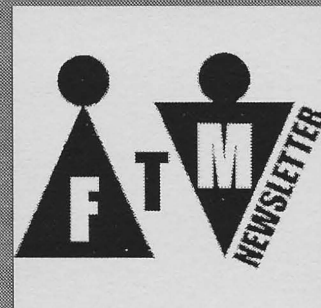


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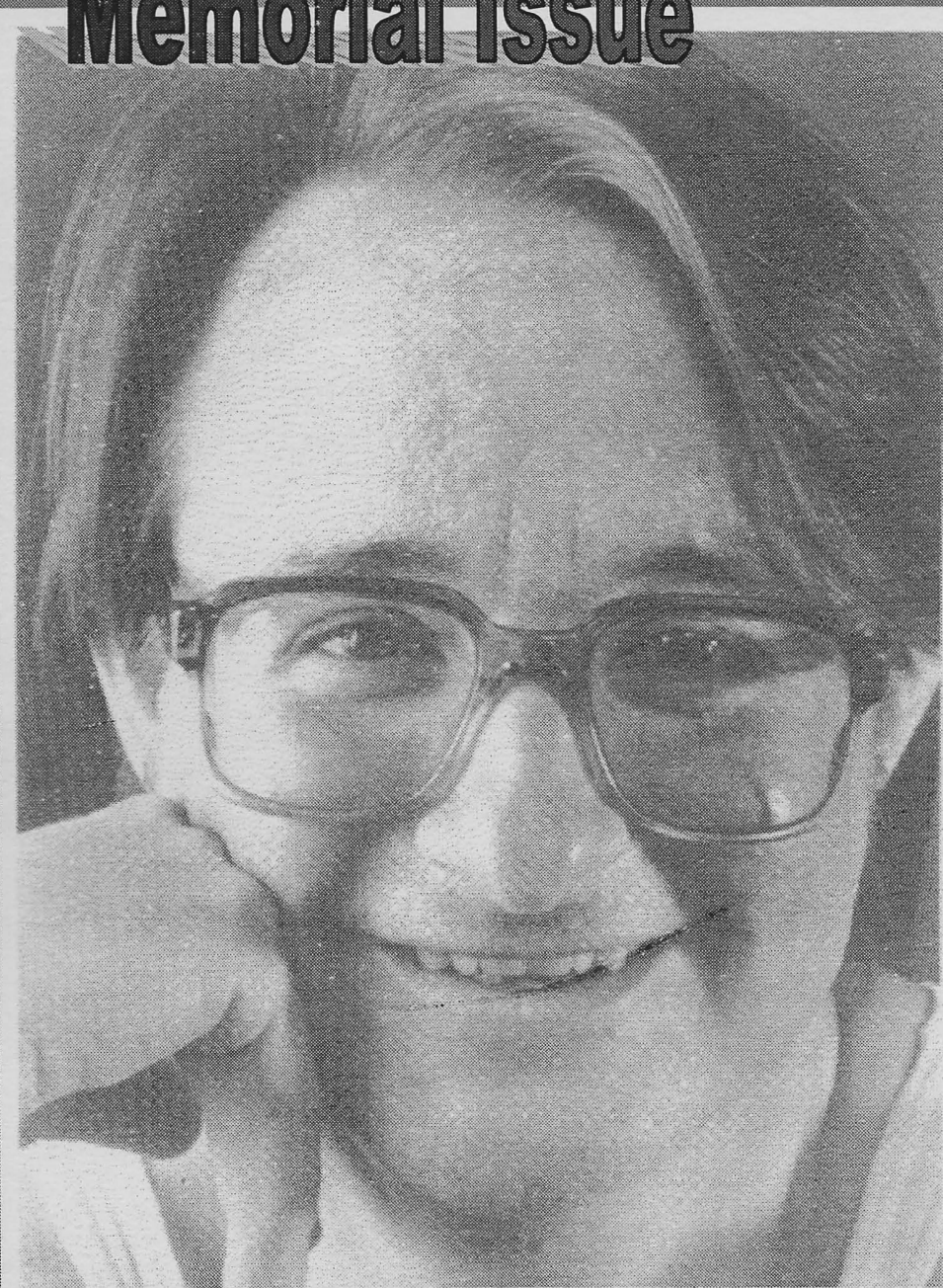
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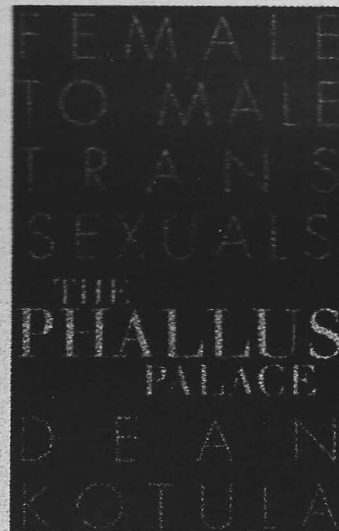
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THE PHALLUS PALACE: FEMALE TO MALE TRANS

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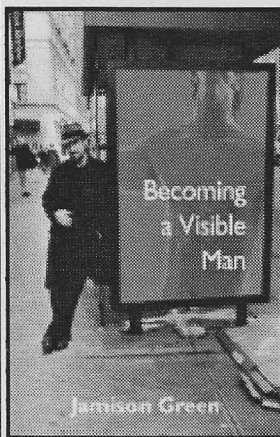
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Dear Readers and Members
Spring is upon us. The weather has been throwing us all off track in the past few months. I can only imagine what this spring will bring as I look forward to summer and the Pride season.

Before looking forward I would like to take a couple of moments to look back at where FTM International was 14 years ago. Meetings were quarterly instead of monthly. At the meeting everyone would get the updated newsletter. The newsletter was about three pages in total length. As small as the newsletter and the group was, it has grown beyond the San Francisco Bay Area. I believe Lou Sullivan would be very proud to see how far we have come. He would be proud of our diversity, and the longevity of his ideas.

As president in 2005, I can appreciate Lou's efforts back then. He paved a way setting footfalls carefully for those who would come after him and have the desire to continue his work. In the past 14 years the FTM community has come a

Dear Members and Readers

By Zion Johnson

great distance in visibility and research. Let's all remember that we still have a great distance to go before all those female bodied identifying on the masculine spectrum can be recognized as the whole beings we are.

I have spent a little time reading archived newsletters. To my joy I see how FTM International has maintained its integrity, mission, direction and loyalty to the community. It encourages me to continue doing what I'm doing. Again reflecting back I realize how fortunate we all are that there was someone strong enough and caring enough to put his life out in a public forum to collect those with similar lives and experiences.

I imagine Lou looking down from where he is now with a huge smile on his face wishing he could come to our weekly brunch, or even deciding what picture he would submit for the 2006 FTM calendar. Chills go down my spine wondering what he would think seeing all the different races, levels of transition or identification, and the fact that FTM International is still chugging along working with his vision. This edition of the newsletter is dedicated to Lou Sullivan and the work he did in his life. It's because of Lou we are where we are. ▼

Thanks

Zion Free Johnson

Updates!

Pen Pals

Alexander Arakelian has resumed his Testosterone therapy at the Chowchilla facility. Thank you all for writing him, and keeping him company through your words. He has been moved out of solitary into an eight person cell, and is still able to receive paper without staples. Please continue to write him so that he is able to sustain those connections. Alexander Arakelian - X08012, 501-7 - 3L, PO BOX 1508, Chowchilla, CA 93610-1508

New Faces at FTMI

Hugo Rupp, Logan DeLey, and Tucker Lieberman, have joined the newsletter team! They join Martin Rawlings-Fein, Zion Johnson, Tyler Fong, James Green, Heidi Green, and Kirin Stevens. Along with the many people who have come before, such as Lou Sullivan, Stafford, and Jed Bell.



