

Youth Issue

WITH GUEST CO-EDITOR SHERMIN WOOD

The Watch

by Alex Lee

Hidden away in a corner of a forgotten drawer lies my late grandfather's watch, ticking away these last 40 years. I can hear the second hand echoing through the lives of three generations, but the sound matters only to me. My father inherited this watch from his father, a difficult and hated man who forgot his family in the intricacies of Chinese politics, medicine, and war with the Japanese. The watch my father's father gave him could never make up for the decades of distance his father put between himself and his children.

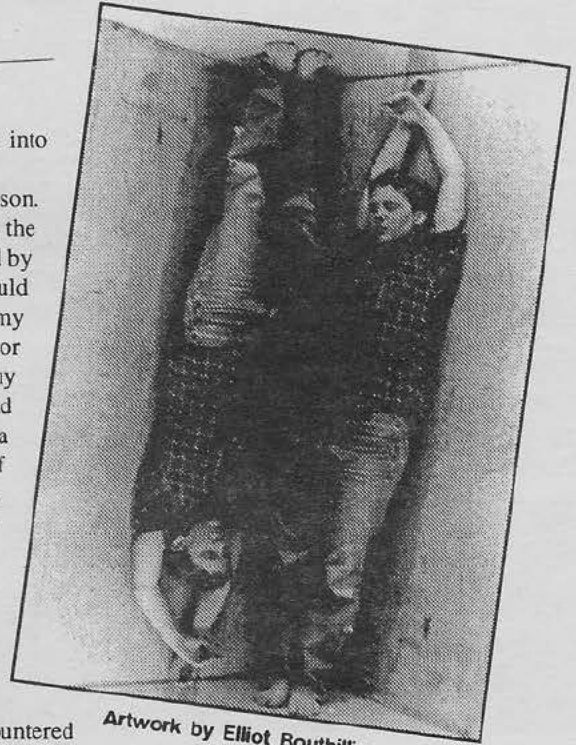
But the ticking watch means something far different for me. As a child I would slip the old timepiece onto my too-small wrist, feeling its smooth, heavy brushed steel against my skin. I would stare at its face and stroke the silver wrist chain, imagining my grandfather's fat fingers undoing the latch at night and snapping it closed again in the mornings. Although its silvery coolness articulated the coldness that dominated my father's relationship with his father, the watch brought me closer to these

men; its encircling weight closed me into this world of fathers and sons.

I've always wanted to be my father's son. But my father already has two. I am the middle child, the only daughter flanked by two boys. As I was growing up I would pretend I was his favorite son, and my father's generally generous demeanor and trust encouraged my fantasy. In my mind I was "heir" to the history behind my grandfather's exploits as a doctor, a senator and a soldier in the first half of the century, and to my father's story as a young immigrant to the Bay Area in the 1960s.

This fantasy life contrasted sharply with my reality as a Chinese and Taiwanese American female in suburban southern California. My parents, unnerved and made paranoid by the blatant racism they encountered when they came to this country, never failed to remind me of what I couldn't do— and what my brothers could. The

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Artwork by Elliot Bouthillier

Disconnected From The Dyke Community



Drew Lewis lives in Eugene, Oregon

by Drew Lewis

I began my transition in my late teens and now at the age of 23 I feel like I'm over it and just living life as a regular guy. Now I'm forced into the straight community by default, but I still spend a lot of time in the dyke community. I don't really belong in either community but I am and will always be a supporter of the dyke community—even though nine times out of ten I get the cold shoulder for showing up at dyke events or clubs. So when a friend in Seattle called me up and asked me be in a butch erotica show I hesitated, but agreed to do it. With all my concerns of acceptance at a show with an audience composed primarily of dykes, I headed for Seattle.

The night of the show my girlfriend and I showed up at the club about an hour early and

there was a gigantic line around the block. We circumvented the line, getting dirty looks from all the people who had been waiting for an hour, headed to the door and I said "I'm in the show." I was looked up and down then let in. I made my way to the dressing room and changed, found the director of the show, dropped off my music with the DJ, and found my friends. The show had sold out. There were 500 people in the club and I began to wonder how this dyke crowd was going to react to a guy stripping. Would I get booed off stage? Or feel like a fool for trying to entertain dykes with a sexy guy strip?

Just before I was up, I made sure the drag queen MC had the right info to introduce me. Then it was my turn. The crowd's reaction was very positive. I did my little number, stripped down to my hot pants, and

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FTM INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

The world's most widely-circulated newsletter for the female-to-male transgender and transsexual. Published quarterly since 1987.

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Please submit articles, stories, art, photos, poetry, etc. by Feb. 15 for consideration for FTM #47. Ads and letters due Feb. 29.

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MEETINGS

See page 23

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...AND DON'T FORGET TO WRITE

The intense effects of internal changes at FTM International, coupled with surgery and recovery, have brought you this issue of the FTM Newsletter twelve weeks late. You have our heartfelt apologies for the delay. But not to worry: every subscriber and advertiser will still receive their four paid issues as promised. The next issue, FTM #47, will address the recent organizational changes and introduce the new board.

This will be my last issue as editor of the newsletter. Ben Singer and Garin Wiggins, two transmen with very strong experience in activism and publishing, will be taking over as editors. Though I love FTM International and have great respect and expectations for the new board—and the membership—pulling together the newsletter is a massive job, and I have to take the time for other parts of my life.

For at least three reasons, I decided to make FTM #46 the youth issue:

● Youth is a state of political oppression, period. Youth are abused, impoverished, or abandoned in high numbers, and almost universally disempowered. And transgendered youth have even more to deal with. In most places an FTM who is under 18 and does not have his parents' support has no say over what changes he can make to his own body, if he chooses to make a physical transition. He very likely has no place to go to meet other trans people, or even gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth, let alone other young trans people. Many youth are hospitalized for "psychiatric" problems because of their gender expression. In some places even the transgendered adults are afraid to allow youth at their meetings and events, and so deprive younger people of information and support they need.

● There is an explosion in the population of trans-identified youth. In this issue you'll read 14- and 17- and 21-year-olds, and see artwork by young trans guys Elliot Bouthillier and Dean Dier. I found 16-year-old Australian Jarod Chan through his website, "Trans Teen Hangout." Here in San Francisco at the LGBT youth center LYRIC, Changeling—the trans youth group whose members provided several of the articles for this issue—now has higher attendance than *any* other support group at LYRIC. Even a year ago this would have been unthinkable. If this trend continues worldwide, who can predict what effects it will have on funding for services, on transgender culture, and on the strength of our movement?

● Queer youth activism formed a lot of my background when I

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HBIGDA 1999

by James Green

The Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association (HBIGDA) is the body of medical and related professionals that develops and disseminates the Standards of Care (SOC) that are used as guidelines for treatment of trans people's medical and psychological needs. Every two years, the association holds a symposium to conduct HBIGDA business and discuss advances in the field. This year the symposium, held August 17-22 in London, England, was attended by nearly 200 people, with a record number of professionals who also happen to be trans people—at least a dozen—contributing to the research and discussion.

There were four solid days of presentations and discussions and networking. With people from all over Europe and the Middle East, North America, Japan, Africa, and Australia, the networking opportunities

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Jeff Shevlowitz
Sylmar, CA

by Alexander J. Goodrum

I have gone through much of my life not thinking much about my cunt. Oh, it has served me as well as one might expect of that most hidden of body parts. That it is a most female of body parts has not given me as much pause as one might expect. Being FTM, I have never shuddered with loathing when looking at my cunt. Indeed, of all the things I wanted most in terms of being a man, having a fleshy appendage dangling out for everybody and god to see was not on the top of my list.

So, other than the occasional pesky yeast infection (which I consider to be the cosmic yin to the yang of jock itch), having a cunt was not an anathema to my being male.

My only reference to the idea of a man having a cunt came from cheesy porn novels. You know, the kind of books that include a line uttered by some big, burly hunk of a man similar to "I plunged my engorged cock deep into his quivering man cunt." Or something to that effect.

Since I do not enjoy the sensation of having anything plunged into my cunt (quivering or not), such images fell far short of eroticizing it for me. [*Of course, many FTMs do enjoy vaginal penetration.—Ed.*] Yet the power of linking such disparate images as "man" and "cunt" has always spoken to me. It is as if such a coalescence of the two formed a mirror from which I could see something of myself.

When I began my physical transition from female to male (the mental having occurred long before—sometime in the womb I think), I met many FTMs who had had genital surgery, or were going to have it at some point. Now on some intrinsic level, the idea of having a penis is paramount to many FTMs. For some of them, the lack of a penis is a daily affront to their being—a constant reminder of their fundamental difference from those born with one. For them, being penis-less is a physical and psychological barrier and as unattainable as the ability to fly.

This lack of that most masculine of members leads some FTMs to pursue such surgical options as phalloplasty. I admit, when I first heard of the procedure I thought to myself, "Cool! They can make a cock." Yet when I educated myself to the procedure, costs, and results, I saw that it was not for me. I could not put myself through such extreme pain and potential financial ruin for something that looked like what I had seen.

But where did that leave me? Did that mean I was not completely committed to my transition? Why was I not willing to do whatever it took to approximate the physical appearance of a man? Worst, did it mean I was not really FTM—merely some butch lesbian playing with the nouveau fad of gender-bending and body modification?

The more I thought on these questions, the more I began to understand my relationship to my cunt. I remember back in the '70s when women were being encouraged by the lesbian-feminist movement to introduce themselves to their cunt. Armed with mirrors, tens of thousands of women lay back, spread their legs, and peered intently "down there." Feeling empowered, and rather silly, they gazed with solemn wonder, many for the first time, at the tufted folds that lay between their legs. Spreading these silky lips, they tentatively brushed the fleshy clitoris, bringing a tingling hardness that may have surprised them.

Perhaps they, being from a culture that does not accept what it cannot define, rushed to the dictionary, searching for the official words by which to term this familiar, yet alien thing. I know I did. There I found the following:

Clitoris (klīt'er-īs, klī'ter-) noun. A small, elongated erectile organ at the anterior part of the vulva, homologous with the penis. [New Latin, from Greek kleitoris.] -clit'oral (-er-el) adjective.

Hmmmm. "...homologous with the penis?" What the hell does homologous mean? Back to the dictionary.

Homologous (he-mōl'e-ges, ho-) adjective. Corresponding or similar in position, value, structure, or function. [From Greek homologos, agreeing:

homo-, homo- + logos, word, proportion.]

Were they surprised at the thought that their clitoris could be considered similar in value to a penis? I wasn't. I already knew that. That the American Heritage Dictionary admitted it—now that was a surprise.

The more interesting journey for me since I began my transition has been the choices I have made to alter my body to fit my true gender, and those alterations that I choose not to make. I choose to take testosterone to alter the chemistry of my body. I choose to have surgery to alter the contours of my chest. I do not choose to alter my genitals.

Does that make me any less a man? Of course not. I know that if my body never changed that I would still be a man. My manhood does not reside in the folds of my labia, the rise of my breasts, or the curves of my hips. It does not depend on how well I can spit, swagger, and swear. It does not require an engorged cock ready to plunge deeply into anybody's quivering cunt.

What my manhood requires is for me to be true to my essence, as I define it, and to fill the entirety

of my existence. It requires that I move through this life along the path that is marked for me, trusting that there is more to the journey than just what I can see on the road ahead. And it requires that when I leave this place I will have done something, anything that has made the world a better place for those who come after me.

So I have come full circle. I still do not think much about my cunt. But when I do, one thing is clear to me. Having a cunt is not as important as how I relate to it.

And that has made all the difference.

Clitoris: noun. A small, elongated erectile organ homologous with the penis. Homologous: adjective. Corresponding or similar in position, value, structure, or function.

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Sandra S. Cole, PhD, Director

... Last Night I Put On a Dress



by AJ

My dad painted my face in the bathroom last night...right after he painted his own. My dad and I are drag queens. We love to be the center of attention, at least when we are wearing the right clothes. We are getting ready for San Francisco's first annual drag march. This was the drag queens' and kings' chance to parade down the street in all their finery. I was so nervous as my dad put on my make-up; this would be the first time I would be in drag in front of my new girlfriend and my f2m-ish friends. Every once in a while I let them see a glimpse of my inner drag queen, but now they were going to see me live and in action.

If I were to try to describe "us" to you I would say we are gender fucks, trannies, fags, and queens. My dad would not choose to use all of those words (it's a generational thing). When I stand next to my dad I see a mom and a son. When we walk down the street you see a fag and a dyke. Sometimes I want to scream in your face, "You are so wrong, why can't you see me?!" My dad would not approve of this, he thinks it's none of your business. He thinks if you don't know, that you can't hurt me. I want to make him understand how you make it

your business when you stare at me like I'm some sort of freak. And that it hurts when you call me "she." And how frustrating it is to feel so stuck, to be walking through life knowing people can only see the outside, not the boy. Why is it too much to ask? I know you can't comprehend; why can't you just humor me?

Or better yet, you could listen. Let me explain. I was born a girl, but I've always felt like a boy. I currently identify as an f2m (female to male transsexual). I'm attracted to both boys and girls, and I like to cross dress (which means dressing in women's clothes, since I'm a boy). In my everyday clothes, I look like a dyke and act like a fag. And some day I aspire to be a big fucking drag queen. I know it sounds kind of confusing, but it all makes sense in my head. My dad would say I've told you too much; he's just afraid some day someone is going to attack me, or just shut me out.

Last night after my dad painted my face, I put on my lamp-shade hat and a big orange dress. I did the first annual drag march, and felt proud to be the beautiful drag queen I keep hidden inside.

Trans Youth In Berkeley Form "Gender Garden"

There's a new group in Berkeley for transgender/transsexual/gender-bending/questioning-in-any-direction youth 25 and under. Gender Garden meets every Friday from 6:30-8:00pm at the Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave. (at Derby St.), across from Andronico's supermarket. To get there, take BART to the Berkeley station, then catch the #40 bus to Telegraph and Derby.

