

INGERSOLL GENDER CENTER - SEATTLE, WASHINGTON MAY, 1997 D VOL. THREE D NO. 2 D PRICE: 31.004EA. D 515.00/TR SUBSCRIPTION

THE BASIS OF SEXUAL IDENTITY By Shari Roan, Health Writer Los Angeles Times, March 14, 1997

PART II

(In last month's newsletter we began the story of John/Joan who had been born male, and because of a surgicul accident his penis had been cut off. It was decided to create female genitals and raise the child as a female. As she grew up, she became increasingly male-identified. After consultation with the family, it was decided to offer Joan the chance to undergo 'reconstructive' surgery to make her the male she was born to be.)

As a girl, Joan rejected almost everything feminine. When her twin brother refused to share his toys, Joan saved her allowance and bought herself a toy truck. She began to suspect she was a boy around the ages of 9 to 11.

"There were little things from early on," John recalled in the 1994-95 interviews. "I began to see how different I felt and was from what I was supposed to be. But I didn't know what it meant. I thought I was a freak or something...I looked at myself and said I don't like this type of clothing, I don't like the types of toys I was always given. I liked hanging around with the guys and climbing trees and stuff like that, and girls don't like any of that stuff. I looked in the mirror and [saw] my shoulders [were] so wide. I mean, there [was] nothing feminine about me. I [was] skinny, but outer, than that, nothing. But that was how I figured it out, but I didn't want to admit it. I figured I didn't want to wind up opening a can of worms. "Life became miserable for Joan as she neared puberty. She was given estrogen, which made her feel awful. Despite being a nice-looking girl, her voice and movements were strange. So compelling were her feelings of maleness, Joan even attempted to stand to urinate. She was teased mercilessly by the other children about her odd looks and behavior.

She continued to be seen by a team of experts at Johns Hopkins and, at 14, told her endocrinologist that she suspected she was a boy. The team, alarmed by her threats of suicide, discussed conversion to being male with Joan and her family.

Joan gladly embraced the suggestion, began taking male hormone shots and completed a mastectomy and phallus construction by 16. She learned the truth shortly thereafter in a tearful discussion with her father.

"John said, 'All of a sudden everything clicked. For the first time, things made sense and I understood who and what I was,'" noted Diamond and coauthor Dr. H. Keith Sigmundson, (Sigmundson, who now works at the Ministry of Health in Victoria, Canada, supervised John's case at Johns Hopkins and kept in contact with the family over the years.)

The family rejected doctors' advice to relocate upon Joan's switch to John. And after some initial sensational reaction, John's peers rallied around him. He developed into a muscular, good-looking young man who attracted girls. While the surgery to create male anatomy was only partially successful, John married at 25 and adopted his wife's children.

Diamond and Sigmundson describe him now as a well adjusted person with a good sense of humor. He is bitter about what happened to him, Diamond says, but has thrived with the love and support of his family and friends. In his recent interviews, John told the doctors that he hopes what happened to him will not be repeated in other children.

Today's paper should rekindle the discussion of what approach to take with infants born with genital abnormalities, as well as cases of sex chromosome abnormalities, gender identity disorders and metabolic adrenal or testicular errors – all conditions in which sexual identity and orientation can be unclear.

"We need to have a strong discussion on what are our data. Are we doing the right thing [with sex reassignment]? John gives us reason to pause and question what we're doing," Reiner says. On a more practical note, John's story sheds some light on the roots of gender identity and sex roles, experts say. "This case is another brick in the edifice of understanding sexual identity and showing that we are born with most of these feelings. The largest sex organ is between the ears." Diamond says.

But conclusions on how to deal with children who are hermaphrodites, pseudo-hermaphrodites or other conditions in which gender is blurred should not be based on any single case, says Dr. Francine Ratner Kaufman, and endocrinologist at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and associate professor of pediatrics at USC. But, she says: "I think we've come back to stressing the importance of the biological. So [the paper] is important data for us to have who deal in this field and have to assign gender.

Reiner is in the process of analyzing data from a group of adolescents at Johns Hopkins who are males being raised as females. Among seven of these children, he says, two have reverted to being males and testing on the other children indicates a more masculine sexual identity.

