

phoenix

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GGA



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

WHERE AND WHEN IT'S HAPPENING
GGA Chapters do not act as dating services or dating brokers. Do not call asking for that service.

GATEWAY GENDER ALLIANCE

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

SAN JOSE - 1st and 3rd Friday, 8 pm.
Write PO Box 62283 Sunnyvale, 94088 or call (408) 734-3773 for specific details.

SANTA ROSA - Meetings: 1st Friday, 3rd Wednesday each month at [REDACTED]

Call (707) 526-2500 for specific details.

SACRAMENTO CHAPTER. Meetings on 2nd Friday each month. Write: Bonnie [REDACTED] POB 38918, Sacramento, CA 95838 for details, meeting time(s) and place.

SAN DIEGO-GGA: Contact W. Thomas, PO Box 99732, San Diego, 92109.

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

DELTA CHI-GGA. 1st Saturday each month. Write POB 11254, Lincolnia Station, Alexandria, VA 22312.

CAPITOL CHAPTER-GGA. (Balt-DC Area). Pam [REDACTED] POB 651 Marshall, VA 22115. Meets 3rd Saturday.

*******FLORIDA*******

SUCCESS CHAPTER-GGA. Monthly Meetings. Contact Susan [REDACTED] POB 1801, Pinellas Park, FL, 34290.

*******IOWA*******

EASTERN IOWA GGA. Write Occupant, PO Box 1205, Bettendorf, IA 52722 for meeting specifics.

*******ILLINOIS*******

WINDY CITY CHAPTER-GGA. Monthly meetings. Contact PO Box 2312, Chicago, IL 60690 or call (312) 472-4518.

*******NEW JERSEY*******

NU CHAPTER-GGA. 1st Saturday each month. For specific information write POB 9034, Morristown, NJ 07960.

*******NEW YORK*******

NYC-GGA. 2nd Saturday. Changing facilities available. Members may arrive anytime after 4:30 pm. Meetings run from 7 - 11:30. Muriel Olive, Suite 601, 157 W. 57th Street, NYC, 10019.

*******OREGON*******

NORTHWEST CHAPTER-GGA Regular meetings. For information concerning activities in NW Area contact POB 13173, Portland, OR 97213.

*******PENNSYLVANIA*******

PHI CHAPTER-GGA (Philadelphia Area) Contact: Linda [REDACTED] POB 7330, Newark, DE 19714.

*******TEXAS*******

GENDER DYSPHORIA CENTER. Galveston GGA Chapter. Meetings: 8pm 1st Saturday every month except July, Aug, Sept. Contact Alice, [REDACTED] Especially helpful for the TS.

GGA-SAN ANTONIO. For information concerning time, place and frequency write Jaquiline Allen, c/o SAMC-GGA, PO Box 169672, San Antonio, 78280-3272.

*******VIRGINIA*******

HAMPTON ROADS-GGA. Meetings: March 3rd and May 14th. Contact N. Cooper, S-180, POB 2400, Virginia Beach, 23452.

*****OTHERS GROUPS*****

CALIFORNIA

PACIFIC CENTER - 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley. 1st & 3rd Wednesday rap session. Last Friday, special topic or speaker. Meetings run from 7:30 - 10:00.

BI-SEXUAL CENTER. Rap sessions from 7:30 each Tuesday and Wednesday. \$3.00 donation requested. For specific information write PO Box 28227, San Francisco, 94126 or call (415) 929-9299.

SOCIETY OF JANUS. For those into or seeking adventure in S&M. Write PO Box 6794, San Francisco for information.

ETVC. Last Thursday each month at Chez Mallet, 527 Bryant St. San Francisco.

MISSION VIEJO/ORANGE COUNTY AREA. Gender Dysphoria Program for Orange County. Information brochure - \$2.00. Contact Joanna M. Clark, 31815 Camino Capistrano, Suite L, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675. Group Counseling: Dana Point facility - 2nd & 4th Monday. San Juan Capistrano Facility - 1st & 3rd Monday.

SHANGRI-LA: Nancy [REDACTED] PO Box 18902, Irvine, 92713.

*******COLORADO*******

DENVER. Gender Identity Center. Staffed by professionals, pre and post-ops. 3715 W. 32nd Ave, 80211. Phone (303) 458-5378.

*******CONNECTICUT*******

XX GROUP. 45 Church St. Hartford.

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

ACADEMY AWARDS (Drag gay). Carl Rizzi, [REDACTED] Arlington, VA 22204.

*******GEORGIA*******

ELITE TV CO. Write GIGI [REDACTED] PO Box 47686, Atlanta, GA 30362 for specific information concerning meeting time(s) and place.

*******HAWAII*******

SEXUAL IDENTITY CENTER. TV/TS discussion group. 7:30 pm each Tuesday. Address: 2139 Kuhio Ave, Honolulu (in the Waikiki District). Phone 926-1000.

*******ILLINOIS*******

CHI Chapter (Tri-S). Marilyn [REDACTED] POB 2055, Des Plaines, IL 60018.

