

Phoenix

MONTHLY / INTERNATIONAL

GGA



#8

Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another,
"What! You, too? I thought I was the only one."--C.S. Lewis

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Items must be recieved not later than the first Monday of the month preceeding the issue date in which they are to appear.

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The editorial staff reserves the right to reject, edit and/or serialize items submitted for publication in the Phoenix Monthly-International.

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OKLAHOMA CITY
SURGERY
NEWS

Oklahoma City--July 12. Dr. David W. Foerster, noted reassignment and plastic surgeon, advises the political climate in Oklahoma City prevents he and his staff from using the surgical facilities of the University Hospital to perform reassignment surgery.

However, because of the excellent operating suite in his office complex he is able to complete three of the four steps of the female-to-male surgery. It is possible to perform the conversion of the FTM genitalia with construction of the penis, scrotum and testicles consisting of a series of three operations, on an outpatient office surgery basis.

The first surgical procedure, during which the penis shaft is built on the central abdominal wall with skin grafting, for this pedicle, is done under general anesthesia with convalescence at a nearby hotel. One should plan at least a 10, and preferably a 14 day, stay in Oklahoma City for this procedure.

The second procedure is accomplished approximately two months after the first and consists of a delay prior to releasing the tube pedicle from the upper abdomen. This procedure, considered minor, is accomplished under local anesthesia and the patient is allowed, under normal circumstances, to return home the next day.

Approximately two to three weeks later the third and final procedure of releasing the pedicle, forming the head of the penis, construction of the scrotum, insertion of the testicles and burying the clitoris into the base of the constructed penis is accomplished. A 7 to 10 day stay in Oklahoma City is required.

Because of the local political climate it is no longer possible for Dr. Foerster to perform the fourth and final step of the FTM surgery consisting of construction of a urethra through the penis and connecting it to the female urethra and a vaginectomy which totally obliterates all residual female organs.

Thus, with the exception of the urinary tract hook-up and vaginectomy, even with the ban, the Foerster Team is able to completely reconstruct and convert female genitalia to male genitalia.

The constructed penis will function sexually with the insertion of a baculum or rod through the hollow central shaft

of the penis.

A specially designed tube and collecting cup allowing urine to pass through the constructed penis is available through Dr. Laub at the Palo Alto Clinic (in California).

The total cost for the three surgical procedures, including the operating suite cost, is \$3,000.00 plus approximately \$250.00 anesthesia cost for the first and third procedure making the total medical cost approximately \$3,500.00. There are, of course, additional expenses for the hotel, meals and incidental living expenses during the recuperative periods and travel expenses to and from Oklahoma City.

Dr. Foerster requires clearance from two professionals in the health care field having special interest in the area of gender dysphoria prior to surgical consideration and/or scheduling. There is the usual requirement of crossliving for at least one year during which hormone therapy has been given. It should be noted that these requirements are not unique and are generally the same as those of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association (HBIGDA).

In response to the question whether individuals having the three step surgery outlined above at Oklahoma City may return to Oklahoma City for the final step once the moratorium is lifted Dr. Foerster stated "Certainly, when the ban is lifted, if ever, the fourth stage of the FTM could certainly be completed."

In a response to questions concerning the MTF surgery raised by the initial information Dr. Foerster advises that "the University Hospital ban on transsexual surgery has virtually eliminated our ability to do male to female conversions. The required hospitalization with proper nursing care and follow-up is simply too complex and too extensive to be done safely on an outpatient basis and we will not be able to do any further work in that field until we can get our privileges reinstated."

OREGON LAW CHANGES

House Bill 3098, introduced by Representative Yih, allows the changing of birth certificates, either in conjunction with or separate from a name change. This new legislation will become effective 90 days after the close of the current session of the Oregon legislature, which should have occurred in mid-July.

The Phoenix wishes to express our appreciation, and that of all those likely to be affected by this new legislature, to the Transsexual Rights Committee of the ACLU for making the information available to our readers.

A copy of the Bill may be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to PO Box 62283, Sunnyvale, CA 94088.

MINNEAPOLIS SEMINAR

The following information is provided by Diane Campbell, Community Program Associate, Program in Human Sexuality, Department of Family Practice and Community Health, Medical School, University of Minnesota. (Holy cow, what a title).

Announcing a sexual attitude reassessment seminar designed specifically to meet the needs of Gays, Lesbian and Bisexual people:

ON BEING 'DIFFERENT'
October 2-3, 1981

Sponsored by the Program in Human Sexuality, Department of Family Practice and Community Health, University of Minnesota Medical School. Planned in cooperation with Gay Community Services, Family and Children's Services and Chrysalis: A Center for Women.

