

Conference Shines!

Movement Grows By Leaps And Bounds

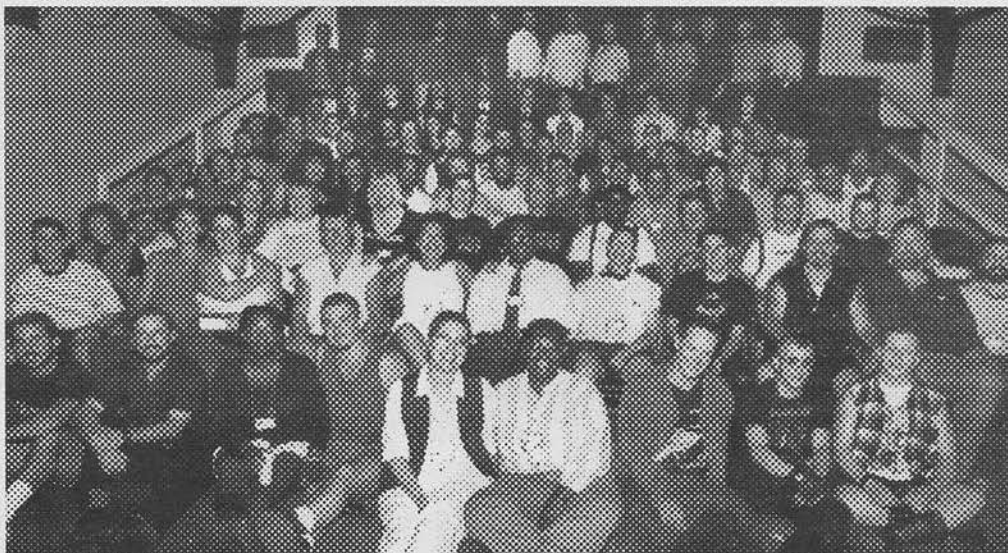
Well, we did it! The first all-FTM conference in the "Gender Community" happened here in San Francisco, August 18-20, and the event was a success well beyond our expectations. The official count of registered participants was 362, but I'm sure there were closer to 400 people there on Saturday, the day of the workshops. I estimated that about 70% of the attendees were transgendered or transsexual men, about 20% were partners, and 10% friends and supporters. So many people registered in the last few weeks prior to the conference that we had to move the meeting location to a larger space! The energy among all attendees was incredible, and I think many of us found new friends, new information, new pride, and new excitement about our lives.

I want to express my appreciation in print to all those who helped support and organize the FTM Conference, and all who participated in it as presenters, panelists, and attendees. Special recognition is due to Sky Renfro, Conference Coordinator, who worked day and night to

make it all happen, and who took the initiative to get San Francisco Mayor Frank Jordan's office to issue a proclamation recognizing FTM International and the historical significance of the FTM Conference. The others who really worked hard to lay all the groundwork and keep things running smoothly were Jay and Mardy Valentine, Registration Managers; Shadow Morton, Volunteer Manager, Marcus de Maria Arana, Site Manager; Alexander and Ray Goodrum, Housing Managers; Yolanda Lewis, Exhibitor Manager; and Scott Lofgren, Hospitality Manager. Behind the scenes, Brynn, Stephan and Michiko, and Sage all participated in early planning; and Stafford and Jordy facilitated things as well. Special acknowledgement also goes to Michiko and Marcy for facilitating the partner sessions, which were very

important to many people. Conspicuous in their absence, Rhonnie and Katherine Reed also worked on developing Conference events, but were prohibited from attending due to Rhonnie's ill health. Fortunately, he has recovered.

Elsewhere in this issue, several participants have written commentary about the Conference, so I won't go on and on about it. The next best thing to being there is to hear it on audio tape, and an order form for the programs that were recorded is also included with this issue. And I've submitted a financial report (appearing elsewhere in this issue)



The FTM Conference • Group shot showing about one fourth of the happy conference attendees

so that other groups can see what a good fundraiser a well-run and inexpensive conference can be. I hope that a group from the East Coast will want to host the next all-FTM Conference, and maybe we can make this a biennial event alternating between regions. I know the Seattle guys would like to host, and I suspect the Southern California guys would, too; but I think we all agree that we don't want to turn this into a West Coast event, so, please, someone from out there let us know, by February 1, 1996, of your intention to host this event, and we'll provide the seed money that was given to us by AEGIS, as well as some additional donations earmarked for the next Conference, and you'll be on your way!

Readers may wonder what we intend to do with all the proceeds from the Conference. It is my

intention that this money be used to further the purpose of FTM International, which is to provide information and networking for transsexual men and transgendered women exploring masculinity. First of all, let me reassure everyone that the FTM Newsletter will continue! I know I threatened to put it on hiatus after next January if I didn't get some help, and my threat worked. Two men, Marcus de Maria Arana and Jay Valentine, are already helping on this issue and on January's issue, so that by April 1996 (issue #34) they will take over as co-editors, and I will become an occasional columnist. I know both Marcus and Jay are hard-working and conscientious, and I'm sure they will continue to develop the FTM Newsletter as an open forum for all our community. I'm very grateful to them both for stepping forward, and I'm sure our subscribers are grateful, too. Look for **C O N F E R E N C E** Reflections by each of them in this issue to get a glimpse of who they are.

Second, we intend to take FTM International to the next logical stage in its growth and make it into a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. A steering committee has formed out of the Conference organizing committee, and we plan to hold a public meeting on Wednesday, December 13, at 7:30 p.m., at Stafford's place to discuss the structure of the organization to begin the formal planning process. All interested parties are invited to participate in this meeting, and if you can't be present but still want to be involved, contact us by leaving a message on our voicemail to discuss your ideas or concerns with one of us in advance, or write up your thoughts and mail them to us before December

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FTM Conference Reflections

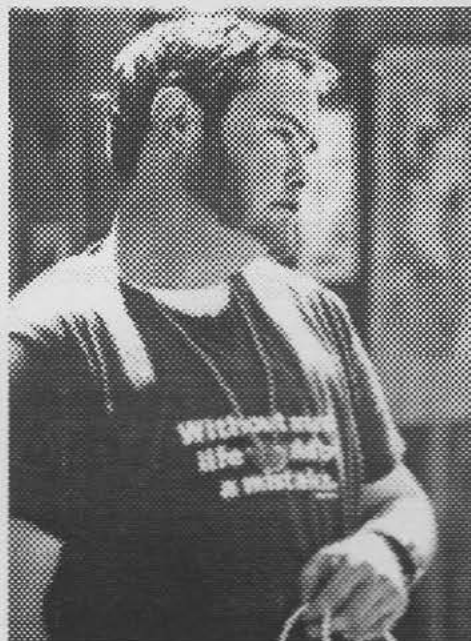
by Jay Valentine

What a "Vision of Community" it was, an incredibly beautiful and far-reaching vision, exceeding our wildest dreams and projecting much energy for growth into a future that will be determined by all of us as we work together and separately, each in our own way. When my partner Mardy and I volunteered to be the Registration Chairs of the FTM Conference, we were unprepared for what would manifest as the results of our work. With just a couple of months time to get ready for all of you, we began collecting registration forms and sending out information packets, working late into the night many times per week. As we worked, we saw a community begin to materialize before our eyes, filled with interesting names and from towns both small and large from everywhere across the country. As we entered your names in our database, we wondered what your faces looked like, what your lives had been, and we were so very pleased to meet all of you as you checked in. The weekend was a very intense experience for us, and we came away from the conference empowered by the strength of our numbers, the diversity of the community that honored us with its presence, and the potential represented by a new movement coming together. The majority of you who registered arrived here happily anticipating upcoming events and greatly enjoyed the conference. Sadly, one of our brothers passed away on Saturday morning while getting ready to attend, and was greatly missed by all who knew him. Jake Dennis' death came as quite a shock to us, and caused me to reflect very soberly upon my good fortune to be alive, transitioning, and to have participated so fully in the process of the conference. Also sadly, some of you who showed up were turned away, as we were unprepared for the response we received, and we were operating within a very limited space. We hope to see all of you at subsequent conferences, which will be planned to provide far greater space for a community larger than we had realized existed.

It was a great pleasure working with the conference committee and getting to know each of its members. We were impressed with the integrity and commitment they all displayed, and were also impressed with the hardworking energies and commitment of the numerous volunteers who worked with us all weekend in very crowded spaces and extremely warm temperatures. All of us working together made this conference a huge success, and created much thought about the future growth of our community.

Personally, this conference was a turning

point of vast dimension and perspective in terms of my growing awareness of myself as a transsexual being and my level of participation in community. Prior to the conference, I had been a somewhat reclusive person, unsure that I wanted to come out of the closet in any large degree, satisfied to be out to some friends and my partner, and planning to live quietly and invisibly in the mainstream world without ever coming close enough to many of my brothers to be challenged in ways that would cause me to grow as part of the community. That would have been a great loss both personally and collectively, as I found myself exhibiting qualities and capabilities I had forgotten about, and feeling emotions I had tried to bury deeply. Before the conference, I had all but given up hope that



Jacob "Jake" Anthony Dennis • 1959-1995

I belonged to any community whatsoever, as my transgenderedness had caused such personal anguish and loss of friends in the past that I was unwilling to once again put myself on the line to risk becoming part of yet another group that I was sure would not accept me, much less value my contributions. Having come from a background of political activism for more than three decades, I had retired. When I began my transition, I was between communities, having lost my family, almost every friend I had, and much of my hope for a solid, happy life. I had initially viewed my transition as merely a necessity to getting by, to surviving in the outside world, and had not yet considered the social, spiritual, and political implications and

opportunities that would be presented by coming together with this group of my peers. I am consequently grateful that I was asked to participate on such a fundamentally important part of pulling the conference together, as otherwise I could have drifted along on the outskirts of our community for many years, and missed out on meeting and getting to know many fine people who have accepted me fully as a human, as a transsexual, and as a valued member of our community. I have begun to create bonds with those I worked with in many different capacities, and hope many of those bonds will be life-long. We have much to teach each other and much to share that can heal lifetimes of pain and create awareness and consciousness of our place in this world. The hardest part of working during the conference was not the task itself, but keeping myself on an even keel as incredible insights and awarenesses surged through me, transforming me on a daily basis as I interrelated with people, listening to their struggles and victories. I cannot stress sufficiently how important it has been to me to feel a part of, to know that we do not walk these incredibly difficult paths alone but walk them together, inspiring each other with our courage. Some of us came from relatively secure backgrounds and had experienced varying degrees of personal success in our pretransitioning lives, whereas others of us suffered from appearing so far outside of our society's typically accepted definitions of gender identity that we felt there was nowhere for us in this world.