In their paper, Diamond and Sigmundson advocate postponing sex reassignment surgery in infants in favor of counseling to eventually determine the child's feelings about his or her gender.

"In cases where the genitals are traumatized, I believe it's never appropriate to change sex, because you haven't changed the brain," Diamond says.

But Kaufinan says that approach may be impractical in cases where infants are born with ambiguous genitalia. Parents often want, and need, a quick resolution to the problem.

"In newborns, the problem should be fixed as soon as possible," she says. "The families are devastated. And I think we understand enough, biologically, to come up with a good resolution."

Still, there are no right and wrong answers in how to medically assist individuals whose anatomy, behavior, or feelings don't match traditional constructs of what is male or female, says Reiner, noting that the study of sexual (gender) orientation is "only in the infancy of scientific understanding."

"These patients provide us an opportunity to further explore the various contributions to gender role and identity," he says "In the end it is only the children themselves who can and must identify who and what they are. It is for us as clinicians and researchers to listen and learn."

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PLEASE COME TO BOSTON...HE SAID YES ...

Members of the FTM Community are busily planning the upcoming 3rd Annual All-FTM Conference of the Americas: THE HERO'S JOURNEY, August 8, 9, 10, 1997 in Boston, Massachusetts.

Join the Boston FTM community for 2 1/2 days of workshops, panels, seminars, presentations, networking, socializing, and partying for all FTM's and their partners and friends.

Provisional panel and workshop topics include: Coming Out, Sexuality, Tricks of the Trade, Parents of FTM's Panel, FTM's as parents panel, Children of FTM's, Partners of FTM's, Queer Sexuality Issues, Young Men's Issues, Finding a Partner, and many others.

Provisional speakers, panelists, and events include: James Green, FTM International, Diane Ellaborn, LICSW; Stuart Chipkin, MD; Paul Costas, MD; Ellie Altman, PFLAG, Henry Rubin PhD; an FTM art exhibit; and the award-winning new FTM documentary film "You Don't Know Dick". Registration fees, per person (non-refundable after July 15). Registration fee includes all sessions from Friday, August 8 at 6 p.m. to Sunday, August 10 at 2:30 p.m.:

*\$50 if postmarked on or before June 30.
*\$60 if postmarked on or between July 1 and July 31.
*\$75 if postmarked on or after August 1, or at the door.

Snacks and beverages will be provided, but you will need to provide for your own transportation, lodging, and meals.

Some work/exchange discounts on registration fees are available for those who wish to volunteer to work before during, or after the conference. A limited number of partial-registration fee scholarships are available to those who would otherwise not be able to attend. We will also try to assist those who can't find or afford lodging, please let us know if you will require this assistance.

When we receive your paid registration, we will send you a confirmation postcard. Additional information and materials will follow later. For more information, call Mike at (617) 639-7968 or send e-mail to Mykael at 1FGE@worldnet.att net.

Make check or money order (do not send cash) payable to BFTMC and use the registration form below. There will be a \$20 charge for returned checks

Mail to: BFTMC, P.O. Box 193, Bellingham, MA 02019.

REGISTRATION FORM

| Today's Date: Arriving: | 8//97 Departing: 8//97 | | | | | | | | |
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| Mailing name(s) | Name(s) for Badge(s) | | | | | | | | |
| Address City/State/Zip: | | | | | | | | | |
| Phone (optional). | E-Mail (if applicable) | | | | | | | | |
| Do you need assistance with lodging? | Yes No Number of beds required: | | | | | | | | |
| Smoking or non?: | Any allergies?: | | | | | | | | |
| Do you have any special needs? | | | | | | | | | |
| Enclose your registration payment and mail form to: BFTMC, P.O. BOX 193 Bellingham, MA 02019 | | | | | | | | | |



The more we change the more we ... are surprised!

Years ago there was a meeting in a basement in Seattle, a meeting of folks concerned with gender issues. In those years we thought a person must be either transvestite or transsexual and no other divisions were accommodated. And at the same time we were making this distinction we were aware there were options being lived by members of our group; yet we feared to put voice to these options. We were afraid that by simply talking about options the precious hold we had on our transitions would slip away.

