

THE TRANSITION FROM BOYHOOD TO MANHOOD DISCUSSED AT FTM GET-TOGETHER #12

Steven Kessler, MFCC, a founding member of both the Golden Gate Men's Council and the Men's Counseling Guild, addressed the January 7, 1990 FTM Get-Together on the subject of his special workshops and men's groups -- the journey into manhood and the process of male initiation.

Steven first asked the gathering of fifteen female-to-males (some who traveled from Los Angeles and Seattle) and six guests what topics we wished to discuss. Without hesitation, one FTM said that he had never participated in an all-men's group and wondered how different FTM issues are from issues of genetic men; and, in fact, what *are* the issues of genetic men?

The issue most men show up with, Steven declared, is, "Okay, I'm 40 years old, I've got 2 cars, 2 divorces, and 3 kids, but I don't feel like a man. What's going on? I make 'x' amount of money, which is more than my father ever made, but somehow, when I compare myself to my father, I just don't feel like I've made it." What's happening here is that our society does not initiate men ... a process in tribal and more traditional societies out of the belief that to change a boy into a man requires an intervention. It requires that something 'happen' to that boy."

Steven went on to describe tribal rituals of male initiation which actualize the physical removal of the boy-child from the mother-world and placement into the father-world. "It's a death and rebirth process.

"Most societies feel that female initiation is not as important and not as difficult, because it's helped biologically ... women have the beginning of menstruation, pregnancy and childbirth.

"In the best male initiation situations in tribes that are doing it well, there would be a number of male guides who

had different attributes and the older men looking at the boys growing up would notice what their attributes are and would say, 'This one is a warrior, this one is a lover, this one is a healer,' and would grab them and say, 'I understand this one; you're coming with me and I'll show you what we do.'

"With the demise of male initiation, the average man now walking the street knows he's not a boy anymore, but he hasn't been initiated into manhood. He's in limbo. He's wondering, 'Am I a Real Man?' There is a great discomfort in our society about what a Real Man is. The level of tension in the average guy is pretty high. There is intense fear about not being a Real Man.

"You get three things in a male initiation: you get a wound, you get a secret, and you get a story or mythology. The wound is so that your body never forgets and is changed forever. It seems to me that a female-to-male who has gone through surgery *has* a wound. It wasn't done in a 'sacred space,' but you might be able to do some work with that in a ritual way to honor that wounding and healing process. My sense is that one of the things you *don't* get is someone who tells you the story which makes it all make sense.

"The sacred story for the female-to-male might say, 'There was once a goddess born and her name was so-and-so, and she was wonderful, etc. And then such-and-such happened and she realized there was a god inside her. So she went up on a mountain and had this adventure and went through that trial and faced that dragon, and then the god burst out, or she took off her goddess body.' I don't know what the image is, but if I were doing such a change, I would be *looking* for this female-to-male mythology.

"There is a societal perception that guys have something that everyone else wants and that's the main prison that guys live in: the perception that men have it all, the power and the glory, when in fact what the average man in our society has is an unconscious prison that means he cannot need help, he cannot wonder, he cannot doubt himself, he has to know everything that's going on and be totally capable of anything at anytime. There is *nobody* who measures up to this. One of the main things that happens in men's groups is that men begin to confess to each other that they just don't measure up to these standards, and every man coming into a men's group expects the other men to reject him because he's not. That's failed initiation, or non-initiation. The amount of pain and starvation and isolation in the average man today is *frightening*."

Some female-to-males in our group discussed our perceptions of how the world treats us differently since our changes. Most of us felt that we are treated with more respect and as adults and, as men, given more credit for our accomplishments. However, a black FTM said that he felt just the opposite: that, as a young achieving black woman he was admired and respected, but now, as a young black man, he is treated with increased fear and suspicion ... a stark comment on society's racial outlook.

Steven was sufficiently intrigued by FTM members' unique knowledge of masculinity/femininity that he expressed interest in writing an article on the subject and asked for future input from FTMs. This resulted in several follow-up meetings between Steven and individual FTMs, and hopefully an upcoming issue of *FTM Newsletter* will feature the outcome of Steven's inquiries.



Steven Kessler

A SPRING GET-TOGETHER THAT WON'T QUIT!

FTM Get-Together #13 will be held Saturday, March 17, 1990, and do we have a line-up planned!

Our program, beginning at 2 p.m., will be an informative and educational session on the risks of AIDS in the female-to-male community. FTM member Sterling Winterhalter, long-time employee of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, will bring his bag of tricks and safe sex items, brochures and literature on AIDS prevention, and answer your specific and intimate questions concerning transmission of this deadly virus, taking into consideration the varied body constructs of pre- and post-surgical FTMs. *FTM Newsletter* editor, Lou Sullivan, will speak about the special vulnerability of the female-to-male and transsexual communities to this disease and relate his personal experience as a person with AIDS for over three years.

