

FTM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUE

This issue focuses on the numerous organizational changes that have taken place in the past year

NEWSLETTER GAINS NEW EDITORIAL TALENT

By Ben Singer, Co-Editor

Welcome to the first "Organizational Issue" of the FTM Newsletter! There have been many big changes in the past year for both the newsletter and the organization. Looking back over the past 13 years, from the first hand-typed one page Xerox by our founder Lou Sullivan, to the recent 24-page groundbreaking youth issue produced by former editor Jed Bell, it's easy to see how the growth of our newsletter parallels the development of FTMI as a whole.

One of the things about living through the end of this century, in terms of trans-time, is the constant sense of history being made. At this moment it's exciting for me, a founding board member of 2 years, to be taking over as newsletter co-editor with Garin Wiggins. This is a way to continue my service to an organization which I whole-heartedly believe in, and to be in significant contact with emerging transmale/transmasculine and SOFFA cultures around the world.

At our recent board development retreat, one of the workshop exercises included listing our organizational assets. The newsletter was unquestionably at the top of the list. For well over a decade, this publication has served a two-fold function: disseminating news of interest to FTMs around the world, and perhaps more importantly, connecting us, helping to end the sometimes life-threatening isolation experienced living in a transphobic world.

Both Garin and I intend to carry on the tradition and vision of FTMI (see p.4, Vision Statement), as well as promoting content from diverse points of view, expanding resource listings, and fostering a more international scope. But, the achievement of these goals depends upon you, the reader, since "without you (we) are nothing!" So, please, take the time to contact us, letting us know what's going on in your particular trans universe, or tell us what you want to see printed in these pages. This is your newsletter. Make it reflect your world by contributing resources, writing and artwork.

The beautiful aspect of publishing newsletters is providing a space for telling our stories, sharing our experiences, and connecting formerly separate people and places. But writing is not passive; it does not simply sit on a page. When read, it spurs us toward imagination and sometimes action. It creates links in our minds which can manifest themselves in the world. It reaches us across vast distances, sometimes sparking cultural and political movements. Writing gathers us together even when we cannot all be physically present; in short, it creates community where formerly we had none.

For these reasons, I am honored to be your co-editor. For me, this work is an act of political and cultural advocacy.

By Garin Chad Wiggins, Co-Editor

This opportunity to co-edit the FTM Newsletter was like a gift. Thank you, Ben. I had gone a year or so without working on a newsletter after transitioning and moving from Arkansas to Philadelphia. Now that I am living as the man I choose to be in the world, I can start to give back to the FTM community that nurtured me. Putting together newsletters in my spare time has always been a labor of love. I have to be sniffing out writers and artists, gathering news and announcements and reviews, and scrambling to put the whole thing together by a deadline to feel that I'm doing my part.

In Arkansas I edited the *Ozark Feminist Review*, a bi-monthly newsletter, for 7 years. Nothing else I have done has given such satisfaction: encouraging members of our community to write and share their knowledge and experience; gathering information for readers without access to the same resources; giving artists a chance to be seen and read; and each time, starting from nothing and ending up with a printed product. From reading all the resources that came my way because of the newsletter and from my own involvement in lesbian politics and NOW, I eventually pieced together enough of an idea of what FTM lives were like to know that somehow I had to make that leap.

I started hormones at age 41, about the time my hair turned gray. From having transitioned in the middle of the country where doctors, information, support, and peers are scarce, I know what lifelines e-mail lists, the Web, and newsletters are for us. The best treasure I found within the lesbian community was my partner, who lives in Philadelphia and knows about trans people from years of experience as a therapist and trans activist.

So I moved to the big city, had my surgery, and started a new life as a man. Here, I have been active in the Transgender Health Action Coalition, both with our hotline and as co-facilitator of a support group we started a year ago. Besides participating in conferences, I take part in local events with trans focus or inclusion. And I work full time while pursuing a master's in Publication Management.

We are actually publishing the FTM Newsletter from both sides of the United States. Ben and I are

here in Philadelphia, and Sasha, our designer, is here for a few more months before he moves to San Francisco. We communicate with contributors from all over the world. And the guys in San Francisco continue to handle the subscriptions, advertising, printing, and mailing. We're living up to the name FTM International.

Some of you are, like me, now living the lives you could only imagine a few years ago. Others are still refining the



Ben Singer

photo by James Loevlien



Garin Wiggins

FTM INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

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

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Fill out a postcard and drop it in the mail to 1360 Mission St., #200, San Francisco, CA 94103 or send an email to TSTGMen@aol.com. Keep in touch and feel free to check in with us by e-mail or send a stamped, return-addressed postcard and we'll verify receipt.

DEADLINES

Please submit articles, stories, art, photos, poetry, etc. by Aug. 15 for consideration for FTM #48. Ads and letters due Aug. 15.

ADS

Business card ads \$100 for 4 insertions for professional advertisers; free to FTMs. Quarter-page professional ads \$250 for 4 insertions.

SUBSCRIBE!

\$25/year/4 issues, \$15/year sliding scale, \$50/year professional.

Outside U.S.: \$35/year, \$25 sliding scale, \$60 professional.

Sample copies/back issues:

\$6.95 each or \$120 for complete set

MEMBERSHIP IN FTM INTERNATIONAL

Includes newsletter subscription, voting rights, publication discounts.

Regular membership: \$35 per year

Sliding Scale: \$25 per year

Household (up to three members): \$45 per year

Professional/institutional: \$75 per year

Outside U.S., add \$10 to each category.

Additional donations are always welcome, and they're tax deductible!

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Canada

Dion Manley
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Anza, CA

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Sylmar, CA

Ben Singer*
Philadelphia, PA

Michiko Bailey
Oakland, CA

Kit Rachlin
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Leah Schaefer
New York, NY

*Terms end June 30, 2000. All other terms end June 30, 2001.

The FTM Newsletter and Resource Guide are available at these fine bookstores:

Glad Day Books, 598-A Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
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Beyond The Closet Bookstore, 518 East Pike Street, Seattle, WA

FTM Resource Guide: Help Needed

The FTM Resource Guide is presently being updated. We are hoping to have the biggest one yet, with more listings for the USA, more Canadian content, as well as other International Resources. If you have any information on anyone who has helped you or anyone you know whom you would recommend to other FTMs (lawyers, endocrinologists, gynecologists, therapists, surgeons, websites, etc), please contact me, so that I can in turn contact them to ask if they are interested in being included in our Guide, or you can simply fill out our questionnaire. To get an on-line copy of this questionnaire, please e-mail me.

Furthermore, if you know of any Bookstores, Resource Centers, or Community Groups that you think should carry this Newsletter and/or our Resource Guide, please send me their contact info, and I will send them ordering information.

The more listings we get, the more available and accessible our Newsletter and Guide are, the more choices that people will have, and we will all be less isolated in our lives. Contact Dale Altrows <cdnftm@yahoo.com> to help.

Gifts

Beginning next issue, we will include a list of organizations and individuals who have donated money to FTMI. We want to give you folks the recognition you deserve. If you prefer to remain anonymous, let us know.

GARIN WIGGINS from page 1

vision before applying your ingenuity to the task of creating the seeming impossible in your lives. We come from all sexual orientations and communities and head toward an even broader range of sexualities and identities. Our unique self-knowledge cuts across class, race, nationality, or level of sophistication. There are so many different ways to be trans that not one of us needs hesitate to speak. Make my day. Send it in.

MEET THE BOARD

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE FTMI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michiko Bailey

Oakland, CA — I chose to serve on the FTMI Board because I believe that partner issues need more representation. The partner of an FTM, I have organized FTMI's partner meetings for the last 5 years. I am a woman of color. Last year I was co-chair of an organizing committee for the NGLTF Creating Change conference. I've assisted with programming and chaired partner sessions for past FTMI meetings. Serving on the FTMI board has given me opportunities for developing concrete programs to better serve the partners and families of FTMs everywhere.

Sky Renfro,

Anza, CA — A visible member of the FTM group since 1990, I previously assisted in the layout and production of the FTM newsletter and served as the conference coordinator for the first FTM Conference of the Americas. I have served on a number of boards, have created non-profit organizations and participated in pioneering efforts alongside with others who seek to affirm all human rights since the early 70s. As a queer indigenous person of Turtle Island, I participate fully as an open and out transman in several 2-spirit organizations. Likewise, as a visible part of the men's leather community,

I am often called upon to speak about FTM issues. I am the owner of a health and safety consulting business that allows me to travel extensively and network with other trans people. I offer excellent organizational skills, years of experience, and a clear grasp of who I am. My goals as board member include establishing a stronger youth presence in the FTM organizations and promoting the identity and diversity of transmen within the other non-trans organizations in which I participate.

Dr. Leah C. Schaefer,

NYC — I am a charter member of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association (1979), am also twice president and a current member of the HBGDA National Board. I was the first woman president of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality (1978). As chairperson of the Archives Committees of both groups, I recognize that it is imperative to preserve the history of such important organizations as ours. I have been a psychotherapist specializing in transgenderism

since 1975 and have had experience with female-to-male persons mainly on the East Coast.

I have always realized the significance of the men of FTM International and their significant others, and how egregiously they have been overlooked in the literature as well as in the Harry Benjamin organization's yearly agendas. But I believe this has, ironically, caused FTM International members to strengthen their own agendas, not waiting for an invitation from HBGDA. I have been a member of FTM International for several years and a subscriber to your excellent newsletter. I have been honored to serve on your board. While I have something to contribute, I have much more to learn from you.

Jeff Shevlowitz

Sylmar, CA — Since my transition 18 years ago, I have worked in various ways to help other FTMs with finding information and networking. To this end, in 1983 I began, and still run the Southern California FTM support group, Under Construction, and have been a contributor to the FTM newsletter since the late 80s. I also make an effort to educate the general public about the transsexual experience, specifically from the FTM point of view, by speaking at colleges and universities for over 15 years. Serving on the board of FTM International has been a natural way of continuing the process of outreach and information exchange.

Dale Altrows

Montreal, Canada — I am a Jewish Gay Anarchist FTM father of three. I decided to run for the Board after I had finished a two-year legal battle, in the course of which I had gathered a wealth of information on various issues (social, medical, legal, etc.). This was after spending much energy myself finding resources during my transition.

So far, I have served as Board secretary and have handled e-mail correspondence for FTMI. I have also been working on the Resource Guide and Newsletter distribution with the goal of having the Newsletter and Guide stocked in every state and province, with as many resources listed as possible. Accomplishing this will help to make people feel less isolated, no matter where they live. I also hope to help in Board development, to establish policies that

will help us work more efficiently and therefore serve our membership in a better way.

Kit Rachlin, Ph.D.

NYC — Kit is a psychologist, a researcher, and a long-time advocate for the FTM community. Though most of her energy is devoted to FTMI, she also serves on the Ethics Committee and the Consumer Advocacy and Liaison Committee of The Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association. When not doing psychotherapy she runs educational workshops in academic settings to make people aware of FTM issues. She is especially interested in research aimed to empower the community and document the experience of FTMs outside of clinics and hospitals, in the hope that that data can be used to determine medical, legal, and social policy.

Ben Singer

Philadelphia, PA — I am a founding member of the FTMI board, and will be ending my 2-year term in June. I've been a transactivist and educator for over 8 years, as well as having 15+ years of queer and feminist political work under my belt. I co-founded a transhealth self-advocacy group in Philadelphia, the Transgender Health Action Coalition, while being an academic-activist working on a PhD at Rutgers University. As a graduate student, I medically transitioned while teaching and simultaneously spearheaded a successful effort to amend the university anti-harassment policy to be trans-inclusive. I presently serve on the board of the grass-roots advocacy organization It's Time America! as well as being a local organizer of many educational and community forums; including the history-making event "Bridges to Coalition" (featuring Leslie Feinberg).

I'm an avid activist and public speaker. My pet peeve is being labeled *either* gay or straight, since for me trans-sexuality (queerer than queer desire) exceeds the limits of the binary arrangement of homo/hetero sexuality. While my work on the board is nearly over, I've taken over the role of co-editor of the FTMI Newsletter (see cover article). I view my work on the newsletter as an opportunity to continue serving FTMI while extending my political and cultural advocacy work.

Making History: First FTMI Board Retreat

By Dale Altrows

From January 21-23, 2000, FTMI International's Board of Directors had its first retreat. It took place in the Marriott Hotel in Newark, New Jersey. In actuality, a "retreat" would be the most inaccurate word used to describe this event. As commonly used by many groups and organizations, a retreat refers to a time when members of that particular group meet with the goal of socializing with each other, and getting to know each other better outside of the context of their working relationship (sort of a vacation). What actually took place was probably one of the most intensive working sessions most of us on the Board have experienced.

The FTMI Board has gone through massive changes within the last year; notably, the resignation of James Green, who had been the director/president of FTMI for almost 9 years, and the resignation of Jed Bell, who had been the editor of our Newsletter for the past 3 years.

For the first time ever, the number of incoming Board members was equal to that of the number of those remaining. During this time of instability, there were major conflicts erupting within the Board. Our retreat could not have taken place at a more crucial time.

With 8 out of 10 of the Board members present, we worked with Marie Ziegler, a professional facilitator from The Support Center for Nonprofit Management, who demonstrated remarkable understanding and patience with our non-stop need for more information and our struggling through issues. Marie had consultations with individual Board Members beforehand, and she combined this knowledge



The board on the last day of retreat.

