

Features
**Transitioning as a
Therapist**

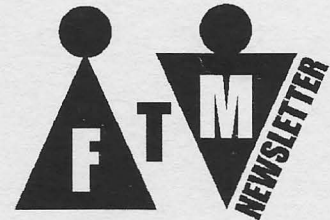
Legalese
Parents Rights

Transgender
Health
with Lori Kohler

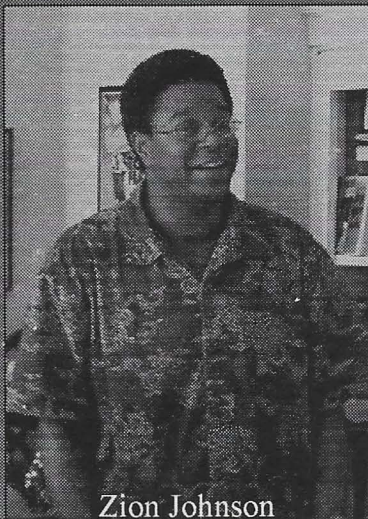
**SF TEAM & the
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**Meet the New
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**S.O.F.F.A.'s
Insemination
Q&A**



FTM International's newsletter
for female-to-male transgender
and transsexual people and allied
partners, lovers, family members,
friends, and professionals.



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Heidi Green



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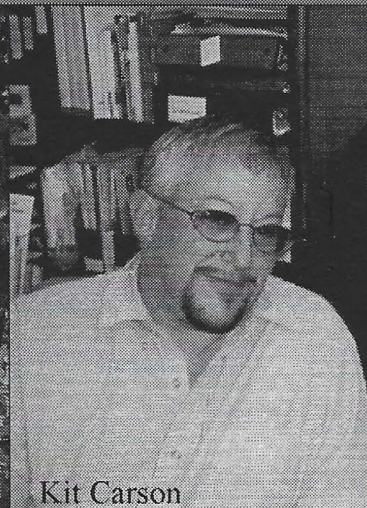
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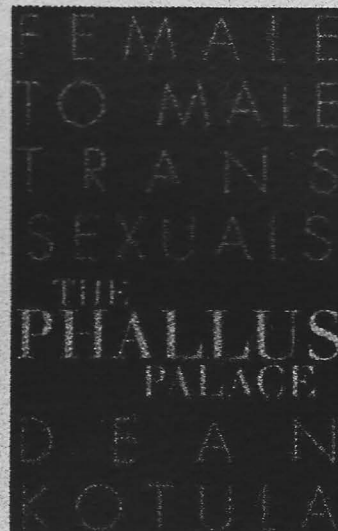
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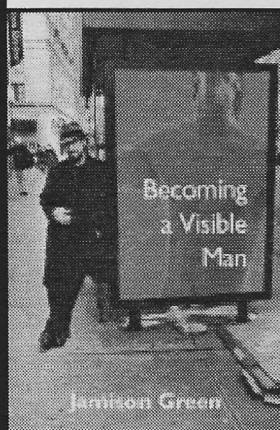
BY DEAN KOTULA SEXUALS

Deeply personal essays accompanied by more than 100 photos capture female-to-male transsexualism in a candid and informative context that provides readers with a groundbreaking psychological, historical, biological, and cultural understanding of the journey from female to male.



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Provocative



Becoming a Visible Man Jamison Green

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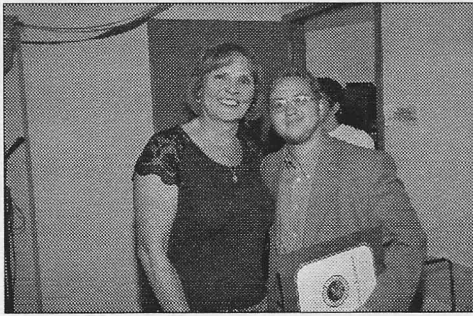


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Dear Members and Readers

By Martin Rawlings-Fein

This will be my last letter to you as a Co-Chair, due to my school schedule and impending fatherhood. The new leadership, Zion Johnson, Kit Carson, Kirin Stevens and Todd Whitworth will be taking over at the helm. It is difficult to say goodbye however I am very happy to hand over the inner workings of FTM International to such dedicated people. As I look back on all the years of service, I remember what brought me to FTM International.

I had never actually met an FTM in real life before coming to an FTM International meeting. My transition had been precipitated by seeing Loren Cameron's book *Body Alchemy*. I was enthralled by the pictures, both of Loren and his subjects. And when my Therapist told me there was a place to go and meet others like me, I was jazzed. The men in the room helped me to find out who I was in relationship to them and the world. It was a wake up call for the senses, not to mention the idea that all FTMs are the same. I had no idea that the group would be a microcosm of the world in general. So many flavors of humanity all in one scoop, it was scary and exhilarating.

The support group was a

closed meeting a few weeks before Pride weekend and the ensuing madness. I was late and did not know what to expect. There I was in a room full of men with full beards. I deepened my girlish voice until my throat hurt, trying to be more masculine. I ended up seeing so many people like myself that I dropped the bravado and was true to my experience. The men in the room were from

“The first time I had ever been mentored by anyone, was at a monthly FTM International meeting.”

different cultural, religious, and economic backgrounds. Yet, we were all affected by the feelings of masculinity. Being in that room was an amazing experience.

The first time I had ever been mentored by anyone, was at a monthly FTM International meeting. I was so young, both in age and transition that I had no idea how to write a grant or set up a support group. Yet, everyone was always helpful and made the experience fun and rewarding. Volunteering was just a natural extension of the camaraderie in those early days. None of us were exact copies; however there was never any doubt that we were all coming from a good place. People within the structure of FTM International made my

transition easier and taught me

the skills to help others down the road.

Some of you know that I am involved with a program called San Francisco Transgender Empowerment, Advocacy & Mentorship (SF TEAM), where we create a welcoming space at the San Francisco LGBT Center for all Trans People. I am one of approximately five FTMs in the group and I Co-Chair with JoAnne Keatly of the Transgender Resource and Neighborhood Space. Inside this issue you will see an article about SF TEAM's involvement with the Trans March in June. I

hope you find the time to drop by one of our meetings, if you are in the Bay Area. My involvement with FTMI has been invaluable to my work with SF TEAM.

It is also wonderful to see FTMI moving ahead again and helping the next generation of FTMs find their path. With that in mind I hope that you will throw your support behind Zion Johnson, Kit Carson, Kirin Stevens, & Todd Whitworth in the coming years. They may just have the right fire to drive this organization beyond anything we could have imagined. I have the utmost confidence that this organization will continue to provide a resource to the entire community. □

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Tranny Toons **Back Cover**

FTM International's newsletter for female to male transgender and transsexual people and their allied partners, lovers, family members, friends, and professionals

Editor Marty Rawlings-Fein

Contributing Editors Kit Carson
Jamison Green
Zion Johnson
Kirin Stevens

Graphic Design Marty Rawlings-Fein

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Andre Wilson	



What's Going On?

By The Board of FTMI

Scholarships

Scholarships for students who need tuition for either university or trade schools. We are still in the first stages of fund raising for this venture. We will make it a scholarship for female born individuals that are either gender queer or on the Female-to-Male spectrum. The Scholarship should equal \$500-\$1000.

Emergency T Fund

FTMI is exploring an emergency fund for those who can not afford to pay for their Testosterone. Many people are caught unaware by finances and hardships that eat away at their Testosterone money. So, FTMI will pay up to \$250 for your Testosterone if you can show financial hardship. Expected Date that funds for both scholarships will be available, June 2005. At that time we will have a structured application and more information about how these program will go into effect.

Newsletter PDF's

FTMI is exploring putting the older editions into PDF form and offering them on the website for a reduced price. We hope to launch this new online subscription format by mid 2005. It will greatly increase the availability of the newsletter to people who can't afford the \$25 regular subscription fee.

Paypal Subscription & Donation

Paypal will be our new way of gathering donations and subscriptions on-line. Recently Paypal has made it easier to use the service if you are not already a member. Previously the service would require you to add your info to their database to donate or purchase anything.

Subscriptions are now possible as well, the service will renew each year on January 1st for those of you who purchase online in the future. We will be exploring this new

service in the coming year.

Call for Artwork

Do you want your artwork to grace the cover of this newsletter? If so please send any submissions in electronic format to ftmi_newsletter@yahoo.com or by snail mail to FTMI Newsletter C/O Martin Rawlings-Fein 160 14th St., San Francisco, Ca 94103.

New Additions

FTMI is looking into Project 20, a way for people to work off their parking tickets at the FTMI office, Kit Carson, our new VP, is working on setting this important service to help FTMI with manpower issues.