We will wrap the program up early so that those of us interested can hurry to hear Dr. Paul Walker speak, beginning at 4 p.m. at the ETVC meeting, the Bay Area's male-to-female group. Admission will be \$3. *FTM* is delighted that Dr. Walker, one of the leading psychiatrists in the field of gender dysphoria, is still accessible to our community despite his retirement last year.

Late that evening, for those of us still kicking, Amelia's (San Francisco's premiere women's bar) will be holding an "Outrageous Leather Gender Bender," starring lesbian entertainer Rainbeau performing her male impersonation act as rock star Billy Idol. Admission is \$6 and men are welcome. As an alternative, San Francisco's Plush Room presents the world famous female impersonator Charles Pierce in his renowned performance as Mae West, Marilyn Monroe, Bette Davis and others in an evening titled, "The Legendary Hollywood Ladies: All Talking, All Singing, All Dancing, All Dead." Admission \$20 with 2 drink minimum; for reservations, call 885-6800.

FTM "MALE" BOX

Dear *FTM*,

Some of us have experienced seeing transsexuals give other transsexuals well-intentioned but erroneous medical information. Information about hormones, surgery, or general medical advice. An individual in a support group, or independent of a support group, may sound quite convincing and seem to know what they are talking about, but all medical advice should be checked with a medical doctor. A licensed and practicing medical doctor. Preferably one specializing in endocrinology (if you're talking about hormones, for example). There is an endocrinologist in our area who has a fantastic reputation. We prefer to send TSs to him rather than give out medical advice. A word of advice to all TSs: please check out all medical advice -- a mistake is very serious. Also, if you mean well, then do not give medical advice: give a medical referral! It would be greatly appreciated. (You may also wish to check with your state medical licensing board about the legality and penalties for "practicing without a license" and whether giving medical advice is construed as such in your state.)

ANDROS
Valley Forge, Pa.

Dear *FTM*,

We in the Philadelphia transsexual community are writing to *FTM* to express our disappointment of the article published in February's issue of *Hustler* which your newsletter said we "don't want to miss." We are male-to-female and female-to-male TSs, and include those who object to porno-

graphy all-together, and those who accept it. We want to make clear that even those of us who do NOT object to pornography DO object to Sprinkle's article in *Hustler*: we feel it gives the general population a very distorted and negative impression of transsexuals in general. Most TSs are quite aware that we are a misunderstood minority, battling discrimination and fear. We feel that Les and Annie have a right to undress and photograph, but we are insulted that they seem to have taken upon themselves to represent transsexuals in this manner -- without regard for the impact on the community. This was disrespectful and cannot be hidden behind a facade of First Amendment rights or "educational outreach." If they desired to share explicit photographs to help transsexuals, they could have distributed them for educational purposes within our community. We feel damage was done to our community by playing on a demeaning kind of curiosity -- one that uses a distorted concept of us for a turn-on. (Imagine the mostly male *Hustler* readership "jerk-ing off" to a "woman with a cock.") This does not promote the genuine kind of curiosity which leads to greater understanding and acceptance of us. What was published only perpetuates the stereotype that female-to-males are really only women who act on their "penis envy." This is demeaning and erroneous about women AND transsexuals. Our society is not even close to receiving the *Hustler* material and still maintain a positive image of us. We must first work on dispelling fear of us and building up a positive image. This is enough of a task in and of itself for the present. We suggest that if any transsexuals truly wish to build a positive image that they get involved in community educational outreach and avoid promoting stereotypes and degrading concepts of us. In future, stop and think about how your behavior is affecting the rest of us.

Signed by twelve members of the
Philadelphia Transsexual Support Group

RESULTS OF FTM MEDICAL SURVEY

Issue #8 of *FTM Newsletter* contained a medical questionnaire for female-to-males and we received responses from 17 of our readers. The surveys were reviewed by Dr. Martin Terplan, M.D., F.A.C.P., who practices internal medicine and geriatrics in San Francisco, and he forwards this conclusion: "The records sent last fall did not disclose any increased atherosclerotic disease among the female-to-male respondents. On the other hand, [hormone] treatments were of relatively short duration. Please advise your readers that they still might be at slightly increased risk for such complications and hence they should not smoke, and try and maintain normal blood pressures and cholesterol levels. So that the study might prove ongoing (or be reopened), individuals developing heart or circulatory problems should report them to *FTM*."

FTM EDITOR RECEIVES AWARD

FTM extends its sincere thanks to Rupert Raj for the first "Gender Worker Award," a beautiful wall plaque with the following inscription: "Presented to Lou Sullivan in Appreciation for Your Dedication and Outstanding Contributions to the F-M TS Community, 1990."