*******MASSACHUSETTS*******

TIFFANY CLUB. Tuesdays & Saturdays 7-11 pm. Very attractive private facility. GGA Members welcome. Write Tiffany Club, POB 19, Wayland, MA 01778 or call (617) 358-5575.

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

TS SUPPORT GROUP. Write Rachia Heyelman, POB 25, South Orleans, MA 02662 for information.

*******MICHIGAN*******

CROSSROADS. Irregular meeting schedule. Write POB 1298, Flint MI, 48501 for information.

*******OHIO*******

PARADISE CLUB. Reservations required as meetings are held at a motel and a room is often required for overnight stay. Meetings: Oct. 22, Dec. 10. Write Paradise Club, POB 17023, Cleveland, OH 44117.

*******RHODE ISLAND*******

HOLCYON SOCIETY (Tiffany Club). 1st Saturday 7pm. Contact: Occupant, PO Box 142, Kingston, RI 02852 or call (617) 678-0609.

*******WASHINGTON*******

Seattle Counseling Service. TV/TS support group. Meetings: every Friday evening from 8-10. Anyone concerned with TV/TS issues welcome. 1505 Broadway, Seattle 98122. (206) 329-8737.

*******WISCONSIN*******

WISCONSIN TV NETWORK. Write POB 813, Madison, 53701.

*******CANADA*******

FACT. FTM TS only. POB 291, Station A, Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3C8.

*******ENGLAND (UK)*******

SELF-HELP ASSOCIATION FOR TRANS-SEXUALS (SHAFT) [REDACTED]

Berkshire, England SL5 9UX.

FRIENDS MERSEYSIDE. 14 Colquitt Street, Liverpool, L1 4DE. Phone: 051-708-0234 Fridays 7 - 10 pm.

*******FRANCE*******

TRANS-CCL. 3 bis Rue Clairmont, 75107 Paris. Phone (1) 627-4936.

*******JAPAN*******

ELIZABETH CLUB. c/o Anto Trading Co., Sakata Bldg 1-12, Iwamoto-cho, Kanda, Chiyado-ku, Tokyo 101.

*******PARTIES*******

Sat. Sept 22nd; Sat. October 27th;
Mon. Nov 5th; Sat. Nov 17th;
Mon. Dec 3rd; Sat. Dec 15th and
Mon. Dec 31st.

For information write: Lee's Mardi Gras, 565 10th Avenue, NYC, NY 13306 or call (212) 947-7773 between noon and 6 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

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THE PHILOSOPHY and PSYCHOLOGY OF TRANSSEXUALISM

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Edited by Georgia [REDACTED]

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

SYMPTOMS and PHENOMENOLOGY of TRANSSEXUALISM (continued) (Fifth Installment)

Sorting the Boys from the Girls

I once thought I had a fair idea of what a TS is. One of the major methods of testing them was that of the Devil's Advocate or the scientific skeptical method. I subjected them to various alternative scenarios. Against these various possible alternatives I ran a model of their validity. The modeling criteria involved the capacity of the theory to explain known facts. The facts being:

- a. childhood behavior (as recalled by relatives)
- b. trends and patterns in personal historical behavior
- c. current behavior
- d. current attitudes (both conscious and sub-conscious)
- e. introspective processes
- f. fantasies
- g. social feedback (past and present)
- h. comparison of states before and during cross-living

A subject, interviewed in depth and used as an example here shall be called "John". John is not atypical in that he is a Natural Beauty Wonder, yet in other ways he is typical and representative. (A Natural Beauty Wonder (NBW) is a male who passes as a beautiful girl/woman without the aid of hormones.)

Theoretically the Scenarios are:

1. A transvestite.
2. A repressed homosexual male.
3. A repressed heterosexual male.
4. A bi-gendered person (psychological hermaphrodite).
5. A sexless (genderless) disassociated genetic male.
6. A socially induced female-gendered male.
7. A philosophically and sexually transcendent individual.

8. Psychotic male.

Hypothesis 1. Transvestite. Almost all individuals presenting cross-dressing behavior are, at least, initially diagnosed as transvestites. John, our subject, seemed to exhibit all the trapping of such. However; he was not satisfied solely with dressing as a female nor was he happy with his male role and sexuality. The most positive sign of the transvestite is his "split-personality" — being male part or most of the time and female the remainder of the time. The transvestite is happy with his maleness and often feels he is male even while cross-dressed. Cross-dressing enhances his male libido and is often a type of foreplay to masturbation or heterosexual intercourse. It is just a temporary relief to exercise his avocation — so to speak.

In this case John wanted to a girl permanently and unequivocally. There appeared, on the surface, to be some element of fetishism in his cross-dressing, but he felt physical arousal unwelcome and the inevitable appendage an interference — a nuisance to his cross-dressing. After reading The Transsexual Phenomenon, by Dr. Harry Benjamin, and placing himself on the Benjamin scale, John realized he was well beyond the classification "Transvestite." He considered the possibility that he'd backed into transsexualism from being a transvestite — like progressing from soft to hard drugs. But, the more he read on the subject the more he realized that one does not ask for more difficulty, more unhappiness and the specter of radical, major surgery when one is in the relatively innocuous and blissful state of equilibrium of transvestism.

