

Monthly newsletter of The Adam Society, a non-profit support group for female-to-male crossdressers, transsexuals and their significant others.

Greetings Brothers,

Hey, Hey, Hey - "Thumper" lives! Who would have guessed that one of our brothers writes from Michigan? ("I'm very thankful for the info you've passed on.") That's what it's all about, guys. This newsletter is for all of us. News items/short articles are needed. NOTE: The Adam Society holds monthly meetings in a safe supportive atmosphere for the purpose of providing peer support, friendship, and networking.  
Dan Riley, Co-Founder

\*\*\* MEETING NEWS \*\*\*

At the August 22nd meeting we picked up a new member -- WOW- from Connecticut. It was suggested that occasional Sat. meetings be scheduled since some members cannot attend on Tuesday nights. The decision was made not to charge membership dues. A small donation may be needed each month to pay for the fee for use of the meeting room, at 6 Cushing St, Waltham, and for any refreshments. If anyone is interested in planning a Tue. or a Sat. meeting, contact Dan or J.P. Newsletters from other support groups can be read at meetings.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: TUESDAY 7PM  
SEPT 19 (Video "What Sex Am I?")  
OCT 17 (need a program)  
NOV 21 (need a program)  
DEC 12 (need a program)

\*\*\*\*\*

NEWSWORTHY! The XX Club is sending Adam's Word a free copy of their newsletter "Twenty Minutes". They also sent us a brochure on the Gender Identity Clinic of New England.

NEXT F2M SOCIAL IN NYC: Oct 21st around 3 PM. Inquire as to location and car-pool plans.

INFORMATION FOR  
THE FEMALE-TO-MALE

Crossdresser and Transsexual

The first handbook to address the needs of the female-to-male

- Crossdressing
- Passing as a Man
- Male Hormones
- Sex Reassignment
- Dozens of True Stories of Females Who Crossed Over



2nd edition  
48 pages, illus.

Send \$6 to:  
L. Sullivan, 1827 Haight St. #164  
San Francisco, Calif. 94117

FEMALE TO MALE TRANSSEXUAL GROUP: FTM,  
1827 Haight Street #164, San Francisco, CA 94117;

Nature: Support group for female-to-male crossdressers and transsexuals and their "significant others" only.

Services: Get-togethers held, and FTM Newsletter published quarterly.

ADAM'S WORD, 6 Cushing Street, 2nd floor, Waltham, MA 02154.

**\*\*THE BOOKIE\*\*** (Books/audio tapes/VCR tapes) AND [places to get them]

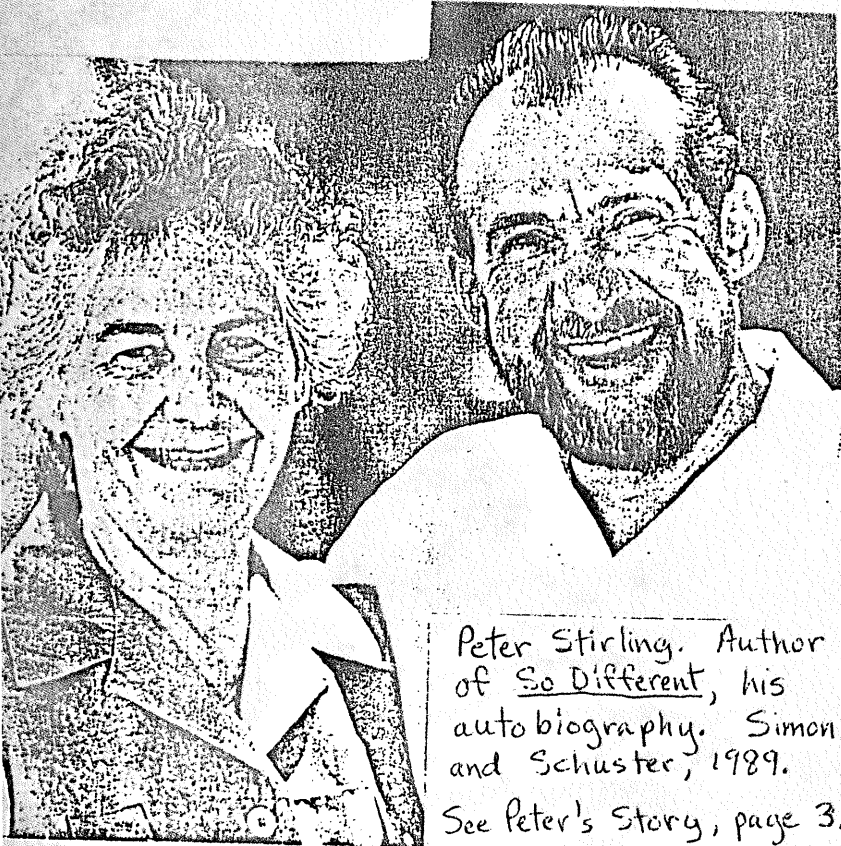
Rudolf M. Dekker and Lotte C. van de Pol, The TRADITION of FEMALE TRANSVESTISM in EARLY MODERN EUROPE (St. Martin's Press, New York) 1989. [\$29.95: Glad Day Books, 673 Boylston, Boston, MA 02116]