FTM NEWSLETTER

The only newsletter exclusively for the female-to-male transvestite and transsexual; published quarterly by FTM, 1827 Haight St. #164, San Francisco, California 94117

Editor: Lou Sullivan

F T M

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Female-to-male seeks same. In the passionate myth of my desire, I see a vision of a special man who is physically uninhibited, aggressively diverse, yet secure in his own male identity. Prefer heavy set, 5'7" or taller, average-looking individual, race unimportant, to complement your counterpart. Must be clean. Sean D.

☆

I am interested in corresponding with TVs and FTMs and meeting same in San Francisco and the Bay Area. I like to crossdress and am extremely empathetic towards FTMs in all stages of transition. Rima/Francis

☆

Gentle, attractive, fit, sensuous, sensual WM would like to meet a pre-op female TS or TV. I'm warm, affectionate, versatile and physically and culturally-inclined. I prefer a woman who has an overabundance of male hormones resulting in body hairiness and male pattern muscles. My ultimate goal is to develop a monogamous relationship. J.W.

☆

F-T-M in Seattle would like to correspond with other F-T-Ms in the West Coast (or thereabouts). [You can write, if you want, to Marty.] K.M.D.

☆

I am a post-op FTM moving to Michigan soon. I will need a physician and therapist there. Please write if you know of any experienced or open-minded doctors or psychologists in Michigan or northern Indiana or Ohio. Write N.

☆

I am a 28-year-old female who is passing as a young adolescent male. Not sure where I'm going from here, but would like companions on my journey. I am intelligent, friendly and open-minded. I identify mainly as a male, but have conflicts, so who knows what/who I'll be in the future! I'd like to hear from others in similar situations. Write to Jo K

☆

Looking for someone to perform childcare in exchange for room in private home. Write Tony,

☆

Well-balanced New Man and loving it, but for one problem that's got me stumped.... How and when to tell potential lovers "the real story"? Please write and share your experiences and suggestions. If I get enough responses, I will write an article on this subject for FTM. Kevin R.,

NETWORKING

I am a very intelligent, under-educated 26-year-old F-M TS who *will* undergo full surgery: top and bottom. I'm clean, healthy and look like a 13-year-old. I'm into swimming, a good book or film, music and walks. I write poetry, draw, skulpt, sing and write music. I'm looking for an intelligent, healthy, sincere, cute, patient, calm gay man, my age or older, with a good sense of humor. If you're him, please send a letter with a photo to Elia Allan

☆

Male-to-female transgenderist seeks FTM or lesbian counterpart to share life's joys and sorrows. I am a non-smoker, very light drinker, optimistic and submissive in character. I'm in my late 30's, reasonably attractive, intelligent, convincing in my chosen gender, a hard worker, a major nature lover, financially secure and highly creative. Please write to Rachel

☆

I would be interested to hear from individuals or FTM groups in all parts of the world to establish contact between FTMs and to exchange information on surgery, the legal situation and differences in treatment available and psychiatry in different countries. If you can help, please contact me. If you are a surgeon/psychiatrist or anyone else interested in the FTM TS situation and can offer information, I'd like to hear from you as well. Andrew

☆

Female-to-male looking to correspond with other FTMs. I have no friends that know and desperately need someone to talk with. Write J.T.

☆

Attractive, white, Jewish male transvestite interested in mutual exploration with my female counterpart. Jano

☆

SWF, 30, gender dysphoric, seeks correspondents who can understand my gender confusion. Looking for friends, not love -- though it would be nice. I'm unbelievably open-minded and just wish to be accepted for what I am. Lauren,

☆

Attention FTMs: Research project for book on FTMs. Your input is requested. I want your ideas and experiences in all stages of transition. Call Shayne

☆

I am a 30-year-old androgynous individual who is attracted to (feminine) females but I've never had an intimate relationship with anyone. I am a genetic female who doesn't identify with my body. I hate my breasts and periods. I have always felt this way -- well ever since puberty and even before then I often thought that maybe I should be a boy. When I was 13 and 14 a friend of mine and I passed as boys on a regular basis and loved it. I don't feel female but don't know if I should be a male. I wish there were a way to get my body to match my inner self-image, which is neutral. I guess it would be in my best interest, under these circumstances, to be a

male. On top of it all I look really young and people tend to regard me as a child. I definitely don't fit into society the way I am. I would like to relocate to a more open-minded environment where I can get some real help with these issues. Also if anyone has any information on M/F brain differentiation, a pill that is supposed to stop a female's cycle (that I've heard about and it's not THE Pill or the standard F-to-M testosterone one), or the ability of two eggs to fertilize each other in a laboratory (which I've also heard about), or if you think you can help me in any way or can relate, please write to me at:

Thanks, Sidney.