Martin Rawlings-Fein (left), Logan DeLey (center), & Red Jordan Arobateau (right) at the new FTMI Brunch. Sunday at the Crepevine on Church & Market in San Francisco.

Transgender Pride 2005

San Francisco Transgender Pride is happening again this year, and includes a Trans Pride Stage, and Pavilion where all manner of Transgender services will be offered. It all kicks off with the Transgender Pride Awards on the 20th of June. See www.transgenderpride.org for more information. ▼

Editor's Note: In this issue you will find many different accounts of the life of Lou Sullivan. As well as small remembrances interspersed throughout this issue written by the many people who knew him, or were touched in some way that changed their lives.

Included are some recollections of long ago and far away gender identities of the man people knew as Lou. Some may be taken aback by the use of Lou's given name; however, it is a testament to the man who never forgot his past, or tried to cover it up with a story.

In other news, you will see that the newsletter is still a bit thin; this is again due to the lack of funds available to the newsletter for production. With the new web delivery we may actually be able to create a fuller, more colorful newsletter, for less cost out of pocket.

If you would like to participate in web delivery of the newsletter please send us an email with Web Delivery in the subject heading to news@ftmi.org. You will receive a password from us at that point and be taken off the physical mailing list. ▼

Thank you!

Martin Rawlings-Fein

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Next Issue: Names, their meanings, and how we chose them! **Deadline June 30th**

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Transphobia and Transphobic Violence

by Luke Dzmura

Dr. Talia Bettcher, a philosopher at UCLA, gave a talk on "Transphobia and Transphobic Violence" at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health on Thursday, April 7, 2005. Speaking through a curtain of blonde hair that often partially obscured her face; she started the talk with a personal note about the relevance of gender to her life, and a bit of performance art.

Dr. Bettcher, a self-described "out tranny" set up for her audience the typical gender conundrum. In the performance piece she first insisted that she was not a woman. Then she said she was not a man. Then she said she was something beside all that. And where we expect her to say, "I am a transsexual," She said, "I am a horse."

She told the story of a sixth grade boy writing a story about a magical machine like a transporter on Star Trek that allowed a person to become anything they wanted to be. The little boy decided to become a horse, and he even grew wings, but then he stopped his play, of his own accord. Society had already pressed down his creative identity formation: he shut down his own game before it could be shut down for him.

At the end of the piece, when the performer closed the book in which the story was written, the audience was left with the question: who closed the book? A transwoman? A horse? A boy? Which reality was true?

Dr. Bettcher asked us not to clap at the end of her performance, because clapping marks the end of the magic of theatre, and she wanted the piece to continue into our real lives, beyond the temporary stage of the performance. As directed, none of us clapped at the end.

In the second part of the talk, Dr. Bettcher talked about transphobia and transphobic violence and the intersection with other forms of violence and oppression. She glossed quickly over terms we usually hear defined in "Transgender 101" and recent statistics on transgender violence.

Dr. Bettcher spent more time defining and describing the milieu of gender based violence. In several instances, she referred to the recent bay area murder of transwoman Gwen Araujo. Stigma refers to an idea of "damage" to identity brought about by the perception of deviance from an established norm. A stigmatized identity might be assigned to an individual based on religion (what you are doing is against God) morality (what you are doing is immoral or unnatural) the circus stigma (gender transgression is a carnival, grotesque, weird, bizarre) medical stigma (classed as a physical "illness" that is corrected by surgery) mental illness (classed as a psychological "disorder") or "denial of authenticity" (transpersons classed as "it" by an insensitive police force).

Gender-based violence may be physical, sexual, and/or psychological. Gender is regulated according to norms; deviance is punished. Violence often takes the form of Identity Enforcement. The words "ugly" "butch" or "sissy" may be seen as enforcing normative gender roles, and denying the authenticity of an alternative presentation. Dr. Bettcher suggested that such name-calling is also an act of sexual violence.

Araujo's murderers stated that Ms. Araujo had deceived them into thinking she was a woman, when in fact (they said) she was "really a man". This language was the keystone of Dr. Bettcher's talk. A transwoman, she claimed, is in a double bind. She is labeled a "deceiver" if she presents herself as female, ("You deceived me! You are really a man!") and she is a pretender if she presents herself as a transwoman ("Oh, I get it. You're not REALLY a woman. You're really a man"). Mass media supports the idea of transsexual as "deceiver" and "pretender" when they portray "the

Shocking Truth" that the victim is "really a man". If you buy into this way of framing transgender realities, you're buying into transphobia. Fear, hatred, loathing, and condescension.

How does this relate to violence? A "deceiver" is "punished" for transgressing gender norms. The punishment is usually sexual, to enforce the identity of the punished (and the punisher). The "punisher" often feels violated by the "deceiver" and may respond with sexual violence.

As members of this culture, transpeople fight hard to reject these views of themselves. Internalized transphobia leads us to undermine ourselves. We may choose to stay in abusive relationships because they in some way validate our transgressive identities, or we continue self-abuse, either with substances or negative thoughts about ourselves so we can escape, for a time, the complexity and difficulty of transgender lives.

Dr. Bettcher spent some time unpacking the word "transphobia". It isn't simply fear and loathing of the transperson. Added to that is the fear the straight man feels when he recognizes another straight man might call him "queer" and drum him out of the corps. Indeed, Dr. Bettcher theorized that both of the murderers had had sexual relations with Ms. Araujo, and therefore knew her genital status. It became uncomfortable for each of them only when other straight men found out her genital status and declared that she was "really a man". Then, they "had" to verify her genitals and punish her deviance in order that they might cast suspicion away from their own homoerotic activity.

The transwoman has no other option than "deceiver" or "pretender" in the current mainstream culture. It is a situation in which honesty is impossible. Clothing, which we wear to "cover our nakedness" is actually used by mainstream culture to enforce genital disclosure. Gender fraud occurs when a person misaligns gender and genitals. To the culture of the mainstream, this is an insoluble paradox. It explains why people have such an urgent desire to know our genital status: "Did you have surgery?" "Do you have a penis?" They are used to genital disclosure, and the misalignment between gender and genitals hides a piece of information people in this culture feel entitled to know.

This double bind, "damned if you do, damned if you don't," Dr. Bettcher continued, is characteristic of oppression. The only way to get out of the double bind is to disconnect the mainstream culture's notion that there is a one-to-one relationship between gender and genitals.

"Whether you are a 'reality queen' or whether you're 'trapped in the wrong body'," Dr. Bettcher said, "I don't care how you ID as a transperson. However you ID, this is subversive. This is resistance."

And we need it to survive.

I wonder if Dr. Bettcher intended for the "no clapping rule" during the performance piece to remind us, and queer for us, the notion of clapping to save Tinkerbelle in the story of Peter Pan. Author J. M. Barrie, through the voice of Peter Pan, asked his audience to clap when Tinkerbelle the fairy was dying. We believed the tiny creature into being through our vigorous applause. Dr. Bettcher asked us for the opposite. Our clapping would only break the magical spell of gender freedom she cast.