Now I will do some speculation and talk freely for a moment about what may have been the process of our history these last twenty years. With the freedom of a personal essay I generalize, always aware that I could be wrong. If you have ideas on these thoughts please write to us.

Do you suppose fear and simplicity are the conditions of every new group effort? First the tone ones brave enough---or with nothing to loose---speak out and come forward on their own, often suffering the anger of the common culture around them. Then some form of organization is put in place to become a bulwark against the surrounding hostilities; the organization grows and perhaps finds a place in society.

With some security and history in place the group can take a moment from the struggle to breath and to contemplate the details involved in being and becoming. Then the process repeats but within the new movement as factions and theoretical entities rise up and ask for attention. The most awful possibility is that these new divisions will fight one another rather than fight the oppression showered upon them from the outside.

Then comes an end in destruction and factionalism or in some rare times a golden age of renewal and growth. If renewal comes it can be a time when new divisions and understandings are welcomed and embraced as part of a pluralistic whole that transcends desires and specific individualities.

I believe we are upon the path of renewal now. Within the gender community we are now able to talk of so many more beings than just transvestite or transsexual. These forms of personal gender being have, I believe, always been with us. In fact we knew they were there in our deliberations of twenty years ago. Until now we have not had the security to welcome so many ways of being into our discussions, but now we do. What a joy it is to welcome all these people and ideas into our groups!

Will the growth continue? I think so. Through the good work of so many fine people we will play out our part in this history. Our group facilitators, our therapists, physicians and counselors, and our many friends, clients and patients join with social and political activists to do the work of self discovery and education. Join us.

SHE'S BACK!



Allison is back! After a long bout with pneumonia, Allison, the popular Friday Night facilitator is back One of the side effects of her illness is a husky Lauren Bacall voice. As she said, "It's a helluva way to have voice surgery!" Glad you're back, Allison

ESPRIT, 1997 As seen in the emerald city news for may, 1997

Esprit '97 will be celebrating the eighth year of this event, held in Port Angeles. and put on by the NWGA of Portland, Emerald City of Seattle, and Cornbury of Vancouver, BC This year's event will be held on Memorial Day weekend, May 21st through the 25th.

This year's event should prove to be a year not to be missed. There will be many new events and classes going on this year. Some of the more popular events and classes from past years will again be offered this year. Dr. Toby McItzer of Portland will be heading up the first of many classes begin held on Saturday. His class has always proved popular with those wanting or curious about the various surgeries and procedures available.

Again this year, there will be a trip to Victoria for High Tea at the Empress or for those who may want to take in the shopping in downtown Victoria

If you only get to attend one event this year, this is the one to be attending and joining with the sisters

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8

Across

1. Removal of the breasts is 8. The name of the uncle who wants you 12 One of the 'Little Women' 13. Cincinnati's state 14 What came after garters and stockings 18 A commercial announcement 20 Other than 'off' 21 Oar, Ore, 22 Egyptian Sun God 24 Add an 'h' and you have a bear who likes 'hunny 25 ___ out a repeated motion 27 a second class citizen. 32. tu. Brute?' 33 Nickname for 'Everett' and 'Evan' 34 An FTM's pronoun 35 Some FTM's use patch 41 What you call little figures hanging from a braceled (2wds) 44. A Freudian thing 45 British title S____ 46 A type of current 47 A month which can also be a nickname for 'Mary 49. You will find usually in 55 In the middle of the day 56 A direction Not NVV 57 Add these two letters and you have a 60's rock song Lo_e, Lo_e 59 A woman's namd L a

60 One thing you can do if you don't sit.

64 How your mother told you to act. Like a a lady

- 69 Director Spielberg
- 71 Indels of a bully President with a big stuck
- 72 Milwaukan's address
- 73 An Indian or Chinese donk
- 74 Not the beginning
- 75 B_, S_, R__, M__
- 7 Wilma's husband's name
- 79 A male trapped in a female body
- 81 Feminizing hormones
- #4 Nickname for Edith
- 86 Man's nickname, also 'this one's for you'
- 88 A Tuisa address
- 89 Put two of these together and you have the name of one of the lovers in La Goherne
- 91 Actor Mineo
- 93 Whether it's a bra or the crotch, it's called the same thing
- 95 An athletic holder for the 'family jewels'
- 98 Two To. ___
- 99 The Scottish knife which usually slides into the stocking