☆

Competent speakers for talks on Gender Identity and Gender Dysphoria in the Philadelphia/Valley Forge area. We specialize in giving talks to clergy/religious groups, medical/psychiatric, and human sexuality students. We do not give out medical advice or information, but speak from a personal perspective: family, work, and religious issues are emphasized. Contact ANDROS, Suite 56, P O Box 987, Valley Forge PA 19481.

☆

Female-to-male seeks correspondence, support and friendship. I'm 29 and a Pisces. I work with homelessness and tenant associations in the Bronx and Manhattan. Share your ideas and exchange info. Write to Christian C B David,

ELEVENTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON GENDER DYSPHORIA: An Insider's Report

by Rupert Raj-Gauthier

Well, 1989 was certainly my year! Not only did I get married (September 16th) and start a new career (February 17th), but I finally had the money to enable me to go to my first International Symposium on Gender Dysphoria sponsored by the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association (HBIGDA). This was the eleventh symposium and it was held at the Stouffer Tower Hotel in Cleveland from September 20-23. My wife Michelle and I drove from Toronto.

The most important reason I had for going was that I wanted to shake the hand of a man who, after Dr. Benjamin, has probably done more for the transgender community than anyone else: Dr. Paul Walker. So, after nearly 12 years of waiting to meet this great guy in person, my wish was finally granted. And what was immensely gratifying was he felt the same way about me: "You're really a very nice guy."

Dr. Walker chaired the founding committee of HBIGDA in 1979 and he helped to draft the original "Standards of Care" which he is now in the process of revising with the help of several others on a committee selected for this purpose. He has asked for input from all concerned, so please submit any serious and reasonable amendments to: Paul A. Walker, PhD "Standards of Care" Committee, c/o HBIGDA, Inc. 900 Welch Road, Suite 402, Palo Alto, CA 94304.

During the symposium, a Banquet Dinner was held in Paul's honor, at which, to a standing ovation, he was awarded a plaque for his many years of dedicated work in the field. Paul then announced he had been diagnosed several years ago as a victim of AIDS and that he had retired some time ago from his psychotherapy practice in San Francisco. Thank you, Paul, from the bottom of our hearts for being there for us in our time of need.

Dr. Walker then asked the attendees to observe a moment of silence for Christine Jorgensen and Zelda Suplee, who had both passed away this year. Zelda had been the Associate

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Director of the Erickson Educational Foundation (the predecessor of the JANUS Information Facility and J2CP Information Services) from 1971 to 1977 and had been den mother to many transsexuals over the years. Thank you, Zelda and Christine, for your caring contributions to the TS community. We won't forget you.

A second motive for attending the symposium justified the close to \$1,000 we spent in registration fees, meals, hotel and gas costs, as well as the loss of three days' salary. The real incentive was the invaluable opportunity to network.

So finally, after making initial contact some 12 years ago, I was able to meet, at long last, such veteran pioneers in the field as: Dr. Donald Laub, Dr. Ira Pauly, Dr. Jan Walinder and, of course, Dr. Walker. I also met, for the first time, some health care professionals with whom I had corresponded or talked over the phone in more recent years: Dr. Pierre Assalian, Dr. Aaron Billowitz, Dr. F. G. Bouman, Dr. Mildred Brown, Dr. Michael Brownstein, Dr. Collier Cole, Dr. Eli Coleman, Dr. Meral Crane, Dr. David Gilbert, Dr. Louis Gooren, Dr. Leslie Lothstein, Dr. Michel Seghers, Dr. Diane Watson, Alice Webb and Dr. Neal Wilson. I also met some lay "gender workers" and "consumers," including members from Renaissance, Crossroads, and the Paradise Club. It was a delightful surprise to see again Dr. Roger Peo (who offered to edit the HBIGDA newsletter), Dr. Sheila Kirk (who put out free copies of "The Tapestry" on the resource table), and also, my old friend, Susan Huxford.

And, of course, the third purpose for going was to see and hear the 36 scientific presentations which were delivered by some of the top experts in the field from Turkey, Venezuela, Europe, Canada and the U.S.A. Unfortunately, three presenters were unable to attend and I sadly missed the cultural and social issues sessions. I was very impressed by the presentations and will briefly touch on what I found to be the most intriguing, the most innovative, the most precise, the most poignant, the most mundane, and the most personally relevant.

To me, without a doubt, the most intriguing presentations focussed on the practically unknown area of female-to-male

transsexuals who identify as bisexual or gay men.