Hypothesis 2. Repressed homosexual male. Possibly a subconsciously calculating male

exploring the world of sex and gender in order to learn more about females whom he is too shy and inhibited to relate to as a male.

John found he was attracted to males, but **not** as a fellow male. In his feelings toward males he identified as either daughter (of older males) or as a female love object. A true gay male is happy being identified as a male and relishes being a male among males. John, on the other hand, felt repelled by gay males, especially by their method of relating to one another sexually through anal intercourse. John was attracted to and attempted to attract only straight males. Homosexuality is a matter of deviation in sex object orientation **not** a matter of aberration in gender-identity.

Hypothesis 3. Repressed heterosexual male. I seriously doubt that any red-blooded, normal male, no matter how sexually repressed would be sufficiently repressed so as to wish he were a female unless of course, he's either insane or and a masochist to boot. The path of the transsexual is so difficult, so unlikely, so impossible, so unsatisfying, so unrewarding and totally lacking in reinforceive social feedback that I doubt if any repressed heterosexual male would ever give up the hope, of someday, being unrepressed and instead opt for reassignment surgery.

If he really is, by definition, a heterosexual male he would like the idea of having sex with a female. Regardless of how repressed he can always resort to the anonymity of hiring a surrogate, a street prostitute or a call-girl. John never liked the idea of having intercourse with a female as a male. He sometimes wished he did not feel that way, but that was an important distinction. He felt it gross, humiliating and totally demoralizing to reveal his body and then to act as male in the presence of a female. He simply could not get behind it. On the contrary, when he imagined himself a post-op he felt he would not hesitate in the least to hop in bed with a girlfriend.

He would also, probably, gain considerable relief from masturbation and would like the idea of this being taken away from him by surgery. He did not really like masturbation and when he became hormonally castrate he was relieved. John looked forward to to reassignment surgery more and

more as time went on.

It is true that he learned a lot about how to treat women during his escapades as a cross-living TS, but he neither sought out nor used this information as a male when he finally returned to his male role. His discoveries only convinced him more he was meant to be a female and if he were to make any use of it he would do so as a lesbian and an unrepressed male.

At one time he thought he was a misogynist. Sometimes he wondered whether he had embarked upon the path of becoming a woman out of revenge against genetic females. He was somewhat put out because they were not attracted to him and he had a repressed envy of them. (The situation, at the time of the interview, was more of a misunderstanding on his part of what his relationship with them was supposed to be. He failed to realize what was required of a boy, or man, especially in terms of the pursuit and courtship of girls—women was supposed to be.) If that motive (revenge) were so it seems he would have a different attitude toward women now; he would gloat over his success (which he doesn't) and his hatred for them would show (which it doesn't). As it is he has sympathy and compassion for his genetic sisters. He is friendly toward them and enjoys their company.

Here again, it is not the motives nor the initial causes of a given psychological trajectory that counts as much as the end results and the current status. It is not that the etiology is unimportant, it's just that it is virtually unknown in most cases.

A childhood recollection possibly explains why he was so repressed as a male. At about age five or younger he was crawling around behind the sofa in his grandparent's home. Somehow he had with him, or found there, a screwdriver (clearly a male phallic symbol). He became curious about the house current power outlet he found on the wall near the base of the floor. (Clearly a symbol of the female — hence the traditional name "female outlet".) He stuck the screwdriver into the aperture (as a male would). Instantly there issued forth a muffled explosion, a cloud of blue smoke. Since the handle of the screwdriver was insulated he experienced no electrical shock but he was duly startled and amazed at the mysterious powers lying concealed in such cavities. Henceforth

he was cured of ever again putting his "tool" in anything resembling that socket. Perhaps, someday, he can afford some sessions in Scientology Dianetics to regress back to this episode and read out the engraving; then, perhaps, he would change into a normal, horny male. (Of course I'm being satirical in this last sentence.)

Hypothesis 4. Bi-gendered person. At first John thought this would be the answer: having an operation that would give him a cavity into which he could tuck his less pleasing (to him) members, to be reinstated only to exercise his imagined propensity for philandery with females. As time went on, with the experience of cross-living, it gradually dawned on him just how unrealistic this possibility is and how unsatisfying it would be to him personally. He really did not like his male configuration; hiding it would not fool him in the least. Furthermore, he would still not be able to bring himself to use it (his male organ) on a female (or a male for that matter). Hormonally a she-male (a sexually functioning male with a feminized body, complete with breasts, but no vagina), is possible and feasible through the use of Premerin rather than Estradiol, however, the nature of Penile Inversion reassignment surgery requires that one possess either male or female genitalia because essentially all the available tissue from the male genitalia is used to construct the vaginal vault and labia. The intestine transplant (not especially in vogue as yet) theoretically allows for the construction of a surgical hermaphrodite having the external genitalia of both sexes. But, John, like so all transsexuals disliked his male genitalia and wished to reconfigure it, not enshrine it in the hermaphrodite state.