Clare

- 100 1940's actress
- 101 The actress with the violet eyes
- 103 Spanish for 'My' 105 The 'Thin Man's' wife
- 107 Cuban revolutionary
- 108 A father's male child
- 110 A day for baskets of flowers from a sect admirerer
- 112 An exclamation, also a state
- 113 Sally Fields union organizer character Norma

114 Actress Hanna

- 115 I am, you are, she, he or it _
- 116 A day n May to celebrate a parent



Down

- 1. Woman's name
- 2 Photographic process Todd ____
- 3 Summer pants
- 4 Nickname for Christina 5 Disneyland attraction Captain
- 6 Something to aim for
- 7 Just after sunnse
- 8 A stang negative i
- 9 A foot digit is ____
- 10 First person possessive
- .11 Basically, the Hypocratic Oath says
- 12 A nickname for Jennifer.
- 15. After March went out like a lion, we had (Abbr)
- 16 Mab possessive
- 17 Less crazy
- 19 Just before 'Re, MI,

23 A pair of singers is 26 Therapist's diagnosis book (inr: 28 Ball holder 29 Add an 'n' and you have a small Dodge 30 Early night and the first woman 31 Silent film star Rod La 38 word which can describe both MTF's and FTM's 37 Likes clothes of other 38 A tree's fluid, also a slang term for a guilible person. 39 A highwayman ____ people 40 Prefix meaning 'new' 41 'Much ___ About Nothing ' 42 Not 'heis' 43 In Came of the song called it the merry month 44 In tag, the person whe has to chase people 48. Put two of these together and you have a toy 50 Nickname for Alonzo 51 Whatgoes into#14 across 52 A summer garment for MTF's and CD's 53. A woman's name - related to the Month 54 _____ Margaret, _____ Southern, _____ Gillian 58 Jackie 'O's' second husband 61 Camping house 62 Masculinizing hormones McClure, Fairbanks Jr 63 65 Bottsh title 66 Two women trapped in men's bodies 67 Nickname for Arthur 68 C__, B__, T__, N__, S__ 70 Actress. Ri_ Heyworth

with

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76 Holday for remembering fallen heros day

- 78 Shorrened form of 'Edward', 'Edgar', also star of 'Glen or Glenda'
- 80 FTM's want one. MTF's hate 'em
- 82 Sign for 'al nght'
- 83 'The Thin Mans' first name
- 85 Bloom n' with petals.

only dead fish swim

21 Latin for 'bone'

- 86 Initials for 'British Petroleum' 87 Deadly insectionde
- 90 The shortest form of Mother
- 92 Two yowels Not E I. U. or Y
- 94 Initials for Northeastern state
- 95 Diminuative form of 'James'
- 96 Same thing as #95 down, only for Anthony
- 97 Actress and singer Zadora.
- 102 If the girls in a classwere alphabetized by first name she'd be among the last
- 104 Another nickname for Edith
- 106 Nickname for 'Rhoda' also Greek letter
- 109 Same as #44 across
- 111 H___, F___t, L___t, P___t
- 112 Exclamation

9





RETREAT - MAY 16-18, 1997

Build Self Esteem! Take Pride In Being a Man! Enhance Your Intimacy Skills and Sexuality! Develop Self Empowerment!

Under Construction of Southern California is sponsoring a weekend retreat in Malibu, CA, USA for male identified, female bitth assigned, men who want to learn about male socialization and experience male bonding in an all-male environment. Each participant will have an opportunity to explore how to integrate female socialization patterns into his current masculine identification.

Retreat will be in a confidential, remote location with 50 mile panoramic ocean and mountain views (weather permitting). Try to be present from Friday 5 p.m. to Sunday noon to obtain the most from this special event!