This two day program is an opportunity for men and women to meet together in large and/or small groups to examine sexuality in all of its various perspectives. Media presentations and discussion comprise the format.

The fee for the seminar is \$75.00 per person. The program will be held at the Program in Human Sexuality, Research East Building, 2630 University Avenue, SE, Minneapolis (MN). For further information and registration forms contact Philip Colgan, Program in Human Sexuality, (612) 376-7520.

RESEARCH

Denver--July 9. Tomye Kelley, a gender counselor working with both pre- and post-ops in the Rocky Mountain Area and with Dr. Stanley Biber, the prominent reassignment surgeon, is starting, in conjunction with Dr. Leigh Minturn of the University of Colorado (Boulder), a research project in the area of Gender Conflict, centering around the cross-culture aspect. Ms. Kelley would appreciate contact from other professionals within the continental US having information on either cross-culture findings (or suspicions) or on individuals involved in this type work.

Information may be obtained from or sent to Tomye Kelley, M.A., 8972 Oberon Rd, Arvada, CO, 80004.

DENVER
GENDER CENTER
NEWS

Denver--July 8. The Gender Center now has a building, at the corners of 11th Avenue and Filmore Street, in which to hold their well attended meetings. Although meetings start at 8pm many attendees arrive around 7:30 to socialize prior to the meeting and to insure themselves of a seat since many meetings are SRO.

On July 20th a local physician presented a much needed talk on the effects of hormones.

The subject of the August 3rd meeting will be Job Interview Skills, the do's and don't's, how to "rearrange" job histories, etc. The subject of the August 17th meeting will be Fashion, How to Look Terrific on Very Little Money with the August 31st meeting scheduled for a presentation on make-up.

One of the early September meetings will have a presentation concerning the handicapped as the term relates to gender conflict.

The more you are capable of honestly loving, and the more you are sincerely positively perceptive about people, the more these people will want you to get your way.

The Postal Workers of Canada have been on strike for the past several weeks and no mail is moving inside of Canada nor is any mail from outside being delivered to Canadian Postal Facilities. Initially the U.S. Postal Service intended to hold all US mail addressed to Canada until the strike ended but the accumulation of mail has become more than they are able to handle so all mail addressed to Canadian addresses is being returned to the sender with the phrase "RETURNED TO SENDER SERVICE SUSPENDED" stamped on the envelope.

According to local Postal Officials senders have the following options for returned mail:

a) take the letter to a postal clerk (in the Post Office) and request a postage refund. You will now have to restamp the letter and mail it when the strike is over.

or

b) hold the letter with envelope intact until after the strike is over and return the intact envelope to a postal clerk who will re-cancel the stamp and take the letter from you for processing and delivery to the addressee.

All letters recieved for forwarding to Canadian members are being held at the GGA Office until settlement of the strike so if you sent a letter with a Canadian address don't be dismayed at the delay in response. The monthly mailing of the Phoenix to Canadian members is also being held pending settlement of the strike.

WANTED

Articles, poems, stories are needed to help your editors fill these pages with items of interest to you.

If you have any articles, stories, poems, etc. you would like to share with others send them in and we will see that they are presented in future issues.

If you have only the idea for an article or story send it in and we will see what we can do to make an article or story from the idea.

You don't have to be a professional writer to have something published in the Phoenix, we have people who can, and will, edit what you send.

We would also greatly appreciate articles and professional papers from our professional associates and subscribers.

July 7, 1981

Dear Editor,

Congratulations on your July 1981 article "The Whole Root of the Matter". As a Registered Electrologist in the State of California, I feel this article has made the subject of hair removal more easily understood.

Another article that may interest your readers appeared in the May 1981 issue of "Self" magazine. Perhaps they sum it up best.....

"How you take off body hair depends partly on what you'll give up: cheap-fast-painless, but never-ending ..or slow-painful-pricey but permanent." Donna McDonald, R.E.

Alameda, Ca.

(Ed's note: Thanks for them kind words, Donna. We know, from personal experience the good quality work you, and other Phoenix advertisers, do.)

July 5, 1981

To the Editorial Staff of the Phoenix,

Keep up the good work! The Phoenix gets better and better with each issue. An enormous improvement in the reproduction of the photos especially. Thanks for revising my listing and including my photo in the previous supplement (wish my photo was in the later one (because of the improvement in quality--such vanity).---I'm finding more sisters in VT than I imagined--who knows there may possibly be enough to start a chapter here--time will tell.

Diantha Kay (VT-12)

p.s The Yearbook idea sounds great.

MORE ON YEARBOOK

We have been receiving letters indicating pleasure with the idea of the Yearbook. Unfortunately the picture response has not be as abundant so it appears that we shall include all the photos sent to us in the new Basis Edition of the Correspondance Directory due to be distributed in September.