Before my transition, as an obviously transgendered person who had not yet caught on to the knowledge that there was indeed a solution, I found myself time and time again precluded from achieving success in mainstream careers. I lost many jobs even though I was hardworking and professional, and suffered a great deal of ongoing oppression and discrimination. I moved from social community to community, political group to political group, always finding myself an outsider, the different one who did not truly belong, even though I perceived myself as a valuable human being with much to offer. Unfortunately, many of these groups reinforced the belief that my "differentness" existed only in my head, and that I needed to get over it. Nowhere did I find validation that our voices in this world mattered, and that our unique experiences deserved to become an important phenomenon unto itself, that our history on this planet was unique and newly unfolding, and that it all meant something. This concept of being told to "get over it" left me struggling

Special Conference Issue

deeply within myself to maintain a sense of identity. Finally, I can now validate and embrace the fact that I was indeed "different" in some very fundamental ways from my former peers, and that there was nothing wrong with this, and that, in fact, it was a good and beautiful thing. I realized that I no longer needed to try to find some way to blend in with the fringe of someone else's kind of community, I could belong to and actively participate in my own. I think more people need to hear our stories, both within and outside of our community, so that we can continue to validate and build each other's strengths in what is often a very hostile and challenging world for many of us. I can only express deep gratitude to the participants of this conference for letting me know that I had finally come home. I hope I also speak for countless others who have walked this kind of path, and can offer them a vision of community that I had not really believed was possible until now.

Our strength is in coming together. It is from each other that we learn profound levels of self-acceptance and self-love. This allows us to begin healing from the negativity we have experienced. We have all lived extremely courageous lives struggling with our identities, and by the time we got to the point of transitioning, some of us had so many questions and self-doubts float-

ing about within our consciousnesses that it was hard to believe we had managed to come this far. I often felt that at this most important turning point of my life, I was so shattered psychically that risking being truly present and connecting with others on a heart level was beyond my capability, even though I felt like such an ancient warrior in so many other ways. Imagine my surprise to discover myself talking with people all around me, completely secure within myself and unafraid of relating to others for the first time. I felt it important to share this perspective with our readership, as I know others will relate to it, and I hope we will all find the courage to reach out more often when we get together and make everyone feel truly welcome. It makes all the difference in the world to feel welcome, valued, and that our presence matters. Often at different stages of our transitions, it is difficult to reach out and connect with others, and I believe this conference went a long ways in creating connections that validated our uniqueness as individuals and also displayed the incredible diversity of our community. We truly do not know who our brothers are in their hearts and souls until we sit down and tell each other where we've been and how it is for us. I feel that we have only touched the very beginning of all that we can become as a community, and that

following the healing we can do together, we can work on creating a true vision for our community. What is that community? What does it look like? Where will it go over time, and what will it accomplish? What does it truly mean in this world, on this planet, at this time in our history? What are we becoming, what are we evolving towards? What does it mean to discover that we have such varied and fluid gender identities, that we represent an energy that is creating a new force for change? These questions can only be answered over time as we come together and define ourselves, and find new directions in which to grow. There are far more of us than we have known, and it means something beyond our individual lives. As a result of this conference, I have made a decision to once again become a visible activist, this time, finally, for my own community, and join with others who have walked this path before me and still walk it, as I want to contribute to the foundation we are building, a foundation that will create safety, awareness, and the basic rights we all deserve. My partner Mardy and I hope to work on subsequent conferences where we will again see familiar faces as well as many new faces. We truly loved meeting each and every one of you, and look forward to the continuing vision of our community as it develops.

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

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

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

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

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

FTM Conference Financial Report

Income	
Seed Money from AEGIS	\$ 500.
Grant, IFGE Winslow St. Fund	\$1,000.
Conference donations	\$2,081.
Advance registrations	\$9,560.
Registrations at-the-door	\$4,229.
Books sold	\$ 591.
Audio Tapes	\$2,262.
TOTAL INCOME	\$20,223.
Expenses	
Registration expenses	\$ 418.48
(maps, postage, paper, envelopes, xeroxing)	
Keychains	\$ 485.
Building rental	\$ 945.
Audio visual & taping	\$2,629.25
Food and supplies	\$3,041.83
Telephone	\$ 110.
Cost of books sold	\$ 100.
Emergency fund	\$ 739.
Scholarships granted	\$1,500.
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$9,978.56
Reserves	
Original seed money	\$ 500.
Donations specified for next Conf.	\$ 260.
TOTAL RESERVE for Next Conf.	\$ 760.
Sub-Total: Expenses & Reserve	\$10,738.56
Proceeds to FTM Internat'l:	\$9,484.44

Special Conference Issue

Feedback From Conference Attendees

As far as feedback goes for the conference, it was fabulous. I cannot believe how great the feeling was to meet and see others in the same situation as us. I got so much energy and great feelings from this conference. It gave Corky a new lease on life, something to look forward to. To know that Corky does not have to go through life in the wrong body and unhappy, is the greatest gift we could have been given. I am so indebted to you and the others who gave us hope and advice, that I could never repay you. I think that James Green should be given some type of award for the hard work and dedication he exhausted to put this on.

—Corky and Dot, from Texas, who found out about the conference by browsing the internet.

I thought the conference was great—easily one of the best weekends of my entire life. It was so great to meet so many other guys. I was especially struck by the atmosphere of camaraderic. There were guys there of all sexual orientations, ethnic backgrounds, and states of transition and presentation, and there was a real feeling of brotherhood, to use a big cliché. One of the things that makes me proud to be an FTM is the way guys support each other.

The workshop [Jason Cromwell] did with Steve, John, and Jude was really good—I was especially interested when Steve described some peoples' determined efforts to attribute "female" behavior to him ("Uses emotional outbursts in class") once they find out he was born in a female body for some reason some segments of the genetic population never tire of searching for signs of our chromosomes in us it's as if they just can't accept that there is no "truth" in them.

Next I attended the sexuality workshop—that was packed (FTMs only) and also really interesting. Guys talked very openly and honestly about how we feel about our bodies, our choice of sexual partners, the effects of hormones, what we are and are not comfortable doing in bed, etc.

Finally I went to the gay/straight issues panel that was problematic for me because it drifted off topic into issues which, while important, were not directly related to the topic at hand. I think the moderators needed to maintain a little more control of the audience, but it was still an interesting panel.

I enjoyed the medical presentations, partly because Dr. Laub was so funny. It was interesting to learn about the latest phalloplasty techniques (though I still plan on having a metoid-

nioplasty some day), and it was a good idea to have people line up at the mike for questions.

—Andrew Gavin

It was two weeks ago that I finished packing and was impatiently waiting for the morning, for then I would be on a plane heading for San Francisco and the conference.

On Tuesday, the 22nd, 2 days after the conference, I received a telephone call from my mother. A friend of hers had called to tell her I might be interested in the Phil Donahue Show that was about to start. Turning it on, I was proud and excited to see that a repeat episode was showing the first guest—Stephan Thorne. I listened as one who was seeing his brother on a national TV show. I listened intently to what Stephan was saying and wondered if I could speak that well on TV. After the show was over, which I taped, I began reflecting on the past weekend. My first encounter with a fellow FTM was at the San Francisco Airport where my conference roommate was waiting. His name is Alec, an Oklahoma City young man who arrived at the airport before I did. We were to meet at the terminal and find our host's workplace. Our generous, crazy, and protective host was Jonathan Weiner. Jonathan's boss had graciously given Alec and I tickets to see Alcatraz. It was a great trip. Saturday morning, the three of us checked in at the conference. I was amazed at all the FTMs there! Every stage and type were there. Saturday was also when I met a couple from Sierra Vista, Arizona, and Thurin Schminke of Flagstaff—our famous FTM. Thurin and I had been sending letters back and forth plus had spoken on the phone once or twice. Thurin was the one who first gave me contact with Mr. Green and the FTM Newsletter. I was excited to finally meet Thurin in person. Too bad we had to go all the way to San Francisco to do it. Flagstaff would have been easier! During the day I listened and looked upon all the members of my "family." Some things we shared in common and some were foreign to me, but we were all going through the one main thing of being an FTM. I found inspiration, comfort, and compassion through those that told of their stories, their pain, their needs, and their concerns. In the afternoon, I was to meet the San Francisco policeman that was featured in your July '94 issue. As with watching Donahue, I listened to Stephan and Michiko with much interest and hope for myself (the session was on relationships). Another person I was anxious to meet was James Green. I was not disappointed.

Sunday was very educational and also disappointing. Disappointing were the phalloplasty slides from Dr. Laub. To me, the slides of his constructed penis looked more like a physical deformity, a Frankenstein sew-up job. A hot dog would have looked more real. To Dr. Gail Lebovic—I would tell her that for one who has it, male pattern baldness is not a thrill. I was a little sensitive to her joke. The afternoon was great. After the conference, Kellen drove a few of us to see the man I had spoken with by phone, Rhon Reed. Rhon is very compassionate and concerned with others. He's a great ego builder. Rhon and Katherine are terrific people. I wish I could get to know them better. After the visit, about 20 of us, plus Rhon and Katherine, went to eat. It was a fun and crazy time. I haven't had that great of a time at a "family reunion" until that day. My work place has those that disagree with my transsexual "state." Some have been cruel. Some don't understand it and don't want to. This conference has helped me gain some self confidence and pride. Meeting others and knowing I'm not alone is a comfort. Doctors in my area are not very knowledgeable about FTMs. Answers are hard, if not impossible, to get from them. The conference helped answer most of my questions and concerns. The unanswered ones will come with time, experience, and a lot of money. I did want to express to you I think everyone did great in organizing the places of the conference, the food and drinks, and the speakers and moderators. I wish there had been more time to hear and be involved in the Saturday sessions.