Max E. Fuentes Fuhrmann, PhD, a clinical psychologist and HBIGDA member with extensive personal and professional experience with transgendered men, will provide an experiential participatory retreat. Attendance will be limited and all will have the opportunity to fully participate in the workshops and programs! Additional FTM presenters (Michael Hernandez, Patric Magee, Jude Patton, Jeff Shevlowitz, and others to be scheduled) will facilitate workshops. Topics are scheduled to include disclosure; sexuality (including use of prosthetics); transitioning at various life stages; body image; intimacy; dealing with partners, friends and family; feminism, reverse sexism and personal responsibility for political action.

Hot food, beverages and campsite will be provided for the duration of the retreat. This is an outdoor location so bring a sleeping bag and be prepared to rough it (there will be hot water but no showering facilities). Bring any special snacks or drinks (BYOB) you wish. Sunscreen recommended. Smoking will be permitted at restricted times and locations. Plan to arrive between 3:30 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. at the retreat. A map will be sent to you. Limited transportation will be available from Los Angeles International Airport. CONFIDENTIAL REGISTRATION:

DATE ____NAME: ____ADDRESS: Street _____ City, State, Country _____ E-MAIL: _____PHONE: ____

Transportation needs?

Price for the entire retreat is \$100.00 payable with registration due in full by April 21, 1997. Saturday and Sunday only \$75.00. Late registration (including same day) If space permits will be \$125.00. Please make check payable to Max E. Furhmann, PhD. Send registration form and payment to: 3617 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd, Ste, 128, Thousands Oaks, CA 91362, or e-mail to DRFTM@anl.com Questions: (805) 496-4442. Refund policy: 100% if cancellation in writing received by May 1, 1997. 50% if cancellation received by May 15, 1997. No refund if cancellation after this date.

WED THU FRI SAT SUN MON TUE 12 13 11 14 15 17 **FTM18 19 110 16 ME SSAGE LINE 1329-6651 117 FTM114**FTM115 116 111 12 IGC. 113 MEN'S RETREAT BOARD SUPPT ME SSAGE MALIBU, CA. I MTG GRP L. LINE 17:00-7:30 - 1329-W/MAX FUHRMANN 8:30 6651 9:30 CONTACT DAVID SURGERY A 859-1053 118 CA 119 120 |21**FTM|22 123 124 RE-MESSAGE ITREAT LINE MALIBUI 329-6651 CONT. | 125 126 127 *FTM128**FTM129 30 31 THERAPY MESSAGE GROUP & LINE |FTM/SO |329-SUPPORT 6651 **IGROUP** 17:00-8:30

> *FTM Therapy Group-Jude Patton FTM SO group-Carole Miranda-Patton. **LEAVE A MESSAGE ANY TIME AND CALLS WILL BE RETURNED ASAP

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FTM CALENDAR

MAY, 1997

LAMBERT HOUSE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Lambert House is an activities and resource center for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth ages 14-22. The center is located at 15th and Denny on Capitol Hill. The goal of Lambert House is to foster an increased sense of self, capability and resilience among sexual minority (GLBT) youth through the development of personal, social and life skills. We approach this mission through educational and informative resources such as tutoring, a youth computer lab, community presentations and discussions, recreational activities such as an artist in residence program and group outings, youth leadership opportunities, a jobs board, community internships, and support groups. In addition, Lambert House offers an unstructured drop-in center, where youth find support from peers and adult volunteers and are able to get information about referrals to local social service programs.

Lambert House is seeking adult volunteers age 25 and up to supervise the drop-in center, teach youth computer skills, participate in and provide transportation to activities, and greet youth and adult visitors to the center. Volunteers receive extensive training. They also need volunteers for office and donation assistance. If you wish to help, please contact Lynne at 322-0415 for further information and application materials.



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IMPORTANT INGERSOLL DOINGS IN

MAY

All Wednesdays in May: TS Group (Referral Only) 7:30-9:30 PM

All Thursdays in May: Drop In Group (Open) 7-9 PM

All Fridays in May: TV/TS Support Group (Open) 8-10 PM

Phones answered Tuesdays & Fridays 6-8pm and Saturdays 10-12 noon

May 12: Ingersoll Board meeting 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm.