FTMI VISION STATEMENT

We envision a world in which there is full integration into the transgender community of people assigned female at birth or in childhood, and an end to FTM invisibility. We envision a world in which transgender and transsexual people of every race, class, age, ability/disability, form of gender expression, sexual orientation, hormonal or surgical status, religion, national origin, and immigration status are a wholly integral and accepted part of society. In this world we will be able to access medical, legal, and social services without fear of prejudice; we will be able, fully and freely as we choose, to participate in the benefits of a free society, including education, employment, housing, legal justice, social activities and a full range of social, political and legal institutions, and to enjoy political influence. We envision a world in which we are free from fear of harassment and violence, and in which there is no shame or stigma attached to us or to those who affirm, love, or provide services to us; a world in which our unique contributions are valued and honored.

with her own expertise to develop a full retreat agenda. Our work, at times, was overwhelming as we moved from verbalizing the values that make us as individuals want to work for FTMI, to dividing up tasks in order to fulfill our commitment to our members, to learning our role as a nonprofit Board of Directors, and finally, to discussing our individual and organizational strengths and challenges. We discussed our vision, our mission, our priorities for FTMI, and how to go about fulfilling them.

To elaborate on all the details would take up the space of several newsletters, but as our work progresses, you will be hearing about our accomplishments in working towards FTMI's vision.

By the end of the retreat all of us were completely drained, having struggled with so many issues and having made compromises, all from very diverse perspectives. All of this was on top of having met for the very first time in person. More got accomplished on that weekend than imaginable. As our work as board members becomes more structured and clear, it will enable us to be more understanding and to function efficiently as a Board. Inevitably this will lead to more productive and empowering ways to serve our members and our community at large. Returning back to our individual homes, spread across the country, every one of us was in need of a vacation before embarking on our newly discussed mission. But, for the first time since past major upheavals, the obstacles seemed smaller, the paths became clear, and seemingly insurmountable hurdles looked like bumps in the road. While the work that lies before us is monumental, the entire board and leadership of FTMI has renewed confidence and great hope for the future of our organization.

LETTER FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT OF FTMI

Since being elected president of FTMI International a lot has happened to open up what I thought of as leadership. I used to think of leaders as being only very, very few folks with exceptional talent and abilities: knowledge, brilliance, magnetism, foresight, and professionalism of unusually high standards. I now see leaders just as often as regular folks who are able to step up when there is a need to help make a difference.

Here at FTMI we have had a change in leadership following the membership's electing some new folks to the board of directors in July. Though we know some members and subscribers don't want to know or hear details of board business, others do. After James Green stepped down as President and left the board, Yoseño Lewis



DION MANLEY

Stone, Bet Power, and Enoch Page. This was a very emotional, difficult process for everyone involved. If any readers are curious about the

was voted in by the new board as President. After three months, we made the extremely difficult decision to remove him from the office of president. In the months since then, Yoseño has decided to leave the board, as have Moonhawk River

details of what happened we have encouraged folks to make inquiries if they wish. For the full or lengthy story of what was involved, minutes of all meetings are at our office available for review as always by anyone. I would like to acknowledge and extend appreciation for the work Yoseño has done here at FTMI and wish him well in his new ventures as our paths are sure to cross! FTMI is an open organization and we want and need community input and involvement.

To update you on what's now happening: at our first-ever board development retreat, we defined our roles as individual board members and as a board meeting the increasing needs of our communities (see retreat article above). We have now formed a fundraising

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IN MEMORIAM

Marcelle Y. Cook-Daniels

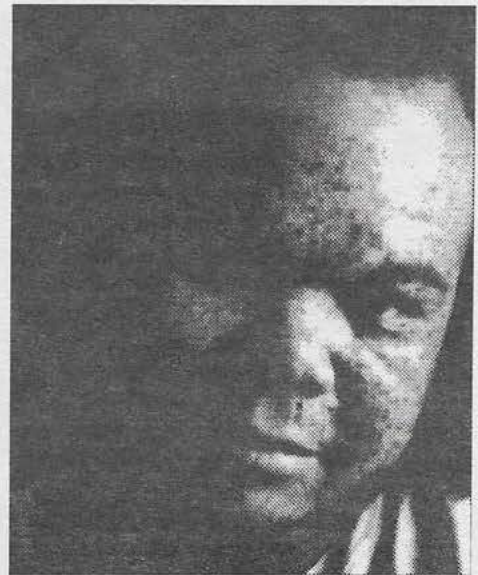
Marcelle Y. Cook-Daniels, age 40, lost his lifelong battle with depression on April 21, 2000. A native of Washington, D.C., where he lived until his 1996 move to Vallejo, California, Marcelle was a computer programmer/analyst who worked for the IRS, the Maryland-National Capitol Park and Planning Commission, and, most recently, Norcal Mutual Insurance Company of San Francisco. At the time of his death, he was actively working toward his M.S. degree in Computer Science at Golden Gate University.

A quiet but very dedicated and principled activist, he was known for his work in raising awareness of transgender and Lesbian/Gay issues and for his efforts to promote and support his family values of love, commitment, honesty, openness, and public service. His education and advocacy work included presentations at the 1999 Creating Change conference, the 1998 "Butch-FTM: Building Coalitions Through Dialogue" event, at several True Spirit Conferences, and at numerous other educational

and advocacy events. Interviews and/or photographs of him appear in the "Love Makes A Family" book and tour; Dawn Atkin's book "Looking Queer: Body Image and Identity in Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender Communities," and "In The Family" magazine. He was an active supporter of COLAGE (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere) and provided substantial material and volunteer support to the Transgender Aging Network, four True Spirit conferences, and The American Boyz.

Marcelle was at heart a family man. He was a devoted son to his mother Marcella Daniels; a passionate supporter of his life partner of 17 years, Loree Cook-Daniels; and an outstanding father to his 6-year-old son Kai Cook-Daniels, who calls him, "The Best Lego-Maker in the World." He is also survived by many beloved friends and colleagues.

The family suggests that those who wish to honor Marcelle's memory through monetary contributions consider sending them to: The Marcelle Y. Cook-Daniels Memorial Fund



Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE)

3543 18th St., #17

San Francisco, CA 94110

(Checks should be made out to COLAGE and accompanied by a note or notation the donation should be earmarked for the Marcelle Y. Cook-Daniels Memorial Fund)

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT from page 4

committee, open to anyone! I recently went to the National Policy Roundtable, hosted by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force [www.nglftf.org] which brought FTMI to the table with 30 reps of other national organizations. This is another important part of working towards beginning or increasing alliances. Unity is strength!

As I step up as Prez I benefit from the wisdom and work of all those who came before me in FTMI's history. I first came to FTMI to not be alone, then got more involved to learn and be around the committed, incredible people I met there. Personally, this work has helped me face and walk thru my biggest fear — of people, and being in this world with them. Though admittedly overwhelmed by it all, I'm lucky to be a part of FTMI and so very indebted to James Green and Jed Bell for their friendship and guidance. I want to thank James for being such a solid rock with unconditional support to me and everyone. After giving over a decade to FTMI, his integrity and passion still fuels inspiration! And Jed has from the start forever changed me and the course of my life by sharing his beliefs, amazing insights, and helping me see potential when I saw none. He is a true visionary and gift to FTMI that we will all miss and wish him well!

What to say about the great loss of a true leader and inspiration to many of us, the recent death of Marcelle Cook-Daniels. In holding close the rare spirit of Marcelle Cook-Daniels, thru his activism and in living his life he was a role model and will be more than sorely missed. Let us rise and make visible our beautiful and courageous communities so if politics or activism ain't for you, bring poetry, song, music, art or theatre to reach one another and the world in ways otherwise untouched! I am committed to pushing for this organization's growth in reaching the increasing scope of our mission. Thanks to folks like Marcelle, those before him and the work of organizations like FTMI, there are now many places to advocate for visibility, respect and equality for all transpeople and our partners! I want to highlight here that leaders are ordinary folks with the courage and energy to do the job! We want more leaders at FTMI, so get involved as there are

more and more openings and opportunities for everyone. So, with that I'll close by saying that anyone can contribute by giving their time, talent or money! I encourage you to get involved whichever way suits you best. You get way more than you give!

SANDRA L. SAMONS, ACSW, CAC HOMESTEAD COUNSELING CENTER

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FORWARD MOTION

AN ORGANIZER'S VIEW

By Jeff Shevlowitz

It is often said that brilliant ideas do not occur in isolation, but that several people tend to arrive at the same conclusions at the same time in different places. So began what was to be known as FTMCLA, the organization which held the October 1999 FTM Conference, Forward Motion.

In 1997 and early 1998, several FTM-identified individuals in the Southern California area had been independently discussing, with small groups of friends, a general sense of disappointment in the fact that there would be no major FTM conference in 1998. One day, many of these individuals happened to be in the same place at the same time, all sharing the same sense of disappointment. When the question of "Could we do it here?" was broached, a moment of shared, communal insanity sparked an enthusiastic "YES! WE CAN!" Thus, the stage had been set.

The first meeting in mid-1998 was to talk, sanely, about the possibility of hosting a conference and what would be entailed in doing so. After seriously considering what we might be getting ourselves into, we still thought we could do it. We did our homework by asking for any records available from the San Francisco, Seattle and Boston groups which had previously hosted Conferences in those cities. We wanted specifically to see evaluations, what the attendees thought had gone well, and what had not been up to expectations. Our agenda was simple...provide at least something to speak to every aspect of the FTM experience, whether that experience be gay, bi, het, from a lesbian beginning or not, including how we expressed ourselves sexually, spiritually, interpersonally, how we saw ourselves in society, how we viewed ourselves internally, our SO's, supporters, as well as a variety of other topics and ideas. We reached out to as many people as we could to get ideas, feedback and program support. An absolutely Herculean task, it was all coordinated by Jake, the head of the Program Committee. In order to incorporate it all, we decided to have three full days of programming, essentially doubling the number of programs from any previous Conference.

Early on, we realized two things: One was a fundamental fact of Southern California geography which could not be ignored: great distance between any two points on a map. We literally could not find a meeting hall in, say, Pasadena, and another space in Hollywood, another in Glendale and then expect people to navigate it all. They would still have to find a place to stay, and then they would require the rental of cars, detailed maps and hopes that traffic would not be horrible. All in all, an expensive, time consuming, anxiety-producing exercise for anyone hoping to attend.

Logistics forced us to find a single location for everything. The hotel search began. Even a year and a half prior to our hoped-for



A PARTICIPANT'S VIEW

By T. Aaron Hans

Forward Motion was a great conference, showing our struggles, growth, and commitment to each other. I was fortunate to both speak and participate during the conference, providing the opportunity to experience Forward Motion through two different lenses: facilitator and participant. Having attended numerous conferences, including the first FTMI Conference, and two True Spirit Conferences, this was one of the best community-based conferences that I have attended.

This conference was diverse in its programming, from issues of HIV, to families, to sex, to leather, to youth, to dialogues between the FTM and MTF communities. Issues addressed included: How do we work within the LGBT communities/coalitions? and What issues do FTM communities face? This conference generated many new conversations concerning how we work with each other, questioning whether we are really a community, dealing with issues of race, and addressing how to make both our organizations and conferences accessible. The dialogues here were both deep and light, and many new friends were found, while old friendships continued.

For the first time I was able to see deep conversations on race and class beginning to happen at

the national level. Despite this progress, it was interesting to note that there were still issues that prove that education on issues of race and class privilege must continue in our community. Fortunately this conference was priced reasonably; unfortunately the hotel was really expensive. Many individuals would not have attended had the organizing committee not provided an opportunity for scholarships. While this helped, the local community was distant and inaccessible for many lower-income participants without cars, especially in regards to food. In planning, we must be cognizant of and consider all of the issues in order to make our conferences accessible to all members of the FTM community.

A round of applause should be given to the organizers of this conference. They responded to and provided an excellent team of ASL (American Sign Language) interpreters. Even with the issues of race and class that occurred, they created an excellent conference which was well designed and allowed conversations challenging how we organize to happen.

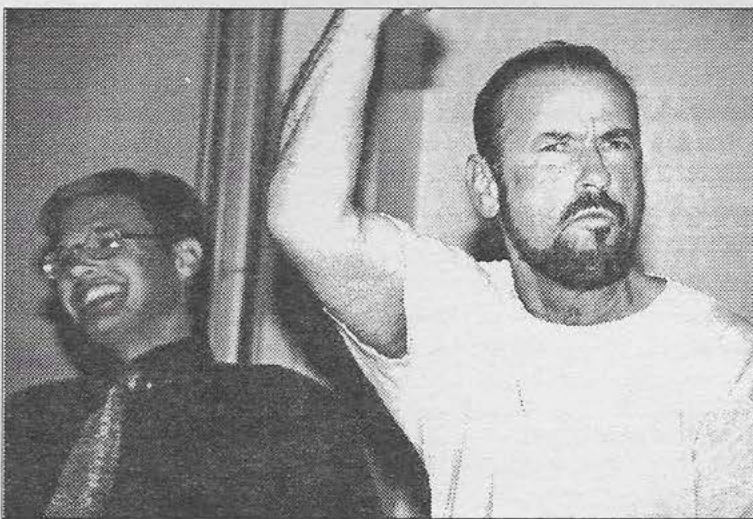


photo by James loewen

James Green hams it up during The Dating Game, as Dean Brame (left), a fellow contestant, watches on.

Mary V. Cochran, Ph.D.
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20 Years Helping the Trans Community

FTMs Shine on LA Trannyday

By Connor McCann

Trans Unity 2000 of Los Angeles brought together approximately 200 trans people and our significant others, families, friends, and allies to get to know one another and to learn about the vastness of the trans community.

The day's events included an FTM panel where general information about our lives was discussed to help bring us out from behind the shadow of MTFs within our larger community, a health care access and advocacy panel that helped its participants to understand and become empowered about our rights and responsibilities as trans people regarding our health care. Socializing, dancing, live tranny-band concert by Ocean of You, several different games, and many booths with everything from jewelry to foster parenting information rounded out the day.