New POC Group @ FTMI

FTMI is looking for facilitators to share in the maintenance of a FTMI's Of Color Group in the FTMI office. Date and Time will be announced once the facilitators have been

trained.

Looking For a Few Good Men

Do you want to facilitate any of the Open, Closed, New Men's, or Transitioned Men's Groups? If so FTMI wants to talk to you. Please call (415) 553-5987 and leave a message with your contact information and we will set up a day and time to go through a facilitation training. People of color, gender fluid, and allies encouraged to apply.

New 12 Step Group

New Trans 12 step program at UCSF Transgender Neighborhood Space 1145 Bush, San Francisco, CA Fridays 6:30 - 7:30

Trans Friendly OA Groups

Overeaters Anonymous of San Francisco has Transgender Friendly OA Groups! Sunday & Thursday nights at 6:30 pm. Visit www.oasf.org for details.

Response From a Community: The FTMs of Color Needs Assessment

The Board of FTMI has read the FTMOC report compiled by Willy Wilkenson & Prado Gomez, about the treatment of POC FTMs, and has come to the conclusion that on several occasions the board has been asleep at the wheel in regard to meeting locations, facilitation, and confronting racism in all its dubious forms. This includes all the boards in previous years as well as the current incarnation. The Board of FTMI is apologizing and acknowledging our past behavior and is working to mend the division that has been caused. Hopefully anyone who has left FTMI because of this division will join us again confident that their needs will be met.

The Board of FTMI would like to have an open dialog with the community at large to help keep us on our toes. If you spot anything that you believe is racist, classist, or offending behavior please send any and all comments to tstgmen@yahoo.com. Please stand with us as we move forward with our mission to serve all communities. We can accomplish more together than apart.

The Board of FTM International

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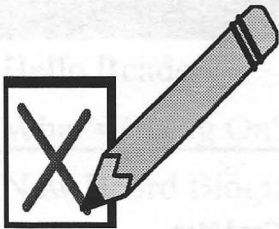
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Meet the Board!

In June the Membership elected a new Board of Directors, only two Board Members from the Previous Board have been re-elected. This new Board looks forward to the challenges ahead.

Zion Johnson:

He lives in the greatest city on the planet in his opinion. It's not like he has been anywhere, but he honestly couldn't imagine being anywhere else in the world. Except, he could see himself on the beaches of Salvador, Brazil, with sangria, women and music. Until then and a winning lottery ticket, he loves San Francisco.

He is busy these days growing an afro, going to school, and socializing. He lives a blessed existence, identifies as an FTM and has many SOFFA's. Working on collecting as many as possible. He would like to see FTMI grow in diversity, while being passionate, compassionate and resourceful. He has been coming to FTMI meetings for about 1 1/4 yrs. It has now become a large part of his transition, especially keeping him involved with an invisible community. There is a need for visibility even if only for each other.

Juan-Alejandro Lamas:

Juan is the contact point for the Asia Pacific region and the Spanish /Portuguese and Italian translation contact. A South Australian DOR organizer and is currently putting together a Transgender parenting book. Juan is the Transgender Parents international founder and devotes much time and energy into Trans education to the broader GLB and straight community and Trans unity within the very broad

trans community.

Heidi Bruins Green:

Heidi is the proud partner of an out and proud Transman. Heidi has extensive experience with Out and Equal Workplace Advocates, including two years on the National Advisory Board, as well as putting on the annual conference for five years, including one year as the National Conference Co-Chair. Heidi was a founding member of the LGBT employees' group at Procter & Gamble where she served on the Leadership Team for eight years. Heidi Was instrumental in securing domestic partner benefits at P&G.

Heidi served a two year term on Stonewall Cincinnati, including the last year as co-chair, fighting racism and classism, within the organization and externally, along with homophobia and transphobia. Heidi participated in a six month intensive study program on racial reconciliation with the National Conference on Community and Justice (NCCJ), that yielded significant data on methods for interrupting racism. She is a trained "neighborhood dialogue" facilitator and is passionate about addressing racism within our culture. She hopes to be a voice for SOFFAs on the board and lead FTMI to create a better future for the entire community.

Todd Whitworth:

Todd has been in transition for 11 years and until

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recently unable to do a lot of service for FTMI. He is trying to do more outreach and education. He recently stepped up and has been facilitating the FTMI meetings. He has also taken over the Transitioned Men's group, which he hopes to foster and help grow. He would like to have more of a voice and see what goes on behind the scenes to offer experience, learn, and be of service to the FTM community.

Kit Carson (Appointed):

Kit helps moderate FTMSurgeryInfo, FTMSurgerySupport, FTMPersonals, BABOYZ, and FTMIInfo_Network groups on Yahoo. He also founded and moderates Transfags and Transfags2 on Yahoo and work to raise the awareness and acceptance of gay/bi/queer/whatever FTMs as men among men who have sex with men (MSM). He was a presenter at the FTM Conference in Los Angeles on pumping, and will be presenting at the Seattle conference in October on several issues. He corresponded with various surgeons who work on FTMs and dose a lot of research on medical and sexual issues relevant to the community. He dose outreach to individual FTMs and tries to connect them with resources. He also thinks his legal background will be helpful on the board in the future.

Andre Wilson:

He is 44, and began transitioning about a year ago, while a grad student at the University of Michigan. Andre attended two FTMI support group meetings this spring, while in San Francisco for surgery. All of his adult life he has been out and active for lesbian/gay issues. He plans to continue that activism as an out FTM transsexual. Currently he is working at his campus to get gender identity included in their non-discrimination policy, and to get gender reassignment services covered in the health insurance for faculty, staff and students. As part of this effort, he is working to form a national network to connect people working on the insurance coverage issues.

Levi Kotchick:

Levi lives in Los Angeles, where he is rabbi of Congregation Ateres Zekanim. As a parent of two teens, he has often been asked to counsel the families of young FTMs. His previous professional experiences include being on the clinical faculty of UCLA Medical Center, being a university department chairman and professor and being the executive director of a television production company and a computer consulting firm. He has worked for trans inclusion in religion, health care and other fields. He has been a speaker as an FTM on a number of panels and led workshops for many events (Transgender Day of Remembrance, Trans Unity, etc.) and did the website for FTM Alliance of Los Angeles. He also moderates EthnicFtM, TranSpirituality, Jewish_FTM, Jewish_FTM_Family_Support_Group, JewishFTM, jewishgayandlesbian and Trans-Jews.

Martin Rawlings-Fein:

Marty is a returning Board Member and Executive Officer. He is also a Co-Chair of San Francisco Transgender Empowerment, Advocacy & Mentorship, on the Advisory Board for the Day of Remembrance project, and a lay leader at his Synagogue. He is currently pursuing a degree in Psychology with a minor in Jewish Studies. Marty is an expectant father, and hopes that by speaking out on issues now, the world will be a better place to raise his children.

Kirin Stevens:

Kirin is an Asian adoptee and queer artist involved in the spoken word and independent film scene. He is driven by artistic forms that create dialogue regarding multicultural and multiethnic diversities within the Queer communities. Kirin can often be found appreciating and reading at various spoken word cafes. He is also committed to share information regarding support groups and services regarding substance abuse within the Trans community. He is proud and honored to serve as the Development Coordinator for FTMI.



SF TEAM

The Driving Force Behind the Trans March

By Martin Rawlings-Fein

It was a balmy night in June when the multitude of Transgender people showed up on the Dolores Park lawn. It was amazing hearing all of the speakers from Sam Davis to James Green, it seemed everyone was there. There was an inclusive feel to the whole event.

I spotted my friends on the slope of the first hill and sat down to talk; my wife smiled and handed a sign to a little boy in the crowd. He ran off to his mother and showed her the "Justice for Gwen," sign he had acquired. He was so happy to have a sign that it seemed like all was right with the world. However we were all still in shock, feeling the sting of mistrial from the Gwen Araujo case; only days earlier we



The Altar at the End of the Trans March

had been so hopeful that there would be justice for Gwen. Even though we knew the men responsible would eventually pay for their crime, we were still frustrated by the delay.

This Event did not just coalesce into the great mass, which was at least 4 to 5 blocks long. The people who made this incredible feat

happen were part of a group called San Francisco Transgender Empowerment, Advocacy, & Mentorship (SF TEAM). Cecelia Chung the Volunteer Coordinator of SF TEAM was the main contact for the Trans-march.

The Trans Altar was to be displayed at the SF Pride event this year as a way to honor and celebrate the Transgender community in all its diversity. This posed a great opportunity to align the Altar with the March. Cecelia made all the necessary contacts to get such diverse groups as FTM International, United Genders of the Universe, and TGSGF to come together and aid in the creation of the largest group of Trans people in San Francisco's history.