Drs. Walter Bockting and Eli Coleman (Minneapolis psychologists) presented case histories of seven American and nine Dutch post-op female-to-male transsexuals. Dr. Ira Pauly (a Reno psychiatrist) "introduced" the existence of the "female-to-gay male" and showed a videotaped interview he conducted with Lou Sullivan (a gay F-M man). Regrettably, Dr. Holly Devor (a Burnaby, British Columbia psychologist) was unable to present her paper on the sexual behavior of 25 female-to-male transsexuals, several of whom had been sexually involved with "straight" and gay men before and after sex reassignment surgery.

Also intriguing, and the counterpart of the above, was a presentation by Dr. June Martin (a San Francisco psychologist) on the sexual behavior and the rate of genital satisfaction in 64 postsurgical male-to-female transsexuals, particularly with regards to dreams to orgasm, masturbation, heterosexual petting, coitus, lesbian relations and zoophilia. Dr. Martin suggested that a similar study be carried out on female-to-male transsexuals.

The most innovative presentations, in my opinion, dealt with some of the advances/improvements in sex reassignment surgical techniques for male-to-female transsexuals.

Dr. Michael Small (a Florida plastic surgeon) gave a fascinating report on the use of tissue expanders in genitourinary surgery for transsexuals in an attempt to decrease the need for skin grafts used in the construction of the neovagina and the labia, and in the insertion of breast and/or testicular implants.

Dr. Donald Laub (a Stanford plastic surgeon) promoted his "Rolls Royce of Vaginas" -- "perhaps the longest, most tactile, self-lubricating vagina" -- created by using the rectosigmoid colon. Dr. Laub presented 44 cases of male-to-female transsexuals with regards to lubrication, sensibility, depth, no malodor, no contraction and no stent after healing.

Dr. Neal Wilson (a Detroit plastic surgeon) shared his surgical experience with the hydroflex prosthesis (made by American Medical Systems) in 12 female-to-male transsexuals. Dr. Wilson reported on the failure rate of the insertion of these single rod penile implants in his patients. Six had to have the rods replaced.

The most precise papers were given, I thought, by Drs. H. Asscheman and Louis Gooren. These Dutch endocrinologists presented their clinical observations of the physical changes undergone by 21 male-to-female transsexuals during daily oral treatment of ethinyl estradiol and cyproterone acetate. They also examined the death and morbidity rates in 425 transsexuals who were taking hormones and found correlations, in the 303 male-to-female transsexuals studied, between the combined use of estrogens and anti-androgens, and thromboembolism, hyperprolactinemia and depression. In the 122 female-to-male transsexuals studied, androgens were correlated with weight increase and acne.

The most poignant paper, by far, was Dr. Leah Schaefer's and Dr. Connie Wheeler's crucial look at guilt as a major motivating factor in the gender-dysphoric person and the vital importance of slowing down the transitioning process so that the devastating effects of guilt on self-concept can be effectively understood and managed. These New York psychotherapists also touched on the possible guilt felt by the helping professional.

The most mundane presentation, to my mind, was a totally irrelevant comparison by Dr. Ray Blanchard (a Toronto psychologist) of parental and sibling demographics among three gender-dysphoric groupings: homosexual males, non-homosexual males and homosexual females. Dr. Blanchard prefaced his discussion with a comment that his results might totally change because he had decided, after all, to include a third of the data which was not included in the present study. However, even if all the data had been included at the outset, the significant meaninglessness of the paper was apparent to at least one other researcher -- the head of the Montreal Gender Identity Clinic.

One of the more relevant papers, to me -- in terms of my own gender counseling work -- was the one proposing leader-centered group therapy as a beneficial complementary treatment for transsexuals. Dr. M. Szukag and B. Schroer show us that complex secondary behavioral disorders such as suspiciousness, rationalization, non-management of ambivalence, social retreat and reduced perception of emotional experience are not adequately addressed by individual psychotherapy. These German therapists found the results of a study of 15 patients indicated the group therapeutical method may improve both the social skills and the contentment of transsexuals.

In addition to the papers mentioned above, there were also presentations on breast reduction/chest contouring, penile construction, variations of gender dysphoria in females, an endocrine evaluation of two transsexual sisters, a follow-up study on 45 male-to-female transsexuals, and a comparison of sex roles in homosexual men and male-to-female transsexuals, as well as papers in three additional categories not highlighted here due to space limitations. These categories are: cultural and social issues, development and childhood issues, and family members and partners of transsexuals -- papers all worthwhile reading.