INGERSOLL OPENS NEW WEB PAGE

Ingersoll Gender Center has a new Web Page!. Many thanks go to Denise Ottoson Christina Fassel and a host of "Internexperts" Check us out at:

WWW.ingersollcenter@ingersoll.org

You might also notice that we have our own domain. Several parts of the site are under construction, so watch for new and exciting information!

7:00 PM 10:00 PM

For Crossdressers. Meetings and social gatherings. Safe, discreet, and

confidential. A place to be

THE BUTLER DID IT! BY PAT BUTLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I thought you might enjoy some background on this month's recipe in "Hey, Good' Cookin'!" I received it on my e-mail. It claims to be "absolutely, positively, true!!" If it is, it is truly sweet, sweet revenge.

My daughter and I had just finished a salad at the Neiman-Marcus Cafe in Dallas, Texas, and decided to have a small dessert. Because both of us are such cookie lovers, we decided to try the 'Neiman-Marcus Cookie'. {ed. note. Neiman's is a very expensive department store in Texas}. It was so excellent that I asked if they would give me the recipe and the waitress said with a small frown, "I'm afraid not."

"Well," I said, "would you let me buy the recipe?" With a cute smile, she said, "Yes." I asked how much, and she responded, "Only two fifty, it's a great deal!" I said with approval, "just add it to my tab."

Thirty days later, 1 received my VISA statement from Neiman-Marcus and the total was \$285.00. 1 looked again and 1 remembered 1 had only spent \$9.95, for two salads and about \$20.00 for a scarf. As 1 glanced at the bottom of the statement, it said "Cookie Recipe: \$250.00"!

I called Neiman's Accounting Department and told them the waitress said it was "two-fifty," which clearly does not mean "two hundred and fifty dollars" by any POSSIBLE interpretation of the phrase.

Neiman-Marcus refused to budge. They would not refind my money, because according to them, "What the waitress told you is not our problem. You have already seen the recipe -- we absolutely will not refind your money at this point." I explained to her the criminal statutes which govern fraud in Texas, I threatened to refer them to the Better Business Bureau and the State's Attorney General for engaging in fraud. I was basically was told, "Do what you want, we don't give a crap, and we're not refinding your money."

I waited, thinking of how I could get even, or even try and get any of my money back. I just said, "Okay, you folks got my \$250, and now I'm going to have \$250 worth of fun." I told her that I was going to see to it that every cookie lover in the United States with an e-mail account has a \$250 cookie recipe from Neiman-Marcus...for free! She replied, "I wish you wouldn't do this." I said, "Well, you should have thought of that before you ripped me off," and slammed down the phone on her.

So here it is!! Please, please, please pass it on to everyone you possibly think of 1 paid \$250 for this...1 don't want Neiman-Marcus to EVER get another penny off of this recipe. By the way, this is the same recipe as the "Mrs. Fields Cookie".

HEY, GOOD COOKIN'I

See this month's The Butler Did It for the scoop on this month's recipe Sweet, Sweet Revengel

Ungredients

| (Recipe may be ha | alved) |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 cups of butter | 4 cups of flour |
| 2 tsp. of soda | 2 cups of sugar |
| cups of blended patnical | 24 oz. of chocolate chip |
| 2 cups of brown sugar | 1 tsp. of salt |
| 1-8 oz. Hershey Bar (grated) | 4 cggs |
| 2 tsp. of baking powder | 2 tsp. of vanilla |
| 3 cups of chopped nuts (| your choice) |
| *Measure oanneal and blend in a b | lender to a fine powder. |

Preparation:

Cream the butter and both sugars. Add eggs and vanilla; mix together with flour, oatmeal, salt, baking powder, and soda. Add chocolate chips, Hershey Bar and nuts. Roll into balls and place two inches apart on a cookie sheet. Bake for 10 minutes at 375 degrees. Makes 112 cookies.

Presentation:

When done, remove from oven and allow to cool on a wire rack. Be sure to serve with ice-cold milk.

A Special Thanks to Neiman Marcus

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IN The cookie Of Life Friends Are The Chocolate Chocolate Chips

