a female. Obviously school officials failed to notice, on documents, that while Freshman Francis was a male, Sophomore Francis was a female. In her senior year Francis reverted to a male role, changed schools again and graduated. I later met Francis when she started teaching and asked her why she had returned, temporarily, to a male-role in her senior year. "I learned in college," she told me, "that as a male my opinions were respected both by professors and other students. As a co-ed I had a horrible time earning respect for my knowledge and opinions. I decided it would be easier to graduate with honors by doing my senior year as a male."

Francis also lived on both sides and perhaps there are some clouds in her understanding of college life. However, my own adult experience seems to say she was probably correct.

Thus while it appears I'm totally in agreement with the Women's Movement, I'm not. Having once lived as a male (and usually a gentleman) I subjectively feel

there is a real magic in being a totally feminine woman and doubt I will ever tire of having a man light my cigarette, open a door for me or help me up the stairs almost as though I was too fragile to negotiate the stairs on my own.

In short, I love being a very feminine female, an aspect that frightens me about the Woman's Movement. Somehow, there seems to be a drive among women to act and become like men. Having spent most of my life as a male I am totally convinced that being a female is better. And statistics prove it. While women have traditionally lived longer I suspect that if the Woman's Movement is totally successful the statistics will even out.

A basic problem is that women really do live within a cloud, primarily because, currently, they are being conditioned to feel oppressed. And this is combined with a real lack of understanding about the male world. These two elements come together to convince women that "men have it better."

From a transsexual standpoint this can be proven. Within our Society it is socially acceptable for a woman to say "I wish I was a man now. I'd sure take care of that problem." A female can even openly say "God, I wish I had been born male."

However as a teenager or young adult any male-to-female expressing his/her true feelings "Lord, why wasn't I born female?", is immediately labeled "faggot" even though the majority of pre-operative male-to-females aren't sexually interested in men and feel or express a sexual interest in men only post-operatively.

Equally important is the fact that women can dress totally in certain articles of men's apparel without causing an eyebrow to rise yet, a "normal" appearing man walking in public in feminine clothing would, in many areas, be laughed off the street or worse — arrested.

Partially because of overwhelming male ego and attitudes held by females the American woman finds herself lacking true comprehension and understanding of a man's life and the hell it really is. Starting as a small boy I was conditioned to think I had to finish college; get a good job and had to climb to the top — not close to the top, but all the way. And, I almost did it. Not quite, but almost — the posh private corner office on the forty-second floor of

a New York Madison Avenue skyscraper. And there were other aspects; flights constantly all over America; children who hardly knew me; a wife in Darien who could spend money faster than I could make it; the constant potential of losing the job because of office politics; the never-ending pressure from the company president and board of directors; the growing ulcer; the increasing use of the bar-car on the daily commute home. And, underlying it all was the knowledge I had been born the wrong sex.

Standing, one afternoon, in my mountain-window overlooking Madison Avenue I said to myself, "Screw this so-called male success. It's going to put me in an early grave. I quit!" So, I took my family back to California and soon after being hit with a surprise divorce action I began my journey along the road to my change of sex.

Except for the transsexualism involved, my climb up in a New York skyscraper was typical of the drive to succeed pushing the American male to his limits. And that climb is just as dangerous and potentially fatal as an attempt to scale Mount Everest. The climb turns men into animals; it stomps compassion into the ground; it leaves them mentally (and sometimes physically) impotent with their wives. It is truly a hell on earth which the American male has created for himself.

Also, there is the frantic pressure on men to constantly prove and re-prove their sexual skills. I understand these underlying male feelings, but that doesn't make them any easier to cope with.

Men charge women with being emotionally unstable, and certainly sometimes we are, due to both hormonal and conditioning factors. However when it comes to sex the male drive borders on insanity. Recalled is the story of my friend Jack. A group of male business executives, of which I was then one, had come from all over the country to attend two days of meetings in Chicago. After a rugged day of conferences about six of us decided to dine out in a restaurant near O'Hare Airport.

Tired of discussing business all day the talk naturally turned to women and a variety of sexist jokes. One of the men excused himself to use the restroom located in the adjacent bar. Upon returning he informed us the cocktail lounge was "loaded with single broads." So, one by one, we

entered the lounge to check it out and then returned to our table to discuss specific potentials. All of us were married men trying to impress the others with our individual virility. Finally Jack said he'd better "check it out." About forty Jack was sort of a scientific genius with a Clark Kent mild-mannered personality whom I thought was totally devoted to his wife. I couldn't imagine him cheating on her.

A few minutes passed and curiosity got the best of me. I wanted to see Jack operate so I wandered into the lounge to see how he was doing and got an even bigger shock when I found him hiding in a telephone booth. I didn't allow Jack to see me and said nothing when I returned to the others. Jack returned to the table to say he'd "met a real sexy broad."