To those I met at the conference, would you please write so we can keep in touch?

—Sam Warner, [redacted] East Dodge St., Mesa, Arizona, 85207.

Splitting The Atom

conference brings out unmitigated joy, appalling bigotry

by **Marcus de Maria Arana**

Tonight was shot night...I used to do my injections on Tuesday nights, but switched to Mondays on August 14th, the day before my birthday because I didn't want to inject on a celebration day – not that I didn't celebrate my maleness. I just didn't want to jab a hard, steel needle into my tender thigh muscle on that particular day. So, now I take my medicine on Monday nights, right after couples counseling with my partner. I'm always really open at that time and everything is raw and poignant right then, so I figured, "Why not? Why double up on processing two nights in a row when I can do one big slam?" I have a ritual – I buy a beer and a candy bar. The beer is to psych out the adult who is cognizant of the pain factor, and the candy bar is for the little kid who FUCKING HATES SHOTS!!! I also play some inspirational music to get into my warrior mode. TV is too distracting and the pain was worse, so I learned that music was better.

I started out months ago with Gethsemane from Jesus Christ Super Star – "I only want to say/if there is a way/take this cup away from me/for I don't want to taste its poison..." Now I listen to side one of The Innocent Age by Dan Fogelberg. It runs like a suite from song to song, and it is far more positive than the aforementioned dirge.

Without fail, after I imagine the empty spaces of the needle's atoms zippering with the atoms of my flesh and I complete my rite of passage, then I react...The music swells and my emotions grow, only this time the testosterone robs me of my tears, and it's only my heart that cries. What is different this time is that I was just an integral part of the first ever FTM conference in the world – ever! As a historian, I am totally blown away by that concept alone. It can be likened to the splitting of an atom or the founding of this country. We created a ripple, a ripple of visibility, whose concentric circles fan out across time and space, moving even distant souls, like a boat in another's wake, bobbing up and down, never to occupy the same position ever again. I was moved even beyond words, which is not my style, to stand in the company of hundreds of people like me. Hundreds of men who had the very same beginnings as me. Granted, the experiences and the histories were different. But, we all were exactly what is most prized in America. By purest definition, we are all self-made men. There is temptation for euphoria when things run well and you are moved by the experience. Yet, it was not to remain pristine, innocent, and unmarred. I learned that some of the guys were upset because gay men were a crucial part of the process. And, I learned that some men felt that there

was no place for gay-identified men in our struggle for civil rights. After all, they're just fags and we're regular straight guys. Well, this heterosexually-identified man was sickened and appalled by that kind of bigotry. I guess, in my brief and shining moment in the Camelot of the FTM conference, I forgot that FTMs can be bigots too. I forgot that some people try to forget their oppression by thumping on someone lower on the shitpile than themselves. I stand corrected. As a heterosexual, I suppose you can call me straight, although I hate that term vehemently. But, as a transsexual man, I will never be mainstream or middle-of-the-road. How can I say that my gay brothers are sick and undeserving after 22 years in the gay political trenches? How can I denigrate my gay brothers as unfit to serve in our ranks after I worked side-by-side with them to put on an historic and well-run conference? These guys worked their asses off – for you! On a more human, less personal level, how can I exclude my gay brothers from my table when I believe that EVERYBODY has a right to love the consenting adult of their choice? I loved the conference! I loved the people! I will never be the same, every single injection for the rest of my life. I saw a vision of a community. I'm just sorry that bigots are a part of that community. I guess that I had hoped for better...

Insights on Conference Workshops:

informative and well attended or disturbing and academically dense?

by **Jason Cromwell**

The conference as a whole was an incredible success from my perspective. Far more participants than I thought showed up, especially from outside the Bay area. The workshops I facilitated went very well. Living in TS Bodies was a great success. Numerous people told me how great they thought it was. I think the audience was very appreciative of what all of us have accomplished, that there is success, healthy and happy living after years of living in our bodies. Some people suggested that in the future as a compliment to it that a session be set up for life story telling.

The academic workshop was okay. Although I had stressed to Henry and Susan that they not use academic language they both did so. A couple of people told me they didn't really understand what was being said. Those who commented positively to me only mentioned my portion.

The sexuality workshop was terrific. People were very open and brought up numerous topics. From my perspective and from comments I got it would be great in the future to have a longer session wherein small groups interested in particular topics could meet and then regroup into the larger group.

The last workshop I went to was on racism. I was disappointed that more people, especially more white folk, didn't attend. But those who did contributed to a lively discussion and education was had by all.

As to the medical info day, I think I've gotten quite cynical about surgery. I found numerous comments by Laub, Lebovic and Van Maasdam disturbing. Although they were not nearly as bad as Gilbert and his gang, they seemed rather flippant at times. In particular I found the slides which said "The Problem: No Penis" insulting to those of us who have chosen not to have one. Except for the metoidioplasty, genital surgery is still in an appalling state. But like I said earlier I've gotten cynical about it. The other docs did a very good job of informing the audience and were very forthright when they did not know an answer. I appreciated their honesty.



Transgender Chest

by Jericho Knight

After weeks of distraction and chain smoking, the night before my top surgery arrived. I got home from work at 3:30 A.M., waited up three hours, chain smoked more, and woke up my roommate to drive me to OHSU.

I arrived early, nervous, and forced myself to abstain from coffee (my doctor hadn't warned me against eating or drinking ahead of time, but I certainly didn't want to pee an hour into surgery). At 7:50 I went into the office, counted out my \$2500, signed a couple forms, and was sent to a waiting room. After disrobing, a doctor comes to tell me of all the possible hazards (bleeding, scars, infection), and I sign the consent form (the one that says if I'm stupid enough to try a

lawsuit, I will be thrown into the Pacific). Then my regular doctor enters, and with icy hands and a magic marker draws lines for the incisions, x's for the nipples. Both doctors measure my dimensions (collar bone, pecs), have me take various poses, and alter my chest blueprint accordingly. They seem very pleased I have "only skin, hardly any

breast tissue." After four years of testosterone and six years of ace bandages you can put your hand through them, with no resistance. I look in the mirror, with a doctor on each side, holding a sheet over my breasts, so I can imagine what I'll look like. The nipples look a bit far apart to me, but they say guys' nipples are. I refrain from asking them to take their shirts off, so I can see. After more waiting, the nurse takes me to the operating room, where I lie on a cushioned table with wings for my arms. I get a flannel blanket over my legs, an IV in my arm (with antibiotics), and a mysterious square rubber thing stuck to my shoulder (later I find this is a ground for the electric cauterizing); it's 9:40. Sheets of heavy linen are draped over my arms and legs, and antibiotic goo is smeared

on my chest; then out comes an enormous needle with the local. The first shot directly through the nipple is incredibly painful, but with each successive shot (there are dozens) it hurts less and less. The other breast hurts all over again (though I think my tattoo hurt worse). Up goes a linen curtain to block my view of the surgery (Darn! I was so curious!). The nurse brings in a radio, it's 10:00, I feel pressure on my chest, then almost immediately incredible pain. He numbs me with more shots, and keeps cutting. I hear a beep, then feel a powerful electric shock that makes me jump—much, much more painful than the cuts I can feel, and by far worse than my tattoo. I feel cutting, tearing, more pain, more numbing

two of sewing, and of course still the need to cauterize; by now my doctor has learned to warn me ahead of time, so I don't jump quite so much.

I have a doctor working on each side, sewing the incisions up, placing the nipples; I wonder if the sides will look different, reflecting their different personalities (they certainly do!). I feel pain on my left, then right (more shots), then left again; at this point I decide to just deal with it, being so close to the end. I feel the last stitch, much pressure, as if someone is sitting on my chest, a minor cut, and the nurse brings my nipples to the doctors (in a little tray, even). Somehow, with a lot of unidentifiable pressing, pushing, and little pinches,

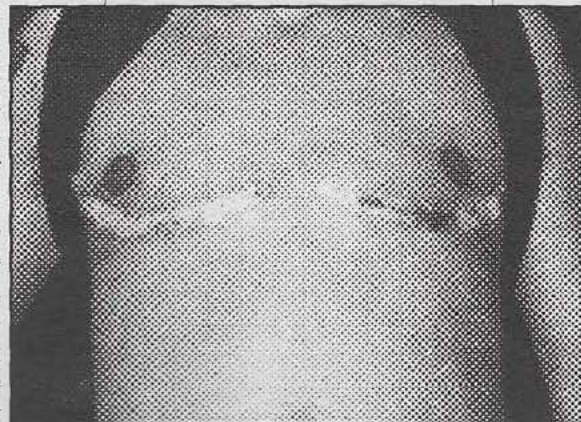
"That's it." Down comes the curtain; I see (lower and longer than I'd expected) barely bleeding cuts, and prickly cottonballs over my nipples. I'm disappointed I can't see the nipples, even more so when I find I have to wear aces for 5 more days. I stumble down to the pharmacy for \$60 of Rx, and go home.

The first week I was very sore, as if I'd been kicked in the chest with steel toe boots repeatedly.

I had to quit smoking for a week to ensure a good blood supply to my "new" nipples (okay, I was only able to cut down to 7 a day).

A month later I feel wonderful. My doctor is confident I'm healing perfectly, the skin grafts have taken, the bump on my chest (from bleeding under the skin) should be gone within a couple months. When I look at my scars, my lack of symmetry, the excess skin at the top of the scars, I don't see a "normal" male chest. That isn't my point in life, though. I feel freer, lighter, and more honest in my presentation to the world. And as far as I'm concerned, I have a beautiful transgender chest.

"I felt the last of the tissue fall away, thinking the worst must be over."