If you want your picture included now is the time to send one.



Exist

by Janet (NY-23)

As I think about the woman in me
I am cast upon a lonely sea
For I know that I could never be
the pretty woman I see in me
All the changes man has found
and all the medical help around
Doesn't quite do what I have found
or help me in where I'm bound
To be generic would be best
and then my mind would be at rest
I don't know how much of this I can take,
maybe my birth was all a mistake.

Borrow, Trade or Gamble

by Aaron (1977)

I'd gamble everything that tomorrow might
bring
For the relief of being ME today.
I don't want to spend tomorrow regretting
the past
For the chances I didn't take.
I'll even trade all my yesterdays
For one tomorrow
Where I'd be able to smile
Naturally.....
I'll never know until it's over
If I'm right or wrong,
But, I'd rather be sorry
For something I've done
Than for something I never knew.
Dreams.....
And nothing more.
Things that might have been...
When will my life begin?
Please...
Help me come together.
Make my life worthwhile.

STYLE

In traditional reckoning, curving, full lines represented femininity and straight, angular lines synonymous with masculinity. Contemporary tastes now favors the lean, athletic body which is wider in the shoulder than the hip, angular in shape with long legs and greater height. And in fact, our national life-style is producing, with each generation, more people who are actually personifying fashion's beloved ideal, an image to which all strive (though many would decline to admit this wish).

It follows that, to the observer, a woman who is tailored in style and angular of form is seen to be equally "feminine" as the romantically dressed, curvaceous lady.

However, whether you wish to project an image of dynamic modernism or soft romanticism, there are certain principles which are unchanging guides. This month's article will discuss ideas of form.

PROPORTION

Standing in bare feet before the mirror, the standard natural body proportions are judged as "heads" down the length of the body to the feet, using the length of the head as your average guide: head to chin; to the fullest point of the bosom or chest; to waist; to hips; to mid-thigh; to knees; to calves; to feet.

Fashion proportions which are idealized and more aesthetically pleasing to the eye, run from 8 1/2 to 10 heads (or more, depending on height) which explains why everything looks more visually appealing when wearing "heels" and why only tall people or those with "tall knees" or long legs look well in "flats" (just making a come-back now).

Cheekbones are wider than the neck; shoulders wider than the hips; fingertips just below mid-thigh; hands approximately 2/3rds of forearm; feet approximately the length of leg from heel to the end of the calf.

Individual differences from these aesthetic principles are corrected by an understanding of line and balance, knowing these concepts gives one the tools with which to adjust to any of fashion's trends and the unique peculiarities of the individual figure successfully.

BALANCE

The classic visual harmony is exemplified by the Greek column: the bottom a bit wider than the top, and the progression of segments becomes shorter the lower marble block. The artistic principle creates an illusion of height, lightness and symmetry. Think of the capital of the column as your hair or hat, or if you prefer, your shoulders.

The modern physique is developing toward taller people who have longer extremities, narrower feet and hands, wider shoulders and smaller hips--in both women and men.

Current trends in fashion show designs emphasizing broadened shoulders, straight lines, shorter hems and lower, slightly heavier shoes. Greater "weight" above demands a more substantial base, which demands a shorter skirt length to maintain the need for an "airy" feeling. The use of diagonals--another come-back and current trend--counteract heaviness of the newer shoes. Hairstyles and hats are very contained to balance the width of the shoulders or they slant and stress diagonal asymmetry. Accordingly, this is why waists are again in focus.

Wherever a facial or figure feature is problematic again in focus.

Wherever a facial or figure feature is problematic, remember never to repeat that particular idiosyncrasy. For example, don't repeat a square jaw with a square neckline or collar, and do wear pillbox hats at an angle. Rounded shoulders will look better in a tailored shoulder line, perhaps with a bit of padding to give the shoulder more angularity. Heavy, thick legs would appear more exaggerated with heavy, chunky sturdily-constructed shoes.

On the other-side-of-the-coin, the extreme opposite should be avoided because it would also be a poor balance. The square jaw would appear more massive in a very narrow V-neckline. The rounded shoulder would look pudgy in a shoulder line so severely constructed, architecturally, that the upper arm bulges against the sleeve. The thickness of the leg would assume grotesque proportion in extremely fragile-looking shoes.

LINE

How a garment falls or hangs is created by the "cut" in the individual parts of the pattern for the garment. It is the most subtle of distinctions which determines why a garment does/does not enhance

the body--with its unique problems and assets.