The most significant event of the symposium was, to me, the roundtable discussion between a number of "consumers" and "providers" that took place in Dr. Garfield's suite Friday evening. Dr. Sharon Satterfield (a member of the HBGDA board) was present when my wife announced she and I were there not as consumers, but as providers -- to help fill the gap left by health care professionals. We also made the point that my proposed paper ("Some Sociological Variables Affecting the Differential Therapeutic, Counseling and Peer-Support Needs of Female and Male Transsexuals") had been turned down by Dr. Billowitz (the Program Committee Chairman) because "...it has been the policy that formal presentations at the meeting be given only by professionals with formal training." He did suggest that I do a poster presentation of my results, but I was unable to do this. Then the subject came up on the once-held "Consumer Advocate" seat on the HBGDA Board that Jude Patton had held for some years but which was, for reasons unknown, discontinued some time ago. Regrettably, Dr. Billowitz (HBGDA President) just missed this exchange. However, he did respond favorably to a suggestion the Association put out a call for helping professionals who might be interested in leading a transsexual support group in their area.

In regards to the first two points, I am writing to the President and the Executive Director of HBGDA to, firstly, recommend a reinstatement of the Consumer Advocate seat on the Board of Directors (and offer myself as a premier candidate) and, secondly, to request a guideline outlining what constitutes "professionals" and "formal training" in terms of who is eligible to present papers at the symposia, as well as a list of the names of the program committee members.

I do not yet know if taped proceedings of the symposium will be made available as they have been for the last two. However, published proceedings are planned for the next symposium, which will be held either in Goteborg or Linkoping, Sweden, probably in June 1991. Dr. Walinder (President elect) will be the host. My wife and I plan to go as neither of us have been to Europe and I've cousins in Stockholm. If it is half as good as the last one, it will surely be worthwhile.

The above article was first published in The Transsexual Voice -- reprinted here with permission of the author.

RUPERT RAJ: GENDER CONSULTANTS

Counselor, educator, researcher, writer, reviewer
compiler and book distributor.
P O Box 1224, Station A, Toronto, Ontario
Canada M5W 1G7



STEVE DAIN, B.A., M.A., D.C.

Chiropractic Physician

DAIN CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC

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1780 Whipple Rd., Suite 105
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**THE WORLD'S ONLY FEMALE
ELVIS IMPERSONATOR**



On Wednesday December 27, 1989, Nightbreak on Haight St. in San Francisco featured "the world's only female Elvis impersonator." I was warned at the door that this was "women's night," but men were welcome and I was admitted. The place soon filled with leather jackets and butches galore. Elvis impersonator Leigh Crow entered the club fully made up, to whoops and whistles from her fans. She gave me an eager "yes" when I asked if I could take photos during her performance, and, when asked if she'd be doing her act again, she said, "hopefully ... if this evening's performance goes well," Nightbreak would have her back.

Unfortunately, while lip-synching the first Elvis song, Crow's tuxedo shirt popped all of its buttons, exposing her undershirt over which a roll of duct tape was used as breast binding. Crow was unaware until about the third song, made a half-hearted attempt to correct the situation, but without any buttons, decided nothing could be done and carried on her act. Naturally this spoiled the illusion. Circumstance forced me to leave after about five songs; but overall I felt, though this was her first time on stage, Crow could have done a better job with minimal effort.

**BUTCH FEMME SOIRÉE:
A NIGHT OF GENDER CONFUSION**

Such is the title of an April Fool's dance being held in San Francisco to benefit the National Center for Lesbian Rights. Awards will be given in a variety of costume contest categories, including gigolo and femme fatale, tacky suburban hetero look-alikes, and best butch and femme rolled into one contestant. The frolicking begins at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 31 at the Gift Center Pavilion, Brannan and 8th Streets. Advance tickets at \$25.50 available at Mama Bears, Oakland, and Headlines, Castro and Polk locations; \$30 at door.

SMALL SHOES IN SAN FRANCISCO

An *FTM* member informs us that Casserd Shoes, 310 Kearny at Bush Street in San Francisco, phone (415) 421-5690, carries quality men's shoes in sizes 5-13, AAA-EEE. Prices are in the medium range (\$56-70) and the salespeople are friendly.

**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT:
END TRANSSEXUAL DISCRIMINATION**

The European Parliament ("emerging as Europe's new powerhouse," according to *Business Week* magazine) called on its member nations to end discrimination against transsexuals. In their resolution, which stated that 60-80% of transsexuals are unemployed, the members of the Parliament said that sex-change surgeries and any related psychological treatment should be paid for by governments. The European Parliament is comprised of representatives of the twelve countries that belong to the European Common Market, i.e., France, West Germany, England, the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, Greece, Italy, Spain and Portugal. In addition, some 60 nations in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific are affiliated members.

T H E A T R E

Unchain My Heart, starring Shelly Mars. Eureka Theatre, San Francisco, February 2-17, 1990.

In the opening skit of this play, entitled "The Man Dance," Shelly Mars recreates her male impersonation striptease performance as seen in Monica Treut's underground film, *The Virgin Machine*. There are few male impersonation acts on stage these days, and Mars does an immensely entertaining job playing a crude, sleazy man, while utilizing a banana, a measuring tape, and a beer bottle tucked into his boxer shorts and appropriately spraying its foamy head.