The highlight of the 6-hour event was the awards ceremony. It was truly great to see meaningful awards given out by the trans community to the trans community. Those honored were: Woman of the Year, Kellii Trombacco; Man of the Year, C. Jacob Hale (odd how someone who transitioned from girl to girlfriend could get a Man of the year award....); The Trail Blazer Award, Shirley Bushnell, this award in honor of Shirley's groundbreaking work will from now on be given out in her name;

Trans-Unity Award, Los Angeles County Transgender Task Force, accepted by co-chairs Masen Davis and Kellii Trombacco; Trans-Unity Award, Forward Motion Conference Organizing Committee, accepted by Nick Adams, Masen Davis, Max Fuhrmann, Daniel Gould, Jacob Hale, Michael Hernandez, Patric Magee, Jeff Shevlowitz, and Justin Tanis.

Emilia Lombardi did a very nice job in presenting these awards to our peers. Thanks to Emilia, and congratulations to the winners: Keep up the great work!

Trans-Unity 2000 was a glorious event. Thanks and appreciation goes out to those who organized and those who attended. A special thanks to the sponsors, the Gay & Lesbian Center, The Community Prevention Council, the Unique Women's Coalition, the Alcoholism Center for Women, Asian-Pacific AIDS Intervention Team, Minority AIDS Project, Bienestar, Van Ness Recovery House, and Planet Out.

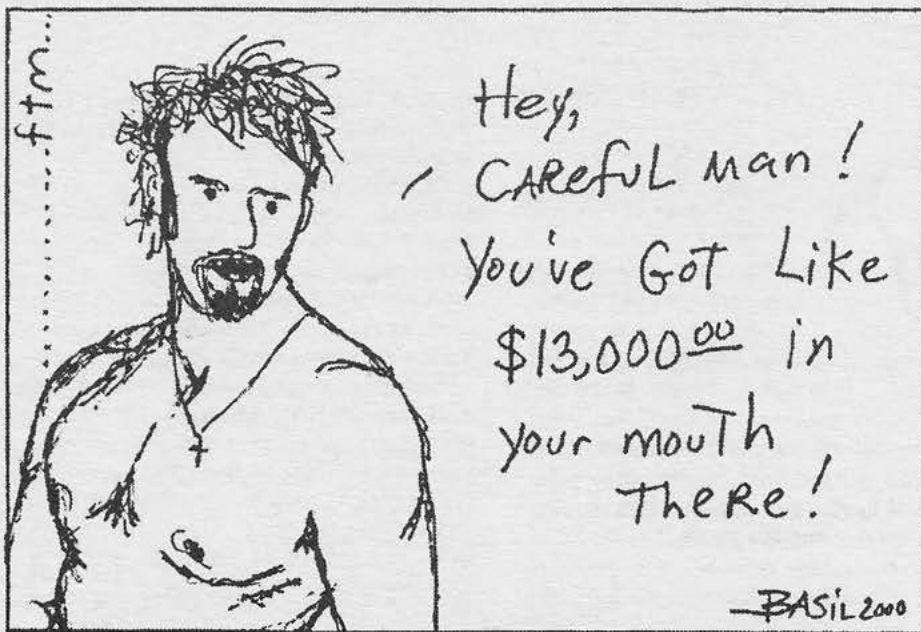
I hope that other cities and groups can follow in the steps of this event to help educate and involve trans people and the general public about trans identities and community.

Congratulations to the honorees, especially the Forward Motion Conference Organizing Committee; thank you very much for all your hard work and dedication to hold such an amazing event!

NGLTF AND NCLR RELEASE TRANS RESOURCE

The Policy Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) on June 19th released the nation's first comprehensive organizing manual designed to educate policymakers about transgender issues and to provide model strategies for activists seeking an end to discrimination against transgendered people.

The publication, *Transgender Equality: A Handbook for Activists and Policymakers*, reviews some 25 years of transgender advocacy and was co-authored by national leaders in transgender activism: City University of New York Associate Professor Paisley Currah and NCLR Senior Staff Attorney Shannon Minter, with an introduction by Jamison Green, past president of FTM International and current board chair of Gender Education and Advocacy, Inc. "Transgender Equality is a powerful educational tool that marks a turning point for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender movement," said NGLTF Executive Director Elizabeth Toledo. "This book works toward breaking down the barriers that have divided our movement for decades. It empowers all of us – not only transgendered people, but also gay, lesbian, and bisexual people and allies – to advocate effectively for inclusive equality in our communities and workplaces." Through 27 personal stories and case studies, *Transgender Equality* defines and describes transgender terms and issues; discusses the ways sexual orientation and gender identity overlap and differ; examines the role of gender variance in homophobia and anti-gay violence; provides information on efforts to achieve basic legal protections for transgendered people; and suggests strategies for advancing inclusive anti-discrimination, safe schools, and hate-crimes legislation. Perhaps the most significant contribution of the book is its demonstration of how the fear that including transgendered people "will kill the bill" is almost always exaggerated and based far more on unfounded speculation than on a realistic assessment of what is possible. In fact, laws that include "gender identity" have begun to blossom nationwide: from 4 cities with laws that cover transgendered people in 1990 to 4 states, 3 counties, and at least 20 additional cities in 2000. Additionally courts have seen a new wave of civil rights litigation brought forward by transgender plaintiffs. By March 2000, 3.8 percent of Americans lived in jurisdictions with laws that address gender variant people, the report finds. Despite such dramatic advances, however, transgendered activists often find themselves struggling for a voice in the fight for equality. "Policy and legislative issues affecting



True Spirit Conference 2000

"CREATING A VISION FOR THE NEXT CENTURY"

By Garuth Eliot Chalfont

First published in the BALTIMORE ALTERNATIVE, March 2000

"When I grew tits and started to bleed I was mortified," said Shawn. A roomful of men nodded in agreement. One was fighting back tears. In the room next door a man told the group he's in a "strange in-between space," a space in which he is solidifying his own identity. "But I didn't realize it would make such a big deal to other people," he added. Jake was leaning against the wall, his arms folded across his chest, "You walk down the street and they're gonna peg you as one or the other, and if they can't then you're screwed. It's hard to tear down the binary."

If there ever was a place to explore one's gender it was the Fourth Annual True Spirit Conference held in Alexandria, VA from February 18-20. This year's program, entitled "Creating a Vision for the Next Century," was "explicitly designed

Many persons sought a 'language' for themselves within the complexity of gender. As some wrestled to fit in, others were climbing out. "If you have feet in two worlds, the dividing line can separate you completely"

to welcome, embrace, support, speak to and hear from people with an extremely wide range of (gender) identities." It was sponsored by the American Boyz, an organization providing information and support to "gender variant guys of any orientation" who were born female and their significant others, friends families, and allies (SOFFAS).

Eight keynote speakers displayed diverse experiences. African-American attorney and educator Kylar W. Broadus shared his unique perspectives as an FTM from a rural Midwestern community. A keynote address by Loree Cook-Daniels further set the tone by saying, "every single one of us - no matter how much privilege and ease it looks like we live with - would not be in this room if we had not walked difficult, dangerous paths to get here."

Almost 450 participants beat a path to the numerous workshops and speeches. The session entitled "Butch to FTM Chat: LIVE" gave voice

to the struggle between the lesbian and FTM (Female to Male) communities. "I try real hard to be a straight guy who has a dyke past," said Drey, who at 26 is undergoing gender reassignment. "I want TS men to be more visible," he asserted. "I was a butch dyke for years, and with a feminist background it's hard to swallow that I have male privilege," says Jay Pryor, who moved to the DC area from Kansas (and did a breathtaking rendition of the Wizard of Oz on Saturday night). "It sickens me but at the same time I'm more myself now than I've ever been."

Relationship was the focus of 15 different workshops including "Family Relationships: Coming Out and Coping," "I Wasn't Queer Then - FTMs and SOs with Heterosexual Pasts," "Mr. Mom and other Trans/parents,"

and "Transitioning Within a Long-term Relationship." Valerie Coppock and Alexander Leffers, a deaf couple, have been partners for 4 years. They met in 1986 as sorority sisters. Now that Alex has self-identified as a "straight man," Valerie swallows her pride, "because I'm lesbian-identified, and Alex had come out as a transgendered man and then as a transman at last year's conference. And I'm OK with that. That's sort of a blurry boundary sometimes. But recently Alex said 'I'm a straight man,' and I said 'no, you don't go there because I was married in a former straight relationship.'"

When asked what the conference meant to him, Alex responded, "Last year I came to explore me, to figure out what I wanted to do as far as transitioning, whether I wanted to fully go through it. I've always wanted surgery but I didn't know if I wanted to do the hormones, name change, and living full-time. But coming to this conference was like...like coming home, meeting other guys, seeing how they've gone through what I'm going through and realizing that it's OK."

A lot of couples don't make it through this stage. Often when a



RELATED NEWS

GLAAD attacked for participation in TSC

Americans for Truth is using True Spirit Conference as a means to smear GLAAD in the context of GLAAD's work to keep the Dr. Laura show off the air. Below is their press release of June 1, 2000.

Americans for Truth Exposes GLAAD Anti-Dr. Laura Group (that) Took Part in Transgender Conference, Featured Workshops on Sadism, Breast Removal for Girls.

WASHINGTON, D.C. Americans for Truth President Peter LaBarbera denounced the gay activist group GLAAD which accuses talk show host Dr. Laura Schlessinger of endangering children for participating in a radical Female-to-Male Transgender conference that gave lessons on sadistic sex and promoted breast removal surgery for girls wanting to become boyz.

Cathy Renna, spokesman for GLAAD which is leading the homosexual activist campaign against Schlessinger led two media-oriented workshops at the True Spirit 2000 Conference held in Alexandria, Virginia February 18-20. Renna manned an information booth for GLAAD at the event. Another pro-homosexual advocacy group, PFLAG (Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays), also had an information table at the conference.

GLAAD, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, and other homosexual groups have blasted Dr. Laura for calling homosexual behavior deviant and destructive. GLAAD compares Christian pro-family groups to Nazi-like extremists and racists who are far from the mainstream.

GLAAD publicized the True Spirit Conference, which included two sessions on Chest Surgery for FTMs (female to males) and a pornographic workshop entitled "[C-k] Talk: Discussion about Sex and the Erotic for FTMs [Females-to-Males], Transmen, and Butches. There were three panels for youth, according to a conference program, which described the workshop SM201: Advanced Training as discussing: singletail whipping, sensory deprivation, immobilizing bondage, edge play, piercing, cutting [of human flesh, a sadistic practice], branding [human beings, like cattle], blood-sports [bloody SM acts], consensual-non-consensuality, and much more.

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NGLTF Says "Politics A Many Gendered Thing"

By Dion H. Manly

Oakland, CA was the proud home for the 12th annual Creating Change Conference—the National Conference for the GLBT Movement Nov. 10-14, 1999. With over 800 volunteers among 2,500 in attendance, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force says it was the best CC conference ever! Truth spoken, long after the conference ended, its effect has not. A wonderful spread of booths, workshops, all day training sessions, plenaries and a variety of caucuses/networking and special sessions not to be missed over the five days!

One highlight was the opening night panel called "Gender is a Many Splendored Thing," introduced and moderated by Kerry Lobel (outgoing NGLTF Executive Director), who challenged and invited the crowd to open and embrace the speakers and their messages. Starting off as the first speaker was FTMI board member Stephan Thorne. Carmen Vazques from LG Community Center followed, then Riki Anne Wilchins from GenderPac, and finally Carol Queen, author and sex educator. Each speech built on the other(s), and alongside this opening theme focusing on gender set a tone of inclusion for the whole conference! At the second plenary session titled "An Accessible Movement," Drago Renteria from the Queer Deaf Resource Center spoke on lack of ASL interpreting, and lack of support and access as it affected his transition. One key point he emphasized was that many organizations say they can't afford to be accessible, that hiring interpreters is "too expensive"...the message these people send is that *he's* too expensive to be included. But no individual can be seen as too expensive, since people are priceless!



Dion Manly, President of FTMI, and Carrie Davis, Counselor at the Gender Identity Project, break for a photo at Creating Change.

Janet Weinberg from NY LGCS Center also spoke, as did Gene Chelberh from University of Minnesota Disability Services, on a panel moderated by NGLTF's Chai Feldblum. The next days' plenary concerned the religious allies contributions to the GLBT movement, and addressed our challenges regarding law and public policy. > 18

FEMALE-TO-MALE GENITAL RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY FACTORS WHICH INFLUENCE CONSUMER DECISION-MAKING

By Katherine Rachlin, Ph.D.

Katherine Rachlin, Ph.D. writes:

Thank you to everyone who participated in this research. Here is an abstract of the results. I will let you know when the entire piece is published. This was presented not only at the Harry Benjamin Association meeting in Vancouver 1997 but also at the Third International Congress on Sex and Gender in Oxford England 1998. Results are also quoted in a new book by someone who is FTM which should be coming out this year (I can't yet give details on that). It is important that the research from the community is heard.

— Kit

Abstract This research attempted to explore the factors which influence the decisions of people who had considered female-to-male genital reconstructive surgery (GRS). It was hypothesized that in adults the attitudes and decisions concerning altering sex characteristics were multi-determined and that such wishes and actions had to do not only with

gender identity but with available resources, technology and individual life circumstances.

Subjects were 27 people between the ages of 21 and 65 who had been born and/or socialized as female and had considered having GRS to make their genitals appear masculine and more congruent with some aspect of their gender identity.