Regardless whether the garment is cut for a tailored fit or softened fit, the line would still create a rounded, fuller silhouette or an angular, leaner shape. Tailored suit or flowing dress (or tailored dress and flowing suit), the concept of line applies: some suits can give a roundish, heavy look to the figure while certain dresses can make the body appear very spare and architectural (and vice versa). It's all in the line.

It is possible to make significant changes in the line of a garment by the slightest adjustment in seaming, thereby, "altering" the cut, so to speak.

This is especially important in respect to shoe choices. Pumps, which are very stylish again, are deliberately cut in the current styles to effect a somewhat heavier look than the pumps of the 60's. The shoe designers have done this to balance the look of exaggerated shoulders--if the 60's pumps were revived with its sleeker more elongated line would not provide a strong enough "base" for the current styles.

Here is another example of how "line" effects a look: the flats in fashion again differ from the new pumps in that they are more "light" in line. This is because the foot, in its natural position is sufficient as a base to take airy lines to balance whatever is going on above the feet; whereas the foot flexed and on tiptoe is a very tenuous base, visually as well as physically. In fact, if flats were designed with a heavier look, the feet would appear awkward and clumsy--too much of a base.

To refine the silhouette then, it is important to keep in mind the structuring of your body and use the concepts above to either emphasize or to play down, compensating toward your personal ideal. Where there are fashion deviations from the classic principles of the Greek column, from timeless aesthetic concepts, it becomes even more necessary to make the fine distinctions of judgement in line, balance and proportion in order to achieve visual harmony and, therefore, personal attractiveness.

QUESTIONS, WE GET QUESTIONS!

Dianna: I wear a size 13 shoes. Although I have had good luck in finding shoes to fit me, why is it my big feet look so nice in some shoes and SO BIG in others? I even had a pair of really high-heels which I thought might make my feet look

(Dilemmas continued)

dainty, but in fact they made my feet look really awful.

Dear 13: What is most important in finding shoes to flatter your feet is to look constantly for "line" of the shoe's design, the "cut". (See above). Style and color are of little importance, for these are features which are easily changed by a quick trip to your local shoe repair shop for alterations, the nearest five-and-dime for color and any retail shoe store for trim and details. Train yourself to look for the proper lines in the shoe body as well as profiled shape of the vamp and heel cup.

Dianna: When higher heels and bump-toes were "in" for men's shoes, it was great for me. I'm 5'5" and need all the help I can get. I hate brogues and with more natural footwear for men, I feel like a twirp again--and I refuse to wear elevator shoes. Help!

Dear Help!

Put on your "real" clothes for private fashion show for yourself, with a full-length mirror. Take a good look at your clothes in terms of either American or European cut. (See the March 1980 Gateway) The European cut gives the feeling of more height to the form. Then read this article and digest the information. Wear only high-rise in your slacks; be sure you have high armholes and inseams in the crotch of the slacks; strive for suppression and body-conscious fit in shirts and jackets, as well as coats; wear vests in the same or lighter color as pants; always keep darker colors in lower part of body; avoid sharp contrast in tones between shoes and pants; choose peaked or roped rather than natural shoulders in jackets and coats. Consider having over-tops shortened a bit so they are not too long for your proportions in the hip area. The length is best just covering the fullest part of the seat NOT longer.

Send your questions on Image Improvement to the Phoenix, attn: Dianna.

Priorities of survival inhibited many past generations from living their healthy, true sexual natures. Do not allow their traditions to guide your nature.

AETNA REVERSES DECISION

AETNA has a long history of discriminating against the gender dysphoric patient. For years they have gotten away with it because few transsexuals were willing to risk the publicity associated with any court action, not to mention the fact that few had the funds to pursue a judicial resolution.

In mid-1979, however, the picture began to change. Victoria Davidson chose to fight for the benefits AETNA owed her. In Davidson v. AETNA, Justice Grossman of the New York Supreme Court, opined that "[d]efendant Aetna Life & Casualty Insurance Co. provides meager opposition to plaintiff's motion. Its Medical Director, Dr. William Guillete, whose affidavit was submitted on this case, is eminently qualified to practice medicine, but nevertheless lacks expertise on the subject of gender dysphoria and transsexualism." Justice Grossman went on to conclude that "the treatment and surgery involved in the sex change operation of the plaintiff is of a medical nature and is feasible and required for the health and well-being of the plaintiff... Accordingly, the court finds that the defendant Aetna Life & Casualty Insurance Co., is responsible for all medical expenses incurred by plaintiff herein as a result of her undergoing sex reassignment."

Despite the preceding, Aetna has continued to deny benefits. Thus, in early 1980, Aetna denied benefits for female-to-male breast reduction surgery for M.C. Numerous attempts to obtain payment by an attorney were unsuccessful. Further, the amount involved did not justify the payment of enormous legal fees required to pursue the matter.