Don't miss! Performances in Hawaii, March 9; and later at PS 122 in New York City. If you're unable to catch her live performance, you can see her act in *The Virgin Machine*, showing at the Roxie Cinema in San Francisco, April 27 through May 3, 1990, at 10 p.m.



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WRITE TO US AT 1827 Haight Street #164, San Francisco CA 94117 !

A TRUE STORY

by Rodney P.

They say that there is someone out there for everybody. Sometimes, these two souls search out for one another like ying and yang. I always wondered if I would find someone for me. I longed to have a person to love, hold, and be there for her. I figured since I was a F-T-M, the situation was hopeless. Who would love someone who was not a "complete man"? Also, how do you tell your prospective love about your situation?

Being a F-T-M was not easy to accept at first. I spent the first twelve years denying what I was. I looked in the mirror but the image was false. I am different from some F-T-Ms because of a hormone imbalance (even if it was not confirmed by a doctor yet) or possibly my Spanish heritage. I have always had hairy arms and legs throughout my life. Later, I developed facial hair. It may not be the same as the other guys. Now, I am twenty-four years old. My periods were never regular and now they have completely vanished. I am gaining more body hair especially on my stomach and chest. Nature has indeed played a cruel trick on me. I may have the hormonal make-up of a man, but the body parts of a woman.

I never really expected to fall in love with her. I met "Maeve" in, out of all places, an Abnormal Psychology class. I never remembered noticing her but I do remember when I fell in love with her. I was waiting for the elevator when I turned around and I saw Maeve. Her eyes had that starry-eyed look. The next day, I walked into the classroom and she turned around to look at me. It wasn't until the beginning of the Fall semester that I had the courage to talk to her. It was a year later that I would have her again for a class. I saw her in the library and started to have a conversation with her. All of a sudden she said to me, "I was looking for you, you sit in the back, right?" I was so speechless that I could not answer her back. I wanted to tell her that I was looking for her too. I wished that I could go back in time and given my response to her.

My graduating college was drawing near. I attended the services but I chose not to participate. My reasoning was that I did not want to wear a dress because I would look like a man in drag. I opened up the program and I saw Maeve's name in it. I had the feeling that someone dropped a heavy weight on me. I searched into the fields of prospecting graduates looking for her. I found her and I followed every movement she made. I thought that I would go unnoticed but Maeve spotted me in the audience. She kept turning her head back to see me. After the ceremony, I searched frantically to find her. I did not find her.

I drove back home. I was crying and I started to shout out loud, "Why, Lord, why did you make me a transsexual?" "Why did you make me fall in love with her?" "There must have been a purpose for me meeting her." For a while I contemplated suicide. I decided not to do it after all. I considered it a cop-out. I stayed awake all night crying and reflecting back. I wondered if I had told Maeve that I loved her and told her that I was a transsexual. I wondered what her reaction might have been if I told her about myself. I guess I will never know until I see her again, if I saw her again.

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"TRANSHOMOSEXUALITY" EXPLAINED

Dorothy Clare's data on female-to-gay males in London, presented at the 1987 Symposium of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association in Amsterdam, has been published in the *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, Vol. 18, No. 6, December 1989. The manuscript was revised by Bryan Tully, formerly of the Gender Identity Clinic, Charing Cross Hospital in England, following the death of Dr. Clare, who coined the term "transhomosexuality" to describe "subjects whose sexual orientation and identification is with homosexual persons of the opposite biological sex."

BE ALL YOU WANT TO BE IN PITTSBURGH

A special program for female-to-male crossdressers, transsexuals and transgenderists ONLY will be held on Saturday, June 9, 1990 from 2 - 5 p.m. as part of the "Be All You Want to Be" weekend at the Hotel Sheraton-Warrendale in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The program begins on Thursday, June 7, moderated by Sr. Mary Elizabeth and Mr. Rupert Raj, among others. For reservations (deadline May 26) and information, write Be All Weekend, P O Box 38304, Pittsburgh PA 15238, or call Transpitt (412) 781-0257 after 9 p.m. and leave a message for return calls.

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GENDER BLENDING: CONFRONTING THE LIMITS OF DUALITY, by Holly Devor (Bloomington/Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1989). 178 pgs., \$12.95.

Review by Lou Sullivan

In this book, Holly Devor examines the lives and coping mechanisms of fifteen women who have to varying degrees rejected traditional femininity, but not their femaleness. Sometimes mistaken for men or boys, they have "chosen to minimize their female vulnerability in a patriarchal world by minimizing their femininity."