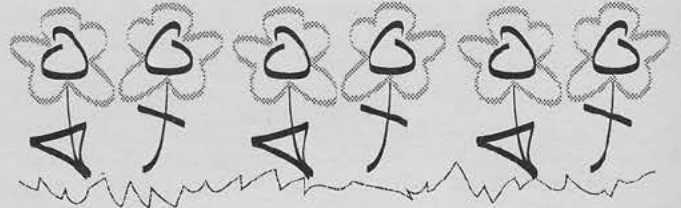
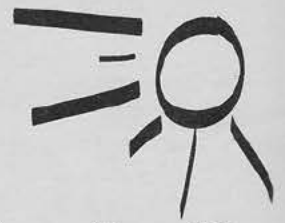
Gender Garden was founded by Jaron Kanegson, who is 28. He will be facilitating the group. Jaron helped found the Changeling group at LYRIC in San Francisco (see story p.5) and until recently served as LYRIC's educational services coordinator. He's also an instructor of youth classes in creative writing and other subjects at the Harvey Milk Institute in SF. Jaron and the facilitators of Changeling hope to have some collaboration between the two groups.

Amy Wooldridge, program director at the

Pacific Center, explains that the center is expanding its youth programs in general: "The Pacific Center youth groups are generally facilitated by young adults (people around 30). We are looking for more people to facilitate, either youth or younger adults in their late 20s or very early 30s. The idea is to eventually have a group for trans people aged 25-35 group as well. An all-ages trans group has also been running here for years (mostly older MTFs in the past, but this is changing) and will continue to be held at 8 pm Fridays, after the youth group." [For the FTM East Bay group information, see p. 23.] Jaron adds: "I started Gender Garden because

there were a lot of trans youth far into the East Bay who couldn't necessarily make it to San Francisco for the Changeling meetings. Also, there are not many trans youth groups nationally and I wanted to get some more going!"

For more information contact the Youth Gender Project at 510-665-9234. For directions call the Pacific Center at 510-548-8283, or email pcvolunteers@gay.net.



Beyond "Smack-a-Queer" High School

AN INTERVIEW WITH JOHN TORNO

by Jaron Kanegson

From late 1996 until May of 1999 I worked as Educational Services Coordinator at the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center (LYRIC) in San Francisco. I also helped Changeling—a support, social and discussion group for T/G and gender-questioning youth—grow into a viable group. This was actually the third incarnation of the group: Matt Rice made a first attempt to start a t/g youth group at LYRIC at least five years

ago. Jesse Bachrach and some other youth actually later began Changeling. For many reasons beyond their control, neither Changeling, nor any other t/g youth group, was in existence when I began working at LYRIC. Happily, Changeling now meets weekly, attended by up to 15-20 youth (ages 13 to 25) per meeting. At the time of this writing it is the largest of all the support groups that meet at LYRIC.

One of the highlights of my time at LYRIC was meeting and working with then-high-school-senior John Torno. A 17-year-old FTM student at MacAteer high school when we met, John was largely outed by teachers and administrators. John legally changed his name and began testosterone in January of his senior year, as soon as he turned 18. He told me many stories of harassment and heartache, and I did what little I could to help. Amazingly, John persevered through his senior year to graduate in May of 1998. I was proud to attend his high school graduation, as were FTM International representatives Dion Manley and Jed Bell.

In addition to graduating, John also wrote a short play about an MTF high school student. The play, called "Freedom Like the Butterfly," was produced by the California Writers' Project at the end of his Senior year. The CWP chose five short plays written by students from two San Francisco high schools to be produced and staged by professional actors at The Magic Theater at Fort Mason in San Francisco. I attended that performance, which had many high school students and parents in the audience.

A few days later, I interviewed John about how he felt watching his play being performed, and about his high school experiences. Like the Blair Witch Project "documentary,"

this interview disappeared into the abyss (moving boxes, in this case), only to reappear a year later. In the past year, John has continued with his transition, spoken at conferences, and been a role model for other FTM and gender-questioning young people. John and I completed a follow-up interview this fall. He is now 19, and was a lot more talkative the second time around! Also, I am no longer a LYRIC employee, which meant I could be a bit more direct in my questioning.

PART ONE (SPRING, 1998)

How did you feel watching your play be performed?

Pretty good. It was a very emotional experience to watch people's reactions to it.

I noticed the play was about a young MTF. Did it parallel your experiences?

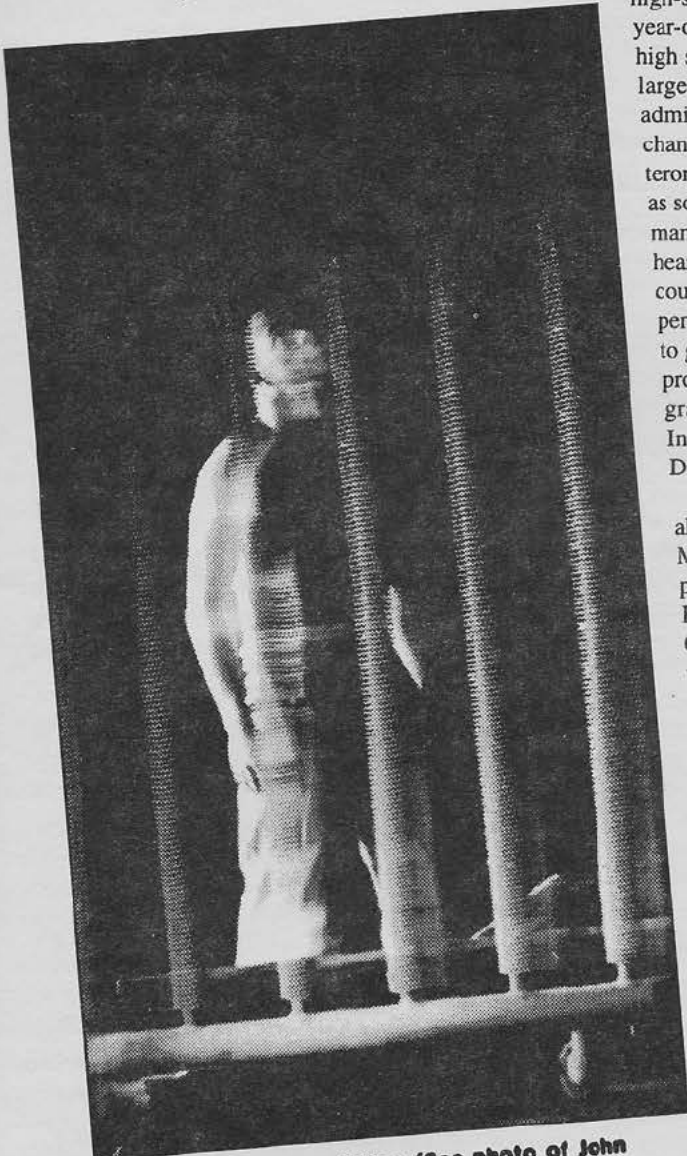
It's supposed to be based on the experiences of a transgender teenager in high school. But I didn't want people to think it was supposed to be my exact story. Then people from school might come up to me and say "That never happened to you at MacAteer!" Because they don't want to acknowledge it (what really did happen).

Can you tell me about your experience in high school?

Very disturbing. Within the last year it was very disturbing. Coming out, and having people yelling at me. Making fun of me. Physical violence. I was made fun of even before people knew I was an FTM, maybe because I was always very tall and muscular for a woman. In junior high, people always called me a dyke and stuff because I didn't wear makeup. When I was ten years old, I was five feet tall.

I remember that it seemed to be very important to you to graduate from MacAteer, and I was very proud to attend your graduation. But, I have wondered from time to time—what was it that made it so important to you to graduate from MacAteer?

To know that I could stick it out. Also, they wouldn't let me transfer to another school, they kept telling me I couldn't. Remember my high school counselor? She kept



Artwork by Elliot Bouthillier. (See photo of John Torno on page 7.)

17 SEVENTEEN

by Jason McEleney

Hi. My name is Jason McEleney, and I am a 17-year-old ftm. I just graduated from Mid-Peninsula high school in Palo Alto, CA, this May. I started high school at Menlo Atherton high school, which is in Menlo Park, CA, but I left shortly into my sophomore year because I was afraid to go to school. I was harassed a lot, and I was beat up once because I was openly gay. I knew that it

was ok to be gay at Mid Peninsula high school, but I don't identify as gay anymore.

I came out as transgender near the end of my junior year in high school, which was around April of 98. I was 16 years old. One of the first people I told was my English teacher. I was afraid to tell people because I knew that most of the people I knew would support me, but wouldn't understand. I didn't understand myself yet, and I was afraid of people asking me questions I wouldn't be able to answer. I'm really glad I told my English teacher, because he understood. He loaned me books, like *Stone Butch Blues* and *Body Alchemy*. He called me by the right name. I didn't come out to anyone else at school until the beginning of my senior year. For the most part, everyone was cool about it. I can't take testosterone yet, and I don't pass very well. I was quite pleasantly surprised by how respectful everyone at my school was.

This year I start my freshman year at the University of California at Santa Cruz. I'm excited to actually be going to college, but I'm also a little bit worried. I haven't told the school that I'm transgender, so they put me with a female roommate. I didn't think much about it until I found out her name a week or so ago, and I talked to her on the phone. I'm scared that she won't like me, or that she won't like having a boy for a roommate. If I had gotten a male roommate, my fears would be the same. I'd be afraid he wouldn't like having a girl as a roommate. I'll be 18 soon, so I hope to start testosterone then. I'm afraid to just call the school and ask them what to do because I don't want to get in trouble with my parents, and I know I will if my parents find out.

I came out to my parents about half a year ago. They don't understand, but we don't talk about it. I know they're still thinking, and I want to give them space. I've known about myself for quite a while, and it was hard to accept myself. It took time. My parents need time, like I did. I'm worried about what they will think when I start testosterone. They know I want to, but I don't think they realize that it will actually happen.

I like being transgender. I guess that's a strange thing to say. When I first figured it out, I hated it. I wanted to be like everyone else. I'm happy now, in a way that I've never been happy before. I finally feel like I have the freedom to explore who I am, if it is related to gender or not. I used to be very depressed, and I don't think it is any surprise that when I accepted myself, my depression went away. I love myself.

COUNTDOWN

162 days until I may begin to actively seek a way to unite my body and my mind. I count off each passing day as I did when I was a young boy, too eagerly awaiting some Christmas or birthday, first day of kindergarten or amazing summer vacation. After spending a whole year trying to make the year go more quickly than the one which had preceded it, I would be rewarded with another Barbie to add to the shelf of toys whose one function was to make me wonder why I had received them, and how I had been so misjudged.

This time will be different! I tell myself that, and pray it will be true. When asked why I'm counting the days until my 18th birthday, I try to play it off by saying I haven't anything better to do, or I just can't wait to get tattooed, or would it not be lovely to legally inhale chemicals that will not only kill me, but will also make rich, white men in North Carolina just that much richer?

I'm not going to get a Barbie this year. On November 14, 1999, I will be allowed to make my own decisions. I will no longer need that Barbie on my shelf, because I will be allowed to choose what gender boxes in which to shove myself. I will stop pretending. My gift to myself is the opportunity to look the way I want, talk the way I always should have, and fuck the way I've dreamed to. If the freedom to control my body passively snakes its way onto the shelf, I will surrender my ability to count down to a 19th birthday.

- Jason McEleney

The Cause That Captured A Rebel

by Nico Brown

I do believe since day one we have all been constantly on the run; from the time that the Dr. caught our newborn heads; we've been living in a nightmare full of the dreadful dead. We were young rebels without causes; life slapped us in the face, and all we could do was fall.

Life is bestowed upon many; some are born with the desire to aspire; to put a mere meal on the table, one must be willing to perspire to the extreme; didn't even mention a thing about one's dreams. Makes you want to lay down and scream.

Trying to reach and crawl on the wall of life; each stepping stone is that of a knife. Captured once again, you look, you turn, you yearn for a positive outlet; but again you have been burned; the mists of darkness have just appeared.

The pessimistic outlook of life has dared you, didn't even care to spare you. It has done a voodoo that once again continues to capture you. What are you going to do? Life has captured the rebel without a cause.

You fought, moaned and gnawed the cause that has captured us all; and now life has come to an end, but in the wind there is an optimistic applause, for the rebel has seized the cause.

Full Time At Fourteen

by Steve

I am a 14-year-old FTM living in a considerably small suburban community in California. I've been living full-time as a guy for going on two years now. I live like any other young guy-I go to school and like to hang out with my friends.

Being trans is no longer the main issue in my life, because it doesn't have to be. It usually doesn't come up in my daily life anymore. I've been living full-time for long enough now, that everyone in my life is used to it. My family and friends are cool about it, and so are most of the other people in my life that know.

I legally changed my name a while back, which was pretty simple. My mom and I filled out the proper documentation, and for reason of the name change, wrote "PERSONAL." The judge just looked at me, stamped the paper and said "Go ahead and use your new name now, Stephen" without any questions.

Getting approved for hormones wasn't as difficult as I feared it would be, either. Luckily, I have a really cool doctor that really listened to me and ended up writing out my prescription for "T" fairly quickly. Since my mom was by my side through the whole process (thanks mom!), my age wasn't too much of a stumbling block-although my doctor did want a second opinion from a psychiatrist mainly because I was young.

Since I was already passing, I wasn't relying on hormones to transition. I saw getting the prescription written out as my ticket to puberty and peace of mind. The way I saw it, I was just as ready for testosterone as any of my bio-male peers.

At this time, I was told about the counseling requirements and continuing on with the counseling I was already in was recommended, which I thought was a load of crap. Counseling, for the most part, has sucked in my experience with it. I've never gotten anything out of some "professional" sitting in a room staring back at me telling me to talk. When I need to talk about something I prefer to call up someone closer to my age who has had a similar experience or at least understands what I'm talking about. I get way more out of that.

I do understand, however, why counseling is suggested before and during one's transition, because it seems that for most trans people, transitioning is a major life change with many complex issues around it. Counseling could probably help someone who feels that they need to talk to someone and feels that counseling could help them. I don't doubt that counseling could be helpful and worthwhile to others, trans or not. I just resent being told I'll need to see a psychiatrist, because I feel like my sanity is being questioned. I shouldn't have to prove I'm who I say I am to some professional any more than any of my bio-male friends should have to, which proving myself is basically what the recommended counseling was for. They wanted to do some kind of "Gender Assessment" on me. I may only be 14, but I know

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SMACK A QUEER HIGH from page 5

threatening me that she wasn't going to let me graduate, but she didn't want to let me transfer to another school. Also, they outed me—the school counselor and the teachers.

So they may have helped create some of the problems you experienced?

Yes.