Subjects were recruited from people who had attended a support group for female-to-male (FTM) transsexuals in New York City and also from participants in a FTM Conference in San Francisco.

Measures A questionnaire was designed to explore subject demographics, what surgery subjects had or were considering, which options they had rejected and what the major factors in their decision had been.

Some Preliminary Results People rated contact with other FTM's and information from within the FTM community as the most important factors influencing their surgical decisions. This was true regardless of age, sexual orientation, or relationship with a partner.

Medical and mental health professionals were rated as less influential than peers.

The majority of respondents had rejected phalloplasty in favor of genitoplasty as an acceptable surgical option. Most reported that they did so because the present technology was in some way inadequate or because of cost.

Though all twenty seven subjects had considered FTM GRS, at the time of the survey 25.9% (n= 7) did not experience themselves as stably monogendered.

63% (n=17) reported being in a romantic relationship: of those, 71% (n=12) were with female partners and 29% (n=5) were with partners who identified as male (n=4) or bigendered (n=1).

Sexual preference was well distributed: 59.3%(n=16) preferred women as sexual partners, 48% (n=13) preferred both men and women as partners and 15% (n=4) preferred men.

Discussion Participants varied in age, length of time in relationships and surgical decisions. They all had in common some degree of GID and contact with the FTM community. Data confirmed > 12

Dr. Menard - Friend or Foe?

By Dale Altrows

For those who have not heard of Dr. Yvon Menard, he is a world-known plastic surgeon from Montreal, in Canada, who performs various plastic and reconstructive surgeries amongst which are surgeries for male-to-female and female-to-male transsexuals. These surgeries range from rhinoplasty (reshaping of the nose) to vaginoplasty for MTFs and from chest reconstruction to phalloplasty for FTMs. His very competitive prices as well as his facilities (a residence whereupon most pre-operative and post-operative needs of his patients can be met) make Dr. Menard the surgeon of choice for many.

The purpose of this article is not to discredit or criticize the quality of Menard's work, which itself comes with very mixed reviews, and would require its own article. It is to inform fellow transsexuals of decisions that Dr. Menard has made that call his ethics and attitudes regarding us into question.

In 1997, my two-year battle with the Quebec government began (see #s 41 and 45 of the FTM Newsletter). The Director of Civil Status (the government body responsible for enforcing various civil laws, such as those involving marriage, adoption, etc.) had refused to change the legal status on my documents from female to male on the grounds that I had not undergone a phalloplasty. This requirement was unprecedented and unsubstantiated. The ensuing struggle has been the most difficult part of being transsexual that I have had to endure thus far. The costs of these two years - the emotional and subsequent physical stress that I have undergone - were immeasurable.

Dr. Menard had a big role in this case. Because of his reputation as being the only physician performing transsexual surgery in Canada, and because of his proximity, he was the first person the government chose to consult for information regarding surgical requirements for transsexuals.

Louise Mercier, a bureaucrat at the Name Change Bureau (the government department that deals with name/sex status changes, whose decisions must be approved by the Director of Civil Status) had originally asked that I undergo a phalloplasty. Her rationale was based on ignorance and transphobia, made evident by remarks that she made (which again, would require an article unto itself.) When I informed Ms. Mercier that phalloplasty had never previously been a criterion, I was told that Dr. Menard was in agreement with her.

I immediately telephoned Dr. Menard. His receptionist admitted that she may have indeed



made a mistake by telling Louise Mercier that phalloplasty had been a requirement and that neither she nor Dr. Menard were actually aware of which surgeries were required for a legal change of sex status. She agreed to clarify the matter with the Name Change Bureau if my own information in this regard proved correct. The Gender Clinic of the Montreal General Hospital was contacted, my information was confirmed, and the error was corrected.

Nevertheless, weeks went by and I still had not received my sex change certificate. After much bureaucratic wrangling between Dr. Menard's office, the Name Change Bureau, and myself, I was contacted by Louise Mercier, who informed me that I had not yet received my documents because a vaginectomy (removal and closure of the vagina) was required. Once again, I was told that Dr. Menard had been involved in this decision. She claimed that he was part of a team of doctors who had helped to have vaginectomy added to the list of required surgeries.

I realized that this battle had only just begun and that I had better prepare myself for the fight of my life. Because there is no "transsexual community" in Montreal and transsexuality is so marginalized, to find a lawyer who would not shy away at my request for help was next to impossible. The person would have to be committed, but would inevitably have no experience with such issues. The entire burden of research, finding witnesses, obtaining support, etc. lay upon my shoulders. I will always be immeasurably grateful to all those who helped.

I proceeded to contact several people within the field of transsexuality (gender clinics, activists, therapists, etc.) who backed me up and were prepared to involve themselves. Before embarking on my research, I once again contacted Dr. Menard's office, asking for a straightforward answer as to whether he was indeed an accomplice of the Name Change Bureau. His receptionist, who had been very understanding throughout all of this, could not get him to return my phone calls.

It was only after I had asked her to tell him that I had discussed his involvement in the matter with certain of his colleagues in the field - colleagues with whom he was scheduled to attend a conference the very next day - that Dr. Menard chose to immediately return my call. He denied any involvement in the adoption of the Name Change Bureau's position. I asked that he write a letter stating his opinion on enforcing vaginectomy as a prerequisite to change of legal sex status. I then offered to clear up matters with his colleagues. He was very swift in writing a letter and very adamant in wanting to involve himself in my struggle.

In a letter intended for court dated November 3, 1997, Dr. Menard wrote, "Considering that the phalloplasty is an intervention that remains experimental, I feel that the vaginoplasty [sic] should be excluded at this point as a criterion for change of status...and in certain cases we need a part of the vagina to construct the urethra." ¹

These statements would have helped somewhat in my particular situation. On another level, however, the contents of his letter were quite damaging, as when he suggested that, "However, if one day, phalloplasty becomes an operation that is recognized world-wide, financially accessible, we can then change the law to include vaginectomy as a criterion for changing one's official identity." ²

Meanwhile, more wrangling ensued. Louise Mercier received quite a bit of flack, which might have been the reason she eventually stopped talking about a vaginectomy requirement. But this does not mean that she had given up trying to arbitrarily impose surgeries. Determining which ones to insist upon was becoming a veritable circus. She now announced to me that a "mini-penis" (metidioplasty) was required and once again she implicated Dr. Menard. Menard admitted to me having discussed metidioplasty with her as a possible surgery for female-to-males, but denied saying that it should be made a legal requirement. He did, however, tell me that they had negotiated requiring a partial vaginectomy, since not all the vaginal tissue is needed for an eventual phalloplasty. When I stated my objections, he strongly disagreed, for reasons made apparent in quotes of his I have cited. Despite this clash of opinions, his view that phalloplasty is still in the "experimental" stage and should therefore not be enforced was undoubtedly helpful to us.

Who could possibly expect what would come next? It was bad enough having to fight with the Director of Civil Status, but once I brought up the Quebec and

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Conference date, many hotels were already booked, or too expensive, or not particularly accessible. Nick, head of the Site Committee had his work cut out for him.

The second realization was that it was difficult to find a date which 1) did not conflict with any other Conference or gathering which might be of interest to FTMs, their supporters and/or allies; 2) Took place at a time which did not conflict with any major holiday season; 3) Was itself slightly off-season to allow for a (hopefully) lower airfare for those choosing to attend from out of the area. It proved to be impossible to find a date that fit these criteria. We finally settled on the date that fit best under the circumstances, and we still found that we conflicted with "Living in Leather." We made the decision that of the potential conflicts we found, this one might prove to have the least amount of impact on those interested in attending our Conference. For all of those who found themselves having to choose between these two events, I hereby apologize on behalf of the COC.

At first, we were not even certain there would be enough interest to warrant putting on the Conference. We had to allow ourselves an out. We had until April 30th to cancel the hotel reservation without loss of our deposit, so we put out early-bird registration fees, hoping to generate early interest, tacked a deadline of 4/15 on it and waited to see what happened. When the response we received gave us the confidence to continue, we began to really worry. Now, we had to actually put on this Conference, delivering on the hopes and promises we made to ourselves and others. Every person who registered, and there were almost four hundred of you, received a prompt confirmation from COC member Jeff, Registration Chair, who felt it important to write a personal note to each person.

We happened to be extremely fortunate that Michael, one of the Committee members was an attorney, which saved us a great deal of money, heartache and hassle. We made a written agreement amongst ourselves that all decisions would be by majority vote. Have your say, and if things don't go your way, well that was a possibility when you signed the agreement. At some point or other, each person on the Committee had an idea or concept voted down, but the larger goal, putting on a Conference, remained. As individuals, we kept an eye on the larger goal, not on a specific item voted in or out. All of this was helped by Max, a COC member whose guidance allowed us all to focus on the ultimate goal and not become bogged down in meaningless minutiae.

Further, having everyone in a single location imbued the Conference with a completely different dynamic than the previous Conferences held in '95, '96, or '97. Attendees at those Conferences had to find a hotel, hopefully near where the meetings would held. They then found a way to get to where the meetings were held, then had to find places (away from the meeting sites) to forage for vittles, return to the meeting site, then go back to wherever they were staying and repeat the process the next day. If you met someone you wanted to talk with, invariably you were staying about two miles to the east of the Conference site while your friend was staying three miles to the northwest. It was inconvenient, at best, to foster contact and community given those restrictions. By default rather than design, Forward Motion was different. With hotel rooms a short elevator ride and a few steps from any given session, people had the opportunity to talk, get to know each other, and maintain that contact throughout the weekend. A genuine sense of community and connection could be formed and maintained, fostered and nourished. Daniel, the COC member who served as Volunteer Coordinator, had people throughout the Conference volunteering to help in one way or another. This made his job easier because he could get things done, and also more complex because he wanted to make certain that his volunteers did not miss anything at the Conference that they wanted to see so his scheduling required a great deal of time and effort on his part.

Throughout the Conference, the one complaint we heard was that there was TOO MUCH to see and do. Since a common criticism of prior Conferences was that there was not enough, that some topic or other was not addressed or programmed for, we felt the need to err on the side of excess. Early on, we felt the critique of 'too much' was something we could not only live with, but harbored a certain (perhaps seemingly perverse) pride in.

After the Conference, we found ourselves finally able to take stock of what we did. One of the first things we had hoped to do was to double the seed money for the next Conference, wherever that may be. At the time we requested the seed money from FTMI, \$1500 was available. We happily found that we had met our goal. The next Conference will have \$3000 in seed money available to them. We had hoped to make the Conference accessible to those who might find the costs prohibitive. COC member Masen worked long and hard as the Fundraising Committee Chair, his work paying off through the influx of donations directly attributable to his efforts.

Through the generosity of those registrants who helped with a donation of money over and above their own fees, NO ONE was turned away for lack of funds. Many who could not afford the full registration fee paid whatever they could, our only question being "How much can you afford?" and we accepted whatever they said as their registration fee in full. We were able to spend over \$2000 to help those in financial need to pay for travel, ground transportation from LAX, and hotel. Early registrants received free Conference t-shirts. We found we had overestimated the cost of the t-shirts and offered a \$5 rebate to all those who had pre-purchased one when they registered. Those t-shirts were a direct result of the efforts put out by Justin, another COC member who was doing so many things to guide and coordinate the Conference that the t-shirts became merely another small detail for him.

FTMCLA, the group which brought you FORWARD MOTION: Celebrating Cultures, Advocacy and FTM Lives wants to thank all of those who helped bring our insane vision to sane reality. Without you, we could not have pulled it off. We also want to thank all of those who made the journey to Burbank, California for three unseasonably warm days in October 1999 to attend our Conference. Without you, all the work would have been for nothing!

Seattle to Host Next FTMI Conference

Aidan Key of Seattle writes that they have a good start on their organizing committee and have some good people and energy tossed into the ring already. This group is committed to hosting an FTM conference there in Seattle. They plan to hold fundraisers and send out grant proposals to add to the seed money from FTM International.

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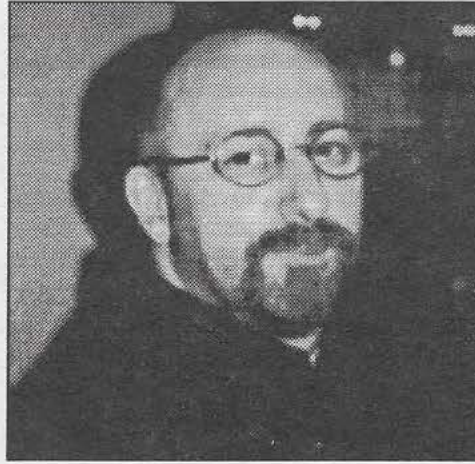
TRUE SPIRIT 2000 from page 8

person transitions the relationship dissolves as a result. Valerie continued, "I knew that Alex had always been butch. But when we got together, we fell in love with each other. And from Day One a lot of how Alex was thinking, acting, and behaving toward me in the relationship, as well as in the bedroom, was very masculine. I just said 'you act very much like a guy and maybe you're transgendered.' Alex just picked up on his own after that."

Alex spoke up, "You got me thinking, well, maybe I can't hide this anymore."

The True Spirit Conference attracted many persons under the age of 30. A 25-year-old African American in self-described "hip-hop attire" spoke softly from under the brim of a baseball cap. "The reason why I'm here is that I'm interested in making my body more masculine so I can feel comfortable in it....comfortable with my masculinity and still comfortable with being a female." Stacy Ferebee's story was not unique. She said, "I'm not really into being curvy. I'm into being muscular and having a deeper voice. It's about finding ways to live my life as a butch." When asked how she identified, Stacy replied, "As a woman to a certain extent because that's how I was socialized, but I don't really feel a kinship to the word. I feel a kinship with 'female' because it's my body. When you say 'woman' to me I just think you're talking about my body. You're not talking about me. You're not talking about how I think, how I live, and how I dress. I'm in a world where the language is so limited that I don't fit. I'm just trying to create a language for myself."