One week after surgery. "The first week I was very sore, as if I'd been kicked in the chest with steel toe boots repeatedly."

shots. I thought I had a high tolerance for pain, but this was more than I'd expected. As my roommate eloquently stated, I was getting my tits ripped off, no wonder it hurt. I feel the tissue pulling away, slightly nauseating, until I remember which tissue is leaving. The most pain comes, not from the cuts, but from the cauterizing shocks, so deep I think they bypass the anesthetic. It did worry me they were working extremely close to my heart with sharp instruments and I was leaping a foot off the table every time they needed to cauterize!

I felt the last of the tissue fall away, thinking the worst must be over. But now I have an hour or

The X-Files: Trapped In The Wrong Body

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"Tom" is a 19-year-old university student. At the moment he's taking time off his studies to pursue a lifelong dream. For the last 12 months he's been taking a course of powerful hormones containing large doses of testosterone. They've helped him to grow a beard and given him a hairy chest. His periods have stopped and his voice has deepened. Soon he'll undergo several major operations (double mastectomy and full hysterectomy). If all goes well "Tom" will be on the way to joining the 12 or so women who every year make the decision to undergo gender reassignment. Fran Springfield is the Director of the Gender Identity Counseling Centre, a charitable organization that counsels people who want to undergo gender reassignment. "The transsexual (TS) males that come to us have known right from the word go that they've been born into the wrong bodies. They tend to be in their mid to late 20's and have already begun to live as men. We counsel them, provide them with a course of hormone treatments, and after a period of about 12 months refer them to a psychiatrist who, if everything's OK, will in turn refer them for surgery." About 50 per cent of TS males prefer to pay for surgery at a cost of almost 6,000 pounds. It is available on the NHS but the waiting lists can seem prohibitively long and that's only after hospitals and surgeons alike have agreed to remove otherwise healthy breasts, wombs and ovaries. But even after these hurdles have been passed "Tom" and others like him will probably never quite achieve their dream of becoming men. While the surgical techniques employed to enable TS males to reassign their gender have now become fairly routine, full phalloplastic surgery (the construction of a penis) is, in the UK at least, still in its infancy. This is because as well as creating a penis that resembles the real thing, surgeons are faced with providing the new organ with an efficient blood supply, redirecting the urethra, redistributing nerve endings, and in some cases, inserting rods to allow the recipient to indulge in penetrative sex. It's a tricky procedure because it has to be done from scratch. A fold of skin has to be appropriated from the inner thigh or the abdomen. It's then rolled to form a cylindrical shape and filled with fat (again from the inner thigh). The urethra, the duct which directs urine from the bladder, is then inserted into the new organ. If the recipient wants to have penetrative

sex the urethra is left alone and a rod inserted in its place so that the penis is kept permanently erect.

Not surprisingly, only a handful of surgeons in this country will even attempt the operation. Surgical techniques in Holland, Switzerland and America are far superior but the price tag—which starts at around 25,000 pounds—places them far out of the reach of the average patient. As a result less than one per cent of female-to-male transsexuals opt for this type of surgery and it's only available in some private clinics and one hospital in central London. Knowing these statistics hasn't affected

"I want to be a man. I want to be able to use urinals without being ashamed..."

Tom's determination to become a man in what he sees as the fullest sense, despite the warning that includes undergoing phalloplastic surgery. "I know it's not feasible in this country but that doesn't stop me travelling to Europe or the States. I don't see the point in only going so far and no further. I want to be a man. I want to be able to use urinals without being ashamed or afraid and I want to be able to make love to my girlfriend. I don't want to settle for life as a man only from the waist up."

Chris is a 35-year-old electronic engineer. He made the decision to reassign his gender five years ago and like Tom was determined to become a man in the fullest sense of the word. He opted to have phalloplastic surgery. "I knew about the risks involved. It's the first thing they tell you. But as far as I was concerned I couldn't be a real man without a functioning penis." Surgery lasted three hours and Chris woke up to find himself with a new sex organ. Things were fine for a couple of months but then he lost feeling, the blood supply failed and the organ itself began to slowly wither away. Eventually surgeons made the decision to

remove it. That was two years ago and Chris is still coming to terms with it. "I feel I've lost something really fundamental to my being. I know that I'm still the same person with the same thoughts and feelings. My friends and girlfriend don't treat me any differently but deep down I feel a fraud."

"When people approach us for initial counselling I always advise them to avoid phalloplastic surgery," says Fran Springfield. "I've also counselled people who've gone ahead with surgery and then regretted it because it hasn't turned out the way they thought it would. It's not possible for surgeons to construct a penis that can support a urethra and be capable of penetrative sex. You can have one or the other but that's all."

It isn't all bad news. Those who decide to stop short of full phalloplastic surgery don't seem to lose out. One of the effects of taking male hormones is an enlarged and extra-sensitive clitoris, which a lot of people use as a small phallus. Of course, it's not big enough for penetrative sex but it doesn't prevent many TS males from enjoying a regular and satisfying sex life. And unlike a large number of their male-to-female counterparts, many female-to-male transsexuals manage to have stable sexual relationships with heterosexual women. Some even go on to raise families together with the help of donated sperm and artificial insemination. Nigel and Susan have been together four years and with the help of a male friend they are the proud parents of an 18-month-old baby. The only fly in the ointment as far as they're concerned is that, as the law currently stands, Nigel's name cannot appear on the birth certificate as the baby's father. "It's not really important on a day-to-day basis," says Nigel. "As far as I'm concerned I'm his dad, he's my son and that's all there is to it. But on a practical level it's difficult. He can't travel on my passport or have my name. If Susan dies I'll have to apply to become his legal guardian and if that doesn't work I'll lose him."

For some TS males phalloplastic surgery and parentage have become feminist issues. "It's pretty obvious that TS females receive much better treatment," says Andy, a TS male and campaigner. "They don't have to wait half as long as we do for surgery and they're almost guaranteed a good result because far more money and research has gone into that type of gender reassignment. "As far as parenting, the common feeling seems to be that while a TS female can assume the role of mother without any problems TS males can never really be proper fathers. We're working hard to change things but without the co-operation of surgeons, the authorities and society as a whole TS males will be forced to accept life as virtual hermaphrodites and live in fear of losing their kids."

[Editor's note: It sure seems things are different in London! The phalloplasty procedures described here seem rather primitive. And while the institution of socialized medicine is an eco-

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What A Long Strange Trip It's Been— SoCal Outreach: Under Construction

I have just returned from the FTM Conference of the Americas and feel inspired! I only found out about the FTM organization last spring and it has changed my life! Before I start into my story, I want to acknowledge all of the individuals who made this experience (the conference and newsletter) possible. As was the case with those who had helped me earlier in my life journey, you may never fully appreciate the impact you have on others! Thank you, especially Jude and Jeff! My story differs slightly from those that I have read or heard about. I was compelled to write this letter after reading Michael M. Hernandez's article concerning "Presentation for Law Conference" in the 1995 *Chrysalis* publication Vol. 2(2)23-26, which was distributed at the FTM Conference. In this article, Mr. Hernandez, an attorney, whom I met briefly at the conference, states "we must each walk the path of our own choice, whether it be straight, narrow or curvy, or uphill at a 90-degree angle. We can cry, laugh, and talk about our fears with at least one person, whether it be a friend, lover, or a member of our community, or for those of us who are less fortunate, with a therapist, or in the modern age, by plugging into cyberspace." This quote concerned me a great deal. It somewhat parallels my experience at a recent FTM support group in Southern California. This was the first FTM group I had attended in 16 years! In attending this group, I was able to appreciate how much I had change—for the better and for the worse. My reason for attending the group was to find out current information about urinary reconstruction after phalloplasty but I ended up finding out a whole lot more! I realized that my journey was slightly different than those attending. No one there had transitioned and then become a member of the established/mainstream health care community. In fact, most of the more than twenty people there were just starting their transitions. They asked me questions about things that I had actually forgotten had ever happened to me (e.g. the awkwardness of the initial hormonal changes on the body, life on hormones but before mastectomy, etc.). I began to realize that they had as little or less information than I had fifteen years ago. I began to feel their pain and realized that I had only wanted to believe that things must have changed since I started my transition. Obviously, this false belief had allowed me to feel that there was no need to offer my help to the community. What I learned this summer was that I had been dead wrong! I transitioned in a rather sneaky and fortunate way. I started hormones in the

summer between my sophomore and junior years in college (age 20). Before school started in September, I went to the registrar and told them that they (this major University who had a very disorganized registration system) had made a mistake with my name. The woman took a long look at a youngish looking but hypermature sounding man and said, "Oh, how terrible. I'll change your name. I'm sorry." Just like that, I was able to continue on with my studies at the same university. I also had made sure not to declare a major as a freshman or sophomore in order that I wouldn't be taking classes with the same students until I had transitioned. The only negative incident I recall was when a young journalism student, who said she had taken a previous class with me (prior to my transition), approached me and said she "wanted" to do a story. This was in 1979—fortunately prior to the tabloid feeding frenzy—and I simply told her that she would never make it as a journalist by playing up the misfortunes of others. I assertively requested that she respect my privacy and vaguely threatened to talk to the school of journalism. I was terrified inside, but she backed down. It pays to be assertive! Attending the FTM conference made me appreciate how fortunate I have been in this instance and in many others. I was inspired to pursue a career in clinical psychology after having horrendous experiences with mental health professionals in Southern California as a child, adolescent and adult. The most unfortunate thing is that I have not had the courage to act upon the roots of this inspiration until now. Up until last weekend, I had become content (so I thought) to retire into the safe and successful career that I had created for myself in an ultraconservative area, where no one knows nor suspects anything about my past. Another noteworthy factor in my "closeting" is that an FTM man, with whom I went through the early stages of the transition, was brutally murdered in 1986, in a manner similar to the murder of Brandon Teena. The murderer's defense attorney tried to assert that the homicide was justified because when my friend was killed in the shower, the killer was "justifiably horrified by what he saw." This whole incident made me fear for my own life. I had trouble accepting that the hatred that was shown to me growing up by children and adults alike was still thriving! In the last few months of meeting many FTM folks, I have sadly learned that things have not changed in the mental health field since I encountered problems with overcharging, ignorance, demeaning attitudes, etc., over 20 years ago! I