Society insists that each be "one or the other". Most males, and females alike, are repelled by the thought of be a she-male or he-she, however philosophically perfect the hermaphrodite may be. While John was pre-op he did finally find at least three boy-friends who actually preferred his as a feminized anatomical male, but they were fairly rare individuals. While the boy-friends may have liked it John was uncomfortable being a sex object. He was sure there were lesbians and otherwise straight females who would have liked him

had he been able to perform with them as a lesbian with a large clitoris shaped like a the penis of a smallish boy, or at least so he was told. But, looking for such people is a low-yield proposition and can be frustrating when he was attracted to so many people who would be or would become turned off by such an unusual configuration. No, what appealed to him was being, as normally as possible, purely and simple a female, not some mythological sexual unicorn.

Sexually a She-male is usually "AC/DC" in that she can penetrate either or both the female and the male as well as be penetrated by the male. In John's case, both active and passive penetration was tasteless, unsanitary physically unfeasible, a repulsive perversion, totally repugnant to his personal standards and to his self-image.

But what of the sexually non-active she-male? I suppose there is just about any variety of human sexuality and gender you might imagine. And, I suppose there are sexually inactive she-males, as unlikely as that may sound.

Hypothesis 5. Genderless male. The fundamental iceberg into which John keeps bumping is finding himself unconsciously thinking, or at least wishing, himself a female. By definition, one's gender is posited by one's gender-identification. Beyond that, no one meeting John, once he began cross-living ever doubted he was anything other than a very self-possessed female who was glad to be female, a woman and lady (even if she did sometimes think she was girl). Where that small, unprepossessing epicene guy went, I don't know, perhaps he was just an illusion.

Hypothesis 6. Socially induced female-gendered male. Here we get into some far-out territory, perhaps to far-out to produce any useful speculation. However socially-induced his transsexual condition may be, the fact remains, he liked being female regardless of how Society liked him. (Renée Richards appears to be an example of a socially-induced TS.) It is true that practically everyone meeting John, including girls, accepted and liked him better as woman than as a man. That was true before he started cross-living. He was post-fortunate that Society concurred but, after

all, he had to live for himself first. Regardless of all the endless speculation by him and his counselors concerning how or what his established gender was he came to accept himself as a woman. If this is fantasy then it is still more real and satisfying to him than the reality of being a male. It is best for him as well as Society; where as trying to be a male was a lost cause for him and dull pain in the tush for Society.

Hypothesis 7. Philosophically and Sexually Transcendent Individual. Must choose a gender for personal and social reasons. I have not found any examples of this type, although theoretically they may exist. Transsexualism is a degenerative condition; that is it gets worse as one gets older. Most transsexuals claim they would commit suicide, regardless of how well or poorly they pass, if they can not obtain reassignment surgery. Among those who feel or perceive they cannot pass, or even in those whose age has dulled their ardor, only the strongest and most sublimated can resist what must be Nature's most insistent instinct, the instinct of one's gender.

Objections to the Diagnosis. Why the Late Discoveries?

One of the biggest questions in my mind, and certainly in the mind of many therapists, is: Why does it take so long for some to reach the decision they are transsexual?

The later in life an avowed transsexual comes out the more skeptical the professional is of the individual's sincerity. It's as if they suspect the individual of presenting the ploy of having lived a more or less successful life as a male and now deciding to see how "the other half lives", just to have had it both and being experience-greedy. If that is the case I submit the patient has it ass-backwards. Obviously, the best time to be female is the first half of their life. Men remain in the prime longer than women and are more desirable as "distinguished elder statesmen" than their age counterparts who are mostly "old bags" whose days as love or sex objects are longgone, like the flowers of Spring.

Of course there are legitimate cases of individuals waiting until they are older before coming out. Take the case of the individual who has had responsibilities to loved ones — a wife, children — and who was willing to accept the torment of being a female in a male-gender role and guise until relieved of familial responsibilities. In some individuals personal needs can be subordinated to extra-personal responsibilities. The psychological anguish these individuals accept and live with cannot be imagined. Imagine seeing the best days of your life slipping through your fingers like the sands through the pinched waist of an hour glass; they see their potential beauty or attractiveness fade into the lined face of an older woman; they see their potential for real happiness buried in the quagmire of family or spousal responsibility. As much as they wish to change into the female they should have been all along they cannot bring themselves to desert either their responsibilities or discard their life-partner. What bitter vetch they must drink. Their tears must be like acid. One can only feel for this individual.

And there is, strangely enough, the individual who has closed his (her) mind to outside information and has never self-diagnosed as transsexual simply because they knew nothing of the phenomena. I realize it is hard to conceive in this day and age of instant communication that an individual can live in this world and not know what transsexualism is and how it may affect them, but I hear the phrase "I thought I was the only one who felt this way. I thought it was normal," every day and can only shake my head and get on with helping this uninformed individual.

It is related that some transsexual children identified with girls, even going so far as to seek out their company while disdaining the company of peer males. John did some of this as a child, but he was vitally interested in attempting to conform to his socially imposed role as a boy. He habitually kept a "low profile". Latent psychological gender-identification was, as yet, unknown to him and even had it been it would have been academic. One often hears the transsexual felt "like a girl in a boy's body." This expression attempts to express the paradox of the transsexual condition. I have no doubt whatsoever that

is possible to feel exactly that way. One must consider the transsexual blessed who has such an understanding of their problem at such an early age.