Let's talk about the play a little more. What kind of comments did you get after people saw it performed?

Good ones. "Oh, that was so emotional, so touching." And, "This is sad, that this is happening."

What was it like working with the actors?

Pretty good, especially the director. He was gay and a drag queen and cross-dresser, so he had some knowledge of the transgender community.

How about the actor who played Danielle (the MTF character)?

It was fun to see him doing it. At first he wasn't that good but the director helped him.

He told us he'd never done anything like that before. The director asked him if he'd ever done drag before. He said "Never!" The director said "Don't worry, you have me!"

How did you like the other plays?

I liked them a lot. They were so good. But everybody told me mine was the best!

I noticed some people laughed.

Not many people understand. Some people are just really immature.

What do you think people learned from your piece?

That we've got feelings. That transgender people do have feelings.

PART TWO (FALL, 1999)

So, have you been happier since high school?

Yes! Much happier!

How have things been going with your transition since high school?

Well, no harassment! But, unfortunately, I



John, pictured above with his mother.

have been having medical problems, and the embarrassment of dealing with medical problems, doctors, insurance. My mother has had to deal with a lot of it, since I'm under her name because I'm under twenty-one.

Are you still taking hormones?

Yes!

Did you have any surgery?

Yes, I had a full hysterectomy,

> 11

It's not easy being a teenager, tougher to be a transsexual, so life must be like hell for a transsexual teenager. I know, because I am one. My pseudonym is Jarod. I am 16 and have officially known I am a female-to-male transsexual (FTM) for about three years. I say "officially" because all those years before I was 13, I kinda knew I was different but I never truly realized because 1) I was too young and naïve to realize and 2) There wasn't a clear enough difference between boys and girls for me to outrightly say I had the body of the wrong gender. Of course, once I reached puberty, all was revealed. Fortunately, I live in Australia or as we call it, the "lucky country." So here's a bit about what life is like for a closet tranny in Aussieland.

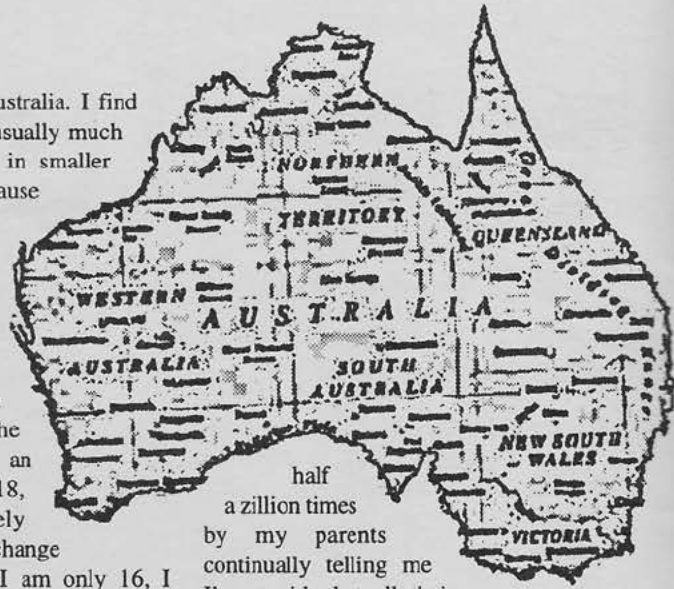
I see Australia as a good place to grow up in—fairly tolerant, with a very multicultural society which we pride ourselves in. Pride, or should I say gay and lesbian pride, is shown prominently with the massive Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras on every year (one of the world's biggest). This parade has grown huge over the last few years, bringing a whole community together and pushing forward recognition for people who are queer—although it is mainly for gays and lesbians. I have not come out to family or friends yet so I cannot say firsthand how people react to transsexuals. But from what I've heard of other people's experiences, I would say that they are treated with the respect they deserve. Of course, there are the minority who will discriminate but the majority of people are quite accepting, especially since FTMs are harder to spot and so stand out less.

There are laws in New South Wales, the state which I live in, which protect transsexuals from discrimination in the workforce, school, jail and basically anywhere else. These laws have only been passed recently (within the last two to three years). This is a major step in the fight for equality, preventing transsexuals from being fired or deprived of resources because of their gender just as there are laws against

discrimination based on a person's race or nationality.

I live in Sydney, the major city in New South

Wales and the largest in Australia. I find that people in the city are usually much more tolerant than people in smaller towns. This is probably because there is a greater diversity of people, so being different isn't going to raise a commotion. Although I am not out of the closet, I do act like a boy and dress like a boy, which can present some problems. The age where one is declared an adult is 18. When you are 18, you can do absolutely anything, start hormones, change your name, whatever. As I am only 16, I cannot start hormones unless with parental consent—which I'll never get. Because I dress like a boy and do it so convincingly, when I go out, people take me for a boy. This can get really embarrassing in front of my parents, who strongly object to my behavior and dress sense. They are Chinese (I moved to



half a zillion times by my parents continually telling me I'm stupid, that all their friends' children are smarter than me and that I will never amount to anything.

9) All other guys are having so much fun and I am missing out on the supposedly "best times of my life."

10) The constant thought that there are those who are lucky to have very understanding parents and have transitioned early in school with their full support.

Being transsexual here can get rather lonely. Unlike in America where I often hear of gay and transgender groups in universities and high schools and such, there are very few resources for transgender youth in Australia. In Sydney, there is only the Gender Centre which is not very publicized and which I only found through the Internet. However, the Gender Centre is a good resource and place for transsexuals to get advice. There are quite a number of youths who do meet there. I have gotten help from the centre who have graciously sent me a whole package of information on transsexuals and FTM transsexuals. The centre publishes its own magazine *POLARE*. The Gender Centre provides education, support, counseling and welfare for those who are confused and need help as well as for friends and family of the concerned. It is also a great way for trannies to get to know each other, meet and support each other. Heaps of information on transgendered people, doctors and legal advice can also be found.

Due to problems with transport, parental restrictions, and other difficulties, I'm afraid I do not know any other transgender youths myself but hope to in the near future. There may not be a wide range of choices for doctors for surgery, but there are a lot of people dedicated to making life easier for transgender people. I know there are a lot of people who are ignorant or misinformed—and there was one incident when a tranny died in prison for

There are laws in New South Wales that protect transsexuals from discrimination in the workforce, school, jail and basically anywhere else

Australia when I was three and consider myself Australian, not Chinese-Australian) and they hold very strong anti-queer beliefs, which puts me in a bad light. I am constantly reminded of this by their continual disapproval of me and the push to act more feminine.

Why is life hell for me???

- 1) I am not a boy.
- 2) My parents are a pain in the bum. I have not lived up to their high academic expectations (which I am constantly reminded of). That, and I don't dress girly enough for them so they are forever bugging me. They keep pushing me one way and I keep going the other way. As you see, our relationship is strained.
- 3) I go to an all-girls school and have to wear a skirt each and every day.
- 4) I have a body the shape of a female.
- 5) Periods.
- 6) I am too short.
- 7) I do not want to go to the end-of-school formal next year and I am straining to think of a way out.
- 8) My self-confidence has been shattered

Trannies Down Under

by Jarod Chan

15

no boat

by Stanly M. Crass

you speak to me of feelings and fate magical fantasies with fairy tale traits in all of which seem to have no meaning no sense of logic or rational thinking

-I CAN'T LISTEN TO THAT-

i speak to you of reality and truth of swelling hate and lost child youth in all of which spiral above my head blocking the magic you speak of instead your reality is clouded while my reality is dead

good night

by Stanly M. Crass

the sun drops down causing sprockets to turn. their sanity turns to infancy as their dreamscape decays their bodies start convulsing—while tears stream down their face. what should be cries of joy end up of pain and disgrace. they couldn't deny their damage or run from their hate. what they chose as employment rewrote and corrupted their fate. they fill their pockets with money earned from dehumanizing deeds. they live every waking day in power falsely believing they're free. as you and i sleep our dreams come alive while they deservantly weep.

I can't lie and say that I've never been of the double X chromosome, but before I had ever stepped foot out of my old home I had been pumped full of my Y chromosome. I've been alone and disowned by life; my nights and days are nothing more than strife. Although biologically not intended as Y, my perseverance has kept me alive. Inside I have grown as that of a male; but forever I am trapped behind a shell. Through the fire I still stand, whether it is thick or thin I still carry within my Y chromosome.

CHROME

by Nico Brown



TIPS for BETTER LIVING From a 76-76

TIP #1

USE ONLY TAMPONS WHEN PACKING ON THE RAG...



TIP #2

DON'T USE DUCT TAPE FOR BREAST BINDING!!



TIP #3

DON'T EXPECT MEN'S RESTROOMS TO CATER TO YOUR NEEDS...



TIP #4

IN A GAME OF SHIRTS 'N' SKINS, KNOW WHICH SIDE YOU BELONG ON!

by Dean Dier

world was not mine, and my anger and despair only cemented my identification with my father and paternal grandfather.

I took the stories and made them mine. I imagined I was there with my father when, as a boy on his father's farm in northeastern pre-revolutionary China, he would steal sweet potatoes from nearby farms and eat them with his friends. Even though no one understood my grandfather, I would recreate in my mind what it was like to be him in an attempt to discover why a man with an incredible public identity was such a failure to his family. They were and are complicated men, and I looked forward to inheriting their lives.

In many ways my identification with them was shaped by my strong feelings of gender difference. I've always known I didn't feel like a girl. Feeling my father's and grandfather's histories in my bones allowed me to get away from my body for a while and be like them, like men who stored ammunition for the Chinese army in their living rooms, and who came to a strange country with only one suitcase and twenty-five dollars. As I now explore what kind of man I could be, I've begun to realize that my father and grandfather were not just people who populated my over-active imagination. They were role models for me, even when I believed that as a female I could never really be part of their world. Although they were and are not perfect, I know now that they are people I can hold in my heart as heroes as I carve out my masculine presence in this world.

Ironically, my father now complicates my entrance into this world of men. The man I held most closely to me now stands in my way. I live on my own now, but still hesitate to tell my parents about my newfound acceptance of my masculine gender. Recently my father mockingly asked me why I kept my hair short like a boy, and I could not cough up the courage to tell him that it was because I've always been more of a boy than a girl—something he of all people should realize. But my father still sees me as his little girl, even though I'm the one most like him.

I trust and admire my dad, but even he will turn me away from the entrance to the "brotherhood of man." There are many flaws, many imperfections to this gender I am laying claim to, and I realize now that I can't do what I need to do—indeed what is asked of every boy, to get past the front door.

I cannot waste the lessons I've learned so far in this life to protect patriarchy's crushing hold on this world. As amazing people as they were and still are, my father's and grandfather's masculinities are flawed, and the only way I can see myself as a man and a full human being is to make my own definition of masculinity. I want to adopt the wonderful aspects of my dad and my grandfather, still feel their stories in my bones, but use my life as a way to make amends for the damage patriarchy has done.

I have the chance to make my life the third, redemptive act to this history.

The watch my grandfather gave to his son, my father, is now mine. I rescued it from the forgotten drawer last year. Since neither of my brothers were interested, my father agreed to let me have it. The hands still move smoothly around its face, and the wrist chain sill dangles loosely on my small wrist. This watch—in my father's and brothers' eyes just an inefficient antique timepiece—means history to me, the inheritance I've always dreamed of. And like the inheritance that I will adopt and mend, so will I make this watch fit me.

Testosterone Tornado

A NON-FTM EXPERIENCE

Alex and I went to college together but didn't know each other well. A mutual friend told us about each other's experiences and I got in touch. Amazed by the similarities and differences between FTMs' and Alex's experiences with hormones and doctors, I asked him to write down his story for the newsletter. —Jed

by Alex Weirich

As Terry Pratchett once observed, no story ever really begins at the beginning; there's always something before the beginning that affects the story. Every story begins in the middle. The middle of this particular story came at the end of the summer I'd graduated from college. I had just put in a summer of absolute hell as a camp counselor before starting graduate school in the fall. So there we were, my father and I, sitting at the kitchen table one August afternoon, when I decided to bring up a matter I was a little curious about.

"Um, Dad...? I was kinda wonderin' something... You know, um... Well, you know how I grew like seven inches a year for two years, back when I started college? You know, started off 5' 1", ended up 6' 3"?"

[nod, expectant and understanding look]

"Well, ummm, it's like this...I was wondering...well...part of me never got included in that growth spurt." [vague gesture at my lap] "Is that normal?"

[surprised and indignant expression] "Hell, no! Shit, boy, the guys in this family are hung like steer!" (This from my father the English teacher, mind you.) "Are you sure...?"

[emphatic nod on my part] "I'm sure. It's the same size as when I was 11, Dad."

[worried, thoughtful frown....]

And so, out of offhand curiosity, began a series of medical exams, blood tests, and eventually an MRI series that came up with the rather astonishing fact that my chromosomes were not in order. I'm XXXY, which was why at age 22 I still hadn't ever had to shave, looked like I was 14 years old, and had not the slightest clue what a sexual urge was. Sure, I'd dated in college—a little. I had these amazingly platonic/romantic relationships that utterly disintegrated once it became clear that I had no idea that a bed was for anything other than sleeping in. I gave great backrubs that stayed just backrubs. A friend that I'd dated for six months slept over one night, and that's all I did—sleep. I had no clue.

So—I began graduate school, was teaching freshman composition, and had a few talks with an endocrinologist. The endocrinologist was very reassuring—"No problem. Easy to fix. We just shoot you up with triple doses of testosterone the first few months, then back off to a normal dose, which you'll need to continue with for the rest of your life. Absolutely nothing

to worry about."

With the benefit of hindsight, that last sentence makes me want to puke.

My body started undergoing some bewildering changes at a speed that would shame Walt Disney time-lapse photography. I had never paid much attention to locker-room conversations in high school, so I had no frame of reference. All I knew was that suddenly my body was acting really weird. My voice dropped a full octave to its present James Earl Jones bass; I gained 30 pounds of upper-body muscle out of nowhere; I shaved twice a day; I was laundering my sheets on a daily basis. At triple-doses, hair-trigger is not the word for it: I went from not understanding what masturbation was for to not needing to because sleeping on my stomach did the same thing for less effort.