was appalled and realized that I had fallen short of the goal that I set out to achieve when I applied to graduate school in 1981. In my application, I responded to the question "What would you like to contribute to the field of clinical psychology?" by stating that I wanted to open up a world center for the study of gender issues. I have been told that my grandiosity at the age of twenty one helped me to gain entrance to this very competitive program. I have not only very established a gender center but have done little to help our brothers as a therapist. I feel that I am in the somewhat unique position of being able to be a spokesperson for us (that feels good to use the term "us") to the mental health community. I have jumped through all of their conservative hoops and hope that now my views will be heard by all the mental health "mainstream." I would like to extend my ears and arms to all those reading this newsletter to let me know how I can help. Tell me your horror stories and your needs. I need as much information as I can acquire to try to correct the problems that exist. You should not stand for this treatment! To complete my rambling letter, I will close with Mr. Hernandez's quote. What disturbed me about this was that I don't feel that those who seek out a therapist need to feel unfortunate. My clients say that they feel fortunate to come to me. I try to be empathic, understanding, and an advocate. I work with a disenfranchised group of people and provide home visits when they are unable to come to the office. I also wear the hats of physician and social worker when needed. I sometimes will see folks in their homes for \$44 a session, which may mean that it takes me two hours with travel time. I have still been able to earn a decent living! Please know that there are other caring mental health professionals out there. We just need to find them! In going through this journey (mastectomy 1980, phalloplasty 1988, urethroplasty 1996—hopefully—if forearm hair will cooperate!), I have certainly come to believe that we essentially have a social problem. As my greatest supporter/mentor and without whom I would not be where I am today, Jude Patton, MFCT, PAC, has said, "we still see the world through the same eyes, the world just sees us differently." When my clients have "social problems," they need and respond to lots of support. Please don't deny yourself this (as Mr. Hernandez asks of you as well). It is my belief that our lives will be unique from those of others who have not shared this journey until the

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We're Here and We're Queer

by Gary Bowen

In the last six months that I've been involved with formal transsexual support groups, I've noticed an unpleasant dichotomy: transsexuals are quick to distance themselves from homosexuals, insisting that they're heterosexual, then complain when they feel excluded by the gay community. You can't have it both ways.

The way I see it, transsexuality is a legitimate orientation of its own, neither homosexual nor heterosexual. What do you call a man who thinks of himself as a woman and prefers to have intimate relationships with women? Straight? Or lesbian? Neither term is really an accurate reflection of a transsexual's orientation. Transsexual women who insist they are heterosexual are clinging to their old masculine identity, still trying to fit themselves into that old mold of one from Column A and one from Column B. We're the third sex, folks: Column C. It's time to be proud of it.

As a third sex, we are definitely queer. That's a rude word that offends many people, but look at it honestly: by heterosexual standards we are very

queer birds indeed. As such we have much in common with other sexual minorities; we are harassed, humiliated, discriminated against in employment, deprived of parental rights, access to insurance, and other resources and privileges that heterosexual people take for granted. Why in the world would we want to claim to be a member of the social group that ostracizes and demeans us? I'm a transsexual man, and as such I'm harassed for failing to live up to the expectations of a heterosexual woman (that I be sexy to straight men); harassed for being a "faggot"; and harassed for being a "dyke." The heterosexual community doesn't make distinctions, they lump us all together because they don't want to deal with any of us. Us queers, while recognizing and celebrating our uniqueness, must not imitate the heterosexual practice of being phobic towards people who are, when you get right down to it, only a little bit different than ourselves.

We all want to live our lives in peace, we all want a decent place to live, to walk down the sidewalk without fear, to be secure in our employment know-

ing that we will be judged by our performance and not according to our boss' prejudices, and to be members of loving families and have supportive friends, and to be respected in our places of worship. In short, all people, of all orientations, heterosexual, homosexual, and transsexual, share the desire to live with dignity. We need to stop feeling defensive, to stop claiming to be somehow different, better, or separate from those other despised minorities who are targeted by the mainstream powers. Instead of letting the prejudices of people who are inimical to our existence dictate our behavior, we must be brave, digest the insults, and restate them as sources of pride. Yes, I am queer. And proud of it.

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The Mid-Atlantic f2mlist, a support group for women dealing with issues of masculinity in their personal lives, and those who support them, can be reached care of the same address, or at Internet f2mlist@tantalus.clark.net.

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10th. We'll be sure your ideas are considered, and we'll respond with a report on any discussion of your ideas or concerns if you give us your contact information. We don't want anyone to feel left out of this process, that's why we're inviting your participation and giving so much advance notice. Now, don't forget, and don't complain that you weren't included! This won't be your last chance to get involved, but it is your only chance to get in on the ground floor. If you have any interest at all in working for the FTM community through the structure of a legitimate non-profit organization, and you think FTM International has the infrastructure and integrity to grow into such an organization, please participate in whatever way you are able. I look forward to hearing from you, or seeing you on December 13th!

Other important events have occurred since the Conference that you should know about: the Southern Comfort Conference in Atlanta, and Transgender Lobby Days in Washington, D.C. I had the honor of giving the keynote speech at Southern Comfort (the first time an FTM has been invited to do so) thanks to Maxwell Anderson who was the TS Track Coordinator.

Maxwell brought in three surgeons to talk about FTM procedures, Dr. Meltzer from Oregon, and Dr. Menard and his associate Dr. Brassard from Montreal, Quebec, Canada. All of them discussed phalloplasty at length. The Canadian team is very enthusiastic about their abilities, and their prices are certainly very reasonable. Of course, I am waiting to hear from men who have undergone these procedures so we can publish their accounts for the benefit of all readers. Dr. Meltzer also performs the metoidioplasty procedure; several of his patients have written to the Newsletter in the past. Chest reconstruction is also performed in both locations; they are listed in the FTM Resource Guide, or contact us for more information. Also at the Southern Comfort Conference, Tony, a Deputy Sheriff in Florida, announced the formation of the organization TOPS, Transgendered Officers Protect & Serve, a support group for transgendered and transsexual police and fire officers, of which Stephan Thorne is also a member. The announcement was filmed by a crew from NBC's 20/20 television show, which will be running a segment on Tony and TOPS in November. The film crew

followed us to Washington, D.C., where Riki Anne Wilchins and Phyllis Randolph Frye organized about 90 TG/TS people into lobbyists cruising the halls of Congress to introduce ourselves to the legislative aides of every Senator and Representative, letting them know we are not stereotypes, we live in their districts, and we vote. We gave a press conference on the lawn in front of the Capitol (I was asked to speak at the last minute), and it was just like you see on television with all the microphones in your face and huge cameras pointing at you. I was very nervous. Of course, the O.J. Simpson jury came back with a verdict that day and that took up all the airtime, but I'm sure the Family Channel (which was there) will be using the footage in their anti-homosexual, anti-trans propaganda. We were very well received, though, in general, and I think we had a positive and educational impact on many people. We also participated in a demonstration protesting the treatment of a transsexual woman who was jeered at by paramedics who were supposed to be saving her life not laughing at her. Our action brought D.C. Mayor Marion Barry out of his office to talk with us, and

also got a meeting between our own TOPS representatives and the D.C. Fire Chief, who supervises the paramedic service, so they could express the concerns of transpeople. All in all, a very busy season for the burgeoning trans movement. We have a long way to go, and a lot of determination to get there. It is exciting to see this community building and finding a unified political voice that is inclusive.

Just one more thing before I close this column. I want to thank everyone who expressed their support for me this summer in a time of great stress and grief for me. My mother became very ill just as the Conference planning hit full swing, and she died just a few weeks before the Conference. It was very difficult for me to focus, I had much to deal with both emotionally and logistically through that time, and some of the issues are still unresolved. Thank you to everyone who has been waiting for a response from me; I appreciate your patience, and I'm trying to catch up before the end of the year. And thank you to all whose sympathy came from their own experience of a similar loss. I am very grateful for your understanding and your friendship.

What's in a Name?

Common Law Name Change for Transsexuals

Gary Bowen

Changing your name without the assistance of a lawyer is simple and not particularly time consuming, in spite of horror stories to the contrary. (Mostly spread by lawyers, I assume.) First, let me say that I am writing this article for the assistance of transsexuals in transition and not to defraud any individual. Do not use a name change to dodge debts or other responsibilities; part of transitioning is not only embracing who we are becoming, but coming to terms with who we have been. Bearing responsibility for our past debts and mistakes is the only proper way to begin our new lives. That said, the first step is to obtain your therapist's cooperation (or whomever is overseeing your transition) as they will prove useful at several points later on. You can make a name change and even a common law gender change without the assistance of a professional, and full details will be provided for either approach.

SOCIAL SECURITY CARD. The first document you must obtain is a Social Security card in your new name. To do this, you must present Social Security with one document showing both old and new name, such as a marriage certificate or divorce decree. Lacking that, you need to show two pieces of ID, one with the old name, one with the new name. Adequate ID are as follows: driver's license (this is the toughest to change, I recommend leaving it to last), US gov't or state gov't employee ID card, marriage or divorce certificate, passport, school ID, record, or report card, health insurance card, insurance policy, clinic, doctor, or hospital records (a letter from your therapist, for example; hospital birth records are not acceptable), military records, court order for name change, adoption records, church membership or confirmation records (not acceptable as proof of age). Social Security will NOT accept a birth certificate or hospital birth record as identification. Further, if you were born outside of the United States, you need to provide proof of US citizenship or lawful alien status.

Social Security must see original

documents, or else certified copies made by the county clerk or other official whose duty it is to keep the records. Photocopies and notarized copies are not acceptable. Once you have the coveted Social Security card, it should be possible to change bank accounts, employment records, school records, utility bills, etc. The sticking point will be your driver's license.