As a woman I hope someday to marry since I physically and legally able to do that. And I hope I'll remember the story about Jack the first time my husband comes home with lipstick on his collar. If my mate is disloyal, hopefully it will only be because peer pressure forced him into it.

Being female I am probably happier than most American women. As mentioned before I lived in the world women envy so without much justification. Certainly, one cannot blame women for wanting something denied them. But, overlooked is the possibility that perhaps what they are seeking is not worth having. And in the process of attaining it they may lose their greatest asset — their femininity. With my present sex I'm delighted to know I'll never again have a corner office in a Madison Avenue skyscraper.

Earlier I suggested some of the things which shocked and dismayed me as a woman. Thus, I'm not suggesting women should happily accept the status quo with some updated version of the Victorian ethic. We do have much to protest. I'm far more interested in Middle East affairs and Phil Donahue than that "new improved Blurb will get your husband's tee-shirts whiter than ever." Oddly enough I feel commerals like that are more degrading to women than any Playboy centerfold.

Nevertheless, in summary, there is something wonderful in being a woman; things females have taken for granted having never been anything different. There

can be fantastic joy going on a date wearing a new dress, your hair almost perfect, just knowing you look your best. There is the freedom men can never know, including the right to cry like crazy — from either sorrow or joy. And the emotional freedom in being a woman is probably the reason we outlive men by several years — at least it's one of the factors.

And, because we are female although some might call it discrimination, we escape the horrible pressure of the male world which demands one crawl, climb and even almost kill to get to the top of the mountain. There are few happy males working in those concrete mountains on Madison Avenue. But, I do know quite a few basically happy wives and mothers, not in Darien perhaps, but throughout much of middle-America.

Certainly there is no suggestion that all women should settle for motherhood and middle-America mores. However, there is every reason for a woman to rejoice in her gender and daily thank God she was not born to be damned as a male. After all, having lived in both worlds, I should know.