My psychological support that fall was my college friend Rick, who got accustomed to 11 pm phone calls asking if this or that physical change was "normal." At \$50 a visit just to say "hello," I was reluctant to ask the endocrinologist; when I

did, I was essentially blown off with "play with the dosage until you find what works." No guidelines; no reassurance; no interest in my particular situation. I had always been phobic about needles and shots, which I had to quickly overcome. I was shooting every 10 to 14 days, testosterone enanthate, through wide-bore needles. The day a quadriceps spasm broke the needle off in my thigh was the acid test of needle-phobia—I got up from the toilet seat, limped to my toolbox, got the needle-nose pliers, limped back, and pulled out the broken needle. Then I fixed a new injection and finished shooting up.

That fall, however, the physical weirdness was far from overwhelming. I loved teaching; grad school was just enough of a challenge.. I was making new friends and was pretty happy about life, right up to the point where one of those friends decided that I was her own personal private piece of virgin meat. "Kelly" and "Arthur" were a married couple, part of my new circle of friends. One night "Kelly" asked if I wanted to go get some ice cream, and over ice cream asked if I wanted to be her lover. Stunned, I fell back on my only polite way out—the truth. I told her of my rather unique situation, explained about the shots, figuring that this would serve as a polite "no." Instead, I started getting a lot more attention

At age 22 I still hadn't ever had to shave, looked like I was 14 years old, and had not the slightest clue what a sexual urge was

what gender I am and always have. I think the fact that I've been living full-time for a while now and feeling and doing better than ever (which my mom can vouch for) is enough proof that living as male is right for me.

Right now, things in my life are going great, and at this time I don't have major issues to discuss with a counselor. I'm not going through any major life change that any other 14-year-old isn't going through. Right now, all I'm doing is going through puberty like any other teenager does.

I transitioned quite awhile ago, so that's no longer an issue. I've already adjusted and made it through the hardest times. It wasn't very difficult in my young life to adjust in a way I wanted to and felt was right for me.

I have never experienced any rejection or serious harassment. Everyone in my life knows and accepts me as Steve, and I've got the

hormones now. I've also got a great support network and an awesome supportive mother.

At this point in my life, my main focus is school and going to college in a few years. I have a lot of really cool people in my life now, and I'm really enjoying being a young guy.

Transitioning as young as I did spared me the agony of living an adult life as someone I'm not. And while my entire experience with transitioning has not been totally easy or pleasant, I think I've had just about the best possible overall experience as a young person. It's taken hard work and time to get to the place in my life where I am now, but all the hell I've been through was worth overcoming. I have to thank my mother especially, and all the other people who have been there for me during the hardest times in these past couple years, because without them, I don't know where or in what state of mind I'd be.

Transitioning as young as I did spared me the agony of living an adult life as someone I'm not. And while my entire experience with transitioning has not been totally easy or pleasant, I think I've had just about the best possible overall experience as a young person.

SMACK A QUEER HIGH from page 7

which was covered by insurance.

What kind of medical problems have you been having?

Severe pelvic pain. It kept me up crying many nights, I was in so much pain. I had to go to the emergency room several times. And being on an emotional roller coaster because of hormones. I had to switch hormones twice, once because of the testosterone shortage and then because of the hysterectomy. I also had my ovaries removed, so the doctor switched me to the patch, to have a more steady hormone supply.

With all those medical problems, are you still happy you transitioned?

Yes! Besides, the medical problems might be from transitioning, but maybe not—my sister had some similar problems.

Now that you've had surgery, are you feeling better?

Much better.

Have you been dating?

Not much. I've been so busy being sick, going to emergency rooms. Being in pain and being told it was in my head. I couldn't sleep at night, but they thought I just wanted a free hysterectomy! No tests showed a problem, either, but when they did exploratory surgery they found some problems.

What are your long-term plans, now that you are feeling better?

Well, I want to go back to school, get a college education. And I'm planning to go back to work in October...I want a job with the school system as a teacher's aide. But I need to wait, because I just had surgery so right now I

can't lift over ten pounds. And I need to get a background check.

Do you like working with kids?

Yeah! You get a lot of exercise!

Are you planning to have top surgery?

Yes, as soon as I get the funds.

How has your social life been since high school?

Good, I've met more trans people, including more trans people my age.

Mostly FTM?

Both MTF and FTM.

Where have you met them?

Mostly at Changeling (the t/g and gender-questioning youth group at LYRIC). But I haven't met that many people my age who have already taken hormones, and transitioned to living full time.

Do you ever wish that you could have transitioned at an even younger age?

Yeah. But there wasn't much opportunity. But if someone had offered it, probably, yes.

How old do you think someone should have to be?

Any age, as long as they're emotionally ready. And have reached puberty.

Do you think transgender people are going to keep coming out even younger?

Yes. There's more opportunity.

OK, one last topic. I know you identify as a gay or bisexual man?

As a gay man.

How do you feel you fit in with the gay community?

It's getting better, especially since I started taking hormones. I look more male.

What do you think about the issues that have come up about whether or not trans people should be considered part of the gay community?

I think we should all be working together. It's getting better. People are realizing that many of us are intertwined. And many t/g people are assumed to be gay, like MTFs are sometimes assumed to be gay men, or sometimes FTMs are assumed to be dykes.

Do you get cruised in the Castro (San Francisco's gay neighborhood)?

Oh yeah, a lot.

How do you feel about that?

Pretty good!

GEA Forms

Gender Education and Advocacy is a new non-profit educational organization formed January 1, 2000 by several well-known activists in the gender community. Dallas Denny, formerly of AEGIS, Jessica Xavier, formerly of It's Time America, webmistress extraordinaire Gwen Smith of the acclaimed webpage "Remembering Our Dead," Penni Ashe Matz, disseminator of the GAIN gender news emails, and Dr. Sandra Cole, director of the gender program at the U. Michigan Hospital, are all known for their ability to get things done. The GEA board is chaired by FTM International's own James Green. Look for more info about GEA on www.gender.org, and expect to hear more from this group in the future.

were spectacular. FTMs were well represented by Jude Patton (Seattle), M. Myles Schwartz (New York state), Stephen Whittle (England), Patrick (France), Scott (Boston), Adam (England), and myself. Also present were FTM Int'l board members Kit Rachlin, and Leah Schaefer (Jude Patton belongs to this group, too), as well as many allies from across North America.

Another ally, Anne Lawrence, M.D., an MTF physician from Seattle and a member of the current Standards of Care Committee of HBIGDA, took the initiative to reintroduce several of the FTM-specific recommendations for changes in the standards that a team of FTMs presented to HBIGDA two years ago. We still don't know if the proposals will be accepted and the Standards amended, but the discussion of the issues was lively and favorable among the membership. Now the board must vote to accept the amendments that the Committee has recommended, and it is expected that they will take their vote sometime before the end of the year. Among the changes that the board will be considering is to regard mastectomy (chest reconstruction) as parallel to hormone therapy, not a part of genital surgery—thus making it easier for FTMs to meet the HBIGDA requirements for surgery. Another change to be considered is broadening the application of treatment to adolescents and children by basing it on pubertal development rather than an arbitrary age limit. Dr. Lawrence introduced several other provocative recommendations, including changing the title of the Standards from the Standards of Care for Gender Dysphoria to the Standards of Care for Treatment of Transgendered and Transsexual People, but the committee didn't think HBIGDA was ready for that particular change.

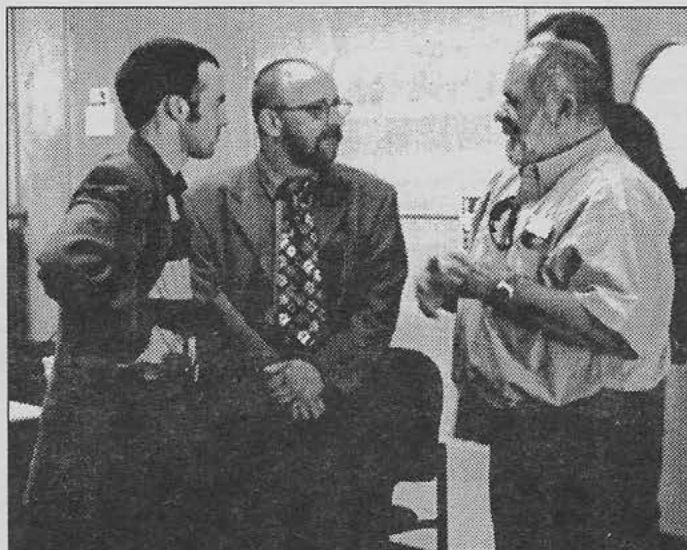
M. Myles Schwartz, Ph.D., FTM psychologist, remarked, "It's clear that the next frontier for this organization must be to understand and support the needs of FTMs." He also emphasized that "FTMs must engage as subjects for research because that is the way we can best inform HBIGDA and substantiate the need for particular medical and legal services. And I really think HBIGDA is at a point in its evolution that it is

ready for this input."

FTM International Board of Directors member Kit Rachlin, Ph.D., also said, "From looking at the people attending and the material presented, it seems that HBIGDA is moving forward toward being an organization that is sensitive to the needs of the greater gender community. Nearly every panel had trans people on it, so the voice of the community is starting to be heard."

One of the most interesting presentations was from Christie Elan-Cane, a writer who made a painfully impassioned plea for comprehension of the perspective of a person trying to live without gender in a gendered society. Elan-Cane has a very androgynous appearance, has had chest surgery (this was implied in verbal and visual presentation), and a very feminine voice. Elan-Cane does not want any sex or gender designation on any identification, nor does Elan-Cane wish to have any pronouns applied to Elan-Cane. And Elan-Cane seemed very angry about the struggle Elan-Cane has every day in society. In discussing the presentation afterwards, most people used feminine pronouns to refer to Elan-Cane, and had some measure of empathy for Elan-Cane's difficulty. But the presentation posed problems more than it provided illumination. Still, the concepts linger and will provoke thought long afterward for everyone who heard it.

Another interesting presentation was by Dr. Anne Lawrence discussing "Men Trapped in Men's Bodies: Autogynephilic Eroticism as a Motive for Seeking Sex Reassignment." Dr. Lawrence proposes that it is a very strong motivation for many



Armand Hotimsky of France, Stephen Whittle of England, and Jude Patton of the U.S. at HBIGDA in London.

TS people to be turned on by imagining themselves as having the body of the opposite sex. Her research has been done with MTF people, so she is only discussing their experience, but I wonder how much "autoandrophilia" is at play in the psyches of FTMs. It is something to think about, and perhaps talk about. More information about Dr. Lawrence's theories and research can be found on her website: www.annelawrence.com.

And last but not least, the latest figure for the incidence of transsexualism in the population was cited by Dr. Richard Green as 1 in 20,000. He also noted that the increase in the incidence of transsexualism is probably a reflection of patient optimism that coming forward for treatment will be met with respect. This is a real improvement, and I believe trans visibility and trans activism are the primary causes.

**EMAIL RESOURCE FOR
TRANSGENDERED PEOPLE OF COLOR**

Transgender People of Color list: To subscribe, send an empty email message to tgoc-subscribe@makelist.com from the email address that you will use to send and receive email. Please email the administrator at hab1b1@iname.com if you have any questions or problems.

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DON'T FORGET TO WRITE from page 2

came to the FTM Newsletter, and as I leave this job I want to give credit to some of the people who first inspired me. I moved to Maine in 1991 looking for activist work, and ended up as an organizer for ACT UP/Portland. Portland, Maine was a town of 60,000 people that had two ACT UP chapters and one Queer Nation at the time. Why so many militants in a poor, rural, Catholic state with only one tiny city? Portland queer kids, and those who had moved to the city from across the state, came mostly from working-class and welfare-class families. They didn't have a lot of money or status to lose by being polite or obedient—and they had more guts than I'd ever seen. So I met Terryle Bonelli, who crew-cut her hair and wore day-glo queer stickers all over her jacket every day at her intensely homophobic high school; she also organized rallies against anti-queer violence. Green-haired Sue Enos worked night shifts at a factory but still found time to organize countless ACT UP projects, including our teen activist campaign. Eben Chadwick, an FTM who passed on a boys' softball team all through second grade, got harassed and threatened daily by the time he was in high school; he still made it to the ACT UP protests, educated Maine teachers about trans issues—and gave me my first copy of the FTM Newsletter.

From these youth activists I learned things that came in handy in my life as an FTM: that survival doesn't mean staying alive and unscathed, but keeping alive the aspect of yourself that you consider most important. I also learned that there's no reason to accept a raw deal when you're handed one. Why, for example, should FTMs take the raw deal we have when we should have free, excellent surgery as part of universal health care (as some European transmen do)? Why should we be grateful for crumbs from the national gay/lesbian/bisexual movements when they should have unblinkingly included us from the beginning?

A lot of the young people I worked with in Portland had been beaten up, dropped out or were "encouraged" to leave school by administrators, and/or spent part of their high school years on the psych ward because they were queer. They paid dearly for their insistence on self-expression, whether that was gender expression or queerness. But at the same time a lot of them got cheated out of another form of self-expression: writing. Almost all of these inspiring activists, who had so much to say, told me at one point or another "I can't write." Urban and suburban, white, middle-class people, especially those born male, are encouraged to write. Most other people just aren't. If so many forces conspire to take away the ability to read and write confidently, this ability must be important. And if you feel that you can't write, it's even more important that you do. It's even more likely that *your* point of view can't be found in print yet. Write for this newsletter, the world's largest journal for FTMs and our lovers and allies. We go out to a thousand readers in 15 countries who want and need to hear what you have to say.

So long for now. And don't forget to write!

—Jed Bell


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Dr. Reardon has been performing cosmetic surgery for 27 years and transgender chest reconstruction for 22 years. From minimally invasive procedures, such as simple liposuction, to advanced surgical methods for the more extensive reconstruction of very large 38-40D+ breasts, he has the in-depth experience that allows him to hand tailor these techniques and technologies to correct your particular problems and to enhance your unique self image.

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Great Britain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOYS DON'T CRY PREMIERES

Kimberly Pierce's film of the life and murder of Brandon Teena began showing in U.S. Theatres in October. Calling it "spectacular," *Newsweek's* David Ansen hailed its "tragic force...agonizing [and] honestly earned."

Ms. Pierce was one of 40 gender activists and members of Transsexual Menace who travelled to Falls City, NB and held a memorial vigil outside the courthouse where killers John Lotter and Tom Nissen went on trial in 1993. PopcornQ.com's Jenni Olson comments, "The producers did an extensive search in an attempt to cast a transgender person or butch dyke before settling on Hilary Swank." The tagline for the trailer describes the film as being "About finding the courage to be yourself."