Many persons sought a 'language' for themselves within the complexity of gender. As some wrestled to fit in, others were climbing out. "If you



Stephen Whittle gave a keynote speech on FTMs and feminism.

have feet in two worlds, the dividing line can separate you completely," said Alanna. As a lesbian born of a Jamaican mother and a Jewish father, living in South Carolina, she often finds herself between worlds. She adds that, "in bed it's fine (to have dividing lines)....because role playing is so much fun. That's what makes this conference so amazing. For a while I didn't give power to people who transitioned, and that's not fair. I would hear people say 'by transitioning you're denouncing your female body,' but that's not the case!"

But for some it actually is. Up until sixteen Ben, who was born female, was "cross-dressing as a guy a lot of the time. In high school I talked about having an 'addadictome' but had no idea whether it existed. At sixteen I decided, you're not a guy, get over it, grow up!" Ben and Murray met at a

party almost 20 years ago. "I think Murray recognized that I was masculine-identified," said Ben. Murray smiled at his partner and said, "It was one of those love at first sight things. I was in the middle of coming out as a gay man. The last thing I was looking for was to get married, let alone to a woman. We went out 3 times and then decided to get married."

"Seven years ago I was doing AIDS work," Ben continued. "In a grieving workshop I touched on the regret that I would live the rest of my life in a female body." The Ben got in touch with his anger by reading a disparaging article on Brandon Teena that said 'she' was confused about 'her' sexuality. "They were referring to him as 'she,'" said Ben. "I thought....no, he's quite clear about his sexuality. You guys are the ones who aren't."

Ben and Murray chose not to be photographed. The needs of married and/or straight FTMs who are not able to come out as transsexual for personal or professional reasons are largely unmet. Their daily vulnerability is compounded by a growing public prejudice toward living in a closet of any kind.

Historically, this conference has provided safe space in which to address a plethora of social ills such as poverty, legal and medical discrimination, and racism. Workshops included "People of Color Caucus," "Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence," "Working to Eradicate Racial Privilege," and "How to Survive Poverty." The session entitled "Not Like Me - Sexworkers and Street Kids in the Transgender Community" graphically detailed the intersection of gender and homelessness in providing for one's basic needs. ➤ 18

GENITAL RECONSTRUCTION from page 9

that contact with peers, in person or through writing, influenced their opinions and decisions regarding surgery. The impact of professional service providers may have figured small in this sample because of the access to other resources. Results illustrate that it may be important for professionals to work cooperatively with community and peer support services. Results also challenge the expectation that FTM's will request

GRS (phalloplasty in particular) and identify some of the numerous reasons why trans-men may not undergo GRS. The incidence of FTM's who elect other options over phalloplasty, and the needs of "Non-op" or "non-phallic" men have diagnostic, medical, legal, and socio-political implications. Additional analysis of results, limitations of this sample and recommendations for future research are also discussed.

TRANS RESOURCE FOR POLICYMAKERS from page 7

gender variant people are too often ignored," said NCLR Executive Director Kate Kendell. "NCLR is committed to ending the isolation of the transgendered community, and this publication represents a major bridge between the lesbian and feminist communities and the transgendered political movement." In the book, authors Minter and Currah point out that between 1996 and 1999, 31 jurisdictions passed laws prohibiting employment discrimination on

the basis of sexual orientation, but that only six of those laws included provisions for transgendered people. Transgender Equality provides examples of successful legal language, offers talking points to assist efforts to educate both the public and policymakers about issues important to the transgender community, and discusses strategies to achieve transgender equality in workplaces and educational institutions. In 1997, NGLTF became the first nation-

al gay and lesbian organization to amend its mission statement to include bisexual and transgendered people. One year later it became the first national GLBT organization to bring a transgendered person onto its board of directors. The handbook is available free of charge from NGLTF online in the Library + Publications section at <http://www.nglftf.org> or for \$10 by ordering online or calling (202) 332-6483, ext. 3205.

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Δ BOOKS RECEIVED ...

Reclaiming Genders: Transsexual Grammars at the Fin de Siecle. Kate More and Stephen Whittle, editors. Cassell 2000.

A collection of writings by Trans-Academics: theory and activism at the end of the century. Contributors include: Stephen Whittle, Jason Cromwell, Susan Stryker, Jay Prosser, James Green, Kate Morew, Roz Kaveney, Markisha Greaney, Henry Rubin, Gordene McKenzie, Diane Morgan.

Male Lust: Pleasure, Power, and Transformation. Kerwin Kay, editor; Jill Nagle and Baruch Gould, associate editors. Haworth Press, Inc., 2000.

Read more about Male Lust in the review in our next issue or at <<http://www.mlust.com/>>.

The Transgender Debate: The Crisis Surrounding Gender Identities. Stephen Whittle, Garnet Publishing Ltd., 2000.

A resource primarily for non-trans people who wish to get a simple grasp on current transgender issues, this is perfect for older high school students and for university undergraduates who need a simple explanation to the background of their project work and for family and friends of trans people who simply want to understand.

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

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRANSEXUAL NEWS TELEGRAPH ANNOUNCES NEW WEBSITE

TNT, "The Magazine of Transgendered Living," is now on line at www.transsexnews.com. Transsexual News Telegraph (TNT) is the magazine for transsexuals who live 24/7 opposite their birth sex full time, all the time (surgeries optional). TNT is also for transgendered people — those whose gender expression falls outside the bipolar gender system; and for our significant others, friends, families and allies.

TNT is about the lived experience of trans men and women. TNT addresses us, and our lives, from our perspective, not the perspective of those who observe us. TNT is not written from the clinical or medical point of view. These are our words — and yours.

TNT's list of writers include Gary Bowen, Jason Cromwell, Dallas Denny, Diane Green, Jacob Hale, Julian Leonard, Nancy Nangeroni, Rachel Pollack, Gwen Smith, Susan Stryker, Max Valerio Wolf, Riki Ann Wilchins, Jessica Xavier and many others.

WILLYBOY

Willyboy, a 'zine dedicated to transsexual/transgender issues, is a forum for creative expression and discussion. Willyboy is always looking for resources (lists of support groups, products that trans folks need, binders, etc.) and will advertise anything Trans for free. You may submit non-fiction, fiction, rants, drawings, comics, poetry, stream-of-consciousness, collage art, satire, or just about anything your heart desires. The format is 8 1/2" x 11" paper folded in half. Submissions should be no longer than 8 pages of that size, but longer pieces will not be rejected. Say what you need to say. If you feel comfortable, send a four or five line bio along with your submission. If you would rather remain completely anonymous, Willyboy will respect that too. Send submissions, inquiries, or subscriptions via e-mail to Willyzine@aol.com or snail mail to Jayson Barsic, PO Box 46902, Seattle, WA 98146-6902 USA.

YOUR SOFFA VOICE

Your SOFFA VOICE is a national bi-monthly support newsletter for SOFFAs (Significant Others, Friends, Family and Allies) of people who were born female but are transgendered on the masculine end of the gender spectrum. Included in the latest issue are a new column for gay and bi SOs by Arthur Freeheart, media reviews, an article about marriage by Shannon Minter, and featured articles by SOs. These articles are directly from the readers and provide interesting perspectives about many issues that SOFFAs encounter in all facets of their lives.

Also present in every issue are announcements, SOFFA contacts, and items of interest from the Web.

Writers are needed! Submissions of under 500 words from either SOFFAs or transmen are welcome, and they would especially like to get stories from bio-male partners, SOs who are FTM too, MTF SOs, and straight-identified partners. Send amateur personal stories, essays, articles, reflections, poetry, etc. All contributors will receive a copy of the newsletter.

For a free sample copy, email SOFFAUSA@yahoo.com or write to Jodi Burchell, PO Box 1916, Smyrna, TN 37167. Remember to provide your mailing address. Your copy will be mailed in a plain envelope for privacy. Subscriptions are \$10.00 for students/disabled; \$15 for a regular subscription; \$25 for institutions/universities. Send a check or money order made payable to: American Boyz, 212A South Bridge Street, Suite 131, Elkton, Maryland, 21921.

AMERICAN BOYZ ANNOUNCES NEW, UPDATED SOFFA RESOURCES

The American Boyz, an international, grassroots FTM (female-to-male) and SOFFA (significant others, friends, family and allies) organization, has made several additions, changes, and updates to the services it offers SOFFAs.

The National SOFFA Resource List has been updated and is now available at <http://members.xoom.com/ftmsfaq/soffaresource.html> and through a link on the central American Boyz website at www.amboyz.org.

All other AmBoyz services - including the annual True Spirit Conference, ElderTG (for transgendered and intersexed persons 50+), and the AmBoyz e-mail support lists - are also open to SOFFAs of FTMs. For more information on the AmBoyz organization and services, please see their Web site at www.amboyz.org.

NEW LEADER AT T.O.P.S.

Transgendered Officers Protect & Serve is the nation's largest fraternal and benevolent organization for transgender, intersex or gender variant uniformed or otherwise public service personnel. They offer an attractive photo ID card to carry as well as an informative news e-zine to members. A new web site is currently under construction.

Ms. Faithe Lee, who has served as General Members Director, will be succeeding Mr. Tony Barreto-Neto as Executive Director. Tony Barreto-Neto, who founded T.O.P.S. in 1995, will continue on as Consultant & Director Emeritus.

Ms. Lee has served as General Members Director for 2 years. It is her vision to bring

T.O.P.S. to a respect & awareness level enjoyed by organizations such as the P.B.A. or F.O.P. To this end Faithe is extending membership to 1) all members of Law Enforcement, Fire, Military, Security, and Medical branches; and 2) all trans people of any occupation as well as supportive people sympathetic to their cause. Please contact Ms. Donna Memmerd at memmer@worldnet.att.net for membership, and for all other inquiries, Ms. Faithe Lee, Executive Director, at topsnow@hotmail.com.

FTM SURVEY

The FTM Survey is intended to collect anonymous responses from any person who identifies as FTM (female-to-male) or any flavor of that leaning (assigned female at birth and no longer completely comfortable with that label) and has done some sort of physical alteration. If I have left anything out please mail me to let me know. More and more of us are making up our own paths, and to do that we need better resources — not just medical ones, which tell us what doctors have been able to discern through limited study, but resources that tell us what other guys went through and how they felt. The results will be immediately posted on this website so please do not identify yourself if you don't want to be 'outed.' Direct questions to tyler.v@usa.net. The survey, the results, and this text are available at <http://qsilver.queensu.ca/~vanvierz/survey/ftm/>.

4TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS POSTPONED

The Fourth International Congress on Crossdressing, Sex & Gender has been postponed till October 5-8, 2000. If you were unable to attend on the original dates in May please consider joining us in Philadelphia, PA, USA in October. The program schedule will be adjusted since some of the presenters will be unable to attend in the fall. Visit their website <http://www.ren.org/4thCongress.html> for updates on the schedule and registration information. In the works also is new registration fee structure that will give greater access to the event for those on fixed or low incomes.

LAVENDER LANGUAGES VIII SEPTEMBER 22-24, 2000

The Eighth Annual Conference on Lavender Languages and Linguistics will be held from September 22-24, 2000 on the American University campus in Washington DC. The conference presentations explore lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer language and linguistics, literature, non-verbal communication, cinema, photography, visual art, etc. Registration is \$10 for employed persons, and \$5 for students, those between jobs, and others with limited income. Contact the program committee for more

ANNOUNCEMENTS

information: Program Committee, Lav Lgs VIII, c/o Department of Anthropology, American University, 4400 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington DC 20016; PH 202.885.1831; FX 202.885.1837; EM <wlm@american.edu>.

QGRAD CONFERENCE TO BE HELD 11/18/2000

The UCLA Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies Program announces the Second Annual QGRAD Conference, a public conference devoted to research and other work in lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender studies, on queer topics, sexuality and gender by graduate students in all fields. This is an opportunity for graduate students to meet and exchange ideas on their research and to discuss possibilities for future collaboration throughout the region. For further information, please contact the LGBTs office at 310.206.0516 or <lgbs@humnet.ucla.edu>.

SOUTHERN COMFORT CONFERENCE 2000

SEPTEMBER 26 - OCTOBER 1

The 10th Anniversary Southern Comfort Conference 2000 will be held at the Sheraton Buckhead Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia. Two transmen, Maxwell Anderson and Loren Piotrowski, are this year's Co-Chairs. Another treat for FTMs this year is the premier of a documentary film by Kate Davis about the final year of the life of

FTM Robert Allan Eads. Conference fees range from \$225 for the full conference to \$50 for one day, with pre-conference rates valid until September 1. Scholarships are available. To contact Southern Comfort Conference: write to P.O. Box 77591, Atlanta, GA 30357-1591; PH 404.633.6470; EM<info@sccatl.org>; or visit the web page at <http://www.sccatl.org>.

TRANSGENDER BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

In the Philadelphia area, a Transgender Business Association has formed to promote transgender interests in the larger business community. Composed primarily of transgendered business people who own and operate small to medium sized companies in the Tri-State area (Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware), the purpose of the association is to provide networking and promotional opportunities within both the transgender community and the business community as a whole.

As Philadelphia accountant Wally Moyer states, "The Transgender Business Association is a grass-roots effort, undertaken by transgendered people for transgendered people, to provide self-support and to promote our talents and abilities in the business community at large." Membership is open to all transgendered and transgender-supportive business people. For more information, call 215-848-7674, or send email to <TGBusAssoc@aol.com>.