Perhaps by this action she intended us to see that the affirmation of others is necessary in our lives; indeed, it is necessary to save our lives. For we know it to be true that if our differently gendered reality comes into question, the result can be sexual assault

(Continued on page 6)

Keynote Address From the 1st FTM Conference

August 18, 1995 (Part One of Two)

Written and delivered by James Green

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Look around. Tonight you see over 300 of us gathered for the first time. Tomorrow you'll see even more of us. Over 370 people are registered for this conference, and 90% of you are FTM-identified. An FTM event of this magnitude has never taken place before, anywhere in the world. I don't know about you, but I find this exhilarating and frightening at the same time. Of course, my fear is about disappointing people, letting you down somehow. But I know there are some of you tonight who have other kinds of fear and/or excitement. Some of you may be seeing other Female-To-Male transsexuals for the first time in your life. For some of you, the reality of transition is hitting home. Or you may be trying to take the measure of everyone around you and worrying that you don't fit in somehow. Some of you may be finally grasping the fact that you are not alone, and the sheer power of that one enormous truth may be enough to carry your spirit for the rest of your life.

Don't worry. It will all be over on Sunday. This fantasy-or nightmare-will end. And you'll be left with yourself again, left to try to make sense out of all the feelings, to assimilate all the information, left with decisions to make

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about your life that may change everything in it. These are awesome prospects. I know each and every one of you is up to the challenge. Because it takes remarkably strong individuals to undertake an examination of their gender. Your courage is phenomenal and rare. That so many courageous people are gathered here tonight is worthy of acknowledgment. **HERE WE ARE, TOGETHER!!**

The theme of this conference is "A Vision of Community." This is an important concept, one that deserves examination. We hear a lot these days about the "Gender Community" or the "FTM Community". But unlike the "Gay or Lesbian Communities," there really is no community of transgendered or transsexual people. There are no neighborhoods where you'll find restaurants and shops and bookstores that are staffed by and/or which cater to transpeople. Granted, there seem to be little beehives of trans-ness here in San Francisco, in the Boston area, in Seattle, in New York, London, Paris and Amsterdam, in Atlanta, and of course there are proactive individuals in many other cities who are publishing newsletters, running support groups, talking to others on the phone or the internet. But the majority of the activism and visibility is carried by male-to-female transgendered and transsexual people. FTMs as a group don't seem to be as active or as visible. We are scattered around the world, well-assimilated in big cities and small towns, or ensconced in gay and lesbian communities, but we have no real community of our own.

What we DO have is a network of communication. Through the FTM Newsletter, over the telephone, and using email and snail mail, we have been able to meet each other, get to know each other, help each other through hard times, share the most unique experiences of our lives.

I'm going to digress a bit here to talk about the origin of the FTM Newsletter and FTM International. Some of you may be familiar with this history, but I hope that hearing it again will be a source of inspiration. FTM began because Louis Graydon Sullivan was frustrated with how difficult it was for him to find out information about female-to-male transsexualism. He knew it was not psychologically or emotionally or physically economical for each and every one of us to be forced to reinvent the wheel, to re-unearth the lore, to rediscover the facts that we needed to enable us to proceed on our life courses. He was also frustrated that according to the literature, he didn't even exist because he was sexually attracted to men, and according to the literature at the time, female-bodied transsexuals were always sexually attracted to women, the theory being that they were really lesbians who couldn't handle being different from the "norm." There was no differentiation between sexual orientation and gender identity at that time, which was about 10 years ago. So Lou compiled his research and put together a little pamphlet called "Information for the Female-To-Male Cross Dresser and Transsexual." He had a few hundred copies printed up,

(Continued on page 10)

Book Wins Academic Prize

Former FTMI leader Jamison Green's book *Becoming a Visible Man* has quickly become a quiet "best seller" in the world of transgender literature. Without much attention from the mainstream media at all, it's being adopted as a textbook in many colleges and universities across the U.S. In addition, it recently won the Sylvia Rivera Award for "Best Book in Transgender Studies" from the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS) in New York City (affiliated with City University of New York). It has also been nominated for a Lambda Literary Award, and for the American Library Association's Stonewall Book Award (both of which will be announced next year). FTMI published a short review in our Spring issue, #54, just before the book came out, and we recently received permission to publish the following review written by one of our FTM brothers in Indiana.

Jamison Green's

Becoming a Visible Man: A Book Review

by John Mfume [reprinted by permission of John Mfume; first published in Volume 2, Issue 5 of INTRAAconnections, the newsletter of the Indiana Transgender Rights Advocacy Alliance (INTRAA),

September/October 2004. Find it at: <http://intraa.tgcrossroads.org/connections/story/?iid=39&aid=951>

Leading transsexual activist Jamison Green's new book, **Becoming a Visible Man**, could reasonably be called the most important book about gender identity since Leslie Feinberg's *Stone Butch Blues*. Part autobiography, part informational resource, and part tribute to the gender variant community, this work is destined to head the required reading lists in gender studies courses for many years to come. Green has verbalized the hopes, realities, and insecurities shared by many transmen and their allies. With gentle, lucid prose, he confronts popular stereotypes and invites readers to participate in a vision of community in which gender identity truly "belongs to the per-

son who lives it."

Green uses his own background to explain the interaction of "sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender role, the perceptions of others, the expectations that some project onto others, and self-awareness" and the role of each on identity formation. He shares wisdom gained from experiencing various stages of transition and participating in the transgendered community at all levels. Transmen will identify with many of Green's struggles and find that the author has finally written an accurate description of the most private emotional and social aspects of transition. Of special importance is Green's description of his participation in the culture of men, first as an "acknowledged interloper" and later on "their own terms." Readers are invited to watch as Green weighs possibilities and consequences, advances toward transition and retreats into introspection, and redefines his goals and needs according to the implications of each new discovery or experience.

In a succinct yet superlatively informative chapter entitled "Body of Knowledge," Green outlines the physical transformation options of female to male transsexuals, advantages and disadvantages of corporeal transition, and common reasons for choosing or declining such measures. In addition, he summarizes contemporary arguments about the necessity of physical transition for transmen and identifies the crux of the entire debate: **self-acceptance**. Green chooses not to separate physical transition from the gestalt that also encompasses emotional and social transition. He stresses that each transman decides what he can or cannot live with as part of himself based on a set of judgments about "the definitions of maleness and femaleness or masculinity and femininity and our relationship to these features" and insists that "self-acceptance and self-esteem are crucial factors" in achieving goals for physical transition.

Green's overall theme of visibility is best illustrated by his

(Continued on page 6)

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(Continued from Award page 5)

journey toward greater responsibility and celebrity within the FtM community. As he relates the events that spurred him to reject the possibility of disappearing into the dominant culture after transition, Green celebrates the diversity of the community he leads while confronting the intolerance, homophobia, and internalized stereotypes that have long been its dirty secret. He describes the different modes of being along the FtM gender spectrum and his perceived place within it by presenting snapshots of many of the individuals he has met through his activism. By elucidating every aspect of the female to male transgendered experience, he brings light to issues affecting not just FtMs but the wider, gendered world as well.

Moving from the informative to the speculative, this work transcends the typical memoir or "nuts and bolts" primer approach and dares to outline the few, if monumental, challenges to creating a world wherein gender presentation is less important than personal fulfillment. With examples from recent litigation, media coverage, and creative expressions from within, he documents how far transgendered men have come toward making themselves visible to the rest of American culture and how they expect that visibility to affect the future.

FtM readers of this groundbreaking work will no doubt find validation and new ways to communicate aspects of their personal journeys. Their significant others, family members, friends, and allies will benefit from the tender, yet unapologetic description of the key issues faced by FtMs and the

humorous and heart-rending vignettes that Green employs so masterfully. Scholars of gender variance will appreciate the objective, clear recounting of complex and controversial issues; it must also be noted that Green's bibliography is perhaps the most complete list of literature pertaining to transgendered identities ever compiled. Green has long been a visible man in transgendered circles; with this quality piece of scholarship and soul-searching, he is sure to bring a well-balanced portrayal of that community into visibility within the larger culture.