So often the community is fragmented by such lines as gender or lack thereof, class, and race. The Trans community seems to be a microcosm of the world in general. However when we work together the things which are accomplished can be amazing beyond words.

The March continued until the streets were filled with Transmen, Transwomen, Genderqueer Trannys, ally's and the like. The throng of people did more than just walk from Dolores Park to Civic

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Cecelia Chung, Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, Co-Chair JoAnne Keatley, Co-Chair Martin Rawlings-Fein, Assembly Mark Leno, Theresa Sparks

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On Being a Transman and a Therapist

By Steve Toby

Before I ever dreamed of becoming a therapist, much less becoming a transman, I was aware that the same edition of the DSM* that removed homosexuality as a mental disorder, for the first time added gender identity disorder (GID). My therapist asked me how I felt about having a DSM diagnosis. My first reaction was try to distance myself from it. The definition stressed the desire of the transsexual to be rid of their genitals and to have the genitals of the opposite gender. Well! I didn't feel THAT extreme. Surely I could get by if I could just dress the part.

I decided in my forties to become a therapist. I wanted to make a difference in people's lives. When I began graduate school in 1986, I learned a number of things that distressed me. First was that while transsexuality was covered in my textbook, it was

never mentioned in class. Secondly, one of my textbooks had a section on dealing with GID children that included reinforcing (rein-FORCE-ing) "appropriate" gender behavior and extinguishing "inappropriate" behavior. I had known even as a child, that I did not want anyone trying to cure me. Not that that stopped me from trying to cure me. On my last attempt at wearing women's clothes and make-up, my therapist wisely told me that she thought it wasn't right for me. I had to find that out for myself.

When I graduated I was still in the closet. It took another six years (internship, written exam and orals) before I got licensed. By that time, I was out to a very few, very close friends. Over the years I gradually came out to more of my friends, but still had no intention of telling my family or transition-

know - What's the big deal. Believe me, for someone my age (60), it was a big deal.

Transitioning lost me some of my clients. I began to think about working with transgender clients. I was aware of the suspicion of many transgender folk about therapists and the need to have therapy in order to obtain "the letter". I read over the requirements as stated in the Harry Benjamin standards of care. The first thing I decided was that I did not believe that transsexuality is a disorder or that trans people need therapy per se. Therefore when I designed my business cards and my web page, I deliberately stated "counseling for trans folk from a transman".

When I see people who want to transition and need a letter, there are several things that make up the work we do together. I want to hear their story. It gives me a point came when the City and County of San Francisco granted health benefits to transgender city employees. They are going to have to be the publicity, I looked at sooner or later and I feel finally felt like I sooner is better. If there are people could transition the client needs to tell, we work without losing together on how and when. I prefer every friend and that people have done any necessary disclosure before I give them ever had. I celebrated by buying a letter. I'm not rigid. There are extenuating circumstances. A third (for the first time) topic is bathrooms and safety jockey shorts. I

(Continued on page 8)

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SAN FRANCISCO

(Continued from Therapist page 7)

pues. Many of my clients are already using the restroom for their true gender. For those who aren't, we discuss their hesitations and worries. I ask how safe they feel in bathrooms and elsewhere. Are they worried what might happen if their "cover" is blown. Lastly, I do what I call "the drill". I talk about hormones, what they can do, what they can't, what's reversible, what isn't and possible side-effects. Most of my clients have been on

the internet and are already informed. As I see it, the reason for the counseling before I write a letter, is so that I can tell the physician, this person is informed and ready to go.

Have I ever refused a letter? No. Do I think I ever would? I highly doubt it. What do I think about DSM? On the one hand, if transsexuals are ever going to convince insurance companies that medical intervention is necessary, there has to be a code somewhere.

in the DSM. Still the public's perception is that if you have a DSM diagnosis, you have a mental disorder. As long as GID and transsexuality are in the DSM, there will be mental health professionals who will believe that we can be "cured". Pregnant women get medical services without any pejorative labels. I hope that someday the same will be true for us. There is an organization working for such a change. You can find out about them at www.gidreform.org.

But it doesn't have I am one of the signers to their platform that GID should be de-pathologized. □

aside, not everything is DSM is a *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual mental disorder per se. Learning disorders, developmental disabilities and Steve Toby practices Therapy in sleep disorders are the San Francisco Bay Area.

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Child Custody and Visitation Issues for Transgender Parents (Part 1 of 2)

By Chris Daily

Cases relating to child custody and visitation are always tough for me emotionally. At the Transgender Law Center we regularly get calls from parents who are, or are about to be, involved in custody battles. Oftentimes, the gender identity of the transgender parent plays a central role in the proceeding. Luckily, California has a number of good statutes and lots of good case law that can be used to protect transgender parents. This column presents an overview of some of the gender identity related issues that arise in custody hearings.

Just as a reminder, I only practice law in California. Therefore, the specific legal information I'll be covering in this column is mostly just helpful to folks who live in the state. Transgender parents who live outside of California can use this column to get some general ideas about issues that might, but hopefully won't, arise. You are strongly urged to seek local legal advice for any specific problems you face. (You can, for instance, contact our friends at the Transgender Law and Policy Institute for a potential contact in your

home state by going to www.transgenderlaw.org.)

Of course, not every couple fights about how custody or visitation should be assigned after a break-up. Many couples are able to mutually agree about what is best for their child or children. And even when couples can't come to agreement, the gender identity of the transgender parent isn't always used by one side or the other to gain an advantage. When it is, however, it creates incredible anxiety and apprehension and can lead to expensive litigation. Below is an overview of the different types of issues we've seen at TLC and some basic information about the applicable law in each situation.

Biological parents

For better or worse in California, few familial relationships are as legally protected as that of parents and their biological children. It is very difficult for an ex-spouse (even if that person is also a biological parent to the same child) to sever your parental rights simply because you are transgender. Unfortunately, that doesn't

completely stop that person from trying to do so.

In preparing for such a fight, it is important that you have a good strategy. And getting a good attorney can be a big part of building a strategy. While only a handful of attorneys in the state have experience with transgender family law issues, having an attorney with experience in LGBT legal issues in general is helpful. If your attorney has questions about the gender identity aspects of your case, have them contact TLC for free technical assistance. Unfortunately, few resources exist for the provision of free family law representation. This means that you should expect to spend some money on an attorney. Some family law attorneys are willing to make payment plans so that you can pay over time.

Two other things that will be helpful is creating a "transition plan" and identifying experts who can testify if a trial is necessary. The transition plan is really only needed by those parents who have not yet disclosed their gender iden-

(Continued on page 13)

BARBARA F. ANDERSON, PH.D.

Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Diplomate

Psychotherapist
Certified Sex Therapist

1537 Franklin St, Suite 104
San Francisco, CA 94109

Ph. (415) 776-0139
Fax (415) 641-0885

Max E. Fuhrmann Ph.D.

- Clinical Psychology
- Gerontology
- GLBT Concerns

3617 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd. Ste 128
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

2443-A Portola Rd.
Ventura, CA 93003

(805) 496-4442

(805) 641-1304

Email GEROPHD@aol.com

CA License # PSY11422

Some Men Sit to Pee

by Tucker Lieberman



“Do not piss either off or on the road while you walk. The devout and wise man of culture, disability, or emergency.

squats for this act, or does it against the sturdy wall of some yard.” Hesiod, Works and Days, 8th century BCE, Greece

“There were countries in which women stood up to pee and men squatted down...”

Alain de Botton, *The Consolations of Philosophy*; on what Montaigne learned from reading explorers’ tales of North and South America.

“Even a space ape must urinate.” Desmond Morris, *The Naked Ape*.

FTMs can stand to pee if they like. But if you carry a plastic tube everywhere you go, you’ve got to clean it after each use (who wants to be seen doing that?). You’ve got to practice in a shower (who has the foresight?) and delay your urine until it’s correctly fitted to your body (who has the self-control?).

Sitting down to pee doesn’t make you less of a man. It’s clean, comfortable, and easy territory. The restroom is

and can be done with minimal anxiety. All men eventually have to sit down to pass solid waste, which is why there are toilets, not just urinals, in the men’s room. Some men urinate sitting down, for reasons of culture, disability, or emergency.

Any adult male who is concerned whether your toes point towards or away from the toilet bowl has not matured beyond junior high. The bathroom exists for everyone to take care of his personal hygiene and the stalls are there for a greater degree of privacy. The man in the stall is not advertising his problem or intruding on anyone else’s space and he should be able to expect privacy.

Mature adults neither perpetrate gossip about others’ bathroom activities nor listen to gossip about it. Plenty of FTMs successfully sit down to pee in the men’s room. If you want to do it, here are some methods to minimize embarrassment and avoid confrontation.