NEW AMERICAN BOYZ INFO!

Please update your contact info for our organization. This supercedes all previous information you may have had for our organization.

This information is applicable for the national office and our special projects, including Transgender Aging Network, True Spirit Conference, Justice for Michelle, and other projects. Regional and local affiliates maintain their own offices; a complete list of local and regional contact info is available on our website.

New contact information:

The American Boyz, Inc
212A S. Bridge St, # 131,
Elkton, MD, 21922-1118
PHONE: 410-620-2161
FAX: 410-620-2024
EMAIL: amboyz@iximd.com;
URL: <http://home.iximd.com/~amboyz>

Please make a note of it. Thank you.

GOLD RUSH IN DENVER

The Gender Identity Center of Colorado will be hosting their 2nd Colorado Gold Rush Conference March 1-5, 2000, in Denver. Photographer Loren Cameron, attorney Spencer Bergstedt and Riki Ann Wilchins of GenderPAC will be featured presenters. There will be workshops for all trans-identified individuals, significant others, professionals and other interested parties.

Presentations of primary interest to FtMs will be held on Friday and Saturday. For more information, contact the Center at (303)202-6466, e-mail Matt Kailey at FtMatt@aol.com, or visit our website at www.transgender.org/tg/gic.

CHILDREN FROM THE SHADOWS VII:

"Taking LGBT Youth Issues Beyond Risk to Resilience!"

March 17-18, 2000; University of Hartford, West Hartford, CT. More than 1300 youth, teachers, clinicians, social workers and other providers for adolescents attended this event last year. 860-649-7386; PO Box 1855,

Manchester, CT 06045-1855;
CFShadows@Juno.com

TRANS HEALTH ALERT

The Transgender Education Network at JRI Health in Boston has been notified by the Center of Disease Control that a cluster of Tuberculosis is occurring in the Baltimore area and New York. Twenty cases have been confirmed. Other cases are also showing up in Canada. This is occurring in the Trans community. State and city officials are not responding as quickly as they should. The CDC is wanting to get control of this as quickly as possible. They are updating me on a weekly basis. If you have further questions please do not hesitate to call: Transgender Education Network
(617) 988-2605 ext 211.

NEW NATIONAL TG CHATROOM

NationalGayLobby.Org has created a publicly accessible chat room for the discussion of transgender issues and concerns at its headquarters Web Site. The NGL Transgender Chat room may be accessed at <http://www.nationalgaylobby.org> through either the Transgender Chat link in the list of NGL public chat rooms, or by clicking on the Public Chat link in the left navigation column. NGL public chat room Number 70 has been devoted exclusively to Transgender Chat.

TRANS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SITE

The Survivor Project website contains a number of resources pertaining to transgender and intersex survivors of domestic violence, and are available at no cost.
www.caramia.g-net.org/survivorproject.

NEW LIST FOR LEATHERBOYS

http://www.onelist.com/subscribe/Leather_boy
This list is a pansexual forum for Leatherfolk who play as boys, and those who love them. Being a boy can be more than being a butch bottom or submissive male; it's about energy. Let's talk about what makes us boys in Leather. Please do your trolling in private email. This isn't a list about sex with minors, so if you're a minor or want one, please seek another list. Subjects might include: ageplay, BDSM, D/s, internalization of the boy role, service issues, negotiation issues, packin', good scenes, bad scenes, etc. Posting is encouraged, so please don't join just to lurk. Remember: the only dumb question is a disrespectful one.

CALL FOR PAPERS: DESIRE IN TRANSITION

Partners and potential partners of trans people are both extremely diverse and often politically invisible. Part of our invisibility is that there doesn't seem to be a simple name for the one thing we have in common. "Homosexual" might work for similarly gendered trans people in relationships, but not all of us with differently gendered prefer-

ences are comfortable with "heterosexual," and "transsexual" is already taken.

It's time for an anthology to begin to illustrate who we are (in all of our diversity). So, I'm looking for writing (essays, memoirs, stories, poetry, etc.) on the following topics or others that you believe would be important for such a book: Coming Out Stories • Sex • Relationships • Creating Community • Organizing for Social Change. Submissions should be no more than 15 pages (double spaced) or 3700 words.

Send paper versions to Rebecca Widom, 11th Street, Apt. 4D Brooklyn, NY 11215, USA or electronic ones to rebecca@iname.com by February 1, 2000.

HARRY BENJAMIN SOCIETY NEEDS MORE TG ATTORNEYS

HBIGDA, the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, needs some good legal minds. At present there are only three or four attorneys in the organization. This has limited HBIGDA's ability to provide help to TS/TG clients in the form of position statements on legal issues, phrasing of items within the Standards of Care, possible amicus briefs, expert witness provision, etc.. Membership in HBIGDA costs \$50 per calendar year. Membership information is available at: www.tc.umn.edu/nlhome/m201/cole001/hbigda/hmmbtr.htm.

HORIZONS 2000

The World Congress of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Jewish Organizations and New Jersey's Lesbian and Gay Havurah proudly announce that they will co-host HORIZONS 2000, the 16th World Conference of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Jews from July 27 through July 30, 2000, at the Woodcliff Lake Hilton, Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey. We feature seminars, entertainment, religious services, speakers and schmoozing. For more information, call 1-732-650-1010, write to HORIZONS 2000, P. O. Box 2576, Edison, NJ 08818-2576, email conf@njhav.org, or visit <http://www.njhav.org>.

PESKY MAIL IN THE WRONG NAME?

Courtesy of trannyfags (owner-trannyfags-digest@queernet.org): There's a toll-free number to call to get your name placed on the "no contact" list for the four main credit reporting agencies for two years. This won't cut out all the junk mail you receive, but will at least stop credit card offers.

Call 1-888-5OPTOUT (1-888-567-8688) and follow the prompts to record all your personal information. If you're receiving the offers at more than one address or under more than one name, you can enter a second set of info in the same phone call.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPORTANT SURVEY

U.S. Insurance Coverage for SRS/GRS. If you have obtained insurance coverage for SRS (or GRS), please provide the following information as soon as possible: Name of insurance company; state in which insurance coverage was provided; employer, if a group policy; surgeries or procedures covered and percent of reimbursement; and year(s) in which surgeries or procedures were performed. Also, please advise if your coverage paid for hormone therapy, and if so, when and on what basis. Finally, please advise if your insurance paid for other medical costs such as psychotherapy for "gender dysphoria."

I need this information because I have an opportunity to educate the insurance industry. Reply to Ashley Carraway:

@bellsouth.net.

THE 1950s PROJECT

An oral history study at the Manchester Metropolitan University researching British social life in the 1950s, the 1950s Project has been a huge success since its launch at the beginning of 1997.

The Project however, wishes to extend its study and seeks transsexual men aged 50-65 years of age, who have worked and/or lived in the Northwest of England to come forward and discuss their personal experiences and life stories.

Participants will be interviewed for an extensive academic study which will guarantee anonymity. For further information, please leave your name and address or telephone number on 0161 247 1985.

JOHNS HOPKINS STUDY

We at the Johns Hopkins University are currently running a cross sectional study examining the effects of estrogen on the patterns of cognitive function (verbal and spatial abilities) and cerebral lateralization (with hemispheric dominance on verbal and spatial-specific tasks) in MTF transsexuals

and the effects of testosterone on FTM transsexuals. We are not limiting our study to only those on hormone therapy, but would also like to include those who have not yet started hormone therapy and are considering to do so. This study requires only one visit to the Johns Hopkins Hospital in down town Baltimore Maryland. We would be grateful for your volunteered participation as it would very much benefit the existing but very much limited body of knowledge concerning the effects of cross sex hormones on the brain.

For more information please contact Terry at the Clinical Trials Unit at the Johns Hopkins Hospital (410) 955 1373, or e-mail me at: mtp2@jhunix.hcf.jhu.edu.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies Gendering Ethics/The Ethics Of Gender: An International Interdisciplinary Conference 23-25 June 2000.

We welcome short papers for parallel sessions on a range of themes including: Gender and moral subjectivity; the ethics of science and technology; bodily integrity; the new ethics of the public sphere; religious traditions and gender ethics; social policies and normative frameworks; intimate ethics; gender, reason and rationality; representation and ethics; violence, war and ethics; human rights, universalism and particularism; agency, autonomy and ethics; the ethics of sex; gender, nature and animals; feminist ethical histories—abolitionism, peace, prostitution, sexual violence; the ethics of the market; postmodernism, ethics and politics; the ethics of place and space; ethics and the politics of difference; alternative moral communities—historical, fictional, utopian. Send 200 word abstracts by Feb. 1, 2000 to: Sasha Roseneil and Linda Hogan Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies University of Leeds Leeds LS2 9JT UK Email: gender-studies@leeds.ac.uk

TRANNIES DOWN UNDER from page 8

unclear reasons—but generally, people are not violent or hateful. That doesn't mean our lives are any easier. I have to juggle my school, family and social life, as well as trying to come to terms with my transgenderism—which is no easy task.

One area where Australia gets touchy with transgendered people is sport. Recently, an MTF started playing amateur golf in the ladies' section. Many objected, thinking she had an advantage in the muscle area. They didn't realize that she had the same amount of muscle as the rest of the women did because of the estrogen she was taking. I guess this shows a lot of people do not fully understand what it is all about. In sports, yes, there is some controversy for MTFs competing in women's events. As for FTMs, I am not so sure, as FTMs seem to be less prominent than MTFs.

I think overall the people in Australia are nice, open-minded and supportive. As usual, we have our problems but I believe in making the most out of life because no matter how difficult the situation is, I always find a way over it.

See back page for the Gender Centre contact information. You can reach Jarod at jechma@hotmail.com.

DISCONNECTED from page 1

headed for the dressing room. On the way I got many compliments on the performance. From what people were saying, some knew I was a tranny guy and some didn't, but everybody just assumed I did this strictly for a gay male audience. The rest of the evening went by, and the women complimented me for the performance—and for having the guts to perform in front of such a "tough crowd." I was surprised by the reaction. It was refreshing to be at a dyke event and not get the dirty looks and nasty attitudes while all my dyke friends were having fun. The audience that night had made me feel very welcome in their queer space, and informed me of what else was happening the rest of the week at the other dyke clubs.

The next night my friends and I went out to the local dyke bar called the Wild Rose for karaoke night. We all got to the door and then when my girlfriend and I got carded we were asked "Have you ever been here before?" My girlfriend replied "No" and the woman working the door informed us in the rudest tone possible that this was a "LESBIAN BAR" and needless to say I didn't feel so welcome anymore.



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YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRANSACTION FOR YOUTH

TransAction—an inclusive transgendered support group run by trans identified youth (13-25) whose focus is to advocate education, peer support, community involvement and the integration of gender equity in local legislative and social programs. Get to know people, become part of a networking group, discuss hot topics, participate in social events and have a good time in a safe, anonymous, and welcoming space.

We are diverse, open to all LGBTQ, friends, family and significant others (13-25). Meets Thursday 6-7pm at Boston GLASS 93 Mass. Ave Boston. Contact Jeffrey for more info...617-287-9357.

NEW YOUTH WEBSITE: "UNITY THROUGH DIVERSITY"

<http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Castro/3212/>

This website will focus on Gay Youth and School issues along with BLGT (Bi, Lesbian, Gay & Transgender) issues.

We have been activists for some time now. We believe it is imperative to teach our questioning youth to be accepting of who they are, with that in mind we will be focusing our efforts in that direction.

Please help us help others by spreading the word about our site and by exchanging links with us. Please feel free to send your comments to us at: Unity_Through_Diversity_1999@yahoo.com

TRANS YOUTH ANTHOLOGY

TG, TS, Gender-bending and Gender-questioning Youth Tell It Like It Is

If you consider yourself a gender-bender, transexual (post-, pre-, or non-op), MTF, FTM, transgender warrior, two-spirit, TG butch, femme queen, gender-queer, cross-dresser, third gender, drag king/queen, or any other (trans)gender identity—we need your voice! This anthology will be by, for, and about trans youth. We are looking for essays, short stories, cartoons, black-and-white photography, erotica, political commentary, self portraits, testimonials, poetry, love letters, ideas, journal entries, art, prose and manifestos.

Submissions that consider the intersections of gender with race, class, dis/ability, ethnicity, religion, sex and sexual orientation are especially encouraged. We are committed to providing a vehicle for the voices of trans youth of color, working class youth and others who have been marginalized within transgender and queer communities. Previously unpublished writers are welcome!

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION:

- You must be 25 years of age or under to submit unsolicited writing. If you are over 25, please send a query.
- Please accompany all submissions with a short biographical statement including your age and a little bit of background information.
- You MUST include some form of permanent contact information with your submission so that we can contact you (discretely) about matters pertaining to this project
- Please send your writing even if it has not been thoroughly edited and polished. We will work with you on editing and refining the piece if it shows promise.
- We will publish your writing anonymously or with a pseudonym, upon request, but you still must supply a full name with your submission (this information will be kept confidential). If you would like to be published anonymously please specify this (you must still send a short biographical statement but it doesn't need to give away any information that will reveal your identity).

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: February 29, 2000

The Book Project
c/o I. Walters-Gidseg
570 West 156th Street #32
New York, NY 10032
transyouth@mindspring.com

NEWS BRIEFS

BINET USA RESCINDS ENDORSEMENT FOR ENDA

BINET USA, the nation's largest bisexual organization, voted at its annual summer meeting to withdraw its support of ENDA as currently worded. They join NGLTF in withholding endorsement of ENDA until specific gender-inclusive language is added to protect gender expression.

BiNet quoted a recent NGLTF/GenderPAC employment survey that finds "28% of gay, lesbian, and bisexual people have been discriminated against based in part on their 'gender expression.'"

CALIFORNIA CIVIL RIGHTS BILLS PASS

Kerry Lobel, NGLTF—In California, legislators have completed the most GLBT-positive session in memory. Among the measures they passed and Gov. Gray Davis signed:

- AB26, providing a statewide registry for same-sex couples and making health insurance available for same-sex partners of state employees.
- AB1001, adding sexual orientation to the list of causes under the state Fair Employment and Housing Act for which people cannot be discriminated against.
- AB537, offering public school students some protection against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Did we get everything we wanted? No—some of the bills could have been broader and more inclusive. AB 26 does not appear to cover transgender people and unmarried opposite-sex couples. And AB1001 includes sexual orientation, but not gender identity.