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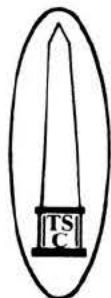
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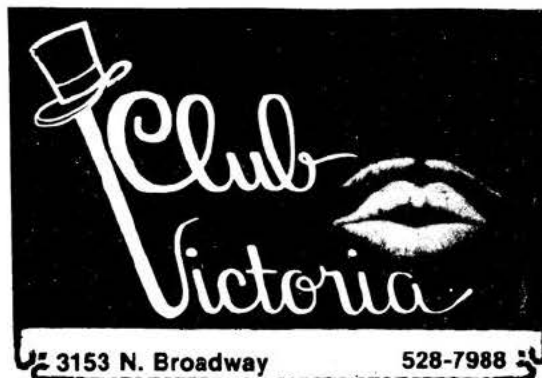
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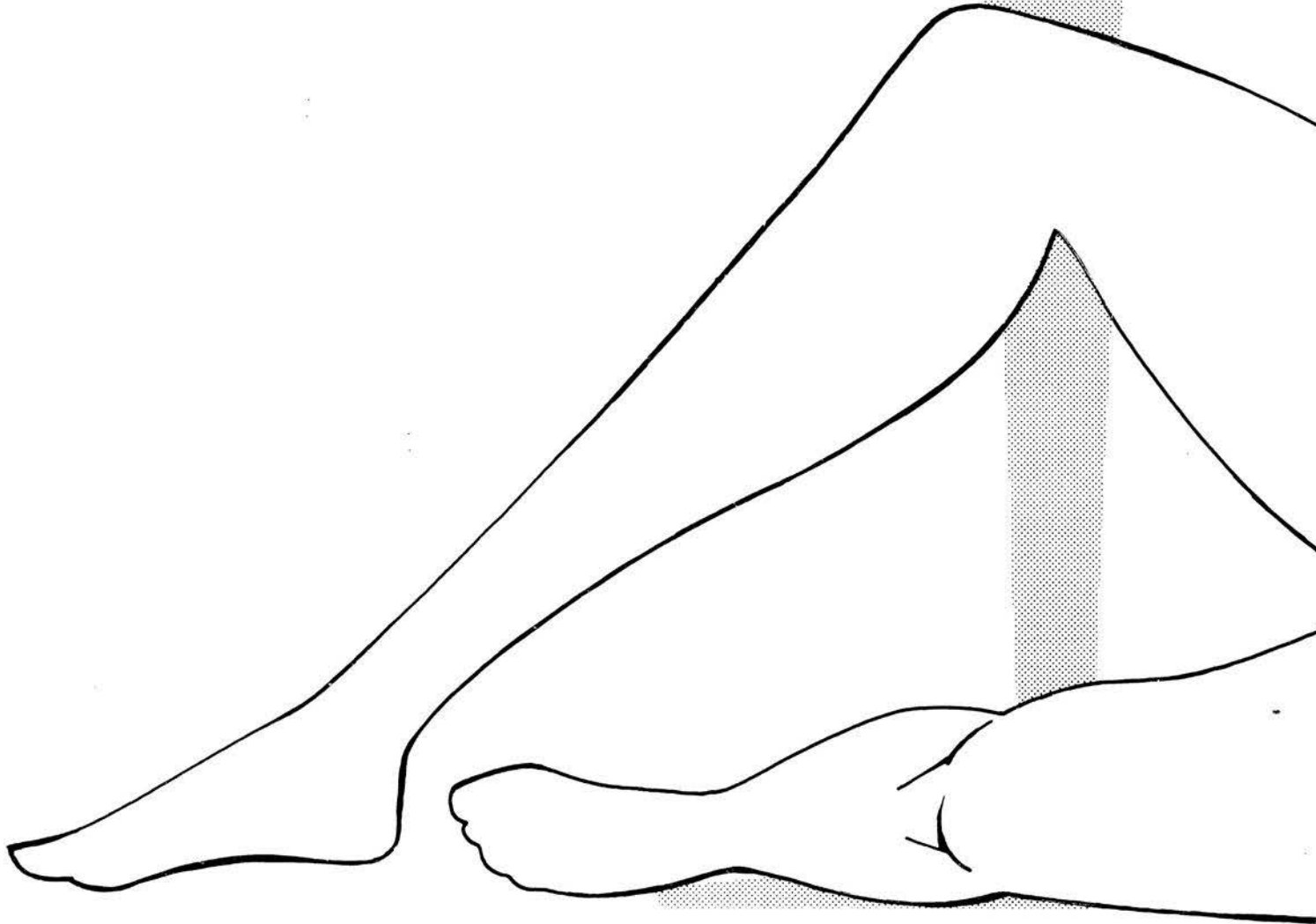
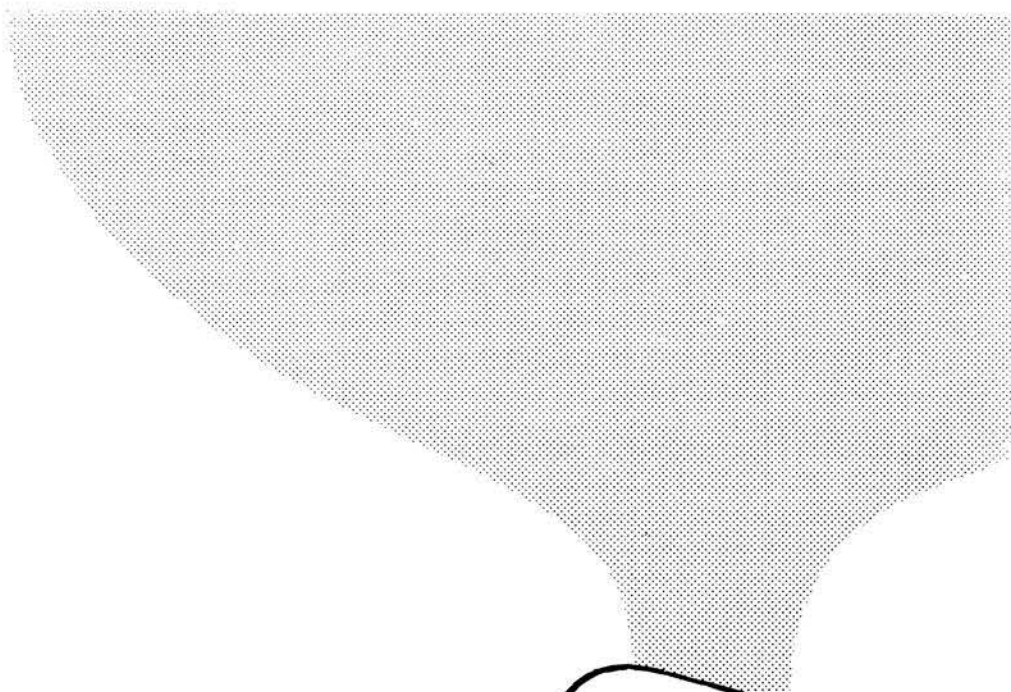
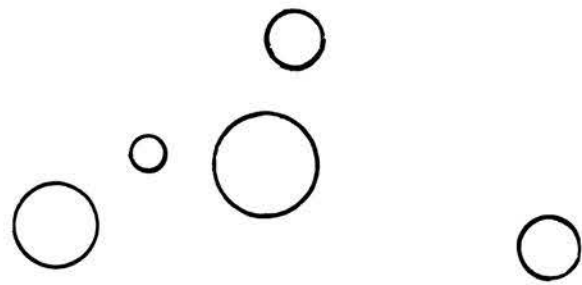
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