1. Walk into the men’s room like you belong there. It’s not foreign or enemy territory. The restroom is

for men, and you’re a man, so it’s your restroom. Do not apologize for being there. Have confidence.

2. Understand that men are usually more concerned with their own bathroom business than with yours, and that the restroom environment is designed to prevent others from determining what you are doing. Ironically, busy bathrooms at rest stops or airports afford the most amount of privacy in these two respects.

3. Choose a stall that makes it difficult for people to see your feet. Stall doors that reach nearly to the floor, toilet bowls that are set far back from the stall door, and stalls that are far from the entrance door or in a corner will all obstruct visibility of the feet. Handicapped-accessible stalls often meet many of these criteria.

4. Lift the seat. Men usually lift the seat to avoid spraying it and generally do not bother to put it down after they’re done. If evidence of the urine remains visible (the toilet doesn’t flush or you’re vacationing with environmentalist hippies), remember that

men don’t use toilet paper for this act.

men don’t use toilet paper for this act.

5. Memorize this passage from Donald Barthelme’s novel *The Dead Father* and recite it to dispel anxiety.

I am going to tell you something utterly astounding, surprising, marvelous, miraculous, triumphant, astonishing, unheard of, singular, extraordinary, incredible, unforeseen, vast, tiny, rare, common, glaring, secret until today, brilliant and enviable; in short something unexampled in previous ages except for one single instance which is not really comparable; something we find impossible to believe in Paris (so how could anyone in Lyons believe it?), something which makes everyone exclaim aloud in amazement, something which causes the greatest joy to those who know of it, something, in short, which will make you doubt the evidence of your senses:

We don't care what you think! □

Tucker Lieberman is a 24-year-old FTM. This information was posted on his website, *The Resplendent Tree*, from 1999-2003.

“Even a space ape must urinate.”

Desmond Morris, *The Naked Ape*



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News You Can Use

The events that shape our lives

(Athens, Greece)

Due to the Olympics allowing Transsexuals to compete FTM's will be able to compete in the 2010 Vancouver, BC Summer Olympics. So far, no known Transgender athletes competed in the 2004 Summer Olympics.

(London, UK) The Ladies' European Golf Tour voted this week to admit transsexual professional golfers.

(Los Angeles, CA) Asians Pacific Islanders for Human Rights APIHR / 'Ohana House announces "Double Vision: Reconciling Multiple Identities", the nation's first Asian and Pacific Islander (API) Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, and Questioning (LGBTIQ) conference to educate and inspire the next generation of API LGBT youth leaders will be held on November 7, 2004.

(Los Angeles, CA)

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Resource Center office in the Student Activities Center experienced vandalism and a burglary over two evenings; the first occurring the evening of Sept 13th, and the second in the middle of the night on Sept 14th. Large rocks were thrown through a window in the Center. The following night, objects were once again thrown through windows and two rainbow flags were stolen.

(Sacramento, CA)

The California State Assembly voted 51-23 in favor of SB 1234 by Senator Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica) and sponsored by Equality California. This vote marks the first time that a bill sponsored by Equality California has received bipartisan support with four republicans voting in favor of the measure. The four Republicans voting in favor of the bill are: Bonnie Garcia (R-Cathedral City), Shirley Horton (R-Chula Vista), Abel Maldonado (R-Santa Maria), and Keith Richman (R-Northridge).

SB 1234, the Omnibus Hate Crimes Act of 2004, will create a uniform definition of a hate crime, clarify the law,

and provide tools designed to reduce such crimes. The bill now returns to the State Senate for a Concurrence vote on amendments that the Assembly adopted, after it will go to Gov. Schwarzenegger for his signature.

(San Francisco, CA)

The week of August 12th, an MTF, Toni Green was found dead in a hotel room in San Francisco, a memorial was held on August 22nd by the Bay Area Transgender community.

(St. Petersburg, FL)

A person's sex is established at birth so transsexuals cannot have their change in gender legally recognized or marry in Florida, a state appeals court ruled Friday.

In a case with potentially far-reaching implications, the 2nd District Court of Appeal in Lakeland said the 1989 marriage between Linda Kantaras and her ex-husband Michael Kantaras was legally invalid because it amounted to a same-sex union barred by state law.

The ruling overturned a Pinellas-Pasco circuit judge's 2003 decision in the case of transsexual Michael Kantaras. That decision said Kantaras was legally a man. The issue may have to be decided by the Florida Supreme Court.

The appeals court said "Gender is determined at birth and is immutable." Only the Florida Legislature, the court said, can grant transsexuals the right to legally change their sex and marry.

(Tokyo, Japan)

The Tokyo Family Court approved Friday a bid by Masae Torai, a campaigner for transsexual rights, to alter his officially registered sex to male from female. "It has become possible for me to lead a life as other people do. It was our desire," Torai, a 40-year-old freelance writer, said after receiving the court's decision. (Kyodo News)

(Washington, DC)

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) will not recognize a marriage or intended marriage between

two individuals where one or both of the parties claim to be transsexuals regardless of whether either individual has undergone sex reassignment surgery, or is in the process of doing so.

New Yahoo Groups!

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Transgendered_Teachers

A groups for primary/grade school teachers. A place to talk about your experience's with transitioning at elementary, middle or high school's

F2M Spank Club

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/F2MSpankClub2>

A group for FTM's and the Bio-men who date them.

Trans Parents

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GQTGPparenting>

A new e-mail list for prospective parents as well as current parents, and inclusive of all genders.

FTM International Meetings

2nd Sunday of each month, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., at the FTM International office, 160 14th Street, San Francisco. We alternate meeting type each month.

Informational meetings are "open" to FTMs and other interested

Support meetings are "closed" or limited to self-identified FTM transgenders and transexuals at any stage of the process, and women who are exploring those identities. There is a simultaneous meeting for partners at the same location. Call FTM Voicemail (415-553-5987) for more information.



Transgender Health

With Dr. Lori Kohler

Dr. Kohler- I have been on Testosterone for close to 7 years and still have acne. Is it normal for a grown man to have such horrible acne after years of Testosterone?

I even lowered my dose under doctors supervision, however I did not see any change in the scope of a few months. Is there any true method to get rid of this acne, sans the liver trouble of pills? Any information you could give me would be wonderful. Anon

Anon- There are many options for treating acne- most are fairly benign. Have you tried any of the topical treatments such as Cleocin , Retin-a, Benzoyl peroxide? You may need to combine more than one treatment. Another option is daily oral antibiotics- these are generally quite safe and effective if the topical treatments don't help. The final solution is accutane which is a relatively toxic but highly effective treatment. Accutane is usually reserved for severe cystic acne that does not respond to the other treatments mentioned above. Your primary care provider should be able to prescribe any of these medications except accutane

which is usually given under the direction of a dermatologist. If your primary provider does not feel comfortable treating your acne or if you have tried and failed these medications, I suggest that you request a referral to a dermatologist. Adults do suffer from acne but it is a very treatable problem. I hope this is helpful.

Lori Kohler

Dr. Kohler is a Family Physician who has provided primary health care to transgender people since 1994. Dr. Kohler is the Medical Director of the Family Health Center at San Francisco General Hospital. She is an Assistant Clinical Professor in the UCSF Department of Family and Community Medicine and works for the SFGH Family Practice Residency Program. She worked at the Tom Waddell Health Center Transgender Clinic in San Francisco during its first four years and continues to see transgender patients at the Family Health Center. Dr. Kohler also developed a clinic for transgender inmates at the California Medical Facility in Vacaville and serves as a consultant for

the California State Department of Corrections. She is committed to increasing access to primary care for transgender people through education and advocacy.

Please send questions and suggestions for topics to:

Lori Kohler, MD
Dept. of Family and Community Medicine
995 Potrero Ave., Wd. 83
San Francisco, CA 94110
OR
Lkohler@medsch.ucsf.edu

Please specify if you want your name used in the column...otherwise the editor will not print any names.

She looks forward to hearing from you. Deadline for next newsletter is Nov 30th



Remembering Our Dead


As of this date, nineteen people have been reportedly murdered worldwide since late November, 2003, due to anti-transgender violence. Nine of those were in the United States. This level of violence against those pictured viewed as breaking gender norms has remained high for more than a decade.

This year, join others in your community to join together and say "No More" to this sort of violence at a local Transgender Day of Remembrance event. Our 6th annual event will be held on November 20th, with locations spanning the globe.

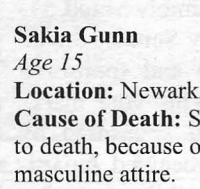
For more information, including details about events happening near you, see <http://www.rememberingourdead.org/day/>

In the struggle for our rights, the number one right we need is the right to exist.