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The Uninvited Dilemma A Question of Gender by

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GREEN MARGINALIZED AT MMOW

James Green, former president of FTM International (1991-1999), was recently a speaker at the Millennium March On Washington in DC. He is the first transman selected to speak at such a national event, appearing along with Dana Rivers, an award-winning high school teacher in CA who lost her job when she transitioned from male to female. Green's speech was originally scheduled for 4:18 PM, but according to the GAIN Newlist, things at MMOW got bogged down, and he was finally allowed to make a few remarks at about 6:30. According to GAIN editor Penni Ashe Matz "It seems that all of the marginalized queers were left to the end, without time to make their speech. As Jamison put it in wrapping up his remarks: 'I'm tired of being marginalized.'"

What appears here is an excerpt of what he intended to say:

"The transgender movement is not about perpetuating stereotypes. Transgender opens up the space between the binaries and allows us to see what our ideas about sex and gender really are. The transgender movement calls for respect for all people based on our humanity, independent of gender expression, economic worth, sexual orientation, race, class, age, religion, national origin, or taste in wardrobe. The transgender movement calls for a paradigm shift in the way we perceive the value of human being."

[Note: Full text of Green's speech can be found at: <http://www.ftm-intl.org>]

TG BILLS PASS CA ASSEMBLY

On May 12 the California bill to ban discrimination against the trans community (A.B. 2141) passed the Assembly with 41 yes votes. That was exactly the minimum number of votes needed. Inga Olsen of Assembly Member Keeley's office says she expects the Senate to be easier. However she still asks us to keep a low profile on the bill since it has not yet passed in the Senate. So lets not do a lot of public celebrating just yet.

California now has 2 trans bills that have passed the Assembly. The other one is A.B. 1851, which clarifies the court process for the recognition of sex change. This may well be a year of real progress for the trans community.

GENDER EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY FORMS

Gender Education and Advocacy (GEA) is a new national nonprofit organization focused on the needs, issues and concerns of all gender variant people regardless of their sexual identity. GEA is the successor organization to AEGIS - the American Educational Gender Information Service. It's twin missions spring from its name - education and non-political advocacy, especially in the areas of health and media. While many organizations are now actively engaged in the political struggle to win civil rights for transgendered and gender-different people, there also is a clear need for sustained, comprehensive and deliberate efforts in such areas as the improve-

ment of transgender-related health care, HIV/AIDS education and prevention, health insurance coverage, education and credentialing of health care providers, and monitoring and responding to defamatory stories in the media. Two examples of existing GEA nonpolitical advocacy initiatives are the Gender Advocacy

Internet News (GAIN) service (a joint venture with It's Time, America!) and the Washington Transgender Needs Assessment Survey, the second largest survey of an urban transgender population in the US.

The members of the initial Board of Directors of Gender Education and Advocacy are Jamison Green (Chair), Dallas Denny, Dr. Sandra Cole, Gwendolyn Ann Smith, Penni Ashe Matz, and Jessica Xavier. GEA's website, located at <www.gender.org>, is quickly becoming one of the premiere locations for news, information, and additional resources for all those involved or interested in gender issues. It serves as the home of the GAIN news lists archives and the award-winning "Remembering Our Dead" project, as well as the many informational resources and advisories authored by AEGIS, GEA's forerunner organization.

NTAC GOAL: RIGHTS FOR TRANSGENDERED HUMANS

For NTAC, the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition, the goal is simple: human rights for transgendered humans. The group is formally incorporating and organizing as a 501(C)4 political advocacy organization, the only 501(C)4 PAC operated by and for TG people.

NTAC held its first board meeting May 21 in College Park, MD. Formed by a group of seasoned TG lobbyists who felt that a decentralized and culturally diverse 501(C)4 TG lobbying organization was needed, NTAC has a board of no less than 15 people and encourages activists to share information and pursue a large range of diverse projects.

NTAC invites and welcomes all TG people and their supporters. Three of the more notable founding members are Yosenio Lewis, Michael Gray, and Jerry Kellen McCracken. According to Gray, "NTAC is committed to striving for allies without collusion with adversarial positions." They extend a special invitation to the members of FTM International to check out NTAC. For more information, or to become involved, log onto <http://www.ntac.org>, or write to PO Box 20173, Louisville, Ky. 40250.

See related article on p. 17.

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National Transgender Advocacy Coalition Confronts HRC

The past several months have been marked by unprecedented tensions between the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and the American transgender community. On March 22 those tensions were eased somewhat, as a team of transgender, feminist, and spiritual activists met with HRC officials to discuss its transgender-exclusive policies and to negotiate an end to what transgender activists contend has been a 3-year campaign by HRC to defeat employment protections for transgendered people.

Tensions between HRC and the transgender community had exploded last May at GenderPAC's annual Lobby Day, when participating transgender lobbyists had been told for the third consecutive year by Federal lawmakers and their staffers that HRC had visited their offices only weeks before. HRC's agenda was purportedly to urge lawmakers not to support protections for transgendered people under the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).

Following that event, leaders from the American transgender movement compared notes and systematically assembled a body of evidence as to HRC's alleged anti-transgender activities. They concluded this effort with the distribution of a report that may currently be accessed on the web site of a new organization, HRC-Watch, at <<http://www.gendernet.org/hrcwatch>>. It was a report that would change the structure of transgender politics, culminating in the establishment of the new national organization, the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC).

The atmosphere between HRC, NTAC, and virtually the entire transgender movement has been predictably adversarial. Last month, in an attempt to open up communication between these parties, the NGLTF hosted a summit in Washington, attended by top GLBTA leaders throughout the country. The summit concluded in part with a commitment from HRC's Nancy Buermeyer, Director of Social Policy, to meet with transgender activists to negotiate a resolution to the concerns addressed at the summit.

NTAC negotiator Michael Gray, also a representative of Soulforce and a doctoral researcher in transgender medical anthropology, gender studies, and feminist sexology, pursued a meeting with Buermeyer and other HRC officials for over a month. However, HRC did not respond to his repeated telephone calls or emails until he discussed with the NTAC membership the possibility of a direct protest action against HRC. Within hours, Buermeyer called Gray and scheduled the recent meeting at HRC's headquarters in Washington. Gray was accompanied by two other transgender activists, Vanessa Edwards Foster (NTAC and the Texas Association for Transsexual Support) and Kitt Kling (Director of the TransMan's Information Project). Meeting with the transgender negotiating team were HRC's Nancy Buermeyer (Director, Office of Social Policy), Tony Varona (general counsel), and Kevin Layton (staff counsel).

The meeting began with Gray presenting HRC his 10-page report, "Primacy and Influence: Gender Identity and Expression in Sexual Orientation." In his report, Gray summarized 25 years of research into sexual orientation, gender, and discrimination against sexual and gender minorities. Those studies conclude that gender expression is the basis of assumptions about sexual orientation and is therefore the very basis of discrimination and violence against all GLBT people. Illustrating the commonality of gender expression cues to sexuality, Gray referred to "gaydar" ("gay-radar"), which is the acute ability of one gay person to identify another gay person. Gray added, "what we don't say is 'due to their gender expressions.'" Gray's point was that employment discrimination and hate crimes are based on assumptions of the violation of socially prescribed roles, rather than on homosexual acts, per se, and that these assumptions are based on gender expression. GLB people therefore need the same legal protections as transgendered people,

specifically, legal protections based on gender identity and expression. HRC opposes those protections under ENDA.

Gray's study also included research as to the positions of 72 national GLBTA organizations on employment protections based on gender expression. Of those organizations, 71 said that they do not believe gender expression is adequately covered under the current ENDA language, and 71 said they would be educating their members about ENDA's gender exclusivity. These views are identical with those of the most influential legal scholars throughout the world. They also corroborate a recent scientifically-controlled study by transsexual activist Dr. Sarah Fox, who found that 76% of all GLB employment discrimination victims cite gender expression as a basis.

In apparent contradiction to its lone dissenting position in Gray's survey, Buermeyer stated that HRC is well aware of the importance of gender expression to discrimination against GLB people, citing that HRC has supported inclusion of specific gender identity and expression language in most other legislation. Gray asked Buermeyer, "If you understand that anti-gay discrimination in hate crimes stems from heterosexist gender role attributions and have sponsored explicit inclusion of perceived and actual gender identity and expression in that legislation, then why would you sponsor ENDA without the same specific language?" Buermeyer blamed HRC's gender-exclusive policies on Massachusetts Rep. Barney Frank.

Buermeyer defended that much of the HRC Board and the Congressional sponsors of ENDA are ignorant of the importance of gender expression to anti-gay discrimination and prejudice. When asked by Foster as to what HRC had been doing to educate those people, Buermeyer admitted that the issue is not something she discusses with them.

In an attempt to break the stalemate between HRC and the negotiating team, Kling asked both parties to hold off on any communications for at least 24 hours, so HRC could have time to study Gray's report and consider their position. Gray then pressed for HRC to consider action on the educational process within HRC, and Foster pushed for similar definition of a time frame on education outside of HRC. Varona replied that they were too busy organizing a concert, "Equality Rocks." Then Gray retorted, "while you are side tracked, planning a concert and factionalizing the GLBTA over gender inclusion in ENDA, at least one person a month expressing cross-gender roles, having cross-gender traits, or possessing cross-sex characteristics, will be brutally murdered in the US due to anti-gay gaydar. I don't believe that the good people of the GLBTA who are currently unemployed and on the streets have any more time to wait while you plan concerts." When Foster pressed for a realistic time frame from HRC, they answered that it would be brought to the board for an initial response within two weeks. If the answer was favorable, HRC would then provide a detailed response and course of action within two months.

Even though the meeting ended without any firm commitments from HRC, Gray said, optimistically, "At least we're talking. That's not much, admittedly, but it's a start."

Gray reflected on a question an undergraduate student had once asked him, "How could anyone in a social policy position in the GLBTA not know that protecting gender expression is the essence of freedom from sexual orientation discrimination?" Said Gray, "I was speechless. I practice nonviolence of words, gestures, and heart. But at that moment I wanted to scream in frustration, 'Even the beginner students in gender studies articulate social policy better than HRC!' I maintained my composure and kept to my vows of nonviolence and replied, 'How indeed.'" Contact: Sarah Fox, Ph.D., NTAC Media and Communications, <sarahfox@gendernet.org>.

PEN PAL PLACE

The Pen Pal Place is a new Malebox feature for FTM readers looking for pen pals, and for people who want to be pen pals. To ensure safety, no street addresses will ever be printed here unless specifically requested. The creation of this new feature is the direct result of one man's request for a pen pal last year. To become a pen pal, send your requests and responses to us at FTMI, and we'll hook you up with each other.

► I guess I will give you some vitals. I am a 34-year-old African American. I have 2 sons, 10 and 17. I am a grad student. Major is Sociology with a focus on women and children in poverty and reproduction issues. My hobbies are reading, writing, fishing, basketball and photography. Of course, this is when I have time. I also like to travel. After many, many years of running away from my transgenerism, I am coming to terms with my true self. I would be interested in talking to people basically at any stage of transition, any age, race, etc. Shorty

► Hi, my name is Flounder (nickname). Please hook me up with a some pen pals. I'm new around the Bay Area, and I'm looking for some friends to hang with or communicate with. My ideal pen pal would be preferably FTM (all are welcomed though), young (teens-25, but all are welcomed), down-to-earth, a party person, someone with a sense of humor, friendly, and honest.



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CREATING CHANGE from page 9

Speakers were Rev. Mel White of SoulForce, Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum of Congregation Simchat Torah, Rev. Kathi Martin, United Church of Christ and moderator Rev. Ken South of the National Religious Roundtable. There was also a mass march and demonstration in response to an Oakland officer's harassment of a transwoman who was attacked near the conference during the weekend. This incident resulted in dialogues with the Oakland Police Dept. and GLBT locals, organizers and attendees. An Oakland PD GLBT Liaison has since been appointed.

The fourth and closing plenary concerned the "Movements Second Century," featuring Susan Stryker, ED of GL Historical Society, Vera Martin from Old Lesbians Organizing for Change, Michael Scarce, author and activist, and Urvashi Vaid, Director NGLTF Policy Institute. All spoke of "claiming a proud past and powerful future!" Next year's lucky 13th conference is Nov. 9-13 in Atlanta, GA. Thousands of dollars are marked for scholarships for youth, presenters, activists and organizers so write them and inquire now! All in all, I had a fantastic experience...attending 3 all-dayers (topics: training trainers on racism, leadership and fundraising), plus some workshops, meeting NGLTF's fab staff and boardmembers, volunteering myself, going to the events, manning our FTMI exhibit booth and meeting other attendees. Whew!! Thanks to NGLTF for it all...it is their inclusiveness that made me decide to join!

TRUE SPIRIT 2000 from page 12

Several FTMs in attendance said they wanted more workshops geared toward life beyond transition. Three elders among the presenters were anthropologist Dr. Jason Cromwell, reading from his book, "Transmen & FTMs"; Dr. Stephen Whittle of Manchester Metropolitan University in England, a founder and guiding force behind the FTM movement in the U.K.; and Jude Patton, therapist and "FTM pioneer." All three transitioned over 20 years ago. There is an ongoing need for accurate, available medical information. Very little is known about the long-term effects of testosterone on the female body. Clinical Sexologist Dr. Kate Thomas, in a workshop entitled "Testosterone: The Shot Heard Round the World," said, "There's not an endocrinologist in Baltimore who handles transition, but there are two internal M.D.s we can refer a person to."