In the spring of 1981, however, the situation changed when Aetna denied benefits for male-to-female surgery. The amount involved warranted pursuing the matter in court, but the plaintiff C.B. did not have the necessary funds to pursue the matter. Thus, enter Joanna Clark, program consultant for the GENDER DYSPHORIA PROGRAM of ORANGE COUNTY and Chairperson of the ACLU Transsexual Rights Committee.

Joanna wrote a strongly worded letter to Gerhard Schade, Director, Claim Relations, Aetna Life Insurance Company, Hartford, Connecticut. Mr. Schade's response came initially in a telephone call on June 19, 1981, the deadline for response set by Joanna. Mr. Schade stated that Aetna's position was that denial of benefits was correct and that Aetna would

If it feels good and doesn't hurt anyone, do it.

The Phoenix Monthly-International

ask the court for declaratory relief in paying the claims should C.B. and M.C. file a claim in Superior Court. Joanna reiterated C.B. and M.C.'s position and stressed their intention to ask for punitive damages in accordance with Norman v. Colonial Penn.

On June 29, 1981, Mr. Schade, writing for Aetna, wrote: "[I]t continues to be our position that the denial of these claims is correct. Nevertheless, in view of the issues you have raised we will process benefits on these two claims... These benefit payments will be made under protest to the above claimants...."

The administrative resolution of C.B. and M.C.'s claims is another victory for Joanna. Thanks Joanna.

SPEAKER'S BUREAU

Need someone to speak at a function on the subjects of Transvestism or Transsexualism?

The Gateway Gender Alliance can provide personally involved individuals and professional presentations on the subjects of Transvestism and Transsexualism.

Write Post Office Box 62283, Sunnyvale, Ca 94088 or call (408) 734-3773 or (415) 527-8450.

A CEREAL-IZED STORY

(by an Anonymous FL Member)

Hi!, My name is Captain Crunch. I am a self-made mutli-millionaire living alone in a 20 room Ralston style ranch house on Crunch Berries Lane, just off of Post Toasties Square in Wheatiesville.

One day I was looking over my many differant brands of cars and felt that I didn't have one just for my feminine-self so I went back to the house to press my Lucky Charms, get into my fem-self and do some car looking.

Soon everything was in order and out walked Trix. As I went from car dealer to car dealer I knew it took a lot of Grits to go there dressed but the thrill of it took the feeling of Mush out of my stomach.

I finally arrived at a dealer who claimed to handle All Brans, so, after straightening the seams of my stockings, taking a deep breath, pushing out my living bra I went inside.

A clerk rushed over to me saying "Yes Ma'm, may I help you?" Well, that cer-

tainly made my day and I was sure the salesman would give me just what I wanted. I responded with "Yes. I'm looking for a car that says 'This is me!'".

"I'm sure we have just what you're looking for, after all we have a large Variety in stock."

As I looked around the showroom I saw a lot of cars and spotted one that looked pretty good. As I approached the car he said "That's our Granola model, but I don't think it's the one for you." Then off to the side I saw a lovely little blue convertible "I think that's the one for me" I said.

"Oh, this one is you." He replied.

"What model is this?" I asked.

"That's our Special K model. It has everything you'll want in a car, and then some."

I gave him one of my Chex and drove off in the lovely, new, little sportscar. I wanted to try it out on a nice drive so I headed for a part of town I had never seen before but had heard of--a place called Fruit Loops. After traveling a few blocks I realized I had made a mistake in comming to this part of town as the roads were in terrible condition and I felt something was wrong with the tires. I drove to the smoothest street I could find and got out to check the tires. They looked like Shredded Wheat and I knew I was going to have to buy new ones.

I guess you could say that I learned not to drive on Oatmeal streets if there are Wheatina smooth ones around.





TRUE TRANSSEXUALS

by Tala Candara Brandeis (CA-43)

We, people in transition, have an argument that surfaces within our interaction with each other. The argument being that some people are "True Transsexuals". This person is variously, or more stereotypically, described as an individual that was adamant about her gender being incongruent with her body from an early age, usually before the age of five years. They are usually described by the professional community as typically feminine psychologically. It has always amazed me that men define, or are allowed to define, what is female or feminine. So, the "True Transsexual" is portrayed as submissive, simpering, not quite as intelligent as men, concerned with "women's work", wanting to wear skirts, make-up and relate only to macho men, be married to the same and locked into a monogamous relationship. In other words, a victim for some male.

So, this comprises some of the symptoms that a "True Transsexual" should exhibit. This, I think, is a very sad commentary on the helping professions that are dominated by men.