Becoming a Visible Man. (Vanderbilt University Press: May 2004, pp. 248; ISBN 0-8265-1457-X paperback, \$24.95).

Jamison Green

For me, the process of coming out as trans was less like opening a closet door and more like slowly lighting a series of candles in a dark cave...there are aspects of my own experience of increasing awareness that are somewhat common for many of us, including for some people who do not identify as transsexual or transgender. The search for identity, community, and self is common to us all....

For some observers, our journey seems a step outside the boundaries of society; for us, once we have arrived at our own balance point-no matter what that looks like to others-we can recognize our humanity and understand our connections to other people ▼.

-Jamison Green, *Becoming a Visible Man*

(Continued from Transphobia page 3)

and murder.

Or perhaps, in a strong gesture of self-affirmation, she wanted to let us know that her reality was, in the end, not contingent on our approval. As Dr. Bettcher said on more than one occasion during the talk, "A transgender person who survives to live a happy life by any means necessary is a victory and a radical act."

But I don't entirely believe that happy life can happen

without the gift of another's belief, without a sense of shared reality. You can be a horse if you want to be. Absolutely. But until someone else says, "A horse is a horse, of course of course," you'll be alone at the party. You might be OK with that. Medical science might classify your singular reality as delusional. But so what? It's only a prelude to the next step. Reality, after all, is only a shared delusion. Perhaps this is the conclusion at which Dr Bettcher wanted us to arrive. We need to find as many ways as possible to recreate the shared delusion we call reality in a way that embraces the diversity of our gendered experience. ▼

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REMEMBER LOU SULLIVAN

I REMEMBER LOU SULLIVAN

by Eldon Murray

I am one of the founders of Gay Peoples Union in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. After one of our weekly meetings in the early 1970s a thin young woman wearing black levis and a leather jacket approached me. "I'm Sheila Sullivan," she said. "I need to talk to someone and I think you are that person." I invited her to join me at my nearby apartment for coffee, expecting her to want to discuss her lesbian feelings.

I was surprised, but not shocked, when she confided that she had never discussed her feelings with anyone before, but that she felt that she was a man trapped in a woman's body. Her fondest memory was asking for and getting a cowboy suit for Christmas when she was seven years old. She further confided that she felt that she was not only a man, but a gay man. After exploring her feelings and fantasies further I came to understand that this profile fitted her personality completely.

Sheila worked as a secretary for the Slavic Languages Department of the University of Wisconsin, Mil-

waukee. She could type with accuracy about 120 words a minute and could even type copy in Russian characters, although she did not understand the language. She had begun

urged her to find a competent psychiatrist to work with. She volunteered to help me with typesetting and layout for our monthly magazine GPU News. We got together several times a week to do the typesetting and layout for the publication and a very close friendship ensued as we discussed her research and her work with her new psychiatrist. She was gradually getting a better understanding of herself and I was getting a real education about transsexual-ity.

She gradually pushed the envelope on the cross-dressing, starting to wear men's underwear, then men's slacks and finally men's shoes. We managed to keep a sense of humor as we worked to help her find her real personality. Slowly this thin young woman began to take on the characteristics of her inner personality. I remember how we laughed when her barber innocently asked whether she was a boy or a girl because she insisted on a man's hairstyle. Her response was curt and to the point

"None of your business. Shut up and cut my hair."

But it was not all laughs, for although her masculine side was coming forward, she still had some of her feminine side left. For all practical purposes she looked at this stage like a feminine gay boy. One Saturday morning I heard loud pounding on my back door and when I opened the door Sheila pushed inside sobbing hysterically. She explained that a group of young neighborhood toughs had threatened her while she was doing her laundry at a nearby Laundromat. They were going to beat up on

(Continued on page 1)

I know Lou Sullivan better than anybody I never met.

When I first came out as trans in 1991, I had just finished a degree in history. I showed up unannounced one Saturday afternoon at the GLBT Historical Society in San Francisco, and they promptly put me to work organizing the personal papers of a man who had recently died—some guy named Lou Sullivan.

I met Lou when he was a 10-year-old named Sheila, who wrote entries like "Today we played boys, it was fun" in the pages of a pink vinyl diary. I watched him grow into a man over the next thirty years—a man who built organizations, launched newsletters, campaigned for justice, and recovered history.

That was my first intimate look at a trans life other than my own. How could it not influence me? Lou taught me how to do my own work as a community-based scholar and activist. He's still my inspiration, still the standard I measure myself against.

If you'd like to meet Lou the same way I did, that little pink diary is in the History room at the San Francisco Public Library, along with many other records of his life and work. ▼

Susan Stryker

San Francisco, CA

to cross dress, wearing a man's white shirt and tie to work and the European woman who headed the department, approved because she thought it was "chic."

I urged her to read everything she could find about transsexuality, including psychiatric and medical journals meant for professionals. I also

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Lou Sullivan in His Own Words

selected and edited
by Susan Stryker

Lou Sullivan (1951–1991) was a female-to-male transsexual gay man. His diaries, journals, and personal correspondence — begun at age 11 and continued until shortly before his death — offer an unprecedented revelation of the processes through which a transsexual identity takes shape. The following selections are all from the period before Sullivan began actively pursuing sex reassignment.

“When we got home, we played boys.”
—January 6, 1963; age 11

second entry in his first diary, received as a Christmas present
“I look in the mirror and say to myself, ‘That’s you, Sheila. That girl over there is you.’ It seems so funny.”
—April 18, 1965; age 14

“I wish I were a boy. They have a *real* feeling of being some one. They can walk down a dark street like they were its king. They don’t have to report or be sheltered. They have freedom and know what life really is. I want to, too. I don’t want to be a girl. I hate it. I don’t want it. Oh, sure, it makes me feel good when a boy looks at me and smiles. Or whistles. Sure. But that’s just because they like the way I look, not because they like *me*. I want *that*.”
—June 23, 1965; age 14

“My problem is that I can’t accept life for what it is . . . like it’s presented to me. I feel that there is something deep and wonderful underneath it that no one has found.”
—December 12, 1965; age 14

“No one looks deeper than the flesh.”
—February 22, 1966; age 14

“I want to look like what I am but don’t know what some one like me looks like. I mean, when people look at me I want them to think—there’s one of those people . . . that has their own interpretation of happiness. That’s what I am.”
—June 6, 1966; age 15

“I thought of the days when I really thought I was a cowboy. I dressed the part and really was one. I don’t have to dress up any more and I’m glad. The cowboy’s in my soul, where he counts. He doesn’t have a name because he’s a thousand different men. Always men though. I really should have been a boy. I’d’ve been so much happier as a boy. I’ll probably make a good marriage ‘cause my husband’ll be me in all I want for myself. I’ll treat him as though he were me. Strange.”
—March 10, 1967; age 16