Dancing and Self-image

Dancing is a physical, social statement that says "I am pleased with my body; I like to (or at least don't mind) show(ing) people how graceful I am as I move about in space." Dancing is also a sexual statement about oneself and one's relationship with others. It is a natural physical activity manifesting one's self-awareness and self-satisfaction in being the sex and gender that one's partner and the onlookers expect one to be.

Love Among the Outcasts

It often happens that transsexuals fall in love with one another, having a lesbian relationship, if sex is involved. Transsexuals, as a group, are almost abandoned by Society. They are, sometimes, accepted, at least partially, by a few men and women, but most have been rejected by their families, especially when they are just coming out or if they problems passing. Even their therapists, at least initially, take a skeptical attitude toward them.

Since their only acceptance and true understanding is from their peers it isn't surprising they band together for mutual support, often pairing up with one another. The deep suffering of a transsexual can awaken a keen sense of identification in another transsexual. The feeling of mutual isolation from Society can heighten the feeling.

Sally

Although Sally is apparently not a transsexual I present her case as a matter of comparison.

She was in her late twenties when I became aware of her case. She was, apparently, a gay man and a Natural Beauty Wonder (NBW). Her case led me to believe this phenomenon (NBW-ism) may be caused by delayed puberty, low testosterone possibly in conjunction with a set of pre-disposing characteristics.

Her mostly white male class-mates in grammar and high school despised and mistreated her because she looked so feminine and was non-Caucasian. That she developed a hatred of young, masculine, White,

Anglo-Saxon Protestant (WASP) males isn't surprising, but that she developed a fascination and perverse desire to have sex with them in a brutal and violent way was surprising.

Physical beauty led this young gay man to become a Drag Queen. [A drag queen is a gay man who dresses in feminine clothing to titillate and attract men — either gay or straight, or both — for sexual purposes.]

Sometimes, for excitement, Sally would seduce straight men, many of whom took her to be a genetic woman. Sally loved, as many gay men do, accepting anal intercourse and she usually worked things out so she was able to reverse the procedure and perform anal intercourse on her john. After completing their sexual escapades she would, with great courage or foolishness, reveal that she was really a man thus humiliating the john by the fact they had sex with a male while professing to be "straight". It was as though she was taking revenge for the childhood treatment by her class-mates. She would sometimes make the revelation before penetrating her straight partner, but usually she waited until afterwards when he was in a more mellow mood.

She didn't take good care of herself and puberty apparently began catching up with her. She was fast losing her beauty and becoming aggressive in a punk male way. A friend consulted me when he became worried about her and tried to get her to a psychiatrist for a hormone prescription. She refused, saying her father would be angry. Although her father knew nothing of her dressing in feminine clothing her mother knew, tacitly approved and continued to spoil her.

Whatever her reasons for not obtaining hormones, fear of her father or just being lazy and mixed-up I speculated she had a male gender-identity and was satisfied being gay. Certainly as a drag queen or a sometimes bar or street queen she had many contacts with transsexuals. It is common for street queens, who are also transsexual, to have hormones available, either through prescription or off the streets. The vast majority of transsexuals will jump at the chance to obtain hormones and wild horses couldn't stop them.

Sally finally did obtain a bottle of hormones which she took for a while. Then she stopped taking the hormones, possibly

her under-lying male self-identity found the experience uncogential. She said she didn't like what they were doing to her libido. [This is another good example where prescribing female hormones can serve as a very revealing, effective, non-destructive test.]

The moral of Sally's story is: even though she would have made a beautiful woman she simply had no female gender-identity and was, therefore, not a transsexual. In other words, beauty does not a transsexual make.

LUBRICANTS FOR THE MANUFACTURED VAGINA

by Tala (CA-43)

As stated in my article [August '84 Phoenix] The No Surgery Option manufactured (surgically) vaginas do **not** sufficiently self-lubricate. The selfcleaning problem (or lack of this feature) is directly related to the inability to lubricate. In essence it's the same thing. Since manufactured vaginas do **not** lubricate, or lubricate in such small quantities, we **must** find some method for external lubrication. So, just what do we have available to lubricate our deep — or not so deep — dark, dry little vaginas hm?

Well, there **are** a variety of concoctions, all of which are a compromise. Mineral oil based lubricants such as Vaseline, massage oils or cosmetic skin lotions may create or aggravate such wonderful things as vaginitis and/or you may find yourself prone to yeast or urinary tract infections. (You may find yourself having more urinary tract infections anyway post-surgically. This is partly a problem of having a shorter urethra.) Mineral based lubricants are **not** water soluble and the body will **not** absorb them as it will vegetable oils and our bodies cannot flush them as easily as water based lubricants. (Does this mean we must use some for of solvent to flush them from our bodies? Soap, perhaps?)