DRIVER'S LICENSE. States differ, you will have to contact your local bureau to find out what procedure and identification is required in your case. In Maryland there are three ways to change the name on your driver's license: marriage, divorce, and common law name change. Assuming that the first two do not apply to your situation, I'll skip them. To obtain a common law name change in Maryland, you will need to present ALL of the following ID: birth certificate (old name), social security card (new name), two forms of other ID showing your new name, such as utility bills or medical records. While my local bureau did not give me a list of acceptable ID, I presume they would accept the same documents as Social Security. Voila, you have a new name!

HOW TO CHANGE GENDER. You will note, however, that the above procedure has changed your name only. You will have to decide if you can live with the "inappropriate" gender marked on ID. This is not so bad, clerks rarely check ID for check writing, all they want is your driver's license number. I went four years without clerks noticing that my address on my checks was different than the address on my driver's license. To circumvent this, have your driver's license number printed on your checks, then the clerks will only check that your picture matches your face. However, if you are determined to attempt a common law gender change, you are entering murky waters, which will be both a boon and a risk. Social Security has no established procedure for gender changes, so you will be at the mercy of whomever processes your name change form. However—there's no rule against it, either.

SOCIAL SECURITY GENDER CHANGE. When you fill out the application for name change, mark the box of your choice for gender. You can be brave and hope they process it through without bothering to cross check the gender with the old records (it might happen), or you can provide them with an explanation. Add a note to the application telling them that you are a transsexual in transition and that you want your new gender listed in the record. Supply the therapist's number for them to call if they need confirmation or have questions. Be sure and give your therapist a WRITTEN statement of permission to discuss your case for this purpose. A verbal permission is not adequate, should your therapist be challenged on it. This is for your therapist's protection; your medical records are private and they have no right to discuss them without your permission. Assuming that Social Security accepts your gender change, the Social Security records can be used to change all subsequent records. If Social Security does not accept your gender change, you can ask your therapist to intervene upon your behalf. Other transsexuals have made their gender changes with exactly the same information provided here. If you are denied, ask your local support group for help. Beating them over the head with the fact that they have approved other people with the same level of documentation will prove a powerful argument compelling them to approve you too. However, you can perform a gender change another way: through bodily evidence. Simply allow enough time for the hormones to alter your face to the gender you desire, then go into the Social Security office (or whatever agency you need ID from) and say, "Excuse me, there seems to be a mistake on my records..."

Update: After a particularly harrowing avalanche of paperwork from the Maryland Department of Motor Vehicles it seems possible to get your gender changed on a Maryland driver's license simply by requesting a "correction to driver's license," like they use for address changes and name changes, supported by a letter from your physician. I have not actually put this to the test, but it seems to be the gist of my visit to the locked room with Corporal Darnell. (And thereby hangs a tale...)

Ask Marie

Dear Marie:

I have been trying to get the answer to these questions for years now. I have been on testosterone for over five years now. I have a 2" phallus. Actually from base to end it's 2" but from a normal position standing up without pulling it out it's only an inch and a half. I want to get the metoidioplasty. I understand they can pull 3-4 cm. out—correct? That would make me satisfied with the length, but what about the glans? Can they use skin grafts to widen or thicken the "head" to make it proportionate to the shaft? Also, if they pulled the remaining clitoris tissue and erectile tissue out, would that mean that I would not be able to have semi-erections like I do now, because there would be no erectile tissue left inside? After the surgery, could it continue to grow (like it is now), and, I am curious, what is the longest a clitoris/phallus could grow with the testosterone? And since I have not had a hysterectomy yet, would it grow more or faster? I guess what I'm trying to find out is if I grew to have a two and a half inch phallus, could I then after metoidioplasty have a normal looking penis with semi-erections? Also, my waist is still narrow. Is there any type of surgery to widen the fat or narrow the hips? Would I change more if I had the hysterectomy?

I want you to know I am so happy for finally getting in touch with other transsexuals and people who care. I'm 24 and have

been alone all my life until now with many unanswered questions and concerns. Thank you so much.

Beyond Curiosity

P.S. Are there any prosthetic devices (soft, flaccid rubber penises) that we can purchase anywhere to create a bulge for everyday living? It's frustrating having to stuff my pants like I did when I was a kid. It doesn't look "normal" with tight pants, especially when you sit.

Dear Beyond Curiosity:

I will try to answer your questions.

The effect of testosterone on clitoral size is limited, so the clitoris generally does not increase in size after two years of therapy. The metoidioplasty is a procedure to make the clitoris appear larger through rearrangement of the genitalia. The clitoris is partially released from its attachments to the pubic bone, increasing length slightly. The labia (outer vaginal lips) are moved down to form a neoscrotum; the labia minora (inner vaginal lips) are converted into a male urethra (urinary channel) and used to cover the underside of the clitoris; and the mons pubis or the lower abdominal fat and excess skin are removed by excision or liposuction. The downward curvature of the clitoris is released to make the semi-erections straight. No negative effect on the ability to have semi-erections occurs. By these procedures, the clitoris

is moved up about one inch and appears larger. An increase of clitoral size of over one to one and a half inches is probably not realistic. No procedure is available to increase the size of the glans (head) of the clitoris. The phallus size is generally not large enough to achieve intravaginal penetration and has the appearance of a small boy's penis, but the metoidioplasty does fulfill the legal requirement for a sex change.

Narrowing the hips is possible by liposuction, but no narrowing of the bony structure can be done. A hysterectomy has no effect on body or genital appearance. Removal of the ovaries eliminates female hormones, but these hormones are probably suppressed if adequate doses of testosterone are being taken. I hope this answers your questions adequately.

Sincerely, Gary J. Alter, MD

Assistant Clinical Professor Division of Plastic Surgery University of California at Los Angeles

Reference: Laub DL, Eicher W, Laub DL II, Hentz VR: *Penis Construction in Female-To-Male Transsexuals; Plastic Surgery of the Sexually Handicapped*; Eds: Eicher W, Kubli, Herms; Springer-Verlag, Berlin 1989 p.113-128.

[Also, there are many types of prosthetic penises. Good ones are available from Rhonnie Reed. Phone him at 415-566-5079. Many guys make their own out of condoms filled with hair gel.—James]

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nomie plus when it comes to paying for medical procedures, it seems to be a hindrance with respect to parenting because the system doesn't allow for a full, legal transition for the man and at the same time it supervises the birth process for his wife and child and therefore must effectively exclude the FTM from the family group. This causes men to live in a state-imposed limbo. Too bad this article didn't go on to talk about the efforts of the lobbying group Press For Change which is working with Members of Parliament to overturn the oppressive legal system in the UK and Europe. Unfortunately,

many people think the systematic oppression of transsexuals is perfectly acceptable. Articles like this one just scrape the surface. We need to find a way to get into mainstream print the positive changes we are making in the political and legal arenas, and the need for improvements in medical treatment, too. We can do it, but it will take long and concentrated effort. Best wishes to our brothers in the UK in their continued fight for justice. And perhaps some of our Southern California brothers would like to visit the girls in San Diego and let them know how things are for TS men in the USA.—James]

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day we die. Please let me help us.

If a need is identified, I also am considering starting a "drop in" support/consciousness raising group, perhaps monthly, free of charge except for donations for the office rent. These groups will not be therapy groups but more of a topic specific group to serve as a supplement to the quarterly Under Construction groups organized by Jeff Shevlowitz. This idea has already received favorable feedback from some folks in the Under Construction group. Topics could include how to interview a potential therapist, how to know

when someone is violating your rights/and or the HBGDA guidelines, the social and psychological issues of deciding how and whom to tell, etc. The topics will also come from your suggestions and needs. I have at least two office locations, which can be available for Sunday groups. I may be able to rent an office in another area of Southern California if people's needs require it.

I have also begun to network with Marie Keller, MFCT, of the L.A. Gender Center, Jan Eder, Ph.D., a researcher in San Diego, and Alice Webb of the Harry Benjamin Association to help them

to help us.

Thanks for letting me tell my story. "What a long strange trip it's been" (the late Jerry Garcia).

I will remain anonymous in print in order that my position in the professional community will not be compromised (i.e., they will merely see me as a "consumer") before I have even begun my attempt to educate them. We all know about the prejudice and bigotry that's still out there!

Please send your wisdom to: Under Construction Outreach Project, P.O. Box 922342, Sylmar, CA 91392.

Coming Out

James:

From reading, it appears the most difficult part of transitioning F to M is telling and dealing with the reactions of family and friends. It seems that rejection is an inevitable part of the whole ordeal.

My question is why is this necessary? I've lived away from family 8 years. Our relationship is more and more distant. Currently one relative I speak to maybe twice a year. Another I haven't seen or communicated with in two years. I would prefer to avoid the conflict with the big announcement of a gender change, and just "disappear" (i.e., say I moved out of country or something). Will you comment on pros/cons of avoidance vs. perhaps unnecessary announcements. Thank you.

M. Morgan Orlando, FL

James responds:

Well, I've always said that "Family" is nature's way of teaching you how to get along with people you might never have chosen as friends. It's necessary to learn how to relate to people who are different, and family—in the best of circumstances—provides a foundation of unconditional love (though that love may be strained and tested sometimes) which gives self-esteem and confidence in life. Many people, however, are not so blessed. In our society we have an agreed-upon notion of what the ideal family looks like (is it Mom, Dad, Wally and The Beaver?), and when ours doesn't measure up to that very artificial image we may feel guilty or deficient or wrong somehow; we may develop our capacity for independence as a measure of self-protection, or we may turn come to loathe ourselves and cut ourselves off as a form of self-punishment. Many people, for many reasons, break ties with some or all of their family members; it's just that our "family values" society frowns on this behavior, so people rarely discuss it, or if they do it is with the implicit understanding that it is wrong to walk away from family unless one is doing so in self defense, and then only in cases of extreme mortal danger. The only reason you need to discuss your transition with people from your past is if you want to maintain a relationship with them. But sometimes you don't get to make all the decisions in such matters. All relationships (even families) are two-way streets, and no one person gets to make all the decisions about the form the relationship takes. Suppose you were to receive an inheritance and an investiga-

tor was dispatched to locate you? Or suppose somewhere down the line a cousin or a niece decides she wants to search out her family tree and look everyone up? Your transition could be discovered, and once a secret is revealed it has a power of its own. If you are willing to risk the possibility of being surprised someday, and you really have NO intention of maintaining family ties, why bother with the confrontation? Family continuity and connection is a matter of personal choice, and each man's circumstances will dictate his actions. If the family of your birth cannot support you, or you are not willing to hazard a long resistance that you know will end in your own defeat. I hope you are someday able to find another kind of family where you will receive the unconditional love we all need. Perhaps you have found it already. Best of luck to you. —James

Dear FTM International:

Thanks

To all who put the FTM Conference together, I am not FTM. I am a spirit who is closer to the midline/androgynous. I came to the FTM Conference for reasons outside of myself. But I walked away with a new level of courage, of hope, of self-acceptance, that I never expected. Thank you for giving us all the opportunity to take one (or ten) step(s) closer to feeling it's okay to be ourselves, to feeling a bit more comfortable in an off the rack, "2 sizes fits all" world. Thank you for the freedom.