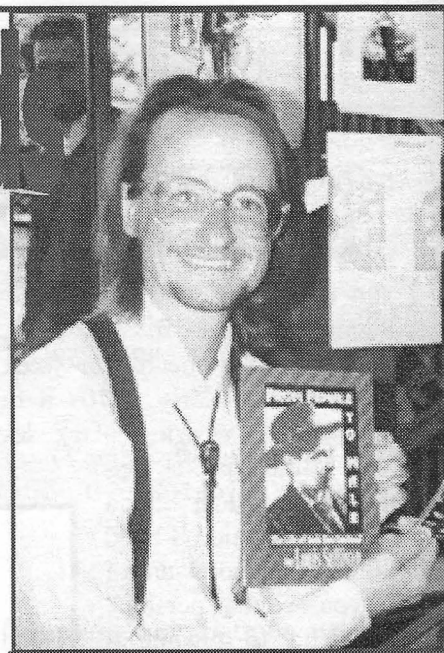
“My heart and soul is with the drag queens. This last week or so I’ve wanted to go and leave everything and join that world. But where do I fit in? I feel so deprived and sad and lost. What can become of a girl whose real desire and passion is with male homosexuals? *That I want to be one?* I still yearn for that world, that world I know nothing about, a serious, threatening, sad, ferocious, stormy, lost world.”
—November 22, 1970; age 19

“I realize so much how my adoption of masculinity is to mask my vulnerable feelings. My masculinity is the only escape and shield I have from my feelings of feminine helplessness.”
—September 11, 1973; age 22

“I feel like I’m freaking out in some internal, hidden-from-view way. I’m losing touch with the world.”
—October 14, 1973; age 22

“I know I can get exactly what I want now — to fantasize is no longer enough. Before it was beyond my dreams. It was the worst perversion that I wished I had a penis, to fuck a boy, to be on top and inside! But now it’s only a matter of time.”
—December 11, 1973; age 22

This article appeared as a sidebar to the article, “Transgender History at the GLHS,” and was provided by the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society. We thank them very much for their generosity, and hope to return the favor someday.



Lou in 1990, at the publication of his biography of Jack Garland. Provided by the GLHS.

News You Can Use

San Francisco, CA— The National Security Agency (NSA) has installed a new bomb sniffing gadget in terminal G of the San Francisco International Airport (SFO). This booth-like device, which sounds like a drum machine according to reports, blows puffs of air into the occupants clothes and hair to dislodge particles that may be explosives. Privacy will be maintained even if the booth discovers particles of drugs on the person.

"The only thing we are interested in is, 'Are you safe to get on an airplane?' A representative of the NSA said, "We don't care who you are." Good news for those of us with difficulty in airport travel. This will put an end to pat down searches, and possibly the ever terrifying x-ray device, in use at some international airports, that can see through your clothes.

San Francisco, CA — Ali Michael Cannon's first book is due out this Spring from WhichPress. The as yet untitled work is a collection of poetry, short stories, prose and dialogues wherein he comments on themes of gender, internalized oppression, love and war, and his Jewish childhood in Los Angeles. Look for a review in the summer issue of the FTM Newsletter.

England, United Kingdom— Stephen Whittle will be named the new chair of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, this position comes after years of serving on their board. He will be the 1st FTM chair of the organization.

Jerusalem, Israel — World Pride is in jeopardy. A panel of religious scholars have come together to stop the largest international pride event from happening. They say that the holiest city on earth shouldn't be a place that celebrates debauchery.



Berkeley, CA — A painless injection may be a reality rather than a Star Trek myth. A MicroJet injector has been developed as a possible substitute for the conventional syringe.

The MicroJet delivers theoretically painless injections, using a forceful high-velocity liquid jet to inject drugs instead of a needle.

The technology involves use of an electric actuator, a ceramic crystal that expands mechanically when voltage, or energy, is applied. Because the diameter of the jet that propels the drug is less than the space between pain receptors in the skin, it should produce a pain-free injection that is still able to penetrate the skin's outer layers.

"This approach significantly reduces pain and damage to the surrounding soft tissue because the diameter of the jet is substantially smaller than that of a needle," said Marcio von Muhlen, senior in the bioengineering department that worked in

collaboration with two other UC Berkeley students on the project. The injector is still for subcutaneous injections, like insulin; yet, someday it may be used for intramuscular injections, like the method currently used for Testosterone.

Kathmandu, Nepal, — Police in Kathmandu attacked a group of transgender people on Wednesday, underscoring the vulnerability of all Nepalese to police abuse since King Gyanendra seized direct power in February and suspended most civil liberties, Human Rights Watch said today. On April 13—the Nepalese New Year's Eve—police attacked 18 metis (a traditional term for biological males who dress and identify as women) who were walking toward a festival in Kathmandu. Nine were severely beaten with batons, gun butts, and sticks.

"This attack is only the latest of a string of police assaults in Nepal against transgender people," said Scott Long, director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Rights Program at Human Rights Watch. "In a country where political and civil rights have been suspended, the violence sends a message that no one who looks or acts differently can feel safe."

Washington, DC—A recent vote in Congress endorsing standardized, electronically readable driver's licenses has raised fears about whether the proposal would usher in what amounts to a national ID card. Proponents of the Real ID Act say it's needed to frustrate both terrorists and illegal immigrants. Critics say it imposes more requirements for identity documents on states, and gives the Department of Homeland Security carte blanche to do nearly anything else "to protect the national security interests of the United States." This could be a problem for any trans-person flying into or throughout the U.S., if their National ID does not show their current gender.

Desperate Housewives' Huffman gets praise for transgender role — Actress Felicity Huffman is an expert at playing desperate. She does it so well, in fact, that she has a hit television show called *Desperate Housewives* and a new movie playing a woman desperate to escape her male body. The movie, *Transamerica*, screened at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York City, earned Huffman a rave review from *The New York Times* for her portrayal of a woman, Bree, who was born in a man's body and who goes on a cross-country journey after learning she fathered a son. Bree is desperate for her therapist to give her a final OK so she can complete sex-change surgery and desperate to escape the idea that she fathered a son.

***Transgender at Work* is happy to announce new research material available on our web site**— A new Research Report is available, measuring the frequency and cost of Transgender Health Benefits (THBs.) This report can be a resource when an employer is considering the addition of THBs to its health plans, and wishes to estimate how much it will cost. The report includes tools to actuarially project the costs for mental health therapy, hormones, doctors office visits to support hormones, and sex reassignment surgery. Both male-to-female and female-to-male costs are considered. For more information on the research study, see the TAW web site at www.tgender.net/ or go directly to the report intro page at www.tgender.net/taw/thbcost.html

□ *Compiled from wire reports*

(Continued from Conference page 4)

and started advertising them in gender world publications like The Transsexual Voice out of Georgia, and IFGE's TV/TS Tapestry. He also worked as a peer counselor with Paul Walker at the Janus Information Facility. Every time he contacted an FTM, regardless of their sexual orientation, he would invite them to engage in correspondence and to exchange information. By the time he had gathered four or five local guys who agreed to try to meet every three months, he had already amassed a tidy little mailing list. He started holding regular support group meetings in private homes in San Francisco in 1986, and shortly afterward, in 1987, the FTM Newsletter was born, a single 8-1/2 x 11 sheet of paper that recapped one quarterly meeting and announced the next, plus included little tidbits about historical FTMs or techniques to help female-bodied people pass as men. Lou's friend Kevin Horwitz helped him create the newsletter, and has been a frequent contributor over the years.

This isn't the only way to build a community, but it is one way that works. Lou used to send out a local mailing a few weeks prior to each quarterly meeting, announcing what was on the agenda and promising that the next issue of the newsletter would be available. Then he would hand-address the envelopes and mail copies of the newsletter to everyone on his list who lived outside the area and to the local guys who hadn't shown up at the meeting. He really took genuine interest in the people who reached out to him, and it mattered deeply to him that those people were listened to and helped as much as possible. In this modest way, he

started building up a network of resources throughout the world.