Gwendolyn Ann Smith is the founder of the Day of Remembrance Project Columnist, Bay Area Reporter & Philadelphia Gay News Board Member, Gender Education & Advocacy, Inc. "I want this to be a harmony of voices" - Lauren D. Wilson*



Emmon Bodfish
Location: Orinda, CA
Cause of Death: Bludgeoned to death with a blunt object
Date of Death: June 24, 1999 (approximate)



Sakia Gunn
Age 15
Location: Newark, NJ
Cause of Death: Stabbed to death, because of her masculine attire.
Date of Death: May 11, 2003



Brandon Teena
Age 19
Location: Humboldt, Nebraska
Cause of Death: Shot to death, then stabbed.
Date of Death: December 31, 1993

(Continued from page 9)

tity to their children or have done so only very recently. A judge is going to want to know that you have a good strategy for discussing these issues with your child or children. And while such a plan may or may not include a component of therapy or counseling, it is helpful to be able to tell the judge that you created the plan with input from someone with experience in creating such plans.

Which leads us to experts. It is hard to overstate how important it is to have experts available for any family court action. Generally, these are medical professionals who are very familiar with transgender issues. Their role of the expert is to educate a judge who may know nothing or little about transgender issues. The most important thing an expert can do is take the bite out of any negative stereotypes about transgender people that the other side is employing.

Children Adopted via Marriage

A good number of the calls we get are from transgender parents

(Continued on page 20)

Dear Members, Subscribers, Friends and Allies,

We at FTM International would like to thank those of you who generously replied to our fundraising request in the last Newsletter. The response we got was truly a breath of fresh air and gives us hope for the organizations future. With the funds you provided we were able to go ahead with the printing of Issue #56 of the FTM Newsletter, which you hold in your hands. We hope you are enjoying reading it.

Speaking of the Newsletter, please check the label for the expiration of your membership/subscription. Next to your name there is a number which represents the last paid issue you will receive. If it is 56 or lower, it's time to renew. Please renew as soon as possible. And if you really don't want to receive the FTM Newsletter (or mailings, for that matter), please write or call and let us know that, too. We will miss you, but respect your decision.

We have lost almost 75% of our grant funding and have had to rely on mostly donor funding. During lean economic times the nonprofits are usually the last to recover. That is why we are having another fundraising drive, to allow us to print the FTM Newsletter and FTM Yellow Pages. Currently we are working on the update of the FTM Yellow Pages due out mid 2005. It will be the most complete FTM Resource Guide and will be more international than ever before!

With your help, FTM International will continue to serve you with the **FTM Newsletter**, the **FTM Yellow Pages**, the **Transgender Law Center** and the **Transgender Health Law Project**, and remain a consistent point of contact, support and referral for you.

Best wishes!

Sincerely,

MDRF

Martin Rawlings-Fein, Board Member

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation to help the world's longest-running FTM support organization!

Please circle one: \$20 \$30 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other \$ _____

I want to join FTM International!

Includes four issues of the FTMI Newsletter, a discount on all other FTMI publications, and voting privileges.

All memberships are available on a sliding scale. No one is turned away due to lack of funds.

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Please make check or money order in US FUNDS payable to FTM International



Great Expectations

By Shelli Rawlings-Fein

SOFFA* Space...

*Significant Others, Friends, Family and Allies

So we're trying to have a baby. Now it's your turn to ask all sorts of questions. Come on, go ahead, you know you want to. Practically everyone else has. Can't think of any? OK, let me help you with a few questions that have been asked me by people close to me and those who are practically strangers.

1. *How can you get pregnant? I thought, you know, that Marty is, um, you know, trans?*

A: Yes, Marty is and always will be FTM. I get pregnant the same way everybody else gets pregnant. Sperm + egg = baby.

2. So, do you know the father?

A: Yes, Marty and I've been together for 20 months now. Marty will make an excellent father. If you meant do we know who the *sperm donor*, is no, we don't. We got it from the Sperm Bank of California in Berkeley. Each vial costs us about \$215 plus the cost of transportation in a liquid nitrogen tank.

3. Why did you choose not to use a known donor, *don't you think the child's going to want to know his/her real father?*

A: First, Marty IS the *real* father. Fathers nurture, care for, spend time and money on, and *love* their children. Sperm donors at the bank do none of those things. Second, we feel that the legal issues surrounding having a known donor, in addition to any confusion the child might experience knowing the biological donor, outweigh this issue. The child *will have a father* and they will know that

a nice man helped their daddy to make a baby, in much the same way that organ donors help their recipients. We have spent hours talking about and researching this sensitive issue. We know that many FTM's use known donors and many don't. We hope that we can all respect each other's decisions. Certainly we hope that no one will ask our child this highly inappropriate question.

4. How is it done?

A: Well, basically we can choose to do it one of two ways. One way is called Intra-cervical Insemination (ICI). This is what we did the first time. I propped myself up on a bunch of pillows and Marty used a needleless syringe and a speculum to insert the sperm into my vagina right next to the cervix.

This second time, we did Intra-uterine Insemination (IUI). We went to my nurse practitioner at Kaiser (truly a great asset to us) and she inserted the sperm through a narrow tube through my cervix (ouch!) and into my uterus (ouch again!). This is the most successful method because the sperm doesn't have to make their way up past the sometimes formidable cervix. We managed to make the examination room "romantic" afterwards during the 20 minute rest period they give you to let the sperm make its way into the fallopian tubes. What they don't know won't hurt them ;-)

5. We tried for over a year with no success....I know somebody who spent \$\$\$\$ on fertility drugs....etc.

A: Thanks for sharing, as Dan Savage would respond. What does that have to do with *me*? How about just saying

"Good luck" and leave the horror stories out of it. Trust me, you can't embark on this path without knowing that you have a potential 6 months to a year of trying (which could translate to 8—14 months of trying if you miss a cycle).

6. *How are you? (Eyes rove downwards)*

A: I'm fine. It's been somewhat of an emotional rollercoaster and it's only been two months of actual attempts. There is so much I/we can't control .. How much it costs, whether my cycle is "on-schedule", when the ovulation predictor kit will turn positive, and so on and so forth. Getting a period was the worst thing about finding out I was not pregnant. Each cramp was a constant reminder of time, money, and most importantly, emotional energy misspent.

It's only human to inquire about a couple trying to get pregnant, especially when non-traditional methods are used. I'm not angry at the questions. The people didn't mean to be insensitive, in fact, they thought they were being supportive! I just wish I had had the foresight to expect these kinds of questions so I could better prepare myself for what I would say and the emotions they would invoke. My forthrightness allowed someone else to open up about their own personal experiences and made the both of us feel less alone and isolated in this process.

As I sit here right now I am not-so-patiently waiting to be able to take a pregnancy test. Yup, you'll have to wait till the next issue to find out if I'm with-child. Till then, have a great Fall! □



Music...

Athens Boys Choir
Rhapsody in T

To find out more about the Athens Boys Choir visit <http://www.daemonrecords.com/beta/athens/>

When I was asked to review a CD I was kind of nervous never having done this before, but was excited, as I am new to FTMI board. I am enthusiastic about being able to contribute ideas and opinions I have.

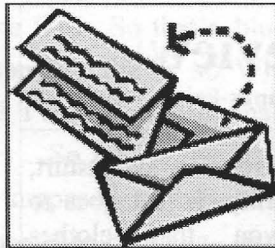
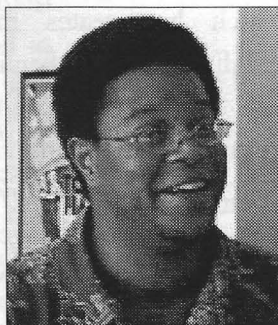
The Athens Boys Choir. I thought I was going to hear a boy's choir. After received the CD I thought, maybe alternative rock is what I'm going to hear. I was greatly surprised when I heard spoken word. Sounding like teenage boys, these brothers struggling as we all do for our daily existence were keeping it real.

It took listening to the CD a couple of times in order to get use to just words. Then one finds the rhythm of the words and the message. I respect all they had to say coming from GA. They made themselves very vulnerable admitting fears and copping to mistakes in their lives. The powerful thing about that is that they own it and as we all hope to do is grow from it.

What I really like about these guys was that they were on fire. It

makes me want to yell. As we live in this time I wonder to myself if I am the only one seeing the things that I see. Is it okay to think my government is screwed up? Am I the only one to be disappointed in the racism within the queer community in 2004? Am I taking things too seriously? These questions and ideas are forcefully brought up from thoughtful white guys who live in the Athens Georgia metropolitan area. I was surprised when I heard a black guy living in metropolitan San Francisco that we're not that different. The last track on the CD is a song, a rap song. Tranny's Got Pack is a brilliant song. It's got a human beat box, and by far is my favorite part of this album.