As a woman I refuse to be a good hoop jumper. I did to damn much hoop jumping

in my old gender role as a male. Too much being, acting out something, someone that everybody else wanted me to be. No, no, not anymore, but the old line professional, and some of you very good hoop jumpers, want to tell me how I am supposed to manifest my behavior in order to be considered a "True Transsexual". Well, guess what? I don't want to be, and I'm not a "True Transsexual". I'm not a transsexual at all, except in a transitory sense of the word. I am a woman that, unfortunately, just happens to have been born with a birth defect. As a woman I reject the notion that I have to behave like a fool for anyone. I am a lover of women, am not monogamous, am more comfortable in blue-jeans, hate bras, marriage and macho, macho men. I self-define as a lesbian oriented bisexual, and I refuse to act like or exhibit behavior that typifies a victim. I refuse to submit to the patriarchal psychotherapist's demand that I behave in a way that is acceptable to them. Their model of behavior is unacceptable to me. As a behavior it may be quite congruent with some other people that experience this gender/sexual phenomenon, and the specific issue that I would want to argue with them about is total or active acceptance of that style of behavior.

The concept I consider most important here is this, that we are, all of us DIFFERENT. You are different from me in many ways, whoever you are, however you may self-define. There is no way for me to deny you your humanity. I do hope that you will not deny me mine. We have the right to selfdefine any way that we can better relate to all other individuals to whom we relate. I self-define as a woman, and that is how I live. I don't live my life as a transsexual, "True" or otherwise, for I am not now, and never will be a transsexual.

There is, in this article, some strong language about some segments of what has been called the provider community. They are probably in the majority in terms of people who provide services, according to my information. However, out here in the San Francisco Bay Area we have a group of professionals currently being trained, and a few who have received their degrees, who have a greater understanding of the nature of growth and change. Professionals who accept and validate people as theyself-define themselves. This is a group of professionals who have an in-depth understanding of human sexuality

and the interaction necessary between body, mind, emotions and spirit. This is a group of sexologists, by profession, whose task it is to integrate all of these aspects of our human condition. As a group, and individually, they are more open to criticism and opinion than the old guard professional psychotherapists-/psychiatrists.

This article is not directed at those sexologists and other professionals who are working both for and with people to discover who they are, but rather it is directed to those professionals, and hoop jumpers, who are, at this time, incapable of transcending their own fears and who refuse to join the greater family of "huwonamity".

As I reflect on the hoop jumpers that I know personally, I realize that a lot of information they possess and vociferously shout about has not been obtained from their therapists, but from their own limited research and reflection upon antiquated literature. As a group they also seem to be more inclined to accept as truth, and gospel, almost any utterance from anyone in a position of respect and authority. In regard to literature, you must realize that even, and especially, Benjamin's works are now much in need of reassessment and redefinition, that many of his attitudes toward behavior were influenced by his expectations of what a woman was supposed to be, and he was projecting his, and incidently his cultures', consciousness of women into his "clients".

I also think much of Stoller's attitudes are misogynist in nature, coming as he does from a Freudian intellectual background. Freud having been an obvious misogynist, and I think his writing bears that out. I would also hazard a guess that he would deny that he has any attitudes that were in contradiction to women's needs. Men, if you haven't already noticed it, usually assume they understand all women just by having been borne male.

Again, I think we must criticize the professionals involved in incorrect judgements and ideas regarding us a people, and as women. We also need to correct those of us in transition, or through with transition, and those individuals and organizations that are now espousing antiquated male, patriarchal, negative concepts that do not allow us room for growth, for change as individuals or groups, as we self-define it.

TVs and THEIR WOMEN

One of the major concerns of the male-to-female crossdresser has to do with their relationship with women, particularly wives. In the counseling I have done with TVs, a recurring theme has been how to get the wife to accept the cross-dressing, and even more, how to get her to participate in such a lifestyle. I would propose that part of the answer lies in understanding the pressures and needs of the woman herself, since an intimate relationship will have concern for the wants and needs of both persons, and when each of us is getting what we want it is easier to give the other what he or she wants.

I frequently hear TVs brag that women find them more understanding of women than other men do. It would be well to express that understanding in relationship with our partners. Let me suggest several foci around which the feelings of our women circulate.

1) The first focus has to do with questions of fact and fantasy. Is my husband really a homosexual? Does he really want to be a woman? Where is all this headed? Fortunately, the more factual material that is available the more some of the fantasies are dispelled. However, the fears of a wife as to where all this is heading cannot be allayed until there is certainty within the TV himself. What are the limits of my desire? Where is the stasis position for me? Uncertainty is the source of much of the concern in a wife.