With love and sincerity, Patt Riese

Dear FTM International,

Congratulations

I read the article about your conference in the San Francisco Bay Times. Congratulations! FANTASTIC! You have my wholehearted support. Being a man is not about having a penis any more than being a woman is about having breasts and hips. Life and human nature is much too rich and complex to be reduced to the simple-minded concepts of sex and sexuality that our language and our society adhere to.

I do hope to see larger published works coming out of this movement. It deserves much thought and much attention. When people can think clearly about FTMs, we will know that their minds are free at last. You guys are truly on the forefront of the sex/gender/duality struggle, and I wish you well with all my heart, and I will do all I can to forward

your freedom.

Isabel Toth

Letter to HRCF

Letter to HRCF

Elizabeth Birch, Executive Director
Human Rights Campaign Fund, 1101-
14th Street N.W. Suite 200, Washington,
D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Birch:

Until this week, I had regarded HRCF as the most effective lobby in Washington for our interests. I admired the imagination and diversity of your efforts for effective pressure on Congress and the Administration. This week, I learned something that has caused me great outrage and grief, and has moved me, with great regret, to terminate my membership in HRCF. According to the latest issue of FTM Newsletter [#31, page 6], when the ENDA bill was introduced into Congress, HRCF "actively worked to exclude transpeople from the language of the bill." The details in this news item make clear that such was the case. That's outrageous. First, let me note that I never recall reading about this in any of your publications, and I read my political newsletters pretty carefully, every page. Nor was this decision ever put to the views of the membership. What happened to democracy? Like so many so-called liberal organizations (ie. Amnesty International and its long fight to exclude gay prisoners of conscience) are you running HRCF in-house, without either consulting or informing the membership that supports you, and for whom you are purportedly working? (I realize that some of these events may have occurred before you, yourself, took the reins of the organization. My remarks must be directed in plural to the Board as a whole.) As regards the decision itself, I understand what motivated it. Political expediency is sometimes necessary. I understand the strategy of getting the foot in the door. Having been politically active in my own little pond, I understand what the rationale will be. But one must draw the line somewhere. This is but one more act in the exclusionary, yes, transphobic behavior of the gay community. It notifies a large number of queer individuals that you don't give a damn about them. To understand why this decision is insupportable you must understand that there is no dividing line between gays and transgendered people. Yes, some gay men and lesbians are not transgendered. But many

Continued Page 14

networking

FTM Partners Network

When I agreed to step in at the last minute to co-facilitate the Friends, Family and Partners workshops with Michiko Bailey at the FTM conference, I vaguely envisioned a dozen or so people sitting around in a tight intimate circle sharing our emotions. So when over 60 people piled into the morning session, I was a bit taken aback. Though the session was, inevitably, somewhat of a free-for-all, it was clear that people were deeply moved just by virtue of sitting in a room with so many others who had concerns similar to theirs. The afternoon session, for partners only, was almost as well attended. Recurring themes that came up were feeling invisible while our partners receive so much attention, especially during transition; sexual identity issues; sexism both within the relationship and in the culture; coming out to friends, family, co-workers; and, of course, sex.

People exchanged names and addresses; following the conference Kathy Bobula took the initiative and started publishing a newsletter for partners. To submit materials or receive a newsletter, contact **Kathy** at PF3TM Newsletter, 4623 N. Mississippi Avenue, Portland, OR 97217-3138 or email to bobuka@ooi.clark.edu Also feel free to e-mail me at Marquest@aol.com. I hope that at the next FTM conference we will be able to organize an entire track for partners comprised of separate workshops that will focus in on the issues that concern us.—**Marcy Sheiner**

Phalloplasty Questions

Dear James: I have been on hormones for almost two years. I have had a hysterectomy and my top surgery and am now hoping to have phalloplasty surgery soon. I have researched this as much as possible from medical journals, texts etc. When I first began my journey I was very seriously considering the radial forearm flap; to have a sensate penis through which I could also urinate sounded ideal. Through my research I learned of the many complications possible with this type of phalloplasty, not to mention the large amount of scarring left at the donor site, i.e. the forearm. I am very much into body building and even though I thought I might be able to withstand any complications I was not prepared to forever live with a glaring scar on my forearm. (After reading Martin's story in the July '95 FTM issue (#31, page 8) I am now certain I do not want the radial forearm flap phalloplasty.) I have pretty much decided to have the two stage abdominal tube flap. I would like to hear from anyone out there that has had this done, the successes, the failures, surgeons, costs, etc. I feel quite secluded up here so even if anyone would just like to correspond I would be happy to hear from you.

James, thanks for an excellent newsletter. I sure hope you find somebody to take over for you.

Nick Hubbard ■ Sandstone Rd. N.W. Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3K 2X1

P.S. Regarding your question on steroid use in athletes: we as FTMs use testosterone cypionate; this has primarily androgenic effects which result in secondary sex characteristic among other things. Body builders and other athletes use preparations with mainly anabolic effects such as stanozolol (Winstrol) or with mixed androgen/anabolic effects such as nandrolone phenpropionate (Durabolin) or nandrolone decanoate (Deca-Durabola). Not sure of doses or frequency of use in these athletes but recommended doses are likely lower.

[James responds: Nick, thanks so much for the steroids information. I hope you will get some responses on your phalloplasty questions, and I hope the respondents will be willing to write in to the FTM Newsletter as well, to share their stories more widely. And, check my article "Life Complicates Life" for the specifics on the great team of guys who will be running the newsletter next year and forward.]

Cautions on Outing

Dear FTM: Sometimes, some of our members can do us a disservice. The conclusion of the FTM Conference ended on a high note and many of us left whelmed nearly to tears. A few expressed their high spiritedness by forgetting that they and others have to go back to the real world—a world that is not ready for us yet. They were "outing" themselves, and others without permission; where people have to live and need a sense of safety and peace. One merchant who was told the good news reacted very violently. Service attendants became upset and confused when a few "outed" a group of us in establishments around town. Brandon Teena was outed and was murdered because people were naive, threatened, and intolerant. The same crime for same reasons can happen in a big city as well. The world is not ready for us for a myriad of reasons. We will let the world know about us step by step. For a lot of us, it took a lot of courage to come in union. This historical event marked our community's advance to the front of the transgendered movement. I just wanted to express that we as a community and as individuals cannot lose sight of the common goal for freedom and inclusion; even in the wake of exuberance. Nonetheless, it was a fantastic weekend. My natural high lasted a couple of days and my world is not the same as it was before. **Thanks, A Member**

[James responds: Dear Member, thank you for reminding us that we must remain aware of others' needs for confidentiality. It is an important balancing act that each of us must learn to perform:

we are each responsible for our own expression of identity, and we have no right to express someone else's identity for him or her, under any circumstances.]

Portland FTM Seeks Others

I am a gay-identified FTM just beginning to take myself seriously and have started to make some connections and friends in the TS community here and educate myself about being transsexual. But I'm feeling very isolated from others like me (Portland is a great place, but it's no San Francisco) and would love to correspond with other gay FTMs, to generate a community-by-mail, compare our experiences of reality, masculinity, sexuality, etc. I'd also appreciate letters of support from anyone. Thanks. **Adrian Dee, PO Box 14521, Portland, OR 97214.**

N.C M-F Wants to Meet FTM

M-to-F pre-op, 39 years old, wishes to correspond with a meet F-to-Ms in the Carolinas. I am very understanding and open. **Terri Duncan, P.O. Box 5247, Conover, NC 28613.**

Eugene, OR Artist Seeks...

Lisa, a performance artist in Eugene, Oregon, is looking for resource subjects for her exploration of identity, motives, problems, freedoms experienced by female-to-male or female-to-other-than-male people. Contact gladstone@uoregon.edu or call [503-253-1234](tel:503-253-1234).

Surgery By Menard?

Dear FTM, I am a 33 year old FTM who would very much like to hear from any other FTMs who have had (or are planning to have in the near future) surgery with Dr. Yvon Menard. I am especially interested in hearing from those who have had phalloplasty with him. I went up to Montreal last October and met with Dr. Menard and was very impressed, but I need to speak with those who have had surgeries with him to see what the results are like from those actually living with them. Also, if anyone would like information about the SRS team in Norfolk, VA (with Dr. David Gilbert), I have seen several FTMs go through the program here and I have had the mastectomy and hysterectomy with them, and would be glad to share info with anyone considering surgery with them. Please write to: **David Hernandez** ■ Rexford Drive, Newport News, VA 23608.

Graphic Artist Wanted: Boston

The International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) needs an in-house graphic artist/art director for its magazine, Transgender

CONTINUED PAGE 14

MORE NETWORKING

(formerly TV/TS Tapestry). Work closely with the editor to design and layout each issue. Perform all pre-press production using WordPerfect, Aldus PageMaker, Old Photo (scanning package) and CorelDraw. Knowledge of color separations required. Contact **Jean Marie Stine, Editor**, or **Yvonne Cook-Riley, Operations Manager**, 617-899-2212, 2p.m. to 10p.m. weekdays.