Zion Free Johnson is the President of FTMI. He has been hard at work building coalitions within the community at large.



FTMI Male Box

To Add Your Opinion:

Email: FTMI_malebox@yahoo.com
Mail: FTMI International C/O Editor
160 14th Street, San Francisco, Ca 94117

We will consider publishing letters
Containing fewer than 150 words.

Dear FTMI: I have include back issues of now been having the newsletter and a such good luck with tabase of anecdotal in-things from the formation for FTMI's www.ftmi.org site...I from all over the web. found a Doctor to do my The website will remain top surgery and it will at the same url, however happen on the 5th of Oct it will have a stunning of this year I can't new look and be even wait...I got a therapist easier to navigate.

and am on my way to being more of me...I am **Dear FTMI:** Hi, my so glad the site for FTMI name is Devon. I have is here for us to look been on testosterone at...I really would not since June 2000. I have have know were to start only one problem. I don't if not for that site...I know where to get a even found a support loan, etc. for my top sur-group which my first gery. Can you help me night will be to- with this dilemma?

night...Even though they are MtF, at least I can **Dear Devon:** meet other kinds like Below you will find a me...I just wish I had few companies that spe-known about this site cialize in lending for years ago...Hell I wish I plastic surgery. There had a computer and the are also other ways to Internet years ago, how- obtain money for sur-ever it's now in mo- gery, such as refinancing tion...Thanks! Jordan a home loan or putting it on a credit card. Many

Dear Jordan: It is good people have put their to hear that you have had entire surgical process such an easy time find- on credit cards all the ing information on the way to Phalloplasty. web site. I am glad that However I did not put you were able to find my entire surgery on a your surgeon and sup- credit card due to the port through FTMI. Most interest that would have people do not know that incurred as time went by. the web site will be Another option is saving changing in the future to

(Continued on page 19)



Book Review

BY Martin Rawlings-Fein

When I read Morgan zlies Wrestling sweatshirt, for the first time I sorry Billy. It just goes to felt as if I was back in show you that clothes High School reading those make the man when you lesbian trade paperbacks, are 10 years old.

that had the women pre- For a lesbian ally tending to be men. The C.C. Saint-Clare knows an women in the paperbacks awful lot of intimate de- would always be either tails of the standard FTM, passable and weathered, or if I can even use the word boyishly handsome. The standard. She really cap- women would fall for tures an injection scene them and the gay men like nobody's business and would swoon, however the punctuates it with flashes of childhood. With flowing difference is clear. prose and characters that I

Morgan is every bit a man, rather than just a woman pretending to be one. I have far too many of those novels for someone who never self identified as a lesbian. However I now see why I was attracted to them, there was a man inside of me trying to struggle his way out of the shell. So when I say that Morgan hit home, I really mean that... Reading Morgan was like delving into my past, not every- thing was just like my history, however I remember plainly stealing my older brothers underwear and various other clothing items. I still have my brothers Gunderson Griz-

I look forward to anything else that C.C. puts on the table for her next book. □



Excerpts from Red Jordan Arobateau's masterwork Autumn Changes:

(His unofficial semi-autobiography)

Vol. I, II, III, and IV.

This bio-fiction contains room of their material- passages of interest for comfortable middle class fims, mtfs. gays, lesbians, home -never even having bis, and all other assort- been moved to either the ments of us to be found Transboy's bedroom, nor under the Queer umbrella. to his/her playroom.

Autumn Changes I.

During my child- hood in the late 1940's, I

1998 The sky is slate actually thought for an in- grey in the east and in need terval of time I had to be- of a storm. Transman come a boy of I would die. stands.—5'3".160 pounds. - "God turn me into a boy." Masculine attire; slacks, Was my ongoing prepubes- jacket, on a square body. cent prayer. And I can't His shoulders thick from remember how old I was, 7 previous years of weight or 8 maybe. Psychiatrists training. Stomach flat. suggest it is typical of

There is a storm abused children to forget within his/her soul. He is their childhood. I had a on the borderline of a deci- bad, abused childhood the sion. hands of my mother. And

1948. have blocked out al lot. -

Transboy is age 5. but I remember it was my 3' tall. 50 pounds. Wears a constant daily and nightly purple and orange sweat- mantra at the time - that I shirt over his flat little must grow a penis between child chest; blue jeans and my legs miraculously. In- sneakers. stantly. Must wake up one

He plays with toy morning having been soldiers, miniature trucks. changed in to a boy. And Has and erector set with anger, so great inside, that which he creates metal my heart wanted to burst buildings; and a chemistry out of my chest and my set containing bunsen throat turned dry. Now 40 burner, test tubes and vials. years later at the millen- And distains his girl toys. nium, 2,000 CE, When - A doll and carriage sit society is on the cusp of idle, dusty, in the living

(Continued on page 17)

LAGC

LOS ANGELES GENDER CENTER

TG/TS/CD Counseling
Individual, Couples, Group Counseling
and Referrals for the Transgendered
Community, Partners, and Families.
310.475.8880
www.lagendercenter.com

(Continued from Autumn Changes page 16)

the potential of an individual to be anything they choose, I am still not sure if I will become that boy, but it is urging me onward still, thru the years. – Thru my tomboy stage, my butch stage, my hard butch years, my trying and failing to pass for a man – my male identity.

Autumn Changes II.

1960.

This is a throwaway society. We throw people away. We throw merchandise away. – When they are old of don't work properly, or don't fit in. We throw dikes and fairys away from the beginning without giving them a chance to see if they can work or not.

He is sixteen. In the queer life. The night circuit, bar-dealings of pill poppers, jealousy 3-way romances, fist fights, alcohol. It is hell on the wild side. But what a lovely way to burn. – As the singer Peggy Lee croons.

Autumn Changes III.

2000.

We must remember Audre Lords words; “we weren't meant to survive.” So anything I do is most important even if it's not as good as the white man. A white man who writes books about God comes on TV and says it. “The lowest thing on earth is the colored woman. She is not supposed to exist. So the world is stacked against her.” I see the ugly dynamics

of society in this one flash. So that's the underlying reason my life is so hard, so unrewarded. I started my life as a colored female... So this is the truth. I never was supposed to survive. My art never meant to be recognized. That is why living is so bitter, so severe.

Since his colored mother first held his tiny tan child hand, maneuvering him thru the ghetto on the way to doctors appointments, private school, ballet classes, the public library, museums; trying to give him opportunity; in her mink coat and designer product talc powder, fingernail polishes, lipstick & perfumes – well ensconced in the black bourgeoisie;

“During my childhood in the late 1940's, I actually thought for an interval of time I had to become a boy of I would die.- “God turn me into a boy.” Was my ongoing prepubescent prayer.”

and he's grown into an adult raging against the system, trying to win, to overcome; but still his art is laughed at. – So thin is the root of truth. As a person of color, once female, a lesbian; and now a transsexual, so, the mystery is revealed! He is nothing! Nobody! Nowhere! This is why he has no success!

Autumn Changes IV.

This scream from the bottom of my soul -- Autumn Changes.

This bottom, deep as I can find within myself; this is my diary – That of a Fine Arts Painter who switched genres from oil colors red,

blue, yellow – to the printed word. Who switched his sex from female to male And saw his politics evolve from those of conservative bougie to a fiery radical standing on the barricades; fist upraised!

All the people who sit around me and listen to me talk these days are growing younger and younger... So I am speaking to the future...

I try to tell them it was hard; I was afraid of sitting in high school classrooms at my desk in a beam of sunlight wishing I could escape. Afraid my mind would go racing off in a million directions; and when the class period ended being so happy to have kept my sanity; my shirt drenched & stained with sour sweat; much less worried about receiving a passing grade.

My first house; the red brick two story apartment building on the south side of Chicago. The soft murmur of crickets in summer. Fire flies. The windswept night.

Transboy came into his young manhood tortured by monthly periods. Red blood. Cramps. Pain. – The trial by nature which biological males have vainly strived to emulate down through history by wars, rituals, rites, mock battles, initiations & tortures of their own devises.

There was no mother to school him about these cramps. Nor any medicine offered to him by her, since she was mentally ill. So he suffered in agony laying on his bed tossing and writhing. It wasn't until a dec-

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ade later he would find those narcotics which took the pain away plus made him high and he felt better about life too, in fact for a few hours he felt great!

There was no mother for him to grow up with and thus enter into the sheltering cove of her womanhood, growing into his own – which had its benefits, since he had been a Transboy even before her nervous breakdown. So the split between them was easy, since it had already had happened for other reasons. Male from female. As well as a sane growing life-force cutting away from one which had been injured beyond repair and was withering, dying, clutching out with evil yanks, slashes & grabs like a cruelly uprooted plants roots wildly attempting to fasten themselves to some soil stability.