GENDER DYSPHORIA: Development, Research, Management, Edited by Betty W. Steiner, (Plenum Press, New York) 1985. [\$55 + \$2.50 shipping and handling: IFGE, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778]

Carol Fleming's cassette "The Sound of Your Voice". [Book and record stores; or write Audio Partners, P.O. Box 998, Burlingame, CA 94011]

Audio cassette: "B-1 Female-to-Male". [\$14.95 + \$1.50 shipping and handling: Tomeye Kelley, 8972 Oberon Rd, Arvada, CO 80004]

Sources for other Books: IFGE (address above); XX Club (address below); Gender Worker, Box 1224, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5W 1G7. (Do you <sup>know of</sup> other sources? Send them in.)



Peter Stirling. Author of So Different, his autobiography. Simon and Schuster, 1989.


See Peter's Story, page 3.

Peter's wife, Jennifer.

\*\*\*\*\*  
CHANGE IN NOTICE: The XX Club's "F-M TS SUPPORT GROUP" will meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month ~~at~~ at Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church Street, Hartford, CT, 2PM sharp. Write: The XX Club, P.O. Box 80690, Forest Park Station, Springfield, MA 01138.  
\*\*\*\*\*

**ANDROGYNY UNLIMITED** - COUNSELING - EDUCATION -  
Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.  
BOARD CERTIFIED SEXOLOGIST  
P.O. Box 4887  
POUGHKEEPSIE, NY 12602 (914) 462-7455

.....  
"Rites of Passage"  
A Newsletter for Female-to-Males  
.....  
Published irregularly, a subscription costs \$20 for 8 issues; \$3.50 per individual issue. Write to S. G., P. O. Box 615, Tenafly NJ 07670, or call John A. at (201) 224-7843 anytime.  
.....

TV-TS Tapestry Journal  
P.O. Box 367  
Wayland, MA 01778  
(617) 894-8340  
  
THE JOURNAL FOR PERSONS INTERESTED IN CROSSDRESSING & TRANSEXUALISM  
Tasteful, comprehensive, non-profit, non-sexual  
150+ pages of articles, editorials, letters, personal listings, directory of organizations  
With this AD. \$10.00 from each subscription will be rebated to: *The Adam Society*  
Single Copy \$10.00 Subscription \$40.00

The following article was published in "SEAHORSE NEWSLETTER", May 1989, produced by the Seahorse Club of Victoria, Melbourne (TV TS Club). Mailing address: Seahorse Victoria, Box 2337V Melbourne 3001 AUSTRALIA.

Originally published: THE NEW IDEA 24/4/89  
"TRAGEDY OF THE MUM WHO BECAME A MAN".  
Story: Jayne Newling. Pictures: Ross Coffey.

Thirty years ago a pretty, 22-year-old Adelaide woman gave birth to a beautiful little girl she named Lorraine. It was a birth that would not only make medical history but would forever change the life of mother Jean Dent.

When Lorraine was only three, Jean left for England and tearfully said goodbye to the daughter she thought she might never see again. Six years later Jean became Peter Stirling.

Tests in England proved that Jean was meant to have been a boy but a chromosome defect caused her to be born physically female. For years she struggled with feelings of self-hatred. She knew she wasn't normal and tried desperately to run away from the women to whom she became physically attracted.

"I felt so ashamed," says Peter, now 52. "I felt like a freak and it was very hard to come to terms with because I couldn't blame myself or anything else. I didn't know then what made me so different. I tried so hard to be normal--I even married and had a child to prove to the world I was like other women. But I can remember so clearly the night I stood at Lorraine's crib and begged God not to let me wake up the next day. I asked, "Why? Why do I and my little girl have to suffer like this?"

Going to Guy's Hospital in London was Jean's only hope of finding out who she was, her only chance of leading a more normal and happy life. Leaving her family and friends she faced six long years of loneliness and confusion.

Meeting Jennifer, only months before the transformation, became Peter's salvation. The two have now been married for 20 years.

"She's my life now," Peter says happily. "She is the best thing that has ever happened to me. Without her I know I would have been a very lonely man."

Peter will soon face another hurdle. He has just written a book So Different, which will be published this month by Simon and Schuster (rrp \$14.95).

He wrote the book to express some of the anguish he still feels and to explain how difficult it was for him to be branded "a freak".

In the office of his publisher, he says: "I think it is getting to me for the first time in many years. I haven't had to talk about it for a long time now."

As a child, Peter didn't know he had a problem. But looking back he now understands why he hated playing with dolls, preferring soldiers and forts and why he turned the pram his mother gave him into a billy cart.

When he was 18 he entered the air force where he was first attracted to another woman.

"It horrified me," Peter says. "I knew it wasn't normal and I wanted to be rid of this attraction."