One good friend of mine, let's call her Ms. D., during a period of intense sexual activity was using copious quantities of mineral based massage oil for extensive forays into lots and lots of intercourse. Ultimately she wound up with extremely painful boils which had to be surgically removed. Since then she is using vegetable oils almost exclusively. Ms. D. recommends several options including coconut oil, Crisco,

water based lubricants such as Probe and Charlie's Sunshine Massage oils. Many genetic women use lubricants in addition to their own and some woman, including menopausal and lactating women need some form of external supplemental or replacement lubricant.

In coconut oil we find some nice qualities. It is stabilized as a solid at room temperature but when brought to body temperature it become a liquid. Coconut oil can be purchased at most supermarkets and health food stores.

Crisco is a rather heavy, viscous lubricant and some people I know use it as a vaginal and anal lubricant but **not** for general intercourse. Trying to fist without lots and lots of Crisco and knowledge of and communication about what it is you are going to do, in the minutist detail, is not safe and could result in someone getting hurt. Please don't try fisting unless you have had specific instruction from someone who knows.

One reason water based lubricants such as Probe, Helix and Fore Play are becoming increasingly popular with women is that in some women vegetable oils have a tendency to intensify or create a problem with yeast infections. Many women find Probe and similar products closely approximate their own natural lubricants and since it's water based it will flush right out. When using water based lubricants it is advisable to keep a small container of water handy since exposure to air will cause a drying out of the lubricant and the addition of a small amount of water will cause its lubricity to return. More information on these, and other products, may be obtained from stores like Good Vibrations in San Francisco or For Yourself in the East Bay or by calling San Francisco Sex Information (SFSI) at 415-665-7300.



THE MISTRESS'S LAIR by The Mistress



Many questions concerning meeting, finding and/or how to act in the presence of a female dominant have been asked on the Dear Mistress Section of GenderNet, our electronic bulletin board, and sent to the Phoenix since the article concerning Dear Mistress appeared last month so, in an effort to eliminate these repetitious questions this article is presented.

1. "Where have all the dominants gone?"

Well, I suppose one morning they got into their cars, went to town, found myriads of male submissives looking for homes, picked out 1 or more, took them home and trained them to do their bidding and lived happily ever after.

2. "How do I recognise a dominant on the prowl?"

Check her attire for signs of dominance. The colors black and red, leather footwear, leather or chain belts, jewelry representing locks, keys, chains, cuffs, etc. all represent dominance. Something is bound to slip into everyday attire. (However, unfortunately today's fashions have integrated many of these symbols. Recently I purchased a black leather belt which had handcuffs for the buckle from a department store selling high fashion.) Check the way she carries herself. Dominants **always** walk proudly. They look you straight in the eye; are outspoken. Their appearance conveys **power**.

3. "I've located a potential dominant. How do I approach her?"

Be attentive. Be courteous. Think fast and offer any service that might come to mind, regardless of how silly. Try to be useful. If she's dominant, **and** interested,

you'll know it. If not, you have flattered someone. If you have the impression she is dominant, but just not interested at the moment give her your card. Offer to be of assistance to her in the future. Shyness may be a positive trait for a submissive but it's not going to attract the attention of a dominant.

4. "What about placing ads?"

It has worked for many I've talked to. Don't waste your money advertising in a sex-oriented paper or magazine as you will attract professionals and others with things to sell, but rarely, non-professionals. Such a paper may be a good vehicle for a dominant, but not for a submissive. You should look for a local paper carrying many non-sexual personal ads. Code your ad to escape the attention of the editor. For example: SM seeking DF who likes to watch TV. The editor will read the ad as "Single Male seeking Divorced Female to watch the tube." A dominant lady will persevere you as a submissive TV looking for a dominant female. (In conjunction with the GGA I plan to publish a Directory listing non-commercial D/s people. If you are interested send your mailing address to me at the address in the last paragraph of this article.)

5. "I have located a dominant and will meet with her. How do I present myself?"