Devor admits that "the interviews were conducted from a feminist bias which led to, among others, an unintentional assumption that being mistaken for a man would be an unpleasant experience which one would want to curtail to the greatest degree possible."

The first three chapters discuss the influences of sex and gender on developing children and how these influences affect our perceptions as men and women. Chapter 4 begins describing the 15 interviewees, their relationships with parents, siblings and peers during childhood and teen years. Three of the 15 had seriously considered sex-change operations at some time prior to their interviews. Chapter 5 discusses the sexuality of the interviewees, and Chapter 6 recounts ways by which these women dealt with being mistaken for men or boys in public. The final chapter is an attempt at a psychosocial explanation of gender and its functioning.

This is a very interesting book which addresses a topic I have never before seen discussed, i.e., women who pass as males while proclaiming no intention to do so. It will be of particular interest to those straddling the female-to-male fence, wondering where they fit in the female/male continuum, and how others experience and rationalize this dichotomy.

Devor teaches Women's Studies in Canada and is currently conducting a research project on female-to-male transsexuals.

**FROM FEMALE TO MALE:
The Life of Jack Bee Garland**

The long-awaited biography of San Francisco's female-to-male Jack Bee Garland (1869-1936), written by Lou Sullivan, will be published this April by Alyson Publications, Boston (\$8.95). A gala book-signing party will be held at A Different Light Bookstore in San Francisco on Sunday, May 12, at 3 p.m., co-sponsored by the San Francisco Bay Area Gay and Lesbian Historical Society and A Different Light Bookstore.

ANOTHER SCANDAL SHEET FTM EXPOSÉ

The February 6, 1990 issue of the supermarket scandal tabloid, *Weekly World News*, reports the case of Larry A. Bowie, 39, a 210-lb. heavily bearded man jailed on a conspiracy to commit robbery charge. Not finding what they were expecting to see in a routine strip search, officers at Prince George's County jail in Maryland transferred Bowie to the women's cellblock. Bowie explained his physical discrepancies by saying "there had been an accident." His two sons, 19 and 21 years old, are also in jail on murder charges, and police are trying to determine if Bowie, who claims to be their father, is in fact their biological mother. Said Officer Fred Lundy, "If you put him in a line-up with nine other men and asked a stranger to 'pick out the woman,' Bowie probably would be the last one he would pick."

**RIGHTS FOR TRANSSEXUALS AND
TRANVESTITES IN KANSAS CITY**

In amending the city's existing human rights ordinance to achieve a substantial equivalency with the federal government's Fair Housing Act, Kansas City, Missouri's Human Relations Department has agreed to support inclusion of sexual orientation as a protected category. The definition of sexual orientation used in Seattle's civil rights ordinance is being recommended because of its inclusiveness: "Sexual orientation means actual or perceived male or female heterosexuality, bisexuality, homosexuality, transsexuality or transvestism and includes a person's attitudes, preferences, beliefs and practices pertaining thereto."

**CLUB FOR SMALL GUYS
AND THOSE WHO LIKE 'EM SMALL**

A correspondence club has formed for men who are small-endowed and for those (mostly gay men) who are attracted to small ones. Unfortunately the club dues are absolutely outrageous (\$25/year for 4 newsletters), but if you're still interested, send a self-addressed stamped envelope for further information to J. Meisler, Small Etc., P O Box 294, Bayside NY 11361.



Salvador Sanchez

**WORLD'S
TOUGHEST
MATADOR**

AN FTM!

The November 28, 1989 issue of *Weekly World News*, a supermarket tabloid right up there with *The National Enquirer*, announced on its front page: "Top matador gored to death - and docs discover he's a woman!" The inside article relates that Salvador Sanchez, billed as the world's toughest bullfighter and hailed by millions of adoring fans on three continents for more than a decade as the bravest man alive, was gored to death by an enraged bull in Pamplona, Spain. "We all got quite a surprise," said Dr. Ignacio Dib, in charge of the first aid tent. "Our nation's most exalted sports hero wasn't a man; he was a girl. We felt so sad." Salvador's wife of nine years, Anna, claimed to have known nothing of his secret. "We slept in separate rooms and never had sex because Sal said he needed to save his strength for the bullring. He never undressed in front of me either, but I thought that was because he was very shy. These things didn't bother me because Sal was such a kind, gentle husband and such a good father to our two adopted daughters. I never ever suspected he was really a woman and, as you can imagine, my head is reeling." Sal's lifelong friend Pablo Risillo may have been the only person who knew the world-renowned matador was formerly a choirgirl named Olivia Andrade. "Olivia was a very tough, brave little girl who always dreamed of being a bullfighter. But she knew she could never become the idol of millions as a woman. So after her parents died when she was 15, she changed her name and set out to conquer the world as a man."