Jean ran away--into the arms of Robert Dent, who soon became her husband. She saw this as a way to prove to herself that she was normal.

The marriage was doomed from the start. Jean loved Robert as a friend but was repulsed by his sexual advances. For three years she tried to hide her feelings but when Lorraine was born everything started to change.

Jean began to grow hairier and her already deep voice, which she deliberately disguised for years, was becoming too deep to conceal. She knew she had to find out what was wrong with her. A doctor encouraged her to seek help in London.

Her first step was to push Lorraine towards her mother so that the separation would be less traumatic. When Lorraine started calling her grandmother "Mother", Jean felt she could leave.

"Even though it hurt, I knew I had to cultivate the relationship between Lorraine and my mother," Peter says sadly. "I knew I could never have that with my own child because I was different. I was heartbroken and I cried so much deep inside. Except for my Aunt Belle, no one knew the reason why I was going away."

Peter says he remembers how alone he felt and how scared he was being in a strange country. He rented a small flat, took a job and for the next six years set about changing his life.

"For a while I was Jean but I looked like Peter," he says. "The most traumatic time was the first day at Guy's Hospital when I had to explain why I was there."

The hospital eventually discovered, after years of tests, that Peter was born female with a uterus, ovaries, vagina and breasts but had an extra male chromosome. As he grew older he became more masculine because of a change in the balance of male and female hormones. At Guy's, Jean had a hysterectomy and a mastectomy. She also underwent male hormone therapy. Now, as Peter, he says he feels like a man in every way.

In 1974, Peter decided to come home to Australia. By this time his mother knew why he had left for England but few others did. Lorraine, then 15, had never been told and Peter's elder brother Adam didn't know.

Peter says on the day of Lorraine's 21st birthday party he asked her if she knew who he was.

"Yes," she replied, "you're Jean."

Eight years ago he gave Lorraine away at her wedding. Now Lorraine has three daughters.

Peter's mother, 85, has never talked to her son about what he has gone through. After 20 years she still refers to Peter as "she".

Peter's brother Adam has now learned of his sister's sex change but is uncomfortable with the fact that she is now a man.

Peter's book is a plea for understanding, the final test he is going to put himself through. Many of his friends only know of him as Peter and are unaware that 20 years ago he was a woman.

"I tell myself I don't care what people think but in my heart I know how hurt I will be if people turn away from me," he says.

\*\*\*\*\*

## FTM VIDEO PROJECT NEEDS YOUR INPUT

Midi Onodera, a Canadian independent filmmaker, is currently in the research and development stages of a video documentary for and about female-to-male concerns. If you have suggestions about the content and form of the project, or would like to volunteer your time for conducting and/or sharing research in your area, please contact M. Onodera Productions, 85A Portland Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5W 2M9; phone (416) 599-0498. Your input is encouraged and welcomed.

Slowly but surely the referrals are beginning to trickle in so that we are learning more about finding doctors, psychologists, gender clinics and surgeons. If you have a referral, please send it in to Adam's News. The names will not be published, yet they will be available on request. Dr. Roger Peo is also compiling a referral list. These names will also be passed on for his work.

## Products & Resources for the Female-to-Male

Edition 1.0, 20 pages. Includes breast binders, clothing, media, and other products and resources available to the female-to-male. Send \$3 to cover postage and photocopying to:

K. Hollinger  
P. O. Box 215354  
Sacramento CA 95821

SPECIAL THANKS go to Lou Sullivan for his continuing support of The Adam Society; to Victoria Seahorse from whom the story on Peter Stirling was borrowed; to The XX (Twenty) Club and to Outreach Institute for their support; and to IFGE (International Foundation for Gender Education) for their support and assistance in producing this newsletter, and for use of the IFGE Library.

\*\*\*\*\*

For those in the New York area, The Gathering is a non-profit, non-sexual support group for transsexuals. For more info write to: The Gathering, P.O. Box 29, New York, NY 10021.

\*\*\*\*\*

IFGE announces a change in the dates of their 4th Annual "Coming Together" Convention. New dates are March 27 - April 1, 1990. The Convention will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Natick (near Boston). An F-M program is being planned. If you are interested in participating in the Convention please contact Dan Riley.

\*\*\*\*\*

ADDITIONAL BOOK SOURCE: Outreach Book Service LTD, 126 Wester Av., Suite 222, Augusta, ME 04330.

SUBSCRIBE TO "ADAM'S WORD", The Adam Society's monthly newsletter

WRITE!  
OR YOU'LL NEVER

SEE

AGAIN.

"THUMPER"



-----  
Subscription: \$10.00 (1 year subscription, 12 issues)  
Enclosed is my subscription of \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
Enclosed is my donation (cash or stamps) of \_\_\_\_\_  
I cannot subscribe but Please keep me on your mailing list \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ (initials accepted)

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check or money order out to Dan Riley  
RETURN THIS FORM TO: ADAM'S WORD, Dan Riley, Editor  
6 Cushing Street, 2nd Floor  
Waltham, MA 02154