At the same time, Lou was aggressively taking on the psychological and medical establishment. He corresponded and arranged meetings with some of the leading researchers and practitioners in the country, and slowly began to chip away at the prevailing paradigm of gender and sexual orientation. I would go so far as to say that he was single-handedly responsible for

It was an honor to have known Lou Sullivan, a true FTM pioneer. We met in 1989 in his newly formed San Francisco FTM support group. When we first spoke on the phone, his voice, soft, but decidedly male, gave me goose bumps. Lou put me at ease with his boyish grin, and infectious laugh, introducing me to the mainly transsexual group as a serious cross-dresser exploring my gender identity.

He told me to always be who I was, and I followed his advice as far as hormones and therapy. We spent many wonderful hours at his kitchen table, talking into the night about life, gender and sharing his hilarious bawdy sexual adventures as a gay man, which he shared with men. I almost wished I was transsexual, Lou made being Trans so much fun. FTMs from across the U.S. and other countries made the pilgrimage to San Francisco just to meet him.

I treasure the original short newsletters Lou Xeroxed and his first how to book for FTMs. I still feel his spirit, with its courage and humor, guiding us today. ▼

Francis Varna,
Oakland, CA

the professional community's current acknowledgment that there is a difference between sexual orientation and gender identity, and I predict that this view of gender and sex will ultimately have a profound effect on mainstream social thought in the twenty-first century. The ramifications of this new paradigm are already evident in the burgeoning transgender political movement, in the alliances between transpeople and Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual activists, in the explorations of gender role and sexual behavior that are occurring in academic circles, therapeutic circles, and social circles.

Unfortunately, Lou con-

tracted HIV, which later developed into AIDS. He was ill for several years, and he devoted the last three years of his life to his work with transsexual men and gender-questioning women. He was in a unique position. He didn't have to worry about losing his job--that had already happened. He didn't have to worry about coming out of any closet--he had made his peace with his family and friends, and he had nothing to lose: he was dying, and

he wanted to make a contribution of his life so that others would not have so difficult a time. Every one of us in this room tonight, every one of us who walks a path into genderland, owes a debt of gratitude to Lou Sullivan. He was a man who asked only to be recognized for who he was and treated with respect, and he freely gave of himself to help others, knowing that his only reward would be his own knowledge that he had helped someone.

To be perfectly honest, I didn't know Lou all that well. We had talked on the phone a few times, and I had been to a few of the quarterly meetings. He knew I was a writer, and that I worked at that time

as the publications manager for a mid-sized high-technology development and manufacturing company. At his request, I had submitted a couple of pieces for publication in the newsletter, and at his request, I had chaired one meeting while he was hospitalized. My friend Denis lived near him and spent many hours each week helping him take care of his basic needs, and he used to keep me apprised of Lou's condition. I hardly ever spoke to him. So I was fairly surprised when Denis called to tell me Lou was asking for me and wanted me to come over so we could talk.

Lou was sitting up in bed
(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from Lou Sullivan page 7)

the "faggot." She outran them, leaving her laundry behind and rushed to my door for help. I held her close and assured her that the incident was over and that she had done the right thing to run from them. About an hour later when she had recovered her composure I went with her to the Laundromat and her laundry was all still there.

When it became apparent that she really needed to leave Milwaukee

to find a place that was more understanding and to begin to take hormones in preparation for the surgical transformation, she decided to go to San Francisco. Her parents, brother and sister were very supportive. Her going away present was a handsome man's suit and grandfather's pocket watch, a family heirloom. Even in San Francisco she had some difficulty finding a shrink who understood that she saw herself as a man, moreover a

gay man, but she found one and began the hormone treatments. We kept in touch by mail and phone and she visited her parents every few months. She adopted the name of Lou and was able to grow a full beard. Her facial features and skin coarsened somewhat, but no one now questioned her gender. Lou had no trouble in finding employment getting a fine job with a major sporting goods firm where manage-

(Continued on page 12)

I Remember Lou Sullivan

By Jamison Green

Lou Sullivan was born in a female body June 15, 1951 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. From an early age he struggled with the clash between his female body and his sense of himself as a gay man. In the early 1970s he produced a newsletter for the Milwaukee gay scene and wrote for a number of gay and feminist publications. He moved to San Francisco with his boyfriend in the mid-70s. He began his hormonal transition to a male body in 1978, and his relationship ended when he decided to seek chest reconstruction, which he had in 1980. Motivated by his awareness of the difficulty of finding reliable information about FTM transition, he produced his first informational booklet on FTMs for the Janus Information Facility where he served as a volunteer. Because of his sexual orientation as a gay man he was refused genital reconstruction three times, but eventually he was able to find a surgeon who would work with him and he had his genitals rendered to a masculine configuration in April 1986. He suffered many complications from that surgery, and he never really recovered. He was diagnosed with HIV in late 1986. Prejudice against the disease cost him his job, and he decided to devote the remainder of his life to developing social support for FTM transsexuals and crossdressers, and to educating health care professionals about the process and dynamics of female-to-male transition. In the spring of 1987 he began a small FTM peer support group in San Francisco, and began publishing The FTM Newsletter in September of that year. After a ragged start, meetings and newsletter issues became quarterly events.

Lou set the stage for the later development of the educational organization FTM International, and for the development of an international FTM community that does not condone judging people by their sexual orientation. He was concerned about history, and was a founding member of the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California. He was a prolific letter writer who took the time to pay attention to each and every person he made contact with who sought information about, crossdressing, passing, or sex reassignment surgery. He was concerned that transsexual people remain aware that not everyone reaches the same life decisions in the same way or at the same moment, nor do the same issues or concerns motivate them all. He was instrumental in raising the level of discussion within professional circles concerning the separation of sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as the existence of FTM crossdressers and gay-identified FTMs. He wrote two books: "Information for the FTM Cross Dresser and Transsexual" (which he self-published in two editions in the 1980s, and the 3rd edition was published in 1990 by the Ingersoll Gender Center in Seattle, which now owns the copyright) and "From Female to Male: The Life of Jack Bee Garland" published in 1990 by Alyson Publications, Boston.

Lou died March 2, 1991 at the age of 39. He was not widely known. The phenomenal growth of transgender awareness and the synergy between the GLB and T communities had not been fully explored. No conscious effort had yet been made to serve transgendered or transsexual people with AIDS. Lou Sullivan left behind a mailing list of about 230 names, a roll of stamps, the model of inclusion in his support group, and the ethic of service to a community he hoped would someday exist. Now it almost does. In life and since his death he has been an inspiration for many transmen, both gay and straight.

Jamison Green — From the book *Transgender and HIV: Risks, Prevention, and Care* by Walter Bockting, Ph.D., and Sheila Kirk, M.D., published in 2001 by The Haworth Press. ▼

I Remember Lou...

Lou Sullivan was the first FTM transsexual man I ever met. The year was 1988, and I was exploring the idea of medical transition with fear, excitement and a startled yet steadfast focus. I'd seen Lou's small ad in the back pages of the lesbian sex magazine, "On Our Backs" advertising a book for "female-to-male cross-dressers and transsexuals", and a group that met quarterly with meetings and a newsletter – the group that was FTMI in its earliest incarnation. Before the "International" was added and the acronym "FTM" became a kind of hip cultural currency in the queer community of San Francisco and beyond. These were the early years, and Lou was the founder and driving, energetic man behind the scenes and in front of the group. He had started it at least two years earlier and now, FTM was rising to the surface in the pages of a dyke magazine. I was astonished and mesmerized.