Document from file: The Gay Lez Bi Trans Historical Society: (See Photo) "A Gay (Dike) Bar In SF, circa 1944." All the memory this photograph contains - - butches in DA haircuts, solemn expressions, their female curves disguised by men's shirts, trousers; wearing boots of loafers – 'sensible shoes'.

Transman lived the actual history. His face among those dikes around a circular table; or at the bar, sitting side by side in the smoke-filled dim bar lights; staring ahead of themselves at a row of bottles on the wall, getting drunk.

Archiving our past...

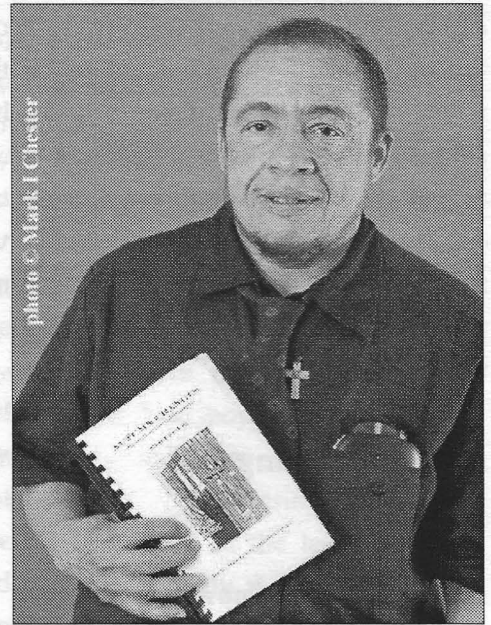
There are so many places we

can now meet, political meetings, various social groups, special interest organizations, where people can actually get to know each other like human beings.

In the early 50's up until the mid 60's, in some states the law was first time you were caught in a gay bar it was a misdemeanor. It was a felony to be caught in a bar the second time and could result in a jail term. The third time they sent you to the state mental hospital for possible castration or lobotomy.

Today's gays don't realize how dangerous it was. Our movement is so new. 30's, 40's, 50's. So little has been documented. So little history written down. Those who lived it are dying out. Many of them too terrified of the straight social pressure to speak. They silently pass away. □

Red Jordan Arobateau is the author of over 40 books--novels, and collections of short stories, poetry, and plays. They include his better-known works, which were published by Masquerade Books and are distributed worldwide.



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Courtesy of the June Mazer Lesbian Collection, Los Angeles.

(Continued from Malebox page 15)

and binding for a few years until you have enough cash for surgery, this method is probably the most common that I have seen, but beware the road may be a long one, filled with spending the cash once you have it due to other bills that pop up. If you are in college, student loans can often have medical subsidies that would enhance your aid by your medical need, however this is also a risky endeavor.

If you would like more info I would love to talk to you more or perhaps you are in the Bay Area and could make it to a closed meeting for FTM's and Questioning. Meetings are held in the FTMI office at 160-14th St., however you may look at the sites I have given you and come to your own conclusions about where you would like to go for the money. As with all men from the US who look to surgical options, you will have allot of choice in the matter. It can be both a burden and a blessing.

- www.capitalone.com
- www.imagefinancing.com
- www.plasticsurgeryfinancing.com
- www.usmed.com/patients/testimonials.asp
- www.medicredit.com
- www.p-f-s.com
- www.healthready.com
- www.cosmeticfeeplan.com
- www.elitedr.com
- www.cac-combined.com
- www.reliancemedicalfinance.com

Marty Rawlings-Fein

Please write us at ftmimalebox@yahoo.com with your comments and concerns. If you do not write to us we will not know what you want to see in future issues.

Call to Action

An FTM Behind Bars

By Rabbi Levi Kotchick

Brothers, would you help about? Anything that is unlikely to save a life? Especially if all to be censored. You could share your favorite Scripture or meditation, inspirational story or words of encouragement. Use supportive, positive mail to an FTM who is in jail. Because of his gender and for his own safety, he is housed in solitary confinement in maximum security, even though he has no prior record and the charge against him is not a violent one. He has been isolated like this for two months now. He is only allowed out of his cell for two hours a day, and only allowed a half hour visit three times a week, and restricted to a phone call a day.

He has battled with depression and even said once that he felt suicidal. He has been on T for twelve years but they have refused to allow him to receive his T shot and that is also contributing to his depression. He cannot receive email or phone calls but he can receive mail if it only contains paper, envelopes and stamps. Your return address must appear on the envelope. It will take some time for his mail to get through the censors, but it will help to save him from the depression he is experiencing due to solitary confinement for no other reason than his gender. Uplifting messages of a spiritual nature should make it through the censors. What to write

your favorite Scripture or meditation, inspirational story or words of encouragement. Use male pronouns. Reinforce his truth, his masculinity, his normalcy. These have been attacked during his time in jail. Even just a short note saying that you are praying for him would help him to fight his depression. The fact that you write is more important than what you say. He will derive strength from every letter he gets because it means that he is not alone.

I did not know Mr. Arakelian until his case was brought to my attention by a fellow board member of FTM International, as a matter which we needed to follow up locally for three reasons.

One, a humanitarian one of providing support to a human being who is suffering in solitary confinement, no matter his guilt or his innocence two, to make sure that his case does not set a bad precedent in California for the legal treatment of trans persons by the courts and the jail/prison system treatment of trans persons in custody either awaiting trial or paying their debt to society, regardless of this individual's guilt or innocence he should be treated like

(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from FTM behind bars page 19)

all other accused persons or convicted persons, three, to vigorously prevent or counter any negative press for our community that will influence the public attitude (whether we can get jobs, etc.) about us, regardless of the merits or lack thereof of his case, news reporting should not tar a whole group for the actions, or alleged actions, of an individual.

After conferring with a number of experts in major national transgender organizations behind the scenes who are familiar with the case and who have intervened on his behalf, I made an offer of support to Alex's family and friends, and Alex, through them, in which I have only been asked to do two things: to try to help Alex get his shot, and to try to cheer him up with some human contact in his solitary confinement. Neither one has any bearing on whether he is guilty or whether he is innocent. □

**To send mail to Alex:
Alexander Arakelian #2205860
550 N. Flower
Santa Ana, CA 92703**

(Continued from Legal page 13)

who adopted children through their marriage. In all of the cases the child has been the biological child of the caller's soon-to-be ex-spouse. The relevant issue in most of these cases has been whether the two people were involved in a "valid" marriage since the transgender parent adopted the child through the marriage.

While the core issue of the

(Continued from SF TEAM page 6)

Center; they walked off into history and made a statement about Trans rights. We will not be ignored! □

SF TEAM stands for San Francisco Transgender Empowerment, Advocacy and Mentorship. SFTEAM is currently working with San Francisco LGBT Community Center is organizing quarterly events for the Trans community. SFTEAM, formerly the Transgender Steering Committee, started as a way to bring a Trans-

gender presence to the center and evolved into the quarterly events such as the Transgender Job Fair, the Transgender Pride Awards, the Winter T Party & the Trans March.

SF TEAM's Mission: To commemorate our heritage, to empower and nurture transgender and gender-variant individuals; and to increase visibility to promote positive social change.

validity of the marriage is mostly a "legal" instead of "factual" question, many of the steps noted above can help get the question answered in a way that is positive for you. Primarily, it is again important to line up experts who can testify at your trial. In addition to educating the judge, the expert or experts have to provide evidence that your attorney will need. Most of this evidence will go to the question of whether your "legal sex" for purposes of marriage should be your gender identity or the sex you were assigned at birth.