2) A second focus has to do with a woman's sense of her own sexuality and might be expressed by the question, "If I enjoy sexual activity with my cross-dressed husband am I really experiencing homosexuality?". Many people are already quite uneasy with their own sexuality without adding another dimension.

3) A second dimension is found most frequently in women over 40 where there is already a growing sense of personal inadequacy, related frequently with the so-called "change of life". "My husband is no longer interested in me. I don't turn him on. There is something wrong with me." The commitment to cross-dressing may become so complete that little or no attention is paid to the attention she needs to maintain her own sense of importance and desirability.

4) A fourth focus is similar to the third, but has some different facets.

(Women continued)

"When my husband is all dressed up, he looks better than I do." This is a jealousy statement, based in the fact that while much attention is given to the appearance of the TV not very much thought is given to the appearance of the wife. It is also usually true that the cross-dressing involves much more elaborate clothing and accessories than would normally be part of the wife's outfit. When I hear satisfied TVs tell of the times when they go shopping together to get him some new items I wonder if they ever go shopping together to find something for her.

I do not pretend that these are exhaustive considerations of the issues. They are meant only to be suggestions of areas to be explored by partners who are seeking adjustments to their own lifestyles. Nor, do I pretend to speak for women who are perfectly capable of speaking for themselves. But, in our circles and publications so much emphasis has been placed on how others can adapt to our (the crossdresser) needs that I felt it necessary to open some other considerations. Besides, I am convinced that when our wives are getting what they want and need, they will be more open to giving us what we want and need!

MY QUEST FOR FEMINITY
by Linda (APONY-10)
(continued from last month)

The next source that I was able to use was the "Readers Guide to Periodic Literature." Through study of this source (under heading of "Change of Sex"), I was able to obtain a copy of an article written about a person that I could really relate to. Her name is Nancy Hunt, and she is a journalist presently under the employ of The Chicago Tribune. Miss Hunt is a former non-commissioned officer and combat veteran of two wars and a journalist that extensively covered a third war. Her story was made of the kind of feelings that I too was experiencing at that time.

Once I had read the article about her, I knew that I just had to talk to her in person. Because of the expense involved, I had to settle for a letter. It was not the first time I had written a person that I had read about. After reading the Canary Conn Story, I tried to write to her through Bantam Books, but, alas, no answer was received. With very little hope for any different outcome, I tried again. But this time, I got an answer!

Nancy Hunt came back with such a sweet letter that I have saved it to this day. At the time, I was still in my search for a pen-pal; and she honestly said that her work and other commitments would not allow her the time for serious letter writing. However, she did give me strength and hope for the future. While telling me a war story, she stated that she did have a great deal of respect for a person who would give masculinity a try. For once they found that it would not work, then they would be free of doubt to seek a change to a feminine life. She also told of other military persons (also other very masculine professions) who had gone through a sexual reassignment operation. Prognosis for all of them were very good, indicating that all were capable of living a normal life as members of the feminine gender.

Nancy also didn't pull any punches in painting a rosy picture about my quest for femininity. To quote her, "Being a transvestite isn't the worst thing that can happen to you. However, being a transsexual can be a terrible mistake if you aren't fully prepared--physically and emotionally--for the change." I respected her for making that statement and decided that I would be prepared when I decide to live the rest of my life free from the inner strife that tears at me daily.

Her last bit of information has the potential to be the best information of all. Nancy suggested that I write to the Janus Information Center, University of Texas Medical Center, Galveston, Texas. The Janus Information Center is a clearing house for vast resources to assist persons of either gender who wish to make the switch to the opposite gender. For the small fee of \$5.00, I was able to get a series of up-to-date booklets pertaining to the legal, physical, social, and religious aspects of transsexuality. As a bonus, I was able to obtain some information about a society named the International Alliance for the Advancement of Male Feminism. The enclosed flyer called the IAAMF "a society to promote the living of a more serene and feminine lifestyle." It sounded like just the medicine needed to help me in learning more about myself, about my femininity, and how I may do my part in making this world a more serene, kind, loving, peaceful, and beautiful place in which to grow up as a woman.

I wasn't really sure exactly what I expected when I joined GGA. What I wanted upon writing to the GGA was a sorority of people of feminine persuasion who could combine their talents to make for a more beautiful world. What I got was an informative publication that gave me a digest of news items, stories, trivia tidbits, physical and psychological developments as they pertain to the lifestyle.

More importantly, I was able to obtain access to a new set of potential friends. People with whom I could hold intelligent conversations concerning my feminine wants, needs, and desires; people who would lend a sympathetic ear to my female growing pains; people with whom I could share hopes for the future; and above all--people whom I may give my love and help to after I have been helped enough that I may stand on my own two feet and proclaim my womanhood to all.