It would take me at least a year to write for the information that the tiny ad promised, but when I did I was not disappointed. What was even better was that Lou wrote me back a note, and invited me to go to the quarterly FTM meetings. I would eventually look him up in the phonebook and call – out of nowhere, on a rainy afternoon when the two friends that I had confided in about my gender dysphoria were telling me our friendship would be terminated if I decided to become a man. He was friendly, supportive and very candid, "You should go to a meeting but before you go and are in a whole room full of FTMS; you can meet me." I did. I was

astonished. Lou looked to my eyes to have been born male. He was around 5'7" and slender, he had longish medium brown hair sweeping across his forehead and a tank top on revealing muscular "Popeye" arms. "The hormones really work," he would tell me from across the kitchen table then – sage-like and serious at the same time. His words had a gravity that was necessary, even in their optimism. He wanted me and others to know it was possible; you can do this, transform your body and life to that of a man... He also felt that transition was one of the biggest decisions anyone could make, and not to be taken lightly. That night, after dinner and a drink at a local bar where he ordered rum and coke and watched wrestling (telling me then that he was gay) -- I knew, that I would embark on that journey.

Later, Lou would become a friend. I'd go to FTM Support meetings and I'd visit his home. When he became ill with AIDS I lobbied through the Mission to Walgreen's to get him bubble bath, "get the one with the girl on the box, I don't care." It was also Lou's informed opinion on the legions of men who don't take bubble baths – thinking them "unmanly" –that "those guys don't know what they're missing."

Lou was down-to-earth and completely unpretentious. He had a sense of humor, a Midwesterner's common sense, and was a tireless advocate for transsexuals. It would not be an exaggeration to state that if I had not met Lou, I might not have done transition -- at least not for some time. He was the only source of positive and reli-

able information I could locate, he made sure it was available.

Lou knew we had a lot of work to do, to be who we are, to have good medical care, equal rights and – voices that are authentic and heard. When I expressed guilt that I would no longer be a "woman writer" if I transitioned, since women were oppressed and needed voices, he rightfully pointed out that "we need our writers too." Transsexuals and transsexual men in particular need to speak, write and create. Lou was a writer and capable of standing up for what he saw as truth. He was a gay transsexual man, before this was even allowed or recognized. He is also, the person who helped to change that, and now – being gay is no longer an issue if you want to begin transition. Lou was an advocate for all of our rights, over lunch in the Mission near his home, we talked about transsexual rights. He told me, "The gays will get their rights, the women will get theirs, but when will we get ours?"

I've always remembered that. I've tried to do my bit. Before he died, he wanted to know whether or not I would make the "Max" move, and I told him it was in the works for the end of the year. I think we can all draw real inspiration from who he was, a man without pretense and with actual courage – able to draw on his experience to change the world, for us. ▼

Max Wolf Valerio
San Francisco, CA

cisco was of great help and was there for him throughout his illness. He called me and said he was making one more trip back to Milwaukee just to see me. His family had visited him there recently so the trip was not really to see them. We spent an entire day together and when he left we both knew that we

would never see one another again. A couple of weeks after his return to San Francisco his sister called to tell me that he had passed away quietly. Yes, I remember Lou Sullivan and think of him often. He was one of my most cherished friends. ▼

(Continued from page 11)

ment knew her situation and was not bothered by it at all.

After the surgical transformation, Lou came down with AIDS and started his own typesetting business so that he could work when he felt at his best. His sister, now living in San Fran-

Journal Watch

Journal Watch is a new column to allow the community to keep up with what is being written about FTMs in the medical journals.

AIDS Care. 2005 Feb;17(2):195-207. The risk less known: female-to-male transgender persons' vulnerability to HIV infection. Kenagy GP, Hsieh CM. University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL 60607, USA. kenagy@uic.edu

Clin Endocrinol (Oxf). 2004 Nov;61(5):560-6. Testosterone increases bone mineral density in female-to-male transsexuals: a case

series of 15 subjects. Turner A, Chen TC, Barber TW, Malaban AO, Holick MF, Tangpricha V. Boston University School of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Section of Endocrinology, Diabet and Nutrition, Boston, Massachusetts, USA. ▼

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SOFFA SPACE

By Shelli Rawlings-Fein

Well, we're seven months pregnant as of this writing. It seems like just yesterday Marty and I were trying to conceive. Of course, now the question we are most often asked is "What are you going to have?" We've tried thinking of smart-aleck answers to the question like an alien or a frog but in the end answer, to the best of our knowledge, "A girl." Seriously, though, this is a tricky question to answer. For one, sonograms are sometimes wrong and for another, the real answer won't come until our child is old enough to tell us. When Marty's mom had him I'm sure there were cries of "It's a girl!" all over the delivery room. This is a part of their story that most of our partners don't like to think about much less acknowledge openly.

When we were deciding whether to find out the sex of the baby, we certainly had to discuss how we would navigate this gendered world even before our baby is born. We want our child to have an easier time of it than Marty had should our child be transgender while at the same time, we want our baby to be comfortable with his/her genetics. (Statistically she will be.) We decided that we are going to forge this road of parenting mindful of transgender issues while also helping our child to hopefully grow up comfortable with the sex/gender she is born with. Having had this discussion we decided to find out the sex.

One reason for knowing it was due to the most important of reasons: vanity. We quickly found that the world of infant decorating is fraught with gender stereotypes. Take infant clothing;

It's is near impossible to avoid gender-stereotypes in infant clothing, especially if you dislike the color yellow as much as I do. Thanks to friends of ours who have a 5-month old baby boy whom we lovingly call our "practice baby", our little girl has plenty of blue clothing to offset the inevitable pink. One outfit says, "Thank heaven for little boys". If our child is FTM he will have baby pix that match!

Then there is the whole name issue. The name we have chosen for our baby is not gender neutral. One would never name their baby that child the name we have chosen unless one wished to expose their child to taunting at school. The name was a mutual decision and reflects both our preference and family history.

So I don't have any answers here; no words of wisdom other than to try to be true to your values and your beliefs. Be honest with yourself and your partner. While I want to raise our child with as much consciousness as possible and I certainly don't want to force her to be something which she is not, there is also a part of me that wants her to play with dolls, dress her in cute little dresses and celebrate her girlhood. I can't help but buy her a cute little pink butterfly rattle every now and then. She will be a girl until such time that she (he) says different. And we will be OK with that too. I have never known such love as I have for our unborn baby. A little thing like gender has no bearing on that now or in the future. ▼



when I arrived. Denis had just finished bathing him and rubbing some kind of ointment on the sores on his back. Lou was pale and bone skinny; he was extremely weak, and could not get himself into or out of bed, but he was in good spirits, and his mind was very sharp. He didn't seem to be experiencing the dementia that affects many AIDS sufferers. He came directly to the point, telling me he was very concerned about the newsletter and the group, and he asked if I would be willing to make sure that the newsletter continued, at least for a while. He also asked Denis and me to coordinate the group together and make sure it didn't die out with him. I was surprised and honored by his request; it didn't even occur to me to refuse. Denis also agreed, and Lou seemed very happy.