Surgery Photos Wanted

Dear Gentlemen & Brothers: Please earnestly consider my request. I'm the Program Coordinator for Southern Comfort '96, and am putting together a comprehensive presentation for the Southern Comfort Conference in Atlanta, Georgia on "Understanding FTMs". It's my hope to encourage the female transgendered population (MTF & CD) to attend this seminar to gain a better understanding of who we are and what we go through. I wish to dispel the many myths and misconceptions that exist about us. Too often it has been stated that we either don't exist or because we have it so easy, we can just disappear. It's time we make ourselves known. We exist and we don't always have it easy. In general, we are the poorest, financially, in the transgender community and our surgeries often leave us scarred, mutilated, or deformed. Of course, there are good results as well. I wish to present a panel of FTMs, first-hand accounts of various experiences, and a slide presentation of our bodies. I am asking for your input. I know that this will be hard for some who have had bad results from their surgeries. What I would like are photographs of your surgery, Top & Bottom, as well as photos of other areas of the body which may have been used for skin grafts and such. I want pictures whether you are scarred or not. Pictures that show results, whether favorable or not. I also want pictures of those who have noticed changes in their

bodies but as of yet, have not had any surgery. No faces or names, just body parts. I'd like the photo, Surgeon's name, and full address if you have it, date of surgery, and when the photo was taken. I'm the only one who'll know who the picture belongs to. You don't have to say who you are, just leave off a return name and address. I assure complete anonymity. Newly transitioning FTMs will be able to see results from those who truly know what their bodies look like. Women in the community may gain better insight into who we are and what we go through in our journeys. The benefits will outweigh any anxiety you may feel about exposing yourself. I'm asking you as a brother to help us gain the respect we deserve and take our rightful place beside our sisters. Please mail photos and info to: **Maxwell Anderson, P.O. Box 1692, Pompano Beach, FL 33061-1692**, [redacted]. E-Mail address: [redacted]@aol.com. Thank you for your courage and prompt response. In Brotherhood, with respect, **Maxwell**

TransFag Media Blitz

trans/FAGs, the first book by, for and about gay and bi FTMs, is accepting submissions through 1995. Fiction, poetry, art and photography are particularly requested, as most of what we received has been personal memoir. For a complete prospectus, email Transfags@aol.com or send SASE to **Elessar Press, 1259 El Camino Real, Suite 151, Menlo Park, CA 94025**. Submissions to the above addresses. Send SASE if you want your submission returned, and please ask before sending one-of-a-kind artworks. Co-editors C. Julian Leonard and Michael Hernandez need all you transfags to come forward with your creativity and talent to make this groundbreaking book truly multidisciplinary and representative of the full range of our experience. *TransFagRag*, the first international networking newsletter for gay/bi FTMs, genetic gay men seeking to meet them, and other supporters should be sending out its premiere

issue before the holidays. Subscribe and get to know interesting guys in the US, Canada, UK and France who share your interests and concerns. Submissions are needed—short features, editorials, reviews, gay resources guides in your area, cartoons, photos, whatever you'd like to share with your fellow transfags. Subscription is by donation for printing and postage, suggested \$5, but no one turned away for lack of funds. Send subscription requests, including how you would like to be listed in the newsletter (eg, name, address, phone, email address; any or all are fine and no listing is also fine if you must remain closeted), and donation (check or money order made out to C. Julian Leonard) to **Elessar Press, 1259 El Camino Real, Suite 151, Menlo Park, CA 94025**. Email Transfags@aol.com for more details. Frequency will be quarterly unless we get so much material we need to come out (pun intended) more often! **The Transfags Media Empire** has just added an e-zine, debuting in November with over 45 international subscribers! Network, share ideas and issues, dish! The zine comes out once or twice a week depending on submissions. This is NOT a mailing list that duplicates other lists and clogs up your mailbox, it's a forum for our transfag community to get to know one another, and the only one to focus on us and our unique issues as we move through transition and integrate into the gay male community. Be here and be queer! To subscribe email Transfags@aol.com.

Male to Male Mail

A new online mailing list focusing on news/comments/info of interest to the FTM/MtM community in all its variations and segments as well as their support team and partners invites you to get connected! To subscribe email **Aaron Davis** at MtMInFo@aol.com.

Continued on Back Page

many are. There are thousands of gay men who are more than "acceptably" feminine and thousands of lesbians who are more than "acceptably" masculine. I am one of the latter. There is no difference between me and my friend and colleague who took one more step and became a passing woman, or took two more steps and undertook sex reassignment hormonal treatment and surgery. Don't believe the garbage that sexologists write. Currently more and more lesbians are taking the step into a transgendered life, because they have learned it is possible. I, a 65 year old woman, a life-long butch lesbian, am now considering such a step. The persecution of transsexuals by the gay

and especially the lesbian community makes it pretty damn clear that we are not wanted. Many, many butch lesbians feel this exclusion. It is in this context that the decision to exclude transpeople is shameful and self-defeating. Former lesbians and former gay men, whether now passing or living as transpeople, are your closest allies. You have flung shit in our faces. For shame.

In conclusion, I hope that you and the Board will reconsider this action, and devote your efforts in future to the fight for the civil rights of all individuals who fall outside the heterosexual norm, be they gay, bisexual, transsexual, transgendered, or queer. When you do so, I will be happy to

join you again. **With sincere regret, Mildred Dickemann, Ph.D. Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, Sonoma State University (Twice Chair, Academic Senate; Co-founder, University of California Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association; former Vice-President, East Bay Lesbian-Gay Democratic Club; former Vice-President, Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California; former Co-Chair, Society of Lesbian and Gay Anthropologists.)**

[Editor's Note: On September 17, 1995, a meeting was held in Washington D.C. with Ms. Birch and other reps of HRCF and members of

Transsexual Menace and It's Time America. FTMs were represented by Gary Bowen and Kitt Kling. The result of this meeting was that HRCF has agreed to support transgender inclusion in hate crimes statistics reporting, an important first step in documenting the need for TG/TS inclusion in civil rights legislation, and HRCF has pledged to continue the dialog and build coalition in the context of ending violence and discrimination against TG/TS people. Congratulations and many thanks to the activists who worked so hard to make this happen, and to all the people, like Mildred, who wrote to protest HRCF's original stance against us. —James]

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FTM RESOURCES

UNITED STATES

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

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

Nature/Services: Open transgender support group. Newsletter is EdeNews
Massachusetts-East Coast Female-to-Male Group P.O. Box 60585, Florence Station, Northampton, MA 01060. Phone: (413) 584-7616 (Bet Power), (617) 926-7691 (Lonnie). Nature/Services: Support group for female-to-male persons and their significant others. *Enterprise*, P.O. Box 629, Jamaica Plain, Mass 02130-0006 (617) 3264. Contact: Harris Brown
BiMonthly FTM Group, c/o IFGE, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778, (617) 899-2212 - An FTM support group which meets at 7pm on the first and third Monday or every month in the offices of IFGE.

Wisconsin-Gemini Gender Group. PO Box 44211 Milwaukee, WI 53214. Voice mail #414-297-9328. Notes: My SO and I are the only FTMs who attend, but it's a really nice group of people and FTMs are DEFINITELY welcome (and people go out of their way to make FTMs comfortable). The local "professional" TG program in town is PATHWAYS, directed by Gretchen Fincke (and Roger Northway). The program offers a connection to endocrinologists, surgeons, etc. The program has separate FTM and MTF groups. Currently the FTM group has about 8-9 guys. Gretchen is always welcoming more FTMs! The phone # for Pathways is 414-774-4111. I may start a "social" support group for FTMs in the Chicago/Milwaukee areas. There seems to be a growing # of FTMs within these 2 cities and we have special needs and concerns that aren't getting addressed.- #414-276-8877. Michael.

INTERNATIONAL

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

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

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

United Kingdom

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

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

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

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Thanks for your continued support! 11-95

FTM Meeting Schedule 1996

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

Support

January 14, 1996

March, 10, 1996

May 12, 1996

July 14, 1996

Informational

December 10, 1995

February 11, 1996

April 14, 1996

June 9, 1996

FTM INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

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VOICEMAIL: 510-287-2646 E-Mail: FTM News@aol.com

Editor: James Green

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TransMale Task Force Needs You!

A new national networking, information, and activist group for FTMs/MtMs/TG Men was formed on America Online in November, probably the first gender group ever formed in cyberspace! The **TransMale Task Force** is a national network of people who identify as male, but were born with female anatomy, who are committed to creating action on major issues affecting our community. Members may self-identify as female-to-male (FTM/F2M) transsexual and transgendered, male-to-male (MTM/M2M), and more. Some are living full-time as male; others are considering or in the process of transition. Many have obtained or are seeking medical treatment to change their bodies to male. Membership of the TransMale Task Force is diverse, with many ages, races, ethnicities, backgrounds, lifestyles, and professions represented. Major issues the Task Force addresses include educating the public, accurate and fair media portrayal, securing legal and civil rights, and increasing access to medical care for our specific needs. Supporters who do not identify as male-born-female are invited to join TMTF as associate members. We're looking for general members, organizers in specific geographical regions, and participants on our six Committees: Legal Issues, Medical Issues, Media, Info and Education, Membership/Outreach, and Fund-Raising. We have members from all over the country and in all fields: law, medicine, teaching, the arts. Our members include Black, Native American and Hispanic individuals and we want to do outreach to all minority groups. No matter what your talents we can use your help! For more info, email MtMInFo@aol.com, the official mailing list for the Task Force, or write us c/o **Elessar Press, 1259 El Camino Real, Suite 151, Menlo Park, CA 94025.** Thanks! Aaron Davis (TX), Ken Morris (OR) and C. Julian Leonard (CA) Co-Chairs.

Online TG History Project Seeks Input

The Transgender Forum on America Online has requested information on transgender history for posting. Aaron Davis is co-ordinating articles on FTM/MTM history and would appreciate your help with scholarly material or personal memoirs. Photos are also sought, especially a high quality color photo of Lou Sullivan. Much of our history has remained invisible and our historical forerunners coopted by other communities; we need to restore individuals who were transgendered and not just 'masculine women' to their rightful place. To participate in the project email Aaron at **MtMInFo@aol.com.** Thank you!