At this time, I am not at all sure just how this will reflect on my wife. She is only dimly aware of my desires and preference. Should she become fully aware of my wishes, she would surely leave me and make it extremely hard on me in the future. The hardest part of all that is that I dearly love her. She has tried to think this out and come to her own conclusions. As a woman, I know that she will do anything to help another woman in distress--even if the other woman is her husband. I pray that she will remain a friend of mine even after the change is complete.

I speak so definitely about a change because I feel that a change is definitely in order. I am definitely sure that I am not totally happy as a male. I am definitely sure some sort of feminization is necessary in order to bring my body more in line with my feelings. I can state without qualification that I am a transvestite. Of this I am definitely sure. The heavenly feelings that I get each time that I dress tell me that. I do so love to dress thoroughly in the soft, lovely things that proper ladies wear. I am fairly lucky in the fact that I am of the size and build to be able to fit into many of the size 14 and most of the size 16 items that I can find. My favorite clothes are frilly, lacy, soft blouses to go with the fullest long or short skirts available. I also have three long dresses that come from the softest chiffon and polyesters imaginable. My favorite colors are pastel blues and soft pinks. I am in hope that someday I will be able to try on some of the type of clothes that I like before I am obligated to buy them. I have ordered clothing from three major catalogue stores, as items aren't available in Europe in American sizes. I wish that I had the nerve to call on some of the major stores here in town in order to try/buy clothes to make the lady on the outside as pretty as the lady within.

I am aware of many persons in the lifestyle who have taken hormones in order to bring their lives into a state of serenity, calmness and femininity. It is true that hormones will decrease sexual awareness as a male, yet they will also increase my emotional awareness and sensuality as a female. Several names come to mind as those who have chosen to live their lives as members of the feminine

gender through these hormones without submitting to inordinate expense, and pain on the operating table.

I have given much thought to taking hormones myself, and I probably will end up doing just that. But my thoughts and dreams consists of being able to live out my life as a complete woman, not just a half-and-half. I know that I am more than a transvestite--more than a transgenderist--my heart and my feelings tell me to "go for it;" as I know that my life will never be complete until I am able to match my body to my mind. So with all things being equal, I am more than willing to go through the expense, the anguish, the waiting, the interviews, the torment, and, yes, the pain. For I know that at the end of the rainbow, I will be feminine, tender, loving, compassionate, underpaid, overworked, patient, submissive, kind, charming, lady-like, and a second-class citizen. You may notice that I left out the word beautiful. Being truthful to myself, I know that a sex reassignment operation will not make my body beautiful. It will be up to my new personality to make me into a beautiful woman.

I will also be proud of being a second-class citizen. Upon becoming a woman, I will want to be able to devote myself to my man completely. I want to be dependent upon him for my daily bread. For these reasons, I am against ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. Call me old-fashioned if you wish, but I am all for being treated with the deference and special protection the law affords to ladies.

Furthering my quest for femininity, I realize that I must continually try to feminize the parts of my life that I can safely accomplish at this time. Leaving the army would normally be the first order of business. However, all of my income is derived from the military, and I have not polished any feminine skills to the

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point where I could sell them to a prospective employer. I also realize I am just barely scratching the surface to learn more about me and the person that I choose to become. After being in the closet for so long I have just now discovered a part of my life that had been hidden for fear of being insane, is now a part of my life that I can take pride in and love--yes, truly love.

Actually, I do have an ulterior motive for this article. I wanted to introduce myself to you in a very special way. I wanted to show my thanks to the Alliance for accepting me into their organization, and in turn ask a great favor of my new sisters in the Alliance. In order to bolster my somewhat sagging feminine confidence, as well as assisting me in my constant quest for femininity; may I be so bold as to ask as many of you that feel that you can, to exchange letters with me and become "pen-pals." Such a relationship would go a long way to enhance my feminine feelings and would serve to help me to make new friends in the feminine personality that I someday hope to call a whole person.

In closing, I pray to my father in Heaven that someday, my body on the outside may match my spirit and desires on the inside. I look to the time when I will be able to look at the world with all of its beauty and be happy with myself for what my contributions can add to this world. I look to the day when I may be able to be in harmony, as a woman, with a kind and loving man. I look to the Alliance for the assistance that I need in order to be ready for the day when I may look at the world in all of its beauty. The end of my quest for femininity will be realized when I am able to truly enjoy my womanhood physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. When that glorious day is reached, let me give of myself to others to make this planet a loving and beautiful place.

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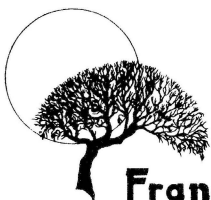
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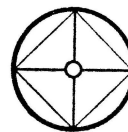
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