But compared with Congress, California legislators moved swiftly—and in the process demonstrated that the state level is often where the action is.

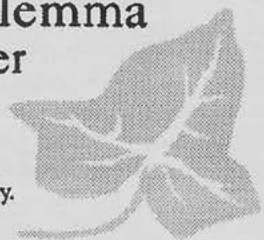
NATIONAL GROUPS SEEK DIALOGUE ON GID REFORM

A BROAD COALITION of groups sent a letter on September 14 to the new President of the American Psychiatric Association requesting the start of a "productive dialog" to explore reforming the diagnosis known as Gender Identity Disorder, or GID.

The letter was signed by the Executive Directors of GenderPAC, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), the International

The Uninvited Dilemma A Question of Gender by

Kim Elizabeth Stuart
Research Supplement available separately.



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE), the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR), the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the National Organization for Women (NOW), Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), the National Youth Advocacy Coalition (NYAC), the Gender Identity Project of the NYC Lesbian and Gay Community Center, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA), and BiNet USA.

NORTH IRISH WOMAN WINS COMPENSATION FOR HARASSMENT

A Belfast agency of the Department of Health and Social Services has agreed to pay £10,000 compensation to a former employee who was sexually harassed by colleagues because she was a transsexual.

The North's new Equality Commission welcomed the settlement, saying it sent a clear message to employers. The woman, who wishes to remain anonymous, told her supervisor in strict confidence that she was transsexual. This information became public and the woman was subjected to sexual harassment by her colleagues for over four years.

DRAFTING OF NORTHERN IRELAND BILL OF RIGHTS A PRIORITY

Claire Murphy, BELFAST—The drafting of a Bill of Rights for the North is one of the priorities of the Northern Ireland Human Rights

Commission, which on October 1 published a three-year draft strategic plan and launched a consultation period on its contents. Prof. Brice Dickson, the chief commissioner, said his 10-member intended to work to protect everyone. "We will be working to protect particularly vulnerable groups such as children, the disabled, the elderly, gays, lesbians, transsexuals and ex-prisoners in Northern Ireland," he said. "One example of the dramatic and positive change which has taken place is the almost universal public acceptance that discrimination is wrong."

ARCHBISHOP OF SEVILLE SUPPORTS SRS

from *Identidad de Genero, Cibeles Trans*:
<http://personales.mundivia.es/trans/>

Mgr Carlos Amigo Vallejo, Archbishop of Seville, announced on 9/24 his support of the Government of Andalusia's decision to include sex reassignment surgery in the Andalusian

Health Service. He said, "when a disease occurs, it shall be cured; I think it is legitimate if the Health Service takes it up, when is demonstrated that's not a frivolity, but a need, which can produce psychological traumas...First, we must determine if there is truly a need, and then, it is logical it must be covered by the health service".

Identidad de Genero thinks this declaration of a very high responsible of the Catholic Church provides a decisive moral support in this hour, when the Spanish public opinion is being informed about our right to health-especially when the Andalusian Health Service has begun to

decide effectively about the psychological, medical and surgical care to transsexual people.

TS WINS ACCEPTANCE IN CHINA

from *the Advocate*

Jin Xing, the first openly transsexual person in China, is widely accepted and fast becoming famous as a celebrity in the country, *The New York Times* reports. Jin, whose name translates as "Gold Star," is a former army colonel and founder of China's first independent dance troupe. Her choreography has won critical acclaim, and Jin has posed for several magazines. "If people pay more attention to my dance because of who I am, that's fine," Jin told the *Times*. "If more people think about who they really are because of me, that's fine too...I like being famous." The first sex-change operation was performed in China in secret in 1983.

Since then, the operations have become numerous enough for Beijing Medical University to publish guidelines for prospective patients, including a five-year waiting period and extensive psychotherapy. Still, transsexuals are surprisingly accepted by the government, which in the past has forbidden homosexuality and even premarital sex. "I don't feel any discrimination," Jin said. "Many people do not understand, but no one is saying, 'You can't do this.'"

FIRST WELSH LGBT PRIDE WEEKEND

Cymru Pride Wales, Wales's first Gay/Trans Pride festival, was held in Bangor on October 23. Guest speakers included Welsh

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INT'L NEWS from page 17

transsexual writer Jan Morris. The festival's Transsexual and Transgender Community Coordinator was Karl Sadil, local transman and activist. Cymru Pride Wales, c/o Gayline, The Greenhouse, 1 Trevelyan Terrace, High Street, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 1AX, North Wales, Wales, UK Phone (01248) 351263

URL: <http://www.gaywales.com>

Email: pride@gaywales.com

TRINIDADIAN IGNORE PROTESTERS

Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas, led by Pastor Fred Phelps, is known throughout the United States for its protests of any and everything related to homosexual activity. It became well-known last year when it protested the funeral of University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard, who was killed in an alleged gay-bashing murder.

Westboro turned its attention to Trinidad this week because of Dr. Biber, known worldwide for his performance of transsexual surgeries. Phelps and ten followers flew to Trinidad this summer to protest at Mount San Rafael Hospital, where Biber performs the surgeries, as well as numerous other surgeries and medical procedures.

The Westboro Baptist Church protested in cordoned-off areas designated by the Trinidad Police Department and carrying signs that called Dr. Biber "Dr. Sin," calling Trinidad the anteroom to hell, and using the term "fag" continuously. Other than a car or a bicycle coming by occasionally, the picketers mostly went unnoticed. Dr. Biber said earlier this week that he intended to ignore the Westboro Baptist Church protest and was encouraging everyone else to do the same. It seems the majority of the Trinidad community agreed.

GHANA'S FEMALE ATHLETICS STAR IS A BOY

from *Ibe Ojo, Accra*

Ghana's female athletics champion, Agnes Afiyo, has turned out to be male following three successive tests carried out two years ago at a police

hospital in Accra. The results of the tests were made public during the final of Ghana's Mobil Track and Field Championships in Kumasi. "She is not a female but a boy," chief coach of Ghana's Athletics Federation, Mr. S. S. Atuahene, said.

Graphic Sports, a government-owned newspaper, yesterday described the exposure of Afiyo as a national embarrassment. Athletics officials and followers have called for the arrest of Afiyo and Afiyo's parents for condoning and conniving with the athlete to deceive and embarrass the nation.

Afiyo came to the limelight in 1995, setting the country's records both at the junior and senior levels tumbling in an amazing manner. She set a new mark in the javelin with 55.36m. Before then, she has set games record in the Mobil Track and Field Championships.

OLYMPIC COMMITTEE SUSPENDS TESTS

Following the threat of a boycott by athletes and a revolt by the world's most powerful sporting federations, the International Olympic Committee has backed down over plans to conduct controversial sex tests at next year's Games in Sydney.

However, the move is conditional. The IOC has described the suspension of sex testing in Sydney as merely an "experiment" with no guarantees that it will become a permanent arrangement. In addition, a "flying squad" of specially-selected Olympic medical experts, including a team of gynecologists, will be in Australia during the Games to target individual athletes if they are deemed suspicious.

Sex testing was introduced at the 1966 European Athletics Championships in Budapest after allegations that some

women competitors were technically male. Initially testing consisted of a visual examination of athletes in the nude.

NOTES ON TG RIGHTS IN BERMUDA

from the *Int'l Lesbian and Gay Association*
Transsexual persons in Bermuda presenting other than their registered at birth gender—although granted the description and identity of their presented gender—enjoy neither the legal status nor the protection in law afforded persons born of the presented gender. And while sex as a prohibited ground of the Human Rights Act, 1981, is concerned with biological difference only...TGs are openly subject to discrimination with impunity once details of their registered birth become known. (Message to ILGA from a post-operative Bermudian transwoman)



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Evolution in Sweden and Denmark

Swedish sociologist Ann Kroon reports that there has been a dramatic shift in the attitudes of FTMs in Sweden since FTM International (then) president James Green gave a series of lectures and media appearances there in 1998.

Swedish FTMs now have a greater sense of self-esteem and self-empowerment, and they are starting to connect with each other for friendship and support around the issues of transition and dealing with their medical providers. In the past, she noted, they avoided each other, preferring to make their ways alone; now they are meeting and promising to stay in touch with each other.

Some FTMs are also working with the local MTFs who are active in national efforts to secure recognition for gay and lesbian trans people within the gay political organizations, and also those who are trying to work with the government to advance the causes of basic civil rights and safety for all trans people.

One theme of James's lectures was the need for people to speak the truth about their lives, because this is the only way that others can learn about us and help us destroy the stereotypes and misinformation that leads to our oppression, marginalization and mistreatment.

James delivered the same message in Copenhagen, Denmark in the fall of 1998, too, and in the year since then a new drive for trans empowerment has occurred there as well. Now there are two new organizations devoted to transsexual issues. One group gives social support to both FTM and MTF people, providing a network for meeting friends and comparing notes about transition and social issues. The second group is more pro-active politically, in that its members are less satisfied with the state of provided medical care for TS people and wish to protest and demand change. James visited Copenhagen again in 1999 and met for over two hours with seven of the psychiatrists at the Neuroscience Center Sexological Clinic—where all Danish transsexuals are

treated. They discussed the dynamics of testosterone in particular, as well as the inadequacies of surgical treatments and the need for medical ratification in the effort to obtain legal recognition of a transsexual person's gender status. James reports that the clinicians he met with were grateful for his consultation, and they have committed to setting up a joint meeting with the Danish surgeons upon James' next visit to Copenhagen, probably later this year.

Many transsexual people in Denmark, though, have waited years in cross-living limbo to get the surgeries they desperately need in order to move on with their lives. In countries like Sweden, Denmark, Great Britain, The Netherlands, and Germany, medical services are subsidized by the state government, and if a TS person saves up the money to obtain surgery elsewhere from a private physician, he or she may be refused services from their national health agencies forever afterward—like a punishment for going outside the system and doing something without "daddy's" permission.

Most trans people cannot afford to risk losing all their future health care, so they are stuck waiting inside a system that allocates money for surgeries on the basis of need, where the needs of TS people are not taken very seriously. This is an enormously complex problem, and James has urged Danish transsexuals to forge alliances with the medical and political communities to help advance their cause. We are anxious to hear any news of either conflicts or progress made in any country, and in particular from all our new friends in Scandinavia.

BRANDON TEENA UPDATE

from www.PlanetOut.com

A judge has fixed a small part of the blame for Brandon Teena's death on the actions of county sheriffs. On Dec. 6, Nebraska District Judge Orville Coady ruled that Richardson County authorities were 14% responsible for Brandon's wrongful death. JoAnn Brandon had sought \$350,000, charging that then-Richardson County Sheriff Charles Laux—now a County Commissioner—had allowed the two men who raped Brandon on December 25, 1993 to remain at large and go on to kill Brandon and his two friends on December 31. The suit also charges Laux with deliberately inflicting emotional distress on Brandon while interviewing him when he reported the rape.

Instead, Judge Coady found there were total damages of \$86,224, of which he levied \$17,360 on Richardson County. Although neither was named in the lawsuit, Coady found murderers John Lotter (now awaiting execution) and Marvin "Tom" Nissen (now serving a life sentence) to be 85% liable for the rest—less the 1% Coady found Brandon was responsible for his own death.

Brandon's mother is likely to appeal the award, which her attorney charged "trivialized" Brandon's life and death. NGLTF's Rebecca Isaacs told the *Omaha World Herald*: "To say that the county is negligent but that Brandon's life was worth almost nothing is a damaging ruling." Coady did not find that Laux had intentionally inflicted emotional distress on Brandon, but did order Laux to "apologize to Teena's family, her friends and to his community" for referring to Brandon as an "it." An investigator had testified that Laux was "intimidating and abusive" to Brandon, and the *World Herald* described Laux as "forceful and sometimes bullying and crude."

Judge Coady rejected the claim that arrests should have been made sooner. Chief Deputy Sheriff Tom Olberding had wanted to arrest both rapists on December 28, based on physical evidence at the scene as well as Brandon's report, but Laux stopped him. Coady agreed with Laux that the then-sheriff could not have anticipated the slayings, and wrote that the sheriffs "did not violate their duty by [failing] to timely arrest Nissen and Lotter..."

When the Nebraska Supreme Court granted Brandon's estate standing to sue, after the case had twice been thrown out of lower courts, Judge Nick Caporale wrote, "Notwithstanding his knowledge of the threat to the victim's life, Laux informed the perpetrators of the victim's complaint. It seems to me that the moment the perpetrators were made so aware, Laux acquired a duty to protect the victim...by talking with the perpetrators but not arresting them, Laux laid an essential link in the chain that led to the victim's death."

THE WHITE BOOK



Brandon Teena, trans man, murdered 1993—this book is in his memory, and to make sure it never happens again.

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- Having babies and telling children
- Book reviews
- Tips on 'passing'
- How to explain yourself to someone you want to sleep with

THE WHITE BOOK

is written and edited by Dr. Stephen Whittle, a trans man who began living in his new role over 20 years ago. A Senior lecturer in Law, he is also co-ordinator of the FTM Network and vice president of Press For Change.

This book is written in an easy and accessible style, to enable female to male transsexual and transgender people, those who are exploring whether they are female to male, and their families and friends to get to grips with many of the scary and difficult issues that trans men have to face. It is meant to make life easier—and that is what it does.

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• Make cheques payable to FTM Network. Any profit goes to maintain the FTM Network

MALEBOX



HELLO:

I have seen your link in the German transman pages. To introduce myself, I am a transgendered man. My name is Damian and I live in Cologne/Germany. At the end of this year I will make a trip to San Francisco. So it is my wish to get in contact

with some people. In Germany I am a part of some self-help groups (dgti: German society for transgender and intersexual people www.dgti.org and the newly founded transmann: www.transmann.de/).

To make connections for my societies (and for me) I would like to meet other FTMs in California. Please write me if you are interested in getting in contact with German groups for transgendered people.

Greetings from Germany,
Damian

[redacted]@aol.com

HELLO:

I would like to invite you to join the GayTrannyboyz community. This email list is for GAY FtMs & the guys who love us. FtM-friendly bioboys welcome too. FtMs at any stage of transition are welcome. BDSM/Kink-friendly. Discussion topics open but let's keep arguing to a minimum. There are quite a few other lists out there for bi/pan/omni-sexual & str8-identified trannyboys, but this one is for those of us who identify as gay.