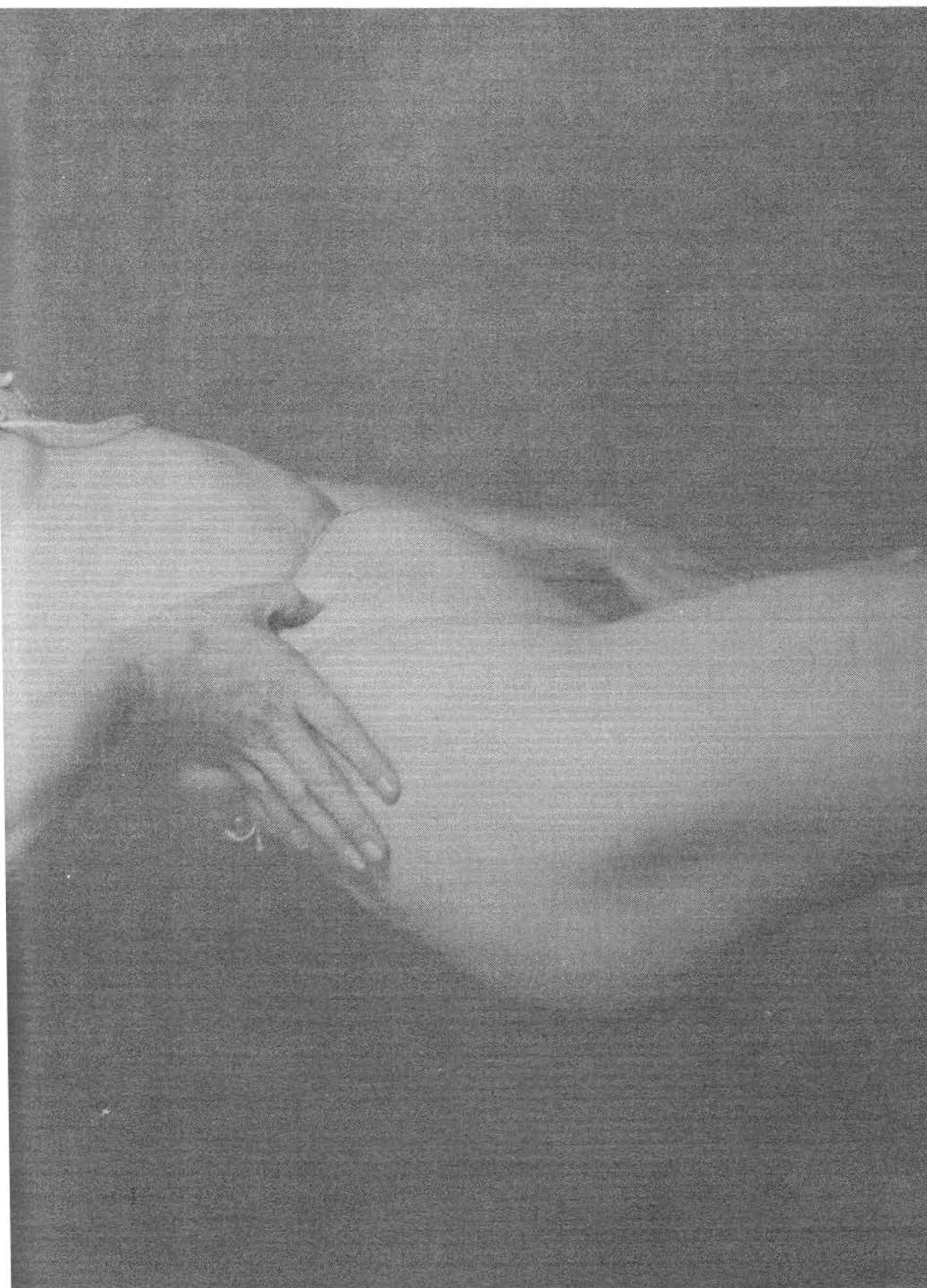
Be attentive — open doors, pull out chairs, light cigarettes. Be polite. Leave **all** decisions to her. Show that you are eager to please. Don't babble — listen. Find out what **she** likes, what pleases **her**. Find out little likes and dislikes — flowers, sweets, food, wine, etc. Learn how to please her by catering to her particular whims. Be thoughtful and pleasant. Hopefully fancy will strike her and she'll carry you off to her lair.

Remember, natural dominants are usually swamped with overtures from submissives of all descriptions.

Your cuteness and/or smartness and/or politeness **aren't** going to impress her too much. Unless she has some use for you she's unlikely to pursue the matter. Don't try to ride on her pity for you — she's a spoiled brat, not a donkey.

So, clean up your act and start looking.





Alessandra
CA-11



MY SONGS

by Autumn (CA-222)

The following three songs are, to me at least, a "Trilogy of Transition" representing a twelve month period where I went from the brink of suicide to, what I consider, the foot of the mountain of freedom. For the first time in my life I feel so incredibly **alive**. But, there is a voice within me which says I won't reach the top of the mountain in my lifetime. But, that's okay. For just being at the base is fantastic, especially after the years of fear, inhibition and self-bondage.

In the immortal words of Martin Luther King "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God, free at last!"

Yes, I'm definately looking forward to taking a few more steps toward the Summit of Freedom and also doing what must be done, what we must all do, one for another to further each other's freedom.

Please keep in mind these are songs. Songs I wrote and put to music. After writing them down and reading them they seem a little strange, even to me, because I'm used to the musical accompaniment. However; it's the feeling behind the words with which I hope you can appreciate and identify.

"Me and My World" was my way of expressing what I was going through when my world came apart. Literally crashing down around me. I was either going to do something about my transsexualism or die. Two months later I contacted Dr. Mildred Brown. I'd made the choice to give my life and God one more chance.

ME AND MY WORLD

Much of my life had some and gone.
I've give it to people one by one.
Now I look at Life and hesitate.
Is there a future?
Or is it to late for me? For me.

For me my world has come crashing down.
Sorrow and pain All around.
The craziness of people, including myself, has driven me closer to that final ledge.

As I look down into the void
I turn around for there is no choice

Death is **not** the answer
to the problems of Life.
So, I go back, give it one more try.

For me my world has come crashing down.
Sorrow and pain all around.
The craziness of people, including myself, has driven me closer to that final ledge.

Much of my life had some and gone.
I've give it to people one by one.
Now I look at Life and hesitate.
Is there a Future?
Or is it to late for me? For me?