A week later, on March 2, 1991, I was attending the OUT-Write conference here in San Francisco, the conference for gay and lesbian writers. I was wandering around, trying to figure how I--once an innocent lesbian, now a dreaded white, heterosexual man--could continue to fit into the world of queer politics and expression, and I wandered into a session where two of the speakers were to be Lou Sullivan and Kate Bornstein. People were still getting settled in, and Lou wasn't there. I watched as someone came up to Kate and whispered something to her, and Kate's face went white and tense with shock. She stared for a moment, then she motioned for me to come forward. "Lou passed away this morning," she told me. I said, "Oh, my god," and retreated to my seat, terrified, concerned much more for myself than for Lou, I admit. My partner, Marcy, cautioned me to remember that leadership is not self-aggrandizing or self-serving. She reminded me that if I was concerned about people loving me, a leadership role was not the way to universal appreciation. So be it. I know I have not always endeared myself to each and every one you, while Saint Lou rests peacefully on his laurels, incapable of making any mistakes. But I have tried to hold to two guiding principles with respect to the group: inclusion and diversity; and I have two guiding practices

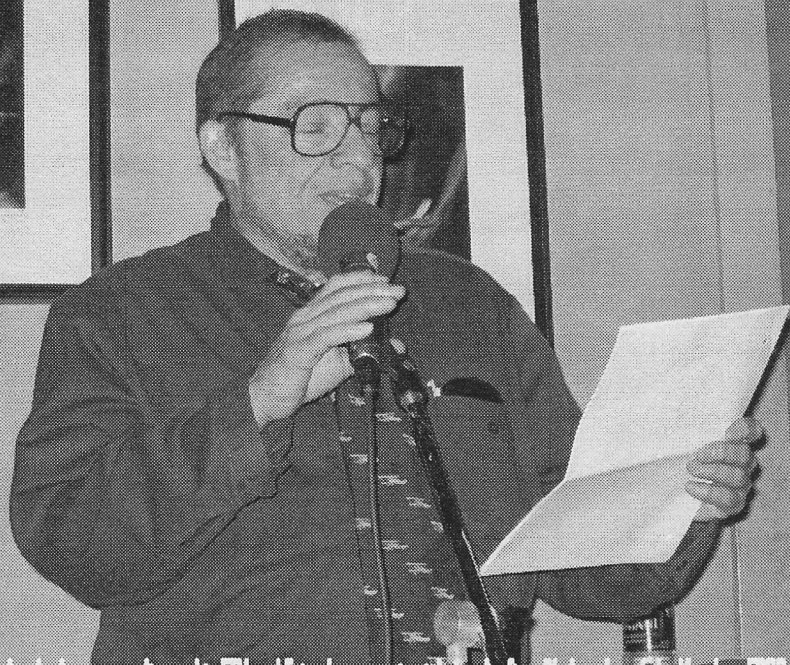
that I try to adhere to, and those are patience and acceptance. These are my ideals, and, like anyone else, I struggle to achieve them, to find a balance between those ideals and the very real and often conflicting demands of daily life. I am also very clear that leaders serve at the pleasure of their constituencies, and I thank all of you for the confidence you have placed in me.

Which brings me back (in one of my frequent logical leaps) to the formation of "community." Something that I found out really fast, in fact, I found it out at the first FTM group meeting that took place after Lou died, is that one of the bonds between us as transgendered or transsexual individuals is fear. And that fear does a lot of the driving for many of us. That first meeting without Lou in April, 1991, there were 60 people present, three times the typical attendance. Right away, people wanted to increase the frequency of the meetings from quarterly to monthly. I thought that was fine as long as I didn't have to coordinate everything by myself. So people like Sky and Mike and Shadow came forward to help out as Denis pulled back for personal reasons. Fear of change (how ironic in this population) drove some people away. Fear of isolation propelled more people into participation. Collapsing gender boundaries encouraging more exploration brought more people out of closets all over the world, and the FTM Newsletter mailing list grew from roughly 250 to nearly 750, another three-fold increase. Stafford and Jordy Jones came aboard to help with the newsletter. Stephan and Chris have been helping to coordinate the monthly meetings. Demands for public speaking and television appearances increased. FTMs as a class were starting to get some notice, some attention. And that was frightening, too. What do we do with it? For so long, the goal of transition has been to disappear, and suddenly it's okay, maybe even preferable for the avant garde, to declare one's self transgressive and gender categories mutable. It is my personal belief that we who do transition completely from female to male, and who feel perfectly comfortable and have no difficulty functioning socially as men, no matter how well we pass as men or how

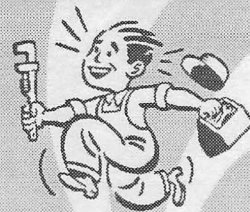
thoroughly male we know ourselves to be, we must nevertheless acknowledge that we have NOT led typical male lives, and we know things that typical males do not know. I personally believe that if we do not acknowledge this we are deceiving ourselves, and cheating the world of our unique perspectives. This is not to say that I think each of us must come out to our families or friends or employers or whatever. Each person's history is no one's business but his or her own, and no one should be obligated to reveal their personal business. Each of us must handle this in her or his own way. As a community, we are constrained by the ethics of confidentiality, by the economics of transition, by the fear of loss and change that often accompanies journeys like ours. It is also important to recognize that in many ways we are a transitional community. Many of you are here because you are just starting out and you are gathering information; many of you are here because you have been through the mill and you want to share yourself and your knowledge with others, just as Lou Sullivan did. Five years from now, will you early experimenters need any more questions answered? Will you long-time pioneers have grown weary of answering the same questions over and over? Will you activists have grown jaded from the spotlight or weary of the fight? Will you networkers be tired of talking to each other, will you all have new hobbies as you become bored with gender issues? ▼

(To Be Cont In Next Issue)

Conference Tapes are available from Female to Male International on top of the "Opening Ceremonies," FTMI also has:
"Living Long Term in Transsexual Bodies"
"Spirituality and Male Consciousness Raising"
"Coming Out"
"Political Legal Issues For FTM's"
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Bobbi Cheng - Red Jordan Aronson reading at his FTM and Friends open mic night on the first Wednesday of the Month at EROS Lounge.



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New Support Group

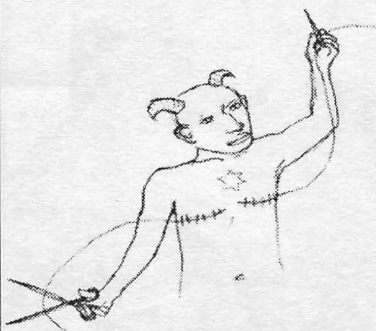
Support Group for Parents of Gender Variant and Transgender Kids

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Call Stephanie Brill: 925-253-0685 for details. We currently meet the third Wednesday of the month in Oakland from 6:30-8:30 pm. Free of charge. ▼

Not So New Zine

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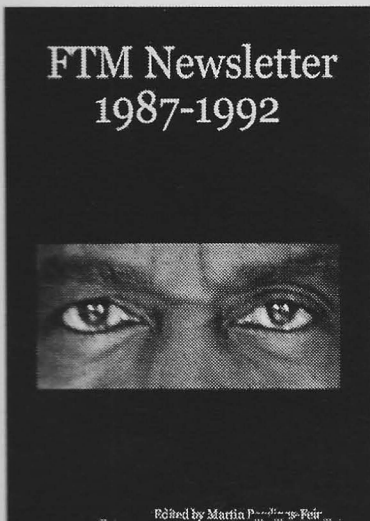


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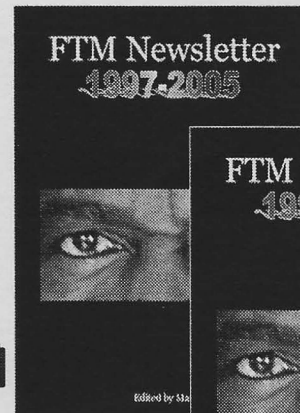
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We will feature a variety of presentations and workshops addressing the logistical and practical aspects of living trans lives. In addition, we are excited to present a series of peer-facilitated, topical discussions about the complex challenges we face in building and sustaining community. We hope that these conversations will offer opportunities for us to challenge ourselves as we recognize and negotiate the impacts of gender, age, class, race, etc. on our communities and lives.

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where have you been? where are you going? what do you think? how do you feel?