You can join this community by going to the following web page:

<http://www.onelist.com/subscribe/GayTrannyboyz>

Or you can join by sending email to the following address: GayTrannyboyz-subscribe@onelist.com

Thanks,
Brody Witt

Thanks, Brody. Readers can also join the trannyfags email list (for gay and bisexual FTMs and their admirers) by writing to owner-trannyfags-digest@queemet.org. —Jed

HI FOLKS:

We want to inform you that we have started a newly forming Transgender Support and Discussion Group in Charlottesville, Virginia. We will meet one Sunday a month. We have taken two models of transgender group facilitation and put them into practice: The Ingersoll Gender Center in Seattle WA, model, and the Indian

talking circle model. We are applying the Soulforce principles of Mahatma Ghandi and Martin Luther King, JR. towards empowering the lives of transgender people who come to our group for support, networking, and topical discussions. Confidentiality, respect, and safety will be of paramount importance in the development of this group.

We hope you will share in our enthusiasm for this joint community endeavor. There is nothing of its kind in the Charlottesville area and it is much needed.

With Kindest Wishes to all of you,
Michael and Sara

HELLO:

I am starting a transgendered radio program (a first for NZ) and I would appreciate any news and support from the trans community in the U.S. I wonder if you could put a notice in your dispatches. My email address is

[redacted]@xtra.co.nz.

Joanne Clarke
New Zealand

TRANNY FAG? PANSEXUAL? QUEER? QUESTIONING?

Hi. I'm Willy Wilkinson, and I want to let you know about a new program at Stop AIDS Project in San Francisco. Stop AIDS Project is launching a new workshop series by and for FTMs who are exploring sex with men. Workshops will address body image, erotic desire, cruising, transition, and more. So come hang with other FTMs and talk about what's real for us. All gender variant folks on the FTM spectrum are welcome, regardless of physical status. All ages welcome. Workshops will take place on Wednesday evenings in April. For more information, contact me at [redacted]. Looking forward to seeing you there,
Willy Wilkinson

DEAR FRIENDS:

We are celebrating the success of our Informative Packages on Bisexuality in Spanish that had been already requested by organizations and individuals from most Latin American countries, the USA, Canada and the Netherlands.

That success has led us to think of producing Informative Packages on Transgenderism, another issue on which there is very little available in Spanish and a growing interest from all kind of audiences.

Mauro Cabral, transgendered person who is the coordinator of Escrita en el Cuerpo, Córdoba branch (Córdoba is the third city in Argentina) and Alejandra Sardá, coordinator of

our Buenos Aires branch, have worked hard on the project.

As with the two previous ones, we will send the Package freely via email to anyone who is interested in having it, regardless of sex/gender, sexual orientation, age, organizational status or affiliation, nationality and any other status.

Please share this information with anyone who might be interested, and thanks for doing so.

Alejandra Sardá and Mauro Cabral Escrita en el Cuerpo Archivo y Biblioteca de Lesbianas, Mujeres Bisexuales y Diferentes / Lesbian, Bisexual and Different Women's Archives and Library Guardia Vieja 4329, 7mo H, 1192, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Tel. (54 11) 4863 91 90

Fax (54 11) 4382 90 95

Email: escrita@arnet.com.ar

DEAR FRIENDS:

Effective now, have resigned as National Director of It's Time, America! Contrary to what some may assume, I am leaving due to some compelling health reasons, which have increasingly prevented me from fulfilling the duties of my office.

Although I have been the longest-serving National Director of ITA (34 months of our five year existence) this was never supposed to be a lifetime position. Leading a national transgender organization without staff, money and resources these past three years has taken an enormous toll on me. With my health steadily deteriorating over the past year, I knew that eventually this day had to come.

I've also not had the luxury of just running ITA alone—simultaneously I have served as Spokesperson for It's Time, Maryland! which has put four separate bills before our state legislature, and I've also worked extensively in my home town of Washington, DC. My passion has always been working directly at the grass roots, where the real possibilities for sociopolitical change exist. I never really wanted to become a "national leader," because as a committed feminist, I find hierarchy anathema. The motive behind my transactivism has always been quite simple: I just wanted to stop the hurting of a community I love.

At this point, the ITA board has not come to any decision as to replacing me. I want to thank all of my friends and supporters who have kept me going these past three years. Your kindness has meant more to me than you will ever know.

Yours in Our Struggle,
Jessica

MORE MALEBOX

DEAR FTM:

San Francisco's Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Pride Parade Committee is seeking new members to help plan Pride 2000. Youth, bisexuals, women, leatherfolk and TGs are especially wanted. The Board of Directors in particular needs more women, FTMs and youth.

To join, contact the Committee at SFPRIDE@AOL.COM or call 415 864-3791.

Yours in Pride,
Edward Goehring

HI EVERYBODY:

With the support and encouragement of transgendered people in and outside of Pennsylvania, a new statewide transgendered political organization is now being formed-TransFAIR of Pennsylvania. We are looking for people to be members and board members.

Board duties will include meetings (probably through e-mail discussion) as necessary to deal with issues relating to TransFAIR. Our mission statement: TransFAIR of

Pennsylvania will work for fully inclusive statewide legislation that protects and/or benefits transgendered, gay, lesbian and bisexual (TGLB) Pennsylvanians.

If you are interested in serving on the TransFAIR board, please let me know ASAP.

Deni Scott

TransFAIR of Pennsylvania Organizing Chair.
Email: dscott@pgh.net.

DEAR FTM:

We are the largest New Balance store in the world. The store is called New Balance North Jersey, our website is www.aperfectdealer.com and we are also listed on New Balance's website as a licensed, authorized New Balance dealer.

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PLEASE NOTE: The FTM Newsletter is now quoted in books and magazines outside the FTM community. Your words here may be quoted elsewhere. If you don't want your name to appear in another publication, ask to use a false name (or no name) if you want us to publish your letter.

FTMI Awards in L.A.

The membership of FTM International voted on four awards of recognition which were given out at the "general wrap-up" session at the highly successful Forward Motion conference in Burbank, CA, Oct. 8-10, 1999.

FTMI Community Service/Outreach Awards were given to Mr. Gary Bowen, founder of the American Boyz network, and to FTMI board member Jeff Shevlowitz. The awards were presented by board members Kit Rachlin of New York City and Dale Altrows of Montreal.

Shevlowitz, also on the Forward Motion Organizing Committee, started the Southern California FTM support group Under Construction in 1982, inspiring Lou Sullivan to start the group FTM in San Francisco in 1986, which grew to become FTM International.

FTMI's acting president, Dion Manley, presented a special Award of Recognition to FTM Newsletter editor Jed Bell, who received a standing ovation from the crowd of hundreds of conference attendees. Jed is vacating the editorial helm (see p. 2). Former editor and ongoing contributing editor James Green said "Jed has done an incredible job building the newsletter, and he will be greatly missed."

FTMI board member Ben Singer made a powerful and emotional presentation of the FTMI Pride Award to James Green for his courage, compassion, vision, and integrity. The plaque reads "You continue to show us the way." The emotion of the moment prevented James from saying anything coherent beyond how much it meant to him to receive this award. Many in the room were crying during the standing ovation, moved by the love and gratitude that was being expressed by the community and by James. Later James said, "If I could have composed myself at the time, I would have said that I am deeply grateful to be acknowledged by this growing community of incredible people. I appreciate the trust and confidence that this community continues to place in me. This Pride Award is a great honor, and it makes me so proud to see everyone gathering and teaching and learning and building on the strengths that we have, and moving forward to improve our lives together. You make me proud. Thank you!"

PEN PAL PLACE

The Pen Pal Place is a new malebox feature for FTM readers looking for pen pals, and for people who want to be pen pals. To ensure safety, no street addresses will ever be printed here unless specifically requested. The creation of this new feature is the direct result of one man's request for a pen pal last year. To become a pen pal, call coordinator Kris Kadin at (510) 531-5516, or write to him care of the FTM office (see page 2 for address).

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FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR ALTERNATIVE FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS

from Kelly, which I was too naïve to interpret properly. The fact that she came into my (unlocked) apartment when I was in the shower—and didn't leave—should have tipped me off. Eventually I was held down on my own couch and forced. I was 22. I had never done more than hold hands.

After that I didn't worry about politeness anymore when I said "no." I was utterly confused by what had occurred, but not so confused that I had any desire for it to happen again. She was married; I had said no; therefore It Was Wrong. What was harder to sort out was the fact that it had felt physically pleasurable. This whole physical craving / physical pleasure aspect made everything more complicated. I continued to fend Kelly off while I got on with the rest of my life; eventually she got the hint. I continued to make friends at school, around town, in the fencing club. And I started to notice small bits of personality change here and there.

It's odd trying to chart personality shifts from the inside when you've just changed social groups. Your friends, the people that normally serve as your "reality-check," are all brand-new, just meeting you for the first time, so they can't warn you. The only way you can usually see it is in retrospect. I'd become more quick-tempered, more prone to jump in with both feet and argue with someone. I'd stopped crying, something I used to do very easily when angered, frustrated, or depressed. Now, I couldn't cry, even when I wanted to; I had to find other ways of letting things out, and eventually settled on whomping trees with an aluminum baseball bat to release anger and frustration. At one point I rather cold-bloodedly seduced the girlfriend of one of my colleagues—pretty much just to see if I could. That was a year after the shots started. In just over a year I'd gone from a person described by his college friends as "solid," "dependable," "chivalrous," and "the most honest person on campus" to someone with severe mood swings and a pretty stained moral code. All of which, I was repeatedly told by friends and medical professionals, was "normal."

Here I will fast-forward over mono, the loss of my school job, the breakup of a relationship, and a long downward mental and financial spiral. We pick up again at a traffic light where Our Hero, biking to work, is cut off by a cursing 280-lb. man in a half-ton pickup. The driver of this truck has some rather firm opinions about bikes, and roundly curses out all bikes and those skinny geeks who ride them. The light changes to green, and the truck peels out, smoking his tires. Our Hero sees red, and peels out after the truck, just plain smoking. Pedaling at 35 mph, he catches up to the truck and proceeds to ream the driver out, from right alongside him, in traffic, questioning the driver's brains, manners, parentage, and fighting ability—especially fighting ability. Fortunately the driver does not feel like fighting; each person arrives at his respective place of work without further incident.

I got to work, opened the store for the day, sat down with my morning bagel...and immediately got the shakes as realization hit. I had, moments ago, wanted nothing in the world but to drag that man out of his truck and beat the holy shit out of him. I'd wanted it so badly I could still see it. That morning was when I knew I had a major problem, that my personality had been radically affected by the shots. I reflected on the little things I'd been noticing over the past few years, including a fear that my intelligence and creativity had dropped. I saw the endocrinologist right away. I explained the changes I'd noticed, including my new violent streak that I had been rechanneling into beating up trees. He shrugged, and indicated that he was an endocrinologist, not a psychologist. Not his department; not his problem. I pleaded with him, trying to make clear the extent of my worry. He advised me to look in the phone book under "psychologists"—this at a time when I was making part-time minimum wage. He told me again to "vary the dosage and find out what works," which I'd done. He continued to treat the situation as if it were a pure plumbing issue, and I was somehow suggesting that he be concerned with the magazines in the bathroom or something. Faced with no help from the doctor providing the medication, no money, no insurance, no anything, I did the only thing I could think of—I stopped taking the shots.

My best guess is that it took about three months for most of the testosterone to work itself out of my system, and another 6–12 for it to be as gone as it would get. I didn't tell anyone that I'd stopped, but within just a few weeks my female friends remarked that I was "easier to be around these days." Of course I asked why; none of them could point to anything specific. One of my good buds, Lisa, said I felt "less threatening"—not, she added, that I'd ever done anything threatening...it was just "an aura or something." I was still out of school, but felt my creativity and IQ come back up; I dropped the upper-body muscle, unfortunately. Also unfortu-

nately, I continued to have to shave, though less frequently. I was able to cry again; the fits of red rage disappeared. I won't say "and he lived happily ever after," because it just isn't so. Being off the stuff is a mixed blessing in all sorts of ways.

Having a "normal" upper-body for my size was really nice while it lasted. I turned into quite the jock—biked 10 miles a day or more, taught fencing, did some heavy-weapons fighting—but now I'm back to my pipe-cleaner-armed self. Can't retain the muscle mass one bit. This caused some trouble when my repeated knee injuries finally needed surgery—I worked my tail off in physical therapy, but just couldn't build the leg muscles back up above a certain point. I wear twin knee braces now if I need to do any real walking, and on bad days I use a stick. I have to wonder if that'd be the case if I'd still been on the testosterone.

Gradually my sexual ability faded. Just the ability; not the drive. It's a source of mild but continuing frustration, not to mention a bit of a barrier in having any continuing relationships. And speaking of relationships...

In college, my platonic relationships were all hetero. When I was on the shots I basically kept going with what I was familiar with and surrounded by, which was all straight. Once off the shots again, and single, I slowly started realizing that yes, in fact, I was attracted to guys as well. That was three years ago. I've only just started addressing it face-on this past year, though—getting involved in the community, coming out to friends, learning a little bit more all the time. Am I bi because of my XXXY chromosomes? Beats me. Did the testosterone push me in a straight direction, and I only realized my orientation after it was out of my system? Good question. Unfortunately, I can't answer it. There are arguments and evidence all over many sides of these questions. What I do know is, here I stand, and this is who I am at this point. The questions I need to deal with are some of the same questions that anyone in the FTM community faces.

I just learned from Jed this year about the dangers of losing bone mass when you don't have sufficient hormonal levels. I haven't been back to an endocrinologist yet, but that alone makes me wonder if I should. I still like to camp, hike, and do all sorts of other outdoors stuff, knees or no knees. But I don't relish the thought of finding out that, yes, osteoporosis is in fact a problem when I'm halfway down inside the Grand Canyon and my wrist breaks. My rational side says to go find a new endoc and get some facts. But my emotional side...