"Hello Friend" was written four to five months later after beginning electrolysis and hormone and gender therapy. I was, of course, feeling better, but now I was faced with the task of telling my close friends what was happening in my life. When do I tell them? how? and what do say All this was building inside me for I loved them very much and was afraid I'd lose them. Interestingly enough my three closest friends all later told me they loved me and respected me even more for my courage and faith in the strength of out friendship.

HELLO FRIEND

Hello Friend. It's me again
Knockin' on your door.
Won't you let me in?
I know I seem different.
I know it's true
there've been some changes
in the past year or two.

I know you're speechless.
Just can't find your voice.
Know it's okay, cause it's all my choice.
But now that you've see me
it can't be all **that** bad.
I hope you still love me.
I'd really be glad.

For many long years my life's been all wrong.
Just goin' in circles singin' the same old song.
A song of pain; a song of lies.
Just goin to be at night
with tears in my eyes.

Hello Friend. It's me again
 Knockin' on your door.
 Won't you let me in?
 I know I seem different.
 I know it's true
 there've been some changes
 in the past year or two.

I know you're speechless.
 Just can't find your voice.
 Know it's okay, cause it's all my
 choice.
 But now that you've see me
 it can't be all that bad.
 I hope you still love me.
 I'd really be glad.

"Living Life My Way" was written
 within three weeks of making the change
 from male to female lifestyle. There isn't
 much else to say since I think it speaks for
 itself. It's just simply and expression of
 positive state of mind and renewed
 expression that life is a gift not to be
 wasted.

LIVING MY LIFE MY WAY

So close. So close to crying tears of
 joy.
 Living, **not** dying.
 So close to living life my way.

So long, long awaiting
 Peace of mind.
 My life's straightened
 So long it's taken, to find myself.

Well, I can't say that it's been easy.
 The Road to Freedom has often been
 hazy
 Filled with pain and shallow goals.
 I've fallen in every hole.

So much, so much to do
 over something that you'd change to.
 So much I've begun to overcome.

So hard, so hard and lonely
 Finding truth in fantasy
 So hard learning how good life can be.



Alesia
 6/9

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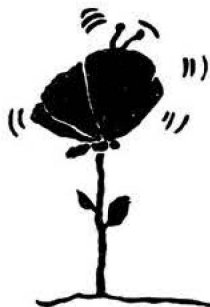
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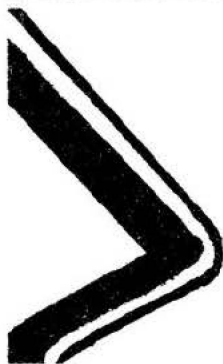
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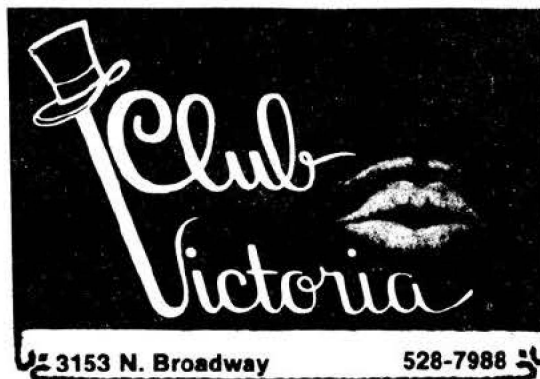
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30						

IT'S HAPPY BIRTHDAY TIME!



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

SEPT

Bobbi	CA-10	Gina	CA-69
Micheall	CA-72	LouEllen	CA-81
Laura	CA-90	Robin	CA-91
Barbara	CA-214	Dee	CA-215
Donna	CA-227	Charlene	CA-239
Barbara	DE-11	Terrell	ID-13
Tiffany	IL-25	Sara	IL-49
Bobbi R.	IL-52	Linda	KY-15
Joan	MD-18	Alice	MI-13
Lora	MO-16	Lisa	NM-17
Lenard	PA-25	LindaSue	SD-10
Rachel	TX-34	Gayle	TX-58
Carolyn	UT-15	Cathy	WI-21

SEPTEMBER

Marie	CA-88	Stephanie	CA-195
Paula	CA-230	Paula	CA-236
Anne	CA-258	Billie	FL-45
Jennifer	FL-64	Donna	FL-65
Lynn	HI-11	Krista	IA-15
Naomi	IL-18	Michelle	IL-58
Michele	IN-12	Jane	KS-12
Evelyn	KS-15	LindaAnn	MD-16
Jeri Rae	MT-13	Diedre	NM-15
Cheryl	NY-48	Roxanne	OH-32
Samantha	TN-14	Lorraine	TX-44
Tommie	WY-11		

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JULIE late-40s. Enjoy being my feminine-self in the real world. Shopping for my own clothes, attending theater or movies and traveling as a woman are favorite activities for this girl. Want to develop a network of crossdressers, business and other accepting, supportive friends in the central mid-west. Interested in writing and meeting other crossdressers. Hobbies include photography, music, reading and writing. If you are on the same wave-length let's write and exchange photos.

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