This year's True Spirit Conference was especially well-received by the newcomers. "Everything I wanted to talk about was addressed in some workshop or another," said Tiger, who traveled from Munich, Germany and also juggled later onstage. Entertainers were missbaby Michaels, Blair Michaels, Vykke James-Kyle, Tiger, Jay Pryor, Andy bell, Jymmye Jaymes, Michael Woodward, Adam Michaels, and the band Femme Messiah.

You can help organize True Spirit Conference 2001 by contacting the American Boyz at <transman@netgsi.com>.

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Canadian Charters of Rights and Freedoms as part of my argument, the Attorney General of Quebec intervened on behalf of the Director. I was devastated and felt beaten. How could I, a solitary transsexual, fight such a power? Expert witnesses were critical to my case and I needed to pull out all the stops. Despite feeling very awkward about recruiting Dr. Menard, I had no choice but to do so. My lawyer contacted him and he consented. How relieved I was! The one person whose opinion carried so much weight was going to testify on my behalf!

It was necessary to agree upon a date for a hearing. The lawyer for the Attorney General first needed to inquire about the availability of a prospective, unidentified witness of theirs. Eventually, I received a phone call from my lawyer who had just been informed of the name of this recent witness. It was Dr. Menard! Why had he done this? What had changed within the space of a couple of weeks? Why had he consented to testify on their behalf after he had already agreed to speak on ours? Furthermore, my lawyer informed me that since Dr. Menard was now an adversary, I was not legally allowed to speak to him. And even after the case was over, he did not have the decency to contact me to explain his actions.

His testimony would have likely been thrown out of court – the conflict of interest speaks for itself: the best known doctor in Quebec performing phalloplasty is asked to declare that it should be a prerequisite to legal sex change. But aside from this, his written testimony contained information that is completely contradictory to that of his original letter.

Had the judge decided to hear his testimony despite this, what he would have said may have been helpful for us, as in his letters he details all the imperfections of phalloplasty, which amongst more important reasons explain why it should not be insisted upon. But despite this, the facts remain. He chose to testify for the Quebec government, which was trying to enforce phalloplasty as a prerequisite to legal sex change. In another document containing information to be used during his court testimony, dated June 26, 1998, whereupon Louise Mercier asks: "Does having undergone hormonal treatment and the removal of the uterus and the ovaries allow you to conclude that this person is now a man?"³ Dr. Menard's attitude towards us becomes quite obvious in his response: "A woman who undergoes a hysterectomy and oophorectomy can not be considered a man, despite undergoing masculinizing hormone treatment. A complete transformation from female to male requires other interventions such as: a vaginectomy, removal of the labia minora, of the clitoris and the formation of a penis with scrotum and a urethra. This refers to a complete and ideal transformation."⁴

A couple of weeks before we were to appear in court for the three-day hearing, the Director of Civil Status consented to give me, as well as all the other people who had their lives turned upside-down and put on hold pending this decision, our sex change certificates. This was only days after I had gone public, resulting in international media coverage. Or could it be that this about-face was due to the fact that the College

of Physicians and Surgeons, which had formed a committee for the purpose of adopting a position on phalloplasty, had proclaimed it to be an unsatisfactory surgery?

In conclusion, because the case never appeared before the courts, what Dr. Menard would have said will never be known. I have presented you with the facts that I feel speak for themselves. When choosing people to assist us on our paths, people in whose hands will rest our bodies, health and very lives, we need as much information as we can possibly obtain. I therefore feel that the sharing of the above information with other transsexuals is a moral duty of mine despite the controversy that it may entail.

1 Translation from the original: "Considérant que la phalloplastie est une intervention encore expérimentale, je crois que la vaginoplastie [sic] devrait être exclue pour l'instant dans les critères exigés pour le changement de statut...et dans certains cas, nous avons besoin d'une partie du vagin pour reconstruire l'urètre."

2 Translation from the original: "Toutefois si un jour, la phalloplastie devient une opération mondialement reconnue, accessible financièrement, nous pourrions alors modifier la loi et inclure la vaginectomie comme étant un critère nécessaire au changement d'identité officiel."

3 Translation from the original: "Est-ce que le fait d'avoir subi des traitements hormonaux, l'ablation de l'utérus et des ovaires, vous permet de conclure que cette personne est désormais un homme?"

4 Translation from the original: "Une femme qui subit une hystérectomie et une ovariectomie ne peut pas être considérée comme un homme, malgré un traitement hormonal masculin. Une transformation complète de femme homme nécessite d'autres interventions soit: la vaginectomie, l'ablation des petites lèvres du clitoris et la formation d'un pénis avec un scrotum et un urètre. Il s'agit ici d'une transformation complète et idéale."

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MALEBOX



HELLO,

I'm the program coordinator of "Alternative Masculinities", a forthcoming transman/FTM event scheduled to take place in Malmö, Sweden on September 23, 2000.

I'd like to hear from transgendered (or non-transgendered) filmmakers who'd be interested in having their films

screened at this exciting event, the first of its kind in Sweden. Transmale/FTM topic films especially welcome.

Please e-mail me privately for further details.

All the best,

Gabriel

E-mail: [redacted]@mail.bahnhof.se or: [redacted]

[redacted]@hotmail.com

FALL HARVEST 2000

As an FTM guy and a member of the St. Louis Gender Foundation, I'm encouraging increased participation in Fall Harvest, especially that of FTM men. Fall Harvest 2000 will take place on October 12 - 15 at Henry VIII Hotel/Conference Center in St. Louis, Missouri. Our Web site is: <http://sites.netscape.net/stlgf/FH/RegRes.htm>.

My St. Louis sisters here have been very, very supportive. They have made FTM brothers feel welcome and accepted. It would be great if y'all could come and visit. Most of the time, conferences are at either the west or east coast. This will be an opportunity for Midwest guys to get together.

Our group is a member of M.A.G.G.I.E., which is the Mid-America Gender Group Information Exchange. There are 9 Midwest groups alone on this list, participating in Fall Harvest 2000. We invite all members of the transgender community from the four corners of the globe regardless of ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender, religious affiliation, or any other persuasion to participate.

If anyone wishes to contact me, please e-mail me at [redacted]@artsci.wustl.edu. Again, thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Lor Jackson

DEAR FRIEND,

I found a magazine called Tapestry #84, 1998. [Editor's note: Tapestry is published by IFGE, where FTM International is regularly listed as a resource.] I read it from cover to cover, and I feel sad that there is so much rejection. I am a 66-year-old Senior Citizen and I feel that I would

never let any changes separate me from a son or daughter. I have a married 43-year-old son, and wish I had more children. If there is anyone who wants to write to me, they can do so. Thank you.

Yolanda Verdejo

[redacted] Webster Ave., [redacted]
Bronx, NY 10456

DEAR FTMI,

My name is Gabriel Llewelyn-Silseth. I'm an 18 year old transman living in Sweden and an aspiring transactivist. On March 26th I was elected spokesperson of The National Association Of Transsexuals here in Sweden. It feels great as I'm the first transman to get elected.

I'm involved with a support group for FTMs (both TS and TG) and I would like to hear from individuals who are involved with similar groups, American or non-American, as I'm very interested in creating a network. I would also like to get in touch with young transpeople involved with politics.

The Swedish trans movement is in its early stages. There is no such thing as a "queer community" at present. Until recently MTFs did all the talking in this country, but thanks to a meeting for FTMs last August during the Pride Festival in Stockholm, some of us have found the courage to step forward and make ourselves heard. We're making history, because this has never happened in Sweden before.

James Green's visits to Sweden have also inspired transpeople to become more active. The Youth Branch of RFSL (The Swedish Federation for Lesbian and Gay Rights) welcomes trans youth, which is a small but important step towards recognition.

The group I'm involved with is quite small. It is one of a few existing support groups for FTMs in Sweden, if not the only one. We have no leader as such and our meetings tend to be social rather than political, but it's a start. Myself and a couple of others put our lives and souls into this group to make it work.

Feminists have tried to silence us. They've been saying that we're not really men, that we're traitors to our own kind. But they can't make us disappear!

Best wishes to you all and keep fighting!

Gabriel Llewelyn-Silseth

c/o RFTS

P.O Box 9083

102 71 Stockholm

Sweden

E-mail: [redacted]@hotmail.com

DEAR SISTERS AND BROTHERS:

After much thought, and in some ways struggle, I have decided to retire from active surgical and

medical practice on January 1, 2000. It has been a tough decision for a person such as myself. For almost 40 years, medicine has been a big part of my life and for the last 15 years, I have dedicated myself to helping my Community through my experience as a gynecologic surgeon and endo gynecologist.

The launching of TSMC, the first Center for transgender medical and surgical services, developed by a Transsexual surgeon (for those of you involved in the debate, yes, I am transsexual and yes, I have had surgery), has brought much joy to me. It has been hard work. But it has been a labor of love and worth the long hours both in and out of the consultation office and the operating room. The immediate and strong acceptance from our Community has been very rewarding. Perhaps the single most rewarding professional situation of my life. I wish to thank all of you who had the confidence in me and came to the TSMC surgical team for your surgical and medical needs because of my involvement.

But, now it is time, to turn my focus to my private life. To regain my piano technique (many of you may not know that I am classically trained). To take master courses with pianists I have always wanted to train under. To write more poetry and to finish the novel that I have been wanting to complete for several years now. And most importantly, to spend these days with my life partner, Pamela, who throughout the seven years of our Union/Communion, has been by my side, working to help to improve the lives of those within our Community so desperate for good care.

Drs. Futrell and Manders will continue offering surgical services to our Community, although without my involvement or association and not within the TSMC Center. TSMC will close on January 1, 2000. Dr. Futrell's and Dr. Manders' fee schedules, policies, procedures, and guidelines may not remain the same as they were under the TSMC Center.

It has always been very important to me to reach people, touch them and give them the best I know how to give. Throughout the years of my work within our Community and especially through the TSMC Center, so many of you have showed me proof-positive that such contact can be made and can be most rewarding to those receiving it and those giving it.

Peace & Light

Sheila Kirk, M.D.

Editor's note: for the earlier story on the closing of the TSMC Center, please see "Dr. Sheila Kirk to retire," GAIN 12/15/99, <<http://www.gender.org/gain/g99/g121599.htm>>.

MORE MALEBOX

DEAR FRIENDS,

My name is Kari Hong and I am a law student at Columbia University. I worked this past summer with Shannon Minter at National Center for Lesbian Rights, who helped me research, and will review the final draft, of my project. I am writing an article this semester about health care discrimination against transsexuals that will be published in a law journal. The purpose of my article is to argue that transsexual individuals should have legal recourse against private health care providers and insurers who discriminate and intentionally withhold proper medical treatment.

As you are probably aware, medical journals are not widely documenting this problem. To support my position, I need to gather testimonials from individuals who have had both positive and negative experiences with their health care insurer or provider. I have been working on this paper for a number of months and received 40 responses from people who have graciously shared their experiences with me. I have been advised to find a total of 100 individuals by the end of the summer.

I am looking for testimonials from people who can answer any of the following questions:

1. have health care providers (doctors, nurses, etc) displayed discomfort toward you?;
2. have health care providers refused to administer treatment?;
3. have health care providers treated you with complete respect?;
4. have health care providers provided appropriate health care for non-TS and TS related needs?;
5. have insurance companies denied coverage of non-GID related medical conditions?;
6. have insurance companies denied coverage for GID related medical conditions (hormones, surgery)?;
7. have insurance companies provided entire coverage for non-GID related medical conditions? If yes, were they aware that you had transitioned?;
8. have insurance companies provided coverage of SRS, hormones, and related procedures?;
9. and lastly, if you were denied coverage, did you attempt to challenge an insurance

company's denial of care? If so, what happened? If not, why not?

If anyone has experienced any, or a combination, of these occurrences, I would greatly appreciate incorporating your testimonial in my paper. Your name (or initials if you prefer) will only be in the footnotes and your name will not appear in the main text. When time allows, please send me over email a description of your experiences with medical care (i.e. what condition was the medical treatment for, what happened, follow-up, etc.). Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments. Thank you.

Kari Hong [redacted]@columbia.edu>

Between June 1 and August 15, 2000 people can reach me at: 35 The Crescent, Berkeley, CA 94708 (summer sublet address). After August 15, 2000 I can be reached at: 434 West 116th St, #3M, NY, NY 10027 (permanent address).

HI EVERYBODY:

My name is Victor Hugo Flores Ramirez, and I'm student of law in Mexico City. For 7 months I've been researching transgendered people in Mexico, but there isn't a lot of information. However, I'd like to do a book about the legal problems of transsexuals. Here in Mexico there is discrimination and mistreatment of cross-dressers, bisexual people, etc. I know that transsexuals remain relatively invisible in society, except within the context of the gay, lesbian and bisexual community where they are not necessarily identified as transgendered, nor are they always accepted.

So this short letter is an invitation to whoever wants to help with this project. I'd like to speak (and become friends) with transsexual people, because I want to know what the common problems in their lives are, how they feel; get an overview of selected legal issues, etc...That is the reason I write to you. Please, this is very important to me.

And if do you know any Mexican trans-

gendered people, I would be happy to write to them online,

Sincerely,

Victor Hugo Flores R.

email: [redacted]@correoweb.com

DEAR FRIENDS,

I have initiated a support facility for TS/TG issues in India. The name of the facility is SAMPOORN, which in our language (Hindi) means complete.

The idea for Sampoom has emerged after years of figuring myself out in gender terms and finally making the decision for sex reassignment (FTM). There was no information to begin with, and it has taken a few years for me to dig up literature and to locate a handful of medical experts who would offer SRS professionally.