I got burned and burned badly by the unethical prick I saw the first time. Like the personality changes, it's only in retrospect that I see how bad it was. At no point was the hormone therapy presented as an option; it was simply "Oh, you're not normal. We can fix that." No alternatives; no weighing of "If we do X, this will happen; if we don't do X, these other things will happen." I was treated like a malfunctioning toaster. This makes me more than a little reluctant to risk more trauma by putting myself in the hands of another guy who may well be just as bad. I'm a graduate student; I can't afford to shop around to six different offices, searching for just the right person. But, as any reader of this journal knows, it is vital to find a doctor who will respect the patient as a person, who will actually listen to concerns, and who doesn't feel like forcing every patient into the "normal" mold right off the bat.

That issue of "normalcy" is the big swirling cloudy final question. I've never had any illusions that I was normal. In high school, I used to make jokes about my half-elven blood, since everyone else was aging and changing while I stayed my thin, impish self. When I found out about my less-than-normal chromosomes, I got an explanation for some of my difference—but it was treated as something "fixable." It wasn't until this past year that I found out that there are entire organizations, support groups, communities that celebrate these sorts of differences, encourage the exploration of identities that don't fit neatly into the pigeonholes society provides. Am I a little bitter? Sure I am—I never had any real opportunity to take conscious charge of my position as a crosser of boundaries, someone who lives in-between. It's been a few years now since I quit the testosterone, and I still have a cellar-level bass voice, still have to shave every other day. My body isn't changing back; on the outside, I'm undeniably male. But how do I identify? I'm attracted to men and women (mostly men of late); I'm neither a classic Dave-Barry-style "guy" nor a nelly one; I'm not especially fond of tractor-pulls or Streisand. I listen to Springsteen one day, Cats the next. I feel in the middle somewhere. It's natural for me; I've always been a bridge, a go-between, understanding both sides of any given coin but living somewhere in the milled edge.

Staying there could be one heck of a trick, though.

OTHER BAY AREA MEETINGS

ONGOING SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA MEETINGS:

AFRICAN-AMERICAN BUTCH Support Group for women who consider themselves butch, no matter what type of butch. This support group will deal with the dynamics of being an African American butch in this country and in the lesbian community. Meets every first and third Tuesday at the Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph St. (at Derby), Berkeley. Contact: Stacy at 510-389-3230. Email: pcvolunteers@gay.net.

BUTCH/FTM AA meeting. Not currently meeting: needs coordinator. If you're interested in facilitating, please call FTMI at 415-553-5987.

EAST BAY group, Emeryville. Third Monday of every month, 7:30 pm. Call James at 510-658-0474 for location.

NEW MEN'S group (anyone questioning transitioning or new to transition, all welcome). Every fourth Thursday. FTM office, 7:30 pm.

PARTNERS' group (for partners of FTMs). Second Sunday of every other month, same days as closed FTM Int'l meetings, 2 pm, SF. Call Michiko: (510) 893-6333. Also see FTMSOS@aol.com.

COUPLES' group. The FTM Couples Group will meet on the third Sunday of every other month at 2 pm. Same months as open FTM meetings. Contact Joel at 415-668-6124 or Michiko at 510-893-6329.

READING group, East Bay. Meets third Tuesday of every month. Boadecia's Books, 398 Colusa, Kensington. 510-559-9184.

CHANGELING: Meets every Wednesday, 7-9 pm at LYRIC, 127 Collingwood at 18th (2 blocks from Castro Muni): Confidential support/social/discussion group for transgender, gender-bending, and gender-questioning youth age 25 and under. Questions? Want to send in a submission for our zine? Call 415-703-6150.

To talk to another young person—LYRIC Youth Talkline for youth 23 and under: 415-863-3636 or 1-800-246-7743 (now toll-free throughout CA).

QUEER AND QUESTIONING YOUTH Support Group (ages 21 and under) meets every Saturday, 12 to 1:30 pm at the Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph St. at Derby, Berkeley. Ph: 510-548-8283. Email: pcvolunteers@gay.net.

TRANNY TIME support for all transgender-identified persons, Monday through Friday from 4-6 pm. Info: 415-255-8272/ Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center annex, 183 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco.

TRANZBAY GATHERING What goes on at these things anyway? Basically, it is a casual environment where people can let down their hair, so to speak and just have a good time. There is no group hierarchy -- just people sipping cappuccinos and talking about everything from physics to dancing to entomology. The second Wednesday of every month at Quetzal, 1234 Polk Street in San Francisco (between Sutter and Bush streets).

TRANSACTION We're a group of transgender and transsexual (TG/TS) activists and our friends who got together in the fall of 1998 to expose and end the police misconduct and violence that our community experiences in San Francisco. We know that ending these abuses will require the work of TG/TS people of all colors, cultures, and backgrounds. Our tools for struggle are public education, community dialogue, fierce humor, and militant direct action. You can reach us care of Community United Against Violence at: (415) 777-5500 or checkout our website at www.transactionsf.org. Contact us for info or to get involved!

ALTERNATIVE FAMILY PROJECT GROUPS Our TG Parents' Support Group is on-going, but it is not a drop-in group. So, if people are interested, they would need to call AFP and talk to the facilitator(s) first. It is an evening support group for TGs who have kids. The fees are on a sliding scale, based upon income (and no one is turned away for lack of funds). We also run a Children's Play Group concurrently for the kids of the parents who are in the group. We ask for donations from the parents to cover the cost of art materials, and to pay the facilitators of the kids' group. If there are any further questions, please let me know. You can email me (carolpc@baylinks.com) or call 415-436-9000.

LGBTQ PARENTS WORKSHOP SERIES IN BERKELEY These ongoing workshops will host speakers that address issues important to LGBTQ parents (and prospective parents!), such as blended families, legal issues, working with schools, race, gender and more. This is your chance to meet other parents, find support and community for you and your children, and discuss important topics. Workshops will be the first Saturday of each month from 10:30am to 12:30pm. They will be held at the Pacific Center at 2712 Telegraph Ave in Berkeley. **Childcare will be provided!*** Call Anna at 415-789-8560 or email familyprogram@yahoo.com for more information.

INTERSEX RESOURCES

ISNA (Intersex Society of North America) A peer support, education, and advocacy group founded and operated by and for intersexuals: individuals born with anatomy or physiology which differs from cultural ideals of male and female. www.isna.org

S.F. FTM MEETING SCHEDULE '99

FTM international meetings are on the 2nd Sunday of each month, from 2 to 5 p.m., in San Francisco. Call FTM Voicemail (415-553-5987) for details. Mark your calendars in advance!

CLOSED (SUPPORT)

Feb. 13
April 9
June 11

OPEN (INFORMATIONAL)

March 12
May 14
July 9

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1-00

Subscription information, submission deadlines, and contact information page 2.

FTM RESOURCES

UNITED STATES

California *FTM International* Contact info page 2. Meets every 2nd Sun. in San Francisco—info p. 23.

Genderqueer Boyzzz, L.A. area Contact: Jacob Hale 323-665-1130. email: zeroboyjh@aol.com.

San Diego FTM Support Group 3rd Saturday of every month, 4-6 pm, at The Center, 3916 Normal St., San Diego. Contact: 619-692-2077.

SCOUT (Santa Cruz Organizing & Uniting Transmen). Supportive, non-judgmental environment. Every 2nd and 4th Mon., 7 pm. 2nd Mon. meeting is limited to those with gender issues (including butch-identified dykes). Info/location: 831-429-5663. 4th Mon. meeting is open to all—partners encouraged: LGBT center, 1328 Commerce Lane. Info: 831-425-5422.

Under Construction P.O. Box 922342, Sylmar, CA 91392-2342. Contact: Jeff Shevlowitz 818-837-1904. E-mail: littleshevy@juno.com.

Colorado FTM Support Group for TS, TG men and questioning females and their SOs. Every 3rd Sun., 6-8 pm, at the Gender Identity Center, 1455 Ammons St., #100, Lakewood, CO 80215. For info, contact the GIC at 303-202-6466 or e-mail Matt Kailey at FtMatt@aol.com.

S.C.I.R.T.S. (Southern Colorado IntraRegional Transgender Society) and **T-GENTS** for FTMs. Contact: 719-380-8052. MTFs and FTMs meet Tues. nights at 8 pm, every 3rd Sat. at 8 pm. www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Heights/4484.

Illinois See **FORGE** under "Wisconsin"

Indiana FTM Indianapolis: Meets at Diversity Center, Southeastern Ave. Ph: Holling, 317-539-7342 or virago18@hotmail.com. SOs welcome!

Maine Monthly FTM meeting in Maine. For dates and location information contact PJ: 207-783-4630 or pjmeares@megalink.net.

Massachusetts East Coast Female-to-Male Group P.O. Box 60585, Florence Station, Northampton, MA 01060. Ph: 413-584-7616, Bet Power. Every 3rd Sun. 3-6pm. All-inclusive support group for FTM persons and their SOs.

Support Group for straight spouses Meets monthly in Northampton. Call Jane Harris: 413-625-6033.

Compass Female-to-male-trans support, information and social group. Every 1st Thurs. in Waltham. Info: Mykael 781-899-2212 or ftm@ifge.org.

Minnesota Minneapolis: MN Boyz. Monthly coffee chats, other events to come. Mail list MNBoyz-subscribe@onelist.com, or call (612) 285-9166 (Arthur or Lee).

New York NYC chapter of the American Boyz meets every third Sunday at the International Action Center, 39 West 14th Street (bet. 5th & 6th Avenues), # 206. Take elevator in rear of lobby to 2nd floor, ring bell. http://www.inch.com/~kdka/nycboyz/nycboyz.htm.

Email: Marie at kdka@inch.com or Deirdre at deirdreny@hotmail.com.

The Gender Identity Project of the Lesbian and

Gay Community Center offers free, one-on-one peer counseling services and support groups to all people in the FTM spectrum, including exploring/questioning. Contact Ray Carannante at 212-620-7310, or email Ray@gaycenter.org.

Ohio Trans Pride for TG people, allies, and friends. 3rd Fridays, 7 pm, Akron Pride Center, 71 N. Adams St. 330-263-2220. Or email Lee Matthew Sanow at sanow@chemistry.uakron.edu.

Oregon Cocksure A primarily social group in Portland for trans guys, anyone on the FTM spectrum and their significant others. By trans guys we mean guys who were born or raised as female but who don't presently identify as female. All sexual proclivities welcome. Drop us a line or give a call. Cris (FTM) and Hillary (SO): 503-471-1515, Cocksure@hevanet.com.

Pennsylvania Philadelphia TG Hotline 215-732-1207, Mon. & Thurs., 6-10 pm. Info and peer counseling for transmen, transwomen, and those with gender-related questions or concerns.

Transgender Health Action Coalition (T-HAC) Organizational meetings 1st Sat of the month, 1pm, top floor, Washington West Offices, 1201 Locust St., Philadelphia PA 19107. All welcome.

WeXist Philadelphia-based non-political FTM support group. Open to all assigned female at birth who have gender identity issues or questions, or need support for gender concerns. Every 2nd Sat. at William Way Community Center, 5:30-7pm. Info: 215-848-7674, box 6, or WeXist@aol.com.

Tennessee Knoxville Boyz FTM support group open to all female-born, masculine-identified persons and their SOs, friends, family, and allies. It's hard to find people, professionals, and resources here. Pool resources, build resources, and build friendships. Meetings held every Mon. and Fri. at 7:30pm in a private home. Call 423-932-7398 for address and directions. Meeting times may change as agreed upon by the group.

Virginia TG Support Group 142 W. York St. #815, Norfolk VA 23510. Maggie Chubb, LCSW: 757-625-2992. Open MTF/FTM support group with Horton & Horton Gender Reassignment Team.

Charlottesville, Virginia. Transgender Support and Discussion Group meets one Sunday a month. For transgender people (MTF and FTM) and those questioning their gender identity. Michael: 540-867-5375 or michaelgray@earthlink.net.

Wisconsin FORGE = For Ourselves: Reworking Gender Expression. A monthly social support group and newsletter for FTM TSs and TGs: butches; drag kings; gender queers, radicals, and outlaws; people assigned female at birth with (at least some) masculine self-identification; and our SOs, friends and family. Michael Munson, PO Box 1272, Milwaukee, WI 53201; 414-278-6031; email: dmmunson@execpc.com.

Gemini Gender Group. PO Box 44211 Milwaukee, WI 53214. Voice mail #414-297-9328. The local "professional" TG program is Pathways. Offers a connection to endocrinologists, surgeons, etc. Separate FTM, MTF groups: 414-774-4111.

INTERNATIONAL

Australia Boys Will Be Boys, BWBB, P.O. Box 5393, West End, Brisbane, Australia 4101. Network for FTM persons, newsletter.

The Gender Centre offers a wide range of services to people with gender issues, their partners, families and friends; education, support and referral to other organizations, service providers and community services; counseling; social and support groups; bi-monthly magazine *Polare*. 75 Morgan Street, Petersham, NSW 2049. Ph: (02) 9569 2366. Email: gender@rainbow.net.au.

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

Canada British Columbia: **BC FTM Network**, Box 10, 1895 Commercial Dr., Vancouver, BC V5N 4A6. Ph: 604-254-7292; bcftmnet@hotmail.com. Advocacy; public education; outreach; info and peer support contacts for family, partners, allies of FTMs; contact info for FTM resources worldwide; and a monthly peer-run discussion/support group, FTM Etc. Info: email lukasw@direct.ca.

France CARITIG, B.P. 756, 75827 Paris Cedex 17, France. Phone/fax: +33 (0) 1 43 42 28 58. Extensive bilingual website: www.caritig.org.

Germany TS-gruppe d., **Sontagsclub** e. U., Rhinower Str. 8, Berlin 10437.

dgti (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Transidentität und Intersexualität) dgti e.V., c/o Helma Katrin Alter, Godorfer Hauptstr. 60, 50997 Köln. Tel./Fax: 02236 - 839018. http://www.dgti.org

Japan FTM Nippon. Contact: Masae Torai, Adachi-ku, Adachi-Nishi-post office-dome, Tokyo 123.

The Netherlands Mannengroep Humanitas Amsterdam, Postbox 71, 1000 AB Amsterdam; tel. 020 5231100 or 0346 353495 fax 020-6227367; mannen@wgtrans.nl.

United Kingdom London-FTM Network, BM Network, London WC1N 3XX, England. tel: 0161 432 1915 (Wednesdays 8 pm—10:30 pm GMT or BST). Support group for female-to-male persons.

SEND IN YOUR MEETING TIMES!

**FTM INTERNATIONAL MEETING
TIMES AND NEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIPTION FORM ON P.23**