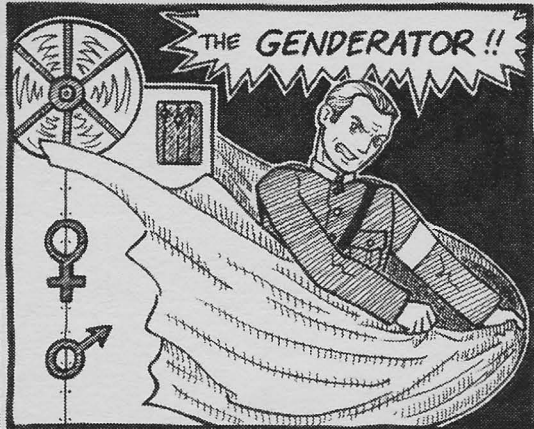
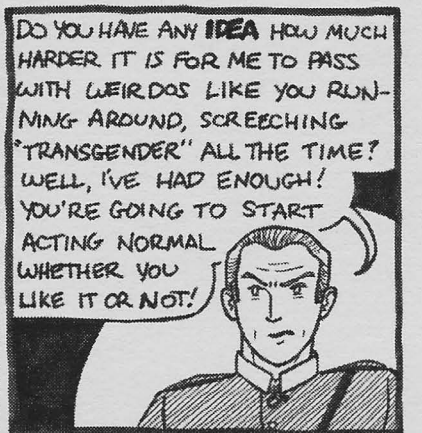
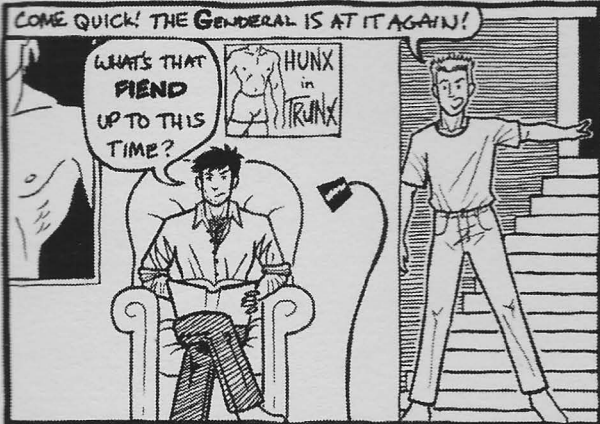
In California, even if a judge finds your marriage to be invalid, you may be able to show that you should be recognized as a legal parent in other ways. For instance, California courts have found that a person with no biological ties to a parent can be determined to be a parent if that person has filled a parental role for a length of time and been understood to be the child's parent.

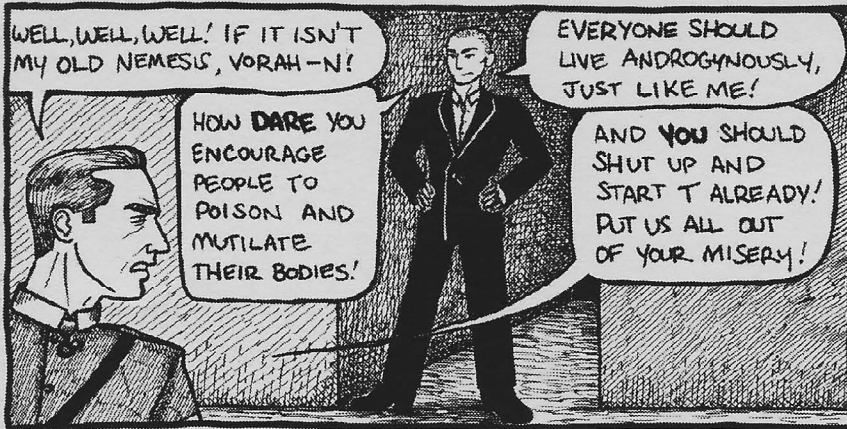
Children Adopted via California Domestic Partnerships

As California extends more and more recognition to domestic partners, we expect to increasingly see custody questions arise when domestic partners break up. For instance, right now domestic partners can adopt their partner's biological children through the step-parent adoption process. Beginning in 2005, a domestic partner will be presumed to be the parent of any child born to the other partner during the partnership.

It is unlikely that either of these rights (or any other rights of domestic partners) should be negatively affected when one partner transitions, however, it is wise to be aware that many of the arguments mentioned above could also be raised to the detriment of the transgender parent in these settings. Therefore, if you are in a domestic partnership that is breaking up, you may want to talk to an attorney about ways to insure that your parental rights are secure. □

To be continued in issue 57...



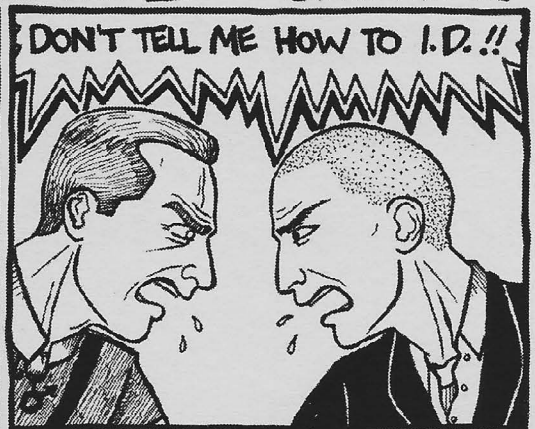


WELL, WELL, WELL! IF IT ISN'T MY OLD NEMESIS, VORAH-N!

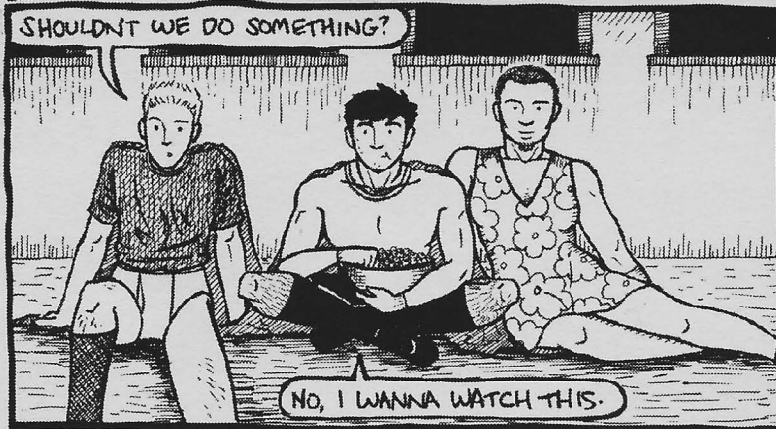
EVERYONE SHOULD LIVE ANDROGYNOUSLY, JUST LIKE ME!

HOW DARE YOU ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO POISON AND MUTILATE THEIR BODIES!

AND YOU SHOULD SHUT UP AND START T ALREADY! PUT US ALL OUT OF YOUR MISERY!

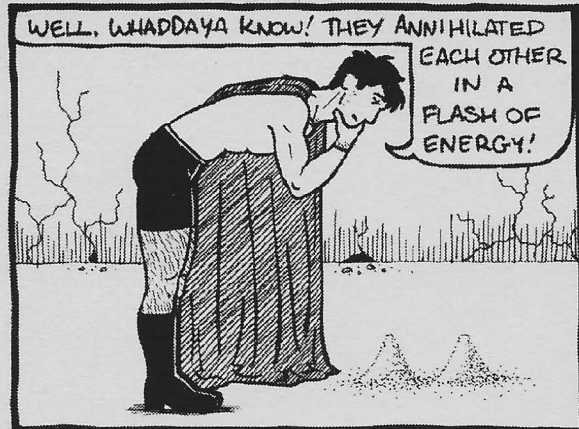


DON'T TELL ME HOW TO I.D.!!



SHOULDN'T WE DO SOMETHING?

NO, I WANNA WATCH THIS.



WELL, WHADDAYA KNOW! THEY ANNIHILATED EACH OTHER IN A FLASH OF ENERGY!



BUT WOULDN'T THAT IMPLY THAT THEY WERE OPPOSITES, LIKE MATTER + ANTI-MATTER? WHAT IS THE OPPOSITE OF ANDROGYNOUS, ANYWAY?

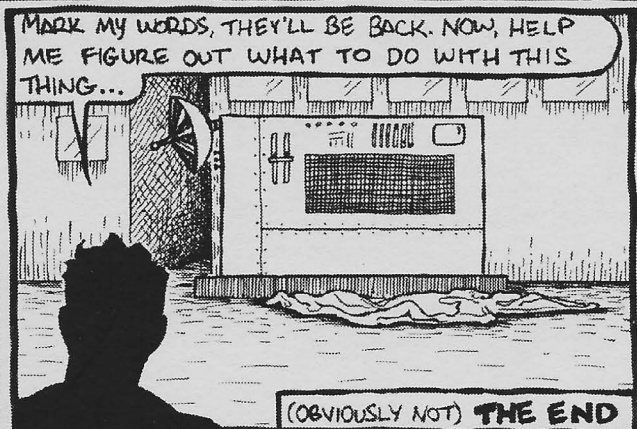
FOR THAT MATTER, WHAT'S THE OPPOSITE OF TRANSEXUAL?

LET'S NOT GET INTO GENDER THEORY, PLEASE! YOU KNOW IT GIVES ME A HEADACHE!



SO I GUESS THAT'S THE END OF THE GENERAL AND VORAH-N.

OH, DON'T BE SILLY- NO SELF-RESPECTING ARCH-VILLAIN WOULD EVER DIE OFF SO EASILY WITHOUT FIRST HAVING WORKED OUT SOME SORT OF PLAN TO ENSURE REINCARNATION.



MARK MY WORDS, THEY'LL BE BACK. NOW, HELP ME FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH THIS THING...

(OBVIOUSLY NOT) THE END