I would like to ask for the following help:

- 1) Can anyone provide a list of forums for discussions of TS/TG issues?;
- 2) How can one access the literature on the standard medical practices and latest developments on SRS?;
- 3) In India, it is almost impossible to seek funding to run such a support facility. I have been operating the facility out of personal resources for the last few months and am now looking for funding support to establish a dedicated space and telephone helpline facility. I would be grateful for any guidelines on how I could go about this.

Thanking you and looking forward to your response,

Satya Rai Nagpaul

Sampoom, India

[redacted]@del3.vsnl.net.in

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

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Bay Area Partners' group: see listing p.23.

SOFFA USA/SOFFA Voice:

Bimonthly newsletter. Subscriptions are \$10 (student/disabled); \$15 (regular); or \$25 (institution/university) to American Boyz; Jodi Burchell, Editor • PO Box 1916 • Smyrna, TN 37167 or www.angelfire.com/tn/yoursoffavoic/index.html

The Straight Spouse Network for partners, spouses, and ex-partners of GLBT people can be reached at info@ssnetwk.org. Allied with PFLAG. 8215 Terrace Drive, El Cerrito, CA 94530-3058. Phone: 510-525-0200.

Email lists (send a subscribe message):

The email list formerly at FTMSO@aol.com can now be reached at FTMSOS@aol.com. <http://queernet.org/lists/trannyfags.html> (see p. 22) owner-transensualfem@queernet.org (see p. 22)

Family resources:

www.familypride.org
www.CritPath.Org/pflag-talk/
www.colage.org (for children of LGBT parents)
Our Trans Children booklet covers the Transgender 101 basics—a PFLAG publication. Copies are \$3 for three, 25 for \$18, 50 for \$34, etc. Also *Trans Forming Families*; *Real Stories About Transgendered Loved Ones*: \$13.95 each for 1-3 copies, \$12 for 4-9, lower prices for larger orders. All prices include U.S. mailing. Make your check out to Mary Boenke, 180 Bailey Blvd., Hardy, VA 24101-3528. 540-890-3957, MaryBoenke@aol.com.

**WEB AND EMAIL RESOURCES FOR
TRANSGENDERED PEOPLE OF COLOR**

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

Transgender Muslim Sites:

See <http://www.angelfire.com/fl/jalal/>. S/he also maintains a list-serve for queer Muslim women and trans people, try the email from that page for info. Also see <http://www.angelfire.com/ca2/queermuslims/>. Note: not a maintained site, so email any comments to hab1b1@iname.com.

TRANSGENDER WEB AND EMAIL RESOURCES

FtM Oriented Email Lists:

MtMInfo@home.com - general information.
TrnsMenIntl@aol.com
GayTrannyBoyz - gay-identified transmen

The Transgender AIDS Initiative League

can be found at www.tail.org

Intersexed/Androgynous Website: A new e-mail list has been started which is for and about persons with an intersexed and/or androgynous physical appearance. In particular, the list is for persons who have not been diagnosed by a medical doctor, or were not diagnosed intersexed until after becoming an adult. Interested subscribers should

go to <http://www.onelist.com/> and submit a request to subscribe to the "Intersex-Androgynous" e-mail list.

FORGE Newsletter Online: FORGE newsletter is online - same place as the last issues have been: www.execpc.com/~dmmunson/forge.htm

DR. LAURA from page 8

It's no wonder that GLAAD wants to silence Dr. Laura. She's one of the few major media leaders who tells the truth about their radical agenda which includes transgender programs like this that prey on vulnerable, confused kids, said LaBarbera, who was present at the conference and obtained a program for the event. Americans for Truth will place the entire True Spirit conference program online at www.americansfortruth.org in a downloadable format. (To visit the True Spirit website while it still exists, go to www.execpc.com/~dmmunson/tsc2k/programming-toc.htm.)

Homosexual activists smear Dr. Laura as an extremist even saying she harms gay kids when she is only defending traditional mores, LaBarbera said. But when you strip away the veneer from homosexual activism, you find a world of almost unimaginable perversity. What could be more harmful to kids than encouraging girls to mutilate their natural bodies to assume a male identity?

Americans for Truth about Homosexuality (AFTAH) is dedicated to opposing the homosexual activist movement. Web site: www.americansfortruth.org. Phone: Peter LaBarbera (202) 637-4679 or Jim Hanes (703) 739-9100. E-mail: jimhanes@erols.com. Address: AFTAH, P.O. Box 45252, Washington, DC 20026-5252.

ish, and it means absolutely nothing. Andrew Miller is a transsexual man involved in a fight for the custody of his daughter. As Rochester NY NOW chapter Lesbian Rights

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Positive Resource Center: Job training and placement for transgendered HIV-positive people. 973 Market St., San Francisco. Info: 415-777-0333.

OTHER BAY AREA MEETINGS

ONGOING SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA MEETINGS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TRANZBAY GATHERING What goes on at these things anyway?

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

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

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

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

INTERSEX RESOURCES

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

S.F. FTM MEETING SCHEDULE '00

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

CLOSED (SUPPORT)
 Aug. 13
 Oct. 8
 Dec 10

OPEN (INFORMATIONAL)
 Sept. 10
 Nov. 12
 Jan. 14

"MALE'IN" IT TO YA, BOY!

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Thanks for your continued support!

1-001

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

FTM RESOURCES

UNITED STATES

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

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

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

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

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

Colorado FTM Support Group for TS, TG men and questioning females and their SOs. Every 3rd Sun., 5-7 pm, at the Gender Identity Center, 1455 Ammons St., #100, Lakewood, CO 80215. For info, contact the GIC at 303-202-6466 or e-mail Matt Kailey at FtMatt@aol.com.

S.C.I.R.T.S. (Southern Colorado IntraRegional Transgender Society) or MTFs & FTMs. Contact Lisa Jo at 719-591-5860 or e-mail LisaJo03@aol.com. S.C.I.R.T.S. meets every Tues. night after 7pm. Meetings open to family and friends of anyone who identifies TG.

T-GENTS Contact: 719.380.8052. Meets every 3rd Sat. at 8pm.

Florida FORGE (Florida Organization for Gender Equality) P.O. Box 14632, Tallahassee, FL 32317-4632; e-mail <FORGE2000@usa.net> Meets second Saturday of each month at the Bay Street Coffee House, inside the New Life MCC of Norfolk from 8:00 - 11:00 pm. Also meet every Sunday at different locations for socializing. Write to HRT0, 4035 East Ocean View Avenue, Norfolk Virginia 23518 or call 757.723.3683.

Illinois See **FORGE** under "Wisconsin"

Indiana IndyBoyz: Call Holling, at 317.539.7342 or e-mail <virago18@hotmail.com>. Visit our web page at <www.jasperink.com/michael/boyz.html> and join our e-mail list. SOs welcome!

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

Massachusetts East Coast Female-to-Male Group P.O. Box 60585, Florence, MA 01062. Ph: 413.584.7616: Bet Power. Meets every second Sunday of the month, 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., in Northampton, Massachusetts. All-inclusive peer support network for FTMs and their SOs, since 1992.

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

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

Minnesota Minneapolis: MN Boyz, meets the 2nd Saturday of each month for coffee chats, other events to come. Their mailing list MNBoyz-subscribe@onelist.com. Call 612.285.9163 (Lee or Arthur) or e-mail LeecatMN@aol.com

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

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

The Gender Identity Project of the Lesbian and Gay Community Center offers free, one-on-one peer counsel-

ing services and support groups to all people in the FTM spectrum, including exploring/questioning. Contact Ray Carannante at 212-620-7310, or email Ray@gaycenter.org.

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

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

Pennsylvania THAC Peer Counseling Hotline: Staffed Sun. 3-6 and M, W, Thurs. 6-9. Info and a listening ear for those with gender-related questions or concerns.

Transgender Health Action Coalition (T-HAC) Meetings 1st Sat. of month, 12:30 pm, at Washington West, 1201 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA 19107. All welcome.

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

Trans World Allies (TWA) A support group for all varieties of gender questioning and expression. FTM-facilitated. Meets 1st Saturdays at 2pm at 1201 Locust in Philadelphia. Call 215.732.1207 for more info.

We Transition Too: A support group for partners of trans people, it meets at the same time as the above group, same building, different room. Call 215.386.1120 for info.

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

The Nashville Knights Nashville's new FTM support group. Meetings held on first Saturday of every month from 6:30pm til 8:30pm at a private residence. All aspects of the FTM status are accepted for membership, this includes pre-op, post-op, and no-op, as well as TG butches, those who are questioning transition, gay FTMs, and straight FTMs. SOs of all of the above are invited to join as well. We are, and will always be SO inclusive. Phone Jesse Cickers and/or Jodi Burchell (615) 223-6938. Email NashvilleKnights@webtv.net or JesseandJodi@peoplepc.com. Website can be found at http://www.zyworld.com/10755269.fc/index.htm.

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

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

Washington, D.C. DCATS—the DC Area Transmen Society. We are a social and support group for transmen, FtMs, butches, stonebutches, intersexuals, cross dressers, drag kings, female men and others who were assigned female at birth but feel that "woman" is an incomplete or inaccurate description of themselves. We meet every 1st

Sunday from 5-7 pm, and we have various socials throughout the month. Email hangdog18@hotmail.com or call 202.206.0311.

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

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

INTERNATIONAL

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

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

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

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

Canadian Boyz, PO Box 65, CDN, Montreal, PQ H3S 2S4, Canada

Montreal: FAH Montreal FtM. For info or to get involved, phone 514-830-6740 or write to FAH Montreal FtM, (c/o K.S.) CP 63549, CCCP Van Horne, Montreal, Quebec H3W 3H8 or e-mail <fahmontrealftm@yahoo.com>

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SEND IN YOUR MEETING TIMES!
FTM INTERNATIONAL MEETING
TIMES AND NEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIPTION FORM ON P.23**

Greetings from the crew at FTMI International! First off we would like to tell you that in the past year, FTMI has successfully obtained grants from and wishes to thank the following organizations: San Francisco Foundation Gateway Initiative; Horizons Foundation, Astrea Foundation, Bears of San Francisco/International Bear Rendezvous and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. These are our first grants for this all volunteer run organization and an important step in the development of FTMI.

We would like to welcome two new coeditors: Garin Wiggins and Ben Singer! We also have four new board members. There was a tie in our recent election and the board voted to bring on both candidates. The following are brief intros.

Abe Doherty I am a 27-year old queer FTM who recently moved from Massachusetts to Oakland, CA. I am especially concerned with encouraging people to be aware of the diversity of experiences of transpeople and the choices they make about their bodies and the language they use to describe themselves.

Danny Kirchoff I am a queer 24-year old FTM. For the past 6 years I have been an activist and organizer focusing on GLBT youth issues on a local & national level. I am committed to working with FTMI and believe that the organization's existence has been and is vital to the lives of FTM transfolks as well as our partners, families & friends around the world.

Joel Levine I've been coming to FTMI support meetings in SF since 1995. It is my unwavering belief that it is paramount for us to communicate, stay connected and to reach out to those in our community who are in need. With this in mind I have begun 2 support groups plus organized trips/events for ftms, friends and families here in the Bay Area.

Justin Tanis Is an FTM, the partner of an FTM, and a proud member of an alternative family of queer folk. He was a member of the Organizing Committee for the recent Forward Motion Conference. He is committed to helping to create a strong, vibrant, proud, sex-positive trans community that affirms our rights to form and live our lives in whatever ways we see fit.

We are now creating and defining new volunteer staff including office manager librarian/archivist & positions for coordinating volunteers, meetings, mailing, fundraising, projects/activities, development, and outreach. We hope that these will facilitate more efficient and effective operation of the growing activities of FTMI.

Stores where you now can find the FTMI Newsletter and/or Resource Guide:

Glad Day Books, Ontario, Canada
Sisters, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
Toronto Women's Bookstore, Ontario, Canada
Orlando Books, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Little Mother Tongue Books/Femmes de parole, inc., Ontario, Canada
L'Androgyne, Quebec, Canada
Afterwords Bookstore, Milwaukee, WI
Blustocking Women's Bookstore, New York, NY
A Different Light, New York, NY
Brothers Touch, Minneapolis, MN
Boadecia's Books, North Berkeley, CA
The Open Book, Ltd., Sacramento, CA
Good Vibrations Stores, San Francisco and Berkeley, CA
Mama Bears Women's Books, Oakland, CA
Beyond The Closet Bookstore, Seattle, WA
Lambda Rising, Washington, DC; Baltimore MD; Rehoboth Beach, DE and Norfolk, VA
Get Booked, Las Vegas, NV
White Rabbit Books & Things, Raleigh, NC

.....with many more to come!!!!

Next issue we will be thanking individual donors, volunteers and contributors! Bye!

Co-sponsored by STOP AIDS Project,
Harvey Milk Institute, FTM International,
Tranny Fest Transgender & Transgenre Cinema

For more information, other workshops
or volunteer opportunities contact
(415) 575-0155 or mike@stopaids.org
or check out our website www.stopaids.org.

"T" for TWO

A Dialogue for Queer FTMs and Other Gay Men

Thursday, AUGUST 24

7 - 9 PM at Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy
4235 19th Street (@ Collingwood) SF CA

Whether you know it
or not, female-to-male
transgender men (FTMs)
date, fuck, cruise and
play with other gay men.
And it's a good thing.
Aren't queer men more
than just our baskets?
How can we connect
and build community
together?

Join a conversation with queer FTMs and
other gay men to share personal stories
about loving, fucking and supporting
each other. A unique opportunity to
explode assumptions and explore
our commonalities.

STOP
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PROJECT

www.stopaids.org

Panelists include Matt Califia-Rice,
Gauge McLeod and others.

Come see what you've been missing!